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

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ACC MONTHLY BULLETIN
Ap. 1944 - Ap. 1945

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

SECRET

2 April 1945.

PRB/WB52/PRB

AC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO. 52
26 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 Defense, 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.

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 B. McKinley, Deputy Vice President (who inspected the Category A part with a fine-tooth comb), Mr. Harlan Cleveland, Executive Director (who put in three-weeks' of day-and-night grind on the job) and [illegible] who supervised the job. Mr. Cleveland

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the minimum materials and products commonly needed for general manufacturing schedules. Cost of the Category B program will be assumed by the Italian Government from credits in excess of $120,000,000 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 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 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 11,023,603 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 & 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 520,000 available blankets as follows: 152,717 to the Public Health S/C, 91,359 to [illegible] S/C, and 68,914 to Public Safety S/C.

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3. ELBA

Major T. L. Bullock, DDPR (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 31,500, claim the mining industry must be revived even if the state has to operate it at a loss. There are variations

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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 30 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 island economy when present restrictions are relaxed. Green vegetable production meets about half the needs of the population. But a year's grain crop will feed Elba only a month because the acreage of arable land is comparatively small. The war hit hard here. In September 1943, when the people resisted German occupation, the chief town of Portoferraio, where 36 per cent of all Elbans live, was bombed and shelled by the Germans. In April 1944, it was bombed again by the Americans and British, the entire population was evacuated and the city was partly looted 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 8 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. SEPRAL 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 CAL says SEPRAL 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 [illegible] 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

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were supplied by Toscana Region. The Italian court calendar is up to date and the first AMG court since December will sit next week. A new, modern prison at Porto Longone is being cleaned up for use. Health is good. There was an outbreak 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 needs are rubber surgical gloves and an operator for the X-ray machines. Bedding is scarce and the four ambulances on the island are immobilized 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 malarial 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 diphtheria around Christmas time. Bread, which sold all winter for 5 lire, is now 15 lire and all ration scales and rationed food prices have been raised to mainland levels. The Assistenza rate is 8 lire a day and wages have been ordered up to national standards. There is one exception: the mines, under pressure, 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 500 tons of sulphur are needed for the vineyards. Garden seeds were imported last December. Some farmers moved their vineyards up 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 CAO thinks that in a 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.

4. Odds and Ends

8th 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....U.S. School of Military Government graduates from Charlottesville may be interested to know that 85 of the 150 members of the third class have been promoted: one to brigadier general, seven [illegible] and 76 to major. The BC of

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tenant colonel - John W. Clarke, Leon V. McCaddie, Vinal S. Renton, Glenn E. Riddell and Rowland W. 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. Henry 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 Commitee of National Liberation during the German occupation.

5. Cumpleanno

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, if they had to pay for it...

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 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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Liaison Div

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

SECRET

R26/WB50/PRB

18 March 1945.

AC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO. 50
10 Mar to 15 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 were not present (Anfuso reputedly in Berlin and Roatta still at large, reported variously as in Bengasi, 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 hours, he said, should suffice to condemn "fascist scoundrels." RICOSTRUZIONE 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. TEMPO complained that the sentences - except for Anfuso - were either too easy 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 tangential 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 Grieco 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 Cortellazza (once minister of Public Works in the old regime) have been confiscated, and Chiavolini, erstwhile private secretary to the erstwhile duce, has been arrested.

The Council's meeting on the 8th was particularly im-

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was passed on Anfuso (once Ambassador to Berlin) [illegible] prisonment 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 were not present (Anfuso reputedly in Berlin and Roatta still at large, reported variously as in Bengasi, 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 hours, he said, should suffice to condemn "fascist scoundrels." RICOSTRUZIONE 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. TEMPO complained that the sentences - except for Anfuso - were either too easy 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 tangential 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 Grieco 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 Crollalanza (once minister of Public Works in the old regime) have been confiscated, and Chiavolini, erstwhile private secretary to the erstwhile duce, has been arrested.

The Council's meeting on the 8th 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 NUOVA coming to its aid with an article urging all Italians to get in back of the government and buy. IL GLOBO also reported that the Solidarity 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 Mattioli-Quintieri financial mission from Washington; their report has not been made public but Tarchiani announced in Washington that Italy had been granted 125 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.

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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 lyrically of the occasion and of the "victory of life over death" which it symbolized.

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 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 "italianita" of the Adriatic port was beyond discussion. IL GIORNALE DEL MATTINO, 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 independents to ask the government for some preliminary notice of measures under consideration. Even IL GLOBO, 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 tiny group of settlements grouped around and above GAGGIO MONTANO. The main village lies up a winding country road three kilometres west of Route 64. To reach it you climb more than a thousand feet in two miles. Normal population of the entire commune is only 6,600 souls of whom 5,800 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. GAGGIO MONTANO is in bad shape. One-third of its buildings have been completely

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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, AMG has advanced a further 2 500 000 lire, more than a million of which will be spent in the next two months to restore essential public services. The rest will cover normal budget requirements, pensions and a State payroll of 42,000 lire a month. At the junction of the GAGGIO MONTANO road with Route 64 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.W.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, particularly on the south bank of the Arno. German shelling continued for 24 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 walls and spread along the streets to depths which varied between two and 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 [illegible] throughout the province

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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

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 H. J. Birch (B), assisted by Lieut. H.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. officers and staff, totalling 6,824 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 Bangkok. Diplomats were escorted to points of departure. Trips by officers out of town amounted to 114, trips within the Rome area to 530, local trips to 1,548. In addition, the American maintenance unit, also supervised by the Dispatch Office, took care 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. Menapace (A), 5th Army AMG 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 E. Thomas, Russell A. Snook and John B. Thornhill.....A temporary (we hope) freeze is on, however, for Hq. U.S. promotions.....The census promoted by the Economic Section last Summer has been finally published: 1,000 copies are in process of being distributed of the 255-page, "preliminary" statistical abstract of 38 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 70 U.S. combat officers who are now in process of being indoctrinated into AMG 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 estimated loss of [illegible],000 tons of coal production..... 1,800 tons of pyrites have been exported from Piombino and 800 from Civitavecchia to Sardinia for the superphosphate plant making fertilizer; this is the first such shipment from the Italian mainland.....Mr. R.R.W. Wade, British Treasury representative,

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HQ. officers and staff, totalling 8,524 passengers during the month, made 253 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 departure. Trips by officers out of town amounted to 114, trips within the Rome area to 550, local trips to 1,048. In addition, the American maintenance unit, also supervised by the Dispatch Office, took care 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.

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is now"firm" (a HQ. expression meaning more or less "definite", "certain" or "pretty sure") - at 123 officers so earmarked..... The Italian Army Order of Battle - though its WE is 368,000 - now stands at 342,258, including a CC.RR. strength of 53,990, of whom only 45,207 are being used for normal police duties..... Some 23,000 are in administrative units, 68,000 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.S.....27 tons of Persian cocoons have been imported for the Calabria silk mills.....Italian troops in the line will now receive a cognac ration of three centiliters per man, the rate of issue being at the discretion of unit commanders..... Major Lionel Fielden (B), former director of the Public Relations Branch, has left for England.....Mr. G. Stewart Brown, new director of the Branch, has just made his first trip into forward areas, promoting bigger and better public relations from the AMG 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 Patriots to serve with Italian units in combat areas.....The olive oil collection at this date is 351,144 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 Granai del Popolo of 1944, now practically written off, stands at 92 per cent of the target or 10,911,754 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 SCAO, 8th Army AMG, who is now Air Commodore G.E.Benson.....Although the Political Section was abolished as of March 1, the American and British Embassies will furnish HQ. with two political Advisers: HBM Minister H.L.d'A. Hopkinson and Mr. W.C.Dowling, Second Secretary of the U.S.Embassy.....Visiting officers from the field will be glad to learn that, after many complaints about lack of accommodations, there is going to be more room at the Flora Hotel in Rome, an exodus having been ordered of, first, all personnel not members of AC, which will mean chiefly UNRRA; second, some of the female civilians of AC, and third, all officers below field grade.....Interned German and Bulgarian diplomats are to be moved to Taormina in Sicily, where Spring is at its loveliest and where AC officers will be assigned as "guard", the tour of such duty being a month.....Applicants for the job please line up at the

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T. G. Bergin

T. G. BERGIN
Major, AUS
DDPR.

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Political section

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

26/PRB 11 March 1945.

SUBJECT: Weekly Bulletin No. 49

TO : All Whom It May Concern.

Will recipients please note that AC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO. 49 is SECRET and not repeat not RESTRICTED and should be altered accordingly.

For the Director:

J. G Bergin
T. G. BERGIN
Major, AUS
DDPR.

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH RESTRICTED

28 February 1945.

R26/WB47/PRB

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. 16; 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 powers 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 increase of controls from the private initiative diehards) 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 " caropane" indemnity of 95 lire which goes a long way to lessen the burden but perhaps the best news of all was the increase

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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, Under-secretary 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 demonstration which ITALIA NUOVA was quick to call "anti-Navy" took place. However, the skies seem to have cleared somewhat; the Ministry of Marine has issued a communique saying that the culprits have been punished and AVANTI has gracefully admitted that one cannot blame the whole service for the regrettable incident.

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 the Action Party would be represented in Washington but who would represent Italy? Two cheering items to conclude the political summary: the Giornato del Soldato e del Partigiano, celebrated on the 18th, 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 L. 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.

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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 consultation and advice, although the Commission

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will continue exercising its functions of organizing 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 Government appointments in the area under its jurisdiction will no longer have to be approved by the AC except in regard to the three Service ministers and about ten other top military positions. All AC officers will be withdrawn from Italian Government territory as soon as possible, free and exchange of all cultural media, especially books and publications shall be encouraged and travel permitted for professional men, artists and scholars between Italy and the United Nations as soon as shipping allows. Local elections should be held as soon as possible. Italian POWs in Italy should be freed as soon as satisfactory arrangements can be made.

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 AMG 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 recommen-

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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 Oleari del Popolo goes on. Agriculture Sub-Commission reports that progress is "generally satisfactory", total collections up to February 19 amounting to 264,770 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 17,515 quintals, Sicily 6,696 quintals, Abruzzi-Marche 4,770 quintals and Sardinia 2,363 quintals. Italian specialists concentrating on the drive have by now, with the help of Allied officers on loan from the Allied Commission, covered a "sizeable 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 Oleari: December brought in a further 3,817 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 8,130 quintals in the first half of February. Although in past 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 246,590 quintals as a goal was passed a week ago and if the present rate continues the more hopeful Plan "B" total of 404,990 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 Granai del Popolo, there are anguished cries of lack of transport for the Italian law enforcement officials. In Frosinone, for instance, one small Balilla 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 "borsa nera", 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 1.67 quintals of oil - 70 litres from a horse and cart, 25 litres from a light truck, 20 litres from one bus

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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

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subsidies promised on the last crop, 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.

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 Valdano 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 15, 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 EM, of which a third at least will go from HQ...The next Regional Commissioners' 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 64,971, the Public Safety Sub-Commission reports after a review of the rolls...Col.A.E.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 10,535,685 qtl or 91 per cent of the target...Congratulations to the following OR who have been mentioned in dispatches: SSM L.Warom and T.Clarke, Staff Sergt.H.W.Thompson, CQMS

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T. G. BERGIN
Major, AUS
DDPR.

6:6

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HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH — RESTRICTED

R20/WB48/PRB

4 March 1945.

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

1. Political

"The Allies", according to the vigorous simile of AVANTI, "are giving 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 doccia calda and tredda 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 particularly interesting; in general it might be described as one of tempered enthusiasm. The warmest appreciation came from IL GIORNALE DEL MATTINO (to be expected since it is the government's mouthpiece) and from IL GLOBO which saw in the move "a personal success of Bonomi" and did not forget to thank Admiral Stone and his officers. And indeed all papers recognized that the new status does represent a step forward. Yet there was a rather strong obbligato of discontent; even L'INDIPENDENTE, which also speaks for the government, regretted that "parity status" was not yet forthcoming. UNITA was very lukewarm in its approval, and felt that Italy had not yet been given a chance to offer her full contribution to the war effort. Caracciolo, writing in the Action party's ITALIA LIBERA, "had hoped 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. VOCE REPUBBLICANA was particularly bitter and said the concessions granted in the new status order were totally meaningless "if the Allies intend to ruin the economic structure of Italy". Soleri came to the rescue with an article in RISORGIMENTO LIBERALE assuring Italians that there was no reason to be pessimistic; the situation had not changed for the worse, as this responsibility had been realized all along, and that, in any case, he was hopeful [illegible] sympathetic would yet do

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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 rates followed the recommendations 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 give him guidance. The President of the Council had been expected to go himself and ITALIA NUOVA 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 men their first act would be to resign.

2. Who's Who At G-5

Military government operations on the stratospheric 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 K. Sporford, GSC, who holds the title of Assistant Chief of Staff, G-5, and who was one of the very first men in AMG. His deputy is Brigadier T. R. Henn (B). Under these officers are two main divisions and a sprinkling of special divisions. They are as follows:

ECONOMICS AND SUPPLY - Chief: Col. James E. Butterworth (A).
Requirements and Requisitions - Major Reginald V. Grady (A).
Commerce and Movements Liaison- Lieut. Col. M.J. Glenn (B).
PLANS AND OPERATIONS - Chief: Lieut. Col. D. S. Jacklin (B).
Deputy: Col. J. Murray Mitchell (A).
Italian Section - Lieut. Col. Trevor B. Jackman (B).
Austrian Section- Lieut. Col. R.B.Nicholl (B).
Balkan Section - Col. H. E. Hebbert (B).
CHIEF LEGAL ADVISER - Col. Franklin T. Hammond, Jr. (A).
CHIEF FINANCIAL ADVISER - Commander Frank A. Southard (A).
CHIEF, REFUGEES AND DISPLACED PERSONS - Lieut.Comdr.Samuel D.Weissbuch(A)
PUBLIC RELATIONS - Major Floyd E. Weisman (A).
EXECUTIVE OFFICER - Major Norman P. Seagrave (A).

3. Power

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

PreWar Power Capacity Found Present

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Region	PreWar Power Capacity	Capacity Found On Allied Entrance	Present Capacity (as of 3 Mar 45)
Central Italy	1,292,336 Kw.	45,000	203,000
Southern Italy	330,935	156,900	262,000
Sicily	91,673	45,800	64,000
Sardinia	96,080	96,060	96,060
TOTALS	1,831,024	343,760	625,060

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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.P. Grafftey-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 more raw materials 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 AC and AMG 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 payment has been handled differently by the British and by the Americans. 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.

At any rate, as our finance people explain it, until at least January 3, 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 80 million lire in unpaid requisitions three months ago. Much of the American claims, however, have been met or are 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 [illegible]

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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 purchasing officers on the American side in this theater to make as few payments as possible since, under the Armistice, it was the Italians who had to foot the bill, not the Allied Armies.

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The situation, which was in danger of veering toward 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 prospects of the even further liberalized policy of spot payments, the AC's Finance Sub-Commission has also arranged for all military requisition files to be sent en bloc to the Commando 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 requisitions, 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 civilian 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, for such financing, particularly, the absence of adequate 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 expenses 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 economic 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....Greetings 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 the next issue, the AC Weekly Bulletin will be printed....All HQ. sub-commissions must immediately cut their officer staffs to the manpower ceilings set for them and send all other officers back to the field.... A 25 per cent reduction in Italian civilian personnel, with prospects of a later cut up to 50 per cent has also been ordered....Rear Admiral Guy L. Warren (B) has been named Chief of the Navy Sub-Commission, succeeding Rear Admiral C.E.Morgan, former chief, who will continue as Flag Officer at Taranto....100,000 yearling pigs are available for export from Macerata Province for fattening elsewhere....Olive Oil collections, as of 27 February, amount to 298,624 qtl or 35 per cent of the goal....Frost is souring amassed 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

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for which refers to his "outstanding services as Senior Civil Affairs Officer with the French Corps" in last year's campaign....Bids have been submitted for reconstruction of two of Florence's six destroyed bridges....Radio telephone service between Rome and New York was opened for the first time since the war began 8 March when Prime Minister Bonomi spoke to Signor Alberto Tarchiani, Italian Ambassador to the U.S.; the service will be in late afternoon to a select list of authorized callers, including diplomats, top AC officials, Italian Ministers and Allied correspondents....2,000 persons have been vaccinated in Arezzo Province where typhoid cases number 182....Forli now has a water system which should soon provide 120,000 gallons a day....Dykes 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....246 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 10,808,828 qtl or 91 per cent of the target of 11,800,000 qtl....Capt. John L. Kay (A), 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 S. Bush, the Executive Commissioner, following a trip to Emilia Region, reports a particularly interesting item about sugar: 300,000 tons of sugar beet was allegedly wasted from last year's crop because of destruction of factories; one 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 AAG's about loose travel controls into forward areas, Executive Memorandum No. 77 laying down the rules for such movement is being revised, with 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....

J. G. Bergin

T. G. BERGIN,
Major, AUS,
DDPR.

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Mrs Hopkinson

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

SECRET

17 February 1945.

R26/W346/PRB

AC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO. 46
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 armistice 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 had 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. Conelia 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 [illegible] and that further an interministerial committee [illegible]

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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 dealings." 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 comm

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programs and candidates in common, this last arrangement however not to exclude agreements with other parties. Just now 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 War 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 are hungry and if they find it necessary they will not hesitate to call a general strike. The government has not been idle. On the 15th the special interministerial committee met and drafted a general plan on the subject, including the specific intentions of "fighting rising prices and the black market" and "improving the food situation of the more needy classes."

To implement these intentions special "committees of the people" with representation from the C.L.N., the unions, the womens 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

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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 Allies 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 by Rome's 25 authorized daily newspapers (of which 19 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) authorized 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, travelled 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 editorial 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 more weeks. But when the Italian Press Commission, on AFHQ order, took over granting of licenses, the system built up by the APB went out the window, since the Italians felt that true freedom of the press meant that any and every newspaper that wanted to could publish, provided only that it was not Fascist. The Italian Press Commission immediately authorized 15 new dailies in Rome alone but passed on the responsibility of distributing the newsprint to the Association of Newspaper Editors in Rome. 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 morale 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 thus went under the counter no one could or would say.

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mention 102 (correct) authorized 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, travelled 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 editorial delegation to complain against the Italian Press Commission.

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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, 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

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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 to Taranto to 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 modernization 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 rendered 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 1,600,000 miles. The lightness of design and the lack of spare parts are beginning to tell on these ships, however. Of the torpedo

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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 will even such uninspiring tasks as repatriating unwashed and often verminous soldiery and prisoners-of-war. True, some of the younger and more energetic officers gird at the leisurely ways of the Ministry of Marine, and there was a case of one commanding officer, "plus royaliste que le roi", who refused to put to sea on the plea that the Minister had not sworn allegiance to the King. He was relieved of his command and put on half-pay for six months - "pour encourager les autres". The 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 75,000 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 harbour installations, especially at Taranto and Naples. To date more than 2,000 repairs, refits and overhauls have been carried out to Allied and Italian vessels and there have been over 1,000 dockings. The dockyards employ more than 35,000 Italian workmen, of whom some 14,500 are at Taranto, 13,000 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 180 Allied vessels are handled each month in Italian dockyards means there is no need for those 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 harbour 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.F.Grafftey-Smith (to whom also felicitations on his promotion); Col.W.J.Legg; Lieut. Cols. C.R.Briggs, J.H.Giffen and D.G.M.Hartley-Smith; Majors P.E. Coxhead, J.A.Balfour, C.P.S.Goldson, H.B.S.Hoddinott and D.D.McColm, and Captains G.H.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

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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 vice presidents and not also as deputy chiefs of staff....Brigadier General Edward B. McKinley is now serving as Acting Vice President of the Economic Section pending final designation of the man to fill 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 800 schools....January exports of Italian products surpassed those of any previous month and totaled 18,592 tons, representing a value of 153 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 376 dogs impounded had rabies....The Economic Section brain trust 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 10,735,115 qtl or 90 per cent 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 Teramo; shoe factory at Chieti; Montecatini chemical plant at Bussi; leather tannery and foundry at Tolentino; paper mills at Pioraco and Fabriano; silk mills at Ancona; match factory at Jesi, with largest production in Liberated Italy; lignite mines at Scoppito and Bussi; asphalt mine at Scafa, and sulphur mines at Perticara and Cabernardi....The olive oil collections are now 235,329 qtl or 24 per cent 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 45,000 qtl of edible olive oil from the sansa or pressed olive residue which usually goes into soap making....Forged AM lire which were last showing up around Florence are now making appearance around Bari and Brindisi....

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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

T. G. BERGIN, Maj., AUS
D/DPR.

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Mr Hopkinson

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH SECRET

R26/WB45/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 communique.) 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 QUOTIDIANO but of course the parties of "the masses" were anything but pleased. L'EPOCA (a new daily of Socialist sympathies) said that 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 budget will probably be only temporary; the undervalued lira can only be saved by increased production. He added, a propos of currency that it is neither inflation, nor ALL lire nor the expense of maintaining the Allied armies which is - or collectively are - responsible for devaluation but rather and simply "the complete absence of any form of production.":

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 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

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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 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 benefitted by Fascist corruption" and LAVORO (DeVittorio 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

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added that accurate figures on prisoners held by the Russians are uncotainable. 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, he said, "why the government doesn't think about this" and the soldiers who want to fight for the Allies are puzzled by the paradoxical 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 POWs 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 the same meeting the Minister of Foreign Affairs reported on the steps "which it has been considered opportune to take at this time"to persuade the heads of the United Nations to re-examine the Italian question from the economic, financial and international point of view. The phrase "at this time" is significant.' Naturally there has been much speculation on the agenda of the conferenza a tre. It was announced on the 9th that Bonomi had sent a telegram to the Big Three setting forth Italy's case, and asking for allied status. What odds and ends of rumors and news that have come across the Atlantic have been, from the 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 rumours about his whereabouts to arise and have free circulation. [illegible] out of Italy, or worse pro-

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cigarette-lighter. In his possession were found two revolvers, one of German make, a German "carte d'identite" 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 submitted 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 whom?) 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 great names back of Salvarezza they would be punished; justice would take its course", thereby suggesting to the Press that there might 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 of the Royal Household? From that the step 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 membership 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.W. 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

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Minister of Justice, [illegible] if there were great names back of Salvarezza they would be p[illegible] "if there were great names back of Salvarezza they would be protected, justice would take its course", thereby suggesting to the press that there might 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 of the Royal Household? From that the step 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 membership 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.W. 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 of 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 of military personnel wilfully giving away large stocks of Allied goods or conniving

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at illicit services for gain is another matter. The Provost Marshal General of MTOUSA reports that in 1944 his Criminal Investigation Department handled 2,000 black market cases involving military property, of which 20 per cent had to do with civilians directly stealing or diverting goods and 35 per cent with civilians being in illegal possession of Allied property, both types of offenses having no "definite" trace of collusion. The remainder were, however, clear cases of misappropriation and illegal sale involving conspiracy between the civilian and military to obtain goods or services, usually use of WD 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	8,342 lire	95
Rome	446 "	11,192 "	96
Naples	394 "	9,270 "	96
Bari	337 "	4,788 "	90
Palermo	384 "	8,477 "	94
Cagliari	409 "	8,341 "	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
Sicilia	5.14	92.26	4.60
Sardegna	7.58	58.14	34.28
Average	4.34	88.68	6.98

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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 93.69 per cent. These last without doubt feel most tragically the effects of the vicious price spiral. For example, bread in Rome used to cost 1.85 lire a kilo in 1938. Now it costs from 80 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 13.58; 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, Maj. Tooby will report to us

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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 463, 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 9,558 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 853 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

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; Hq. 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 W. 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 [illegible] books are being sent from Florence to Rimini and

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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 203,860 qtl of pressed oil....The Granai del Popolo is now 90 per cent of the 11,600,000 qtl goal or 10,674,008 qtl....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 1,200 blankets they had been issued for sleeping: when the blankets were finally turned in, there were 1,204....Local Government Sub-Commission is having headaches getting Italian officials 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 absence 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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Mr Hopkinson

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

SECRET

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 had somewhat lapsed until the talk of preparation of the new electoral 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 "beaurocratically 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 Pacciardi 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 and Socialists may be the gainers. We make no prophecies; this indeed is the land in which the phrase "varium et mutabile semper femina" was coined.

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 insufficient and in any case no word has come from London though

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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 wishes 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 scepticism 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 agricultural workers. The Congress passed several resolutions the most notable 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 generale", Lizzadri, Grandi and DiVittorio were re-elected by acclamation.

Two other items of the Council meeting may be noted. General Ronco was named Chief of Staff and the State Kassione 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 tranquillity and with restored prestige."

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

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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 a 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 SCAC 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.O.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

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with a much greater consideration than ever before for long-term civi-
ian requirements, and Regional officers have developed a keen appre-
ciation 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 sta-
tions will be in operation as far north as Ravenna by the end of Feb-
ruary. Civilian transport has been reorganized, 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 Forli, in some instances handling
cases of minor infractions of military proclamations. Rehabilitation
of industries has begun, though the lack of electrical energy is still
an acute problem. With the co-operation of the Civil Affairs Section
equipment has been supplied for mine-clearing and a School of Mine
Removal, with Patriot instructors under Army direction, has already
graduated one class. There are some headaches , of course. Fuel is
in very short supply, with only 150 tons a month allocated for hos-
pitals, schools and bakeries when the hospitals alone need 600 tons.
There is wood in the area, but the terms of sale of wood-working 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 trans-
port 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. Bagnacavallo 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 32 per cent. School supplies
for 1,000 pupils were found at Forli.

In the Fifth Army zone, where operations are likewise stag-
nant, work of rehabilitation is progressing at the same time as the
future role in North Italy.

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3. Labor

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 democratic 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

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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 reorganized, 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 Forli, in some instances handling cases of minor infractions of military proclamations. Rehabilitation of industries has begun, though the lack of electrical energy is still an acute problem. With the co-operation of the Civil Affairs Section equipment has been supplied for mine-clearing and a School of Mine Removal, with Patriot instructors under Army direction, has already graduated one class. There are some headaches , of course. Fuel is in very short supply, with only 150 tons a month allocated for hospitals, schools and bakeries when the hospitals alone need 600 tons. There is wood in the area, but the terms of sale of wood-working 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.

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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 51,000 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 Jugo-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 to 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 Jugo-Slavia took place daily and many hundreds of tons of supplies were dropped to Marshall Tito's forces. Attacks were made on German supply dumps, trains, bridges and transport. Since September 1944 the I.A.F. have destroyed 450 enemy trucks on the roads and have attacked, damaged and sunk large numbers of barges, schooners, motor launches and fishing boats. By December 1944 the strength of the I.A.F. had increased to 78 fighter craft, 54 bombers and 30 seaplanes, all serviceable and of Allied and Italian types. During its active period, of approximately ten months, it has flown 6,000 sorties and has served so well in Jugo-Slavia that special mention of its services has been made by the A.O.C. Balkan Air Force and a message of appreciation and congratulation has been received from Marshall Tito himself.

6. Volcanic Verdict

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A detailed and challenging report on Sicily's recent dis-
turbances has been made by Lt. Colonel Howard of the MMIA 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".

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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 250 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 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 seperatists 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 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 16, 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 occurred on the road between Vallendolno and Vallerunga 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.

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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

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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 peace-loving 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 the Italian Army in Greece, but this time, Jacomoni, who had become non persona grata, was not invited.

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 Jugoslavia. He also denied that he had had any knowledge of the existence of the Croat 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 Rosselli to an espionage organization 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

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2. Odds and Ends

The olive oil campaign is 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., 136,867 mines, 600 unexploded bombs and 800 tons of abandoned ammunition have been removed from the Provinces of Chieti, Pescara and Teramo, and that 180 Italians have been killed and 406 seriously wounded by mines

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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 cards...Brigadier General E.L.McKinley has been visiting HQ.; he is to act as economic liaison between AC and C-S...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 We Do With Japan?"... In Sicily a quintal of wheat is selling at 8,000 to 13,000 lire... Ancona is feeling great relief with the final arrival of a 760-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 1938 exported more than 30,000 kilos of processed and unprocessed human hair valued at nearly 2,000,000 lire) useful in making felt, wigs, hairnets and surgical sutures...Congratulations to Lazio-Umbria Staff Sergeant Daniel C. LaFebvre who is being awarded the Silver Star 6 February for gallantry in action with the Fifth Army last fall... Felicitations also to six 8th Army AMG American officers who have been awarded the Bronze Star: First Lieut. William A. Lossa, Col. Charles J. Farinacci, Maj. John A. Stoops, Maj. James C. Grizzard, Major Steve Davis and Capt. Edmund E. Tomellini...The Granai del Popolo now stands at 10,414,371 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 already working in Southern Italy displaced persons' camps, AC hoping to withdraw all officers there by April 1... Lieut. Col. C.E.Rhodes (B), 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 H.Q. Priorities Board, playing Solomon, this week juggled 38,000 requests for 2,800 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 46 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.

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LIONEL FIELDEN
Major,
Public Relations Director.

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Mr Hopkinson
Polit-Sect PW

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

S E C R E T

R26/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 by 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 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 party, Magnifico Rettore of the University of Naples and Minister of Education in the second Badoglio government, telegraphed his willingness to serve with his reserve rank

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Two new government agencies found their first public expression during the week. Bergami, new Commissario of the new Commissariato per l'Alimentazione (Food Commissariat) held a press conference on the 23d. He announced that one "Direzione generale" 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

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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 export 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, asking the gentlemen of the fourth 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 sottosegretario 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 Fancelli 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 vacuum. 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 15 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". 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 fledglings are like. Two recent new ones are the GIORNALE DEL MATTINO which speaks for the government and serves a useful purpose, and LAVORO, the daily of the CGIL, out less than 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

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The Council met on the 26th 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 25d 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.

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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 Boeri, 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 sua (di Sforza) e tornata, che era dipartita...

(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 the gobbo leads somewhat uncertainly to the Headquarters of the Unione Proletaria which was raided by the Carabinieri on Friday. We give you some 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 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 (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 Province 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 systems, sewer systems and wells by the retreating German forces. Here are a few comparative figures which show how effectively Allied measures are checking the rate of disease among Italians:

1939 1940 1941 1942 1943 1944

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	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	116	100
Dysentery	17	20	67	23	22	3
Diphtheria	516	458	299	713	900	582
Whooping cough	247	536	513	504	336	87

Civilian motor vehicles in and around Florence are being fuelled 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

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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 out wide 28 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 reference to the Gobbo case and the long-awaited Roatta-Zuvich trial. The latter, after two days of legal quibbling, fizzled out into an adjournment until next week, Roatta's lawyer, Casinelli, having been suddenly though not unexpectedly eliminated by epuration, and Roatta himself having appealed for trial by a military court. The accusations against Roatta (former Chief of Staff) Zuvich (former undersecretary of Foreign Affairs) Jacomini (former "viceroy" of 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, met into trouble with the Germans, who burned his

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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 by shots fired from the Unione Proletaria. We have probably not heard the last of this peculiar case.

4. Tobacco

Observers in prewar Italy frequently stated that if Fascism was subjected to a series of strains, 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 the monopolies, and in the year 1942-43 the estimated hand-over to the treasury amounted to 4616 million lire. The method of collecting this money was simple. The entire revenue of the industry was handed over to the state which subtracted 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, warehousing and distribution. The German army in its retreat, for one reason or another, possibly as a result of a distaste 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 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, such as unobtainable and unimprovisable parts and cigarette 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 breathe. 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 373,000,000 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 [illegible] lire. The six months July to December 1944 will pro-

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was subjected to a series of strains, 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 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 subtracted 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, warehousing and distribution. The German army in its retreat, for one reason or another, possibly as a result of a distaste 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 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, such as unobtainable and unimprovisable parts and cigarette 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 breathe. 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, 79,838 kgms of cut tobacco and 375,500 kgms of cigarettes. This means 375,500,000 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 1428 million lire and seventy-five to eighty per cent of this will be paid into the treasury. This will amount to more than 80% of the total tax 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 swim 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

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proposals for such trade would have to go through the AC screen. The Italians say that they would like to get ball bearings and machine parts for electrical equipment from Switzerland (much of the Italian hydro-electric plant is Swiss-made). Sweden has wood pulp for Italian paper, besides already having offered to rehabilitate with technicians and material the Southern 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 required 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 citrus 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 Libya and Eritrea, particularly tuna fish and leather.

6. Odds and Ends

The Granai del Popolo stands, as of 27 January, at 10,385,786 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: 575,600 qtl. in a general issue;84,000 qtl. to special and supplementary classes; 41,360 qtl. to the Italian Army; 18,000 qtl. to devastated areas, and (all of the foregoing being for Liberated Italy) 295,720 qtl. into a stockpile for the North..G-4(A) of AFHQ has tentatively promised the Commerce Sub-Commission about 10,000 old uniforms for distribution to heavy outdoor workers of the armed forces..Shipped to the US during the week were 51,000 kilos of argols (deposits on wine vats),15,000 kilos of tartaric acid and 1,500 kilos of onion seed..An Allied Railway Board has been formed to deal with railway problems of Italy:AC,Military Railway Service and Italian State Railroads to sit on the board in addition to AFHQ..The first 72 truck chassis of the 1,700 promised Italy by the US last Fall have arrived; in the meantime AC has got its hands on considerable salvage material from War

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6. Odds and Ends

The Granai 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 174,886 qtl. of the 300,000 qtl. target, which will be
distributed as follows: 875,600 qtl. in a general issue;64,000 qtl. to
special and supplementary classes; 41,360 qtl. to the Italian Army;
12,000 qtl. to devastated areas, and (all of the foregoing being for
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of the 1,700 promised Italy by the US last Fall have arrived; in the
meantime AC has got its hands on considerable salvage material from War
Department sources in Italy in the shape of frames, bodies, assemblies
and spring for cannibalization..For the first time since the liberation
of Rome, the city has a full month's grain supply in stock..The Education
S/C 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 275,216 pen points from the Americans..SORRY:
We were a little too positive in describing an UNRRA item last week
ament the purely tentative arrival of 19,000 tons of UNRRA goods con-
cerning which Transportation Sub-Commission was merely "contemplating"
plans since the entire matter is as yet unconfirmed..The US Promotion
Board points with pride to the fact that, since Dec.25,there have been
96 American promotions in AC,78 in the field and 18 [illegible] more
advancements are to be announced later this week.

LIONEL FIELDEN
Major, DPR.

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HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

SECRET

R26/W342/PRB

21 January 1945.

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

1. Political

On the 15th 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," wrote 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 DeGaulle 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 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 [illegible] of their country"

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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," wrote 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 DeGaulle 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 16th 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 ociusi." (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 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 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 co-operation 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

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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 Liberta". 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 understanding and cooperation in these matters.

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 departure 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

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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 MacFarlane and Max Taylor, and Mr. Macmillan. Aided by that device and the inevitable illness of Roatta (for Caruso set a fashion in these 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.

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Correction

It has been pointed out to us 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 timed by the CLN declaration of 17 January - who (as reported under political) drew a balcony speech from Bonomi. Indeed throughout the week the Roman press has been agitating for a greater Italian share of bellicosity. 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 will 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 315,000; (of this, roughly speaking, 65,000 were to be US-ITI, furnished with American equipment, 167,000 BR-ITI including combat troops, furnished with British equipment, while 60,000 would be ITI-ITI guard and administrative troops mainly furnished from Italian stocks); the ceiling for the Carabinieri who are regarded as part of the armed forces was set at 65,000. The size of the Italian Combat Force was limited by the ruling that it had to fight with Italian equipment captured in Italy. The remainder of the army was used on lines of communication work - a factor of no small importance in saving Allied manpower.

In August the Supreme Allied Commander asked the Combined Chiefs of Staff to authorize the issue from England or Africa of 5 British Divisions worth of equipment for the Italians: with this he intended to form 8 "Combat Groups" each 50,000 strong. At the same time General Browning asked Allied authorities to stop dipping into Italian Army reserves for any old job that they wanted done, since Italian troops were required to assist the war effort [illegible] 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, MMIA 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" [illegible] was well established in the food-

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they argue that if the war [illegible] 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 will 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 310,000; (of this, roughly speaking, 90,000 were to be US-ITI, furnished with American equipment, 154,000 BR-ITI including combat troops, furnished with British equipment, while 66,000 would be ITI-ITI guard and administrative troops mainly furnished from Italian stocks); the ceiling for the Carabinieri who are remanned as part of the armed forces was set at 65,000. The size of the Italian Combat Force was limited by the ruling that it had to fight with Italian equipment captured in Italy. The remainder of the army was used on lines of communication work - a factor of no small importance in saving Allied manpower.

In August the Supreme Allied Commander asked the Combined Chiefs of Staff to authorize the issue from England or Africa of 5 British Divisions worth of equipment for the Italians: with this he intended to form 6 "Combat Groups' each group 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 [illegible] 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, LEGHORN, FOLGORE, MANTOVA and PICENO, MMIA 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 125,000 caps and 12,000 blankets. A repatriation camp was started at Taranto in November for Italian soldiers returning from Greece and the Balkans, and 25,367 officers and ORs had passed through it by January.

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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 5 years) widespread desertion, over-lenient exemption laws, and lack of enthusiasm to enlist. The call-up in Rome and Lazio - target 14,000 - resulted in 5,700, and in Abruzzi - target 6000 - in 2000. We know what happened in Sicily. Calls-up are petting in Sardinia and Umbria. The Roman Press and party leaders nevertheless continue to stress Italy's desire to fight. And speaking of the press, the Italian Army is now to have one of its own in the form of a daily morale newspaper, to be called "Patria", with an initial circulation of 60,000 and to be published at Rome, Bari and Florence.

3. The Gobbo of Quarticciolo

Early this past week a maresciallo of Carabinieri shot and killed Giuseppe Albano, alias 'Il Gobbo' (The Hunchback), 18-year-old boy leader of Rome's most formidable gang and two days later, January 18, over 1000 Carabinieri, Italian infantrymen and Questura agents successfully rounded up the main elements of his leaderless henchmen whose operations have ranged from Beniamino Gigli's villa in the Salaria district to the headquarters of a political party in Trastevere and whose crimes have included car stealing, extortion and murder.

Police investigations concerning the leads of a Carabinieri and the fatal shooting of a British corporal had already led to the poor Quarticciolo and Gordiani 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, ammunitions 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 Beretta pistol, and raced across Via Fornace 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.

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Early this past week a maresciallo of Carabinieri shot and killed Giuseppe Albano, alias 'Il Gobbo' (The Hunchback), 18-year-old boy leader of Rome's most formidable gang and two days later, January 15, over 1000 Carabinieri, Italian infantrymen and Questura agents successfully rounded up the main elements of the lawless gangsters whose operations have ranged from Beniamino Gigli's villa in the Salaria 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 Carabinieri and the fatal shooting of a British corporal had already led to the poor Quarticciolo and Tomiano 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, ammunitions 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 Beretta pistol, and raced across Via Formovo 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 16, Lt. Col. Bruto B. Bersonetti of the CC.RR., having flung a dragnet employing 670 Carabinieri, 320 Italian infantrymen and 120 Questura agents over the adjoining Quarticciolo and Tomiano districts, began systematically to comb the area. At a cost of one civilian dead 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, 30 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 Arcangel, alias 'Er Cipollotta' (The Small Onion), who was killed. Property seized included the following interesting items: 16 rifles, 12 revolvers,

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1 German machine gun, a military telephone exchange, 10 gas masks, a military automobile, 40 pounds of explosives, 3,000 projectiles of various calibres and an assortment of 46 swords, daggers and bayonettes.

Since Il Cobbo 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 gunshot 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 report on the activities of the Assistant High Commission for Epuration from 10 August to 31 December 1944 the former Assistant High Commissioner (Soccimarro) 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 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 conjuction 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; there was a provincial commission for Rome and nine more 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 3,566 proceedings, deciding on 897 dismissals, 1,461 "lesser sanctions" and 1,550 acquittals. The Assistant High Commissioner, to whom the decisions were conveyed, presented 227 appeals to the Central Commission. He requested 1,262 suspensions from service and obtained 600. A further 2,910 suspensions, mainly of 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 [illegible] envisaged in the decree. [illegible] more than

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Although "unyielding to reprehensible weaknesses or to corrupting influences" the Assistant High Commissioner issued general directives from time to time, opposing excessive rigidity and extremism

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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 irresponsibles". As a general rule greater clemency was recommended for the lower grades, especially where dismissal would involve the ruin of families. 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 government, 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 of 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.Baaken, 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 toward Italian prices in relation to world prices, Mr. Baaken 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 not, 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 Section; Col. E.R.Cripps, chief staff officer of the Civil Affairs Section, and Col. G.W.L.Shipp, chief staff officer to the Chief of Staff. Priority

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awaiting processing and 80,000 lbs. of wool clothing, 149,000 lbs. of cotton and 61,000 lbs. of mixed, besides 15,000 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 its olive oil program. There are daily arrivals from the field of 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 Government 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 485,580 qtl. collected by the same date two years ago. Transportation Sub-Commission is pitching in with some joint coordination, being ready to provide 50 to 100 trucks for the second pressing of the olives. Incidentally, of the 80 officers assigned to the drive, 41 will be used in the Southern Region and is 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 oil will go to the 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 big Solvay caustic soda plant at Rosignano, 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 requisitioned 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.

CENTRAL POWER - A notable step forward in the electrical power reconstruction of Central Italy took place late Saturday, 20 January, 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 facilities whereby surplus energy can be transferred to

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170,000 and to be collected in 4 provinces, notably Tuscany. To date the collections for entire Liberated Italy, as of 15 January, were 147,305 qtl., compared with 489,683 qtl. collected by the same date two years ago. Transportation Sub-Commission is pitching in with some road 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 oil will go to the Allied troops. But can it? Especially when one thinks of all the officers' messes and dinner salads over which AC has no control.

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guests, both Italian and Allied, drank tea, sipped vermouth and ate fancy little cakes 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 inscription of the sweets necessarily comes from visual, not oral, experience, because we were too busy to stay for the festivities).

6. A Horrid Tale from Marina Palmense

Marina Palmense, which (you may or may not know) is not far from Lacenato, was importunently desecrated, so it appears, by what the Germans probably called a Commando raid on January 1st. The raid, as Major Jackson, Provincial Public Safety Officer, remarks, achieved nothing; but the local ontal 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 24 or 25 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 a round face, and of humanity 40 to 45 years, wearing a civilian cap of a dark red color with a visor, with a faint 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.

"Yesterday, the 26th, 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 left 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.

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

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"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 21 or 22 of this month, about 1130 hours, an individual disguised as a pilgrim, of medium-robust stature, with reddish hair and beard, with a reddish complexion, with a round face, and of apparently 40 to 45 years, wearing a civilian cap of a grey and green with a visor, with a dark red overcoat, walked and carrying a stick, was seen going around the fraction and paying attention to the points which overlooked the beach. An adolescent boy, seeing 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 towards the beach, where he was lost to view.

"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 Capofaro, in the direction of that town, with a sack on his left 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."

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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

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true that a very great deal of the available accommodation, 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 airfields 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 of accommodation 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 operating 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 ALG. A little later we had a letter, equally interesting, from Lieut. Colonel H. N. Bright, Zone Commissioner of Foggia, to whom Brigadier Dunlop had forwarded the article. He wrote, in part:

"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 Labour. 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. 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 10 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. It's 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

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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".

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Formia is only one problem. But, gentle reader, if you were us with these 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.P.Mayne, 5th Army AMG 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 succeeded 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 its director, Mr. Merritt H. Taylor (A), and newly joined Deputy Director Col. M.B. Thomas (B), who will now direct a Planning Staff and five sections: Administration, Movements, Rail, Road and Ports and Warehouses..The Granai del Popolo, as of 20 January, stands at 10,660,810 qtl. or 88 per cent. of the 11,000,000 qtl. target..Good news for American officers came through again this week in the form of 25 more promotions: two to Colonels (Ernest C. Bowman, Emilia Regional Commissioner, and Louis A. Jenny, Public Works S/C director); nine to Lieutenant Colonel; five to Major, and 13 to First Lieutenant - to all congratulations..16000 tons of UNRRA goods, mostly food, are expected to arrive by the end of February: 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 Raynor will head PWB both Army Group and Mr. George Elman 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 Solamma works at Rome now goes into immediate production of 12,000 sq.m. monthly and at Colle di Val d'Elsa near Siena enough sand 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 requisitioning all but 16 of 130 machines in the ARCO plant in Rome, tackling necessary for the manufacture of interchangeable spare parts..50,000 greatcoats idle, infested and almost rotting away 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 have taken this week to get further better mutual acquaintance between regional commissioners and Headquarters sub-commissions: Space and staff 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..72 head of cattle, the first installment 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 mis-adventures previously..The new match production at the Saffa plant in

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Mr. Harriet H. Taylor (A), Mr. [illegible] Thomas (B), who will now direct a Planning Staff and five sections: Administration, Movements, Rail, Road and Ports and Warehouses..The Granai del Popolo, as of 20 January, stands at 10,360,810 qtl. or 89 per cent. of the 11,600,000 qtl. target..Good news for American officers came through again this week in the form of 29 more promotions: two to Colonels (Alfred C. Bowman, Emilia Regional Commissioner, and Louis A. Jenny, Public Works S/C director); nine to Lieutenant Colonel; five to Major, and 13 to First Lieutenant - to all congratulations..18000 tons of UNRRA goods, mostly food, are expected to arrive by the end of February: 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 into Army Group and Mr. George Eyman 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 Solaria works at Rome now goes into immediate production of 10,000 sq.m. monthly and at Colle di Val d'Elsa near Siena enough sand 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 requisitioning all but 16 of 130 machines in the ARSO plant in Rome, machines necessary for the manufacture of interchangeable spare parts..30,000 greatcoats 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 staff 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 installment 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 200,00 aimed at; but lack of power for the Jesi match factory threatens to disrupt the nation-wide match distribution program..

5. Quote from an Estonian Contemporary

"Rush: 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.

Lionel Fielden.
LIONEL FIELDEN
Major,
Public Relations Director.

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Ann Hopkinson

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

SECRET

R26/WB41/PRB

15 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 the 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 8th, 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 in the North where it would be a simple matter of getting an answer to the question: did you or did you not collaborate with the enemy? Sforza's place is not to be filled, at least for the time being; the four Commissari Aggiunti will report to Bonomi. "A compromise solution", growled ITALIA LIBERA, which follows Sforza and all things affecting him with jealous vigilance. It is all to the good that the matter should not be entrusted to a magistrate said the ACTION mouthpiece but Bonomi has not the time 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

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children go to bed with the 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 6th, 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.

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Rossini, Capo dell'Ufficio Stampa della Presidenza - i.e. Chief of the governments Public Relations Office, gave another press conference on the 8th. 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

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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. 16th 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 service they wish." This, being real freedom for the press, strikes a blow for democracy and was appreciatively hailed by the Roman papers. "The long servitude of the Italian press comes to an end", said ITALIA LIBERA and similar expressions of satisfaction were to be found in the columns of POPOLO and RICOSTRUZIONE, the latter remembering to thank the Allies for this new freedom.

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 ill - how seriously no one will tell us.

On the 9th there was a meeting of a special Interministerial Committee, headed by Bronchi, 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.

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The work of the Carabinieri comes in for special praise and the reserve waiting to be sent 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 terrorists also in Pistoia has caused widespread satisfaction. A remarkable increase in forged currency is reported, 80 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 5,000 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.

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 FRANCATO made a flaming Fascist speech at Agrigento on January 7 and that Major J.T.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 an Ally and was presumably 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 Vittoria, 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 5 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

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waters was also authorized. On the 10th 600 Italian troops (whose train from Agrigento had been held up by rioters with machine-guns) entered Vittoria: total Italian army casualties 3 wounded; civilian, 3 killed and 20 wounded. Comiso - to judge from our information - was holding out to the last man, having presumably swallowed the artillery unit and tank and possibly Colonel Leonard 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 Briselle's troops entered Comiso at 1200 hours. Population showed no reaction at all to entry of troops". This PWB 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 Export 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, 1944 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 8,800 tons of imported wheat and 7,200 tons of barley were unloaded at the wharves. 750 tons of rock phosphate and 252 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 376,000 and it is estimated that by using seams 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 (2,800 tons), lead (2,561 tons), paint pigment (2,000 tons), magnesium sulphate (1,104 tons), kaolin (1,300 tons), firebrick (843 tons), fertilizer (789 tons), pecorino - sheep's milk cheese - (705 tons), skins totalling [illegible] weighing 494 tons, cork (200 tons), and smaller quantities

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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 273,666 quintals, barley 29,986 quintals and the olive oil crop is reported to be exceptionally 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 construction going on, work progressing on drainage schemes and on the hydro-electric installation at Flumendosa, the island is getting back some 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.

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Tradition, however, in the shape of the island's unenviable reputation for organized brigandage and casual robberies, lies 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 than the Italian Government. Mr. Leland S. Albaugh (A), director of the Agriculture Sub-Commission; his olive oil brain truster and field man, Maj. J.R.T. Crawford (B), and Maj. G.M. Duncan (B), 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 AMG territory). Italian government road blocks will be manned 24 hours a day, trains will be searched, records of olive oil mills and presses will be examined. Italian courts have been ordered by the Government to make examples of violators and a wide publicity campaign has been organized. The goal has been set at 800,000 qtl. by the end of April, enough to give all ration card holders 200 grams a month south of the Pisa-Rimini line, fill Italian Army requirements, to provide for the devastated areas and even stockpile for the North in a small way. Collected to date have been 118,362 qtl., a bad show when one recalls that the comparable figure for two years ago was 419,465 qtl. Allied officers are being carefully instructed that in 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.

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5. Olive Oil Campaign Starts

The olive oil campaign which was getting slower 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 than the Italian Government. Mr. Leland S. Albaugh (A), director of the Agriculture Sub-Commission; his olive oil brain trusters and field men, Maj. J.F.T.Crawford (B), and Maj. S.M.Duncan (B), 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 AMG territory). Italian Government road blocks will be manned 24 hours a day, trains will be searched, records of olive oil mills and presses will be examined. Italian courts have been ordered by the Government to make examples of violators and a wide publicity campaign has been organized. The goal has been set at 800,000 qtl. by the end of April, enough to give all ration card holders 200 grams a month south of the Pisa-Rimini line, fill Italian Army requirements, to provide for the devastated areas and even stockpile for the North in a small way. Collected to date have been 118,362 qtl., a bad show when one recalls that the comparable figure for two years ago was 419,405 qtl. Allied officers are being carefully instructed that in 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.

6. PWB Loses Ground

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

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information, besides visible assets, now difficult to remove, such as the materials used to repair radio transmitters and printing presses. The vexing question is now 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 1c PWB Italian Theatre Headquarters ceases to exist, and PWB will be divided into two separate units - PWB XV 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 1c, 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 think, 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 by a technical committee now sitting under the chairmanship of the Chief Commissioner. The PWB-controlled newspaper, CORRIERE DI ROMA, will also disappear, at least as far as its name is concerned: the Rome press is much exercised to know whether its machinery and employees will revert to the former owners, who, so it is said, flourished under Fascism. Other legacies of PWB such as films, publications, propaganda shops, and even perhaps the hush-hush "D" intelligence section, are likely to come under AC control or coordination, modified by the participation of CWI and MOI and the Rome embassies, and in the course of God's, or the Allies', good time, reverting to Italian hands. Perhaps the most interesting 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 some

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...and Lead production log-jam was broken this week with 81 promotions: 60 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.M.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 800 will replace an equal number of general service men on the AC American strength, the transfers taking place in groups of 30 or 50 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-Commission wants the ceiling increased to 65,000, since of the paper strength, 6,000 actually are non-effective and another 4,500 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(B) has left the somewhat hectic life of supervising the Roman police to take up the Austrian planning at AFHQ... Southern Region is reorganizing its headquarters on the pattern of AC Hq. with Civil Affairs, Economic and Establishment Sections...The Land Forces Sub-Commission was asked for the repatriation of 31,000 technician POW's to help complete 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 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 Feasey as co-chairmen...Despite the intensive expurgative 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 1938:(correc-tions in mid-printing are being made)...The Chief Commissioner has been visiting 15th Army Group...General Nares, who commands No. 2 District with whom AC/AHQ 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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Mr Schott

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

SECRET

R26/WB40/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 schizoprenia of the Communists whose UNITA' had backed Azzi to the limit but whose representatives 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 C.L.N.A.I. (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 flavour to our bouillabaisse, continued to simmer. Cianca 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 resignation, it was stated that his post might well be left vacant until the occupation of northern Italy. It appears now that

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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 representatives in the Government must bear their share of responsibility in supporting his removal.

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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. Macmillan, 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.

There were two new appointments during the week. General Luigi Chatrian replaced General Oxilia as Undersecretary for War and Luigi Einaudi, the well-known economist, who had only recently returned from exile in Switzerland, was named head of the Bank of Italy, Introna the present incumbent being made Direttore Generale. Carandini is back from London for a short visit, convinced that the people of England bear no ill-will to the Italians, and Camillus, whom Italians knew well as a radio voice in the dark years, has also returned. He remarked that Rome seemed much further from the war than London and was naively astonished at the existence of the black market. Needless to say he has been a long time away.

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 Wednesday. 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 de-

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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 moving 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 60 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 clean 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 "Labour Union" which tried to prevent the local brickworks from re-opening unless they paid a scale of wages dictated by the "Camera" and turned those wages over to the "Camera" for distribution to the workers. AMG smashed that one.

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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."

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

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their bread ration. The regional executive officer, Lt. Col. J.D. Scholts (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, was 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 283,196 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. 6,903 tons of the big harvest of the Fucino basin were distributed, Rome getting 3,250 tons for food and another 1,253 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 handed in at the official collection points.

In six months over 600 engineering projects were carried out. 132 bridges were completely reconstructed, 82 were partially reconstructed and 95 temporary wooden structures erected. Road works numbered 164, including diversions, temporary passages and retaining walls. 42 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 Jeri match factory and the Milliani paper mills at Pioraco 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 5,000 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 4,732 in the universities. Regional financial officers prepared budgets for central or parastatal agencies in each province and for 80% of the region's 705 communes. Inhabitants of that part

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national interest, the chief crop for 1944 was potatoes. 8,903 tons of the big harvest of the Fucino basin were distributed, Rome getting 5,285 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 handed in at the official collection points.

In six months over 300 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. 28 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 9,000 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 Milani paper mills at Fabriano 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/ACC 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 500,000 students enrolled, including 22,987 in the kindergartens, 352,961 in the elementary schools, 54,529 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 808 of the region's 705 communes. Inhabitants of that part of the Abruzzi just north of last winter's battle-line received 7,000,000 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.

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

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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 43 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 1,500 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.C.), the new Camion Owners Union (U.E.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, owned, 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 now 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 and converging on a few select piazzas where trade promises to be brisk, or how to increase the safety factor in motor tricycles which, since they carry all of their weight on one long front wheel lack not only equilibrium but the confidence of insurance companies, not one of which will sell an accident or liability policy to an operator at any price.

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(Item 3: Little by Little) which said that "13 of Sardinia's 20 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 55 elementary schools visited by the education officer 13 were found by him to be functioning.

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

The fuel is almost invariably obtained on the black market at prices which range from 50 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.

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MAKE	PASSENGERS	KILOMETERS PER LITER	P/KM/LITER
Augusta	7	7	49
Balilla	8	7	56
Ford	10	5-6	50
Fiat 509	10	6	60
SPA	12	4-5	48
Ansaldo	12	5	60
Artena	14	4-5	56
Bianchi	14	6	84
Astura	16	4	64
Dilamda	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 and SCHEDULES 6-9:30AM Veh.	Frequency MIN.	9:30AM onwards Veh.	Frequency MIN.
V.le Parioli - Via Veneto	3.2	5,500	10	2½	7	3½
Esquilino - Stazione Tuscolana	3.2	10,500	22	1⅛	15	1¾
P.le Flaminio - P.le Clodio	2.3	6,500	12	2	8	3
Colosseo - Piazza Cavour	3.1	15,500	20	1½	13	1¾
S.M.Maggiore - Piazza Cavour	4.2	11,000	20	1¾	13	2½
Ferrovia - Piazza Cavour	3.4	12,000	20	1½	13	2¼
P.le Ponte M.-Tomba di Nerone	4.8	2,000	4	8	2	16
S.Trastevere-Borg.Ducad'Aosta	6.0	4,000	10	3¾	6	5¼

It has been estimated that the camionette are 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 1,150,000 kw., of which Rome had 115,000; the Allies found 57,000 in Central Italy, of which 20,000 were in Rome; at present Central Italy has 105,000 kw., of which Rome gets 30,000 to 50,000.....The British Navy wants to recruit 24 Italian divers for work in the Far East and would like to hire 3,000 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

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60 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 250 grams of bread and 80 grams of pasta daily and 100 grams of tinned meat a week.....AFHQ has authorized the creation of mobile battalions 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.....Schools in various parts are closing or about to close because of the cold weather and lack of glass.....Elba was finally taken over by Toscana Region 20 December..... A contract to supply 360,000 fishing corks to the Balkans has been placed.....One unit of the Piana 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 1,600 lire per ton.....Lignite 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.M. Picken, who, be it noted, managed to run the AC's Message Centre from November 1943 to October 1944 without going insane: congratulations to all.....Commander J.J.Lawler, joint director of the Finance Sub-Commission, has just returned from Washington with a promotion (more congratulations) and the news that the Italian financial mission which he was escorting in the States would probably stay there another month in discussions.....U.S.Senators Harold H. Burton (R.,Ohio) and James M. Tunnell (D.,Del.), tembers of the Senate Mead (formerly Truman) Committee, are visiting Italy and are investigating relations between civilian and military agencies among other things, it is reported.....Six British MP's arrived on Friday for a tour of Italy and were so well entertained to dinner somewhere in the South that (so Mr. Robert Bernays, one of the party, told us) a general officer fell backwards into the fire.

8. 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.

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LIONEL FIELDEN
Major,
Public Relations Director.

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HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

SECRET

30 December 1944.

R26/WB59/PRB

AC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO. 59
24 Dec 44 to 31 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 Storza wished to resign his post as High Commissioner; a worthy successor - probably a magistrate - would be chosen to [illegible] him and the process of epuration would go on as before - [illegible] to make it more expeditious. Friday's [illegible] of the Court

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journal seems particularly sensitive. AVANTI was untroubled by this faux pas - 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 has ideas of a strongly Republican tinge and suggested (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 sturdily clamored that he has been wronged. TEMPO (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 scandalo 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. Soleri'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" which pleased the moderate parties. He also defended - as the OSSERVATORE has occasionally in recent months - the rights of property and other "natural" rights of preeminence; the concept of society is essentially hierarchical. Still he is on the side of democracy and post war international solidarity. The speech indeed could be interpreted as support of Dumbarton Oaks. AVANTI contented itself with

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2. AMG 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 has 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

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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 23 December attended by AMG officials. Destruction is particularly heavy in the neighbourhood 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. Dyptheria 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 21 Dec. 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 points will be set up because the compensating reservoir has been smashed.

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 equipment have survived the battle. Acute shortages will be relieved from Ravenna, where the fire services are intact. One lone carabinieri was found on duty when AMG arrived, with some firemen, two members

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be accommodated in it. [illegible] fire from the German lines, but there has been no mortar fire since 21 Dec. 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 points will be set up because the compensating reservoir has been smashed.

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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

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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.

5. 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 time 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 basking 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 waggons 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 where the offices were colder than the Corporazioni (honest!) and the refuge of the Cava mess no warmer though brightened by unusual good food and warmed by the charm of Lord Stansgate. Others made the acquaintance of Naples, at that time, dirty, overcrowded and inevitably cold. Still there was a good mess - remember Santa Brigida? - an officers club and - faute de mieux, in the early days - a little Swiss wineshop frequented by some, or let us be frank and say many. No, life was not all drab in Naples. The fiery glamour of Vesuvius in eruption and perhaps an occasional flaming sunset behind Posillipo will linger in our memories as long - daringly we say perhaps longer - than the first Regional Commissioners meetings, not without glamour and a certain amount of fire 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

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There is a proverb in this country: Buona compagnia rezza 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. Odds and Ends

Work on the devastated 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 60,000 mines; 30 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 organisation for the repair and dyeing of salvaged Army 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 73 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 5,500 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 1,600 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 super-region, with strong sub-commission representation, and perhaps modelled organizationally after Hq. (that is, into Economic, Civil Affairs and Establishment Sections, etc.) in order to deal broadly and quickly with the heavy political-industrial problems anticipated...Only 1,000 Italians have responded to date to the military call-up in Sicily instead of the anticipated 8,000...Tuscany peasants are reported increasingly resentful of the continuing ban on hunting in their native mountains, but what otherwise can the military do in an army area...The Patriots Branch has shipped 2,000 overcoats, 2,000 sweaters, 2,500 pairs of socks and 2,000 shorts to the Patriots in the Florence area while the Fifth Army AMG has collected 2,500 trousers and 3,000 shirts for the same purpose...Olive oil amassing, as of 23 December, stood at 66,661 quintals, while the Granai dei Popolo is now 87 per cent. of the target figure of 11,600,000 qtl. or 10,058,501 qtl. collected, as of 28 December...Refugee Comings-and-Goings: 1,200 Italians left Rome for towns in Calabria and Puglie while 730 Italians came

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200 grams of bread and 60 grams of pasta a week [illegible] effect; mine clearing squads have removed 60,000 mines; 30 per cent. of the bridges to isolated communes have been repaired; one G.I. 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 salvaged Army 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 73 billion lire and estimated receipts at 15 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 5,500 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 1,600 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 super-region, with strong sub-commission representation, and perhaps modelled organizationally after Hq. (that is, into Economic, Civil Affairs and Establishment Sections, etc.) in order to deal broadly and quickly with the heavy political-industrial problems anticipated...Only 1,000 Italians have responded to date to the military call-up in Sicily instead of the anticipated 8,000...Tuscany peasants are reported increasingly resentful of the continuing ban on hunting in their native mountains, but what otherwise can the military do in an army area...The Patriots Branch has shipped 2,000 overcoats, 2,000 sweaters, 2,500 pairs of socks and 2,000 shorts to the Patriots in the Florence area while the Fifth Army AMG has collected 2,500 trousers and 5,000 shirts for the same purpose...Olive oil amassing, as of 25 December, stood at 66,661 quintals, while the Granai del Popolo is now 87 per cent. of the target figure of 11,600,000 qtl. or 10,058,501 qtl. collected, as of 28 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 28 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 AMG's did themselves

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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

LIONEL FIELDEN,
Major,
Public Relations Director.

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Am Embassy
Pub Aff

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

SECRET

23 December 1944.

R26/WE38/PRB

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 LIBERA, 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 understandings 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 and Provincial) elections next Spring. In the meanwhile Togliatti, from each of the four parties)

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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 is 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 comunale, 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 separatist 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 explains the baring of the Council's fangs last Wednesday.

The trial of Pentimalli and Don Tetto ran through the week. These are the Generals accused of having surrendered 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 penalty but the verdict, which came on Friday was twenty years imprisonment, which made a strange contrast, as pointed out 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.

Nenni, back from London where 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 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

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8. 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 121,736 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, 600 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 Firso-Chilivanni section of the Sardinian Ferrovie Complementari, killing one and injuring fifteen. Bari Division accepted bids for taking 6,880 tons of wine in approximately equal quantities to Naples and to Ortona. The same division moved 405 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 passenger train.

Speaking of pilfering, large-scale disappearances of Allied property from railway cars by organized gangs is 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 anxious to line their pockets quickly at the expense of the community. Cars are run by the hi-jackers to suitable spots where black market racketeers hungrily await the spoils. The cars are unloaded, goods and money change hands on the spot with bewildering rapidity and by morning it is safe to assume that the trucks are standing in empty innocence many miles away. The Naples gangs, evidently aware their activities have not gone unobserved, are at the moment strategical followers of Brer Rabbit. Not so elsewhere. At one place(which must of 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 89 sacks of grain.

One night an Italian clerk in the rail division with a

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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 shadows 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

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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 further 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 sybaritic tendencies of some of the guards, by assuring his chief that, given time to develop his prowess as a sleuth, he could "manage to find out the names of some of the people concerned in these affairs."

6. 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 zinc, 15 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 goal. It also plans to print several million 20 to 40 page notebooks in Italy; 200,000 have been completed and a million more are now being produced in Rome. School supplies are harder to get than book-making materials. When a requisition made last Spring for penholders was returned this November for restudying, on the ground that it equalled three months total production in the United States, the Sub-Commission feelingly replied that an order for one penholder per year for every three school children in Italy is not an exorbitant request.

The job of rewriting elementary school textbooks which are the only schoolbooks ever to reach the hands of 85 percent of Italian school children was, for the newly established Elementary Textbook Committee 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 greatly by problems of clothing

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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 739 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 schools 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.

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"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 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:

	OCCUPIED 20 Oct	OCCUPIED 1 Dec	RTN'D TO USE
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
Needing Repairs, etc.	69	69	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	32	65	15

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 accommodation prevents large attendances. In recently liberated Emilia plans are being perfected for the opening of schools in Forli 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

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	OCCUPIED 20 Oct	1 Dec	RTN'D TO USE
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
Needing Repairs, etc.	89	89	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

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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: 25,000 cases of citrus fruit arrived in good condition at Civitavecchia from Sicily and 1,000 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...284,000 boxes of lemons 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

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1,760 cases for November in Toscana Region, with 187 acquittals 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 requests for individual repatriation of stranded Italians who want to come home from places as far removed as Haiti, New York and Brazil...Patriot centers are now housing 2,000, many having come through the lines to seek relief through the winter months...The weather, which has been wreaking damage to roads and rails, has interrupted flour deliveries to Reggio and Catanzaro, some communes being without flour for four days...Peasants near San Gregorio in Salerno Province staged a small riot over the new swine tax and the olive oil amassing...The AC Typhus Control 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 - 5,000 kw. generating capacity restored at Acquoria hydro-plant; Lost - 4,800 kw. through breakdowns at Terni and Larderello...Current Granai del Popolo totals: 8,938,036 qtl. or 86 per cent. of the 11,000,000 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 Dee, 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-ministerial 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 civilian consumers now amount to 2,500 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, pasta factories, bakeries, cement works and key industries...You may have three guesses as to why 'Cantachiaro' disappeared this week on the day of its publication...Carabinieri did a smart job this week at Tor Marancia, rounding up a gang which has been giving trouble in the district and getting a haul which included 3 machine guns, 52 sticks of dynamite, 34 rifles and some more...On Friday night at the Bernini cinema in Rome printed 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.

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[illegible] and Lanterello...Current Granai dei Popolo totals: 5,936,636 qtl. or 86 per cent. of the 11,000,000 qtl. goal... Olive oil collections to date are 60,728 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-ministerial 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 civilian consumers now amount to 2,000 tons a day, mostly Italian coal, of which 800 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, pasta factories, bakeries, cement works and key industries...You may have three guesses as to why 'Cantachiaro' disappeared this week on the day of its publication...Carabinieri did a smart job this week at Tor Maranoia, rounding up a gang which had been giving trouble in the district and getting a haul which included 3 machine guns, 32 sticks of dynamite, 34 rifles and some more...On Friday night at the Bernini cinema in Rome printed 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,
[illegible]
Public Relations Director.

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HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 534
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

SECRET

16 December 1944.

P26/WB37/PRB

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)	
	Bodino (CD)	
WITHOUT PORTFOLIO	Brosio (L)	Segni (CD)
AGRICULTURE	Gullo (C)	Gen. Pellegrini (I)
AIR	Scialoja (LD)	Mattarella (CD)
EDUCATION	Arangio Ruiz (L)	Gabriele (L)
FINANCE	Pesenti (C)	Reale (C)
FOREIGN AFFAIRS	De Gasperi (CD)	Fiore (C) (2)
INDUSTRY, COMMERCE, LABOR	Grenchi (CD)	Paresce (LD) (3)
		Mole (LD)
INTERIOR	Bonomi (I)	Veroni (LD)
JUSTICE	Tupini (CD)	Bassano (LD)
NAVY	Adm. De Courten (I)	Montalbano (C) (4)
		Medici Tornaquinci (L)
OCCUPIED ITALY	Scoccimarro (C)	Fano (I)
COMMUNICATIONS (PTT)	Cevoletto (LD)	Cassiani (CD)
PUBLIC WORKS	Ruini (LD)	Rizzo (L)
TRANSPORTATION (RR)	Carabona (LD)	Scoca (CD)
TREASURY	Soleri (L)	Palermo (C)
WAR	Casati (L) (5)	Libonati (L)
PRESS, THEATRE AND TOURISM	(6)	Morelli (L)
ITALIANS ABROAD		

Ogilvie-Chadwick

(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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WITHOUT PORTFOLIO	Gullo (C)	Segni (CD)
AGRICULTURE	Scialoja (LD)	Gen. Pellegrini (I)
AIR	Arangio Ruiz (L)	Mattarella (CD)
EDUCATION	Pesenti (C)	Gabriele (L)
FINANCE	De Gasperi (CD)	Reale (C)
FOREIGN AFFAIRS	Gronchi (CD)	Fiore (C) (2)
INDUSTRY, COMMERCE, LABOR		Paresce (LD) (3)
INTERIOR	Bonomi (I)	Mole (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)	Corbellini (LD)	Rizzo (L)
TREASURY	Soleri (L)	Scoca (CD)
WAR	Casati (L) (5)	Palermo (C)
PRESS, THEATRE AND TOURISM	(6)	Libonati (L)
ITALIANS ABROAD		Morelli (L)

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(6) Formerly "Press and Information" and to be liquidated.

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 (AVANTI, losing no time in going into opposition, called it a "sermoncino") in which he stressed the obligation to respect

Ogilvie - Chatrian

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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 surveyed 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 indicated 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 grouse 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 acceptable to all. Compared to the violence and intransigence to be observed in other countries, the Italian way does not look too bad.

2. Congratulations

We should like to voice the congratulations of the Commission

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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 prolonged 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 A.M.G. 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 4,031 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 80,000 pairs by Christmas. All-wool workmen'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 labour is being imported from Pistoia to relieve a local shortage. By the end of November 2,000 civilian phones had been connected and the total number in use by the end of the year will be 8,000. 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. A.M.G. 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. 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 12,800 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 4,688. 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 very 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.

Conditions on the Eighth Army front are much as they were [illegible] Abruzzi-Molise area. Mud, floods and demolitions [illegible] the only likely way

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have totalled 20,000 pairs by [illegible] 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 labour is being imported from Pistoia to relieve a local shortage. By the end of November 2,000 civilian phones had been connected and the total number in use by the end of the year will be 3,000. 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. A.M.G. 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. 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 constant shell fire. Last Sunday night the Luftwaffe had a go at them and blew in their doors and windows, pitting walls and furniture with broken glass. The Church of S.Bagio was hit during vespers. Known civilian dead at 1600 hrs Wednesday were 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

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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 Theoderic 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 pained 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 under Italian law; Public Works: Italian administration 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 ENAC decree providing for central control of all Italian transport; Agriculture: Energetic action on the olive oil program; Prices: Stricter enforcement. Mr. Antolini finally left for Washington at the end of the week. He was preceded by Col. G.D.Murphey, who will look into the matter of surplus U.S. war material that could be used for Italian civilian purposes and by Major Gael E. Sullivan, who will follow through on AC requisitions.

5. Sicily again

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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

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as in the whole of Sicily).

More trouble was brewing, it was feared, in other parts of Sicily on the food question. Brigadier Carr, the regional commissioner, reported to AC Hq. that the situation was grave. The report has 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-Marche 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 a food demonstration arising from an increase in wages in Ancona Province which sent Anconaites scurrying to Macerata to buy food and thus rocketed Macerata prices. "The Macerata trouble", observes Colonel French, "resulted in the Prefect fleeing for Rome in a hurry." Another problem is the continuing lack of bridges in Pesaro Province, reconstruction lagging for want of transport and material: Ascoli, however, manages to have a big black market in eggs.

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 instituted by the 70 decrees published since July 1943 by which the [illegible] itself of Fascism have been joined into [illegible] only comparatively

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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 the 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

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... Latest 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 quintals or 82 per cent. of 11,600,000 qtl. target...83,000 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 15 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 slated for mothers and children...AC Hq. now has radio telephone service to New York and Washington but conversations have as many restrictions as a porcupine has equills..Col.Gevers 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 AC, 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

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LIONEL FIELDEN,
Major,
Public Relations Director.

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HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

S E C R E T

R26/WB35/PR5

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 ones. On Thursday the Prince, who had conferred with political figures of all colors (Republicans and Socialists refused to go to the Quirinale but the rest, including Togliatti, went willingly enough) charged Bonomi with the formation of a new ministry.

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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.

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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 C.L.N. 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.

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.

2. <u>AMG with the Armies</u>

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 [illegible]

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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 gramme 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 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. Bringing Home the Bacon

Colonel W.J.Legg, 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. Legg's trip was highly productive, both as to his main mission - 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 increased ration will depend on the allocation of the necessary shipping, which has already been programmed. The mechanics 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 Legg'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 nothing 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: 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	Percentage Increase
Wheat	600,000	1,302,000(_)	642,000(b)	42,000	7
Dried Vegetables	None	135,870(a)	68,440(b)	68,440	all

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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. Legg's trip was highly productive, both as to his main mission - 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 increased ration will depend on the allocation of the necessary shipping, which has already been programmed. The mechanics 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 Legg'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 nothing 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: 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	Percentage Increase
Wheat	600,000	1,302,000(a)	642,000(b)	42,000	7
Dried Vegetables	None	135,870(a)	68,440(b)	68,440	all
Sugar	18,900	51,660(a)	38,160(b)	19,260	102
Milk	9,660	23,970	23,970	14,310	148
Meat	None	20,160	20,160	20,160	all
Fats	13,500	13,500	13,500	----	---

(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

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Council for Italy by Colonel C.B.Findlay, director of AG'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 then 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, partially refugees, partially forced labour, 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 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	31,500		31,500
Displaced Persons in Liberated Italy	23,500	50,000	73,500
			446,000

"Estimate of Repatriations to be affected:

To Italy:	From Enemy Countries	380,000
	From France	200,000
	From former Italian Divisions	600,000
		1,180,000
From Italy:	Czechs and Poles	5,000
	Yugoslavs	9,000
	Germany	25,000
	Other Nations	5,000
	Stateless	5,000
		49,000

"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

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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	360,000
	From France	200,000
	From former Italian Divisions	600,000
		1,160,000
From Italy:	Czechs and Poles	5,000
	Yugoslavs	9,000
	Germany	25,000
	Other Nations	5,000
	Stateless	5,000
		49,000

"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 such plan 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.

"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

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have to be co-ordinated with the despatching countries.

"The second major problem is CLOTHING. An attempt is being made to obtain salvage clothing from the Armies and repair shops 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 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. Worley, who has been dealing with civil affairs in Burma, has been a recent visitor to AC, looking particularly into Displaced Persons and Repatriation activities...Maj. Joan 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 862,000 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 electrically-operated traffic signal in Italy is flashing these days in Aquila...The Granai del Popolo, as of latest reports, stands at 9,750,397 qtl. or 84 per cent. of the 11,600,000 qtl. target...The 1945 potato program has begun with the first shipment of 800 tons of seed potatoes from Avezzano to Calabria and Sicily...The large Pietrafitta 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

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Director of the Transportation S/C with Col. Thomas (S) - expected from UK - as his Deputy. Col. Adams has been temporarily assigned to Lombardy Region as Acting Regional Commissioner....

LIONEL FIELDEN,
Major,
Public Relations Director.

1904

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Orm W. Schott

S.W.P.

Political Dept.

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

SECRET

R26/WB36/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 Rodinò	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	- Scialoia	LABOR DEMOCRAT
- Navy	- De Courten	NO PARTY
- War	- Casati	NO PARTY
- Occupied Italy	- Scoccimarro	COMMUNIST

The list of undersecretaries is still in preparation.

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,

1905

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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 get Scoccimarro out of the epuration business. As regards the new ministerial line-up seven members are carried over from the last 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 Arangio-Ruiz was minister of justice

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in the last Badoglio cabinet. The only real new-comers are Brosio (Secretary of the liberal party and previously mentioned as a successor to Carandini) and Cavalotto (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 Sforza" 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 xxx collaborate with Bonomi. He added, when questioned, that this did not mean an 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 what AVANTI called "investiture" from the Luogotenente.

The long range effects of the crisis are hard to estimate at this time. It puts two strong parties - Socialists and Republicans - 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

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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 Republicans - 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 telephone calls. The Communists have achieved a tactical triumph: they are in the government and, with their alliance with the Socialists outside, will undoubtedly receive 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

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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 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 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".

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 during the recent ministerial crisis, and the shortage of Allied olive oil control officers, are disturbing factors in the present situation. There is even talk of abandoning controls and allowing natural supply and demand to bring out the 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 9,000,000 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 correspond 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 80 officers, mainly in the centres of Naples, Bari and Foggia, with outpost provincial officers at Catanzaro and Taranto. He was aiming to get all records 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 Fielden 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 the 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 on olive-oil. Southern Region, he said, produced 55 % 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 8 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 prime factor in the situation: nevertheless, the point that control was somewhat unreal was well taken by the meeting. Lastly Brigadier Dunlop pleaded for the [illegible] in this country: no less than 68,000

1911

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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 80 officers, mainly in the centres of Naples, Bari and Foggia, with outpost provincial officers at Catanzaro and Taranto. He was aiming to get all records 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 Bush 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 Fielden 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 the 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 on olive-oil. Southern Region, he said, produced 55 % 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 8 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 prime 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 they could have been processed here: and U.S. did not return them. Mr. Antolini remarked that they had some use for tyres over there, too.

5. Vox populi et vox mercantum.

Lively discussions developed both at the Chief of Staff and the Economic Section meeting 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

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Italy and thus capture her markets while other people are still fighting wars. Argument on both points was fast and furious. At the Chief of Staff's meeting Colonels Fiske, Monfort, Campbell and Crimps were against municipal elections; Colonels Spicer and Henderson, with Mr. Antolini and Mr. Cleveland were for them, the Political Section maintained 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 at their Friday meeting, taking particular note of practical issues 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 had 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.

Such 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 Pennyquick 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 [illegible] The American radio was captured instantly [illegible]

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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 to Rome for a monthly meeting at HQ, AC and has not returned."

7. 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 delle 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 category were : homes, eight lire; food shops, 100 lire; jewelry stores, 75 lire, and small shops, taxed 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.

8. 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 97,330 kw., a 33 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

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Lionel Fielden

LIONEL FIELDEN,
Major,
Public Relations Director.

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Jim W. Scott
Political Sect.

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH S E C R E T

R26/WB34/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 Viminale 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 rumor 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 rumor - 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 parlamentarians" 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 - rumor and chiacchiere aside - that something had to be done to reestablish the balance when Carrandini left the Cabinet, and once tinkering begins in such a delicate machinery as the coalition, there is no telling how many or what kind of spare parts will be needed. An added indication of change was the resignation of Visconti Venosta, under-secretary for foreign affairs. It looked as though the way was being prepared for the nomination of a minister in that field. Sforza, perhaps?

At the moment there is no government. Yesterday the Lord Lieutenant in accordance with parliamentary tradition conferred [illegible] President of the Chamber, and Della Torretta, Pre-

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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-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 e possibile".

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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 29th Oct). There is to be a Sardinian Council and a Sardinian Bank and the State is to give a billion 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 Pentimalli and Del Tetto has been again postponed - this time till the 14th of Dec. The press is vigilant but patient. The papers have been concerned most of the week with the plight of the patricts; 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 juridical 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 Gaulle's "hope for a true reconciliation between France and Italy" was warmly echoed in the press - Italians would like nothing better.

2. 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 former U.S. Minister to Rumania and U.S. Ambassador to Chile). With him are six others. five of whom are American businessmen 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

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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 Frazar & 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,

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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 self-same Turkish products.

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

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 possible and so allow the vitality of individual enterprise to do its share in the promotion of reciprocal trade. One step might be the strong revival of Italian handicrafts. It might be added, however, that the Mission soon found that many Italian firms, although the beneficiaries of cheap labor and cheap power (that is, in normal times), were also full of padded political payrolls and had sites in the most uneconomic positions, again for political reasons of Fascist autarchy, a combination of circumstances that will clearly prevent them from resuming a competitive position in post-war world markets.

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 Friedlaender, 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

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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 - 200 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 he in view of prevailing polemics - when he stepped on to the dais, but he received a good round of applause, though there

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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, MMIA, has supervised the reorganization 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".

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.

4. 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 Spofford of G-5. On the agenda, besides 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 5-ton trucks asked for by AC will be 15-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 [illegible] and considerably easier in

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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 a definite shortage of food for sale. There are several reasons why the amassi 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 makes prices and regulations meaningless. No spending by Allied troops exists in Sicily to keep prices at an artifical level. You can walk the length of Via della 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

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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 350; white sewing thread 300 a spool; locally made toothpaste 100 a tube; cheap black cotton socks 450 a pair; men's cotton shirts 1300 to 1700; men's suitings 2000 to 2500 a metre and rough thick cloth for overcoats 2700 to 3500; a cheap fur coat which looks like dogskin with the hair left on is priced at 28,000 lire. Cigarettes bring 100 to 200 lire a pack. Walnuts are 70 lire a kilo as against 35 in Naples last winter. The only thing which is reasonably priced is soap, for which there is obviously no insistent demand. Allied officials do not believe the wheat which was not amassed is being held for the black market, though black market bread in Catania is already 100-120 lire a kilo. They say that grain and oil are more probably being hidden away for "barter currency" to be used when the lira blows up. The English pound sells for 1000 lire, a gold sovereign for 5000. Repairs and improvements to private property are going on at a noticeable rate, because the people are turning paper money into bricks and mortar at any price. Public works, however, are pretty much at 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 schooner 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, 1551 of them in close arrest. Red tape and bribery on the lower levels of Italian administration are reported as flourishing as ever. All AMG-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 edu-

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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.

1926

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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. Snook 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.

There will be no amassed grain left for distribution after the end of December. The pasta ration for the fourth week in September was distributed only in the week beginning 11 November. People 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. When, some months ago, AMG 8th 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 organized 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 22 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.

1927
Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

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7. Pre-view

Final tabulations are on the eve of completion of what 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 Censimento 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.

1928
declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

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 Germany, refugees, unemployed, and other groups displaced or disorganized as a result of the 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	38,857	33,425	22,753	10,695
Salerno	10,715	6,842	3,795	3,047
Lecce	2	5	2	3
Taranto	425	159	141	18
Catania	12,121	9,159	5,474	3,685
Agrigento	2,359	1,062	635	427
Bari	167	346	244	102
Littoria	27,178	9,568	2,634	7,934
		4,982	2,453	2,129
				580

1929

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

umerating, in addition to [illegible] 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.

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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	58,857	33,426	22,733	10,695
Salerno	10,715	6,642	3,795	3,047
Lecce	2	5	2	3
Taranto	425	159	141	18
Catania	12,121	9,159	5,474	3,685
Agrigento	2,359	1,062	635	427
Bari	167	346	244	102
Littoria	27,178	9,568	2,634	7,934
Frosinone	2,975	4,582	2,453	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 provide one of the most detailed bills of charges that any country will have ready for presentation to the Germans.

1930

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

The census has been taken by the Istituto Centrale di Statistica under the continuous supervision of Lieut. J.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 220 inspectors trained in Rome and dispatched to the field. The tabulating work is being done by hand by approximately 3,000 clerks - a circumstance necessitated by the fact that the Istituto's tabulating machinery is amongst that taken by the Germans.

9. 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 retain 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 "Lictor 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.

"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 to us that many visitors who did not obey the injunction, may be now hoping that their signatures will have been obliterated. An Army Unit, which has occupied some of the ground floor premises, has its number painted on the wall, in defiance of any prohibition. The remainder of the house is quite empty except for a three legged table leaning forlornly against one of the walls, and of fragments of broken glass and plaster which are strewn everywhere.

"After much difficulty, the caretaker, a tallish man of about forty, Nino Berti by name, was found. He speaks the local dialect (the same as the Duce's) and appears to be quite well fed. He has not much information to impart, except to do his best to impress us with the fact that he never had anything to do with the "Fascists". In spite of his expressive gesticulation, we cannot help feeling that this is a rather difficult one to swallow. He

1931

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785046

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"We take a turn round the town and talk with the few civilians 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 Predappio, 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

1932
Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

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 Germany, refugees, unemployed, and other groups displaced or disorganized as a result of the 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	38,857	33,428	22,733	10,695
Salerno	10,713	6,842	3,795	3,047
Lecce	2	5	2	3
Taranto	425	159	141	18
Catania	12,121	9,159	5,474	3,685
Agrigento	2,369	1,062	635	427
Bari	167	346	244	102
Littoria	28,169	2,569	2,434	135

1933

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

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1944

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

which the liberality of their once illustrious townsman so lavishly expended on them."

9. 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 co-ordinating officer for the devastated regions....A suggestion has been made to repatriate 1,000 Italians from the Dodecanese, a project opposed by AC at this time....As many as 2,000 refugees harbored in Sicily have been repatriated to their mainland homes....Unemployment is rising in the Abruzzi-Marche Region, which, it is feared, may be a harbinger of the near future in other parts....Wheat collections as of reports received by 25 November stand at 9,714,162 qtl. or 84 per cent. of the 11,600,000 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.... Twowoollen companies have commenced work at Prato and a further 23 are ready to go as soon as power is available....Several requests for derequisitioning 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 Fielden

LIONEL FIELDEN,
Major,
Public Relations Director.

1935
Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785046

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LIONEL FIELDEN,
Major,
Public Relations Director.

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1936

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Pm K. Elliott
F.V.P. Political Sect

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

SECRET

R26/WB33/PRB

19 November 1944

AC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 33
13 Nov to 19 Nov 44

1. Political

Coccio rotto dura piu 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 fail 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 369 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 Socialists, six days later, went somewhat further along this line by demanding annulment of the Armistice, the limitation of AC control to "matters directly connected with military organizations", and help for Italy from international socialist organizations. The Christian Democrats in their two orders of the day took a different line. In the first, agitation and disturbance - particularly by the Press - were so roundly condemned that Togliatti himself was moved to write, in the UNITA of Sunday, a defence of the right of the Press to reflect "popular

1937
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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 Socialists, six days later, went somewhat further along this line by demanding annulment of the Armistice, the limitation of AC control to "matters directly connected with military organizations", and help for Italy from international socialist organizations. The Christian Democrats in their two orders of the day took a different line. In the first, agitation and disturbance - particularly by the Press - were so roundly condemned that Togliatti himself was moved to write, in the UNITA of Sunday, a defence of the right of the Press to reflect "popular uneasiness and popular demand." In their second order of the day the Christian Democrats drew attention to the condition of 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 standards 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

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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 meetings 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 the patriots 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.

2. AMG with the Armies

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 communes such as Predappio, (home of Mussolini) Civitella di Romagna, Rocca San Casciano, Forlimpopoli, Meldola and Forli itself. In the last there are said to be 35,000 people, all (the town being still under shellfire when the report was written) "living like Troglodytes." Everywhere in the area there appears to be a fair amount of grain: in inaccessible districts such as Civitella or Romagna the Prefect of Forli had, before the arrival of the Allied troops, made a distribution of 2 quintals per worker and 1½ quintals per non-worker or child: that is, a year's ration from August 1, 1944 to 90% of the population, the remaining 10% getting 400 grammes of bread daily at a price of 3.80 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 diptheria in Predappio and an outbreak of typhoid which has put San Marino out of bounds to troops.

Fifth Army AMG also sends a more or less "all-quiet" report

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Fifthy Army AMG 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:

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"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 demonstration might perhaps have been considered as politically staged, had 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 SCACs 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/AMG 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 Lush, scarcely back from Britain and busy in Rome, announced that, contrary to rumour, U.S. AC personnel "would not be out of the trenches by Christmas". He said the War Department was exploring the possibility of recalling certain Sub-Commission and Specialist personnel but he doubted if any appreciable numbers would be released. New Year's Day was mentioned as a tentative date-line for a decision.

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 led the chorus with the statement that "we are practically bankrupt." He said a 300 gramme 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 CGIL 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. MacMillan 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 exaction 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 dis-

1941
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Army SCACs and Regional Commissioners met in Conference with AC Headquarters chiefs and officers of the Civil Affairs Section, 4AI, 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/AMG 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 Lush, scarcely back from Britain and busy in Rome, announced that, contrary to rumour, U.S. AC personnel "would not be out of the trenches by Christmas". He said the War Department was exploring the possibility of recalling certain Sub-Commission and Specialist personnel but he doubted if any appreciable numbers would be released. New Year's Day was mentioned as a tentative date-line for a decision.

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when he announced that UNRRA had come into Italy with $50,000,000 in credits and nothing else but a request to borrow AC stocks of food, transport and medical supplies to start UNRRA distribution.

Minister

Mr. Hopkinson, British/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 have to run the gauntlet of the United Nations before it becomes a firm policy. When Italy denounced the 1940 armistice with France, the DeGaulle Government promptly sequestrated all Italian government property in France, but improved relations between the two countries are hoped for. Italy is trying to get news of 100,000 prisoners-of-war in Russia. Turning to the internal political scene, Mr. Hopkinson hinted that unity within the government is not expected to last. It was badly cracked by the interview the Prince Regent gave to Matthews of the New York Times. The Left is nervous of the effect of the Prince's intervention in the constitutional question, claiming that plebiscites in countries which have been Fascist have been "fixed". The 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 4AI 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 PWB method

1943

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at all." AMG Eighth Army pressed for American promotions and Piemonte was anxious to promote British subalterns brought in from Ack-Ack Regiments.

4. Granai del Popolo

Wheat harvest collections as of 10 November stood at 8,408,649 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 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 - Campania, 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 no. 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 the natives, many of which, of course, are on a national scale and thus reflect turnovers in other regions. For example:

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"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 Crotone from AC; the Posta and Telegraphs of Naples Comune are now controlled by the state. The Italian Ufficio del Commercio e dell'Industria is responsible for preparing bids for controlled materials; coal will be received, distributed and accounted for by the Italian State Railways.

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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 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 visitor and Southern Region has set up its mess in the celebrated Zi' 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 AMG territory, 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 Sindaco'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. Superficially 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 670 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 for business. In Naples itself, unhappily,many schools are still requisitioned.

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 [illegible] will be reached.

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In spite of the persistence of problems of supply and reconstruction and it 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.

1948

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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. Odds and Ends

Grosseto Province reports, among local government matters, that the Commune 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 Putigrano 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 50 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 30,000 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 natta, 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 1,000 Carabinieri a month for emergency war duty from volunteers for enlistment in the Italian Army....The study of German will no longer be compulsory in Italian schools, the Education Sub-Commission reports....Noting an almost complete stoppage of the flow of imported foodstuffs other than wheat, the Food Sub-Commission estimates 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.. [illegible] the present bread-pasta ration scale on the Italian main- [illegible] monthly, of which, at the

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016
1949

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1950

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acute tobacco shortage in that city....Italian exports amounted to 1,636½ tons of various products, valued at about 90 million lire, during October....Re-activation, now under way at the large Solvay chemical plant at Rosignano, is expected to eliminate completely all imports 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 807....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 repatriated to their home communes....The Displaced Persons and Repatriation Sub-Commission is currently arranging the repatriation of 116 Greeks for Tripoli and Cyrenaica, 31 French-Italians for FrenchNorth Africa, 20 Czechs for the United Kingdom (to join the Czech forces), 25 Latin American ecclesiastics for South American countries, 900 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-Commission and now in Greece: "Many of the problems to be faced here are similar to those in Italy - destruction, disruption of communications, neglected land, lack of draft animals, of seed and of fertilizer, but we feel we have made a good beginning and if party antagonisms, not verbal only, can be calmed, then our progress will be vastly quickened."....Overheard from a British sergeant 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

LIONEL FIELDEN,
Major,
Public Relations Director.

1951
Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

Mr W. Scott
Political Section

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

SECRET

12 Nov 1944

R26/WB32/PRB

AC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 32
8 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, than 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 professed to discover mutual agreement between Bonomi, Orlando and the Prince to give a new twist to Italian policy, an attitude which brought the wrath 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 neither 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.

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, [illegible] being termed by them "patriotic"; this resulted in [illegible] at the foot of the scribble, and

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1952

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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

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/ struggle

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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 Palatino 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 ill-feeling 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 200 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.

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 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.

1954
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"Commodore Stone of the United States Navy, at present Acting Chief Commissioner, will be appointed Chief Commissioner. Mr MacMillan 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.

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1955
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3. Roumanian AC

Colonel E.R. 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 1,620 lei - about four shillings, or less than a dollar at the present rate of exchange. 25-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.

4. Relief to Devastated Areas

Lieut Colonel A.D. Bonham-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 in the Abruzzi-Marche Region and other officers will be assigned to assist wherever necessary. The scope of the problem is to be confined to the so-called "Winter Line" of 1943-44 in the two regions mentioned. So far, the Italian Government, although the entire area under study is under Italian jurisdiction, has not come up with any concrete plans or even requests. The area to be helped includes the provinces of Littoria, Frosinone, Aquila, Chieti and Pescara, with some portions of Naples and Campobasso provinces. Population that can be termed destitute is estimated at approximately 300,000, of whom perhaps a third are children. The population cannot be evacuated, 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 Frosinone. 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.

1956
Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785046

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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 of pasta, 1,800 tons of sugar, 3,600 tons of milk, 3,600 tons of / dried

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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 thousand 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 housing program started by the Italian Government will not make any houses ready for occupancy until next spring, so has to be counted out as a practical measure. A few places near the area are sought as temporary re-location centers where the very old can be moved until a home in their own neighborhood can be made ready. Fiuggi has some hotels which the military authorities will be asked to de-requisition for this purpose. The last item on the program will see the disappearance of all the glass on the glass-topped desks in AC Hq. This glass will be taken up and used to provide windows for schools and hospitals in the area. The Italian Government, through the Finance Sub-Commission, will also be asked urgently to make an immediate 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 presidency 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.

1958
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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 check line by Allied Police" and also the indifference

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1959
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shown to regulations by "Allied officers including Allied Commission officers in Rome."

Notwithstanding prohibition of ministerial visits to Florence (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.

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 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.

8. 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

1960
Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

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.

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 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.

8. 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:

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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 an adventurer, a language appropriate to the worst slums, his hat perpetually on his head and pushed well back, his feet regularly stretched on a table. You know also that they are perfectly capable of interviewing God Himself and of asking him, notebook in hand, whether He prefers butter or beer. Anything make news to them."

LIONEL FIELDEN,
Major,
Public Relations Director.

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Mr. Schott Col Lee

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH SECRET

P26/WB31/PRB 6 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 was followed by issuance of an order to the Provincial Commissions 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 circular urging them to be non-political was well received and a kind, if playful, commentary on their vigilance, appeared, surprisingly

1963
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and replacing it by a Leftist front. In view of [illegible] 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 was followed by issuance of an order to the Provincial Commissions 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.

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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. 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.

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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 Dei Tetto and Pentimalli, and on Wednesday the courts confiscated the holdings of Mussolini, Ciano and "i Petacci". This last measure seems also somewhat delayed but, as the saying is, meglio tardi 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 labour delegates have come and seen and reported bluntly on the situation; Russian labour 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 band, 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 labour 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? No. The exiles? No. Sforza, Togliatti, or Nenni? No. Italy was saved by Victor Emmanuel III. Long live the King!"

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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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 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), 6,000 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

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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 $180,000,000 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 $800,000,000 to re-build the destroyed hydro-electric system of Italy. His bright hopes - need it be added - got a quick short circuit.

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 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 savings on the bread subsidy to help finance its market buying. Speaking of food, it is of interest that the announced shipments of 96,000 tons of wheat in November and 101,000 tons in December now actually are 67,000 in November and 93,500 in December.

5. Rising Wages

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785046

Sub-Commission, from Washington, Col. [illegible] 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 log-jam 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 $160,000,000 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 $800,000,000 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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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 155 lire a day. Dockyard workers had been evidencing some discontent over the Allied lag behind the Italian increase.

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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 mule 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 Sambavello. Marradi and Palazzuolo are in fairly good shape though there, as practically everywhere else north of Lake Trasimeno, the Germans have blown all buildings along main roads into the highways to block the Allied advance - a wanton procedure since the Allied bulldozers generally have the roads open again in less than two hours. Col.Smith is living under canvas, knee-deep in mud and suffering from an attack of Partisan trouble. Gangs of idle men wearing red neckerchiefs are raising food and money from the 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 182 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 spotlight at headquarters of AMG Fifth Army. Mrs. Toscani is sick of the whole thing. She is having to receive 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.

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

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A fur merchant in Arezzo sold a coat the other day for 80,000 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.

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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 the Political 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

1970

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

time because of the shortage of accomodations....Brigadier Dunlop is succeeding Colonel Temperley as Southern Region RO while Colonel Gevers moves up in charge of Venezia Region....The Granai del Popolo figures, as of November 4, are 9,004,228 qtl, or 78% of the 11,600,000 qtl collection forecast....The infant mortality rate in Rome is 69.9 for September, the lowest since January and lower than the corresponding month of 1943 when the rate was 86.9....A sampling survey in four provinces by the Transportation Sub-Commission indicates that, on the basis of vehicles registered in 1942, 88% are missing today and of 3-ton trucks (the real load-carriers) 84% 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 director of an AC sub-commission has taken office: Mr. Leland G. Allbaugh, Agriculture, succeeding Lieut. Col. Hartman....Story without Comment: a report on missing or stolen WD vehicles reveals that Americans were responsible for 34 lost cars, British for 10 and Italians for three, although the three nationalities were tied as to cars in their possession that got wrecked - 6 - 6 and 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 cooperation 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 roll,
Despite the crew a-trying.
But we'll hear "What a mess!"

1971
Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

Hartman....Story without [illegible] were responsible for 34 lost cars, vehicles reveals that Americans were responsible for 34 lost cars, British for 10 and Italians for three, although the three nationalities were tied as to cars in their possession that got wrecked - 6 - 6 and 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 cooperation 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 75 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).

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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 roll,
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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Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785046

Lt Hopkinson
Political Section

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION — SECRET
APO 394
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

R26/W332/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, than 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 notted 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 professed to discover mutual agreement between Bonomi, Orlando and the Prince to give a new twist to Italian policy, an attitude which brought the wrath 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 neither 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.

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,

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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

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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 ill-feeling 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 235 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.

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 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.

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"Commodore Stone of the United States Navy, at present Acting Chief Commissioner, will be appointed Chief Commissioner. Mr MacMillan 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 AG birthday honours, about which rumour has been busy for some time. They clearly foreshadow changes, about which we hope to write next week.

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3. Roumanian AC

Colonel E.R. 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.

4. Relief to Devastated Areas

Lieut Colonel A.D. Bonham-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 in the Abruzzi-Marche Region and other officers will be assigned to assist wherever necessary. The scope of the problem is to be confined to the so-called "Winter Line" of 1943-44 in the two regions mentioned. So far, the Italian Government, although the entire area under study is under Italian jurisdiction, has not come up with any concrete plans or even requests. The area to be helped includes the provinces of Littoria, Frosinone, Aquila, Chieti and Pescara, with some portions of Naples and Campobasso provinces. Population that can be termed destitute is estimated at approximately 300,000, of whom perhaps a third are children. The population cannot be evacuated, 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 Frosinone. 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.

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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

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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 - 60,000 of them. Attempts are being made to obtain several thousand 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 housing program started by the Italian Government will not make any houses ready for occupancy until next spring, so has to be counted out as a practical measure. A few places near the area are sought as temporary re-location centers where the very old can be moved until a home in their own neighborhood can be made ready. Fiuggi has some hotels which the military authorities will be asked to de-requisition for this purpose. The last item on the program will see the disappearance of all the glass on the glass-topped desks in AC Hq. This glass will be taken up and used to provide windows for schools and hospitals in the area. The Italian Government, through the Finance Sub-Commission, will also be asked urgently to make an immediate 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 presidency 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 [illegible] of food and fuel, and unemployment all go to make up a

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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 check line by Allied Police" and also the indifference

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shown to regulations by "Allied officers including Allied Commission officers in Rome."

Notwithstanding prohibition of ministerial visits to Florence (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.

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 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 asked 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.

8. 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 [illegible] when it made 54 sorties, the Air Sub-Commission [illegible] 3,700 Italian soldiers who were [illegible] Armistice

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/ radio:

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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 an adventurer, a language appropriate to the worst slums, his hat perpetually on his head and pushed well back, his feet regularly stretched on a table. You know also that they are perfectly capable of interviewing God Himself and of asking him, notebook in hand, whether He prefers butter or beer. Anything make news to them."

LIONEL FIELDEN,
Major,
Public Relations Director.

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Ann. H. Croce's file

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
CMF
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

SECRET

PRB/R26/WB30

29 October 1944.

AC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 30
17 Oct to 29 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. AVANTI 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.

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

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all the law should be observed and no violence tolerated. ITALIA NUOVA draving 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 thought 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 LIBERA 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 Carandini's place in the cabinet. Vedremo.

2. AMG with the armies

Fifth Army AMG draws no encouraging picture in its report of October 14 - 24. 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".

No recent report has been received from 8th Army AMG.

3. A Note from Florence

Career trained 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

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3. A Note from Florence

Career trained 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 TCNL". When allied government officials, patiently playing their part, pointed out that the TCNL sanction would have to be removed from the decrees because the Committee was not a government body, the TNCL kept judiciously quiet....Hardly had the Regional Commissioners, SCAOs of Armies and Headquarters 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 TCNL, 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

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Tuscany and, allowing only for short stop-overs 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, an allied officer intercepted Minister Gronchi at Figlini 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 came 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 Sindaco, 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 not keen 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 districts 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 voluntarily even now". This rather naive proceeding had the effect of producing 300 quintals in Florinas and 500 at Sanlevi - each in one day. The best Sardinian story of the week, however, must be told in the words of Colonel Pennycuick. "In the Province of Sassari, one of the Priests has created a minor problem. It appears that the local people consider he is charging too much for ceremonies such as funerals etc and there is undue delay when the fees are not forthcoming. This rather unexpected variation on Black Market practice in this Island where violence is not far below the surface has resulted in a bomb being thrown near him and some attempt to snipe him at his parochial window. The Prefect is asking the Arch Bishop to arrange for an exchange."

5. Symptoms of Hope?

The Economic Section these last weeks has been holding nightly meetings preparing orders and justifications for a program [illegible] aid to Italy requested by two envoys of the Combined [illegible] (A). The program,

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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

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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 lessening of actual controls. Another indication is the report that Italy will be permitted shortly to have communications through cables 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 Guarigliano River, effective November 5. This would amount to a 25-gram daily increase.

6. Neighbouring countries

The D.C.O.S. and WP Est Sec(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 may cover a multitude of leaves. Administration is, as elsewhere in France, entirely in the hands of the French. The AMG, acting (if at all) in a liaison capacity, are settled in some well-known, though of course not Augean, stables; and some of them were heard to lament a fate which, after two years "schooling" at Charlottesville, Tizi-Ouzou, and other delightful resorts, now had them schooling again for Germany. The main facts about France seem to be that it's no place for AMG, that it is astonishingly prosperous, and that not many Frenchmen are keen on doing any more fighting.

From Greece, through correspondents arriving back in Italy, come not altogether disimilar stories: little or no starvation, at least in the south, plenty of livestock, little destruction, and - as things go in wartime - a cheerful people. Currency is a worry, the drachma having run into uncountable billions. It is said (unreliably) that exchange rates were based at the start on the price of a shave, which was 15,000,000 drachma; 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 drachmas was worth one cigarette".

7. Odds and Ends

The Granai del Popolo, as of 28 October, had 8,886,888 qtl. in its bins out of the 11,600,000 qtl. collection forecast. ...The ... commission now has 21 AMS officers, of whom 14 have been sent ... Congratulations

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7. Odds and Ends

The Granai 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 ACS 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 AC 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;

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(2) Occupied by Italian troops; (3) Occupied by refugees; (4) Occupied by lice, disinfectants being nil; (5) damaged"....All Italian Public Safety organizations will 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 wasblh 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 Italians 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.

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 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 framework of a more detailed history which we should like to write before the AC becomes the C or merely C. 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.

Lionel Fielden

LIONEL FIELDEN,
Major,
Public Relations Director.

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PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

Political Section
AFHQ (Forward)

SECRET

PRB/R26/WB29

22 October 1944.

ACC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 29
12 Oct to 28 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 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 and opposed, at some length by the Christian Democrats. It is probably unfair to say that Nenni is trying to break up the government - indeed he asserted specifically that he was not - but the Leftist parties are in a difficult position in the coalition. The Labor Democrats and the Liberals being dedicated to deliberate and orderly reform are at least relatively content with this period of waiting; the Christian Democrats, being divided among themselves are happy to have a chance to temporize.

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

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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 line of urging citizens to "look to the North" where, according to them, revolutionary elements 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,

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~~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 peasants who were moving into uncultivated lands...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 Pacciardi, 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 unually 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 Ammassi. 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 SMI munitions factory in the commune of Barga, 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 Archangelo and Coriano are heavily damaged and their re-population presents the usual difficulties. The almost inaccessible mountain communes (such as San Leo) are however reported "in fair shape: no shortage of food or essentials."

3. Disorder in Palermo.

On the morning of October 19 a demonstration occurred in

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3. Disorder in Palermo.

On the morning of October 19 a demonstration occurred 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

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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 Island a battalion of Italian troops recently moved to Calabria. The subsequent disorder, however, appears to have switched public feeling against the troops and not against the Carabinieri, who, for once in a way, are not getting the blame.

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 exchanged 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 that the original target figure of 300,000 quintals was reached on the basis of 85,000 cultivated hectares yielding 3.9 quintals per hectare, giving a total of 646,000 quintals: from this was subtracted 85,000 for seed retention and 161,000 for food retention, bringing down the "amassable" total to 399,000 - leaving the wide margin of 99,000, the target figure was set at 300,000. The provincial authorities - who have never questioned the figure of 85,000 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 380,000 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 [illegible] that the authorities do not deny that 455,000 quintals

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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 15) is only a fraction - perhaps not more than 15% - of the total production, and that the vast bulk of grain produced is being hoarded. Aldisio's cry of distress, echoed by correspondents across the Atlantic, seems little justified.

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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 Ercolados.

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 Italian diet has been traditionally that of bread or flour in one form or another, plus sugar. Dietary experts say that the Italians over-weight their diet on the protein side, doing without enough carbohydrates. Of course, that is the Italians' affair. In any event, investigation shows that the present daily scale of 300 grams of bread and 4.15 grams of sugar which is the regular ration in Southern Italy produces a calorific content of only 763 calories. This is supplemented in urban districts over 50,000 population by meat and vegetable issues, providing an additional calorific value of 143 calories, making a total of 906 calories.

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 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 occurring, 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 sign 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 nigh 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,

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5. Odds and Ends.

100 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 Popolo, as of

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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 from 8,000,000 to 10,000,000 quintals....Lazio food officers report that Rome is feeding on a hand-to-mouth basis, only about one and a half days' supplies usually being on hand....Mr. William S. Vaughn, American civilian and metallurgical engineer, becomes the first civilian to take over directorship of an ACC sub-commission, succeeding Col. J.S.E. Todd to the top post of the Industry Sub-Commission.... Brigadier Upjohn, vice president of the Civil Affairs Section, has proposed that all Italian Government decrees be sent to the Ministry of Justice before drafting in order that the ACC could check all proposals through one channel....The Advisory Council for Italy has suggested that the ACC become responsible for collection of information on war crimes, a proposal which will add a great deal to our limited staff....UNRRA has requested and received permission to enter this theater to discuss the commencement of limited operations. Col. Murphy of the Economic Section will act as liaison officer between UNRRA and ACC....The Economic Section is distressed over a report that 6th 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....Harlan 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 SECRET

PRB/R26/W28 15 October 1944

ACC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 28
8 Oct to 14 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 Caramelle. Whereupon he sings a pathetic song on the fragility of human memory. The little scene is symptomatic of the 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 Marrama, 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 (stoutly 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 and London. Rumor puts Sforza in Washington,

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get the posts at Washington and London. Rumor puts Sforza in Washington,
Carandini in London. The latter seems the more likely guess but the
field is still open.

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 Bronchi, the CGIL
and employers' groups which took place on Friday. The basic subsidy
is 30 lire a day, to be paid to heads of families (residing in Rome,
Naples or Florence) whose monthly income is less than 3,600. Smaller
sums are assigned to those with higher incomes, women " not heads of
families" and children under 18. The basic rate is to be 30 lire
in smaller communes and in the country. There is also a " quota
supplementare" of 5 lire a day added to the "assegni familiari".

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Perhaps the part of the communique read 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.

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 (Kemsley) 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 " abbassando 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 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 civilised 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. 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 favour of [illegible] consistent with Ethiopia and whether in ful-

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(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 favour of reunion of this territory with Ethiopia and whether in fulfilment of the promises 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?

Mr. Law: I am aware that interest of the kind indicated by the honourable 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?

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

Mr. Hynd: Has not the right honourable gentleman misread the second part of my question which was, not whether the United Nations shall come to any ex parte decision but whether the principles of the Atlantic Charter shall be applied to those 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 honourable friend aware that the Union of Eritrea and Abyssinia has now existed since the shadowy days of the 16th century and will 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 " it large areas are not to be isolated when Bailey bridges are withdrawn.... the construction programme 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 amassing, 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, SCAOs 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 Government and the Florence C.L.N. Both [illegible] to Rome to see the [illegible] had

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happened in Ancona. Mr Caccia held there might be reperoussions 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 SCAO 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.

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 still 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 vigour.

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 860,000 tons had been amassed. The estimated stocks in the North were 890,000 tons. Equalized this would give a ration of 235 grammes. If we set the ration at 255 grammes it would affect the amassing 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 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 removals 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 labour 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

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operational character. The pe[illegible] 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 still 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 vigour.

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 860,000 tons had been amassed. The estimated stocks in the Northwest 890,000 tons. Equalized thiswould give a ration of 230 grammes. If we set the ration at 250 grammes it would affect the amassing 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 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.

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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), Gronchi (Commerce and Industry) and Bergami (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 stuffs 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 been reading

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with interest a report turned over to them by Mr. Myron Taylor, American ambassador to the Vatican, which said that in Frosinone Province, scene of furious battles last spring, in September only an average ration of 40 grams of grain was issued instead of the ACC 160-gram grain ration(equivalent to 200 grams of bread); that only one third of the daily basic food needs were arriving, and that there would be acute hunger in the area this winter.

Col. Poletti, in a reply, admitted that conditions were bad enough in Frosinone 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 sheer lack 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 600,000 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 January 1, 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 one hundred 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 [illegible] October 28 to raise more funds and spread the idea. The initiative [illegible] Col H. B. Simson, Naples Provin-

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2012

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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 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 ACC 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 SCAO'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 comapnies left behind are not as efficient as might be. They are presently working in Gaeta after a tour in Pescara 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 130 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 and two wounded by mine explosions. How many persons get [illegible] by the hidden mines no one knows, though one

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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 ACC 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

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Lieut. Col. Bonham-Carter, got hold of 18 detectors of a sort which they have lent their Italian Army team. Otherwise, the only recourse will have to be the old probing method, slow and rather dangerous, considering the fancy bedevilments the Nazis like to dress their mines up with.

8. 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, presumably 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 decomposition. The civilian labour 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 whom, 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, retrieved from the bodies among other valuables, three diamonds (loose in the pocket of a victim) worth more than a million lire.

9. Odds 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 55,000 (at present) to 65,000, 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 Brook, 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

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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 Granai del Popolo figures, received as of 14 October, show 6,664,373 qtl. in the bins, or 75 per cent. of the 11,600,000 qtl. collection forecast; a part of the small increase in Sicily, (although it is estimated 500,000 qtl. have been hoarded), it is unofficially reported, may be laid to the fact that Brigadier Carr, RC for the island, was out hunting with his gun one morning whereupon the peasants of the neighborhood, seeing the gun, proceeded to bring a record delivery of grain.....First Monthly report(September) of Region XII (Venezia) to hand:Brigadier Dunlop reports movement of a harbouring group(whatever that may be) from Chianciano to Pesaro (audacious fellows!) But "the weather broke on September 29 with heavy wind and rain".....Well, we must have reports.....Ministry of Food officials visiting Rome from England brought letters stating that they "were to stay at first-class hotels and travel by sleeping car." Privilege dies hard.....Only four, instead of eight, Soviet officers have 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 Vesuvius 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 word "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

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PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

SECRET

PRB/R26/WB27

8 October 1944

ACC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 27
2 Oct to 8 Oct 44

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" 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 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 Eden meant (for the hope dies hard that he had only Ethiopia in mind) but as yet no 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

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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 Italians 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 the "no-one-wants-to-understand-us" psychology of 1919 - if anyone still remembers those days. Verbum

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/ sap. ...

sap. --- or, shall we say: cave canem?

The meeting of the Council on Friday took up two very fundamental matters. There was a long report by Siglienti, Minister of Finance, prefaced by the comment 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 ACC 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. "Can not even be considered as the first step toward agrarian reform", cries UNITA. But it is, though.

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 Sep 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." Fifth Army AMG adds (a bit sourly?): This rebirth of political life is welcomed."

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 greet

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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 Eighth Army AMG 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

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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 billetting 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 Eighth 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 Lonfernine 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 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 predominantly 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 so great as elsewhere, that public works were well in hand and that the handover 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 grouse of the population seems to be the 200-gram ration, since these provinces are grain-producing and are now irritably aware that the ration in ACC territory is 300 grams: moreover, under the Germans they had a nominal 380. Secondary grouses are lack of salt, price of

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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 hundreds 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 Colonel 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 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 in 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.

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 meaning of 150,000 tons depends strictly on the time factor: 150,000 tons for what period? It will make all the difference 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 sessions 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 Transportaion 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 Antolini its own plan and idea of what Italy needs to rehabilitate its devastated economy. In addition, specific Italian pressures to take over more operational

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In the meantime, the special inter-ministerial committee of the Italian Government has turned over to Mr Antolini 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 carload. 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.

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 back home in

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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.G. Elliott of the Industry S/C, who is supervising the job. First, iron "bottles" for oxygen are needed to provide the fuel for the acetylene torches. Capt. Elliott 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 ACC 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 miscomprehension, it is fitting to place on record a little of the work of the quiet specialists of the Public Health Sub-Commission. In a country famed through history as the classic home of malaria, the ACC 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 has just arrived. Already made available to the Italians before have been 775,000 units of insulin, 18,000 pounds of ether, 8,000,000 sulfa tablets and 60,000 [illegible] sulfa powders, and nearly 15,000 quinine ampules imported [illegible] kilograms of

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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 1943 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 years 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 183.9, 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 ACC.

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 H.E. Berlinguer, provides for the trial and punishment up to the death penalty, of high-ranking members of Fascism. Among such was Caruso, and is Azzolini (former Director of the Bank of Italy, who comes up for trial on Oct 9 for handing over the Bank's gold to the Germans) and are also Generals Pentimalli and DelTetto, 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.

Category 2 is in charge of H.E. Scoccimaro and deals mainly with the dismissal of officials guilty of Fascist bias, incompetence, corruption and collaboration with the Germans since Sep 8. It is proposed to form 126 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 organizations which depend entirely from the prefect.

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Category 3 is in charge of H.E. Cingolani 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 persons - amounting to 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, ir charge of H.E. Stangoni, deals with the collection and disposal of Fascist organizations an 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.

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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 PRB 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. Odds and Ends

Fine Arts S/C discloses that the Germans have been kind enough to remove 58 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 8,223,986 quintals or 70 per cent of the 11,600,000 qtl. forecast for the collection which is now beginning to include grain harvested under Fascist Republican auspices, for which grain the Allies will pay the standard 900 - 1,000 lire price if delivered since Allied occupation while only the much lower Fascist price will be paid for stocks found in warehouses under Fascist contracts and not yet paid for ..... The demographic census of Italian conditions and resources is having tough sailing, sad to relate: Five tons of forms, for example, arrived at the Naples railroad station, but there was no 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 harassed owner, finally got to Sicily by road via Reggio Calabria ..... Col Fothergill of the Displaced Persons and Repatriation

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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 PRB Weekly Bulletin they are reading is a secret document and should receive the security handling so required?

Lionel Fielden

LIONEL FIELDEN,
Major,
Public Relations Director.

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PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

SECRET

1 October 1944.

PRB/R26/WB26

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 Repubblicana" 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 Repubblicana" 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".

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 withthe two C's for a while). Civilian technicians are to be sent over to help in reconstruction. Italy is expected to assist the United Nations in the war against Germany and Japan and, as a start, 50 million UNRRA dollars are assigned to her for emergency relief measures. Comment was in general favorable on this statement too, the "Osservatore Romano" calling it a "vote of confidence", but there were some reservations. It does not give Italy full status as an ally, it is too early to say whether the omission of the word "control" is any more than a formality or whether the promised civilian technicians will be any more

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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 the reference 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 developments on the international front. The Greek Minister of Information gave a press conference in which he said he 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 and La Guardia from America.

The second meeting of the Council of Ministers 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 command 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 653 billion lire. He also made a guess at the 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 38 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

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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 /

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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.

3. Pruning at Headquarters

As a result of the recommendations of the Manpower and Reorganization 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 HQ staff will be 255 officers and 279 EM/OR. Most important change is the creation of a Chief of Staff under the Chief Commissioner. RC and MG Section disappears, as do the Secretary-General's office, the Property Control Sub-Commission (absorbed by Finance), the War Materials and Prisoners of War Sub-Commission (the first taken over by Industry and the second by MMIA), the Information Division and Archivist Section (absorbed by Public Relations Branch). Displaced Persons and Italian Refugees amalgamate, as has been announced. The Interior Sub-Commission will be known as the Local Government Sub-Commission. There will be four sections under the Chief of Staff - Civil Affairs, Economic, 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. Brigadier Lush, present Executive Commissioner, will be 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 Fiske will be Deputy Chief of Staff and Vice-President of the Establishment Section. Mr Caccia and MrSchott will be Vice-Presidents 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 exchanges of problems. The meeting started off with echoes of politics as the Executive Commissioner wryly announced that the Allied Control Commission had not as yet been officially

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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 calls only when actually needed for imminent entry into their areas. General Hume, facing, as he put it, fluid conditions as Army boundaries expand and contract with tactical changes, insisted that he be placed on record as opposing any withdrawal of personnel from Army AMGs. Colonel Mayne of Fifth Army AMG, in what he termed the "unrealistic" nature of some Patriot directives, asserted that Patriots were over-played in public praise. He finally admitted that some special treatment was deserved for genuine Patriots who had performed real service. Mr Caccia summed it up when he said the administrative goal of 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 embarrass the larger question of support for the Government. It was agreed that AAI had perhaps gone too far through PWB publicity in stressing Patriot achievements, and representations would be made. Colonel Ames from the big city of Rome faced the combined attack of most Regional Commissioners who declared against what they termed the continued disparity in favor of Rome. Particularly Region V's Major Scholtz said his Region faced food demonstrations 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 Ames 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 Macerata 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 especially 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 53,000 tons. If so, Mr Antolini said, we might have to cut down the basic ration throughout Italy unless Colonel Legg 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 Basin 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 usal 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 repair to the recuperative values of Tuscan wine and Colonel Kirkwood's hospitality.

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5. The Road Back

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.B. 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 200,000 in the Balkans. Austria, across the border from Italy, is known to be the cross-roads of Europe for displaced persons and

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entry into Italy from Central Europe will be a problem to handle. 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, mostly 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 know, 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, Metropolitani and Agenti di Pubblica 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 23 extended itself until the evening of September 25. 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 out-standing or trivial cases. (Among these were two sempstresses 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 them-selves that virtually nothing was done. This was the prelude to the riot.

On the night of September 23 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 guards deserted: the prisoners

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On the night of September 23 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 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

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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 applause: 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 RAAC vehicles) and another 225 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 Bevilacqua. 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 reinstated 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."

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.

7. Granai del Popolo

The Agriculture Sub-Commission, looking over the wheat harvest campaign and amassing 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."

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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.

7. Granai del Popolo

The Agriculture Sub-Commission, looking over the wheat harvest campaign and amassing 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 collection amounted to 7,815,965 quintals or 67 per cent of the 11,600,000 quintals most recently estimated that will be amassed. The previous target figure, based on Regional Commissioners' local campaigns, 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 military operations. In the same area of Liberated Italy, collections ran from, roughly, 13,000,000 quintals in 1942 to 17,000,000 in the peace-time years of 1936-1938. Of interest also are these facts: Total crop produced was estimated at 33,345,440 quintals; food retentions will amount to 11,477,000

/ quintals

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quintals and seed retentions to 6,000,000 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 1942
I(Sicilia)	21 Sep	1,127,376	2,000,000	56	87
Southern (Calabria, Lucania, Puglie, Campania, Campobasso)	23 Sep	2,820,433	3,950,000	71	88
IV (Lazio-Umbria)	15 Sep	1,388,830	1,600,000	86	91
V (Abruzzi-Marche)	21 Sep	1,248,021	2,250,000	55	94
VI (Sardinia)	16 Sep	226,700	300,000	75	85
VIII (Tuscany)	15 Sep	1,004,391	1,500,000	67	92
Total		7,815,953	11,600,000	67	90

8. Odds and Ends

The only Public Works and Utilities officer of the ACC in 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 8,000,000,000 lire in January to 22,600,000,000 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 200 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

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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.

LIONEL FIELDEN,
Major,
Public Relations Director.

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PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

SECRET

PRB/R26/WB25

24 September 1944.

ACC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 25
18 Sep to 24 Sep 44

1. Political

Politics got away from normal channels this week and had to be sought in the unfamiliar (and unbecoming) environs of the Ponte Sant'Angelo and later in the Palazzo Corsini rather than in the conventional halls of the Viminale. The immediate reaction to the violence of Monday morning was that the government was facing a major test which it might or might not pass. Indeed, "Italia Nuova", which has been waiting for just this opportunity, collected press comments on the lynching and with a little wilful interpretation and a good deal of omission, proclaimed that the press, the only possible substitute for a parliament, had voted the government out by a vote of 18 to 0, only "Ricostruzione" abstaining. It is not clear, however, what "Italia Nuova" would put in its place. The only other opposition paper, "Voce Repubblicana", honestly confessed that there would be no point to a change of government, as long as collaboration with the monarchy is maintained. And indeed the one concrete suggestion put forth (by Repaci, writing in "Tempo") was that the more conservative parties be excluded and a new government formed made up of a Leftist front. This might come about some day but is hardly likely at the moment, especially as a good deal of conservative opinion holds, rightly or wrongly, that the Leftist parties are more likely to encourage violence than to see to it that law and order are respected. At any rate the prompt handling of the Caruso case has done much to calm the troubled waters. The police are in for a bad time, but the government seems to have weathered the storm.

Talk of violence in the provinces still goes on but has taken a somewhat different line. At a meeting in Villalba (Caltanissetta) grenades were thrown and a Communist speaker was wounded. This of course immediately put the Marxist parties in the role of victims rather than aggressors as they were last week, has given some color to their charges of reactionary violence and has somewhat embarrassed previous critics of the "alarmist" tone of "Avanti" and "Unita". The Socialists made much of this and similar (if less well documented) "reactionary outrages". The Executive Committee of the Socialist party issued a manifesto calling attention to the situation and urging the C.L.N. and the government to be on guard. The manifesto had also two other points: something should be done immediately about the workers' subsidy, which had been proposed more than a month ago, and the supply and provisioning problem should be met by a national cooperative association. The government, meeting on Friday, took up the first question and the cooperative idea received approval from all sides; words of approval for "Avanti's" initiative in the cooperative field appeared even in the pages of the "Osservatore Romano". None the less the general

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/ In the field

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In the field of international affairs Italy's hopes and desires were eloquently and vigorously expressed by Croce. Speaking in the Eliseo Theatre on Wednesday he developed the thesis that Italy, though in appearance beaten, really belonged among the victor nations. For Fascism had been a great international civil war rather than a war of nations, and the deeds and sufferings of Italian anti-Fascists were such as to justify Italy's claim to a share in the victory. It followed then that there should be an end to co-belligerency - "una brutta parola" - and a full recognition of Italy's rightful status as an Ally. There should be no discussion of frontiers, and Italy should be accorded an opportunity to express her opinion in the reconstruction of Europe. All sections of the press applauded these statements, only "Italia Libera" expressing some reservations on the latent nationalism implied in the territorial allusions and venturing to find somewhat inaccurate Croce's statement that "Fascism had never taken root in the country."

The meeting of the Council of Ministers on Friday was chiefly noteworthy for the report of Gronchi, Minister of Industry, Commerce and Labor, who stated that ACC had given a general consent to the proposals advanced some weeks ago for subsidies to workers and state employees. The subsidy will be based on the figure of 50 lire a day for Rome and 40 lire a day for the rest of Italy, varying with age and present wages or stipend on a system which is still being worked out. The Minister stated that the subsidy would take effect as from August 16 and meanwhile the government was anticipating the final decision by a special payment of 1,000 lire or lesser sums "based on twice the monthly stipend or wages." The Council also approved a draft of a decree for compilation of electoral lists and set up a Ministerial Price Control Committee with the fullest possible powers to fix prices of goods and services. ("It's the old Comitato Corporativo," cried "Italia Nuova", "and it will make the same mistakes.") Other measures included further technical regulations to speed up epuration and certain financial concessions to a large class of "avventizzi"(state employees not on full time status) who lost their jobs when they refused to go up North with the Germans. All in all a busy meeting. The press has not yet had time to discuss the measures passed but we may look forward to some lively commentary next week.

2. AMG with the Armies

The latest reports received from Fifth Army AMG indicate a number of serious problems in the Arno valley and its environment. Fifth Army AMG is looking intelligently into the future and is anxious about it. The industrial areas encountered "present entirely new problems": there is immense destruction and resulting unemployment, little hope of restarting industries which have been damaged, depleted or cannibalized, and which, of course,

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is a bright spot - in this report is that Montecatini, "with its splendid hotels", is intact: it is to be used as a temporary centre for the Northern Regional Staff. Perhaps, later, it will give much-needed accommodation to the homeless. Perhaps.

AMG Fifth Army also states that 3,791 certificates have so far been issued to Patriots: only 59 have applied for employment. Lucca is "in better shape than any town yet captured" but reports from Viareggio, recently taken, indicate some 64,000 destitute persons there. CAOs are now in the line with the Brazilian Expeditionary Force. At Florence "there was great rejoicing in the Excelsior Hotel" when the lights went on for the first time (September 16) and the AMG engineer responsible "received a well-deserved and intimate salutation from the young ladies who were present."

From Eighth Army AMG Major Bullock sends the following, dated September 22:-

"Allied Military Government officials, headed by Group Captain C.E. Benson, DSO, SCAO of Eighth Army AMG, reached the capital city of San Marino at 1800 hrs yesterday, 21 Sep 44, after a six-hour trip in jeeps over tracks made virtually impassable by rain and military movements.

"Acting under orders of the Allied Control Commission, for the Allied Governments, Gp Capt Benson met the Captains Regent and members of the Consiglio Grande Generale. SCAO Eighth Army AMG was accompanied by Wing-Commander E.T. Beer, OBE, his principal staff officer; Lt-Col Alfred Bowman, Regional Commissioner, ACC, for that part of Italy which adjoins the Republic of San Marino; Lt-Col Guy Elwes, Chief Refugee Officer, AMG Eighth Army; Major L.E. Torrudachi, Temporary Civil Affairs Officer, ACC/AMG for San Marino; Mr J.A. Selby, British Red Cross, and Capt W.F.D. Young, Supply Officer, AMG Eighth Army.

"The Government of San Marino received the Allied delegation in a spirit of friendly cooperation. Assurances were given that the neutrality of the State would be fully respected as soon as operational requirements against the German Army, which violated that neutrality, have been fulfilled. Not only will all Allied Military personnel be withdrawn from San Marino at the first possible opportunity, but the Republic will be placed Out of Bounds to all troops.

"A suggestion that a curfew be imposed in San Marino while Allied troops are still there was rejected by the Government on the grounds that never in its long history had San Marino imposed such restrictions on its people and the Government would sooner risk any slight incidents which might occur than break a tradition of such long standing.

"AMG Proclamations, which are invariably posted in occupied territory, were NOT posted in San Marino. They were, however, shown to the Government and it was suggested for the safety of

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"AMG Proclamations, which are invariably posted in occupied territory, were NOT posted in San Marino. They were, however, shown to the Government and it was suggested, for the safety of San Marino as well as that of Allied personnel, that any dangerous Fascists found among the refugees now in the State should be interned and turned over to the Allies.

"There are 60,000 refugees from Italy now in the Republic of San Marino, most of them from Rimini and nearby districts. All refugees are to be kept in the Republic for the time being, and all roads are to be cleared as soon as possible so they may be fed until they can be returned to their homes in Italy.

"Thirteen lorries loaded with food and medical supplies,

/ stationed

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stationed outside San Marino by AMG, have not yet been able to go in owing to the condition of the roads. They will be sent in at the first possible moment. The food situation in the town of San Marino is excellent, but distribution is a serious problem because the Germans removed all transport they could find. The lorries to be sent in by AMG will remain. The Germans destroyed the water system of the town, and AMG will send in water carts supplied by Eighth Army. There is no electric light.

"The financial situation of the Republic is all right. Damage due to military operations is slight. Gp Capt Benson reports that the internal organization, both for government and relief, is excellent. AMG is posting Italian Carabinieri around the border on the Italian side to assist in keeping Refugees in the Republic until such time as they can be disposed of adequately.

"Major L.E. Zervudachi will remain in San Marino as a temporary Civil Affairs Officer until the Republic has been cleared of Allied troops, whereupon the Republic will send a Liaison Officer to Rimini to maintain contact with the Allies.

Flash on Rimini

"Destruction by military operations, mining, demolitions, booby traps and time bombs as serious as in Pescara. One time bomb went off near the Municipio about 1500 hrs yesterday and destroyed two buildings. Only 5 civilians in the city when CAOs went in yesterday noon, 12 by last night. Practically entire population is in San Marino.

"CAOs returned at 0800 today with Royal Canadian Engineers personnel to clear out the Harbour Master's House as an AMG HQ. Only building in the town found partially habitable on first survey.

"Every attempt will be made to keep out civilians as long as possible."

3. Crime and Punishment

The trial and execution of Caruso and the lynching of Carretta on the first day of the trial gave Rome correspondents an opportunity for purple patches, not to speak of sanguinary pictures, this week. (For those who do not receive our Trend of Correspondents' Copy and Daily Digest of the Rome Press we attach the issues covering these events. Incidentally, these services can be sent to those who apply for them). Caruso, who was 45, was Police-Chief of Rome under the Fascist Republicans: the official accusation against him under the Decree Law of July, 1944, was that of giving aid to the German invader by (1) handing over 50 political and common prisoners for summary execution as an act of reprisal, (2) carrying out arbitrary round-ups for the German labour service, (3) violating the extra-territoriality of

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the North - walked with firmness and dignity to the chair to which he was bound with his back to the firing squad, and in a clear loud voice shouted "Viva l'Italia" just before the volley.

His behaviour throughout the trial was in fact exemplary and even admirable - which does not alter the fact that he was a rogue who got away, among other things, with some eight million lire worth of loot, mostly in the form of melted jewellery.

The Fascist radio announced that 40 people would be shot as a reprisal for the execution of Caruso and it appears that this was carried out.

4. Financial Arcana

An item in the August report of the Finance Sub-Commission, whose reports are usually models of clear analysis, stands out brightly in the financial fog of Italy. The people of Rome alone in August bought 5,500,000,000 lire more Italian Treasury Bills than they redeemed, which was triple the record of all Southern Italy for the fiscal year 1943-1944. It may be recalled that in July, 1943, the Fascists were facing an outflow of one billion in excess of receipts from Treasury bills, whereas a year later the Allies had changed this to a net inflow of two and a half billion lire. At the same time bank deposits have steadily mounted at the rate of three billion lire a month. The Finance Sub-Commission officers feel as if it were almost entirely of their own doing, so absorbed are they in the staggering job of helping straighten out the finances of a country beset by years of militaristic over-expenditures, parasitical government bureaux to give employment to Fascists, and a tax system for which the word "archaic" itself is mildewed.

There are three cardinal principles which ACC Finance has tried to inculcate, with some success, it appears. They are (1) to reopen the banks as fast as possible (average time after liberation now is two weeks), (2) organize and support the Bank of Italy so that it can finance Italian Government expenditures (thus, the Allied Financial Agency - AFA - has made no cash advances to the Italian state since January and has even received repayments on previous advances), and (3) reduce the national deficit and strengthen the national credit. AFA which, incidentally, keeps the books for the inter-governmental settlements after the war, might have to step in with some temporary loans of currency to the Bank of Italy for Po Valley use. Before leaving a town the Germans and Fascists usually seize all bank cash to satisfy their requirements, leaving little money with which to finance the harvest. Thus, it cannot be exactly forecast when our staffs will run into the vast stocks of Italian currency printed to meet German demands and which we recognize as legal tender.

Apart from worries arising from possible currency shortages in the forward areas another currency problem is continually under the spotlight of the Italian Press. On the basis of a statement made last December in the Wall Street Journal to the effect that the United States and British governments

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Italy for the fiscal year 1943-1944. It may be recalled that in July, 1943, the Fascists were facing an outflow of one billion in excess of receipts from Treasury bills, whereas a year later the Allies had changed this to a net inflow of two and a half billion lire. At the same time bank deposits have steadily mounted at the rate of three billion lire a month. The Finance Sub-Commission officers feel as if it were almost entirely of their own doing, so absorbed are they in the staggering job of helping straighten out the finances of a country beset by years of militaristic over-expenditures, parasitical government bureaux to give employment to Fascists, and a tax system for which the word "archaic" itself is mildewed.

There are three cardinal principles which ACC Finance has tried to inculcate, with some success, it appears. They are (1) to reopen the banks as fast as possible (average time after liberation now is two weeks), (2) organize and support the Bank of Italy so that it can finance Italian Government expenditures (thus, the Allied Financial Agency - AFA - has made no cash advances to the Italian state since January and has even received repayments on previous advances), and (3) reduce the national deficit and strengthen the national credit. AFA which, incidentally, keeps the books for the inter-governmental settlements after the war, might have to step in with some temporary loans of currency to the Bank of Italy for Po Valley use. Before leaving a town the Germans and Fascists usually seize all bank cash to satisfy their requirements, leaving little money with which to finance the harvest. Thus, it cannot be exactly forecast when our staffs will run into the vast stocks of Italian currency printed to meet German demands and which we recognize as legal tender.

Apart from worries arising from possible currency shortages in the forward areas another currency problem is continually under the spotlight of the Italian Press. On the basis of a statement made last December in the Wall Street Journal to the effect that the United States and British Governments would accept Allied Military lire in payment for goods and services supplied to Italy, the Italian press and politicoes have maintained a steady barrage of questions as to the payment of the 30 billion lire disbursed in Italy (which the Italian Government is obligated to redeem) and as to the status of the dollar-sterling backing of these notes. A copy of this American newspaper article, our Finance officers swear, is to be found in the folder of every Italian cabinet minister. The Finance Sub-Commission declares to a man that it would cheerfully throttle the journalist who wrote the article cited and adds that the author was NOT the official mouthpiece of London and

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Washington. But the Italians refuse to recognize an unfettered press when they see it, so the attacks on the currency problem continue. It can be stated quite authoritatively that nobody on this side of the water knows what the devil will become of the Ali lire, a policy matter yet to be decided on the highest of levels. All that can safely be said at this time is that obviously some day there will have to be new Italian paper or currency which will require, in Italy's present condition, some sort of support in dollars and sterling.

One fact which no amount of reforms can exorcise, however, is the terrific state of the Italian public debt. It now stands at about 630 billion lire, of which about 280 billion is funded debt and about 350 billion is floating (or short term) debt. The Italians had been running on deficits since 1930 and are still doing so, last year's deficit being over 200 billion lire.

Considering the fact that the Finance Sub-Commission says it can hardly breathe without consulting the Combined Chiefs-of-Staff (because of the obvious world-wide repercussions of financial policies), it appears that the long-term solution to the problem will be long indeed. ACC officers are now studying an Italian Government proposition to fund 20 billion lire of the floating debt, but are inclined to veto the idea as small potatoes and a mere tentative gesture. If and when some sense and substance can be provided in a program of rehabilitation, then perhaps, our people say, reconstruction bonds can be floated with a sales appeal in the future of Italy.

In any event, no financial cleansing of the Fascist Augean stables will ever result until the so-called system of Italian taxation is thoroughly raked over. Historically, it is not much different from what went in Roman times: that is, private contractors collect the taxes, give the Government some theoretical assurance of a fixed income but actually produce the result of widespread collusion, graft, squeezes on the poor and downright evasions of collections. If the contractor finds it difficult to collect, the Government sometimes "forgives" or waives the collection of divers sums. There are simply no returns of our type or a fixed fiscal relation between the Government and the taxpayer. Evidence of income is obtained from informers. There is no conception of modern notions of assessment and evaluation. In brief - Italian Government securities are not yet blue chips. Yet, says Colonel Grafftey-Smith, Joint Director of the Finance Sub-Commission, there is hope, an amount of hope about the size of a pinhead, but still hope.

5. From the South

Colonel Temperley reports from Southern Region that the hand-over to Italians of matters concerning Law, Finance, Public Safety, Public Health, and Food are well advanced, but Transport, Industry with ACC officers still shouldering their

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5. <u>From the South</u>

Colonel Temperley reports from Southern Region that the hand-over to Italians of matters concerning Law, Finance, Public Safety, Public Health, and Food are well advanced, but Transport, Industry and Commerce are laggards, with ACC officers still shouldering their burdens and responsibilities. Additional grain shipments into Foggia are causing a jam: Campobasso has no railways working and trucks are doing very long hauls in an endeavour to stock up mountain communes before the winter. Epuration in Southern Region is everywhere waiting for the appointments of presidents of local committees by the Italian Government. In Naples there have been sit-down strikes in electricity and gas companies for increased wages to meet the cost of living. Colonel Temperley does not anticipate widespread trouble, but notes that this agitation is growing. He also comments that the proposed reduction of Carabinieri in Bari, Foggia and Naples is a matter for concern, especially since the presence of Allied troops, which may not long continue, is the mainstay of law and order.

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6. Propaganda's Future

Among other things now coming up for review, and action - or inaction - by the ACC, are the Italian networks of film and radio, and the establishment of an Italian news agency to replace Stefani. Under Fascism all propaganda machinery came, of course, under the Ministry of Popular Culture, and immense statal or parastatal monopolies were created and heavily subsidized. Receipts from the movie theatres of Italy rose from 325 million lire in 1937 to 1,275 million in 1942; the value of films exported, however, was only 100 millions. A top-heavy organization consisting of organizations such as LUCE for production, ENIC for distribution, CEFI for export, etc. supported this development by vast sums spent out of public funds on the construction of enormous studios such as those of Cinecitta. This monopoly with all its ramifications is still in being, if not in action, and the question arises as to how far ACC can interfere. Negotiations are now in progress to set up some sort of Joint Commission, twin brother perhaps to the Allied Publications Board, to report and make recommendations on the industry's present and future. Similarly, the monopolistic structure of EIAR, Italy's radio network, raises a question mark in this now supposedly democratic country. The creation of an Italian news agency - since Stefani no longer works - is another urgent problem, since Italy's press is now completely dependent on PWB news service. But whether such an agency should be cooperative, capitalistic or governmental remains to be decided. The future of these three immensely powerful propaganda weapons still lies in a fog, and it is a nice point to decide how far the conqueror of a co-belligerent interferes in such affairs.

7. Odds and Ends

Hygienic hope: Commerce Sub-Commission has presented requirements for 45,000 tons of soap for 25,000,000 inhabitants of Liberated Italy for one year to AFHQ ..... Fifth Army AMG gets the palm from Patriot Branch at Headquarters for intelligent and aggressive handling of the Patriot problem, having been among the very first to meet and cope with this new phase of civil affairs (witness the full and far-sighted report filed by Major Harry C. Kait with the 34th Division last July 13) ..... The Cassino situation is coming to a head, with 13,000 of the blasted town's 20,000 former inhabitants having already returned to the commune and accommodations, of course, being strictly rubble, which state has promoted action along the following lines: A hurry-up call to London for a re-building expert and an appeal to AFHQ for 2,000 tents for shelter, since the new houses about to be built will not be ready for occupancy until probably February .....A large woollen mill, well-equipped, intact, with considerable inventory of woollen blankets and material for suits and overcoats, all beautifully mined and booby-trapped, has been found at Prato ..... May we join the rest of ACC in congratulating Chief Warrant Officer Henry L. Ellenbast, AUS, for receiving the Legion of Merit in recognition of his outstanding services as S-4 of the 267o Regiment.... The Rome Labor Office of Region IV is receiving complaints from housewives to the effect that maids and domestic help are almost

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uniform to become acting chairman of the U.S. War Production Board recently visited these parts to inspect the power plants and machinery needs for rehabilitation. It may now be reported ..... Public Relations Branch, which is currently girding its loins to produce a history of Allied Military Government and the Allied Control Commissionin Italy, also is gathering a comprehensive photographic record and a full collection of press clippings about our activities, so would deeply appreciate any help possible from the field in the way of photographs and British and American newspaper clippings ..... Economic Warfare note: As a result of silkworm seeds flown in from Turkey, Southern Italy has spun and sent 10 tons of silk (with another 15 to 20 tons to be shipped later this year) to England for the making of parachutes that will eventually (it is hoped) float down on China and Japan ..... Thanks to the breaking of some logjams by the Economic Section, more foodstuffs are coming into Rome, 600 tons of Sicilian wine having been unloaded from 35 schooners at Anzio, a 5,000-ton shipload of the same coming from Taranto, 1,000 tons of onions arriving from Malta, while the free entry of unrationed foods up to 15 kilos a person has resulted in 2,000 persons bringing in food personally, an increase of 2,000 persons daily..... Major Hamilton T. Walker, SCAO with IV Corps, comes forth with a sensible suggestion: Visiting ACC officers entering corps area should not fail to contact the corps CAO for information, since that officer is the man who has been longest on the spot ... . The Grandi del Popolo, as of reports received at Headquarters, September 22 (reports usually lag about 10 days behind) now stands at 7,220,371 quintals against a target of some 13,000,000 quintals ..... Note of Nostalgia: For veterans of the dear, dead days in North Africa, Lieut-Colonel T.V. Smith, Education Sub-Commission director, who has just returned from Cairo, Asmara and Tripoli via Algiers, reports that the once-plush Hotel Aletti is now fairly ghostlike - with prices almost reasonable, blond beauties galore but unescorted and rooms even available for lieutenant-colonels ..... The British-American trades union delegation, under the conducting aegis of Colonel Junius Smith of the Labor Sub-Commission, has returned to Rome with first-hand reactions of the front-line boys to labor conditions at home and the satisfaction of personal interviews with General Alexander, AAI C-in-C, and Lieut-General Clark, Fifth Army CO ..... The Public Health Sub-Commission has just turned over to Italian Health authorities the first supplies of penicillin to be imported into Italy for eventual civilian use, one packet coming from the U.S. and the other from U.K. ..... The national price for olive oil has now been set at 6,000 lire a quintal for top quality, after the Economic Section consulted regional commissioners for their reactions as to whether the oil could be amassed at such a price (though Sicily and Sardinia held out for prices about 30 per cent higher) ..... As a result of vigorous representations made by Colonel Pollock, Region IV Public Safety chief, some 300 or 400 inmates of Rome's Regina Coeli Prison held without review since Allied entry into Rome (for example, a 22-year-old girl sentenced to 27 years by the Germans for a petty theft), are to be freed or released under proper safeguards ..... Foreign Economic Administration (U.S.) civilian personnel now arrived in Italy for

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LIONEL FIELDEN,
Major, Public Relations Director.

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PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

SECRET

PRB/R26/WB24

17 September 1944.

ACC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 24
11 Sep to 17 Sep 44

1. Political

As if deliberately wishing to frustrate the March of Time staff which lurked in the corridors of the Viminale with poised cameras, the Council of Ministers held no meeting this week. But there was activity on other political fronts. On the occasion of the Labor Democrat convention in Naples at which the two Ministers, Ruini and Cerabona, both spoke, the fusion was announced of the Labor Democrats with the Labor Party and the Social Democrat Party. This is a little like the fusion of the Liberals and the Liberal Democrats a few weeks ago in that the two new groups, largely made up of Southern Italians, have not previously been included in the Government nor, of course, in the C.L.N. Naturally this gave Nenni, writing in "Avanti", an opportunity to comment on the Trojan horseplay that seems to be going on in the less radical sections of the government. The platform - if it may be called that - of the Labor Democrats contained nothing as provocative or as concrete as was provided by the Socialist party last week. Labor Democracy looks back to Mazzini, believes in the Republic and thinks that Unity, work and progress are good things. It was also stated that young people and women should be given their place in political life. (If this means what it seems to mean, it is very likely that the ladies will get the vote; the Leftist parties have long been in favor of it and "Italia Nuova", putting its faith in the essentially conservative nature of women was also in the vanguard. One by one all parties are falling into line.) The party also recommended concentration on immediate jobs and orderly progress toward social and political goals.

Somewhat more substantial was the "motion" of the Christian Democrat National Council. Aside from the usual pious wishes for cooperation and progress and the expected lack of decision on the institutional question, they asked the government to recognize the Unions as "autarchic organs" with government sanction, appealed for communal and provincial elections, votes for women and an end to commissarial administration of public and private corporations. Subsequently a detailed agrarian program was published which, while leaving the door reluctantly open for cooperatives, was aimed primarily at increasing the number of small-holdings. The labor policy was attacked by "Italia Libera" as being similar to the Dolfuss and Franco scheme of things and very close to the Fascist set-up and "Avanti" took exception to the agrarian program, as might be expected.

The press this week has been full of charges and counter-

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The press this week has been full of charges and counter-charges of violence and provocation. Rightly or wrongly, the Leftist parties have been accused of encouraging or at least tolerating use of force in breaking up meetings and general lawlessness towards other parties in the provinces. Togliatti and Nenni have answered that these charges are rarely specific and, in the few cases investigated, have always proved to be purely local and sometimes purely personal brawls. They have added that this provocative talk is very much in line with the traditional tactics of reaction and that many of the charges hurled (particularly by "Italia Nuova") are word for word identical with the Goebbels-Fascist radio summaries. Such charges were made this week - still somewhat unspecified, it must be confessed - not only by "Italia Nuova" but by "Ricostruzione", "Il Popolo" and "Risorgimento Liberale"

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"Risorgimento Liberale". So acid has debate become that a communique was issued stating categorically that no prefect had asked the government for instructions as to how to deal with Leftist disorder. This does away with one particular accusation; the general charge that the Communists and Socialists are inflammatory and provocative in their attitude is harder to answer.

Italians have also been keeping an ear cocked to Quebec. So far they have heard nothing that makes them happy. On the contrary the terms of the Rumanian armistice, described as "generous" by "Unita" and more than that the fact of its publication have made them draw some bitter comparisons. "We are less than the government of King Michael", says "Voce Repubblicana" bitterly ..... Roman papers of all stripes are united on two things only at the moment; the resentment at the increase in electricity rates, variously defined as "absurd", "illegal" and "monstrous" and the strong reluctance to go back to standard time.

2. AMG with the Armies

AMG Fifth Army describes Lucca as "an oasis amid the destruction in the Arno valley". It appears that the town is little damaged and the water supply intact: the food problem, however, both in Lucca and Prato (which has 400 cases of typhoid) is still a serious one. Empoli is reported heavily damaged and looted: Fiesole extensively mined and booby-trapped. The pump at the main water supply source for Pisa and Livorno was destroyed, but the aqueducts are intact. Also destroyed - and filled with booby-traps - was the Royal Palace between Pisa and the sea, from which the "large guard arranged at the request of the Luogotenente" was removed as being "more useful elsewhere". Fifth Army AMG strikes a note of alarm about the supply position and observes that apart from Pisa and Florence the bread ration has been reduced to 100 grammes. HQ are taking steps to remedy this. In an interesting report on Florence (much of which was however covered by Major Bullock in Bulletin No 22) Fifth Army AMG notes that "real starvation" due to diet deficiencies exists there now: and that the Misericordia has been of immense assistance. The Misericordia, incidentally, is a society founded in 1240 by Pier Luca Borsi, foreman of the porters of the wool-trade. He obtained the money for its foundation solely by fining his companions every time they swore (think what we might do now on this idea) and the idea of the society was to tend the sick, take them to hospital, bury the dead, succour unfortunates, and generally to assist those who had noone to assist them. The Brothers preserve or preserved anonymity by adopting during their work a cloak and cowl, and through the years it has been the custom of Florentine nobility and burgners to be members of the Society, and to give their services regularly in this way.

On two points Fifth Army AMG is - for the first time in weeks - better pleased: sickness amongst officers has declined and "some Jeeps have at last been received."

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AMG Eighth Army, in a burst of optimism, reports both supply and agricultural problems satisfactory in Arezzo and Perugia provinces and goes as far as to say (we simply cannot resist giving this the fullest publicity) that in Perugia province "the transport problem is particularly satisfactory." The sting comes in the tail - "At no time has Perugia province had a sufficiency of officers: the personnel position is now worse than ever."

AMG Eighth Army observes that there has been no Patriot difficulty encountered on the Adriatic coast during the recent advance, and in fact "very few genuine Patriots have been met."

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3. Mediaeval masque

This week Florence revived a centuries-old custom to mark her freedom from the despoilers of her bridges. The occasion was the inauguration of Prof. Gaetano Pieraccini, socialist, as the first mayor of liberated Florence; the militant note was the spectacular staging of the mediaeval salute and procession of the famed Florentine Gioco del Calcio. The German and Spanish mercenaries of the Emperor Charles V and Pope Clement VII may have been more intimidated by 16th century mace-bearers and pikemen than were Kesselring's troops more recently, but no one present at the ceremony could deny that the marchers with their ballooning yellow silk pantaloons, creamy white jackets, great, red flannel hats, buckled shoes, silvery suits of armour and galaxy of uniforms in prime colours did not make a lively inauguration. Still carrying candles and Chianti flasks in lieu of electricity and plumbing, Florentines crowded the square and adjoining streets in a spirit of somewhat subdued gaiety. As the last sonorous strains of Beethoven's Fifth Symphony played by a 60-piece orchestra seated beneath the elegant Gothic arches of the Loggia dei Lanzi faded away, Lt-Col Michie stood on a temporary platform on the steps of Palazzo Vecchio and opened the real business of the day. He introduced Brigadier-General Hume, who in turn presented "the document conferring the chief office of the City of Florence" on a little white-haired old man who immediately belied his eighty odd years by shouting imprecations against Fascists into a PWB microphone and manfully calling upon all right-minded Florentines to rally to the cause of good government in the city. Able and sincere though he may be, the success of the Pieraccini administration in shell-pocked, battle-scarred Florence will depend largely upon the help that is given him by his constituents, the Italian Government sitting in Rome, the Committee of National Liberation and, not least of all, the Fifth Army AMG.

4. Looking forward from Siena

A statement characteristic of the fourth forward meeting on September 13 was that the Germans in the north of Italy were smoking out beehives in order to destroy the honey crop. The spotlight of forward planning and conjecture was set, in fact, on the rather unpropitious possibilities beyond the Apennines. No miracle of loaves and small fishes being possible, both Mr Antolini of the Economic Section and Col Legg of the Food Sub-Commission spoke at some length of what was in sight, what could be locally produced, and the possibilities, or otherwise, of getting it where it would be most urgently needed. It looked like a tight Christmas for everybody up North, with a "thin spread" at the very best.

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Thoughts of home and peace now sizzling beneath the surface of many ACC minds should be, we are authoritatively counselled, mingled judiciously with thoughts of the Po valley, the Alps, and other territories. The prospect of a sudden breakthrough at Rimini raises the hair on economic heads, anticipating wholesale demolitions of ports and communications, growing dearth of transport and staff, and a great number of hungry, homeless people. Livorno is not working yet, Ancona is very limited in capacity, and Genoa, it seems, is so heavily mined as to be useless for a considerable time. With the winter coming on, and the harvest of the North possibly destroyed or seized by the Germans, the ACC may in another month have bigger and more insoluble problems on its hands than ever before, and its staff, far from proceeding peacefully homewards or even belligerently to the East, are lekely to be performing organizational miracles for 24 hours a day. Rumours of any immediate demilitarisation of personnel were categorically denied by Brigadier Lush at a meeting this week. The denial prompted Colonel Farren to ask plaintively what should be said to the many officers who enquired about the future ofthe Commission (and themselves). The Executive Commissioner replied that there was no immediate prospect of any change in the functions or personnel of the ACC and that, whatever its distant future, officers would be required as long as Allied Military Government existed in any country.

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LIONEL YIELDEN,
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Public Relations Director.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016
2073

SECRET

PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

PRB/R26/WB24

17 September 1944.

ACC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 24
11 Sep to 17 Sep 44

1. Political

As if deliberately wishing to frustrate the March of Time staff which lurked in the corridors of the Viminale with poised cameras, the Council of Ministers held no meeting this week. But there was activity on other political fronts. On the occasion of the Labor Democrat convention in Naples at which the two Ministers, Ruini and Cerabona, both spoke, the fusion was announced of the Labor Democrats with the Labor Party and the Social Democrat Party. This is a little like the fusion of the Liberals and the Liberal Democrats a few weeks ago in that the two new groups, largely made up of Southern Italians, have not previously been included in the Government nor, of course, in the C.L.N. Naturally this gave Nenni, writing in "Avanti", an opportunity to comment on the Trojan horseplay that seems to be going on in the less radical sections of the government. The platform - if it may be called that - of the Labor Democrats contained nothing as provocative or as concrete as was provided by the Socialist party last week. Labor Democracy looks back to Mazzini, believes in the Republic and thinks that Unity, work and progress are good things. It was also stated that young people and women should be given their place in political life. (If this means what it seems to mean, it is very likely that the ladies will get the vote; the Leftist parties have long been in favor of it and "Italia Nuova", putting its faith in the essentially conservative nature of women was also in the vanguard. One by one all parties are falling into line.) The party also recommended concentration on immediate jobs and orderly progress toward social and political goals.

Somewhat more substantial was the "motion" of the Christian Democrat National Council. Aside from the usual pious wishes for cooperation and progress and the expected lack of decision on the institutional question, they asked the government to recognize the Unions as "autarchic organs" with government sanction, appealed for communal and provincial elections, votes for women and an end to commissarial administration of public and private corporations. Subsequently a detailed agrarian program was published which, while leaving the door reluctantly open for cooperatives, was aimed primarily at increasing the number of small-holdings. The labor policy was attacked by "Italia Libera" as being similar to the Dolfuss and Franco scheme of things and very close to the Fascist set-up and "Avanti" took exception to the agrarian program, as might be expected.

The press this week has been full of charges and counter-charges of violence and provocation. Rightly or wrongly, the

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The press this week has been full of charges and counter-charges of violence and provocation. Rightly or wrongly, the Leftist parties have been accused of encouraging or at least tolerating use of force in breaking up meetings and general lawlessness towards other parties in the provinces. Togliatti and Nenni have answered that these charges are rarely specific and, in the few cases investigated, have always proved to be purely local and sometimes purely personal brawls. They have added that this provocative talk is very much in line with the traditional tactics of reaction and that many of the charges hurled (particularly by "Italia Nuova") are word for word identical with the Goebbels-Fascist radio summaries. Such charges were made this week - still somewhat unspecified, it must be confessed - not only by "Italia Nuova" but by "Ricostruzione", "Il Popolo" and "Risorgimento Liberale"

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"Risorgimento Liberale". So acid has debate become that a communique was issued stating categorically that no prefect had asked the government for instructions-as to how to deal with Leftist disorder. This does away with one particular accusation; the general charge that the Communists and Socialists are inflammatory and provocative in their attitude is harder to answer.

Italians have also been keeping an ear cocked to Quebec. So far they have heard nothing that makes them happy. On the contrary the terms of the Rumanian armistice, described as "generous" by "Unita" and more than that the fact of its publication have made them draw some bitter comparisons. "We are less than the government of King Michael", says "Voce Repubblicana" bitterly ..... Roman papers of all stripes are united on two things only at the moment; the resentment at the increase in electricity rates, variously defined as "absurd", "illegal" and "monstrous" and the strong reluctance to go back to standard time.

2. AMG with the Armies

AMG Fifth Army describes Lucca as "an oasis amid the destruction in the Arno valley". It appears that the town is little damaged and the water supply intact: the food problem, however, both in Lucca and Prato (which has 400 cases of typhoid) is still a serious one. Empoli is reported heavily damaged and looted: Fiesole extensively mined and booby-trapped. The pump at the main water supply source for Pisa and Livorno was destroyed, but the aqueducts are intact. Also destroyed - and filled with booby-traps - was the Royal Palace between Pisa and the sea, from which the "large guard arranged at the request of the Luogotenente" was removed as being "more useful elsewhere". Fifth Army AMG strikes a note of alarm about the supply position and observes that apart from Pisa and Florence the bread ration has been reduced to 100 grammes. HQ are taking steps to remedy this. In an interesting report on Florence (much of which was however covered by Major Bullock in Bulletin No 22) Fifth Army AMG notes that "real starvation" due to diet deficiencies exists there now: and that the Misericordia has been of immense assistance. The Misericordia, incidentally, is a society founded in 1240 by Pier Luca Borsi, foreman of the porters of the wool-trade. He obtained the money for its foundation solely by fining his companions every time they swore (think what we might do now on this idea) and the idea of the society was to tend the sick, take them to hospital, bury the dead, succour unfortunates, and generally to assist those who had noone to assist them. The Brothers preserve or preserved anonymity by adopting during their work a cloak and cowl, and through the years it has been the custom of Florentine nobility and burgners to be members of the Society, and to give their services regularly in this way.

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On two points Fifth Army AMG is - for the first time in weeks - better pleased: sickness amongst officers has declined and "some Jeeps have at last been received."

AMG Eighth Army, in a burst of optimism, reports both supply and agricultural problems satisfactory in Arezzo and Perugia provinces and goes as far as to say (we simply cannot resist giving this the fullest publicity) that in Perugia province "the transport problem is particularly satisfactory." The sting comes in the tail - "At no time has Perugia province had a sufficiency of officers: the personnel position is now worse than ever."

AMG Eighth Army observes that there has been no Patriot difficulty encountered on the Adriatic coast during the recent advance, and in fact "very few genuine Patriots have been met."

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3. Mediaeval masque

This week Florence revived a centuries-old custom to mark her freedom from the despoilers of her bridges. The occasion was the inauguration of Prof. Gaetano Pieraccini, socialist, as the first mayor of liberated Florence; the militant note was the spectacular staging of the mediaeval salute and procession of the famed Florentine Gioco del Calcio. The German and Spanish mercenaries of the Emperor Charles V and Pope Clement VII may have been more intimidated by 16th century mace-bearers and pikemen than were Kesselring's troops more recently, but no one present at the ceremony could deny that the marchers with their ballooning yellow silk pantaloons, creamy white jackets, great, red flannel hats, buckled shoes, silvery suits of armour and galaxy of uniforms in prime colours did not make a lively inauguration. Still carrying candles and Chianti flasks in lieu of electricity and plumbing, Florentines crowded the square and adjoining streets in a spirit of somewhat subdued gaiety. As the last sonorous strains of Beethoven's Fifth Symphony played by a 60-piece orchestra seated beneath the elegant Gothic arches of the Loggia dei Lanzi faded away, Lt-Col Mienie stood on a temporary platform on the steps of Palazzo Vecchio and opened the real business of the day. He introduced Brigadier-General Hume, who in turn presented "the document conferring the chief office of the City of Florence" on a little white-haired old man who immediately belied his eighty odd years by shouting imprecations against Fascists into a PWB microphone and manfully calling upon all right-minded Florentines to rally to the cause of good government in the city. Able and sincere though he may be, the success of the Pieraccini administration in shell-pocked, battle-scarred Florence will depend largely upon the help that is given him by his constituents, the Italian Government sitting in Rome, the Committee of National Liberation and, not least of all, the Fifth Army AMG.

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A statement characteristic of the fourth forward meeting on September 13 was that the Germans in the north of Italy were smoking out beehives in order to destroy the honey crop. The spotlight of forward planning and conjecture was set, in fact, on the rather unpropitious possibilities beyond the Apennines. No miracle of loaves and small fishes being possible, both Mr Antolini of the Economic Section and Col Legg of the Food Sub-Commission spoke at some length of what was in sight, what could be locally produced, and the possibilities, or otherwise, of getting it where it would be most urgently needed. It looked like a tight Christmas for everybody up North, with a "thin spread" at the very best.

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PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

SECRET

PRB/R26/WB25

10 September 1944

ACC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 25
4 Sep to 10 Sep 44

1. Political

The political week began with the speech of Carandini, delivered last Sunday from the stage of a Roman theatre. The Liberal minister without portfolio defined the principles of his party, which he declared was progressive in nature but believed in private enterprise and in the individual liberties which are a part of the party tradition. He admitted frankly that the Liberal party included both monarchists and republicans and tried to define the Liberals as a center party while deploring the absence of a real Right in the present scheme of things. As a statement of honest liberalism it left little to be desired and it was noted that the manner of delivery was temperate and scholarly, but press reaction was not in the same key. In spite of some kind words for the Communists, "Unita" fell on it savagely and declared Carandini had no sense of reality - unless his apparent naivete masks a sinister desire to preserve the status quo at all costs, "Italia Libera" feared the triumph of reaction within the Liberal ranks and even "Il Popolo" (Christian Democracy) found the wish for a Conservative party unrealistic and pathetic - "What is there to conserve in Italy today?" It is obvious that for the time being the Liberals will have to resign themselves to being regarded as Rightist whether they like it or not.

So much for the Right. The Left spoke out also this week and here again the old political vocabulary is not quite accurate. For on the program of the Socialist party which came out of the Naples convention "Italia Nuova" observed with some justice that it was more to the left than anything the Communists have yet suggested or indeed anything one could find in modern Russia. It did have, however, the virtue of clarity and is worth recording in some detail. After the usual general locations identifying capitalism with war and Utopia with public ownership of the means of production the manifesto went on to very specific requests. It asks of the Allies Lease-Lend, demobilization of the administrative, economic and financial branches of ACC and recognition of the right of the Corpo di Liberazione and patriots to bring to the war a contribution "commensurate with the strength of the popular forces they represent." And, last but not least, a statement of reassurance on the financial policy now being pursued by the Allies. Of the government it asks immediate attention to the unemployment problem and urges the need of municipal and provincial elections being held as soon as possible. The concluding passage, hinting darkly that if the forces of the monarchy or other reactionary elements attempted a coup d'etat, the workers would be ready with "revolutionary violence" sent the correspondents scurrying to their [illegible] and was the subject of much comment in Rome. Lumby (London [illegible] of "the impatience which

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He admitted frankly that the Liberal party included both monarchists and republicans and tried to define the Liberals as a center party while deploring the absence of a real Right in the present scheme of things. As a statement of honest liberalism it left little to be desired and it was noted that the manner of delivery was temperate and scholarly, but press reaction was not in the same key. In spite of some kind words for the Communists, "Unita" fell on it savagely and declared Carandini had no sense of reality - unless his apparent naivete masks a sinister desire to preserve the status quo at all costs, "Italia Libera" feared the triumph of reaction within the Liberal ranks and even "Il Popolo" (Christian Democracy) found the wish for a Conservative party unrealistic and pathetic - "What is there to conserve in Italy today?" It is obvious that for the time being the Liberals will have to resign themselves to being regarded as Rightist whether they like it or not.

So much for the Right. The Left spoke out also this week and here again the old political vocabulary is not quite accurate. For on the program of the Socialist party which came out of the Naples convention "Italia Nuova" observed with some justice that it was more to the left than anything the Communists have yet suggested or indeed anything one could find in modern Russia. It did have, however, the virtue of clarity and is worth recording in some detail. After the usual general declarations identifying capitalism with war and Utopia with public ownership of the means of production the manifesto went on to very specific requests. It asks of the Allies Lease-Lend, demobilization of the administrative, economic and financial branches of ACC and recognition of the right of the Corpo di Liberazione and patriots to bring to the war a contribution "commensurate with the strength of the popular forces they represent." And, last but not least, a statement of reassurance on the financial policy now being pursued by the Allies. Of the government it asks immediate attention to the unemployment problem and urges the need of municipal and provincial elections being held as soon as possible. The concluding passage, hinting darkly that if the forces of the monarchy or other reactionary elements attempted a coup d'etat, the workers would be ready with "revolutionary violence" sent the correspondents scurrying to their wires and was the subject of much comment in Rome. Lumby (London "Times") assessed it rightly as an indication of "the impatience which parties of the Left feel to enter into the heritage which they think they see awaiting them" and it seems unlikely that this "dare" to the reactionary forces will be accepted if for no other reason than at the moment reactionary forces lack organization and initiative.

On some points in the Socialist program practically all Italians are in agreement. The currency question has been raised repeatedly in the press over the last few weeks, most eloquently perhaps by Zuccarini in the "Voce Repubblicana", and all parties would welcome a declaration of the policy of the Allies. Similarly there has been a campaign for local elections - largely from the Leftist parties, who rightly or wrongly feel they would gain a good deal by immediate action on this line. More moderate opinion, voiced for example in "Ricostruzione", is not hostile to the idea but is disposed to wait until soldiers, PCWs and refugees have returned to their paesi.

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The Socialist statement was published on Thursday, and Friday, being the eighth, was largely given to anniversary articles on the armistice. This somewhat deflected the attention of the press from the meeting of the Council of Ministers which took place Thursday. It had been expected by some that the much discussed subsidy for living costs would be on the agenda; in fact the only matters of importance taken up were preliminary measures for organizing the Comitato Italiano Gestione Navi (CO.GE.NA for short) which will take care of ship-builders and shipping interests still having their seat in territory occupied by the enemy, and the restoration of the old Chambers of Commerce in the place of the Fascist provincial economic Consigli ..... Comment on the anniversary was in general rather sombre and of course provided an excellent opportunity for the parties of the Left to reproach the King, Badoglio and the General Staff with ineptitude or cowardice or "malafede". "Il Popolo" however, with grim optimism insisted that the armistice had been of great help to the Allies and the Italians could regard it with moderate pride as a real contribution to the war effort.

There have been some odd paradoxes not unworthy of note. Almost simultaneously with Nenni's appeal for more participation by the partisans in the war, Bonomi broadcast a message to them, asking them, once their areas were liberated, to surrender their arms and cooperate with the Allies. And with the growing outcry for dismantling ACC a poignant cry from "Voce Repubblicana" that another year of military government would have been a good thing. Quot homines .....

2. AMG with the Armies

By contrast with the rapid advance in France, the progress of the Eighth Army offensive on the Adriatic seems, this week, disappointingly slow. Although, at the time of writing, our troops are within 2 miles of Rimini, the wedge driven into the Gothic line has not yet quite penetrated into the plains of Lombardy, and the Germans are clearly putting up a very stiff resistance - helped by heavy rains - on a line running almost due south from Rimini to the Foglia river. Correspondents coming from that area tell us that there are signs of the enemy digging in between Rimini and San Marino - that embarrassed little republic which is now being further embarrassed by German "respect" of its neutrality. The same correspondents tell us that pilots report a good deal of flooding round Forli and Faenza where the long viaduct road runs from Rimini to Bologna. From the same source we have a report that German prisoners taken in Italy have no idea that Germany is not winning the war on all fronts.

AMG Eighth Army reports Urbino undamaged, with a normal population of 8,000 and an additional 3,000 refugees. The provincial administration of Pesaro, except the Prefect, was found at Urbino, where it had been functioning for some time. Pesaro itself (entered by AMG on Sep 3) was found considerably damaged and looted: only about 200 people were in the city. Further south at Fossombrone considerable damage was done by German demolitions and the whole town was mined and booby-trapped.

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AMG Eighth Army notes that the strip of country in the area of the Gothic line "resembles more the conditions found in the Cassino area than anything we have yet met." The resulting refugee evacuation problem is a serious one: but it is thought that if the advance is rapid refugees may be held and spread in the surrounding communes.

AMG Fifth Army reports (September 9) Lucca not badly damaged - though still under considerable shell fire - with water supply intact, but only 2 days food supply left. Policing is still in the hands of Patriots. The population is about 40,000 as against a normal 85,000.

/ Pisa

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Pisa north of the river was reported (Sep 4) to contain 15,000 people: in view of the water shortage, entry was temporarily stopped. All the bridges were destroyed: half the listed monuments have been considerably damaged; the roof of the Campo Santo was completely burnt out, but steps were being taken to protect the frescoes. The leaning tower continues to lean, slightly chipped by bombs. The southern part of the town was uninhabited and thought to be considerably mined and booby-trapped. A team of 4 AMG officers is running the city under SCAO IV Corps.

Prato is stated (Sep 9) to be little damaged, with a population of 75,000 all present plus 10,000 refugees. The water supply, however, is in bad state, and the food situation serious: no bread since August 22. Patriots are said to be well-organized, and "Communists very prominent in this purely industrial town."

Except for Pontedra and Potassieve, which have been badly smashed, AMG Fifth Army reports comparatively little damage in the Arno valley between Pisa and Florence. From Florence itself, with the withdrawal of the Germans from Prato, Monte Morello and Vetta le Croci, the war is passing away and conditions are "improving considerably". A parade was held on September 7 at which Patriots were publicly thanked by the Corps Commander for the very real help they had given: and their arms were taken away. Retention of arms and no public thanks would, as we understand, have been more to their taste - but the jamboree went off well.

3. Organization and movements.

The most significant internal news of the week is that the Allied Control Commission is now to come directly under AFHQ and thus will be separated from AAI. A forward echelon of ACC will be maintained in liaison with AAI. Arrangements for this will be discussed at the next forward meeting of Army AMGs and northern regions at Siena September 13. The connection between the Army AMGs and ACC will remain as now and there is to be no division between AMG and ACC. But the forward echelon will be in a position to administer to the immediate needs of the Army AMGs in the name of the Chief Commissioner. This should help. Meanwhile, orders are pouring out of the Establishment Branch, re-forming our strength, as it were, for the new tasks ahead. The embryonic new regions are at present housed for planning purposes in the basement of ACC HQ and in dark subterranean passages spring up, on new labels, the magic names of "Liguria", "Piemonte", "Lombardy" and the rest. Colonel A.N. Hancock gets Lombardy, while Milan goes to Colonel Charles Poletti. Liguria (formerly Region X) has been assigned to Lieut-Colonel C.G. Feasey, while Piemonte (a new region) will be the care of Colonel Robert P. Marshall, who turns over Region V to Lieut-Colonel C.H.A. French. Brigadier J.K. Dunlop has Venezia and the privilege of welcoming the Russians. The happy arrival of 37 new officers may be noted, certainly a godsend in the quest for officers to man the new regions. Meanwhile, the Headquarters manpower reorganization recommendations are finding approval by the Acting Chief Commissioner, with some modifications, and will probably go into effect September

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4. Ferment

Recommendations for Italy are gestating in the Economic Section. According to Press Reports, Brigadier-General O'Dwyer is in the United States to report on the Italian problem. The President at his press conference gave out figures gathered here by ACC and carried to the White House by General O'Dwyer whose thesis that Italy needs aid from the United Nations because of the extensive

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official bins being crammed full. Supplementary space was later found. Then there have been the September rains in the Marche and Tuscany. Lack of fuel and transport delayed threshing, the rain fell on the shocked wheat which began to sprout. And carbon bi-sulfide to protect the cereal against the elements was short. An interesting footnote to Liberated Italy's harvest campaign comes from beyond the enemy lines in the Po Valley, where farmers are reporting hoarding their grain in expectation of the arrival of the Allies. Reason: The official Fascist-German price is from 285 to 350 lire a quintal. The Allied price is 900 - 1,000 lire a quintal.

With the Granai del Popolo in grains drawing to a close, we must report a joint achievement of the Agriculture and Finance Sub-Commissions in cutting drastically high interest rates for grain financing, a reform which is expected to produce real benefits to the economy cumulatively as time goes by. Farmers, of course, get a check from the Consorzi which they cash at their local banks. Consorzi financing is done through groups of participating banks, but repayment being limited to proceeds of sales, there was always a deficit representing the subsidy and operating costs of the collection. This deficit the government guaranteed, paying an interest from 6 to 7½ per cent. Actually, no settlement of the financing of the last four years' crops had been made, while the high rate of interest went on. ACC ordered that all outstanding balances of past years be paid at once, and arranged that henceforth participating banks would be paid monthly and currently at an annual rate of 6 per cent, which amounts to ½ per cent on each monthly note.

The latest figures on wheat collections coming into Headquarters as of September 9 are as follows:-

Regions	Wheat collected (quintals)	RCs Collection Goals (quintals)
1	943,010	3,500,000
Southern	2,305,522	3,875,175
4	967,018	1,930,000
5	741,904	2,250,000
6	199,780	400,000
8	516,669	1,500,000
	5,673,903	13,455,175

6. Oil

The spotlight will shortly focus on the amassing of olive oil for the Granai del Popolo. Sixty per cent of the crop comes from Puglie, Calabria and Sicily. Yields are expected to be lower in the South this year. This year's crop is estimated as approximately 2,000,000 quintals, which will be, roughly, half retained and half amassed. The oil amassing decree has been signed. Basic price to be paid the producers for first quality oil is in process of being fixed, the range of discussion lying between 45 and 65 lire a kilogram. (Consumers buy oil in liters but producers get paid in kilograms of production). Oil, of course, is one of the most lucrative sources of income on the black market. Around the oil-producing towns in Puglia and Calabria a liter now brings 80 to 120 lire while in Rome

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7. Prisoners of War

Two things ever presently remind Italians of the war, they tell us. One is ruined cities. The other is persons they no longer see but long for - prisoners of war. Some news of the disposition of these by-products of war comes from Lieut-Colonel J.A. Campbell, director of the War Materials Disposal and Prisoners of War Sub-Commission. Approximately 1,500 protected personnel of the medical type are being repatriated from North Africa. In Sicily, where in the initial collapse of the Italian armies many prisoners were released on parole almost at once, 65,000 (who had been living freely at home) obtained their technical release from prisoner of war status July 31. Another 1,500 - these wounded and sick - are coming home by September 30 from North Africa, Kenya, Rhodesia, England and India. The policy henceforth will be repatriate and release all prisoners over 60 years old, those who are 50 or more and have been in custody two years or more, sick and wounded and any prisoners who can be certified as directly aiding the rehabilitation of Italy. Regional commissioners who run across records of such prisoners as might be useful may set the wheels moving for their release through Colonel Campbell's organization. Italian Government officials, incidentally, are now visiting for the first time camps established on the Italian mainland for about 700 prisoners termed "cooperators" who work and move freely doing work for the Allies but reside in three special camps. The entire question of Italian prisoners of war, whose elucidation depends on the Combined Chiefs of Staff, has been obscured by the absence of real statistics and the brutal fact that there have been too many other pressing matters to worry about. In all, the Allies reportedly hold about 500,000 Italian prisoners. In the United States are some 50,000. England has 60,000. There are still 30,000 in North Africa. The greatest lot is the (roughly) estimated 250,000 in India. The condition or numbers of those held by the Russians from the ill-starred divisions sent there by Mussolini is largely a matter of guesswork, though the figures range from 10,000 to 100,000, with one fact more or less clearly admitted. Few Italians of Southern climes were prepared to withstand the rigors of Russian winters and so perished, which cuts down the estimates of those still prisoners.

8. Odds and Ends

First organization of its kind in Italy, the Unione Femminile Italiana has been formed in Naples to further the welfare and political rights of women (shades of Carrie Chapman Catt and Sylvia Pankhurst!) ..... With the coming of fall and winter, the health situation bears notice: Smallpox is decreasing in Naples but typhoid is epidemic in Benevento while in Rome the sub-standar food situation has, it is feared, resulted in not inconsiderable malnutrition, fertile ground for winter diseases ..... The Sicilian railway triangle is finally in working order; you can travel now from Palermo to Messina, Messina to Catania and Catania to Palermo ..... A serious fire raged for days on the heaths of Nuoro district in Sardinia and two Italian officers lost their lives before their troops were able to bring the flames under control ..... Lt-Col A.G. Tubb, regional finance officer of the now defunct Region II, in his last reports tells of "fantastic" prices being paid for real estate as a hedge against inflation .....With an eye on the successful

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John P. Lovaco
M-f-, AUS

for LIONEL FIELDEN,
Major, Public Relations Director.

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SECRET

PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

PRB/R26/WB22

3 September 1944.

ACC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 22
28 Aug to 3 Sep 44

1. Political.

The Council of Ministers, in successive sessions on 31 Aug and 1 Sep, tackled an agenda full of serious matters, some with long term and international implications. The meeting on Friday approved a decree providing for the naming of Commissioners (of the sort described in last week's Bulletin) to take over the running of "editorial enterprises", and information agencies which, since 8 Sep last, have published books, newspapers or pamphlets or carried on any activities in behalf of Fascism or the Germans. It was further explicitly stated that the old Roman papers such as "Il Messaggero" were not to reappear under the old names. This is a ticklish matter in the capital since the papers with the widest circulation were naturally those of Fascist prominence and their eventual fate has been of some concern to the new papers that came out at the time of the Liberation. Of greater national importance were the measures taken in regard to Sicily. The High Commissioner, Aldisio, was present at the meeting of the Council and after "ample discussion , in which all the ministers shared" a number of resolutions were made. It was decided that the government would reinforce the administrative apparatus of Sicily and resolutely combat the separatist movement on the island; the six parties represented in the government are also to enlist their strength as parties in the same cause. The government also announced its intention of giving "efficacious form to decentralization and regional autonomy." The specific measures to be taken are to be left to the Constituent Assembly, suggestions meanwhile being welcomed from the island itself, but special provisions are under consideration, among them "concrete and organic resolution of the latifundia problem." This is not the first Italian government to embark hopefully on such an enterprise and the working out of these good resolutions is sure to be followed with attention by all Italians and indeed by the world. Among other measures of lesser importance, a draft decree for machinery for gathering the necessary statistics, which are basic for reconstruction planning, was approved. This is the beginning of the "inventario" for which the papers, notably "Avanti", have been pleading for some time. The government was, in a sense, "scooped" in this matter, for at the press conference of the ACC Economic Section held on Wednesday a representative of the Italian Bureau of Statistics had already indicated such a survey was under way.

Friday's meeting was of equal significance for the requests of the Confederation of Labour, presented to Gronchi on 9 Aug and already the object of a special meeting of the ministers without portfolio were, in substance, heeded. The Council decided after "ample and minute" debate to entrust to a special ministerial committee the task of working out without delay plans which "for their implementation must be discussed with competent Allied authorities." It is not clear whether wage increases or - as was reported after the special meeting of

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Churchill's farewell message to Italy was, on the whole, well received. It has been said, and with some accuracy as nearly as we may judge, that it was somewhat disillusioning to the optimists who had hoped for the announcement of some concrete piece of good news, and cheering to the pessimists who found comfort in such phrases as "the gift of liberty", "Italy taking her place among the nations" and the allusion to "large Italian forces" soon to join the Allies in / the

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the fight against Hitler. "Avanti" and "Unita" left out Mr Churchill's recipe for liberty, which included a warning against any kind of totalitarianism, an omission to which other newspapers gleefully called attention. "Avanti", somewhat sheepishly, said something about "lack of space" and "Unita" as yet has not deigned to explain. But comment even from these papers was favourable; only the "Voce Repubblicana" detected support for the monarchy lurking in Churchill's phrases and informed him that the spirit of the Risorgimento to which he would have Italy adhere was essentially Republican.

The Pope's broadcast was another highlight of the week. It too seems to have satisfied all parties. True, the insistence on the right to private property may have been in theory a little painful to the Marxist parties but they played up his remarks on the need of coordinating capital with the interests of society. It is hardly news that the Vatican is not Communist and the Left seems to have reasoned that they had been given as much as they could expect - especially as both Communists and Socialists are still courting the evasive Christian Democrats. One chord the Pope struck found a response in all Italian hearts; his allusion to the state of the prisoners of war. The obscurity which enshrouds those in Russia and the anomalous position of those still in Allied hands no less than fears for the safety of labourers in Germany have been a constant source of concern; a special meeting of Ministers without Portfolio surveyed the situation earlier in the week and papers of all parties have presented the problem; much is expected from the Pope's remarks which, it is hoped, will focus world attention on the matter.

The visit of the American and British Labour delegation has been the subject of a good deal of comment. There is no doubt that the contacts they have made have given Italians a feeling of "belonging" again. But their meeting with the Confederazione del Lavoro - logical and natural as it was - set the parties at odds. For the Confederazione is regarded by "outsiders" as a "monopoly" of the Socialists, Communists and Christian Democrats. The other parties all went to some lengths to point out that the "Anglo-Saxon representatives" must "look behind the façade" (as the Action Party puts it) and not depart with the impression that the triumvirate of the self-styled parties of the masses can speak for all aspects of the labour problem - or indeed for all workers.

2. <u>Re-making the Patriots.</u>

The Patriot situation, which a couple of months ago was becoming a major headache, seems now easier, partly, perhaps, because Italians are taking an increasing share in its control. A pool of 60 Patriot representatives is being formed by the Committee of National Liberation and the Comando Supremo for work further north. Patriot representatives are working in teams of two in the field smoothly screening authenticity of Patriots while other Italian teams recruit for the Italian Army, and every Province has its own Patriots Committee for employment. A national Patriots organization is also in process of formation to establish national policies on Patriot rehabilitation and compensation. In brief, the Patriot problem is now organized and the representatives are paid (150 lire a day plus rations, transport and petrol). In the initial hullabaloo about the lack of consideration afforded the Patriots, everyone overlooked the undercover work of the Allied Screening Agency, an intelligence outfit which systemati-

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Officer of Region V and Patriots Branch representative, is planning to withdraw Carabinieri from static or routine jobs and putting at least another 50 Patriots to work. It is also of interest to learn that a Patriot must have joined by March 1944 to get a certificate of merit. For men who joined the Patriot forces after this date, the band leader issues a certificate of "collaboration" on his own authority.

3. AMG with the Armies.

As we go to press the Allied Armies in Italy are forging ahead after the breaching of the Gothic line by the Eighth Army in the Pesaro sector, described by AAI as "a decisive victory for Allied arms."

Pisa fell on September 1 and in the evening a CAPO entered the town with 50 Carabinieri augmented by a further 25 from Army Mobile Force. Ford trucks which had been concentrated in the vicinity were also sent in. Further details are not yet known.

The city of Florence has been placed "off limits until the operational situation clarifies." Reasons for this are clear from the following report received from Major Bullock:

Civilian casualties in Florence since 11 August, the day the Germans pulled back from the north bank of the Arno behind the Mugnone, have been 380 dead and 1,261 wounded, and these figures are only up to Tuesday of this week. Last Sunday morning, March of Time filmed a pitched battle on the Piazza Dalmazia when British troops and Patriots drove the Germans back 200 yards in house-to-house combat. Shelling and sniping have gone on every night since the Germans retreated across the Arno during the early hours of 3 August. Citizens are still being blown up on mines strewn around the Ponte Vecchio area. The stench of dead bodies is met in every corner of the town. Florence is still without electricity. The mains which carry water from the south bank to the main part of the city on the north cannot be repaired until thousands of tons of rubble and mines have been shifted. Burials in the emergency cemetery in the Bobcli Gardens reached 200 before the 11th, when the first AMG elements crossed into the main part of the city. A new, greater field of the dead has been opened in the Botanical Gardens just off the Square of St Mark. Into it have gone 400 bodies, in scenes which defy description, for there had been no burials for many days in the ancient City of Flowers by the time the Germans pulled out. How many dead remain under the rubble to be excavated as clearing proceeds nobody knows. Any exact keeping of vital statistics stopped on the 8th.

The Germans spared the Ponte Vecchio, but in sparing it they destroyed one-third of the 13th and 14th century houses of Florence, including the interior of the Palace of the Guelphs. All the old overhanging houses on both banks of the Arno which gave the city its characteristic mediaeval appearance are either completely demolished or partly smashed. They can be rebuilt, but if they are Florence will be a Hollywood set, not any longer the city of the Medici. The list of historic buildings hit by shell fire reads like a page

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Civilian casualties in Florence since 11 August, the day the Germans pulled back from the north bank of the Arno behind the Mugnone, have been 390 dead and 1,281 wounded, and these figures are only up to Tuesday of this week. Last Sunday morning, March of Time filmed a pitched battle on the Piazza Dalmazia when British troops and Patriots drove the Germans back 200 yards in house-to-house combat. Shelling and sniping have gone on every night since the Germans retreated across the Arno during the early hours of 3 August. Citizens are still being blown up on mines strewn around the Ponte Vecchio area. The stench of dead bodies is not in every corner of the town. Florence is still without electricity. The mains which carry water from the south bank to the main part of the city on the north cannot be repaired until thousands of tons of rubble and mines have been shifted. Burials in the emergency cemetery in the Boboli Gardens reached 200 before the 11th, when the first AMG elements crossed into the main part of the city. A new, greater field of the dead has been opened in the Botanical Gardens just off the Square of St Mark. Into it have gone 400 bodies, in scenes which defy description, for there had been no burials for many days in the ancient City of Flowers by the time the Germans pulled out. How many dead remain under the rubble to be excavated as clearing proceeds nobody knows. Any exact keeping of vital statistics stopped on the 8th.

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/ fighting

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fighting equipment was smashed or taken away by the Germans. The one fire-engine AMG found during the early days in South Florence was smashed by a German shell on the night of its discovery. It has been established that children died of hunger in the Ospedale Innocenti, oldest foundling home in the world, during the last days of the German occupation. Women and children were shot by Fascist Republican snipers in bread and water lines after the Germans withdrew. At 2000 hrs last Sunday a Fascist Republican threw a bomb in front of a British truck near Hotel Excelsior, killing one civilian and wounding six. Within an hour the Carabinieri had arrested him and he had been identified.

Careggi Polyclinic Hospital, in the northern outskirts of Florence, is still being stubbornly held by the Germans with machine-gun posts all around the building and artillery on the hill behind. Inside, with the defenders, are 3,700 Italian refugees and Allied internees. On Saturday these unfortunates began to escape through the sewers. Nothing more terrible has been seen in Florence than these desperate men, women and children, crawling out of manholes in the streets of Florence, choking, sobbing, smeared with sewage. One hundred came down on Saturday. Forty more on Sunday. Then the movement ceased. The Germans had found the exit and machine-gunned the last small group to come out.

Among incidental points noted on Florence are:

The noblewoman who wrote: "Baroness X presents her compliments to the management of the AMGOT and would be glad to know where she can obtain canned foodstuffs and groceries, tea, sugar, butter etc., also soap. With compliments and thanks." The local bank which wrote to inquire whether hunting rifles and pistols pledged as security for loans might be returned to the owners on redemption. The finding of the tiny widow of Ras Nasibou, stalwart Abyssinian chieftain who fought the Italians with such stubbornness, living in destitution with her seven children in Florence. The attempts of black marketeers to cash in on a dearth of insulin urgently needed for 18 dying children, and how AMG put the fear of God into them and got generous supplies from many sources, including anonymous donors. The Fascist in the Black Shirt who was mobbed on the stairs leading to the Cinquecento room in the Palazzo Vecchio and badly mauled before AMG could get him into protective custody. The intervention of two British CMPs who stopped a public execution of alleged looters by Patriots in the early days of our occupation. The defiant, red-headed young woman who was escorted to the Palazzo Vecchio last Sunday afternoon by a great crowd howling that her hair must be cut off on the Palazzo balcony because she had expressed pro-German sentiments. The burial, with full British and Patriot military honours, of Potente, remarkable young Patriot commander, killed in action against Fascist Republican snipers, and the murmur which ran around the graveside during the funeral oration when a comrade mentioned "the proletariat" and the Florentines muttered: "Not proletariat, but people." The arrival of 20 quintals of lemons in Vatican trucks for the hospitals of Florence, a gift of the Pope. The German racket of requisitioning cattle, driving them off, selling them some miles away, then re-requisitioning and re-selling them over and over again. The great auction sales in the squares during the last

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4. Economics and the Press

A new and very welcome step was taken this week when Brigadier-General O'Dwyer inaugurated the first of a series of regular Press Conferences designed to explain the work of the Economic Section in detail to the Allied and Italian press. The General neither withheld facts nor minced words. He flooded correspondents with figures hitherto secret - such as the 700 calories per head which Roman citizens are getting, the 600,000 tons of Allied wheat required by Liberated Italy alone in the next twelve months and the German destruction of 94% of all electric plants - and made no bones about Italy's grave plight. Allied correspondents, to whom Italian food and power questions had an interest which was academic rather than personal, wrote down the figures and reported them: the Italian journalists, however, whose interest was both more lively and more informed, opened a cannonade of sometimes unanswerable questions on the General and Mr Antolini, and made some pertinent suggestions. Their reporting was detailed and fair: such conferences will undoubtedly be of the greatest value in keeping public opinion in this country informed of the activities - and difficulties - of the ACC.

5. Southern Region Debut.

Colonel Temperley, new Regional Commissioner of the mammoth Southern Region, got his staff off to a good start on Aug 31 at the first meeting of the reorganized group whose job will be to watch Allied interests in an area that formerly comprised three regions and more than 300 officers. Now there will be only 100 officers, with 70 military vehicles and 150 requisitioned ones, for six zones comprising 15 provinces. Officers in charge of zones will be called Zone Commanders. The first priority will be to hand back to the Italians all purely administrative work, without damage to Allied interests, so that a 50 per cent reduction in the regional staff can be effected within six weeks. Specialist officers will be used in other zones than their own whenever necessary. Amassing of olive-oil is the top field problem. The public safety officer also must clean up the matter of Allied deserters in the Salerno area and return them to military justice. Another strain on ACC manpower in the new region is that ACC must provide officers on call to defend soldiers up on court martial. Transport, as ever, for the Italian economy is and will be a painful situation. Some of the railroad locomotives have been already sent north. Tires are wearing out. A factory has been opened at Bari for re-treading tires, but only for the armed forces. A similar factory is ready for operations at Naples, but there are no materials. And the black market price for tires is now 40,000 lire each. At least Colonel Temperley will have all the old, familiar problems with him. We wish him luck.

6. Green cards.

This concerns a particular headache of the Public Relations Branch about which we should like you now to be warned. When we came to [illegible] there were some 600 Italian journalists milling around. The PRB [illegible] crowd of new acquaintances

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This concerns a particular headache of the Public Relations Branch about which we should like you now to be warned. When we came to Rome there were some 600 Italian journalists milling around. The PRB found itself willy-nilly besieged by a crowd of new acquaintances demanding not only information and interviews but also curfew passes, car permits, light, telephones, typewriters, and, of course, jobs. Colonel Poletti's first Italian Press Conference was a mob of over 100 people shouting at each other. Something, clearly, had to be done. We didn't want to do it and we didn't and don't want to be a Gestapo. But if Italian journalists were to be permitted to travel, attend conferences, and generally act as representatives of the free press which the Allies have set up in Italy, a selection had to be made, if only to prevent overcrowding. So Italian journalists who wish to be, so to speak, "accredited" by the ACC, go through the four following "hoops":

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(a) They declare their life history in a "Scheda Personale" and are vetted by Security;
(b) They go before the Committee of Epuration set up by the Italian Government;
(c) Their names are given for inclusion (or refusal to include) in the Register of Journalists of the Federazione Stampa;
(d) Their names are checked by the officers who have examined the records of the Ministry of Popular Culture, which contain names and details of journalists employed by Fascism.

Some journalists (you'll be surprised to hear) have survived these tests and to them has been issued a green card bearing their photograph and signature, the signature of the Directors of the Security and Public Relations Branches, giving a general recognition and permission to travel, enter official buildings and be out after curfew.

We could tell you a long story of the complications which have arisen over the four hoops: what we want to stress here is that we invite you to extend to any possessor of the green card such facilities and courtesies as you can. We believe them to be good people who can and will do much to create good feeling between the Italian people and the ACC.

7. Odds and Ends.

Samuel Reber, former Vice-President of the Political Section, now has the job of advising General Eisenhower on the French show ..... Work at ACC HQ is systematically punctuated these days by peals of bells which come from the Church of Santa Maria della Concezione, a Capuchin chapel set in the middle of the Ministry of Corporations Building ..... Final approval of the manpower reorganization of ACC headquarters sections and personnel is awaited: the result will be that more officers will find themselves in field jobs, and more operating responsibility, willy-nilly, will have to be assumed by the Italian Government ..... The Public Relations Branch, acting on the suggestion of General Sir Henry Maitland Wilson, has issued a 15-page release with 17 pictures documenting the treatment of political victims by the German Sicherheitsdienst in their Via Tasso headquarters in Rome ..... The Economic Section is trying to get for Italy two floating power stations from the United States, one for the Adriatic and one for the Tyrrhenian coast, to provide power to replace the 94% destroyed Italian hydroelectric system..... Commendation should go this week to Major Huston D. Crippen, who at present is unfortunately ill with malaria in 73rd General Hospital in Rome, for his work in Rieti Province where, at great risk, he supervised the de-mining of five locomotives in a tunnel which the Germans hoped to blow shut ..... The Granai del Popolo as of September 2 had collected 4,735,727 quintals of wheat in Italy south of the battle line ..... The wheat price recommendation for Northern Italy, to date, with no official announcement as yet, is to continue the present prices paid in Southern Italy .....The Allied Publications Board has frozen all issue of newsprint temporarily because of shortages in imports ..... Documentary films about the Italian armed forces - Army, Navy and Air Force-will be made shortly..... Col Hancock is planning for Region XI. It looks as if Region X will be divided, Liguria going to Lt Col Feasey and Piemonte to Col Marshall from Region V..... Business Note: The Property Control

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Lionel Fielden

LIONEL FIELDEN,
Major,
Public Relations Director.

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PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

SECRET

27 August 1944.

PRB/R26/WB21

ACC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 21
21 Aug to 27 Aug 44.

1. Political

The spotlight so mercilessly fixed in the past on the government swung this week to focus sharply on a Distinguished Visitor. Mr Churchill's every move, so far as such moves could be known, was the object of infinite speculation and comment. Since no definite declarations were made by him at any time nor by any one who had seen him the circumstances of his pilgrimage were microscopically scrutinized for their possible implications. He covered a good deal of ground and saw a lot of prominent figures; one almost had the impression of a stop watch being held on his conversations. It was noted that he spent an hour and a half with the Lieutenant-General (Front page box with heavy type in "Italia Nuova") an hour with the Pope (italics in "Il Popolo") and that Bonomi and Badoglio had lunch with him in an "atmosphere of great cordiality". It is known that Bonomi brought up the question of Lend-Lease, and the London correspondents of the "Daily Telegraph" reported that he had expressed himself as favourable to its application to Italy if the U.S. would consent. He also saw Marshal Tito, roughly at the same time "Il Popolo" was asserting that Fiume and Trieste are and must remain Italian, and indeed almost everyone else except President Roosevelt, who, contrary to rumour, was not in Rome. Hopes are high for what this visit may mean and indeed if nothing else, as "Risorgimento Liberale" points out, it has at least broken the "isolation" of Italy and given one of the great leaders of the world a chance to see for himself what are the needs of the country. The fact that Mr Churchill is known to have had a long conversation with Bonomi and to have met the whole government before leaving has undoubtedly had a good effect upon the standing of the government and public confidence in it.

Similar remarks were made on the arrival of Antonini and Baldanzi, two American labour representatives. Their list of contacts was of course less extensive but followed at least in some quarters with equal intensity, "Avanti" announcing gleefully that Antonini had called immediately at the office of the journal to be received with fraternal cordiality by Nenni. Representatives of the British Trade Unions are expected to arrive shortly.

Soleri, Minister of the Treasury, held a press conference on Thursday in which he spoke frankly of the unsatisfactory currency situation in Italy. He pointed out that the issue of notes both by Germans in the North and the Allies in the South have made it impossible to keep accurate account of the currency in circulation. He has restricted the issue of notes on the part of the government and trusts the Allies to do their share by similar restriction and by "compensating for their issues with supplies of products." He was not unduly alarmed about prices, pointing out that Rome could not be considered typical and that in the South prices were settling down to a stationary level. Many things, he said, over which the government has no control, change rate at which the Allies set the lira, affect ts on international understand-

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hour and a half with the Lieutenant-General (Front page box with heavy type in "Italia Nuova") an hour with the Pope (italics in "Il Popolo") and that Bonomi and Badoglio had lunch with him in an "atmosphere of great cordiality". It is known that Bonomi brought up the question of Lend-Lease, and the London correspondents of the "Daily Telegraph" reported that he had expressed himself as favourable to its application to Italy if the U.S. would consent. He also saw Marshal Tito, roughly at the same time "Il Popolo" was asserting that Fiume and Trieste are and must remain Italian, and indeed almost everyone else except President Roosevelt, who, contrary to rumour, was not in Rome. Hopes are high for what this visit may mean and indeed if nothing else, as "Risorgimento Liberale" points out, it has at least broken the "isolation" of Italy and given one of the great leaders of the world a chance to see for himself what are the needs of the country. The fact that Mr Churchill is known to have had a long conversation with Bonomi and to have met the whole government before leaving has undoubtedly had a good effect upon the standing of the government and public confidence in it.

Similar remarks were made on the arrival of Antonini and Baldanzi, two American labour representatives. Their list of contacts was of course less extensive but followed at least in some quarters with equal intensity, "Avanti" announcing gleefully that Antonini had called immediately at the office of the journal to be received with fraternal cordiality by Nenni. Representatives of the British Trade Unions are expected to arrive shortly.

Soleri, Minister of the Treasury, held a press conference on Thursday in which he spoke frankly of the unsatisfactory currency situation in Italy. He pointed out that the issue of notes both by Germans in the North and the Allies in the South have made it impossible to keep accurate account of the currency in circulation. He has restricted the issue of notes on the part of the government and trusts the Allies to do their share by similar restriction and by "compensating for their issues with supplies of products." He was not unduly alarmed about prices, pointing out that Rome could not be considered typical and that in the South prices were settling down to a stationary level. Many things, he said, over which the government has no control, including the exchange rate at which the Allies set the lira, affect Italy's financial situation, but he counts on international understanding and Italy's own great reserve of labour.

One speech made news. Sforza spoke on international affairs last Sunday. With his main point that Italian problems should be considered not as purely national matters but as aspects of European problems all were in accord, and his suggestion that Fiume might be made a seat for a new League of Nations had the merit of originality. But his criticism of Sonnino for excluding the Vatican from the Versailles peace conference set the Action Party and the Christian Democrats at each others throats. The latter applauded Sforza, the Action journal, "Italia Libera", promptly called attention to the Vatican's alleged Fascist sympathies in Hungary, Spain and Slovakia, the "Popolo" replied - and the battle is still joined as we go to press.

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2. AMG with the Armies

A good "patriot" story comes from Fifth Army AMG. The 37 who received certificates at Cecina included 5 nuns, one the Mother Superior, who gave shelter and care to escaped Allied POWs. When the Germans came to search they were received at the door by the Mother Superior with a Crucifix in the one hand and a pistol in the other. If they entered they would "get both", she said!

Livorno still has difficulties owing to restrictions on the occupation of a large part of the city. All local residents are to carry identity cards and dock labourers will have port passes. There is some typhoid in the province, particularly at Colle Salvetii. The Refugee Branch is "doing a fine job" moving up the Refugee Transit Camp to Follonica, which is expected to be ready on September 1.

Fifth Army AMG (becoming poetic) says that "as the sands run low and the lights are coming on again all over Europe, our thoughts are directed increasingly ever further north." It reports "a refreshing contrast" between the already completed teams (2) of Region IX and the "scramble which accompanied the birth pangs of Region VIII", and observes that the next, as yet unnumbered, Region is only 30 miles away.

Increasing sickness among officers, and decreasing transport, are subjects of complaint. "With regard to transport we find ourselves in a worse state on the Arno than we did on the Garigliano."

From the distressed city of Florence there is not much happy news to report. Since August 19 the Germans have been shelling the city intermittently, injuring and killing many and hitting the Strozzi Palace San Lorenzo, the Uffizi Gallery, Santa Maria Maggiore and Santo Spirito. The Press has reported (though this is not as yet officially confirmed) that Giotto's Campanile was also hit. Civilians in No Man's Land are still being supplied with food. The debris of demolished bridges is being cleared to avoid floods: street clearing is completed. The bread ration throughout the Province is still 200 grammes, as it is in Livorno Province, and there is some resentment about it, in view of larger rations elsewhere. Nevertheless AMG 8th Army reports "food position and organization better than expected; abundant fruit and vegetables entering Florence and prices reasonable." There are now 100 tons of food south, and 200 north, of the Arno. "Burial of dead," concludes the report, "continuing."

3. Regional Commissioners Conference

The RCs Conference, the first for 12 weeks and the first to be held in Rome, opened on Tuesday in the vast conference room of the Ministero delle Corporazioni, in a blaze of light and the atmosphere of a Turkish bath. The blaze was due to the presence of the March of Time Film Unit which, after considerable hesitation on the part of some of our coyer Vice-Presidents, had been permitted to record the scene. (This they did for an hour but then dropped and smashed their camera, be it regretfully reported, just before the arrival of General Sir Henry Maitland Wilson). Not only the Allied Press but also, for the first time at these Confer-

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The keynote of the Conference was set by the statement in Captain Stone's opening speech that "we in ACC are committed to do all that we can to support the Italian Government in carrying out the hard tasks that lie before it. That is the dominant aspect of the second phase into which we have now entered." The Supreme Allied Commander, in his address, congratulated ACC on the work done since the Sicily landing, said that our major problems were food and unemployment and insisted that

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the ACC keep its eye on administration and off politics. Our watchwords, he suggested, should be initiative and integrity.

Sicily's commissioner, Colonel Hancock (about to depart for Brave New Regions) painted a dark picture, quoting Thucydides on the "unruly mob" of the island. Harvesting intractability had resulted in 9,000 denunciations and arrests of which only 500 had been tried. Region II - Colonel MacCleary reporting for Colonel Zellars whose departure for another theatre was much regretted by all - noted a marked growth of Communism in Potenza and Brindisi. (This pained "l'Unita" which remarked, in reporting the proceedings, that the life of the parties, unless it affected the war effort, was not the business of the ACC). Colonel Chapman thought that Region III's wheat target (170,000 tons) would be reached: Colonel Poletti spoke sympathetically of Rome's food troubles and his practised oratory was clearly audible to Italian press correspondents. In Foggia, Colonel Temperley stated, the black market had switched from grain to olive-oil. Colonel Feasey gave some impressive figures of Calabria's exports and reported no unemployment there. The Executive Commissioner, in his summary, stressed two points that Allied military interests came before everything else, and that we must work through the Italian authorities.

Among figures given by other sub-commissions were 500,000,000 lire worth of exports from Italy from D day to July 31; 25,000,000 dollars woth of paintings in a single cache near Florence: 50,000 tons of food a month to be brought into Rome: 340,000 tons of wheat already in the Granai del Popolo: 170,000 tons of civil supplies handled in July 1944 compared with 18,000 in December 1943: and a contribution by Italy to the armies of 150,000 tons of food and 110,000 sheep.

General O'Dwyer, perhaps partly because he was a newcomer, struck a refreshing note of determination and optimism. He spoke very simply, pointing out that the Economic Section's problem was "to take surplus to deficiency" and declaring that it could and would be done. He picked examples from the preceding reports - 250,000 tons of wine in Apulia: no wine in Rome - and gave some striking figures such as that of 1,400 tons of food for the daily requirements as foreseen of Rome. The Conference certainly had the impression, from his talk, that Italy's economic recovery had found a new and doughty champion.

The Service reports were lively. Admiral Morgan, in stentorian tones which Echo rendered almost unintelligible, spilled quite a number of beans about the Italian Navy: all shorthand writers disagreed about his exact words, but there was no doubt about his general opinion that the Navy had done a fine job and shown great bravery "in the highest naval traditions". General Browning countered with a tribute to the Army which, he suggested, might be of greater value to Italy's future than even the senior service: and Air Vice Marshal Bowen-Buscarlet did not lose the opportunity of pointing out that in modern warfare neither service could exist without the Air Force. The three speeches were a striking tribute to the good relationship existing between the Allied and Italian armed forces. General Browning, incidentally, thought that patriots were "stealing the picture" and wanted more publicity for the Army: and the Air Vice Marshal had a special word for General [illegible] and Commanding Officer, attended

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The Executive Commissioner's meeting on the next day was about the toughest - and hottest - ever. Even the imperturbable Mr Antolini mopped his brow as questions were hurled at him concerning the price of wheat - and whether there should be differentiation between North and South - the level of wages, the everlasting transport question and the use of schooners, and the whole insoluble tangle of inflation's progress. Mentally, if not physically, the discussions seemed to clear the air: if, as seemed sure, vast problems loomed ahead, Regional Commissioners appeared eager and ready to cope with them - as far as staff and transport permit.

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4. Granai del Popolo

Judging from Italian difficulties in getting the harvest in and amassed in other years, agriculture experts at Headquarters are beginning to feel hopeful about the Granai del Popolo. Estimates of the collection to date vary from 29 to 33 per cent. of the target as of the end of August. In recent years by this time, the Italians had gathered approximately 60 per cent of their goals. Comparative statistics are notoriously fallible, so we shall not pursue the point further. Suffice it to recall that in the spring, the Agriculture Sub-Commission forecast that 43 per cent of the wheat crop would be collected. It later revised the estimate downward to 38 per cent. The end of the harvest is October 31, approximately. Of course, the wheat price for the northern regions has not been set yet. One school wants to retain the present price of 1,000 lire; the other wants a lower price. The issue: Obscure at deadline time. The Agriculture Sub-Commission also feels pretty good about one thing: It thinks it has, more or less, licked the problem of grain retention by the farmer and his helpers. In Fascist years, this was such a scandal that many persons got themselves put on the lists as agricultural workers, did a couple of days' harvesting and then were allowed to retain enough grain to give them a bread ration of 600 grams a day every day in the year! The harvest collection in Region III is not going too well and its lack of progress has been obscured by the Sicilian reports of opposition, although Sicily at least has a record of consistency in opposing amassing. The problem in Region III is the fact that there are too many small farmers who have only two to ten quintals to harvest. You need an army to police such small fellows, particularly since the black market price in nearby Naples is currently 1,400 to 1,800 lire a quintal and black market operators promise the farmer 5,000 lire a quintal if he will hold his wheat for six months and then sell it to the black market ring. The collections in reports received and collated as of August 25 are:-

Region	Wheat collected (Quintals)	Regional Commissioners' Goals
I	575,000	3,500,000
II	703,058	1,550,000
Foggia	915,421	1,565,175
III	65,161	170,000
IV	568,736	1,950,000
V	474,251	2,550,000
VI	170,000	400,000
VII	130,000	290,000
VIII	261,000	1,500,000
Total	3,862,625	13,455,175

5. Mr Churchill

On Wednesday Mr Churchill held a very "off the record" Press Conference at the British Embassy, Rome. The directive allows us to [illegible] only "descriptive material and the remark about Cigars." The

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6. Regions and their Prefects

We have before us the minutes of a meeting held on August 20 at the HQ of Region V between Regional officers and the Prefects of the Region. We do not know whether such meetings have taken place in other Regions: certainly this one gives an interesting and encouraging picture of understanding and ecoperation. Harvest, supply and transport, public safety, finance and refugees were the subjects discussed. Colonel Marshall opened the proceedings with a very elegant speech on the speedy restoration of Italy to the Italians, and Colonel Pickering gave Region V Italians a small fatherly pat on the back for good behaviour. On the whole, however, (we must have our fun) it did seem as though the prefects were listening obediently to some kindly-intentioned, but rather pained teachers: and the minutes don't record that they spoke back at all except for a plaintive plea for more oxen for Chieti and Teramo's wail for permission to distribute grain for which no warehouse space was available - to which Colonel Middlewood replied sternly that it must be exported. Anyhow, the idea of the meeting is clearly excellent: and the minutes may give an erroneous of seven little prefect boys sitting in a row.

7. The Economic Front

With the war going so well and the end not too distant (we hope, we hope), the third phase of military government - readying for transfer to post-war status, especially in the economic sphere - is taking a bigger and bigger share of ACC attention. Here are some highlights of Economic Section activity along this line: Rome, which for various reasons now in process of correction has not been getting enough food supplies to live up to its ration scale, now has the benefit of a Headquarters Rome Food Supply Committee under the chairmanship of Major Jack Rorimer....The Capital, as a result of further energetic action, will get partial gas service on or about September 1 and a steady supply of sub-lignite for ordinary fuel on or about September 3..... Colonel Poletti, Region IV RC, did his bit for the Romans by announcing late August 26 that one and a half hour's gas would be provided in one zone on August 28....Recommendations to G-5 to the effect that 560,000 tons of wheat would be needed to be imported into Italy in the next six months are being reconsidered in the light of figures showing the large amounts of native Italian food supplies taken by the armed forces, with corresponding savings in shipping at a time when bottoms were at a premium ..... An over-all plan being sent to the Combined Chiefs of Staff calls for the British Government to appoint a number of civilian experts to ACC equal to the eventual civilian representation from the Foreign Economic Administration of the United States Government, the present number of American civilians asked for being 42 .....The question now under debate of pulling all ACC officers out of Sicily has narrowed down to economic issues: can we afford to let rehabilitation perhaps slide without ACC technical supervision or should we put the entire operational responsibility on the Italian Govt., especially in view of the manpower shortage in Northern regions....Brig. Gen. O'Dwyer, Vice-President, and Mr. Antolini, executive director of the Economic Section, will hold their first press conference Aug. 30

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two-day journey to Rome to 12 days ..... One enterprising shipper finally got to Rome with a load of wine which had a landing price of 45 lire a litre; it cost him less than one lira a litre .....

8. Flags and Symbols

On Friday evening a "demonstration" occurred in the Piazza Farnese at Rome. A quite orderly and perfectly good-tempered Italian crowd of about 5,000 gathered in front of the French Embassy to celebrate the fall of Paris. Getting a little bored after a twenty-minute wait, the crowd turned its attention to a Carabinieri station in the square, whose balcony sported an Italian flag bearing the arms of the House of Savoy. This attracted their attention and derision, and one of them made his way up to the balcony, tore off the flag and threw it down among the crowd. He then started to put up the Red Flag with the hammer and sickle. Before he could do so a Carabiniere rushed on to the balcony, tore it from him and flung it (in what the police report describes as "in no unmistakabl manner") down on the crowd below. This caused a storm of protest. Colonel Pollock and Major Coxhead, who had then arrived on the scene (needless to say, unarmed and unescorted) quieted the crowd and directed that three flags - Savoy, Communist and French - be hoisted on the balcony.

Descriptions of the demonstration differ. The reporters who were on the scene thought it "very ugly" and wrote splendiferous accounts of the "magnificent behaviour" of Pollock and Coxhead. Asked about this by us, Major Coxhead said "A lot of silly nonsense: some coon hit me over the head with a red flag: he retreated about twenty paces, with my assistance: then Pollock quieted them with a few well-chosen words." Two Italian papers, "Il Popolo" and "l'Italia Nuova" made some acid comments on the demonstration, asking why the Government could not protect the flag under which its armed forces fought.

In this connection it is not perhaps inappropriate to note agai the arrival in this country of Luigi Antonini and George Baldanzi, delegates of AF of L and CIO. These two have delivered themselves of some pungent remarks which seem surprising in a war theatre, and somewhat distressing in the context of future peace.

9. Odds and Ends

AMG is all set to enter the independent Republic of San Marino whenever the time comes, one officer having already been entitled "Political Liaison Officer" and briefed as to his duties which will consist largely of being helpful, especially after insuring that a neutral government is actually functioning..... The Isle of Elba is expected finally to go under AMG control Sept. 20, after French troops leave the island....Major Quayle, former P.A. to Lieut. Gen. MacFarlane is visiting the convalescent former Chief Commissioner in England; we wish the General a speedy recovery....The Southern Region(former regions II, III, and VII and Foggia and Campobasso, the latter subtracted from Region V)

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LIONEL FIELDEN,
Major,
Public Relations Director

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SECRET

PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

PRB/R26/WB20.

20 August 1944.

ACC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 20
13 Aug to 20 Aug 44

1. Political

The Ferragosto, as the Italians more commonly call the Feast of the Assumption, had a political as well as a religious significance this year, for on that date the provinces of Frosinone, Littoria and Rome were handed back to the Italian Government. The occasion was marked by a message of Alexander and a speech of Bonomi explaining that no miracles were to be expected but that the Government was prepared to do its best to cope with its new tasks. "Avanti" somewhat cynically symbolized the transfer in a cartoon showing a soldier in a British uniform handing a broom to Bonomi and saying: "It's up to you now." Press comment was in general sober rather than jubilant; "Italia Libera" urged the Government to take a strong stand and build up its prestige in the eyes of its countrymen and the Allies, "Risorgimento Liberale" hailed the occasion as an evidence of good faith on the part of the Allies. There is no doubt that the transfer did indeed raise the standing of the Government. For some weeks rumours had been circulating to the effect that there was a lack of harmony within the Cabinet and that the Government was not trusted by the Allies. These rumours were shown to be baseless at least in the eyes of the man in the street by the transfer of the capital into the hands of Bonomi. And, seizing the moment with true political acumen, the ministers without portfolio submitted a manifesto to Bonomi, expressing their confidence in him and their intention of continuing to work in harmony for the solution of the pressing problems of the country. This has cleared the air a good deal and the government seems as firm now as it ever has been. Of course, if the hoped for meeting between Churchill and Bonomi takes place it will make assurance doubly sure.

On the 17th the Council of Ministers met, no doubt heartened by their new authority. The most important matter on the agenda was the draft of a decree giving the Government power to appoint Commissari for "concessionary enterprises affecting the public services or engaged in activities recognized to be of general interest." This will affect, of course, any large industrial or manufacturing concern, but the appointment is made only in cases where the management is absent or suspect or where the firm has shut down. The term of the commissari is limited and must be stated in the act of appointment. The institution of such industrial commissars has sometimes been viewed with doubt as totalitarian in principle, but the feeling at the moment is perhaps best summed by "Avanti" which says the important thing is to get the right men. The Council meeting also abolished the Inspector-Generalcy of various branches of the Army.

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The life of the parties continues healthy and vigorous. Comment on the fusion of the two Liberal groups, mentioned in last week's Bulletin, has been profuse during the week. Most parties regard it as a clarification of the political situation and are inclined to view it with reserved approval. But Togliatti, writing this Saturday in "Unita", takes a more sombre view. The Democrazia Liberale, he says, is largely made up of "feudal and reactionary elements of the South" which have always been hostile to everything the parties of the Left stand for. He calls the new group "the Trojan horse" within the citadel of democracy. Clarification proceeds on other lines as well; Cardinal Salotti proclaimed categorically in an article given first-page prominence in "Il Popolo" that the Catholic Communists were a contradiction

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in terms: "one cannot be a Catholic and a Communist". He spoke kindly of Togliatti's good intentions toward the Church, which he was prepared to accept at face value, but added that no man, however sincere, could really give guarantees as to the course which events might lead his party to pursue. Pacciardi, Republican leader, in a speech made last Sunday summed up the unchanged and unchanging Republican attitude: the monarchy must go, the present government was not really so much a government as "an unsound combination of parties" and the time has come for the United Nations to give Italy the status of a full-fledged ally.

The week ended on a strong, not to say challenging note. Nenni, who writes more clearly and lucidly than any journalist in Rome, said (in "Avanti") that the people were watching the Government carefully to see whether its actions matched its intentions. If, in the matter of defascistization, "sanctions" did not follow legislation with speed and efficiency, the Government would go and with the Government perhaps the last chance to democratize Italy without appeal to fire and sword. And speaking of Florence, where the deeds of the patriots had given Italians much to be proud of, "Italia Libera" stated that it was now clear that the "people's revolution" in Italy was in complete harmony with the war of the Allies. The enemy is the same, and the goals are the same. "If anyone cannot see that now it is because he does not wish to see....."

2. Giornate fiorentine

The position in Florence remains somewhat lively and rather obscure. Street and roof-top fighting, occasional sporadic shelling from the hills, penetration, on occasions, by German armoured cars, and some initial difficulties with the CLN, who definitely wanted to rule the uneasy roost, have all contributed to a Guelph and Ghibelline situation. It seems clear that Lt-Col Benton-Jones is carrying out an extremely difficult job with great tact and vigour, and that the Italian patriots, who in Florence have been remarkably amenable to discipline - even to handing in their arms when not required - are proving of real value. Except for a few snipers Florence is now clear of the enemy as far as the canal; beyond the canal the condition of civilians is said to be extremely bad, and there appears to be even a tacit agreement to pass food to them through the lines. HQ AMG moved into the Prefettura on August 14 and a small stockpile, reaching about 200 tons, was begun north of the Arno. On the same day a mine explosion occurred on the Ponte Vecchio, killing 7 and injuring many. The 8th Army AMG report of August 14 states that "there have been many casualties among patriots, who have fought very bravely: the Allied Military Command is to thank Patriots publicly for what they have done and are still doing."

3. Meeting in Siena

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3. Meeting in Siena

Chandeliers and tapestries looked down on the Executive Commissioner's third "advanced" meeting held on Wednesday August 16. The tapestries (for a wandering eye such as ours at conferences usually is) had a certain charm; the presiding Brigadier was backed by a prancing warhorse; above the heads of our distinguished GCAOs a couple of yoked peacocks drew a chariot of victory towards a bridgeless stream; Colonel Upjohn was framed by elegant still life. One might continue, but space forbids. Captain Stone attended a part of the conference, and others present included Brigadiers Dunlop and Parkinson, Colonels Fiske, Kirkwood, Bowman, French, Findlay and Legg, Mr Henry Hopkinson of the British High Commissioner's staff, and Mr Antolini, whose tapestry backing was probably (but we didn't notice) an active market scene.

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Perhaps the most interesting points raised at the meeting, which ranged efficiently and vigorously over a very wide field, were political. It was clear that increased collaboration by patriot bands and citizens as we go north, raises new problems, which must have their effect on our attitude towards the Italian Government. Brigadier Lush made it clear that we must try to restore the fullest responsibility to that Government and work through it both nationally and provincially: Mr Antolini echoed the sentiment, stressing the "immense ingenuity" shown by Italians in getting consumers goods going by September 1. He also spoke of the urgent necessity of obtaining the help and understanding of patriots further north in preventing demolition and destruction in the Po Valley, whose harvest is essential to Italy's needs. General Hume spoke eloquently of the harshness, as he thought, of our Proclamations 1-4, which did not make Italians love us: Group-Captain Benson, less concerned with love, seemed to think that Italians ought to obey: Colonel Upjohn smoothly resolved the political dichotomy by pointing out that we could not legally punish for crimes which had not been plainly stated. Mr Caccia reviewed the political situation, not without some heckling as to how far the Committee of Liberation believed in the Italian Government, and whether AMG should accept nominations by the CLN which it sometimes did not like. Colonel Kirkwood seemed to find political demonstrations in Region VIII an increasing nuisance, and Colonel Bonham-Carter, who wanted to get on with repairs in Cassino, was shocked to hear from Mr Antolini that the Italian Government Committee put Rome repairs first on their list. The harvest - and shortage of transport - came in for the usual discussions, and Finance, in its absence, was judged guilty of slowness in payments to farmers. Colonel Todd spoke with acerbity on the lack of maintenance in factories used by the armies. Brigadier Parkinson warned the meeting of a shortage of medical supplies up to the end of this month; after that the position should improve. Other discussions ranged over Patriots, Public Safety, and Permits for Civilian Movement - the last very acute. Major Fielden made a passionate plea (or so he thought) for Italian correspondents to be allowed into Army areas: in fact, they get there anyhow, so we might as well give them permits.

The meeting, to which officers had come from such immense distances that we refrain from saying whether the petrol used would have filled the Lago di Bolsena or not, was certainly one of the most lively yet held by the ACC. An amazingly good buffet lunch (putting any Rome entertainment in the shade) was provided by Region VIII; and from the windows of a high-class hairdressing establishment across the way (across the way in Siena being fifteen feet) peruked ladies and natty coiffeuses looked down on - and perhaps even listened to - the confabulations of their co-belligerents with apparent interest and delight.

4. Granai del Popolo

...and tuck. Matera

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4. Granai del Popolo

The harvest collections are continuing nip and tuck. Matera Province in Region II broke last year's record but evasions are legion. Col Zellars, Regional Commissioner, asserts that his officers have met 62 different ways of evading amassing rules. The harvest moon is really shining in Foggia, which has a large amount ready for export - but there is a shortage of rail cars. Col Marshall has thrown the challenge to the Economic Section: "We'll bring it in: you get it out." Up in 8th Army AMG territory other factors militate against success. Farmers are complaining that they are asked to send their surplus to deficient areas in Southern Italy, where the bread ration is 300 grams per person, whereas in their own areas, from which wheat is to be shipped out, the bread ration is 200 grams. Total wheat collections on the basis of the latest figures received at headquarters as of August 19 are 2,978,679 quintals. The tentative over-all goal is 13,580,175. The scores

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by regions:-

I	462,627
II	642,760
Foggia	810,965
III	41,170
IV	460,765
V	49,944
VI	147,548
VII	111,900
VIII	261,000
Total	2,978,679

5. Riviera Affairs

Colonel Spofford, G-5, held a Press Conference in Rome on August 20 on civil affairs in Southern France. He told correspondents that there would be no military government and no proclamations, and that French courts would deal almost immediately with civil offences. The main difficulties up to the present had been under-nourishment, shortage of drugs and medicines and (need we say it?) transport and distribution. Rationing was to be introduced on the same scale as in Normandy, though perhaps the effective ration would be lower at first. Correspondents showed some lively interest in currency arrangements, epuration of collaborators, and wine: but Colonel Spofford was cautious on all three heads.

6. The Economic Pot Simmers

The Economic Section of Brigadier-General O'Dwyer was a-stir with plenty of activity on a dozen fronts this week. While many plans are in the betwixt-and-between stage, progress can be reported, according to the General, on expediting repair of the railroad from Grosseto which will bring lignite coal to Rome for eventual resumption of gas service. Main obstacle to the work was a destroyed bridge. Now, barely ten days after the project was started, three shifts of men are working on repairs - at night under floodlights - and it is hoped coal will begin to roll in by August 26. There is a stockpile of nearly 100,000 tons of lignite waiting to be used up at the end of the line. General O'Dwyer is also thinking over and getting facts on what is entailed in the industrial rehabilitation of Italy, recommendations on a relief program, disposal of surplus Allied equipment, food, and expediting requisitions, not to mention reorganization and re-grouping of his sub-commissions. Batteries of Italian Government statisticians are beginning to come through with detailed reports on industrial plant conditions and [illegible] fifteen types of industry now having

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specialties are: Joseph Difede, Labor; Henry H. Bakkan, Prices; David C. Sachs, Labor; Charles C. Crooks, Transportation.

7. Repose

A rest camp for EM/OR (officers occasionally admitted as befits these democratic times) was opened at Fregene on the sea 20 miles N.W. of Rome on August 19. Fregene was in past time a chic resort of Roman aristocracy: it has a superb pine forest in whose scented shadows are scattered, in Petit Trianon fashion, the fanciful villas (ranging from the thatched roof to the all-glass-and-steel) of the great. There, among others, Tito Schipa carolled in a special circular song-room with an organ. All has now been looted, by whom we don't care to say, but not a Schipa organ-pipe, and not a window, or a tap, remains. However, our enterprising HQ Commandant discovered a whole mass of fancy furniture hidden under camouflage at one end of the pineta, so EM/OR (though deprived of water and light) will disport themselves among pseudo-Russian and pseudo-Tudor chairs and any amount of gay umbrellas.

8. Credit and Debit

Illuminating sidelights on the economic position of Italy might be seen from a comparative examination of the following lists of exports and imports made to and from this theater in July under the recommendations of the ACC. Needless to say the basic position still is that imports should be at a minimum to conserve shipping while only exports surplus to the Italian economy for which there is a ready world sale are to be encouraged.

Imports		Exports	
Ammonium nitrate ..	7927 tons	Sulphur	1243 tons
Newsprint	176 "	Hemp and rope ..	1120 "
Lead acetate ..	62 "	Filberts	872 "
Printing paper ..	49 "	Argols	100 "
Matches	28 "	Raw silk	4750 kilos
Yellow soap	2133 "	Sweet orange oil	3772 "
Caustic soda ..	1191 "	Tangerine oil ..	909 "
Binder twine	275 "	Bergamot oil ..	15890 "
Calcium carbide ..	221 "		
Flour bags	55 "		
Bean seed	831 "		
Nails	68 "		
Fruit wrapping paper	32 "		
Cigarette cover stock	43 "		

There is a lot more Bergamot oil and briarwood ready for the States, but no ships. Tuscan mercury is also ready to be exported. Requests have come to Italy from abroad for cork, salt, tobacco seed, meadow seed, glass insulators and wine containers.

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9. Odds and Ends

Colonel Hulls, Refugees Branch Director, has been to Ancona to deal with a knotty problem arising from (need we say it?) lack of transport to take refugees from the battle zone to Bari. Railways non-existent, MT unavailable, shipping needed for stores and troops. We had thought of suggesting he gets the gliders used for Mussolini's escape which are still, it appears, on the Gran Sasso ..... A Rome factory is now producing three tons of yeast a day, using as stock 840 tons of molasses left in a sugar refinery at Littoria ..... Both ACC and Italian officials in Southern Italy are viewing the war news with some concern, fearing considerable unemployment will result as soon as the bulk of Allied forces, which are the largest employers of labor, begin to pull out .....

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Up to August 1 Italians had received $2,895,926 and L. 41,575 in 70,563 individual remittances from the U.S. and the U.K. since start of the remittance system..... The Naples labor office conciliated 103 labor misunderstandings last month ..... The price of a pair of young oxen in 8th Army areas these days is reported as 125,000 lire, said to be ten times the pre-occupation price ..... In Ethiopia (1941), Brigadier Lush tells us, it was 2 singlets and a pair of shorts ..... Soup kitchen meals in Rome have increased 26,000 to 229,000 a day (not in the Grand Hotel) ..... Black Market prices of tinned meat in Region VII are lower than official prices, which prompts Lt Col Feasey, the RC, to remark: "There has been a gradual decline in Black Market prices which, after all, are the only satisfactory barometer of economic conditions" ..... Apparently Col Feasey is not the only person to think so, for the Allied Publications Board has just received an application from Bari for permission to publish a "Guide to Black Market Prices" ..... Fishing note from Colonel Hulls: "For fishermen on leave, those who can manage a few days could do much worse than to go to Aquila, about 2,000 feet up, a lovely climate and beautiful country with excellent trout streams. I can vouch for this because I bought some fish from a local fisherman on the way" .....For the first time in any period for which ACC has information, there appears to have been a decisive shift in postal savings bond investments, principal device of saving used by the small savers of Italy, from a net outflow of funds to a net inflow ..... Lt Col Jenny, Public Works and Utilities Sub-Commission Director, was mildly exercised recently to find one reason why the Italian agencies were perhaps not producing as much work as might be expected: they worked from 8.30 a.m. to 1.30 p.m. and then called it a day; they now work at least until 5 p.m. ..... Pangs of progress (as read in a recent report of Region III): "The fishing industry attained 3,410 quintals - a new record. Next month perhaps this record will be beaten for the director and two inspectors of the Central Fishing Agency were arrested for Black Market operations" ..... Note from Region V: Colonel Marshall, RC, reports he has "a superb crowd" and that things are going well except those that are being corrected ..... Travel note from Colonel Hulls (we like Colonel Hulls): "The best item of equipment on a long motor journey these days is a sponge and canvas bucket to use beside the clear, cool streams plentiful throughout the country" ..... American voters: State ballots for the November election have begun to arrive to 2675 Regt members ..... A March of Time film unit headed by Maurice Lancaster to make (in one month) a film of ACC/AMG activities: superfacilities are requested for them by all concerned.

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Major,
Public Relations Director.

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SECRET

PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

PRB/R26/WB19 13 August 1944.

ACC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 19
6 Aug to 12 Aug 44

1. Political

Since the preparation of our last Bulletin the Council of Ministers has met twice. The meeting of the 8th set up a committee for reconstruction, admitting that, given the difficulty of getting materials, emergency measures are all that can be considered for the moment. It was also announced that the 6-year old 5% interest bonds (a debt incurred, says Moore of the "Daily Telegraph" to finance the Abyssinian War) will be paid by the Italian Government. The sum involved is some 2,400,000,000 lire, which caused "Italia Nuova" to remark that it is quite a figure for a government which, when the plight of its poorly paid employees and pensioners is brought up, always answers that it has no funds. The meeting of the 10th abolished the Accademia d'Italia, resuscitating in its place the venerable Accademia dei Lincei, dissolved the boards of management of Fascist state and parastatal concerns and readmitted to the magistracy those who had been expelled by Fascist laws.

Sforza struck a blow for epuration with the suspension of 309 of the 420 Senators. This received in principle wide approval, only "Italia Nuova" questioning his right to what, in the opinion of the paper, was arbitrary action. There was some complaint that he had not gone far enough, "Voce Repubblicana" and "Italia Libera" calling attention to the inconsistency of sparing the Royal Princes who had voted for every Fascist decree, including the racial laws. Castellani's position was also commented on; he had been "purged" by the University committee and yet was spared as a Senator. "Avanti" said that there were, frankly, only some two-dozen really anti-Fascist Senators and to spare any others was a mistake.

On August 8th an "alliance" was announced by the Socialist and Communist parties. Nenni, speaking for the Socialists, was careful to point out that this was not yet a "fusion"; "sentimental" considerations stood in the way. The joint programme includes the three following objectives: (1) to achieve more active participation in the war; (2) to intensify application of anti-Fascist decrees; (3) to bring wages and salaries in line with cost of living and further to protect the workers by vigorous action against those employers who are unwilling to cooperate in the economic reforms necessary for the new democracy. The parties appealed to the Christian Democrats for cooperation, an invitation as yet not accepted. The whole affair was viewed with suspicion by the Liberals and the "Risorgimento Liberale" saw in it a move calculated to create the impression that only the working class is anti-Fascist and democratic and predicted that, if the Christian Democrats joined, a very difficult situation would be created within the committee of liberation and indeed within the government.

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The word "fusion" was unhesitatingly, not to say enthusiastically, used in a communique published in "Risorgimento Liberale" of 13 Aug by the representatives of the Liberal and Democratic Liberal parties. The latter group, which has been quiescent in recent months, is historically a large and important party. Many of the well-known figures of Fascist Italy belonged to it and it overshadowed Croce's faction in size and importance. Orlando is a member of the Democrazia Liberale and the fusion will add something to his present importance in the scheme of things. The most active figure at the moment is De Nicola, who was regarded as worthy of consultation at the time of the formation of the Bonomi Government and indeed, rumour says, was twice invited to join it.

Earlier in the week two representatives of the Confederazione

/ Generale

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Generale del Lavoro called on Bonomi and Gronchi and presented a manifesto forcefully calling attention to the condition of the workers, now so poorly paid (if employed at all) that "their wages are not adequate even to buy the rationed goods which are regarded as only 45% of what is necessary to sustain life." They called for a programme of public and private works and, if necessary, emergency legislation for the workers. The only objection made to this in the press was the comment that misery is now no longer restricted to the workers class.

Two speeches made news. One, the broadcast of La Guardia last Sunday night in which he said that he would not speak to the Italians again until he had something to tell them. The implication was clear to his listeners that he thought the time had come for some Allied gesture of help and sympathy to the Italians and speculation has been rife all the week as to just what may come. In this connection "Il Tempo" reproduced the article in "Life" magazine of May which is a plea for American interest in Italy signed by Toscanini, Borgese, Salvemini and three other well-known Italian-American personages. The other speech was hardly a speech at all; merely a phrase, attributed to Bonomi - and later denied. In an interview with a representative of the "New York Times" the Prime Minister was said to have stated that there would be no pressure of any sort from Russia because "Italy was not in the Russian sphere of influence." Papers as widely apart as "Voce Repubblicana" and "Italia Nuova" pounced on the phrase and cried out indignantly that such imperialistic talk seemed strangely at variance with the Atlantic Charter ..... Longmire (NY Post) filed a dispatch on Aug 12 saying that "the Russians have a carefully laid plan for the kind of Europe they wish to see." Italy very much wants to know what kind of a plan the "anglosassoni" have - - or if they have one.

2. AMG with the Armies

Heavy rain in the Fifth Army sector slowed up movements on Aug 10 and 11, and the week brought little movement along the Arno line, from Pisa to Arezzo. In the Polish sector, the enemy withdrew some five miles north of Senigallia to the north bank of the Cesano river. The whole of our line now runs more or less parallel with the Gothic line, at a distance of some 15 miles.

Apart from modern war weapons, the ghost of Dante might have detected similarities with his own times - and plenty of copy for a new Inferno - in the divided city of Florence last week. Machine-guns were chattering across the Arno, and sniping, a serious nuisance in the southern part of the city, was a constant objective for the Patriots, whose leader, Potente, lost his life on Aug 7. Snipers (according to Sprigge of Reuters) were supplied by the Germans through the sewers, which were later blown up by the Patriots. Indeed, the Patriots, numbering 600 under Italian officers, seem to have done excellent work. Shells fell in the Porta Romana area causing considerable civilian casualties and on the hills just outside the city; but the report of AMG 8th Army on Aug 10 indicated considerable slackening in shelling and sniping. Water (the pipes supplying the

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On August 11 the northern sector was apparently abandoned by the Germans, and Cardinal della Costa sent word across the river that the food situation was desperate. 8 tons of flour were taken across the Ponte Vecchio on the night of the 11th and the problem of bridging and water distribution were to be tackled on the morning of the 12th. Lumby of the "Times", who crossed the Arno on the 11th morning, reported that the destruction extended for 300 yards beyond the Ponte Vecchio, which was blocked and heavily mined; the Palazzo Vecchio was, however, undamaged. The Germans have, it appears, removed all motor vehicles, including ambulances and hearses, and taken away all the livestock in the town and outskirts.

Further reports say that the Germans have pulled back beyond the Mignone river; and that the SOAO's villa received a direct hit on the night of August 10.

Later reports received as we go to press state that supplies are crossing the Ponte Vecchio at a rate likely to reach 30 tons a day, that a Bailey bridge is in course of construction and that the water situation is much less critical than had been expected. The supplies now in Florence are reported sufficient to feed the whole city for three days, and there are thirty days supply stockpiled within reach. Reports from many sources suggest that the Prince of Piedmont paid a very incognito visit to Florence on the 11th, but that is not officially confirmed. As late as the 11th afternoon a fireman was killed by a sniper while crossing the Arno in a boat, and a bullet intended for Lieut-Colonel Spencer missed him by a foot. But sniping and shelling had both ceased in the southern sector on the night of the 11th.

In Livorno conditions are improving rapidly although, as AMG 5th Army points out, "normal life cannot be resumed until the authorities concerned come to a final decision as to which areas they wish to be kept permanently evacuated." However, a water supply of a million to one and a half million gallons per day is expected by August 12, there will be full return of electric current by September 15, some telephone services are available, and about 1,000 civilians are working for the various Allied agencies in the Town and port. During the first ten days of August some 11,000 refugees were evacuated, all except 500 (who went to Grosseto) being absorbed in the Army area. 5th Army AMG find that considerable and very satisfactory use can be made of local patriots in organizing the evacuation and reception of refugees. Grosseto Province was handed over to Region VIII on August 8, and the banks in Livorno and southern Pisa Province were opened on August 7.

3. Mosquitoes

As the malaria season approaches its peak, the Public Health Sub-Commission is doing its best to cope with the effects of the German sabotage in flooding the Pontine Marshes and aggravating the normal malaria perils. With AAI help, there is now weekly airplane spraying of the marshes, especially north of Terracina and Fondi. In all, there are some 5,000 civilians now engaging in malaria control work, according to Colonel Russell, head of the Malaria Control Section and

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4. Granai del Popolo

The harvest campaign for the Granai del Popolo is marching along, with records set in some places that compare quite favourably with peace years. In other places the grain collections are sometimes almost grim affairs, especially in Sicily, where the Carabinieri are practically on a war footing, with mobile patrols, investigation squads, long hours and all sorts of stratagems to outwit the reluctant and hostile farmers who oppose amassing. The Agriculture Sub-Commission reports receipt and distribution of 35,000 pairs of salvaged Army boots in selected farming areas, with good results. Some talk is now heard of more inducements to farmers, but only in exceptional cases. Lack of transport to take the grain from the field to the storehouses and thence to the deficient areas as well as lack of transport for the actual supervisory officials, both Allied and Italian, is the big difficulty. Twenty-nine harvest control officers, including convalescent officers on loan to the ACC for this light and temporary duty, have been hitch-hiking around their regions. Headquarters officials feel that it is a miracle that the harvest is coming along as well as it is in view of the terrific lack of administrative personnel and equipment. Great Britain, for example, with 56 million acres and less than 500,000 holdings has a staff of 4,000 trained personnel. Liberated Italy, with 45 million acres and 2,500,000 holdings has not even one tenth the personnel, some 10 Allied officers and some 30 Italians at the top supervising and administering the agronomy of an entire nation. The latest scores of the grain collections, whose tentative over-all goal is 13,000,000 quintals, is given below as of August 12:

Region	Quintals
I	350,874
II	478,756
Foggia	810,965
III	35,350
IV	224,255
V	37,093
VI	113,077
VII	99,653
VIII	42,127
Total	2,192,150

5. Control of the Press

On Monday August 14 the Allied Publications Board will hold its last meeting as an all-Allied Executive Authority. In other words, while the APB still retains, under its terms of reference, the final word in the veto or suspension of publications and in the issue of all licenses, the recommendations will now be made to it, in so far as all territory under Italian jurisdiction is concerned, by Italian officials grouped - as the Allied Publications Board was - in Local

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6. Civic Life in the Grass Roots

When one looks at the surface play of reviving forces and old currents of influence colliding around the feet of the Italian national government in Rome and wonders (strictly unofficially, of course) where it will all end, it is encouraging and salutary to one's simple democratic faith to talk to Colonel Spicer, head of the Interior Sub-Commission, who has been plugging along day after day getting new and trustworthy Italian officials into the field to replace the moth-eaten and corrupt creatures of Fascism. ACC officers have examined every one of the prefects and vice-prefects in every province of Liberated Italy up to the battle lines and in the approximately 50 provinces involved only about 10 prefects have kept their posts. Teams of five officials are prepared for each province in preparation for calls from Regional Commissioners - prefect, vice-prefect, secretary, counsellor and chief accountant. Teams are ready for Aquila, Rieti, Viterbo and Macerata and in process of selection for six more provinces. Priority task to Colonel Spicer these days is finding officials for the important northern provinces in a hurry should a breakthrough occur one day. The supply of Italian career officials who can meet the rigorous screening tests is perilously low and a plan is brewing to use sensible lawyers and even business men in their place. The problem of replacing mayors of communes is much simpler, there always being plenty of substitutes. ACC has placed a new mayor in every single town the Allied forces have captured, a 100 per cent clean sweep. Again, every new mayor must have his own communal council, the real basis of revival of democratic government. The councils, according to Colonel Spicer, are overweighted with lawyers and doctors, an endemic blight of Latin countries. The Colonel is waging a hard fight to get more railroad workers, farmers, chemists and barbers into those city council seats. They are, he feels, the "men in the street" who can and should voice the feelings of the people freely after 22 years of Fascist stultification.

7. Odds and Ends

Colonel Bowman, Regional Commissioner of Region IX - to be known, we understand, as "The Fighting Ninth" - is all set to enter the Po Valley territory as soon as the Eighth Army surmounts the crest of the Apennines; three provincial teams are already with the Eighth Army AMG which will carry the regional CAOs along with the Army and drop them off in their appropriate slots in contrast with the old method of calling them later from the rear ..... Fifty Italian Government statisticians are to be employed by the Economic Section in a new analysis branch whose rush job will be to provide the most up-to-date industrial facts and figures for the coming industrial rehabilitation programme of Brigadier-General O'Dwyer (to whom congratulations on his promotion) ..... Major-General Harry H. Johnson, Rome Area Commander, has departed for another theatre ..... Brigadier-General Hume, SCAO, Fifth Army AMG and Major Wray, SCAO, II Corps, both get plaudits this week, the general for adding the Oak Leaf Cluster to his Distinguished Service Medal, and the

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public ..... Regional commissionerships are to be divided equally between British and Americans - five each as follows: S.Italy, Sardinia, Sicily, Regions X and XII - British; Regions IV, V, VIII, IX and XI - American ..... On August 13 the control of Region VI will pass to Colonel Pennyquick ..... Brigadier Parkinson, on a visit to Region V, was taken by the population of Aquila to be a "distinguished Russian general" - can it be possible that we have never penetrated the disguise? ..... Except for one American ship, all the wheat imported to Italy since March has been Australian; all sugar sent to Italy since January has come from the Indian Ocean; all coal sent to Italy up to March came from the U.K., while since then 110,000 tons a month have come from South Africa and 60,000 from the U.S. .....

Lionel Fielden

LIONEL FIELDEN,
Major,
Public Relations Director.

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Major Fiddick explained that he had to get this out & could not hold it for approval. Hm

PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

SECRET

PRB/R26/WB18

6 August 1944.

ACC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 18
30 July to 5 Aug

1. Political

The political symphony of the week has been dominated by the two major themes of epuration (andante maestoso) and Italian insistence for more sympathetic treatment from the Allies (vivace appassionato). Both these matters, fundamental for a reorientation of Italian internal and foreign politics, have been attacked with energy and intelligence.

On epuration it will be well to state the policy of the government as it developed in the course of numerous Council meetings and discussions over the last two months. The four principal "sanctions" have been enumerated as follows: cancellation of Fascist political sentences, punishment of Fascist crimes, defascistization of state administration and confiscation of wealth acquired through Fascist connexions. Each of these operations is to be under the leadership of a special High Commissioner. In an interview given the Roman press last Monday Sforza stated his intention to press the work with the greatest possible speed and to aim at the "pezzi grossi" rather than the little men. Later in the week commissioners were named to sit with the special committees formed within each department of the government for its own house-cleaning. An augury of good intentions may be seen in the arrest of Azzolini, ex-head of the Bank of Italy. Sforza's integrity and vigour have been the subject of general approval, though the always malicious "Italia Nuova" remarked that in his interview he had spoken of attacking the "rascals" and sparing the "imbeciles", thus giving Italians a good idea of the type of individual considered fit to govern them in these trying times. In order to ensure coordinated grinding of the mills of justice ACC epuration committees in Rome and Naples have ceased to function and their work will be carried on by Sforza's agents. The Ministry of Education contributed its bit to the brave new world by rescinding the racial laws against teachers and, at the moment of writing, the announcement is made of the suspension of twenty-five professors of the University of Rome whose names will be forwarded for action to the proper committee.

Ever since Bonomi's speech, reported in our last bulletin, the Roman press has been gnawing at the question of allied help for Italy. Don Sturzo sent a telegram to the party congress of the Christian Democrats in Naples, hinting that negotiations were under way for a provisional peace. It was announced by "a government spokesman" on Thursday that the government had been for some time pressing for application of the Lend-lease measure to Italy. Churchill's speech was awaited breathlessly by hopeful Italians who were somewhat disappointed at the scant attention accorded their part in the scheme of things. The last three days have seen an almost hysterical journalistic campaign (initiated by "Voce Repubblicana" and carried

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and foreign politics, have been attacked with energy and intelligence.

On epuration it will be well to state the policy of the government as it developed in the course of numerous Council meetings and discussions over the last two months. The four principal "sanctions" have been enumerated as follows: cancellation of Fascist political sentences, punishment of Fascist crimes, defascistization of state administration and confiscation of wealth acquired through Fascist connexions. Each of these operations is to be under the leadership of a special High Commissioner. In an interview given the Roman press last Monday Sforza stated his intention to press the work with the greatest possible speed and to aim at the "pezzi grossi" rather than the little men. Later in the week commissioners were named to sit with the special committees formed within each department of the government for its own house-cleaning. An augury of good intentions may be seen in the arrest of Azzolini, ex-head of the Bank of Italy. Sforza's integrity and vigour have been the subject of general approval, though the always malicious "Italia Nuova" remarked that in his interview he had spoken of attacking the "rascals" and sparing the "imbeciles", thus giving Italians a good idea of the type of individual considered fit to govern them in these trying times. In order to ensure coordinated grinding of the mills of justice ACC epuration committees in Rome and Naples have ceased to function and their work will be carried on by Sforza's agents. The Ministry of Education contributed its bit to the brave new world by rescinding the racial laws against teachers and, at the moment of writing, the announcement is made of the suspension of twenty-five professors of the University of Rome whose names will be forwarded for action to the proper committee.

Ever since Bonomi's speech, reported in our last bulletin, the Roman press has been gnawing at the question of allied help for Italy. Don Sturzo sent a telegram to the party congress of the Christian Democrats in Naples, hinting that negotiations were under way for a provisional peace. It was announced by "a government spokesman" on Thursday that the government had been for some time pressing for application of the Lend-lease measure to Italy. Churchill's speech was awaited breathlessly by hopeful Italians who were somewhat disappointed at the scant attention accorded their part in the scheme of things. The last three days have seen an almost hysterical journalistic campaign (initiated by "Voce Repubblicana" and carried on by "Avanti", "Italia Libera" and "Ricostruzione") with the insistent refrain: Give us the right to live. There seems to be reason to hope that the cry will not go unheeded. Stettinius has made a statement to the effect that lend-lease for Italy is under consideration and this week a special UNRRA observer mission began its work preparing a report for Lehman on the needs of Italy. UNRRA of course cannot function in enemy or ex-enemy territories save by special consent of the military command, but it is understood that the question of its operation in Italy will come up for special attention at the UNRRA council meeting in Montreal this September.

For counterpoint to the major themes mentioned in our opening paragraph we may look to the activities of the parties. Ciancas

/ speech

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speech last Sunday, setting forth the program of the Action Party was generally regarded as all right as far as it went, but also as a revelation of the lack of any specific raison d'etre for the party as such. The Christian Democrat party congress in Naples managed to avoid committing itself on any thing, which is something of a triumph, but insisted "the revolution now in progress, which the party welcomes" must be accomplished without any loss of individual liberties. Since the Communists, expert in this game of political puss-in-the-corner, have hopes of wooing a large segment of Christian Democracy away from the fold, Togliatti in"Unita" tolerantly overlooked their indecision on fundamentals and spoke of them respectfully as a serious party, congratulating them - could it be mischievously? - on being the first to use, open and approvingly, the word "revolution". He then went on to speak of the need of a "pact of action between Socialists, Communists and Christian Democrats". As for the Socialists, yesterday's "Avanti" carried some plain speaking from Nenni. The reactionaries, appealing to "conservative tendencies" in the Allies and to the conservative fear of change, may be an obstacle. But the workers of Milan and Turin have yet to be heard from. When they are in a position to be consulted they will counteract the effect of "reactionary" Rome and Naples. And then if the conciliatory policy of the Left is defeated it will know how to use a different one.

2. AMG with the Armies

As sensational news the entry into Florence, although it is only a step in the general advance, tops the newsbill this week.

Group-Captain Benson reports that the first AMG reconnaissance party entered Florence at 1330 hours on August 4. This presumably refers to the southern section since he adds: "further movement into city forbidden". The party was however able to report that the water supply south of the Arno was inadequate but sufficient for drinking purposes, that north of the river it was nil, as water had to be pumped electrically from the south. There had been no electricity since July 29. The food situation was poor, as the Germans had removed all supplies (previously they had distributed a daily ration of 200 grammes per head, and a ration of 35 grammes of oil per head for the month of August). The population was 415,000, including 100,000 refugees. The hospitals were intact but without medical stores: there were no police south of the river. An earlier report stated that all the bridges except the Ponte Vecchio had been blown.

The latter point is confirmed by the AAI communique of August 5, which adds that the enemy clearly intends to oppose the crossing of the Arno, and holds the commanding heights around Fiesole with strong artillery: the city remains "an enclave in no man's land". Malkin (Winnipeg Free Press), who was in the southern suburbs on Thursday, tells us that he found it "an eerie place with an apathetic population who stood and stared: no welcome, and some Italian sniping. A mass of rubble blocking the streets as the Germans had blown up many houses."

It is a sombre picture: AMG 8th Army has a hard task ahead: and one must note with regret and rage the destruction of the Trinita,

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It is a sombre picture: AMG 8th Army has a hard task ahead: and one must note with regret and rage the destruction of the Trinita, perhaps the most beautiful bridge in Europe.

Fifth Army AMG adds little to previous reports this week. Livorno is still being shelled from Pisa and "remains a ghost town" in which American Red Cross representatives "continue their excellent work and by their personal example do much to improve Italian morale." Some 130 "certificates of merit" have been distributed to Patriots in Livorno, and enlistment of Patriots for the Italian Army is in progress. In the Livorno area a refugee problem is developing. Fifth Army AMG, in the course of a protest against the "peremptory" removal of officers and EM/OR, states prophetically that "successful military operations in August will suddenly impose ..... a very formidable task of great extent and complexity."

/ A point:

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A point: AMG news from the whole front grows weekly scarcer. From the scanty reports received, only Livorno and Pisa would seem to exist at all. Where, oh Bullock, are thy daily sitreps? Whither has flown, oh Mayne, thy nimble pen?

3. Wandering Jews and Gentiles

Rome has provided the Internees and Displaced Persons Sub-Commission with its most spectacular mixture of nationalities to date, Lieut-Colonel C.F. Fothergill, Deputy Director, reports. More than 6,000 Allied nationals from some 40 nations are now on the rolls in Rome alone. They get the regular Italian ration plus an extra 100 grammes of bread a day, and also medical aid as needed. Financial assistance is being given only to American, British and Dutch groups at this time, though the possibility of similar aid to other groups in Rome is under consideration. A large or larger group of Allied nationals, equally well-organized, is expected in Florence once that city is completely cleared of the enemy. From north of Rome already more than 16,000 persons have passed through the Displaced Persons camp at Cinecitta.

The 50,000 Displaced Persons handled by the sub-commission in Italy include no less than 56 nationalities from all over the globe. 30,000 have been evacuated to the Middle East. 700 were Jews (to Palestine) and the rest Yugoslavs (to Egypt). In addition, about 600 Maltese are about to go to Tripoli, 1,000 persecuted persons (mostly Jews) from all over Europe have been sent to the United States, a few persons have been returned to Malta and about 4,000 Russians captured once by the Germans and then recaptured by the Allies, have been or are to be sent back to Russia. The register of Displaced Persons operated by the Allied Red Cross organizations is also growing. The files contain 40,000 names. To date more than 3,000 enquiries about missing friends and relatives - 900 in the last 30 days alone - have come from the Central Registry of the British Red Cross in London. The ACC Records Bureau of the Displaced Persons Sub-Commission has been able to answer about 1,000 with positive information. Half of the enquiries come from the United States. No attempt is made to answer queries concerning Italian nationals, that being the job of the Italian Red Cross.

4. Coiffure romaine

Conscript fathers and Roman matrons, badgered by politicians, short of rations, clamouring for pasta, potatoes and electric power, have recently found some diversion in the wave of vindictive hair-clipping which has swept through the younger set of the Capitol. Roman youths, largely unemployed and bored, resent the attraction that Allied uniforms have for signorine and there have been several cases where bands of young men have fallen upon the infatuated creatures and barbarously cut off locks of their hair, with the intention of making them conspicuous rather than attractive. Pasta,

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/ 5.

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5. Latest scores: Granai del Popolo

Telegraphic reports arriving at the Agriculture Sub-Commission indicate the collection of some 500,000 quintals since our last report. Region I continues to have its troubles, 2,000 persons having been charged with violation of the grain laws and 5,000 quintals having been confiscated. Latest reports from Region V are not available. HQ visitors to Aquila say that the region expects an exportable surplus. The scores:

Region	Quantity amassed (Quintals)	Date of Reports	Tentative HQ goals
I	99,640	20 July 44	3,100,000
II	221,870	29 July 44	1,550,000
Foggia	800,000	29 July 44	1,565,000
III	14,818	25 July 44	380,000
IV	99,167	23 July 44	1,940,000
V	4,176	11 July 44	2,550,000
VI	54,750	27 July 44	510,000
VII	52,000	27 July 44	415,000
VIII	20,289	22 July 44	1,000,000
Total	1,366,710		13,010,000

6. Scattered Treasure

To stumble on Botticelli's "Primavera", the Rucellai, Giotto and Cimabue Madonnas and other pictures worth - we quote MFA - not less than twenty million pouns sterling, all bundled together in one house under shell-fire, must have been a thrill for Vaughan Thomas (BBC) and Eric Linklater. This, in the villa of Sir Osbert Sitwell, is only one, it appears, of 25 caches in which the priceless paintings and other art collections of Florence were stowed for safety. The real hero of the occasion seems to have been a small Italian professor of Florence who, regardless of personal danger, has been hiking about between and among the opposing armies, persuading commanders to avoid firing upon the treasure-troves. It is good to record that General Alexander himself visited the Sitwell villa, expressed great interest in the find, and had guards placed immediately. It is now for MFA to locate the others before enterprising soldiers start using Titians as tents and Tiepolos as tarpaulins. There ought to be a crack here about the GI, the Giorgione, and the Giotto, but we can't rise to it.

7. Odds and Ends

American officer strength in the ACC T/O is being slashed by nearly 50 to bring it level with British strength, but HQ EM/OR are to be reduced by 400, so as to fill up the new regions ..... ACC HQ is going to hand-pick gilt-edged Provincial Commissioners for the northern provinces ..... Ethiopians to the number of 64 are about to be repatriated from the former Italian Empire to the glories of Addis

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III	14,818	25 July 44	380,000
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/ week

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~~week due to availability~~ of the ~~product through national channels:~~ sorry we can't say as ~~such~~ for Rome yet .... The German radio these last few nights has been ~~describing~~ the recent successful tour of Italian journalists through the former battle areas south of Rome to Naples, which was conducted by a PRB officer under joint arrangements with PWB, as a "nauseating Anglo-American propaganda play" .... Among recent visitors to ACC HQ we are glad to greet Colonel Spofford and Colonel Lewin Harris from our new neighbourly G-5 .... Colonel Fiske has just returned from Elba, where he reports that the French Military Governor will shortly lose his political powers in the transfer of Elba to Region VIII, that lots of rich iron ore, 60 per cent pure and in surface workings, is going unused because of German destruction of iron mills, with consequent severe unemployment for the miners ..... Imminent or Effected Transfers: Colonel Johnson from Rome Region to Region VIII as Executive Officer, Brigadier Carr from Sardinia to Sicily as Regional Commissioner, Colonel Pennycuick to Sardinia as Regional Commissioner, Colonel Hancock from Sicily to the north, where possibly two more regions will be formed besides Region Z. ..... Captain T.H. Brooke, Rome AMG archivist, has discovered a big batch of Mussolini's private state papers but unfortunately nothing about his more successful love life (though Eleanor Packard has filed a three-day dispatch on it) ..... Colonel O'Dwyer, Vice-President of the Economic Section, whose nomination for promotion to Brigadier-General has just been sent to the United States Senate by President Roosevelt, attended the Provincial Commissioners' Conference of Region V at Aquila a few days ago and promised fullest possible help for the men in the field from his section..... During the month of July the Vatican received from Rome Region 746 tons of flour and 200 tons of other foodstuffs, including sugar, fish, bacon, olive oil and milk.

LIONEL FIELDEN,
Major,
Public Relations Director.

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PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

SECRET

PRB/R26/WB17

30 July 1944.

ACC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 17
23 July to 29 July

1. Political

To most of us, immured in our little cubicles, nose applied firmly to grindstone - contrary to malicious gossip current in the provinces HQ takes no siesta - the 25th of July was a day like any other. To the Italians it was an anniversary. A year ago the Grand Council decided it could dispense with Mussolini, thus making it clear to the world and Tizi-Ouzou that the end of Italian participation in the war was imminent. Most Roman papers alluded to the anniversary in tones of subdued satisfaction rather than joy. For many feel now that while it marked the beginning of the end of a hateful regime it also seems in the perspective of time something of a lost opportunity. Nenni, writing in "Avanti", said quite frankly that the combination of the King, Badoglio and a reactionary conspiracy had deflected the truly revolutionary course of events and thus had given Italy another year of misery. Certainly an anniversary is a time of inventory and the Italians have been doing plenty of soul-searching this week. Perhaps Bonomi was moved by some such inner turmoil, for he chose the following day to make an address to the employees of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in which he referred to the contrast between Italy now and the Italy he had represented at the end of the last war. He said that the armistice terms were very hard, but that the tone of the Quebec memorandum was such as to encourage the hope that they were not fixed and would be altered to suit the altered situation. He counselled a return to Italy's old policy of friendship with England and alliance with France and said that Italy was very anxious to increase herwar effort and he had had indications that the Allies would help her to do so. In spite of the almost informal nature of the talk it was the most authoritative and clear-cut statement of the position of the government vis-a-vis the Allies that we have yet had. Italian press comment was favourable, as might be expected. Bria of the Associated Press found it an indication of an Italian fear that the country may be held to the armistice terms.

Another speech of the week was made by De Gasperi of the Christian Democrats, who set forth the party platform. It was interesting in that he refused to commit himself on the institutional question and, in view of his own monarchist leanings, showed a willingness to accept a referendum instead of or as well as a Constituent Assembly, bringing down on his head the baleful reproaches of Socialists, Communists and the Action Party. "Italia Nuova" (monarchist coyly hiding behind the name "Democratic") maliciously played up his statement that he had seen nothing too harsh in the armistice terms with Bonomi's definition of them as "very hard" and politely asked the government to co-ordinate its information.

The Council met on Thursday and Friday and had much to do. Measures were taken to set up an Assizes Court for the trial of Fascist

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The Council met on Thursday and Friday and had much to do. Measures were taken to set up an Assizes court for the trial of Fascist criminals, Count Sforza was named High Commissioner for sanctions against Fascism, pensions paid to various Fascist groups (including the Fascist militia and the "volunteers", now "hercenaries" of the Spanish War) were cancelled, the Fascist sindacati were officially suppressed and Italy recovered her "moral primacy" (according to the "Risorgimento Liberale") by abolishing capital punishment. It is stated clearly that the last measure will not hold for the courts, mentioned last week, especially set up to deal with Fascists. There is poetic justice in this, since it was Fascism that wrote capital punishment into the old code. The old Lieutenant-General of Albania Jacomini was dismissed from service and Introna was named head of the Bank of Italy, replacing Azzolini, now under house arrest.. (Petulant query from "Unita": Why is Azzolini not yet shot or at least in prison?)

/ The Cabinet

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The Cabinet suffered a change of membership during the week when Croce's resignation was reluctantly accepted and Dr Carandini took his place as Minister without Portfolio. Carandini was born in 1885 of Piedmontese stock and after serving with the Alpini in WorldWarI has devoted most of his time to industry and agriculture. His appointment may have some political significance: Packard (United Press) reports that it is indication of a leftward swing of the Liberal Party, since Croce was regarded as Monarchist and Carandini is an avowed Republican. There does seem to be evidence of uncertainty in the Liberal ranks: on the one hand, a propos of the Consultative Assembly which all parties are discussing they suggest that representation should include the Republican Party, even though they are not in the Government, and on the other hand the "Risorgimento Liberale" berates the Leftist parties for their attitude of fault-finding with everything the Prince does. Indeed the Prince's visit to the Corpo di Liberazione was the occasion for some biting remarks from the Left: "L'Italia Libera" said playing with soldiers might in normal times be regarded with indifference, but such a visit now could only be called an insult. The Socialists, Communists and Action Party follow Umberto like so many hungry cats after a canary under the watchful eye of the master. Perhaps a delicate appeal to the master might have been seen in "Italia Nuova's" printing in heavy black type an account of the Prince's reception of Colonel Polatti and their cordial conversation.

The parties provide plenty of food for thought. Apart from the institutional dilemma of the Liberals and the Christian Democrats there is the attempt of the Action and Communist Parties to claim credit for the partisan movement, the sturdy Communist championship of Rosario Bentivegna who was condemned to 18 months' imprisonment for murder while, as "Unita" repeats ad nauseam, Caruso, ex-Police Chief of Rome, is still allowed to live and hasn't even been tried, the charges and countercharges on the subject of referendum versus Constituent Assembly and the general jockeying for a favourable position in the Consultative Assembly which, all agree, should soon be held.

There is notable from week to week an increasing tone of vigour in the Rome press. The circular on licensing publications issued this week was roundly attacked as Fascist in concept, though it must have been clear to all that such a document owed as much to the Allies as to the hapless Spataro, Press and Information Secretary under whose name it was issued. The latest Moroccan atrocity reported - a rather grisly tale of the murder of three women who had begged a ride on a troop train near Rome - brought out a vociferous appeal that the Allies do something. There has been persistent expression of dissatisfaction with salaries, which have been fixed too low, according to the Romans, with textbooks which, they say as set up by ACC are a monopoly in the old Fascist pattern, and with behaviour of troops. In this connection two articles should be singled out for special mention. "L'Italia Libera", in a story entitled "Italy and the Allies", while freely admitting that we have treated an occupied country with generosity and friendship unparalleled in the annals of war, nonetheless calls the roll of our shortcomings in no uncertain terms: we are bureaucratic and inefficient behind the lines, too wanton in destruction in operations, too full of

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Communists and Action Party follow Umberto like so many hungry cats after a canary under the watchful eye of the master. Perhaps a delicate appeal to the master might have been seen in "Italia Nuova's" printing in heavy black type an account of the Prince's reception of Colonel Poletti and their cordial conversation.

The parties provide plenty of food for thought. Apart from the institutional dilemma of the Liberals and the Christian Democrats there is the attempt of the Action and Communist Parties to claim credit for the partisan movement, the sturdy Communist championship of Rosario Bentivegna who was condemned to 18 months' imprisonment for murder while, as "Unita" repeats ad nauseam, Caruso, ex-Police Chief of Rome, is still allowed to live and hasn't even been tried, the charges and countercharges on the subject of referendum versus Constituent Assembly and the general jockeying for a favourable position in the Consultative Assembly which, all agree, should soon be held.

There is notable from week to week an increasing tone of vigour in the Rome press. The circular on licensing publications issued this week was roundly attacked as Fascist in concept, though it must have been clear to all that such a document owed as much to the Allies as to the hapless Spataro, Press and Information Secretary under whose name it was issued. The latest Moroccan atrocity reported - a rather grisly tale of the murder of three women who had begged a ride on a troop train near Rome - brought out a vociferous appeal that the Allies do something. There has been persistent expression of dissatisfaction with salaries, which have been fixed too low, according to the Romans, with textbooks which, they say as set up by ACC are a monopoly in the old Fascist pattern, and with behaviour of troops. In this connection two articles should be singled out for special mention. "L'Italia Libera", in a story entitled "Italy and the Allies", while freely admitting that we have treated an occupied country with generosity and friendship unparalleled in the annals of war, nonetheless calls the roll of our shortcomings in no uncertain terms: we are bureaucratic and inefficient behind the lines, too wanton in destruction in operations, too full of our own knowledge in a foreign country, too much given to drink and pleasure-hunting. And perhaps more important for the future is the article in "La Voce Repubblicana" of the 29th which asks in substance whether we mean the Atlantic Charter or not and if we do are we going to implement its declaration with concrete action.

This is not a department given to predictions but, by way of summary, it may be remarked without benefit of the magic crystal that two currents of political development are taking shape. For one thing a more clear-cut division between Right and Left is in the making. Sprigge (Reuters) filed a dispatch on the 27th in which he observed quite correctly that the strength of the Government is that there is no imaginable alternative. As soon as changes in the international picture make an alternative possible we shall probably see the new line-up in which elements now

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not in the six parties will have something to say. And, secondly, as a shattered Italy gradually collects itself and finds its voice we are going to hear more and more references to our propaganda, the Atlantic Charter and our promises and have the question put to us with increasing insistence: what are we going to do about it? The return of Marshal Messe's revolver, which was given to General Montgomery in Africa, is a pleasant symbol perhaps, but in all its frankness hardly adequate.

2. Signs of the times

The reduction of personnel in southern Regions continues according to plan. Sicily, which had 180 officers in February, is now down to 50, and by mid-August the number will be 27. Proposals for further drastic amalgamation in the south are to be discussed at Naples on August 4 by certain Regional Commissioners, who may be conscious of a growing unemployment problem in their own ranks. Rome Region amalgamates with Region IV, Poletti presiding, on August 1: and on the same date Region Z (maybe Tokio: we wouldn't know) starts forming under Brigadier Dunlop. Such changes, though not unexpected, give rise to speculation about the future, especially in view of the recent arrival of civilian personnel. We can probably assume that until hostilities cease in Italy the ACC will remain part of the Allied Armies, and, as stated in AFHQ Administrative Memorandum No 74 of Nov 2, 1943, "the organ through which the policy of the United Nations towards the Italian Government is conducted and the relations of the United Nations with the Italian Government are handled." The infiltration of civilian experts to assist in the rehabilitation of the country is a part of the general ACC design, but does not alter the fundamental responsibility of ACC as a military organization under the Chief Commissioner for the supervision of the terms of the Armistice and for the maintenance of law and order in Italy. In brief, the ACC more thinly spread over vaster territories must necessarily encourage both Allied and Italian civilian advice: but the constitution and responsibilities of the ACC are not thereby changed.

Meanwhile the Economic Section is beginning to simmer with new plans and activity, based, as Colonel O'Dwyer, new Vice-President of the Section says, on the effective groundwork laid by the arduous studies of the Section's sub-commissions. The programme now shaping up is to get the wheels of Italian industry turning by any and all means. Questionnaires will be shortly sent out all ... regional economic and supply directors asking them to list industries and factories in their areas, what they used to make, their present conditions, what is needed in the way of raw materials and power to get them going again. What can be got going will be got going at once, according to Colonel O'Dwyer. Further the Colonel is arranging to get authority to have ACC take over all

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3. AMG with the Armies.

Steady if unspectacular progress has been maintained during the week. The line between Livorno and Senigallia (occupied on July 29) has been relentlessly straightened and is rapidly closing in on Florence, now less than six miles ahead.

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Florence teams of 8th Army AMG are within 15 miles of the city. In general 8th Army AMG has been smoothly taking over the administration of new territory, and adding the last touches to the very detailed - and strict - arrangements for Florence: even a price list is already in print, and will be distributed to troops as well as civilians. A guide book and map is also available, and official guides found and paid by AMG. The city will be placed out of bounds to all personnel except those engaged in operational or administrative duties until such time as Area Command decides that proper control has been established.

German demolitions are as savage and thorough as ever, and the latest method is to blow all buildings on to the highway: this has been much in evidence on Route 7, below Arezzo, and on Route 2, above Siena.

The chocolate factory at Perugia and a large distillery near Siena have, we regret to say, been put out of business by the unspeakable Hun. Alberti (gin) of Benevento was, on the other hand, we must confess, put out of business by the Allies and is being revived (so we understand) by the Italians.

Terni Province was handed over by 8th Army AMG to Region IV on 30 July and Siena Province from 8th to 8th Army AMG on 22 July. 5th Army AMG report supplies coming through satisfactorily from Piombino for both 5th and 8th Armies, but observes that the number of homeless people who need feeding within a 20-mile radius of Livorno is great and stockpiling for Pisa and Lucca, as well as for Florence, is necessary. "Concern is felt," adds 5th Army AMG, in familiar plaintive strain, "at the low calibre and constant changes of Provincial Supply officers. It does not appear to be appreciated that the supply officer ..... is the most important member of the provincial team after the Provincial Commissioner.

4. Bullock's Baedeker

Major Bullock (our PRO with the 8th Army), who has visited (so he says) over 300 towns since the beginning of July, sends us some notes which may be of interest to prospective travellers:

"The condition of the roads varies between excellent and execrable. The cross-country highways from Perugia to just south of Ancona have some narrow diversions and flimsy bridges, which will carry a jeep or a staff car only, but in the main you can travel 60 m.p.h. without discomfort or danger. The coast road down to Pescara has a few one-way diversions and bridges, so that if you meet a convoy you lose considerable time, but for the most part a jeep can travel on that road at 60-65 m.p.h. quite comfortably. From Pescara to Termoli the coast road and diversions are worse than anything I ever travelled on. There are three gangs building new roads between Vasto and Termoli, but they are proceeding very slowly and the strips they have laid are just long enough to emphasize the wretchedness of the rest of the road. Of the hundreds of Italians employed in these various gangs, I saw not one single individual working as we passed. Those who were not lounging about talking were lying by the road asleep. From Termoli to Benevento via

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"For a swim in cool, clear water in beautiful surroundings I recommend Lake Piediluco in the mountains behind Terni. The

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outlet of that lake, Cascate delle Marmore (See "Childe Harold"), is one of the most exquisite falls on earth. Because the power plants at Terni have been destroyed, the whole outlet from the Lake is pouring over the falls, providing a spectacle which has not been seen for several decades and will probably never be seen again."

5. Granai del Popolo

The all-important campaign to get a bumper harvest for the Granai del Popolo is progressing under the watchful eye of the Agriculture Sub-Commission. On the basis of incomplete and scattered returns from the field, it can be recorded that as of 29 July 855,803 quintals of wheat have been collected in Liberated Italy, which is about 8 per cent of the 1,000,000 tons or 10,000,000 quintals set tentatively as a goal. The specific total and regional goals will be set within the next few days. As expected, Foggia, granary of Southern Italy, led the lot. Sicily's record is not too good, while the northern provinces are expected to be a hard job, the experts say. The breakdown by compartments and regions is as follows:

Compartment	Quantity (quintals)	Date reported
Sicily	99,640	20 July
Calabria	52,000	27 July
Lucania	65,400	15 July
Apulia	501,203	22 July
Campania	11,940	25 July
Sardinia	54,750	27 July
Lazio	61,150	23 July
Umbria	6,520	23 July
Tuscany	3,200	15 July
Total reported	855,803	

Region	Quantity (quintals)	Date reported
I	99,640	20 July
II	78,344	15 July
Foggia	488,059	22 July
III	11,940	25 July
IV	67,670	23 July
V	No report	
VI	54,750	27 July
VII	52,000	27 July
VIII	3,200	15 July
Total reported	855,803	

Bountiful though the wheat crop is, the fact remains that Italy has never been entirely self-sufficient in grain. A project is under examination to use surplus barley from Iran, Iraq and North Africa as a mix with Italian wheat in order to reduce importation of wheat from distant places to a minimum. Adulteration of wheat with barley has been reported successful up to 30 per cent. Romans this week, incidentally, found with a mild shock that the white bread they have

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Compartment	Quantity (quintals)	Date reported
Sicily	95,640	20 July
Calabria	52,000	27 July
Lucania	65,400	15 July
Apulia	501,205	22 July
Campania	11,940	25 July
Sardinia	54,750	27 July
Lazio	61,150	23 July
Umbria	6,620	23 July
Tuscany	3,200	15 July
Total reported	855,805	

Region	Quantity (quintals)	Date reported
I	95,640	20 July
II	78,544	15 July
Foggia	484,069	22 July
III	11,940	25 July
IV	87,370	25 July
V	No report	
VI	54,750	27 July
VII	52,000	27 July
VIII	3,200	15 July
Total reported	855,803	

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6. The new Press Law

The announcement has appeared, or will be appearing, of a new press law formulated by the Italian Government. It may be explained that there is nothing very new about it. The Allied Publications Board has since December last been working through various decrees towards a single press law which could be applied throughout Liber[illegible]

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Italy: the first Badoglio Government chewed this bone with the Legal Sub-Commission but fell before it was gnawed quite through: Badoglio Government No 2 very nearly swallowed it before falling, but not quite: at long last it was promptly devoured by Bonomi Government No 1. The law changes nothing in the procedure followed by the Allied Publications Board which continues to function as final judge and in the usual discreet anonymity. The Press Law does however prepare the way (as was explained in Bulletin No 16, para 6) for the smooth and immediate transfer of all press control to the Italian Government as and when AFHQ decides to relieve the APB of its present responsibilities.

7. Rejoicing in Rieti

The following programme of the inauguration of ACC administration by Region IV in Rieti Province on July 10, 1944, is herewith placed on record:

Time		Event
1120	-	Arrival of Regional Commissioner Brigadier-General J.K. Dunlop, OBE, MC, TD, and Staff Officers at new Velino bridge - Rieti.
1122	-	Party debusses and concentrates on South side.
1125	-	His Excellency the Bishop of Rieti consecrates bridge.
1128	-	Sindaco of Rieti invites Regional Commissioner to cut ribband and declare bridge formally open.
1130	-	Bridge opened. Regional Commissioner and Staff cross and are introduced to Rieti officials.
1142	-	Official party forms up and parade marches to Palazzo Municipio.
1150	-	Inspection of Police - Piazza Municipio.
1200	-	Inspection of Fire Brigade - Piazza Municipio.
1210	-	Vehicle parade - Piazza Municipio.
1225	-	Opening of Regional Commissioner's Conference with staff in Provincial Commissioner's Office.
1505	-	Adjournment to Albergo Quattro Stagioni for luncheon: Official guests - Il Prefetto, il Vescovo, il Sindaco di Rieti, il Principe di Potenziani.
1440	-	Embus for Inspection tour: 1. AMG stores and barracks 2. Chemical Works 3. Silk Plant 4. Sugar-beet Refinery 5. Airport 6. Aircraft parts Factory 7. Woollen Plant
1645	-	Debus at Albergo.
1700	-	Reception to official party at Municipio.
1830	-	Regional Commissioner and Staff embus for Rome.

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Lionel Fielden

LIONEL FIELDEN,
Major,
Public Relations Director.

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PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

SECRET

PRB/R26/WB15

16 July 1944

ACC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 15
9 July to 15 July

1. Political

The outstanding event of the week was, of course, the transfer of the Italian Government to Rome. The first cabinet meeting in the Capital took place at the Viminale on Saturday, 15 June. The Ministers first of all invited the 84-year old Orlando to "resume his duties" - after a lapse of 22 years - as President of the Chamber of Deputies in order to "preserve the continuity of the idea of a representative assembly to be elected by the Italian people." After this gesture the Council then turned to a discussion of Italy's war effort, anti-fascist legislation and matters of administrative routine. The meeting was preceded by a solemn pilgrimage to the scene of the mass murder at the Ardeatine Caves. On this occasion the Crown Prince accompanied the Cabinet - minus the Socialist members. The latter, in the words of AVANTI "were unwilling totake part in a choreographic performance attended by persons who had deserted their posts and thus assumed responsibilityfor the tragedy."

Croce was not present at the Cabinet meeting. He had announced some time ago his intention of resigning on grounds of health and age, as soon as the Government moved to Rome. It had been expected that his resignation would be announced at this time and there had been some speculation as to who would be taken into the Cabinet on his retirement. There had been mention of the names of Quinto Quintieri, who had been in the second Badoglio government, and the Marchese Carandini, of the Liberal Party. However, the Cabinet extended a unanimous invitation to Croce to continue at his post.

On the instructions of the British and American governments the question has been raised with the Italian government as to whether the latter would have any objection to the publication of the long Armistice terms. The Italian government has replied that it would not wish to raise any objection and the decision by the American and British governments is awaited. A section of the Rome press is enquiring why the Italian people cannot learn the truth about their position and seems inclined to dismiss the argument that the terms, if known, would have a dispiriting effect on the partisans in the north. Publicity has been given to the Prime Minister's statement to the effect that his government sees

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The Advisory Council for Italy met at the British Embassy in Rome on July 15 and recommended to the Supreme Allied Commander that the transfer of the provinces of Naples (excluding the comune of Naples), Avellino, Benevento, Foggia and Campobasso to the Italian government be made on July 20, and that the further transfer of Rome, Littoria and Frosinone should take place on August 20.

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2. AMG with the Armies

Hard fighting continued during the week, and the advance was slight. The captures of Poggibonsi and Peccioli were, however, notable, the latter bringing our forces due east of Leghorn. German vandalism, vindictive and militarily purposeless, destroyed ancient picturesque San Gemignano by thirty hours continuous shelling after our troops had captured it quite intact by a flanking manoeuvre. In the Adriatic sector Italian troops captured Cingoli and Strada. A captured order by the Commander of the 19th Luftwaffe Field Division, whicharrived from Belgium last month, reports the ambushing of his convoys by partisans, complains of"difficult mountain warfare", and acknowledges the superiority of Allied men and material.

Fifth Army AMG reports that the "principal problems in Siena are water, electricity and politics". A not unusual complaint rears its head again - that Allied propaganda gives Italians the impression that liberation brings immediate unconditional political freedom, and that their free interpretation of this causes embarrassment and confusion. (It may be hoped that the measures now being put into force by Colonel McCarthy to deal with partisans may provide some solution to this difficulty).

Eighth Army AMG report CAOs functioning in Matelica, Filottramo and Loreto (Matelica lies some 20 miles north-east of Assisi: Loreto about 15 miles south of Ancona). A full report is still awaited on the damage done by a German air raid to the Holy House at Loreto, which had been given special measures of protection by the Allies. It is one of the major Catholic shrines of Italy and stands in conspicuous isolation at the end of the little town.

3. The Shape of Things to Come?

Colonel William O'Dwyer who, as District Attorney of King's County, New York, smashed the notorious Murder, Inc. racket syndicate in the States, arrived in Rome on July 14 to take up his duties as Vice-President of the Economic Section of ACC. He succeeds Mr Henry F. Grady in that post. Mr Grady, former Assistant American Secretary of State, will return to the United States shortly to resume his duties as Chairman of the Board of the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco.

Colonel O'Dwyer, who is 54, also holds the personal rank of Minister of the American State Department and is the representative in Italy of the Foreign Economic Administration of the United

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Colonel O'Dwyer, who is 54, also holds the personal rank of Minister of the American State Department and is the representative in Italy of the Foreign Economic Administration of the United States Government. Before coming into the ACC, the Colonel was in the U.S. Air Corps. He has been in the Army two years.

Another new appointment is that of Mr A.G. Antolini, 39, of New York, as Executive Director of the Economic Section. Mr Antolini, who was formerly director of business interests and purchasing in Italy for R.H. Macy Co., mammoth New York Department Store, reports that 42 FEA (Foreign Economic Administration) civilian experts are on the way to join the ACC within two to six weeks. There is clearly a tendency towards demilitarization on this side of the ACC, clearly dependent, of course, on the progress of the military situation. A suggestion has been forwarded to AFHQ for a similar infiltration of British civilian personnel - particularly on the economic side.

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The nub of the new economic policy, as far as Mr Antolini can see it at the moment, is economic assistance to Italy by the United States and United Kingdom to enable the Italian economy to get smoke going from its chimneys again. The natural emphasis at first will be on consumer goods and eventual re-introduction of free enterprise to allow the marts of commerce to move and to gain Italy the foreign exchange accruing from exports. Basic reservation as to exports abroad, however, will be that such exports must be surplus to the Italian economy.

Getting Italy out of a relief status into productive work will be stimulated at minimum possible cost to the United Nations. UNRRA, incidentally, cannot come into Italy while Italy remains an ex-enemy status, only if Italy at some time in the unpredictable future should be accepted as an ally and thus become eligible for such aid.

4. AAI tacks on Wages

The discussion on what is the proper rate of pay for Italian labour employed by the Armed forces this week resulted in a new order issued by the Local Resources Section of AAI HQ and authorized for all Liberated Italy, which meets demands for increases to Allied office employees, but leaves the basic matter of increases in rates for common labour still somewhat in abeyance. It will be recalled that the original order issued by Major-General Harry H. Johnson, Commanding General, Rome Area Command, on advice of Rome AMG, attempted to increase rates for common labour to meet the higher scale previously paid by the Germans, as well as take care of the pressing problem of adequate recompense for Italian clerical employees needed by Allied authorities in increasing numbers in view of the heavy administrative demands in Rome and the urgent need for competent personnel.

The new AAI order operates as follows: Rates for office employees have not been increased as requested, but increased pay for higher-calibre persons was supplied by creating new classifications of senior and junior administrative assistants, with maximums of 6,000 lire per month for the former and 4,500 lire per month for the latter. The problem of pay for hotel employees, scarcity of which (because of inadequate wage standards) was bidding fair to create a minor crisis in the personal comfort of Allied officers largely billeted in hotels, was likewise settled by forming new classifications for their pay.

The key issue of pay for common labour was handled quite adroitly by AAI in this manner: Common labourers in country

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The key issue of pay for common labour was handled quite adroitly by AAI in this manner: Common labourers in country districts were previously paid an authorized 40 lire a day. The authorized Allied rate in Rome was 65 lire a day. The compromise at this date: Country rates are increased to 65 lire a day, the Rome rate standing still. Further negotiations on possibly increasing the Rome rate are expected at a meeting of the Local Resources Section on or about July 25 at which time a study of comparative living costs between Rome and Naples will be presented by the Labour Sub-Commission of ACC.

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5. Consternation in Apulia

Besides his obvious headaches with the harvest in Region II, Colonel J.T. Zellers, Regional Commissioner, is being acutely baffled these days, he says, by what to do with last year's wine crop. The crop is 250,000 quintals (Agriculture S/C insists that is the correct measure). This means 25,000 TONS or an indescribable number of litres. Anyone in ACC, in Italy and in Europe, may have the wine practically for the asking - and the transport. But they had better take it before it turns to vinegar - or what is actually going to happen: the vats must soon be emptied for this year's wine.

6. Journalism in Rome

Headaches and complications are an inevitable result of taking over the press of a capital city - particularly when "freedom of opinion" is one of democracy's declared aims. When we reached Rome there were seven daily papers - three morning and four evening - with a circulation of about 700,000. There were also several clandestine papers, circulating spasmodically. There were, and are, some 600 journalists. Following the PWB Plan adopted in Southern Italy, all papers (except the Vatican "Osservatore Romano" and "Quotidiano") were suppressed and substituted by the six party organs, "Avanti", "Unita", "Ricostruzione", "Italia Libera", "Il Popolo", "Risorgimento Liberale" and the PWB paper "Corriere di Roma". This gave a total of nine daily papers. The scheme went smoothly into operation, but some resentment was inevitably felt by (a) journalists, printers, compositors etc who were thrown out of work (b) those who objected to the suppression of fifty or sixty-year old papers like "Il Giornale d'Italia" and "Il Messaggero" (c) those who held that the six parties now represent a Government Giunta and therefore a newspaper "dictatorship" with no opposition, and (d) publishers and employees of former clandestine newspapers who felt that they had a claim to continue publication. At its meeting on July 1 the Allied Publications Board decided to allow the claims of the last category to the extent of licensing three daily papers, "Il Tempo", "Italia Nuova" and "La Voce Repubblicana": and further, that "Il Messagero", "La Tribuna" and "Il Giornale d'Italia" would be licensed (possibly under changed names) as and when their epuration has been satisfactorily completed. This would bring the total of daily papers to fifteen. And newsprint is in short supply. The Allied Publications Board has now to consider some two hundred and fifty further applications for daily or weekly expressions of "freedom of opinion". Any recruits for

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A new press law is now, after much argument and modification, up for consideration by the Italian Government. As soon as it is passed, an Italian commission will be set up to deal with the licensing of publications. This commission will report at first to the APB, but presumably will in the end shoulder the embarrassing responsibility of providing Italy with a free press.

The Rome press itself is quite lively: its polemics reveal various differences of opinion between Left (represented by Communist "Unita", Socialist "Avanti", Action Party "Italia Libera")

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and Right (represented by Christian Democrat"Popolo", Liberal "Risorgimento Liberale", Labour Democrat "Ricostruzione"). Main bones of contention (1) Monarchy versus Republic (which also appears in the guise of Referendum versus Constituent Assembly, since it is generally thought that the former would favour Monarchy, the latter a Republic) (2) Future of Italy: Togliatti's Marxist speech was resented by the Rightist group as far too violent (3) Control of Trades Unions: the Right takes exception to the Leftist "control" of the Federation of Labour. Other much-discussed subjects are the lack of electric power in Rome, lack of transport, the publication of the Armistice terms, and epuration. On the latter point most papers carry "black lists" and denunciations. The press on the whole is remarkable for too much politics and too little news.

Allied correspondents in Rome are cabling a large volume of political and semi-political comment - much greater than at any time in the Italian campaign. It is clear that they are to some extent affected by the Rome press, from which they frequently quote: the Rome press has thus, at second hand, a considerable impact on world opinion. The general tenor of despatches is critical: correspondents are (some of them for the first time) facing up to the problem of "what to do with Italy", and picking holes in the awkward minor questions of the powers of the Italian Government, the publication of the Armistice terms, the epuration of Fascists, the treatment of partisans, the rehabilitation of industry and so on. Matthews (New York Times) says that the publication of the Armistice terms "will blow the Bonomi Government away". Bigart (New York Herald Tribune) states that the treatment of partisans "has shocked anti-Fascist elements and is reacting unfavourably on partisans in the north". Day (Baltimore Sun) suggests that unless there is "continued Allied guidance" after the war, Italy will drift into Fascism again or veer violently to the Left. Lumby (Times) says the Government "will stand or fall on the collection of the harvest". Cook (Newsweek) asks London to check the real reason for General Mason MacFarlane's presence there. Severeid (CBS), discussing industrial havoc, says that "after this war Italy will have nothing left but her beauty".

Incidentally, Tass Agency (the Russian news service) has arrived in Rome in the person of Tovarich Vishnierski and will shortly be transmitting its own comments on the Italian situation to the world.

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7. Granai del Popolo

Agricultural S/C reports that the campaign is going well with, generally speaking, whole-hearted cooperation from the farmers. Transportation is a persistent worry; there are cases where the grain is piling up on the threshing floor awaiting trucks for delivery. Beginning 23 July the machinery for checking the quantity collected, both actually on hand and in bond, will be functioning and it will be possible to issue weekly reports on the quantity of collections and their relationship to the desired goals.

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Foggia Province reports that collections are ahead of schedule, although so far only one tenth of the total has come in. Transport, as usual, is the main difficulty: costs are very high and many farmers are using their carts night and day. Chief contraband at the moment is olive oil which is moving from Bari towards Naples and Rome, not to mention a woman found transporting one cwt grain in her petticoat. Major Montagu, we gather, is active in pursuit of pirates: one old gentleman of 72, discovered ambling along in his buggy in the middle of the night, said testily that he was going to visit a sick relative in Avellino: buggy apparently empty. Further search revealed false bottom: whole buggy-frame full of olive oil.

Italian soldier-labour has proved an immense success: 19,000 have been placed on farms and every one of them was at work within three days of arrival, generally within one. Result: agricultural wages crashed from 200 lire to 65.

8. Region III

The June report shows an encouraging return towards normality. Colonel John W. Chapman took over from Colonel Poletti on June 20. Owing to increased rations and plentiful supplies of potatoes, vegetables and fruits (Naples is now turning an apprehensive eye on Rome in this connection). Black Market forces slumped everywhere. Local government is making excellent headway, and labour unrest was at the minimum. In the province of Salerno the resignation of Badoglio is reported to have "caused real sorrow among the people, even those who differed from him politically". Rehabilitation is in full swing: 27 bridge reconstruction and 58 road repair projects were in operation. 14,650,000 lire were authorized for expenditure on the repair of 18 monuments during July, August and September. There was some complaint of uncontrolled civiliantraffic - with resultant black market operations in food and gasoline - between Rome and Naples. 708 tons of hemp and 5½ tons of silk were exported to U.K., and 700 tons more of hemp were ready for shipment. There was a mild epidemic of smallpox (207 cases during the month): 300,000 vaccinations were carried out in Naples itself and 25,000 (out of a total population of 40,000) in Afragola. The operations of Ufficio Trasporti showed a gross profit of 2,274,833 lire for its first full month. The report concludes with the remark that "reductions in the Region's strength. . . continued at an increasing tempo and still continues."

9. Region VIII

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9. Region VIII

Regional HQ were (temporarily) established at Orvieto on June 19. By July 10 the Region had a strength of 119 officers, the total allotment being 135. Grosseto, the only province fully occupied, was reported politically quiet and presenting no grain problems. Future agricultural prospects "quite bright". Repair to water supply systems were in hand and Grosseto (more fortunate than Rome) was getting light and power from the hydro-electric station at Scarcata. Some looting by troops and some cases of

/ rape

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rape (by French colonial troops in Siena Province) were reported, but the situation was improving, although there was an insufficiency of MP. Schools, for the most part, had not functioned since April, 1943: plans were in hand for the regular autumnal opening. On the whole the report indicates a remarkable degree of tranquillity and good order.

10. Exodus

Sir Clifford Heathcote-Smith, head of the Inter-Governmental Refugees Committee in the ACC, reports that 1,000 non-Italian and stateless refugees, mostly Jewish, are about to be embarked for the United States, where they will be guests of the nation at a reception centre at Fort Ontario, N.Y. for a year, or the end of the war, whichever comes sooner, after which they will be re-patriated. The refugees, who will find comfort, medical attention and peace for the first time in several years, have all signed pledges that they will accept no employment outside of their settlement and that they will return to their homes after the war. These refugees, who drifted across the front-line into care of the Internees and Displaced Persons Sub-Commission in Italy, came from Germany, Poland, France, Yugoslavia, Czecho-Slovakia and Austria. Eleven White Russians, who profess the Russian Orthodox religion, are the only non-Jews.

11. SHAEF and Refugees in Normandy

Colonel L.R. Hulls, Director of the Italian Refugee Branch, has just returned to his ACC post from London, where he participated in consultations, on the basis of his experiences in Italy, concerning the handling of refugees on the Western Front. Principles and methods proved effective in handling 100,000 refugees in Italy are to be followed in France, such as centralized control from the battle zone to the rear dispersal areas and use of empty military transport to send refugees down from the front. Colonel Hulls conferred with Major-General Gullion, former Provost Marshal General of the U.S. Army and founder of the School of Military Government at Charlottesville, Va. General Gullion's deputy is Brigadier Griffin. In Colonel Hulls' opinion, there will be no sizeable refugee problem for SHAEF until a considerably larger area is liberated. Colonel Hulls, incidentally, was in London when the flying bombs first began to come over.

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12. Odds and Ends

We understand, unreliably, that Colonel (Perugia) Belser calls sharply for immediate synchronization of all watches at daily staff meeting ..... also probably unreliable, though from high authoritative source, is report that Brigadier Dunlop attended Red Army recruiting meeting in cellar at Terracina ..... nobody (at least not U.K. or U.S.) ever declared war on San Marino, so we mustn't fight in it: but who can say that Poletti won't get there ?.... Jews who went to Palestine left nine million lire with Colonel Findlay and now can't get the money owing to currency regulations, Colonel Findlay says .....

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back from Africa's mysteries, Colonel Marshall takes charge of Region V ..... Colonel Poletti has written on AMG for the New York Times, had his history pictured by "Life", broadcast from Rome for Mutual, is going to display Caruso's loot to journalists at press conference ..... VD in Naples has fallen from 269 to 136 per 1,000; no figures yet for Rome .....

LIONEL FIELDEN,
Major,
Public Relations Director.

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ACC MONTHLY BULLETIN

PRB/R26/WB14

SECRET

ADVANCED HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

ACC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 14
2 July to 8 July

1. Political

The news, released on Saturday July 8, that the Italian Government, the Headquarters of the Allied Control Commission, and the Advisory Council for Italy will all be established in Rome on July 15, erases a political question-mark which had given rise to a good deal of unfounded and frequently silly speculation. In actual fact the move of the whole government and ACC within little more than a month is no mean achievement: and the move to Rome merely smoothes out administrative machinery which had been dislocated by distance and poor communications. It should perhaps be recorded that the continued absence of the Government from Rome, coupled with General MacFarlane's departure, was mischievously interpreted by Roman gossips and some Allied correspondents to mean that the General had been recalled to discuss his actions at the time when the Bonomi Government was formed and that that Government was being kept in cold storage and inactivity at Salerno until it fell into disrepute, when it would be replaced by a Government under Orlando and Badoglio. For such rumours there was of course no foundation at all. The Chief Commissioner, who had for some time been suffering severely from a spinal complaint due to a motor accident, flew home on medical advice in order to obtain special treatment, and it is hoped that he will be back within a short time. The Bonomi Government will function from Rome as it did from Salerno; that is to say with jurisdiction only over territory handed over to it. It is hoped that the next "hand-over" (of Naples, Benevento, Foggia and Campobasso) will take place about July 15, when the Advisory Council meets. A further "hand-over" is foreshadowed for the middle of August.

At Salerno it was a great week for platform-plank speeches, and Ministers loosed a flood of resolution and exhortation. Most eloquent, perhaps, was De Ruggiero (Education) who placed the virtues of abnegation and a simpler life higher than those of any hasty reform of methods. Mancini spoke of Public Works from a blood-tears-toil-and-sweat angle. Croati visited military hospitals. Cerabona took a trip over the railways of Calabria. The Prime Minister received a delegation of Italian Communist Youth who assured him of their support and stressed the necessity for greater assistance to patriots. Salerno's best bit of news

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2. Treatment of Partisans

Twenty-five more and less distinguished people - including Major-General Browning, Brigadiers Lush, Dunlop and Mainwaring, Group-Captain Benson, Colonels Upjohn, Griffiey-Smith and Young - sat down in the stifling atmosphere of the Chief Commissioner's sun-drenched room on July 3 to discuss the thorny subject of

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/ partisans

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partisans. It was a tribute to self-control that shots were not actually heard during the two-hour session. Colonel McCarthy, who has been appointed to look after the new "Patriot Branch" of A.C. and C.C. Section, unfolded plans for (a) sending Italian patriot representatives to Corps HQ to advise CAOs on the identification of leaders of Patriot bands (b) posters directing patriots to surrender their arms (c) awarding certificates of merit to patriots (d) subsequent employment of patriots and (e) rewarding persons who have assisted Allied prisoners-of-war to escape.

The discussion raised thorny problems. What were the qualifications of a "patriot"? Would not "certificates of merit" be sold on the black market or dropped from the air by the Germans? On what grounds should the surrender of arms be demanded? Would patriots be liable to conscription?

It was eventually decided that a "patriot" is "a member of a recognized fighting band who has carried arms, carried out demolitions or engaged in sabotage": that 30,000 "certificates of merit" should be printed, to be ready in a week: that four "Patriot Reps" should leave for 8th Army on July 9, four for 5th Army on July 10, and two for the Adriatic Coast on July 11. The poster asking patriots to surrender arms so that those arms can be dropped to patriots further north was approved. General Browning insisted that patriots of military age were liable to conscription: the questions of subsequent employment and awards for persons who have assisted PW's proved too complicated for any immediate decision.

A first step was thus taken in a matter which is likely to be of capital importance. It is going to be no easy task to deal, on the one hand, with people who have fought sturdily and suffered, and now find themselves unemployed and stopped from fighting, and on the other hand with people (and they are not looking) who were never patriots at all but will use unscrupulous methods to stake their claims. Colonel Hibbert, who looks after patriots beyond the lines, Colonel McCarthy, who looks after their organisation in AMG and ACC areas, and Colonel Spicer, who will advise on local government treatment of the patriots, have some headaches to come.

3. AMG with the Armies

German resistance stiffended throughout the week and Saturday's communique described the Fifth Army's advance as "of only a few hundred yards daily." Bitter street-fighting was taking place in every town occupied. It was clear that the enemy was attempting to hold the Arezzo sector at all costs while strengthening the Gothic line. On July 8 our forward elements had captured

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It was eventually decided that a "patriot" is "a member of a recognised fighting band who has carried arms, carried out demolitions or engaged in sabotage"; that 20,000 "certificates of merit" should be printed, to be ready in a week; that four "Patriot Reps" should leave for 5th Army on July 9, four for 8th Army on July 10, and two for the Adriatic Coast on July 11. The poster asking patriots to surrender arms so that those arms can be dropped to patriots further north was approved. General Browning insisted that patriots of military age were liable to conscription: the questions of subsequent employment and awards for persons who have assisted POWs proved too complicated for any immediate decision.

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3. AMG with the Armies

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Fifth Army AMG reported on July 7 the occupation of the whole of Livorno province except the Provincial capital and two communes, and of several communes in Pisa. Piombino was reported badly damaged: nine thousand refugees had been found in Campiglia: otherwise the main trouble seemed to be the non-arrival of personnel. "Anxiety was felt" about the absence of any Provincial Commissioner

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for Leghorn and of "any but a few officers for the Lucca and Pistoia teams." Only 150 Carabinieri out of the 400 required for Leghorn and Siena had arrived: Grosseto Province had none.

On other counts the report is good. Health was described as excellent; a good deal of hospital accommodation and equipment was available. The supply position had improved: four EK had actually arrived to deal with it. Harvest prospects were brilliant, as everywhere: the destruction of all agricultural records was expected to cause headaches. Partisans were "not proving an insurmountable difficulty" though proclamations and certificates of merit were needed (see para 2). "Communist trouble" was decreasing: the French were issuing "stringent instructions" (Incidentally it should be reported that Comm trouble has flared up in the Rome press whose protests are being widely quoted by Allied correspondents in their despatches).

Some concern was felt by 8th Army AMG about the supply position. Early in the week there were 720 tons of flour in Orvieto: 500 were earmarked for Florence and further supplies were not arriving, though 180 tons a day were expected from Tuesday. Terni, a town evacuated 5 months ago and now nearly full again, was a bad problem. 1,000 tons of flour had been found in Todi and were being milled. There was a bad shortage of commodities such as milk, sugar and salt. In forward areas the refugee problem was less acute, but in the Liri Valley and the Cassino area (now under Region IV) the situation predicted by Group-Captain Benson some weeks ago has come to pass. Unverified reports put the number of homeless in those areas at 40 or 50 thousand, and the deaths from mines at 20 a day.

Major Bullock reports from 8th Army AMG as follows:

"CHIUSI has been found nearly one-quarter destroyed and more than half damaged. A labyrinth of subterranean passages under the town providing shelter from bombing and shell-fire attracted refugees. Our occupation found the normal population of 8,500 increased to 9,000. Germans were in the town three months, looted on an extensive scale and left the people dazed and depressed. Water supply is precarious and main drain is destroyed. Three doctors, two midwives and three chemists were still in CHIUSI. Medical supplies and food were rushed in, a 35-bed hospital was improvised in a new building, and a water-cart was repaired to bring in water from a distance of 1 kilometer. There is no electric power at the moment, but it is hoped to connect with MONTELEONE. Major ZERVUDACHI was in charge. We have now turned over CHIUSI to Fifth Army AMG.

"Nearby CETONA was only slightly damaged during operations. There were 800 refugees in addition to the normal 4,600 people.

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"Nearby CETONA was only slightly damaged during operations. There were 800 refugees in addition to the normal 4,600 people. One doctor, six OCRR and three town guards were still on the job. Partisans numbered 200 under command of Col Marenco Silvio and Mechoci Pietro. UNRRA and Giunta Committees were formed at once, the Sindaco was removed and replaced, 50 men were put to work clearing roads. Capt HUNT is in charge.

"The health resort of CHIANCIANO, with many large hotels, was less than five per cent damaged. The normal population of 3,500 was swelled to 5,000. There were 65,000 lire in the communal

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treasury, the normal budget for a month. Two trucks were found in working order and there may be more in the surrounding countryside. There is an electrically operated mill which will be run with a tractor. Two doctors, three carabinieri and one communal guard were on hand. Capt RILEY is in charge.

"In the bank in CORCIANO 73 lire were found. There was no money in the communal treasury. Population of 6,700, including 200 refugees, was being looked after by three doctors, one carabinieri and one municipal guard. There were adequate medical supplies for a month. The people were found friendly and cooperative. The town, centre of an agricultural commune, had about half its buildings more or less damaged. Lieut TORCELLINI is in charge.

"Only one building was found damaged in ASCUNOLI, the light and power plant which the Germans had sabotaged. There were 2,800 people, one third refugees. No rice or pasta had been issued for three months and the wheat ration fluctuated from month to month. The water supply is good. One doctor, one midwife, two carabinieri and one communal guard. ASCUNOLI is a charcoal making commune. The only truck in the place, a charcoal-burner, is not working. Cash in the bank was 20,000 lire, but the communal treasury was empty. Capt COMSTOCK is in charge.

"In Spoleto the British-born Countess (Betty) DI CAM MARZANO, has for two years been running an underground Rest Camp for fugitive Allied prisoners-of-war. She is the wife of an Italian lieutenant-colonel now in the north, and the mother of four children. Since 1942 she has been giving lessons for eight hours a day in English to Spoleto people. The Germans got wise to her activities and she moved her extensive English library from the town into the hills where our prisoners-of-war were lodged in the homes of friends of hers. One friend, in a house alongside the surreptitious rest camp, sheltered as many as eight POW at a time for periods up to two months. The Countess, who is a person of energy and decision, declares that the people of Spoleto have always been friendly to her and that she has had no trouble since the war began in spite of her English background. Of the attitude of the Italians to the war she says: 'The peasants, the professional people and the middle class have always been pro-British and against the war. There was a brief period of war-fever at first, but it passed long before the first Italian defeats and only the ardent Fascists maintained any zeal." The Countess is assisting the CLO as an interpreter. She feels strongly that the Allies should be generous with the families who helped our prisoners-of-war at great risk to themselves, though there are naturally numbers of these people who would refuse any reward. In her opinion the Partisans who have

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"In Spoleto the British-born Countess (Betty) DI SAN MARZANO, has for two years been running an underground East Camp for fugitive Allied prisoners-of-war. She is the wife of an Italian lieutenant-colonel now in the north, and the mother of four children. Since 1942 she has been giving lessons for eight hours a day in English to Spoleto people. The Germans got wise to her activities and she moved her extensive English library from the town into the hills where our prisoners-of-war were lodged in the homes of friends of hers. One friend, in a house alongside the surreptitious east camp, sheltered as many as eight POW at a time for periods up to two months. The Countess, who is a person of energy and decision, declares that the people of Spoleto have always been friendly to her and that she has had no trouble since the war began in spite of her English background. Of the attitude of the Italians to the war she says: 'The peasants, the professional people and the middle class have always been pro-British and against the war. There was a brief period of war-fever at first, but it passed long before the first Italian defeats and only the ardent Fascists maintained any zeal." The Countess is assisting the CIO as an interpreter. She feels strongly that the Allies should be generous with the families who helped our prisoners-of-war at great risk to themselves, though there are naturally members of these people who would refuse any reward. In her opinion the Partisans who have fought for the liberation of Italy are a problem for the Italian Government.

4. Civil Affairs on the Second Front

SHAEF seems to have taken a leaf or two out of the book of AMG experience in Italy.

To limit the inflationary effect on French economy as a result of Allied military operations there is to be an extension of the normal recreational facilities for troops, so as to keep

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them out of civilian establishments and off the streets; an increase in the United States Army PX services which will enable troops to buy souvenirs of France; and a prohibition of local purchases of food, until conditions permit. Also a prohibition of import of U.S. dollars and English pounds sterling, as well as control of prices. A centralized system of supplies and services for Allied troops will even include billets. This will prevent competitive bidding up of prices.

All possible methods are to be undertaken to stimulate savings on the part of military personnel, and "educational campaigns" are undertaken before the troops arrive in France to encourage them to save for post-war years. The "harmful effects of carefree spending" on the economy of the country they are in is especially stressed. Rome and Naples to note.

5. Granai del Popolo

The grain collection slowdown in Sicily, complicated by Separatist propaganda and the craftiness of the Sicilian peasant, has brought swift and drastic action from AFHQ to enforce deliveries to the Granai del Popolo by all means at the disposal of the Italian Government and the Allied authorities. Stepped-up publicity and continuous personal-appeal tours by the Prime Minister and other Italian personages as well as police reinforcements and easing of trucking restrictions have all been arranged to effectuate the goal of Sicily being self-sufficient in food.

At the same time, word reached Rome that hint of these strict measures is percolating down to the farmers and that more grain is already beginning to come in, according to Lt Col M.E.M Dickey, Deputy Director of the Agricultural Sub-Commission. Col Dickey said the meager collection of 5,000 quintals in June may be laid entirely to the Sicilians balking to accept the price of 1,000 lire a quintal. On the other hand, in the grain tableland around Foggia farmers are viewing the 1,000 lire price as suspiciously too high! A special explanation to the northern farmers who fear inflation is to be worked by AFHQ and PWB in the form of wall posters giving the full facts about Granai del Popolo.

Maximum penalties against evaders of the collection decree and immediate trials for offenders are directed in the order issued by Brigadier Rusk to regional authorities in Sicily. Whether or not the enforcement will go as far as confiscation of land holdings is not clear, although grain hoarded may undoubtedly be confiscated under the law and speculators given stiff punishment.

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6. Labour in the Melting Pot

A first-class row involving repercussions on the highest levels blew up this past week and even now is in process of blowing on concerning the setting aside of an increase in army wage scales for Italian labour ordered on grounds of operational necessity by Major-General Harry H. Johnson, Rome Area Commander, on the recommendation of Lieut Colonel Thomas E. Lane, Labour Section Chief of the Rome AMG. What

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happened briefly was this:

Almost immediately the Allies arrived in Rome and began hiring Italian civilians, complaints arose (which ACC thought justified) to the effect that the Italian workers were not getting as much as they were under the Germans, a deficiency felt all the more keenly, according to the Italians, because of the high cost of living in Rome. The propaganda effect, in addition, of paying less than the Germans, was none too good. Our rate for common labourers, the basic yardstick, was 65 lire a day. The Todt organisation paid 70.5, plus handsome allowances in food which they obtained by forced requisitions from the farmers in the Agro Romano. Col Lane's recommendation was to increase our rates to 85 lire a day. Then the fun began.

General Johnson signed the order, which was to go into effect July 1, and publicity was given to the measure. AMG, however, got its back up on the grounds that such a wage rise was too inflationary. ACC Labour Sub-Commission came charging in to support its Rome Regional Labour Officer. Col Lane then spoke a piece for the benefit of newspaper correspondents who by that time were on to the story. Col Lane also threatened to resign, an item the correspondents, delighted at the family row, did not overlook. Everyone waited for reactions and rumblings from Washington. Instead, the first call-back came from Great Britain where the MANCHESTER GUARDIAN played up the situation in a leader. Result: the War Office has asked for explanations. Prospect: Negotiations are continuing on the basis of cost-of-living studies.

7. Here and there.

Not so much there as here this week: this Bulletin comes to you from Rome ... Some think (let us be careful) Rome has a lotos-eating effect on its inhabitants, old and new. Group-Captain Benson has been heard to observe that ACC HQ should be under canvas. It does appear to us that luncheon intervals in Rome are somewhat protracted: an astonishing number of pretty ladies flit about the offices: undoubtedly the endless corridors of the Ministero delle Corporazioni are deserted at 6.00 p.m. except for an orient few who may be regarded as anti-social, hard-working or crazy. Do not ask about the Public Relations Branch: the division between public and private relations is not always quite distinct. But the observer in Rome is certainly tempted to wonder whether the boudoir atmosphere of the Eternal City does not sap the will to work ... You are hereby informed that the word "Partisan" is officially stopped in favour of "Patriot" ... Major De Wald is having the time of his life sorting out the largest collection

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LIONEL FRANKLIN, Major,
PUBLIC RELATIONS DIRECTOR

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PRB 26/WB

SECRET

124

2 July,1944

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

ACC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 13
25 JUNE TO 2 JULY

1. Political

The Council of Ministers met on Friday, 30 June and dealt with a number of pressing matters. For one thing - and perhaps the most important - they prepared a legislative decree providing penalties for anyone "violating the discipline" of the grain ammassing laws. Terms of imprisonment from 6 months to six years are to be meted out and the fines are fixed at 20 times the legal price of the grain witheld. These in addition to minor penalties such as confiscation of the grain in question. Arrangements for a provisional budgeting over the next three months were made and various technical financial matters, such as payment of interest on treasury bonds and measures to ease the situation for communes, were dealt with. Pay of the "Procuratori" (Public Prosecutors) were upped 70%. Provision was made to recall retired magistrates back into service in order to fill up the gaps caused by the processed of defascistization.

Otherwise the week was relatively uneventful. It was announced by the Ministry of Communications that interurban telephone service will be open to the public beginning July 1st. Casati, Minister of War, sent an inspiring proclamation to the Armed Forces. The Commissariato for refugees has announced its intention of getting the refugees back to their homes "as soon as possible" Farmers will go first and the whole project will be worked out in collaboration with ACC. On the occasion of the announcement of British casualties by the Prime Minister a government spokesman voiced Italy's sympathy and gratitude for the sacrifices the Allies have made and are making. He did not let the occasion pass without expressing the hope that Italy might be allowed a more active parti-

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2. Movements

General Order no 17 of June 29 announced the appointment of Col. Gerard R. Upjohn as acting head of the Administrative Section. Col. Richard H. Wilmer becomes acting Director of the Legal Sub-Commission.

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It was announced in Washington that Col. William O'Dwyer has been appointed Vice President of the Economic Section and will have the personal rank of minister. It is not known when Col. O'Dwyer will arrive at ACC HQ.

3. Granai del Popolo

Majors Andrews and Sutherland of the Agriculture Sub - Commission drifted through the provinces this week to ascertain the degree of progress in the Granai del Popolo campaign. The former inspected the calf of Italy while the latter's trip took him through the foot.

Both report bumper crops despite lack of fertilizer, threshing machines and other things necessary to high production, but farmers generally are not satisfied with prices offered them for their grain and with the prices they must pay for bread and other commodities in controlled or semi - controlled markets.

Of particular interest is a report by Major Andrews who declared that "mines have been literally strewn over large areas, some of them as in the case of the Avezzano area, planted simply to scare the farmers out of the harvesting of their grain. People are being killed every day, three the afternoon we were in Avezzano. The military quite naturally take the view that their problems are up ahead and cannot spare the crews to clear the fields of mines."

4. AMG With the Armies

A situation report from 5th Army dated 27 June states the the occupation of Grosseto province has been completed. Several communes in Livorno and Siena provinces have been taken over and the leading troops were well into Pisa province. Physical condition of communes is fairly good with the exception of Roccastrada, Massa Marittima and Montieri. The report continues:

> "The only important town occupied is Piombino. Preliminary reports are that there are 7000 people in the town and 14,000 fractions making a total of 21,000 out of the normal 30,000. The port and steel works are heavily damaged but many houses are habitable and people are returning home. There is grain in the town but electric power is badly needed for the large mills. In view of the importance of the port (which will be open on June 30) civilians in the area are being frozen so as not to impede operations."

Viterbo Province was turned over to Region IV on June 29. In Grosseto province harvesting operations are going on well but the absence of officials, records and transport may make proper collection difficult.

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Viterbo Province was turned over to Region IV on June 29. In Grosseto province harvesting operations are going on well but the absence of officials, records and transport may make proper collection difficult. Livorno and Pisa teams (Region VIII) are already at work and the Lucca and Pistoia teams are on hand. Some anxiety is felt for the Florence team, since 70% of the population live outside the city itself, and it is feared that the Provincial Commissioner may not be equipped with sufficient PAOS to take care of the situation.

The Economics and Supply Section has opened 11 mobile depots and closed down 8 since the advance started. They are badly overworked...First phase financing has been completed in Viterbo province save for a small strip in 8th Army territory...Bands of partisans of varying size and quality are found in almost all communes.

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From the latest sitrep we have had ~~from 6th Army dated~~ 24 June, we quote as follows:

"The only city of importance captured recently is Perugia. The city itself is very little damaged but it is still being shelled in a desultory manner. The population is 10,000 of which probably 3 to 4 thousand are refugees. They have received supply up to about 7th July. A report from Lieut. Simpson who is acting as CAPO in the city is attached (to RC and MG Section ACC and Brigadier A/Q only).

Perugia has 8 banks with a total of Lit. 54,5000,000 cash of which Lit. 52,000,000 is in the bank of Italy. In addition there is Lit. 1,900,000 in the Post Office. Unfortunately the electric supply is gone and about 40 electric mills are out of action.

The Province of Perugia is a large granary and the crop is ripe and is being cut. The biggest problem which faces the province is that of milling. There are probably sufficient water mills to look after the needs of the villages, but large mills capable of milling sufficient grain to feed the inhabitants of the bigger cities (other then electric) have so far not been found except in one place, Trevi, where there are two water mills with a total capacity of 20 tons per day. For the above reasons the supply problem is still serious both in the bigger cities already captured and also in Florence, unless there we find operable mills."

The report stresses the need for milk, soap and sugar and recommends urgent attention should be given to the supplying of naphtha and kerosene if the harvest is to be gathered.

A report is appended from the acting CAPO who unearthed a very mixed bag of political internees including an Englishwoman who was sheltering two German officers a British Lt. Colonel who had made broadcasts for Mussolini. Not all the internees are pro-German; indeed not the majority but there are some "queer ones". Some, indeed, had fled with the Germans. On the partisans the following paragraph may be illuminating:

"Upon arrival in Perugia on the morning of 20 June hundreds of partisans, armed, were marching up and down the streets in groups singing, shouting and waving flags. The partisans' leaders were contacted and AMG policy of no politics and the consigning of arms in the Carabinieri station and the Questura was explained. The leaders were cooperative and at 5 in the afternoon they formed up in front of the Municipio and, upon my instructions, marched to the Questura where they consigned their arms. In questioning several citizens and internees I have been informed that the partisans in the city did not attempt to combat the Germans and did

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to be recognized as Government officials. Since then the partisans have been very cooperative and seem to have the objective of helping the Communal and Provincial governments back to normal. However, several groups of citizens representing professions and political parties have advised us that the partisans do not represent the majority of public opinion and are political opportunists. All groups are being listened to and at present no Sindaco has been appointed though five names popular with all groups have been submitted. The nominations are being investigated by AMG and FSS."

At present writing the line from east to west runs north of the Chienti taking in Perugia and Castiglione on Lake Trasimeno where Hannibal beat the Romans, through the town of Poggio Siena Vecchia, just 6 miles south of Siena on to include Cecina where highwaymen roamed in Dante's time. A land full of history - and we are adding to it.

5. Report From Rome.

Rome is at this time a capital without a government, a city at war with no visible scars, an eternal city preoccupied with immediate problems. It is hardly surprizing if reports from such a paradoxical center are varied, confusing and contradictory. It is clear, however, from all accounts that the food situation is improving. Romans are now getting a 200 gramme bread allowance - good white bread too, and they like it. Fruit and vegetables are getting in though not as plentifully as one could hope. Health is good though one reporter quotes the AMG public health officer as saying that one Roman in every five has tuberculosis as a result of overcrowding and malnutrition under German occupancy. There is no crime or violence to speak of in spite of the fact that there are four generals claiming to be chief of police. Basic wages of common laborers have been raised from 70.5 lire to 85 lire a day and Col. Lane, chief of Rome ACC Labor Section has announced the labor policy has been applied in all detail: revision of German system of labor exchange, abolition of Fascist corporative system and setting up of collective bargaining and free unions, 70% increase in wages for government employees etc.

So far so good. But the Romans, to judge from their press which is unchained and vociferous, still want a lot of things. They want salt, washing and toilet soap, and medicine. They want the Allies to give them a bigger share in the war effort. They want Allied Officers to have no social contacts with Fascists. They want telephones. The new epuration order of Col. Poletti has in general been applauded though some think it hard on the "small fry", and many are puzzled as to how it ties in with previous epuration decrees. A complication is added by the new University clean-up committee, which is still another phase of defascistization not clearly coordinated with other measures.

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Under it all Rome is eternally Rome with all glittering rococo facets of high society and intrigue so dear to Marion Crawford, Henry James and d'Annunzio. The diplomatic corps is somewhat reduced to be sure but now includes three rival representatives from San Marino. A Baroness Koke has been arrested by Allied authorities and is described as a "mystery woman" of Albanian parentage. Membership cards of clandestine resistance movements are now being sold for thousands of lire. "Political virginity is being acquired by banknotes". And a "green shirt" movement is alleged to have started. One could hardly ask for more.

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6. Notes From Naples

Naples nowadays can hardly challenge Rome on the basis of glamor and political importance. But things happen in Naples too. The trams are now running briskly about the town, groaning up Perco Margherita and screeching around the corso. The first line was put into operation on the 20th of June and we are informed by Col. Hensley, Reg. Public Utilities Officer, carried proudly the sign : FLATBUSH AVE. EXT. IRT. (It was bound for Bagnoli but no one seemed to mind).

Neapolitans may not know it but they are going to learn to love potatoes. There are plenty of them and Risorgimento and PWB are going to run a campaign expounding the virtue and versatility of this humble vegetable.

The labor front has not been entirely quiet.There was a "white strike" of electrical workers. A "white strike" is apparently one in which only those workers walk out who are not in the production end of the concern. Hence the production of electricity was not curtailed by the strike, which was settled by Capt. Williams, Regional Labor Officer. There has also been some unrest in the Banco di Napoli and the Telephone Company. The Banco di Napoli never reached the striking stage and telephone situation is in process of settlement.

Prices of fruit and vegetables are coming down and one has the impression that life is rapidly approaching normal for many Neapolitans. The ricoveri are less crowded since the capture of Rome and the black-out is almost a thing of the past. It is said that guitars have been heard on Via Carcciolo.

7. Legal

On Saturday, 24 June, the Minister of Justice officially reinstated Ettore Casati to the First Presidency of the Supreme Court of Cassation. Casati at the age of 71 had crossed the German lines to join the Badoglio Government.

The Court had been under great pressure from Republican fascists who wished the seat of the court transferred to Brescia. The Court not only resisted but many went into hiding and all but a few refused to take the Republican oath. By reinstating the First President and taking the necessary steps for an early start of the normal activities of the Supreme Court, the Allied authorities are putting an end to the judicial chaos which has been prevalent in Fascist Italy between 8 September and the liberation of Rome. This was pointed out by both the Minister and the First President, who asked that a special measure of thanks be conveyed to Harold Alexander from all the Magistrates of Italy.

It is expected that the first official sitting of the Court will take place early this month . It will be the first of the great Italian institutions to resume its work in the capital and the national and even international importance of such an event cannot be over-emphasized.

8. From Here and There

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8. From Here and There

Ceilings of the Sub-Commissions are again under scrutiny. In some cases the ceilings are obviously too low or the S/C's necks too far extended---AAI has lent 15 jeeps for two months to help with harvest... Now what do we do with the Excelsior Hotel (Naples)?...The High Commissioner for Sicily told us that the mere announcement of the increased bread ration had practically broken the black market...We hear the same from Region VII ...Lt. Col. A.C. Bowman has been named Regional Commissioner for Region IX...Bowman Bologna Bound, the headlines would have it...American correspondents have been trying to reassure the girls at home that Roman girls are not irresistable; merely well washed and hence a novelty to the troops... A Mexican

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mission, headed by the chief of ~~Mexican military aviation~~ has arrived in Rome...Capt Bump reports: God, with the assistance of AMG, has averted the threatened plague of locusts from Manfredonia...There have been disturbing reports of souvenir hunters at Montecassino...More than 80% of the grain has been reaped in Matera...Small pox in Naples is diminishing...The great windows of Orvieto Cathederal, taken down and concealed months ago , is being put back in place as soon as possible, as are other treasures of the Cathedral...Many valuable art treasures which have been in hiding are being brought out. This would seem to mean that the Italians trust us where they did not trust the Germans... May mean of course that they think the war's over. Encouraging, either way.

9. Quote From an Esteemed Contemporary
(For filing under War Crises; Home Front):

OPA, WPB GO INTO DANCE OVER STATUS OF ZOOT SUIT.

(Stars and Stripes, 28 June, 1944)

Thomas G Bergin

THOMAS G. BERGIN,
Major, AUS.,
DDPR AGC

Distribution same as No. 12

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file

PRD 20/WP 13

SECRET 124

HEAD QUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

25 June, 1944

ACC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 12
18 June to 25 June

1. Political

The interregnum to which we referred last week came to an end on the 18th when the Lieutenant General signed the decrees formally approving the new ministry. The following day Bonomi issued a statement to the press in which he congratulated the Badoglio Govt. on creating the new office of Lieutenant General and thus freeing the institutional question from a condition of "immobility". His own ministry, he said, planned to turn the question over to a constituent assembly as soon as an election could be held in a liberated Italy. Meanwhile Italians of all parties could now unite in support of the government of concord whose primary purpose would be the liberation of the country and its reconstruction.

On the 22nd the new ministers were received by the Prince at the Villa Maria Pia. The Prince, who was wearing the uniform of a Marshal of Italy, had a half hour talk with Bonomi before the other members of the Government were presented to him. He made a brief address, stressing the urgency of the work of liberation and riscossimento, to which Bonomi, even more briefly, replied. The form of the oath taken by the ministry had been the subject of some speculation. It runs as follows:

> "We swear on our honor to exercise our functions in the supreme interest of the nation and not to commit any acts which might in any way prejudice the solution of the institutional question, until the convocation of the constituent assembly."

Croce, Ciasca, Sforza and Decourten were not present at the ceremony. The last named had been delayed by an accident to his car and sent his excuses.

In the afternoon of the same day the Council met in Salerno. Their first act was to send greetings and good wishes to the octogenarian Orlando. They then unanimously approved a declaration stating they felt the present ministry represents the great majority which in 1940 had been against the war and Fascist domination, condemning Fascist aggression against France, Greece, Jugoslavia and Russia, and stressing the desire to make Italy's contribution to the war effort "larger, more direct and more effective"

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In the afternoon of the same day the Council met in Salerno. Their first act was to send greetings and good wishes to the octogenarian Orlando. They then unanimously approved a declaration stating they felt the present ministry represents the great majority which in 1920 had been against the war and Fascist domination, condemning Fascist aggression against France, Greece, Jugoslavia and Russia, and stressing the desire to make Italy's contribution to the war effort "larger, more direct and more effective" through use of the volunteer element as well as the regular arms, cooperation with the patriots and defascistization behind the lines. They also approved the draft of a Decree Law dealing with the convocation of a Constituent Assembly, the ministerial oath and the power of the Government to issue laws. The last point is intended to do away with the expedient of decree laws and allow the Council to issue legislative decrees since at the moment there is no parliament.

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During the week there were some further changes in the Ministry. On the suggestion of Casati, General Piacentini of the Air Force was made Minister for Air. Di Raimondi and Fano are to remain in the Ministry of Communications, the former as Undersecretary for Railroads, the latter for Posts, Telephone and Telegraph. Since both Undersecretaries are non-party men and Piacentini is a professional soldier, the political balance is unchanged. Bonomi also stated that the possibility of Badoglio's collaboration "was not to be excluded". For the moment accord reigns and harmony is the watchword.

It is evident that Salerno's brief and misty glory as the national capital is drawing to a close. Just when the move to Rome will be made is still uncertain. There are indications that it will be soon.

2. Command of ACC

General Order no.15 of 23 June informs us that during the absence of the Chief Commissioner, the Deputy Chief Commissioner, Captain Ellery W. Stone USNR, has taken command of the Allied Control Commission, with the title of Acting Chief Commissioner. It is not possible to say how long the Chief Commissioner will be absent.

3. ACC with the Armies

Progress has been somewhat slower this week; the advance was held up not so much by determined German resistance, encountered largely in the center, as by bad weather conditions. However since our last Bulletin Perugia has fallen and the armies have reached the outskirts of Follonica on the west and are within some 15 miles of Ancona on the east. Reports and sitreps coming in with the inevitable delays gave the following information.

In Fifth Army territory Grosseto is reported as practically undamaged. Many inhabitants had fled but were expected to return; the provincial CA was already in the town on 19 June. Orbetello, though 60% damaged, yielded some treasures. Several hundred tons of ore (manganese or iron) were found abandoned in dumps and the harbor contained one large schooner and 12 small ones. Several thousand gallons of naphtha were discovered; this supply should be useful for running farm machinery.

Viterbo and Grosseto provinces both report that the harvest is one of their chief problems, fuel for farm machinery, and harvesting and binder twine are urgently needed. There is also a great need of local officials since in this part of Italy many of the more important officials were staunch Fascists and left with the Germans.

Refugees are not a real problem. Supply seems fairly well

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2. Command of AGC

General Order no.15 of 20 June informs us that during the absence of the Chief Commissioner, the Deputy Chief Commissioner, Captain Hillary A. Storo USN, has taken command of the Allied Control Commission, with the title of Acting Chief Commissioner. It is not yet like to say how long the Chief Commissioner will be absent.

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Viterbo and Grosseto provinces both report that the harvest is one of their chief problems, fuel for farm machinery, and harvesting and binder twine are urgently needed. There is also a great need of local officials since in this part of Italy many of the more important officials were staunch Fascists and left with the Germans.

Refugees are not a real problem. Supply seems fairly well in hand though it is pointed out that we are approaching a heavily populated area as we near Livorno and Florence. There is a shortage of sugar, salt and olive oil. Scum trouble continues; there has been a good deal of pilfering as well as a few rape cases. Partisans continue to be found widespread. In general it is found they respond to tactful handling and the situation is under control. Indeed communes have been found where the Partisans were in complete control, the Carabinieri having fled. In some cases officials had been regularly elected; these were normally approved by AMG.

The 5th Army sitrep states that on 15 June Region V took over Pesc[illegible], Rieti and Aquila provinces. Both Rieti

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and Orvieto including cathedral were reported undamaged. In Rieti no military had entered and it is understood that Orvieto is also sealed off from troops. Terni has suffered 60% damage. Terni contains steel mills which are described as "repairable". Again there is need for naphtha. Avezzano and suburbs were badly mauled, Rieti, though not seriously damaged, cannot be entered save by jeep. The roads in this region are in very bad shape. The attitude of the people in Rieti was "extremely friendly" and the following interesting paragraph on the partisans is worth quoting:

> "The town was full of partisans armed to the teeth Col. Spencer interviewed the leaders of six different bands. They claim to have a total following of about 600. Some of these, possibly 200, are Jugoslavs the remainder being Italians mainly officered by members of the Italian Army and principally pro-Badoglio. They are armed with tommy-guns, LMG's etc., which were dropped by parachute by our own forces. They stated that they were unable to prevent the destruction of the main bridges but that they had prevented destruction of the banks and certain bridges on the Aquila road . Between 20 and 30 German prisoners were taken and are now held in Rieti prison. Army have been informed of this."

The Citrep expresses the hope that some Italian officers may be sent up to deal with the patriot bands though as yet there has been no serious trouble.

Narni, Acquasparta and Spoleto are all relatively undamaged, in general the food situation is good; a bread ration of 200 grammes has been set. A supply of belting is all that is needed to put mills in operation again.Health situation is reported satisfactory or better everywhere.

In general it may be said that as we go further north the problems of ACC/AMG change somewhat. Supply is always with us but refugees and health become relatively minor concerns, the shortage of officials and the political-military questions posed by the partisans become more important.

4. Granai del Popolo

At a meeting of the Italian Cabinet on 22 June a decree was passed and signed which abolishes former compulsory threshing societies and places and places responsibility of licensing threshers and the collection of threshing statistics on the Ispettorato Agrario Provinciale. The licenses of violators of threshing regulations will be immediately revoked.

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The Minister of Justice failed to present the all important "penalty decree" to the last meeting of the Cabinet despite strong pressure on all sides. This failure to act was quite unexpected in view of the fact that speedy action on the first day after the new ministry was organized resulted in two new agricultural decrees being signed.

The harvest is well under way - approximately 50% completed in Regions I, II, III, IV, V, VI, and VII. Italian agricultural technicians report that growing weather is best within their memory. Yield almost as good as in years with normal fertilizer.

Binder twine has arrived in almost normal quantities but somewhat late. It is felt, however that this will not seriously prejudice the harvesting of grain in the south

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as the farmers have improvised and worked longer hours in order to prevent loss. I ... ly occupied areas time is short and transport difficulties continue.

Colonel ... has arrived in ... since as per schedule and has assisted materially in keeping down labor costs. ... presents some difficulties these are stated to be under control.

... and next week members of the ... have visited Regions III, IV, V, and VIII.

Rome

5. Early in the week accounts from Rome painted a rather sombre picture. Food was scarce - up to the 21st the bread ration was 100 grammes a day, no better than under the Germans- water was short, lack of power had also caused the rationing of light and there were complaints of requisitioning and the too carefree behavior of too many troops. It was clear that our prestige was suffering. Later reports indicate that while the honeymoon period is apparently over a happy marriage is still possible. The water supply has now been raised to 65 % of normal and by July 15th it will be 80% of normal. The bread ration as such increased to 150 grammes. This is good in itself and as an indication of good intentions and future prospects. Also what bread there is is white and this is a delightful novelty to the war-tried Romans. Lighting is still a problem. There is still too high a percentage of restaurant meals served to soldiers. But there is every indication that AFHQ and ACC are both aware of the situation and are tackling it energetically.

The Roman Press, which is quite free, shows a commendable patience and understanding. Newspapers express gratitude for the bread ration and for General Clark's efforts to relieve the restaurant situation. They comment favorably on the new government and realize that it is a new triumph for democracy that such a government could be formed in the midst of a hard fought campaign. They made much of the appointment of Col. Poletti and look forward to him as the man who can and will provision the city and get rid of Fascists.- They do state frankly that there has been too much requisitioning of cars and point out that since farmers are afraid to take their cars on the road requisitioning has seriously affected the supply of vegetables and fruit.

The Rome press created quite an uproar when it became known that Gigli, the well known Roman singer and suspected of strong Fascist sympathies, was to take part in a concert for Allied troops. Finally his participation was cancelled. Gigli admitted he had sung for German troops and said he was quite willing to sing for British, American or even Chinese troops if they ever came to Rome. But as for an Italian audience - never again!

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The first press conference of the new Regional Commissioner was widely reported both in Italy and abroad. He said the Black Market must be rigorously suppressed. Fascists - efficient or not must go and everything would be done to bring up supplies, for which more trucks are absolutely essential. 300,000 people in Rome are getting one meal a day in the soup kitchens. It consists of dried vegetables, soup and olive oil. The Vatican and some industrial organizations have helped. ACC will attempt to revive the Rome Central Market and will fix prices for vegetables, fruit and milk.

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Commissioner and Maj. Hamlet has taken up his duties as acting RLO.

7. Interior

The Interior S/C, as will have been evident from AMG reports quoted above, is busily engaged in searching for properly qualified Italian officials to send up to the recently liberated areas. There is something of a shortage especially in the higher categories of civil service. Since AMG personnel will of necessity have to be more thinly spread as more of Italy is liberated, the problem is one that will be with us for some time. The shortage might be more alarming were it not for the fact that as we advance in the North, good men occasionally emerge from their hiding places or come down from the hills. Fortunately too the Interior S/C has foreseen this emergency and has been making preparations for it over the last few months.

8. What They Tell Us

The discovery that paper mills in the vicinity of Rome are in condition to operate promises to relieve to the shortage of newsprint....The C/C of remote Lampedusa has done so well that the townspeople want to re-name the main square after him.... Perhaps one day Rome will have a Corso Commissione Alleate and Naples a Piazza Poletti....Treasures from Cassino Monastery were moved in German army vehicles last January. They were handed over to the Vatican authorities at Castel Sentangelo....It will be a hard summer for the Bambini of Region IV; Education is planning on keeping the schools open....Air service from Naples to Rome is now functioning; four flights a day....Main difficulty of move to Rome is shortage of packing cases. The "infiltration" system of moving rather than the "fell swoop" type will take care of this ....5,000 refugees who had been sheltering in the Pope's Castle at Gandolfo have now left. The Castle was only slightly damaged in the fighting....It is reported that the new Minister of Grace and Justice has been seen in his office working in his shirt sleeves.... This augurs well for speedier turning of the wheels of Justice....In an interview with an American correspondent, Mascagni the composer of "Cavaliera Rusticana" said it was true that he had conducted operas dressed in Nazi uniform. But this was only a formality and had no meaning....We have had some fascinating stationery from Rome; one sheet labelled "Appunto per il Duce" and perforated with the letters 'SQUADRISTI', another bearing the letterhead Der Deutsche Kommandant von Rom....Reconnaissance discovered only 5 cases of Malaria in Foggia and, oddly enough, no flies....Italian officials in Calabria are a little lax these days; they feel the Allies will soon leave the South....Plans are being prepared for proclamations and propaganda to placate partisans.... Distinguished Member of the Commission has visited Elba not on the heels of the Bataillon du Choc.

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(6)

An American correspondent reports that the Consul General of the Republic of San Marino has called on the ACC to remind them that San Marino is a neutral and has never declared war on the Allies, although actually hemmed in by Italian territory; at the moment nobody at ACC HQ. seems to be quite sure about this....Region IX is forming. Earmarking is complete and the bodies should be deliverable next week (the phraseology is not ours)....Peri students are in commotion again. Not Oxonese this time - too many of the local girls going out with Allied soldiers....Fish are being imported from Sicily for Naples and Rome. Arrangements are being made by the Agricultural S/C to allow fishing in Region IV....Don't think why but we like this paragraph from Region III Order No. 80 somehow intriguing "Regional Order No. 18 (dealing with restriction of prostitution) is hereby repealed without prejudice to anything done thereunder."

THOMAS G. BERGIN,
Major AUS,
Deputy Director of Public Relations

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Distribution

1-10	Regional Commissioner, Region I
11-18	" " " II
19-24	" " " III
25-33	" " " IV
34-43	" " " V
44-48	" " " VI
49-53	" " " VII
54-58	" " " VIII
59-63	" " " IX
64	Senior Civil Affairs Officer AGO 5th Army
65	" " " " 8th Army
66	Chief Commissioner
67	Deputy Chief Commissioner
68	Executive Commissioner
69	Deputy Executive Commissioner
70	Vice Pres. Administrative Section
71	Col. D.S. Keans Chief Asst. Economic Section
72-78	Col. Charles W. Spofford Asst. Chief of Staff G-5
79	Col. A.E. Young, Security Branch
80-84	Mr. Alexander Kirk, U.S. Rep. on Advisory Council for Ita
85	Maj. T.L. Bullock PWB Sec Army AGO
86	Maj. J.P. Isaacson DPM. Advance Hq. AGO
87	Mr. John Reyner , PWB
88	Experimental Det. G-2 Rm. 41 Bank of Naples Bldg.
89	Sir Noel Charles, Brit. Rep. on Adv. Council for Italy
90-91	Information Division
92	Asst. Chief of Staff G-2 Sec. PWB
93	L.C.L.N. 126 Via Alessandro Pimonte
94	Maeign Henry Roberts, R&A Branch G28 Via Tasso 2nd Floor
95	Secretary General
96	Major E.T. De Wolf, Wine Allied Sub-Commission
97	File AG PWB
98	Lt. Col. T.V. Smith, Education Sub-Commission
99	Lt. Col. R.C.E. Snider, Interior Sub-Com.
100	Col. G.T. U. John Legal Sub-Com.
101	Lt. C.R. Harris Property Control Sub-Com
102	Brig. G.B. Parkinson, Public Health Sub.-Com.
103	Col. P.G. Kirk Public Safety Sub.-Com.
104	Lt. Col. W.A. Harmon, Agriculture Sub.-Com.
105	Col. J.F. Greffey-Smith, Finance Sub.Com
106	Col. Edward F. Foley, Finance Sub-Com
107	Lt. Col. L.A. Jenny, Pub. Wks. & Utilities Sub-Com.
108	Col. W.J. Legg, Food Sub-Com.
109	Col. W. Evens, Industry & Commerce Sub-Com.
110	Lt. Col. L.E. Vining, Transportation Sub-Com.
111	Col. J.R. Bain. Labour Sub-Com
112	Mr. Ian Campbell, Shipping Sub-Com
113	Col. C. Findley, Displaced Persons, Sub-Com.
114	R. Admiral C.E. Morgan, Navy Sub-Com
115	Maj. Gen. L. Browning, Army Sub-Com.
116	Air Vice-Marshal W.A.E. Bowen-Buscarlet, Air Sub-Com
117	Col. J.E. Henderson, Communications & Posts, Sub-Com
118	Maj. J.A. Campbell, War Material Disposal Sub-Com
119	Adjutant AGO

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66	Chief Commissioner
67	Deputy Chief Commissioner
68	Executive Commissioner
69	Deputy Executive Commissioner
70	Vice Pres. Administrative Section
71	Col. D.C. Adams Chief Asst. Economic Section
72-78	Col. Charles W. Spofford Asst. Chief of Staff G-5
79	Col. A.E. Young, Security Manager
80-84	Mr. Alexander Wink, U.S. Rep. on Advisory Council for Ita
85	Maj. T.L. Bullock FSO 5th Army ly
86	Maj. J.E. Lescesos DFR. Advance Hq. ACC
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95	Secretary General
96	Major E.T. De Weld, Vice Chm. Sub-Commission
97	File 26 PRB
98	Lt. Col. T.V. Smith, Education Sub-Commission
99	Lt. Col. R.C.E. Spicer, Internal Sub-Com.
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117	Col. J.K. Henderson, Communications & Posts, Sub-Com
118	Maj. E.A. Campbell, War Materiel Disposal Sub-Com
119	Adjutant ACC
120	Sir Peter Grigg, War Office, London, England
121	Maj. James M. Penick, Finance Sub-Com.

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HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

PRB 26/WB 10

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10 June 1944.

ACC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 10
4 June to 10 June

1. Political

The liberation of Rome set in motion a train of more or less predictable events. On the afternoon of June 5, scarcely 24 hours after the Allies had entered the capital, the King signed at Ravello a document which, while still not an abdication, entrusted the Prince of Piedmont with full powers to sign Royal decrees and to exercise the Royal prerogatives as Lieutenant-General of the Realm. On the following afternoon, June 6, Marshal Badoglio submitted his resignation and those of his government to the Lieutenant-General at the Villa Maria Pia. The Lieutenant-General then requested the Marshal to proceed with the formation of a new government to include political leaders now in Rome. Early on June 8 the Marshal flew from Naples to Rome. He was accompanied by representatives of the parties included in his government, namely Croce (Liberal), Rodino (Christian Democrat), Cerabona (Labour Democrat), Cianca (Action), Longobardi (Socialist), Togliatti (Communist), and Sforza (no party affiliation). At Rome they were joined by their "opposite numbers" in the Rome Committee of Liberation: Casati (Liberal), De Gasperi (Christian Democrat), Ruini (Labour Democrat), Lamalfa (Action), Nenni (Socialist), Scoccimaro (Communist) and Bonomi, head of the Rome Committee of Liberation and a Labour Democrat.

The morning meeting in the Grand Hotel was briefly addressed by General Mason-MacFarlane, who congratulated the Roman group which "had kept the flame burning" and reminded all of their obligations to the Allies. He then left the group to its deliberations. It was apparent at the end of the morning session that Badoglio would not be able to form a government. Accordingly, after lunch he went to the Quirinal and the Lieutenant-General, after having been informed of the situation, sent for Bonomi and asked him to head the new Ministry. Bonomi accepted and by 8 p.m. Friday June 9 the new government had been formed, as follows:-

Prime Minister, Minister of the Interior and Foreign Affairs ..	LABOUR DEMOCRAT	Bonomi
Minister of Education ..	INDEPENDENT	De Ruggiero
Minister of Agriculture ..	COMMUNIST	Gullo
Minister of Labour ..	CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT	Gronchi
Minister of Finance ..	ACTION	Sigilieri
Minister of Communications ..	LABOUR DEMOCRAT	Cerabona
Minister of Public Works ..	SOCIALIST	Romita
Minister of War and Air ..	LIBERAL	Casati
Minister of the Navy ..	INDEPENDENT	De Courten
Minister of Justice ..	CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT	Tupini
Ministers without Portfolio ..	ACTION	Cianca
	LIBERAL	Croce
	CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT	De Gasperi
	LABOUR DEMOCRAT	Ruini
	SOCIALIST	Saragat
	INDEPENDENT	Sforza

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Minister of War and Air	..	LIBERAL	Casati
Minister of the Navy	..	INDEPENDENT	De Courten
Minister of Justice	..	CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT	Tupini
Ministers without Portfolio	..	ACTION	Cianca
		LIBERAL	Croce
		CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT	De Gasperi
		LABOUR DEMOCRAT	Ruini
		SOCIALIST	Saragat
		INDEPENDENT	Sforza
		COMMUNIST	Togliatti

Five of these (Gullo, Cerabona, De Courten, Sforza and Togliatti) are carried over from the last ministry. Under-secretaries have yet to be named.

Bonomi, the new Prime Minister, is 75 years old and has had a long political career. He is a pre-war socialist of the more moderate sort. He was a member of the first National Government (1916) and had a place in the Ministries of Orlando and Nitti. As Minister of War in the Giolitti Cabinet of 1920 he worked in close contact with Badoglio, and with Sforza negotiated the Treaty of Rapallo. From

/ June

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June 1921 to February 1922 he was Prime Minister. He ran as opposition candidate to the Fascists in 1924 and after his defeat retired to private life.

The interest in what may be contained in the political treasure chest or Pandora's box of Rome has somewhat obscured the other activities of the Government. The Ministers have been active, however. Aldisio went to Manfredonia to decorate the Archbishop and say a kind word for the clergy. Togliatti spoke at Cerignola on the rather macabre occasion of the exhumation and reburial of 11 Italian soldiers shot by the Germans. Bonomi made a tour of the refugee camps and the Minister of War visited Italian fighting units. The Ministry of Communications submitted a list of more than 50 names of officials for epuration and found time to busy itself with the bus lines about Salerno.

It is perhaps significant that the Council, at the meeting of June 6, chose the occasion of national rejoicing to declare null and void the Franco-Italian armistice of 1940.

2. Reports from Rome.

Informal gleanings from correspondents and returning official visitors indicate that the first days in Rome were festive, occasionally hilarious and inspiring. The troops were well received and if the carabinieri were more heartily welcomed than any other unit, as reports indicate, it was more from patriotic fervour than from any fear of our soldiery. For our soldiers behaved very well; there was no vandalism, no truculence. There was a good deal of gaiety - who indeed could resist a jeep full of flowers? - but cases of drunkenness were rare. Correspondents think the soldiers were truly awed by the city, one or two more cynically pointed out that the men were tired and alcohol fabulously expensive. There was some disturbance caused by armed partisan bands who, fresh from their triumph over the Italian African Police, roamed the streets looking for Fascists and affixing the label "spia dei tedeschi" (prepared in advance) on the windows of shops owned by German sympathizers.

The Crown Prince or Lieutenant-General of the Realm (which of these names will stick history has yet to decide), who flew to Rome on the afternoon of the 8th, received a remarkable and spontaneous reception from the moment that his car left the airport, and dense enthusiastic crowds mobbed the car when he visited the Vatican, where he remained for two hours. A large crowd gave him a further ovation when he appeared on the balcony of the Quirinal on the following day. On the afternoon of the 9th he returned by air to Naples.

On the 7th the Pope held a press conference, surely the first in history and certainly the first papal audience at which a woman clad in slacks was received. His Holiness, harassed by the explosion of flashlight bulbs, spoke briefly to the correspondents, welcoming them but stressing the neutrality of the Holy See and urging all to remember that war could only be justified as a preparation for peace. Each correspondent was given a rosary wrapped in a small envelope bearing the papal arms as a souvenir. The Pope received soldiers of the Catholic faith at stated hours. With this exception anyone visiting Vatican City must go in civilian clothes.

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Rome has suffered very little from air raids, with the exception of the neighbourhood of the railway marshalling yards. Here there was a first-class example of Allied precision bombing. Bomb damage in Rome itself, apart from the University City, was confined to (a) San Lorenzo (b) the Vatican City, where a bomb fell outside the apse of St Peter's, destroying the Vatican mosaic factory but not harming the church and (c) the pyramid of Cestius and a section of the Aurelian slightly damaged by a bomb which fell in the Protestant cemetery. Military guards have been posted on all monuments.

A Swedish correspondent who had been in Rome for more than a year tells us that conditions there have been difficult, particularly

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for the very rich and the very poor. The Germans she thought were "correct, very polite, very hard." It had for some time been impossible to get any kind of medicine or medicaments in the city, the Germans having taken everything. The Roman population, she thought, had behaved a good deal worse than our own soldiers when the Allies entered Rome. It was a case of "expecting and taking not only complete freedom but complete license."

3. AMG with the Armies

By Saturday June 10 both Fifth and Eighth Armies were forging ahead so far and so fast that reports of AMG activity were reaching Naples only sporadically and after an interval of days. The line held by forward elements stretched, as far as could be ascertained, roughly through or north of Tarquinia - Viterbo - Magliano - Fara - Arsoli - (just south of) Avezzano - Sulmona - Chieti - Pescara. Little opposition was being encountered by the Fifth Army, whose chief problem was now supply and communications: hard fighting still characterized the German retreat in the centre: on the Adriatic coast the enemy was beginning to retire, and troops of an Indian division there were advancing "faster than at first expected."

The Eighth Army report lists refugees as "the chief headache in newly occupied territory." This is due to the destruction and displacement of population in the Cassino - Pontecorvo - Piedimonte - Pignataro area. Some 5,000 refugees have been evacuated: another 7,000 (in the Veroli area) are being held in mobile camps and holiday centres: but the number is still far short of the expected total, and Group-Captain Benson states that "it is impossible to prevent civilians creeping in over the hills into these uninhabited towns" and that the problem "may last a considerable time."

Territory newly occupied by the Eighth Army divides itself into (a) the Cassino plain, where nearly everything has been destroyed and which is "sealed off" against entry of civilians and (b) the territory behind the Hitler line, which is not heavily damaged except in isolated spots. Reports available now show that Frosinone, originally destined for Provincial Headquarters, is badly damaged, every single article in every house looted, doors and windows removed, water supply wrecked beyond repair: the Frosinone team will move to Fiuggi, which apparently escaped intact, including the home of Marshal Badoglio there, which was found complete with domestic staff and blossoming rose-garden.

Sora was found in good condition except for a looted hospital and damaged water supply: its normal population of 22,500 had increased to 30,000, while at Ferentino, 50% destroyed but with water and electric supplies functioning, only 1,000 out of the normal 15,000 inhabitants were found. In Veroli refugees from Cassino had swelled thepopulation from 19,000 to 27,000. In completely damaged Anagni four hospitals were found in working order with 700 beds.

Anagni provided an example of difficulties with partisan troops, which also occurred in Rome. One band of 400, fully equipped with artillery and machine-guns, had no friendly feelings at all towards a second band which "apparently owe allegiance to the Prince of Piedmont."

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Anagni provided an example of difficulties with partisan troops, which also occurred in Rome. One band of 400, fully equipped with artillery and machine-guns, had no friendly feelings at all towards a second band which "apparently owe allegiance to the Prince of Piedmont." Commenting on the situation in Anagni, Group-Captain Benson reported:

"The town was full of flags of three descriptions (1) the Italian flag with the Royal Crown (2) the Italian flag without the Royal crown (3) the Hammer and Sickle. The two factions of partisans were not friendly and unfortunately the Canadians had allowed the partisans to make a formal parade in the streets. The CAO got hold of the Commanding Officers of the two factions of partisans and apparently persuaded them to kiss each other on both cheeks and they swore eternal friendship. The result is doubtful and the situation in still explosive."

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Eighth Army reports no epidemic or unusual disease apart from scabies: a lack of medical equipment and ambulances; satisfactory

/ food

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food supplies, balanced 3-ton packs being placed in every town and village occupied, usually within 24 hours of capture: excellent wheat crop prospects and less damage to crops than expected, though harvesting among minefields won't be easy: our mobile carabinieri doing excellent work, and "very well received."

The Red Patch, troop newspaper of the First Canadian Division, wrote on June 3:-

'"AMG (Commandos)" - that's going to be the suggested shoulder flash for the AMG personnel if they continue to perform their duty with the enthusiasm displayed on this front in the past few days.

'Rushing supplies into Pontecorvo, the staff was at work long before the burial squad got around to Germans who fell in attempting to keep the Hitler line intact ..... But the quick work displayed by the AMG staff at Pontecorvo was slow compared with their record at Ceprano, where Pfc Bruno Pelicano (Brooklyn, N.Y.) arrived with nine tons of supplies before the Germans had evacuated. This was fast work, and a little hot, too, but still the zeal of AMG was not satisfied, and it was only with the feat of a major who captured six paratroopers at Aroe, that AMG officials modestly admitted, "We're doing a bit of a job."'

The Fifth Army reported on June 3 that the communes of Patrica, Supino, Graignano, Velletri, Morolo, Sgurgola, Collefevio, Lanuvio, Gorga, Carpenito Romano, Valmontone, Genzano, Montelanico, Segni and Labico had been taken over. With the exception of Valmontone (very heavily damaged) and Velletri and Lanuvio (considerably damaged) these communes were in fairly good shape and "their only need was food." There was no refugee problem except in the Velletri area, from which 2,000 had been evacuated. The Provincial Commissioner (Lt Col Morton) had set up his Headquarters in Littoria. The hospital at Sezze was in excellent condition and the general standard of health "gave no cause for concern."

Rome City was entered by Corps SCAOs on June 4. The following report by the SCAO 2 Corps, first AMG officer to enter, was the earliest news received after the fall of the city.

"1. The SCAO AMG 2 Corps left on his special mission to Rome with one of the Task Forces at 1900 hours and reached Rome at 1330 hours 4 June. On account of the fighting at the gates, entrance could not be made very far into Rome. The SCAO and driver, T/5 Giralimo, found a guide and by-passed the fighting and got some distance into Rome and posted Proclamation 1, 2, 3, 4 Notices 1 and 2 and General Order 1 at Caserma Vigili del Fuoco, Via Tuscolana, 126.

"2. It was impossible to get further into Rome at that time because of the firing from snipers and machine-gunners. The SCAO posted the other set of proclamations and notices at Campidoglio at 7 a.m. 5 June.

"3. Rome is unhurt, the water system intact and the water cold as ice. The people were getting 100 grams of bread per day. They do not seem to be suffering

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"1. The SCAO AMG 2 Corps left on his special mission to Rome with one of the Task Forces at 1900 hours and reached Rome at 1330 hours 4 June. On account of the fighting at the gates, entrance could not be made very far into Rome. The SCAO and driver, T/5 Giralimo, found a guide and by-passed the fighting and got some distance into Rome and posted Proclamation 1, 2, 3, 4 Notices 1 and 2 and General Order 1 at Caserma Vigili del Fuoco, Via Tuscolana, 126.

"2. It was impossible to get further into Rome at that time because of the firing from snipers and machine-gunners. The SCAO posted the other set of proclamations and notices at Campidoglio at 7 a.m. 5 June.

"3. Rome is unhurt, the water system intact and the water cold as ice. The people were getting 100 grams of bread per day. They were enthusiastic in their welcome, and do not seem to be suffering for food. I have almost a Jeep load of flowers thrown by the people in Frascati and Rome."

Later information from the Corps showed that the Germans left two days food behind. There was a certain amount of civilian transport left, which should help in the distribution of food; but some anxiety was felt about the water supply, as one of the main sources was damaged. The city was intact except for demolitions of military installations, such as the Arsenal. The Vatican, which contains most of Rome's art treasures, had not been touched, the main telephone system was not destroyed and eleven of the fourteen

/ bridges

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bridges across the Tiber were still standing.

The remainder of the Governatorato outside the city was found to be almost entirely depopulated, the inhabitants having fled to the city. The towns of Ostia and Fiumicino were in the same condition as Littoria - superficially damaged, but the main structures standing.

In the Alban Hills area the communes of Genzano, Ariccia, Castel Gandolfo, Marino, Grottaferrata, Nemi, Rocca di Papa, Monte Porzio Catone, Monte Compatri, Colonna and Frascati were taken over. With the exception of Rocca di Papa, which was undamaged, these communes were all in about the same condition, with the main towns largely destroyed. Food was universally short. On the average about 10% of the population was found on first entry and a similar number came back each day from either Rome or the surrounding hills. At Nemi, the museum containing the famous boats dating from the reign of Caligula was burnt by the Germans before leaving on May 31. At Tivoli the Villa d'Este was slightly damaged by a shell which fell in the gardens.

It was reported that "Goum trouble" still continued and that the supply position was causing anxiety. The feeding of Rome is, however, well under control: the initial ration of bread has been fixed at 150 grams pending the collection of exact figures of needs and numbers: later it will be raised to conform to ration scales in Southern Italy. Food is available for two million people for 30 days, apart from reserves: Anzio is handling 200 tons per day and Civitavecchia will soon be doing the same.

Littoria and Frosinone Provinces were handed over to Region IV on June 10.

4. Granai del Popolo

Three measures designed to exploit conditions favouring improvement in the agricultural situation have been whipped into shape by the Agricultural Sub-Commission. One is already a Royal Decree and the others, approved by the Price Committee, ACC, and Signore Gullo, Minister for Agriculture, will become decrees as soon as the Minister is in a position to sign them.

The first decree freezes rents and leases for one year past the expiration date. This measure will protect the peasants from greedy landlords who might be tempted to rent their lands to other farmers for larger fees.

Prices of certain produce have been approved as follows and will become law with the signature of the Minister of Agriculture:

Horse beans	..	..	..	675 lire per quintal
Dry beans	..	..	..	1,250 lire per quintal
Chick peas	..	..	..	1,000 lire per quintal
Chick vetch	..	..	..	750 lire per quintal
Lentils	..	..	..	1,300 lire per quintal
Peas	..	..	..	1,050 lire per quintal

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Peas	..	..	..	1,050 lire per quintal
Corn	..	..	..	650 lire per quintal
Oats	..	..	..	650 lire per quintal
Rye	..	..	..	900 lire per quintal

The third measure blocks the above products on the farm under jurisdiction of the Communal Committees.

5. From Here and There.

Tinned food is proving a flop in Sicily: the prices are said to be too high: maybe they don't like it ..... Colonel Zellars telegraphs "Grain crop best in 20 years" ..... Civitavecchia is scheduled to be open for unloading 200 tons of food per day on June

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23 ..... Region VIII is rapidly coming to life: fourteen officers and twenty-four OR under Colonel Pennycuick left on June 10 ..... Major Drage and party left on June 10 to fight for Rome accommodation ..... Ration card "needs" are now down to 71 per cent: a decision on increased rations is expected on June 15 ..... Region IV is making a temporary HQ between Rome and Tivoli ..... Campobasso Province has been handed over to Region V ..... There is now a daily courier service between Naples and Rome and an air courier service between Naples and Crotone..... On May 31 a broadcast from London in French described AMG reorganization of life in Italian towns and villages and quoted the distribution of food to 5,000 people in Littoria and the building up of reserves in Norma for 10,000 refugees for two months ..... The efforts of the Education Sub-Commission to reorganize the Italian Boy Scouts have met with great success, but the Italians find the non-sectarian, apolitical attitude hard to understand ..... The Catholic "esploratori" have been revived and there are to be communist troops, socialist troops and presumably others ..... Shortage of Italian officials in recently liberated areas may somewhat modify our attitude toward Fascist functionaries: not soft-boiled but not too hard-boiled is the watchword of the moment. Perhaps Rome or Colonel Spicer will come to the rescue.with a shipment of pure prefetti and unsullied sindaci ..... Soldiers are pouring in from Sardinia with regularity to help with the Foggia harvest. Another 1,000 arrived 10 June, swelling the total to over 4,000. Colonel Bellars, we understand, telegraphed for 10,000 but possibly added an unintentional zero.

6. Political Note from an Esteemed Contemporary

BADOGLIO GETS OLD HEAVE-HO AS ITLE CHIEF

(The Maple Leaf, Saturday, 10 June)

LIONEL FIELDEN,
Major,
Public Relations Director.

Editor's Note:

The liberation of Rome with its glamour and its implications

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Editor's Note:

The liberation of Rome with its glamour and its implications and the resultant political activity occupy a good deal of our space this week. We cannot say we regret the occasion, but we do regret that the emphasis on this event and our lack of space prevent us from giving more attention to the daily work of ACC/AMG, intensified by the present emergency. Necessary adjustments, particularly those of personnel and transport, have been made with efficiency, speed and altruism, and the Regional Commissioners deserve congratulations for their hard work and cooperative spirit.

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HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

SECRET

PRB 26/WB 9

3 June 1944.

ACC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 9
26 May to 3 June

1. Political

The Council of Ministers met on June 1 and dealt with routine matters, such as the promotion of magistrates and the administration of communal finances. They also gingerly brought up the question of raising the salaries of state employees, a matter which will have to be discussed with ACC. But all political news does not stem from council meetings. Very significant is the prospective merging of the Avanti and the Unita, respectively the Socialist and Communist papers of Naples. The left, at least for the moment, seems to be solidifying. On the other hand, Omodeo's attempt to strip the University of Bari of its supplementary courses was bitterly and successfully opposed by the Rector, faculty and students - no doubt all surprised to find themselves on the same side. This, as well as the continuing strike in Naples schools, has harmed the prestige of the Minister and consequently added strength to the factions of his party still in opposition.

Arangio-Ruiz, Minister of Justice, pointed out in an interview that the statutes make the punishment of old Fascists very difficult; as things stand conspirators are punished only when unsuccessful. He has confidence, however, in Sforza's ability to deal with the situation. As for the revision of the civil code so sadly mutilated by Fascism, that will have to wait until the Government can call on the legal skill of the whole country. The immediate task of the Ministry is to remove the specific Fascist legislation which impedes recovery and to supply with efficiency and dispatch whatever emergency measures may be needed.

The Ministry of Communications has announced that passenger service between Naples and Salerno will begin June 1. One train per day each way; either through overs_ght or caution no schedule was given. There is also to be a regular freight service between Naples and Bari and in Sicily the work of re-establishing train service "ferve" (i.e. is proceeding with boiling intensity). The Minister, Cerabona, who has visited Potenza and Matera, is pressing for establishment of bus service to link smaller communes to main centres.

Gullo has sent a circular to High Commissioners and Prefects, stressing the importance of the granai del popolo and urging them to assure the cooperation of consumers as well as state agencies in directing the campaign.

The hands-across-the-sea item of this week is supplied by the telegrams sent by Zaniboni, Head of the Committee for Refugees, to Myron Taylor and Toscanini, thanking them for their interest and proposed aid.

2. Regional Commissioners Conference

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2. Regional Commissioners Conference

The Chief Commissioner's Conference, held on May 30 at the Provincia, Naples, was concluded in one day - somewhat at the expense of the Heads of Sub-Commissions, whose reports (in the afternoon) were punctuated and sometimes punctured by the five-minute red light warning. The Regional Commissioners (in the morning) exceeded their allotted time by 1½ hours. A satisfactory rather than spectacular record of work emerged: humour was provided by Colonel Zellars who appeared at the rostrum bearing a sheaf of wheat; and got a round of applause for his manner rather than his matter. Colonel Findlay's great stature and stentorian voice also enlivened the proceedings. Speeches which attracted special attention were those of Brigadier

/ Carr

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Carr, Brigadier Dunlop and Colonel Hancock. Group-Captain Benson, who had come specially from 8th Army, gave an extremely interesting picture of AMG work during the advance. Operations (and perhaps the wishes of Rome) prevented the attendance of General Hume and his staff officers.

The Chief Commissioner quoted General Alexander as saying that ACC was "his third Army"; and congratulated AMG 5th and 8th Armies on their efficient work in recent weeks. Their spokesmen thought the situation well in hand so far, but pointed out that it would be more serious with the return of fugitives, now hiding in the hills, to the destroyed towns. All banks had been found demolished or closed. The officials had fled, as had the mayors. Health was in general good, though there were cases of under-nourishment and exposure. There was a shortage of doctors. 5th Army AMG had taken over 29 towns and II Corps had handled 11,000 refugees. The coordination between the Army AMG and Regions IV and V had been well worked out.

Harvest prospects were reported good everywhere: the wheat price was thought too low in Regions I and III. Sicily had discovered forged 1,000 lire notes to the tune of 40,000,000 lire; examples, excellent, were handed round and may possibly have been handed back.

Service Sub-Commissions reported very favourably on Italian cooperation: Communications stated that Naples Post Office was now handling a thousand wires per day and a million letters per month; Education thought that student strikes had been exaggerated: Food noted that twenty days rations had been allocated for Rome.

Food and the harvest were the central features of the Executive Commissioner's Conference on May 31. Colonel Legg explained that in order to enforce the Chief Commissioner's decision that rations must be stepped up it was absolutely essential to cut down the percentage of ration-card holders to 65. Regional Commissioners were asked to suggest their minimum figures which varied widely, Sicily claiming a need for 74%, Matera 80 - 90%, Reggio 92% and Sardinia 63%. In the Foggia and Campobasso area, it was pointed out, the average might be about 53% for cereals but would be 80% for oil and fats and 100% for sugar. When all the figures had been coordinated it was found that the overall average was still 73%. It seems therefore that if rations are to be increased further reductions in the number of ration-card holders must somehow be effected.

Brigadier Lush, speaking of the harvest, said it was a matter of importance to all; the good name of ACC may depend on our success in filling the granai del popolo. Methods of inducing (by some pronounced seducing) the farmer were thoroughly examined. A system of communal rewards has been worked out and it is felt that the individual farmer's heart - and grain - may be won by promises of shoes and/or fertilizer; ways and means of getting a [illegible] considered. As for the dilatory it was

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3. Treatment of Fascists

On May 24 the Chief Commissioner issued a directive governing the treatment of Fascist officials encountered during the present advance. It is pointed out that such officials have been serving the Republican Fascist Government at a time when Liberated Italy under a properly constituted government was co-belligerent with us, that they must be dismissed automatically from their posts, and that there will be greater possibilities, as we advance north, of finding suitable anti-Fascist personnel. A list has been prepared and issued showing Italian officials to be dealt with (a) by arrest and internment (b) by arrest and handing over to the Italian Government and (c) by dismissal only and the retention of liberty. Officials not on the list will be arrested and held in custody.

4. AMG with Fifth Army

On Tuesday May 30 HQ AMG Fifth Army moved to a forward position. With them went 2,800 Carabinieri, a Fire-Fighting Unit, a British and American Red Cross Unit, and other personalities whose names have been censored.

Water, light and fuel supply presented usual difficulties: six breaks found in aqueduct: power unit needed: canvas tanks and wine barrels used temporarily: limited water supply expected within a week. Electric sub-station at Fossanova set for demolition and exploded, but one generator in working condition. Shortage of labour and transport for trucking civilian supplies from shipside and unloading at AMG dump. Finance guards are being used to unload civilian supplies at the dump as civilian labour is not available.

A sitrep of June 1 lists nine additional communes falling under AMG control. Conditions show a surprising variation; occasionally a commune, such as Rocca Massima, will be found untouched by war; some such as Cisterna and Aprilia have been completely destroyed. There are all gradations in between. Many are mined and some still under shell-fire. The condition of the town of course affects the population; in general after a day or two the inhabitants stream back if there is anything to return to, and are often accompanied by others whose villages no longer exist. Thus for example the population of Fondi and Terracina has increased by one third, while on the other hand Gaeta is down to half its size. It has been found possible to channel the returning stream by strategic placing of relief supplies. Italian officials are not available in any great number; in Littoria Province only the technicians have returned; the Interior Sub-Commission has been asked to send up provincial officers recommended by the Government.

Temporary centres have been set up for refugees. Supply is something of a problem, food is arriving at Gaeta by schooner and truck and there are four other centres, but transport from there on is difficult and the small staff in charge (2 officers and 5 men to supervise 5 centres spread over 130 miles) is badly overworked. Health is in general good: six of the recently acquired communes have hospitals and five others have been provided with ambulatori. There is a serious shortage of doctors, equipment and, of course, transport. Public Safety has found the situation satisfactory; reinforcements of Carabinieri are arriving. Fifteen officers have visited thirty-one communes

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Things are moving fast. Nettuno, Rome Province, has now been handed over to provincial administration, Velletri and Tivoli CAOs have reported to Corps SCAO. Littoria is rapidly filling up and the people already settling down to harvesting. Spearhead CAOs have been directed to consider the harvest a first priority job. AMG has been so close to the combat line that it has captured some German soldiers; in Norma an officer found a bus line running normally and a restaurant still open

Under miscellaneous the sitrep comments laconically: "Goum trouble" still continues.

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5. AMG with 8th Army

The latest report, dated June 2, states that CAOs have been placed in Atina, Frosinone and Arpino. Atina was found very badly damaged, with 1,000 inhabitants and large numbers of refugees coming in. Frosinone was empty and about 50% damaged. Arpino is reported "in good shape". At Ceprano the paper-mill machinery was found undamaged, with a large stock of paper. A representative of the Displaced Persons Sub-Commission had been moved into Ferentino but no report had yet been received from there.

A report from Major Bullock dated May 30 states:

"(a) Towns being occupied now by AMG Eighth Army are partly standing. They draw more refugees but present better physical facilities for administration. We find senior municipal officials all gone and no Carabinieri, who are said to have been imprisoned by the Germans. The exodus of Fascist officials simplifies the question of security. AMG moves up Carabinieri from the south and finds minor municipal officials cooperative.

"(b) ARCE. The town fell yesterday. AMG sent in two officers at once, who took five German prisoners before getting down to work. Only ten per cent of the town is destroyed and the people were parading in their Sunday best to welcome us. Food and medical supplies went up immediately.

"(c) CEPRANO. The CAO entered the town Sunday afternoon and found people streaming back. Food, medical supplies, doctors and Carabinieri were moved in at once.

"(d) PONTECORVO. Numerous refugee women in this shattered town were raped Saturday night and Sunday morning by Senegalese troops of the Fifth Army. AMG Liaison Officer, Canadian Corps, acted quickly and the French authorities took strong measures. Refugees are being fed, are receiving medical care and are being cleared as quickly as possible. French troops found and mounted guard on a library in the Monastery. Lt Garigue was sent yesterday by AMG Eighth Army and removed the books to VENAFRO for safe-keeping until instructions are received from the Sub-Commission on Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives.

"(e) ROCCASECCA, birthplace of St Thomas Aquinas, is approximately half destroyed. The normal population is just under 8,000. Nearly 5,000 residents have returned and 1,600 refugees from surrounding villages have come down from the hills. They are being accommodated in the schools, but will begin to move to their homes today. Reaction of the people to white flour is touching; the bread they had under the Germans is foul, greenish stuff. All senior municipal officials cleared out with the Germans, but some clerks remained and are working well under a new Sindaco appointed after checking by Captain Comstock, CAO. The parish priest remained and his attitude and work have been beyond praise.

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"(f) GOLDRAGONE. This little town in the Liri Valley northwest of Roccasecca is becoming a refugee centre. Damage is comparatively light."

/ 6.

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6 From Southern Littoria

A CAO gives us the following sidelights on life in the forward areas. One town, cleared of inhabitants by the Germans as long ago as last September, had taken to the hills en masse but had retained its communal organization so successfully that the Sindaco was ready to produce ration-cards on 24-hours notice. In a few days he had the machinery of the town running smoothly - only to be jailed by the CIC on charges which the CAO found insufficient and got him released. Query by the CAO - in moments of urgency, must CIC and FSS override Civil Affairs?

The people are in general grateful for relief measures, but a substantial number have asked: Where do we get sugar? How soon do we get cigarettes? Bread is of great importance; even though many of the returning refugees had been living on grass and roots they did not take kindly to biscuits and life is hard for the CAO until the bakeries start running. Health is good save for scabies, but undernourishment and weakness are so general that it is impossible for the workers to stand an eight-hour shift: they simply collapse.

The destruction of property by the Germans has been thorough and systematic: one town of some size has not so much as a single chair left intact. Mines still interfere with the progress of work; the peasants don't dare go into the fields and in some cases the dead still await burial. In one particularly gruesome town (Castelforte), a mine has been attached to each body - and there are many.

The population of occupied towns increases rapidly. In one case the initial 170 found when the troops came in has already swelled to over 15,000.

7. Odds and Ends

Fine Arts Sub-Commission states that "... the report of German behaviour (in Fifth Army Area) in regard to churches and looting is far the worst yet received..." ..... AAI are anxious that the fullest publicity be given in cases of sabotage and thefts of signal lines, which is causing concern ..... General Alexander opened the new Welfare Centre in the Royal Palace, Naples, on Saturday, June 3. It provides three restaurants, three snack bars, three wine bars, a cafeteria, five lounges, an outdoor terrace restaurant, a ballroom, billiards rooms, a map room, even an art studio where budding painters can be taught by Matania: and it can accommodate 10,000 men ..... As to whether the decoration of the Sala d'Ercole with an immense cartoon of a negro playing the saxophone is in good taste, opinions vary: perhaps it may be regarded as only a temporary indication of a better world ... Passes, serially numbered and severely limited, showing occupation and period of stay, are to be made for every member of ACC entering Rome ..... The Excelsior Hotel, Naples, will be open to officers on June 11 ..... Colonel Spofford, Assistant Chief of Staff, G-5, has been visiting HQ Naples ..... "Stars and Stripes" ceases publication in Sicily on June 5 and plans are under discussion for a revival of "Il Giornale di Sicilia", the editorial staff to be nominated by the Comitato di Liberazione ..... The transport situation is getting acute, what with appeals from the forward areas for army vehicles and pleas from the Government for requisitioned cars it seems likely that ACC is on the threshold of a new horse-and-buggy area ..... It is reported

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8. Telephone notes

The latest Rear ACC Headquarters Telephone Directory, tastefully bound in azure and containing a regional map, a number of useful (but polite) Italian phrases for the telphone, and an absolutely lifelike picture of a telephone at rest, has knocked all our telephone fun absolutely sideways with the strict admonition: "This is no time for pleasantries or peace time politeness." The new directory contains some fascinating numbers, ranging from the Royal Motor Pool and the

/ Catering

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Catering Adviser down (or up) to the Public Works Anti (sic) Room and the Waterproofing Officer; we also note that "Italian titles of officers are almost same as in English just slightly more exaggerated" What bothers us about this is whether Colonnello can be classified as an exaggeration of Major. In that case we are in favour of exaggerations.

9. Quote from an esteemed contemporary

"ROME BOMBED WITH CARE"

Headline in "Union Jack" June 3.

LIONEL FIELDEN,
Major,
Public Relations Director.

Distribution as for Bulletin No 8 dated 27 May.

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HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

SECRET

PRB 26/WB 6

27 May 1944.

ACC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 6
21 May to 27 May

1. Political

There has been a good deal of brisk, if relatively unspectacular activity in government circles during the past week. The Council met on Tuesday and Thursday. Obviously the Government must have its eye on Rome and the political developments that will follow its capture, but at least in public statements an attitude of discreet reserve obtains. Between meetings the Council expressed its feeling of solidarity with the Allies, looking to the moment when Italian troops would be allowed to share the risks and the glory of the war of liberation.

The new defascistization law is being prepared with a view to distinguishing between real fascists and those unfortunate to have merely acquired dubious party labels. The draft of a decree to disentangle the Carabinieri from the embrace of the Milizia is nearing final form. A Commissariato has been set up under Soniboni for the material and moral assistance of refugees - a timely action in view of the operational situation.

A central commission for local finances and a Corte dei Conti for general financial control has been set up. The Ministry of Finance has also drafted a number of decrees intended to ease restrictions on industry during the period of reconstruction. The Ministry of Public Instruction - nee National Education - has been given not only a new name but a new and delicate assignment: it will distinguish between the good and the bad in the public monuments of Fascism. The unaesthetic will be destroyed, the better specimens removed to museums, where presumably they will do no harm. National and political qualifications are no longer to be considered in the appointment of University professors - foreigners are now eligible for chairs and "regular political behaviour" is not to be a prerequisite.

On a less materialistic level the Council, affirming a policy of war to the end against the Nazis, expressed its hope for a new world of international collaboration based on the principles of the Atlantic Charter and repeated its conviction that the Italian people had been betrayed and forced into a war against their interests and against their will. The Fascist invasions of other nations are deplored and, specifically, the Government looks to the early liberation of Albania.

From the sublime to the censorious: the Council recommended energetic repressive action against games of chance said to be going on clandestinely in Sale da ballo.

2. AMG on Fifth Army Front

By May 20 CAOs had entered 13 communes: all the towns were heavily damaged, and the vast majority of their populations had

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2. AMG on Fifth Army Front

By May 20 CAOs had entered 13 communes: all the towns were heavily damaged, and the vast majority of their populations had fled. Accurate statistics are obviously impossible while large numbers of people are still in hiding, or moving from place to place. The following figures, however, give some indication of the numbers found in places occupied during the advance:

/ Ausonia

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	Pre-war Population	Population found	
Ausonia	3,641	1	
Castelnuovo	1,070	-	
Coreno Ausonia	2,312	100	
San Giorgio sul Liri ..	2,704	8	
San Ambrogio	1,456	300	or more
S Andrea	1,944	200	
S Appollinare	2,959	50	
Castelforte	10,870	350	
Spigno	2,524	-	
Vallemaio	1,658	-	
Esperia	6,462	-	
Gaeta	19,127	1,500	
Itri	6,645	3,500	

People have been streaming back into the towns since their capture: by May 23 there were 9,000 people in Gaeta and 8,000 in Itri.

On May 20 about 11,000 refugees had been handled in II Corps Area; the policy was to send as few as possible to the rear, and a block had been established to stop an eastward exodus from Formia. Large numbers of sick and wounded were treated at the two AMG tented hospitals, also at Sessa, and at the Refugee Centre at Minturno. A few cases of typhoid were reported, but in general the health situation gave no cause for concern. Law and order were reported good except for cases of rape by native troops. (On May 22 Fifth Army AMG reported in this connection that "reports are continually being received of looting, beatings, rapes and murders ..... there is no doubt that many of these reports are substantially correct and that the refugees reaching II Corps Area contain many families who have fled in terror from the Ghoums". On the same day the SCAC CEF interviewed the French Chief of Staff, who promised to issue a Corps order in strong terms.)

Food supplies were made difficult by the lack of ovens: by May 23 the stock of biscuits was rapidly running out. The Food Sub-Commission, however, were able to despatch 40 tons on May 22 and by May 24 bakeries were being started in newly constructed ovens: at Ausonia, for instance, the first loaf was "ceremoniously taken out of the oven at 1600 hours" and on May 24 a regular bread ration of 150 grams was issued. By May 26 nine tons of food had arrived at Terracina from Carinola and been distributed: several tons were stored in Minturno; a warehouse at Gaeta (the harbour having been cleared of mines) was being supplied by schooner from Baia. Lenola, Pico and Pontecorvo had been inspected; the first two were almost destroyed, the last completely. Itri and Sperlonga had also been taken over and had sufficient food to last until the end of the month. Monte S Biagio, the first undamaged commune to be occupied, had its full population "with police and officials in working order" and no free issues of food supplies were necessary.

The remainder of Naples Province was handed over to Region III at midday on May 22. On May 26 the Rome Province team moved up

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[illegible]	..	..	..	..	2,324	-
Vallemaio	..	..	..	..	1,658	-
Esperia	..	..	..	..	6,462	-
Gaeta	..	..	..	..	19,127	1,500
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The Executive Commissioner, who visited the Fifth Army front on May 26, reported that the condition of Italian refugees coming south from the Pontine Marshes was the worst he had ever seen: it seemed that they had been without bread for 9 months.

Major Leacacos, attached from this Branch to Fifth Army AMG, was able to issue communiques on AMG activities to correspondents at Anzio, Caserta and Naples on May 25 and 26. These showed that 80,000 persons in 25 communes and towns were being fed daily by

/ AMG

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AMG; that in several places regular ration cards were already in use; water was being brought in by tank transporters; 750,000 lire had been advanced to Italian communes occupied. Information was also given on screening and defascistization, on the disposal of refugees and the arrangements made to return farmers to their homes without delay. In spite of the priority of operational news and the obvious limits on cables, this information was used by several correspondents in their despatches.

3. AMG on Eighth Army Front

On May 19 Eighth Army SCAO reported that San Angelo, Pignataro, and Cassino were found completely destroyed and uninhabited. The problem thus presented was a new one - a large area of country with three towns to which civilians could not be allowed to return. Administration of the district was to be carried out from San Vittore: notices were printed and posted on roads, and AMG check posts of mobile carabinieri established, to prevent the re-entry of civilians. Supplies for the 5,000 refugees known to exist in the Cassino plain were brought up from Venafro. On May 25 it was reported that Aquino had been found practically uninhabitable with a population of between 500 and 800 civilians very short of food and that they would have to be evacuated; that Piedimonte and Villa S. Lucia were uninhabitable and uninhabited: and that there were indications that areas further forward, not yet in our hands, were much less damaged and still held considerable populations.

4. Granai del Popolo

(a) There are encouraging signs that the potato crop will be bumper and may greatly ease the food situation: farmers are being asked not to dig potatoes before June 15, so as to get the maximum yield. Prefects are being asked to plan early to distribute in their areas and to notify expected surpluses.

(b) A decree is expected this week to block additional crops, viz: maize, oats, rye, horse beans, lentils, chick-peas and peas and chickling vetches on the farms for sale at controlled prices through licensed dealers.

(c) Measures are being taken by the Italian Government to control both machine and hand threshing by means of threshing report forms which must be completed in respect of each licensed machine and/or registered threshing-floor.

(d) Regional Commissioners are to be urged to make mayors responsible for finding safe storage space for their permitted annual communal retention of grain and for the grain itself once the Consorzio has collected it. In this way the people of each commune will be able to see their own Granaio made from their own grain. Surpluses will be handled through the Consorzio.

(e) Matera Province of Region II has launched an extremely effective poster campaign, based on the words Granai del Popolo. The first poster reads G D P, the second Garanzia del Pane, the third Granai del Popolo, and so on through Gara di Produzione, [illegible] to Grandezza del Popolo.

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(f) On the whole the harvest situation looks promising. The Agricultural Sub-Commission, with one eye on the retreating Germans, are keeping another very wide open indeed for additional staff.

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5. Anti-Inflation Committee

The Anti-Inflation Committee met again in Naples on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. Three sub-committees were set up to consider:

(a) Fiscal and financial devices to be used in curbing inflation,

(b) Price control,

(c) Supply and industrial rehabilitation.

The Price Control Committee has already reported: the other two are still arguing: however, they are keen that we add that when a committee meets every day its sub-committees can't. Meanwhile inflation, we gather, is not yet entirely entied.

6. Odds and Ends

Search for a cooler and quieter site for the Regional Commissioners Conference proved abortive: the Conference will take place at the Provincia on Tuesday. Better luck next time, we hope ..... The checking of ration cards in all Regions is now in hand: new ration cards will be issued on July 1..... The new scale of heavy workers rations comes into operation on the main-land on June 1 ..... Colonel Legg, Head of the Food Sub-Commission, left to visit the forward areas on May 26 ..... Brigadier Carr reports that at the opening of the tunny-fishing season off the island of CarloForte 125 fish were taken of an average weight of 200 lb. A cautious fisherman evidently, he adds that he "has heard" that one of 600 lb has been netted ..... Plans are contemplated but not completed for the re-treading of civilian tyres in Bari (no correspondence on this sore subject yet, please) ..... We are informed by Colonel Brock that the tonnage of black market flour seized at Agrigento (see Bulletin 3) was 14 and not 14,000: spoils our story but we are always glad to admit these small inaccuracies ..... Colonel Poletti gave a lecture on ACC to 20,000 REPEAT 20,000 men at a Replacement Depot this week ..... Two large hauls of stolen Army clothing were tracked down in Naples last week, one lot behind a false wall in a tunnel 60 feet below ground, the other at the seashore end of a man-size sewer leading into the middle of an Ordnance dump ..... Captain Temple (Interior Sub-Commission) has returned from a trip to Apulia with a report on local government. Non-existent, he found ..... Another tourist (who insists on anonymity) reports discovery of a remote little town that modern civilization has passed by; not a bomb-crater nor a VD sign in sight. The Town Hall still contains a Podesta; sternly admonished, the official said a cardboard placard saying Sindaco was being made.

7. Postscript

dated May 27, is attached.

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7. Postscript

A report from Major Bullock, dated May 27, is attached.

LIONEL FIELDEN,
Major,
Public Relations Director.

Distribution as for Bulletin No 7, plus Heads of Sub-Commissions, Adjutant.

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PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

PRB 2. Press release - Immediate. 27 May 1944

Major Bullock, ACC PRO attached the 8th Army AMG reports as follows:

1. The position of the towns in the Eighth Army sector of the Hitler Line is much the same as in Cassino. Pignataro Interamna, Piedimonte, Villa Santa Lucia and Pontecorvo are flat. But a CAO has been put into Pontecorvo to deal with people on the surrounding farms and with a trickle of townsfolk coming from the hills.

2. Lieut. Simpson moved into Aquino yesterday morning as CAO. The town is shattered. Troops are still in occupation of the ruins and a POW cage in the public square holds some 30 Germans. There are booby traps and mines. Numbers of dead Germans, 25 in one field, are being buried. More than 800 civilians have already returned from caves and another 400 are expected today. Only two buildings at the west end of the town are habitable. Simpson had a crew of 25 clean out one of the buildings and has set up his HQ there. Food for 1200 for 20 days came yesterday and was stored. Rations for 48 hours were distributed yesterday and the people are settling down in odd corners. An Italian doctor and medical supplies arrived yesterday. Three civilians, one a wounded girl, were evacuated to hospitals. Carabinieri are on the job. A Mayor and two assistants, appointed yesterday, are working well. FSS will vet them today. The people are filthy. Soap has been issued and there will be bath parades to the river today. There has been no money in Aquino for six months and a Finance Officer is coming today. The Red Cross is bringing up clothing. Simpson has found a flour mill operated by water power and it will begin production as soon as a leather drive belt can be brought up. Aquino will not evacuated for some time as the roads are needed for military traffic.

3. Castrocielo is partly destroyed but large sections are habitable and some people remained in their homes throughout the fighting. The Podesta and the Treasurer fled with the Germans who had evacuated the population northward. Many fled to the hills from the forced evacuation and are coming back. The CAO distributed food yesterday and has begun to clean up the town. The Church was not hit but has been sacked. Paintings have been torn from the walls, cupboards and drawers have been searched and dumped, furnishings have been smashed.

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HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

SECRET

PRB 26/WB 7

20 May 1944.

ACC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 7
14 May to 20 May

1. Political

The official price of wheat was eventually issued on Monday, May 15. The Italian Government took the line of asking that an ACC announcement should be issued, covering AMG territory, at 2 p.m., followed at 2.30 p.m. by an Italian Government communique, fixing a similar price "in order to ensure uniformity".

There is little else to report on the political front this week. The new law dealing with the punishment of Fascist crimes and illegal practices has "gone to the printers". The law contains a definition of crimes which enabled Fascists to assume power in 1922 and to eliminate the last traces of democratic rule.

Punishment ranges from imprisonment to death penalty. Latter requires judgment of High Commissioner. A list of mitigating circumstances is established to alleviate or to suspend sentences including such actions as fighting Germans etc. Provincial Commissions are established in each province to judge all cases. Members of the Commissions will be both judges and lay-men selected for their known anti-Fascist records and position. Commissions will be appointed by the Prime Minister upon the recommendations of High Commissioner and Minister of Justice. The judgments of Provincial Commissions will be determined as in Courts of Law with a provision appeal. The High Commissioner may review any sentence of the Provincial Commissions.

It would appear that the words "defascistization" and "epuration" are not synonymous. The defascistization process, in charge of Omodeo, Minister of Education, removes Fascists from the governmental and administrative machine: the Epuration Committee, now headed by Sforza, would rid the whole national life of the traces of Fascism and punish those responsible for their crimes. Participation in the March on Rome, in the eyes of the Committee, is a crime. The word epuration, it seems, is likely to be dropped.

Cerabona, Minister of Communications, had an interview with the Chief Commissioner on Wednesday and issued after the interview a mild communique stating that the ACC would do all in its power, subject to military exigencies, to restore facilities for goods and passenger transport.

Several Ministries have brought up with varying degrees of boldness or timidity the question of transportation. It is hoped that their own registration law will help them out since even with the most benevolent intentions and a definite policy of free collaboration it is felt that we are in no position to give away

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The official price of wheat was [illegible] that an May 15. The Italian Government took the line of asking ACC announcement should be issued, covering AMG territory, at 2 p.m., followed at 2.30 p.m. by an Italian Government communique, fixing a similar price "in order to ensure uniformity".

There is little else to report on the political front this week. The new law dealing with the punishment of Fascist crimes and illegal practices has "gone to the printers". The law contains a definition of crimes which enabled Fascists to assume power in 1922 and to eliminate the last traces of democratic rule.

Punishment ranges from imprisonment to death penalty. Latter requires judgment of High Commissioner. A list of mitigating circumstances is established to alleviate or to suspend sentences including such actions as fighting Germans etc. Provincial Commissions are established in each province to judge all cases. Members of the Commissions will be both judges and lay-men selected for their known anti-Fascist records and position. Commissions will be appointed by the Prime Minister upon the recommendations of High Commissioner and Minister of Justice. The judgments of Provincial Commissions will be determined as in Courts of Law with a provision appeal. The High Commissioner may review any sentence of the Provincial Commissions.

It would appear that the words "defascistization" and "epuration" are not synonymous. The defascistization process, in charge of Omodeo, Minister of Education, removes Fascists from the governmental and administrative machine: the Epuration Committee, now headed by Sforza, would rid the whole national life of the traces of Fascism and punish those responsible for their crimes. Participation in the March on Rome, in the eyes of the Committee, is a crime. The word epuration, it seems, is likely to be dropped.

Cerabona, Minister of Communications, had an interview with the Chief Commissioner on Wednesday and issued after the interview a mild communique stating that the ACC would do all in its power, subject to military exigencies, to restore facilities for goods and passenger transport.

Several Ministries have brought up with varying degrees of boldness or timidity the question of transportation. It is hoped that their own registration law will help them out since even with the most benevolent intentions and a definite policy of free collaboration it is felt that we are in no position to give away jeeps. "Charity begins at home" remarked one high-ranking officer, still unresigned to his permanent pedestrian status.

There is, however, a good deal of collaboration between the Ministries and the Sub-Commissions. Monuments and Education speak enthusiastically of their relationship and in general the impression of the new government is good. Gullo, Minister of Agriculture, has had a good press and is regarded as an efficient administrator. His speeches are more remarkable for commonsense than for eloquence.

Interior Sub-Commission has proceeded from the "pooling of sindaci" to the "earmarking of prefects" for yet unoccupied areas. Here too the Ministry has been sympathetic.

/ At

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At Marshal Badoglio's urgent request, the Chief Commissioner attended a meeting of Ministers on Thursday afternoon to discuss increases in the wages of public utility workers in Naples, who had threatened, it appeared from reports, to strike on the following day. Legitimate increases had already been agreed to by the ACC and the main point at issue was the classification of workers. A meeting was convened in Naples for the following morning to discuss the point and the strike was called off.

2. Granai del Popolo

During the week Major Sutherland (see Bulletin No 6) made a tour through Campobasso, Foggia, Bari, Lecce, Taranto, Matera and Potenza. Some of his conclusions (which will be given more fully in the next Bulletin of the Agricultural Sub-Commission) are briefly as follows:-

(a) There is a general demand that quotas for seed retention be raised. This is of doubtful validity: in Italy seeding has generally been too heavy, and lighter seeding would probably give better results; in some parts last year farmers seeded mixed grain deliberately to avoid amassing regulations: demands for extra seed retention may be merely to balance food retentions. Nevertheless, for future reference, this problem will probably have to be reviewed carefully on a provincial basis.

(b) There is a general demand that all crops be amassed in order to avoid a switch-over to leguminous crops which will give a higher profit than wheat. It is suggested that all leguminous crops, if not physically amassed, be blocked on farms and merchandized at a controlled price through the Consorzi and other licensed dealers: otherwise farmers will be able to sell forward on a high market. This matter is under discussion with the Ministry of Agriculture. In this connection the value of oats, and recipes for oatcake and porridge, might be plugged to the Italian public.

(c) Consorzio operating information is out-of-date owing to communication difficulties and it is thought that weekly price lists and weekly permissible operating costs should be issued. This matter is being attended to.

(d) Communications south of the Bari-Potenza line are bad. Relay points for phonograms are suggested at Bari and Potenza, and a special courier service during the harvest season.

(e) There are great difficulties about the application of law and penalties (details will be given in Agricultural Sub-Commission bulletin). Penalties in many cases are insufficient.

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(f) Region V appears to consider that Region III permits and even encourages leakage to pedestrian and bicycular traffic, which takes grain to high-priced black-market Naples.

(g) A good deal of leakage occurs through Allied drivers who are bribed to use trucks for transport. No order, apparently, exists to cover this offence. A GRO forbidding any Allied soldier to engage in commerce might help.

(h) In Foggia threshing machines and mills are controlled by Guardie di Finanza. Casual civilian labourers entering the province surrender ration cards immediately, are assigned to an employer who hands them harvest ration cards for purchase in bulk, are checked again by Carabinieri whenever re-assigned.

/ Major

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Major Sutherland's general impression was that in the areas which he visited, Italian agricultural officials were "getting down to brass-tacks", except in the Province of Lecce, where there are signs of indiscipline and evasion. The Provincial Commissioner there, he thinks, has a tough job.

3. News from Cassino

The following report was received on May 19 from Major Bullock of this Branch:-

" (a) Before noon yesterday AMG Eighth Army had a party in the ruins of Cassino. The town is so completely flattened that Gp Capt Benson instructed his Cassino CAOs there was nothing for them to do there and so AMG will NOT occupy the town. Party was headed by Gp Capt Benson in person and was fired on from Monastery Hill by pockets of German resistance concealed in dug-outs.

" (b) During the afternoon, under Polish conducting officers, Major Newton, AMG Monuments and Fine Arts and your DDPR climbed to the Abbey through the Polish lines with some 20 correspondents and a Polish flag party. Newton found the Abbey largely destroyed except for the walls on the side away from Cassino. Shall rush you his report earliest. There are German graves in the Abbey visible from the top of rubble and walls. Polish chaplain said some German wounded were still in lower passages of the ruins. Much of the rubble is fine dust. Excavation will be necessary to ascertain what remains. When the Poles raised Polish and British flags over the Abbey just before 1800 hrs it made scattered German holding parties very angry and we were opened on by mortar and snipers - no casualties.

" (c) Shortly before we left Cassino town ruins around 1300 hrs to go to the Abbey, Capt Davies, PRO, told me two correspondents had been killed in the town but haven't their names yet.

" (d) Got in only at midnight after 36 hours forward waiting to enter Cassino from San Vittore. Shall send you full report soon as possible."

4. Anti-inflation Committee

A committee has been appointed (and, we rather regret to say, called in official documents the "Allied Inflation Committee", which we feel is more up our street) to "consider the existing financial situation in Italy and to make recommendations as to the measures which should be adopted to check the present tendency to inflation". The members of this Committee are Captain Ellery Stone, USNR (Chairman), Colonel Grafftey-Smith, Colonel Foley, Colonel Upjohn, Colonel Fiske, Mr E.M.H. Lloyd (who was a member of the Economic and Financial Section of the League of Nations Secretariat; later-

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The Committee met for the first time on Friday, May 19, and again on Saturday, May 20. We shall hope to tell you more about their views and decisions next week.

Meanwhile, not to be outdone in this sort of thing, PRB has started some investigations of its own. A cross-section of

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/ family

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family budgets in Naples, produced at our request by Region III, seems to show that Italians either starve or live on double their income. What to make of this at the moment we are not sure, but hope to tell you, of course, with the help of the Inflation Committee, in the next Bulletin.

5. Prisons

The prisons of Southern Italy are badly overcrowded, a matter of concern to Public Health and Public Safety. This is partly due to the slow turning of the wheels of Italian justice: "in this country it's as hard to get them out as to get them in" in the words of Colonel Young. A penal commission has been suggested by Legal Sub-Commission, but the Ministry of Grace and Justice seems to consider the matter not at all pressing and it is our policy not to press legislation on the Government.

6. Information Wanted

The Information Division, ACC, sends an S.O.S. to Regional and Provincial Commissioners for all available written material, time-tables, drawings, photographs, maps and other documents dealing with Italian railroading. Information is particularly desired on railroad yards, locomotives, passenger and freight cars, switches, etc. Such information is urgently required by the Transportation Sub-Commission, ACC.

7. Items

The Chief Commissioner and Colonel Fiske visited Bari on Monday: Brigadier Lush left on Thursday to visit 5th and 8th Armies AMG and Region V ..... General Solodovnik has left the ACC and General Sudakov, formerly working with the Displaced Persons Sub-Commission will succeed him ..... A sort of bump shook Naples at 0224 May 19. May have been an earthquake: usual differences of opinion. Possibly a mine: almost certainly not Colonel Poletti ..... Two subjects likely to be brought up at the Regional Commissioners Meeting; procedure for the assignment or transfer of specialist officers and function and importance of Liaison ACC ..... A shipment of 7,000 tons of copper sulphate is expected this week: it will be sold to farmers through Consorzio Agrario at 2,000 lire a quintal ..... Night-fishing will be resumed this week at Sapri (Gulf of Salerno) and the Naples Market will thus get 10 tons of fish a day: 50 fishing boats and 169 men were moved to Sapri from the island of Procida ..... At Ischia the tuna nets are in full operation after a lapse of two years; the estimated catch is 100 quintals a day ..... MGS have now achieved General Staff status and will henceforth be known as G-5; Colonel Charles M. Spofford is designated as Assistant Chief of Staff and Colonel the Lord Middleton as Deputy Assistant Chief of Staff..... On Sunday 14 May, the feast of Joan of Arc, a review of more than 1,000 troops of the 1er Regiment de Chasseurs Parachutistes was held at Trapani. Regional Commissioner and Provincial Commissioner attended ..... Italian ration agencies have completed inventories of ration cards in Naples City. About 300,000 ration cards illegally issued on

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/ Nellie

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Nellie M. Marshall, president of the Women's Bar Association of Baltimore, Md, declares "a recent meeting of the group approved a resolution to have women commissioned equally with men to serve with Allied Military Government. The organization feels that women can be of essential service in the plans of AMG". Copies of the resolution were sent to President Roosevelt and to Secretary of War Stimson. The "Baltimore News-Post" carried the story on May 6.

8. Postscript on Montecassino

The following report on Montecassino Abbey has just come in:-

"(a) Montecassino Abbey examined from top of remaining walls at 1700 hrs 18 May 1944.

"(b) West End of Abbey remains standing to top floor. East and south sides, facing Cassino, mostly levelled to ground floor. Interior form of three lower cloisters still visible but without cross colonnades. Great stairway pulverized. Statue of St Benedict is headless but otherwise intact. Cloister of the Benefactors ruined. In Basilica south wall of Apse and part of two large piers at crossing still stand. Basilica appears otherwise gone.

"(c) Floor at High Altar and floor of Sacristy may be intact under rubble. Saw NO visible evidence of important bronze doors. Sala Capitolare, Biblioteca, Pinacoteca and Archivio probably destroyed but possibly intact under rubble.

"(d) West End of Refectory still standing.

"(e) Reconstruction of entire Abbey is possible although much is now only heap of pulverized rubble and dust."

9. Quotes from an Esteemed Contemporary

"Preacher Talks Punk Italian, Has Sticky Puss"

(Headline in 45th Division News)

Translation, if required, next week.

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LIONEL FIELDEN,
Major,
Public Relations Director.

/ Distribution overleaf

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66	Chief Commissioner	
67	Deputy Chief Commissioner	
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69	Deputy Executive Commissioner	
70	Vice President, Administrative Section	
71	Major-General L. Browning, MMIA.	
72	Colonel D.S. Adams, Chief Assistant, Economic Section	
73	Colonel Charles M. Spofford, Assistant Chief of Staff, G-5	
74	Colonel A.E. Young, Security Branch	
75	Joint Directors, Political Section	
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78	Mr John Rayner, PWB	
79	Sir Noel Charles, British Representative on Advisory Council for Italy	
80	Mr Alexander Kirk, U.S. Representative on Advisory Council for Italy	
81	Major T.L. Bullock, PRO, 5th Army AMG	
82	Major John P. Leacacos, PRO, 8th Army AMG	
83	Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2 Sec PBS	
84	Experimental Det G-2, Room 41, Bank of Naples Building	
85	I.S.L.D., 126 Via Alessandro Manzoni	
86	Ensign Henry Roberts, R & A Branch, 628 Via Tasso	
87	Secretary-General	
88	File 26 (PRB) (2nd Floor)	

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Files

SECRET

PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

PRB 26/WB 6 15 May 1944.

ACC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 6
7 May to 13 May

1. Political

The weekly meeting of the Italian Cabinet held on Thursday, May 11, was expected to concentrate its discussions on the price of wheat and to issue an agreed figure. The only serious business transacted, however, was the passage of the main part of the Epuration decrees. For the rest, the Cabinet discussed the retiring age of notaries, which it fixed at 75, set up a committee to study the composition of the consultative body, and apparently devoted the bulk of the day to condemning the action of the Crown Prince in making certain statements to Christopher Lumby, correspondent of the London Times.

(The interview appeared on April 20 and is reproduced in the Times Weekly Air Mail Edition of April 26. The Prince of Piedmont, in reply to the correspondent's question as to whether the King of Italy could have prevented the declaration of war, said: "Impossible. Had he attempted to resist Mussolini, it would have brought the Germans down on us. What happened last September would have happened then, and you must remember that at that time Germany was not at war with Russia, but had its army intact. The linking up of Fascism with Nazism made any other course out of the question. Moreover there was no sign that the nation wanted it otherwise. No single voice was raised in protest. No demand was made for summoning Parliament. Ostensibly Mussolini had the country with him." Actually, through negligence in the household, the script of the interview was never submitted to the Crown Prince, despite its having been forwarded by Lumby for this purpose. An interesting reflection on the authenticity of such interviews is that the Crown Prince, though attaching no blame whatsoever to Lumby, has stated privately that his intention was to say that Mussolini had the nation "sotto il suo pugno", which would mean "under his fist" rather than "with him").

However, the Cabinet, without further ado, issued a statement condemning such Royal interviews and stating that "the Cabinet unanimously rejected the assumption that the Italian people had any blame for the Fascist war." As the present Italian government had agreed to leave the institutional question alone, this attack showed no more good faith than courtesy. Moreover, the precedence given to this subject over the price of wheat, had about it a touch of Neronian fiddling. Fortunately perhaps, the operational news of May 12 almost completely obscured the Cabinet communique.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785046

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The Chief Commissioner visited Marshal Badoglio at Salerno on Friday, and a further meeting of the Cabinet was convened for Saturday morning. This meeting withdrew for lunch without having reached any decision on anything.

After further debate, Ministers Aldisio, Gullo, Quintieri and Under-Secretary Bergami left the meeting and came to Naples to discuss the wheat-price situation with the Chief Commissioner.

/ The

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 778506

The discussion was still in progress at 6 p.m. when the meeting at Salerno adjourned. The communique then issued from Salerno does not refer to the price of wheat, but included (a) the nomination of Sforza as High Commissioner for Epuration in place of Zaniboni, who becomes High Commissioner for Refugees (b) the name "Presidente del Consiglio dei Ministri" to replace "Capo del Governo" (c) various other administrative matters concerning Finance, Education and Industry.

A further special meeting of the Cabinet will probably take place on May 15 or May 16 for the purpose of reaching a final decision on the price of wheat.

2. Ammassi - Granai del Popolo.

During the early part of the week discussions on the price of wheat provided a very large headache indeed for the Chief Commissioner, Colonel Adams, Colonel Foley, the members of the Agriculture Sub-Commission and the Italian Minister and Under-Secretary for Agriculture. Furrowed foreheads were observed emerging from conference rooms at all hours of the day and night. We thought we saw (observe our reticence please) Colonel Foley and Major Hartman flash past us in alternate states of exhilaration and dejection. It was understood (note our caution here) that the supporters of 650 were no less indomitable and obstinate than the defenders of 1,400. Meanwhile the PR Branch did its best to guide and control the PWB on the best methods of conducting a publicity campaign without dropping too many strawless bricks. The declarations of Badoglio and Gullo are being put to the fullest possible use in press and radio, and some very simple posters have been adopted for general distribution. More are under consideration. It is intended to make short films - for showing in mobile film units - of Badoglio and other leaders, as well as representative farmers, urging the importance of amassing. It is also desired to publicize as far as possible the successful work done by the Communal Committees, stressing particularly the part played by, and the representation given to, small farmers. Assistance of Regional and Provincial Commissioners in giving such information either to this Branch or to the local PWB representative would be much appreciated - also, and we particularly ask you for this - comments on the success or failure of publicity of all kinds, and suggestions for its improvement.

Major J.R.G. Sutherland of the Agriculture Sub-Commission has already left for a swing through the provinces to help organize the Granai del Popolo collections. Signor Gino Bergami Italian Under-Secretary of Agriculture, is also making a tour for the same purpose. In addition, General Messe of the Italian Army has agreed that Italian soldiers should be available for

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The Agriculture Sub-Commission are issuing a series of bulletins, the first of which will appear next week, to provide suggestions and information. We are not sure that we like this stealing of our thunder, but as far as we can see we can't help it.

3. GSI(b)

5 District Security Intelligence Summary for April notes "a disquieting increase in losses of and damage to ordnance and other stores" and quotes some bad breaches of security, e.g. at

/ Capri

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Capri where "operations are discussed openly in the bars, which enjoy English-speaking civilians." It is also stated in this summary that "the period has been marked by a sharp rise in ill-feeling between civilians and troops, to a large extent it is regretted to say, as a result of the latter's bad behaviour, which reached a climax over the Easter week-end." The summary adds that "comment concerning the constitution of the new government under Marshal Badoglio has been restrained and, if not on the whole unfavourable, doubts as to its value as an effective instrument of government are being aired."

4. Region II

Headquarters officers, concerned about getting reports of all kinds shorter and more concise, have been citing the April report of Region II, under the newly-appointed Regional Commissioner, Colonel John T. Zellars, as a model. In three and a half pages, Colonel Zellars covers the entire range of his region in a pithy and fact-packed manner. One item was of especial interest. It was Colonel Zellars' estimate of the general administrative situation in terms of leadership in the grass roots of the provinces. Potenza Province, for example, is "fairly strong in leadership and well organized", but Matera Province is "somewhat weak in leadership but very well organized." Taranto and Lecce Provinces are "fairly strong in leadership and very well organized." Brindisi Province is reported as being weak in both leadership and organization. Bari Province appears the worst of the lot: "Leadership weak and non-effective. Organization poor."

5. The French and AMG

A very interesting comment on relations with our French brethren is contained in the April report from the Fifth Army AMG field staff. A part runs as follows:

"Relations with the French have been harmonious and the presence of a French officer with the AMG Section has proved beneficial. However the French still have some misconception of the function of AMG and rather resent some of the restrictions imposed upon them in the interests of the civil population, such as the prohibition of local purchase of meat, the issue of white flour to Italians while they and their families in North Africa have to use brown flour, the lightness (in their opinion) of sentences imposed by AMG courts upon offenders against French troops and against law and order. This is understandable when it is remembered that Italian troops are said to be still occupying the French Riviera and that several stores of luxury goods looted from France by Italian soldiers have been discovered by the French during the present campaign."

6. Red Cross Meeting.

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6. Red Cross Meeting.

A general conference of Red Cross workers - American, British and Italian - was held 11 May in Naples, at which the Allied Control Commission was represented by Brigadier Lush, Executive Commissioner, and Brigadier Parkinson, Director of the Public Health and Welfare Sub-Commission, as well as representatives from the Italian Refugees Branch, with whom the Red Cross works in particularly close contact. ACC officials were deeply impressed with the volume and competence of the work done by the Red Cross organizations in helping ACC meet its human welfare problems. Especially encouraging is the growing renascence of the Italian Red Cross, which insofar as it has been revived, has been of effective aid to the Allied

/ Red

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785046

Red Cross, short of manpower as the Allied agencies are. It was also reported at the meeting that approximately $11,000,000 worth of clothing has been sent to Italy from the United States. Some of the clothing has found its way into the Black Market, of course, which was not unexpected, as one Red Cross official wryly reported. In Sicily, too, the issue of pyjamas was not quite successful. Sicilians prefer nightshirts.

7. May Day Postscript

Double pay for May Day was approved by the Italian Government for "operai" and "lavoratori" only, and NOT for "impiegati"; the Local Resources (Naples) Board, however, decided that no extra pay should be given to employes of the Armed Forces.

8. Fine Arts

News from the fine arts front is good this week, according to the Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives Sub-Commission. The text of the "Soldier's Guide to Rome", written by Major E.T. De Wald, Director of the Sub-Commission, finally went to the publishers after editing and arrangements had been made by the Public Relations Branch. The layout, in ACC green with the head of Greek god on the cover, and printing are being undertaken by the Psychological Warfare Branch, Italian Theatre, for the ACC. The initial printing order will run to 30,000. General Alexander, Commander-in-Chief, Allied Armies in Italy, has contributed the foreword.

The Fine Arts Sub-Commission also issued its first "List of Protected Monuments" for Lazio and Abruzzi-Molise. The pamphlet contains lists of monuments which troops will protect as far as it is consistent with military necessity. In addition, the Fine Arts Sub-Commission welcomes the appointment of a new Italian Inspectress-General of Monuments, Signora Zancani-Montuoro, appointed by Minister of Education Omodeo. Signora Zancani-Montuoro is well-known in her profession for her excavations of Greek temples at Paestum.

9. Quotes from an Esteemed Contemporary.

American officers contemplating marriage in this theatre will be happy to learn that they are now authorized to draw one truck, 1/4 ton, 4 x 4, C & R, for a period not to exceed 7 days. Vehicle may be drawn from the Ordnance Officer on memorandum receipt upon presentation of certificate signed by the officer stating that the purpose is for transportation during the honeymoon." So states the 10 May issue of the

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10. PWB

A directive defining our relationships with the Psychological Warfare Branch (PWB) will be issued shortly..... Lieut Gene F. Capric, ACC Public Relations Officer now detailed to Region III, will come into headquarters in the next week, while two of our headquarters officers will go out to the field for a period. Major T.L. Bullock goes to Eighth Army AMG and Major John P. Leacacos goes to Fifth Army AMG..... The Public Relations Branch will be deeply appreciative if Regional Commissioners and Senior Civil Affairs Officers would occasionally send in reports on their problems in connection with the Allied Publications Board, the Psychological Warfare / Branch

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Branch, visits of Allied correspondents, Italian press relations or suggestions for the Weekly Bulletin.

11. Odds and Ends from Roundabout

AMG education officers in Avellino are now using three tents for school-rooms ..... 400 tons of hemp have been exported to the U.K. in the first such shipment from the Italian mainland ..... The novel "A Bell for Adano", written by John Hersey, Life correspondent, about the travails of AMG in Sicily, is to be made into a motion picture, it is reported, though not without some qualms among AMG officers as to the effect of such a film on the reputation of our honourable efforts at military government: some representation to the film companies may be made by the War Department if recent recommendations from this theatre are followed through ..... The incidence of smallpox in Naples is much smaller than cruited, being, first, of a mild type, and second, limited to 46 cases in three weeks, while 21,000 persons have been vaccinated ..... Naples, further (if the reader minds so much Naples news, news from other sectors would be welcome), now has 14 soup kitchens feeding needy 9,000 persons therefrom ..... Intelligence reports a new wrinkle among Italians, to the effect that not a few are crossing the front lines one night and returning as refugees the next night, posing as refugees so as to get board and lodging, for which they pay, as it were, with fantastic and imaginary reports of enemy activities ..... Region III is conducting a study of actual living conditions and household budgets to find out how representative cross-sections of the populations really live ..... The Carabinieri are still having trouble getting sufficient clothing, having to date obtained only about 25 per cent of their actual needs ..... Major Francis L. Wray (A), SCAO of the II Corps on the Fifth Army AMG field staff, was decorated with the O.B.E. on April 23 for his work during his attachment as CAO to the 56th British Division ..... Civilian population on the Anzio beachhead is now less than 1,000, the rest having been evacuated ..... Some tunnels of Roman remains were found in the course of normal shellfire ground charges in the Nettuno area recently ..... Shearing of the 20,000 sheep on the beachhead is a spring headache for AMG there ..... In Sicily, Colonel A.N. Hancock, Regional Commissioner (recently promoted), reports that the Separatist movement appears to be declining, though the credo of regional administrative autonomy is still held firmly by all parties ..... ACC Public Safety officials in Sicily also just smashed a gang of forgers of 1,000-lire notes, together with their equipment and 43,000,000 lire in forged notes ..... Pantelleria has 17 per cent of its 10,000 inhabitants on relief, according to AMG reports from there ..... Sardinians are complaining that buyers from the mainland are buying dirt cheap on the island and re-selling at high profits on the mainland ..... 100,000 animal skins are awaiting shipment [illegible] to Naples for glove makers, with negotiations in

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/ Distribution overleaf.

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Distribution:-

1. Regional Commissioner, Region I
2. " " " II
3. " " " III
4. " " " IV
5. " " " V
6. " " " VI
7. " " " VII
8. " " " VIII
9. " " " IX
10. Senior Civil Affairs Officer, AMG Fifth Army
11. Senior Civil Affairs Officer, AMG Eighth Army
12. Chief Commissioner
13. Deputy Chief Commissioner
14. Executive Commissioner
15. Deputy Executive Commissioner
16. Vice President, Administrative Section
17. Sir Noel Charles, British Representative on Advisory Council for Italy
18. Mr Alexander Kirk, U.S. Representative on Advisory Council for Italy
19. Colonel D.S. Adams, Chief Assistant, Economic Section
20. Information Division
21. " "
22. Mr John Rayner, PWB
23. Colonel Spofford, AFHQ AGS.
24. Lieut Gene F. Capric, PRO Region III.
25. Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2 Sec PBS
26. Experimental Det G-2, Room 41, Bank of Naples Building
27. I.S.L.D., 126 Via Alessandro Mazzini
28. Security Branch
29. Political Section
30. Ensign Henry Roberts, R & A Branch, 628 Via Tasso (2nd Floor)

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File

PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

SECRET

PRB 26/WB 6.

6 May 1944.

ACC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 6
30 April to 6 May

000026

1. Political

The second meeting of the new Italian cabinet took place on May 4. Subjects under discussion were (1) the Ammassi and the price of wheat (2) Defascistization (Omodeo, Minister of Education, being appointed Head of the Commission) (3) Suppression of the Ministry of Foreign Exchange, its duties being taken over by the Ministry of Finance (4) Suppression of the Ministry of Popular Culture, press relations being taken over by the Ministry of the Interior (home and foreign news) the Ministry of Communications (tourism and radio) and the Ministry of Education (cinema and theatre) (5) Economic betterment of State employes (a meeting to be held on Saturday, May 6, to discuss this subject between the Ministries of Finance, Labour, Communications and ACC Finance Sub-Commission: another meeting to be held Monday, May 8, between the Finance Sub-Commission and the Ministry of Labour to discuss similar problems applying to manual labourers).

On the same day Marshal Badoglio issued a statement urging all Italians to support and assist the Ammassi collections.

A good deal of ground was thus covered by the new cabinet during the day. In connection with defascistization, the Government statement issued after the meeting contained an injunction to individual Ministers stressing their responsibility for reporting all cases which came to their notice, and suspending, on reduced salary, any suspected employes until such time as their cases could be settled by the Commission.

Correspondents, on the whole, were not particularly interested by the meeting. Their copy, however (a short digest is attached) showed indications that there was some definite wishful thinking about an ending of the state of co-belligerency.

"Il Corriere" produced a bad case of infringement of military security. A letter on this subject with precise directions was sent to the Italian Government on April 18; there was therefore no excuse. Italian editors need to be reminded in all areas that such mistakes militate heavily against the transfer of press responsibility to Italians.

2. "I Granai del Popolo"

As a result of Lieut-Colonel Ruck's letter, which was mentioned in this Bulletin last week, a last-minute endeavour was made by this Branch in cooperation with PWB to find a new name for the Ammassi. General consensus of opinion, Italian [illegible] favoured "I Granai del Popolo". It was

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/ disappear

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disappear, and the new name can be linked with a more honest and successful effort under Allied control.

3. Price of Wheat

On the matter of fixing the price of wheat some announcement is expected within another week, according to Colonel D.S. Adams, chief assistant to the vice president of the Economic Section. Changes in the price of wheat and consequently in the price of bread appear to be more important than any other factors in the discussions at the moment. Undue rise in the price of bread will have a bearing on the matter of inflation and would tend to be the leader other prices would follow. What boots it the farmer to gain a sharp increase in the price of wheat when a corresponding increase in the price of scarce consumer goods takes away his profit? That is one view. The object summed up: Effective amassing of grain with a price that will least disrupt the inflationary situation.

4. Labour Day

In agreement with the Allied authorities, May Day Labour celebrations were held in the principal centres on Sunday, April 30, in order that there should be no interruption in the regular working day schedules. Meetings were held in many towns, largely under the auspices of the Socialist, Communist and Action Parties and workers' organizations. Communist speakers at these rallies emphasized the necessity of further developing the war effort of the Italian people in cooperation with the Allies.

5. Documentary Discoveries.

Information of value was uncovered during the past week in two private document collections in Naples which hitherto had escaped notice. The collections were investigated by the Information Division, ACC.

One of the collections was that of the Provincial Tourist Agency (Ente Provinciale del Turismo). This yielded a large number of tourist handbooks, guides, maps and other documents dealing with all parts of Italy, and with Germany and Japan. The material will be of value to naval intelligence, and to several ACC Sub-Commissions, notably Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives.

The second collection was that of the Campani Interprovincial Syndicate of Journalists (Sindicato Interprovinciale Giornalisti Campani). It included several different sets of encyclopedias, bound copies dating back many years of leading Italian newspapers, and muchother reference material. The Information Division is taking steps to preserve this collection intact as an adjunct to the Central Reference Library.

6. One up to the Carabinieri.

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6. One up to the Carabinieri.

Italian Carabinieri, under the direction of Allied Control Commission officers in Sardinia, have succeeded in cutting the leakage of imported food supplies from ship to warehouse to .05, or one twentieth of one per cent.

The foodstuffs are distributed in the three provinces of Sardinia by three commercial firms who take delivery and make payment at shipside.

/ The goods

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The goods get four checks, and the cost of this checking amounts to 7 lire a ton for ACC. The first check is by the military port authorities upon receipt. The next is by ACC on consignment. The third is by the commercial firm on payment. The fourth is by the Carabinieri.

The Carabinieri check the stuff on to the trucks, ride the trucks to the warehouses, check the unloading and guard the warehouses.

As one ACC official said, "If one item is short the Carabinieri raise a hell of a row. They have been granted authority and have assumed responsibility in the most praiseworthy fashion."

In addition, the Carabinieri have taken on the salvage of broken sacks and are obtaining a high percentage of recoveries.

7. The John Hanshaw Camp

An Italian refugee camp operated under the supervision of Allied Control Commission authorities, Region II, at Pisticchi, near Matera, has been named the John Hanshaw Camp in honour of Lieut John Hanshaw, Inf, who was instrumental in helping to establish the camp as a model refugee centre a month before he was recently killed on duty in the 8th Army forward area.

Lieut Hanshaw, who was 35 and a contractor in civil life at home in Ithaca, N.Y., helped to turn the Pisticchi Camp from a collection of old stone buildings housing 1,500 miserable and sullen refugees to a clean, well-organized community where the refugees, with a new morale, take care of their own gardens, policing, entertainment and schooling.

Allied authorities paid tribute to the Italian Prefect of Matera Province, Dr Guido Tamburro, and Conte Gattini, local head of the Italian Red Cross, for their aid to Lieut Hanshaw in making the camp a success.

8. Courier Service

A courier service has started leaving Naples on Sundays (0930) for Campobasso, Foggia (stay overnight), Foggia (0800) Bari, Matera (stay overnight), Matera (0700) Potenza, Salerno, Naples. A similar service will leave Naples on Wednesdays (0800) for Salerno, Potenza, Matera (stay overnight), Matera (0800) Bari, Foggia, Campobasso (stay overnight), Campobasso (0800) Naples.

9. Clean-up in Naples

May 7 to 13 is Clean-up Week in Naples. An elaborate

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9. Clean-up in Naples

May 7 to 13 is Clean-up Week in Naples. An elaborate campaign has been organized for all the communes in Naples Province. Schools, civic groups, churches, military base installations and public health authorities are all participating. A prize will be given for the cleanest commune in the province. Communes and schools will also hand out prizes. Lectures, school themes, demonstration clean-up squads and all the paraphernalia of an old-fashioned American Chamber of Commerce civic drive, together with suitable publicity, will feature the campaign. Best of all, AMG officials have found another 2,000 old gasoline drums to use as garbage cans. This makes a stockpile of 7,000 cans for Neapolitan refuse.

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/ 10. Items

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10. - Items

'Headquarters has now introduced bell-girls, girl guides, girl pages, (what shall we call them?) dressed in a becoming shade of green..... Colonel Russell has carried out a successful experiment in oil-spraying from aeroplanes against malaria.....We understand that the ceiling for officers is safe and might even be raised a little, but no hope whatever for more EM/OR ....The next Regional commissioners'Conference will be held on May 30 in the PBS Officers' Club building, Naples: opinion tends towards a round-table conference as against set speeches....The business of getting a better designation than ACC/AMG is still under discussion....In some parts of the country it's said that wheat has almost displaced currency... Lt.J.T.S. Bergin has joined the Public Relations Branch.... Major T.L. Bullock of the PR Branch has visited Regions I and VI....Edgar Mowrer, recently arrived here on a flying visit, tells us that arrangements for Moroccan troops in this theatre include trucks of Berber lovelies run up to the front line and returned regularly after use.... Sir Clifford Heathcote-Smith, British Resident Representative of the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees has arrived and will work in close contact with Displaced Persons Sub-Commission....Col. F.L. Whitley was entered 17th General Hospital on April 25 for a malaria check-up is still being checked and no bug can be found on him.....Lt. Leo Gerstenzang, Deputy Chief of the Balkan Mission of UNRRA, has arrived to discuss the Italian food situation with Colonel Legg and others: no immediate developments by UNRRA are contemplated....Lt. Col. Lord Middleton has succeeded Col. Terance Maxwell in MGS AFHQ ....Col. Kirkwood has established the Headquarters of Region VII at Catanzaro.... Region IV have set up a forward echelon under canvas.... Lt. Col. Peasey has left Region V for Region VII.... Lt. Col. French has left Region I for Region V...

11. Epilogue

This bulletin, it may be remarked for the benefit of those who haven't seen it before, was established and is intended for the peculiar delight of Regional and Provincial Commissioners of the ACC who may not be always fully acquainted with the marvels performed at HQ. It is not, and will not, we trust, ever become (a) an official report (b) a mere catalogue of events (c) an almighty document of absolute accuracy. Accuracy we seek, of course, but we are still smarting slightly under the breeze occasioned by an over-optimistic forward wheat quotation last week. A mistake is a mistake and we apologise; we have no Delphic Oracle on our staff but we refuse to be entirely badgered out of an occasional note of gaiety.

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2nd floor

PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

5 May, 1944

PRB 20 TREND OF COPY FILED BY CORRESPONDENTS ON MAY 4

The second meeting of the new Italian Cabinet failed to attract the flock of correspondents who attended the first. Maybe they felt that, having described the Palazzo del Governo with such a wealth of detail, there was nothing left to describe. As far as is known only CHINIGO (INS) ELEANOR PACKARD (U.P) SPRIGGE (Reuters) and LUCEY (Times) were in Salerno, the last two only because the car which was taking them down to Sicily had broken down there.

Both ELEANOR PACKARD and CHINIGO obtained scoops as they had done the previous week. The former certainly obtained the full text of Badoglio's message which she filed her story at 1625. She quoted his "grammies of the people" (which this Branch can persuade him to include) "equitable compensation" and "deeply felt discipline" which can achieve results far superior to those obtained by exclusively coercive measures." She also gave, once again, the full agenda, including the purging of fascists in key posts, the composition of the consultative body, the living conditions of state employees, communications (especially buses and trams for suburbanites) and volunteers for the Italian army. At 2100 she filed a despatch stating that Omodeo had been appointed head of the anti-fascist purge.

CHINIGO had clearly got similar information at the same time and wrote a similar despatch (both correspondents were hours ahead of the official release) he also sent a story to the effect that Marshal Badoglio had had an hours interview with Sir Noel Charles and had stressed the need for material, particularly aircraft, to permit full Italian cooperation in the war. CHINIGO (who was certainly busy) also sent a long interview with Sforza who was quoted as saying that "co-belligerency must go" and "the allies must decide once and for all whether Italy was to be allowed to take a serious part in the war"

This note stressed by CHINIGO in his account of both interviews was underlined by his own comments which suggested that a better deal was now called for, was also struck by SPRIGGE (Reuters) in a despatch sent two days previously, in which, after concentrating at some length on the "delicate negotiations" concerning prisoners of war, he worked up to the conclusion that "co-belligerent status is a source of much bewilderment to friendly Italians and to Allied authorities controlling populations which it own treat neither as enemies nor as full friends". SPRIGGE and LUCEY (Times) filed despatches covering Badoglio's declaration on the Amnesti but it the evening after it had been officially released (2125)

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SIGART (Herald Tribune) filed a long article in praise of Colonel Poletti whom he described as "a man often criticized as a loud uncouth extrovert" who has nevertheless "enlivened and bullied the populace out of its bemused attitude of defeatism and despair".

A great deal of censorship trouble was occasioned by correspondents' references to the statement which appeared in IL CORRIERE of May 3 to the effect that there were large troop concentrations in Italy. This statement was a gross [illegible] of fact by [illegible]y

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785046

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

PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

SECRET

PRB 26/WB 4/1

2 May 1944

CORRECTION TO WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 4

URGENT

ACC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 4 dated 29 April 1944 item 5 paragraph 2 cancel sentence referring to price. No decision has yet been made about price and figure quoted is wholly inaccurate. Summary of decree is correct.

552

000020

PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

SECRET

PRB 26/ WB 4

29 April 1944.

ACC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 4
23 April to 29 April

1. Political

The first formal cabinet meeting of the new Italian Government took place at Salerno on Thursday, 27 April. The meeting lasted from ten to four-thirty, with a luncheon recess during which newspaper correspondents percolated into the Council Chamber and had a look over the papers. This caused some alarm and despondency in cabinet circles, and produced a couple of journalistic scoops, but no serious harm was done. A short digest of correspondents' copy is attached.

The official declaration of policy made after the meeting may be summarized as follows:

(a) The Government is formed from representatives of anti-fascist parties, no longer opposed to one another, but united in the effort to solve the vital problems of the moment.

(b) Other problems, not of immediate urgency, will be set aside, including the institutional one, which can only be decided by a constituent assembly elected by universal suffrage.

(c) All the parties, according to their beliefs, are prepared for the fundamental reforms necessitated by two world-wars: but such reforms cannot be initiated or completed while Italy is cut in half and still at war.

(d) The renewal of democratic government provides a new spirit, lacking under Fascism, for the prosecution of the war at the side of the Allies, and for the heroic endeavours of patriots of every party now united in the defence of Italy and the conquest of Hitler's Germany.

(e) The necessity of war involves the severest measures against all traitors and the freedom of Italians from all those who, having served Fascism, still cling to its habits, hopes or aims.

(f) Such work must not be actuated by a spirit of revenge, but by a determination that Fascism shall never recur. The work has been put in hand and will

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(f) Such work must not be actuated by a spirit of revenge, but by a determination that Fascism shall never recur. The work has been put in hand and will be carried energetically to a swift conclusion.

(g) Government action will be based on the urgent necessity of improving conditions of life by increasing industrial and agricultural activity, fighting speculation, smoothing internal exchange of products, obtaining essential supplies from abroad, and hastening the construction of public buildings, roads and bridges. For such tasks the Government counts upon the cooperation of all professional organizations.

/ (h) Administration

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(h) ~~Administration~~, despite difficulties of archives, ~~accommodation~~ and ~~personnel~~, must be regularized and it is ~~proposed~~ to re-establish the State Accounting Office and the Accounting Court. It is proposed also, in cooperation with the Committees of Liberation, to establish a small Consultative Body, symbol of Parliament, to which periodic reports of progress will be made.

After the declaration the cabinet discussed the May Day celebrations and decided to appeal to workers in German-occupied Italy to mark the day by a struggle for liberation. (The Italian Government has since proposed double payment for all workers on 1 May and this has been agreed by all concerned). The Minister of Agriculture addressed the cabinet on the measures of control of the Ammassi: and 200,000 lire was allotted for urgent Public Works.

2. Flashes from Naples

ACC HQ Commandant reports that the courtyard of the Provincia Building is sinking rapidly on account of previous excavations and vehicles must no longer be parked there. If HQ disappears one day, you know where it's gone ..... EM/OR in rest camps at Naples are having catboats placed at their disposal: no advice yet as to whether guitars will be supplied ..... Region III reports that 18 new pasta factories are in operation and hope to begin deliveries in two weeks' time ..... Much argument has developed as to whether Naples was shaken by an earthquake or a time-bomb half-an-hour after the last air-raid. Old Californians stubbornly maintain the earthquake theory: Professor Imbo of the Vesuvius Observatory insists his instruments didn't record anything of the sort.

3. Displaced Persons - Communications, Records and Enquiries

A section has been set up to deal with Records and Enquiries in the Displaced Persons Sub-Commission under Mr. Thomas Parrington. The section is located at Bari. Nearly 25,000 displaced persons, out of a total of some 35,000, have been registered, though now always with the full details required. Forty-one nationalities are involved. Out of a total of about a thousand enquiries received from all parts of the world, nearly 200 have been satisfactorily answered and communications with relatives re-established. But this has not been an easy task, and Mr Parrington will shortly ask for the help of Regional Commissioners in drawing up lists of displaced persons in various parts of Italy. He is grateful for the cooperation given hitherto, but would like us to say that information from Sicily is particularly slow and meagre. It is hoped that later on a master card-index of all displaced persons may be established in Geneva under the International Red Cross, and the work now instituted here will be an important

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4. Telephone communications

Communication has now been ~~established~~ established as follows with Regional HQ.

Region I - Call Naples Long Distance and ask for Palermo.
Region II - Call Naples Long Distance - ask for Bari and then Matera

/ Region III

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Region III - Naples 10183 or 50140
Region IV - Naples 11722 or 11743
Region V - Call Filpot and ask for Campobasso
Region VII - Call Naples Long Distance and ask for Catanzaro via Salerno - Reggio

There is no telephone service yet to Region VI: it is hoped that this may be established by June 1. Regions VIII and IX can be reached at Vapor (Naples) 76.

5. Ammassi

The campaign to harness the Ammassi machinery of Italy, which has always been 60 per cent an agricultural nation, to the end that Italy become as self-sustaining as possible in food, is on the eve of starting. Working in closest cooperation with the Agriculture Sub-Commission, the Italian Minister of Agriculture has just signed a decree setting up the elaborate machinery for the harvest collection. The decree will be published within the next few days. Saturday and Sunday (April 29 and 30) Under-secretary Dino Bergami of Agriculture, together with Major W.A. Hartman (A), Director of the Agriculture Sub-Commission, and Major M.M.A. Dickie (B), Deputy Director, met with all agricultural officers in the Italian theatre - agriculturists, fishery experts, foresters and other technicians - to plan detailed support to the Italian officials in this first major effort of the new Italian Government. Marshal Badoglio is expected to issue a statement after publication of the decree.

Key announcement concurrent with the Ammassi decree will of course be that of the price to be paid for the wheat which, with barley, will be amassed. Both the ACC and the Italians are in fairly close agreement on the price which may be in the neighbourhood of 1500 lire per quintal. The decree may be briefly summarized as follows:

Five groups of organizations are set up: Compartmental and Provincial Inspectorates having over-all charge of regional amassing; Provincial Advisory Committees; Provincial Agricultural Inspectorate to collect and review all collection returns; Provincial Arricultural Consorzi, which will do the actual amassing; Communal Committees to arbitrate between the farmers and the agencies in disputes.

The decree states that unless the amassing programme yields maximum results this summer, the Italian Government will not be in a position to approach the Allied Authorities with requests for possible additional aid; therefore, every agricultural agency in Italy must do its utmost so that the Ammassi returns will be in accord with "the imperious needs of the moment." On the Allied side, the decree approved by ACC says: "In accordance with agreement reached in the Regional Commissioners' Conference, this is a first priority programme of work for Allied ACC/AMG officers.

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Key announcement concurrent with the Ammassi decree will of course be that of the price to be paid for the wheat which, with barley, will be amassed. Both the ACC and the Italians are in fairly close agreement on the price which may be in the neighbourhood of 1300 lire per quintal. The decree may be briefly summarized as follows:

Five groups of organizations are set up: Compartmental and Provincial Inspectorates having over-all charge of regional amassing; Provincial Advisory Committees; Provincial Agricultural Inspectorate to collect and review all collection returns; Provincial Agricultural Consorzi, which will do the actual amassing; Communal Committees to arbitrate between the farmers and the agencies in disputes.

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The nub of the problem naturally remains the price. The decree mentions that the price to be fixed "will constitute an incentive not to evasion but to delivery." If the Italians do rather the 40 per cent of the crop that ACC authorities have estimated can be gathered, the forthcoming campaign will be nothing less than historic.

Some extremely interesting suggestions were received from Lt Col Ruck of Region II. Unfortunately his letter arrived too

/ late

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late to be included in the discussions. He has, however, suggested some very valuable ideas on the publicity campaign. Among other things he has advised that the word Amnassi be dropped, since it has become associated with corrupt practices and was a special target for our own propaganda.

Distribution:-

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PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

PRB 20. Trend of Copy filed by Correspondents
27 April 1944

Correspondents' copy covering the first meeting of the new Italian Cabinet and its declaration of policy was mainly characterized by somewhat flamboyant reporting of the scene of the meeting. A multitude of words were cabled about the mahogany table, the size and shape of the armchairs, the exact dress of the carabinieri, the type of blotting-pads and inkwells used, the murals and the view, and even the carafe of water on the table. Correspondents clearly regarded the declaration itself as pedestrian and LUSSU (Times) summed up the general view by saying that it was "an unexceptionable catalogue of good intentions: the country now wants to see what the Government will really do." The two points which attracted most attention were (a) the intention to set up a "limited advisory body as a symbol of parliament" and (b) the call to workers in German-occupied territory to celebrate May Day.

CHINIGO (INS) cabled a long interview with Omodeo, whom he called the "fiery Rector of the Naples Athenaeum." The interview was dramatically anti-fascist and anti-clerical. It was essential, Omodeo is quoted as saying, "to stress the true terms of the quarrel between Church and State." At 1300 CHINIGO telephoned a despatch from Salerno containing an exact translation of paragraphs 1 - 5 and paragraph 8 of the declaration (which was not released until 1730). He made no comment except that it was a "resounding declaration of new policy."

Only one other correspondent, ELEANOR PACKARD (U.P.) filed copy at this time (1315) from Salerno. She gave details of the declaration and quoted all six points on the agenda, giving them as (1) French Committee of Liberation (2) Participation of Italian forces in war effort (3) Government's relations with Russia (4) Government's relations with ACC (5) May Day celebrations (6) Epuration. SPRIGGE (Reuters) filed a straight story of the declaration from Naples at 1630. He did not, as CHINIGO, use its exact terms, and later, after the general release had been made, sent alterations of his previous despatch. PARKER (Exchange Telegraph) filed a descriptive story, with vague hints of the declaration, from Naples at 1530. He described the Council Chamber in detail. "Badoglio was evidently too pre-occupied to smoke, as there was only one cigarette-stub in his ash-tray after the two-hour sitting."

GODFREY TALBOT (BBC) filed a straight descriptive story from Naples at 1630, getting neatly round the censorship stop on Salerno by stating that the windows overlooked a "beach made famous in this war."

MACDONALD (News Chronicle) filed a story from Naples at 1706. "I learn that relationships with Russia were discussed

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GODFREY TALBOT (BBC) filed a straight descriptive story from Naples at 1650, getting neatly round the censorship stop on Salerno by stating that the windows overlooked a "beach made famous in this war."

MACDONALD (News Chronicle) filed a story from Naples at 1706. "I learn that relations with Russia were discussed and Togliatti spoke at length on this ... and when I was allowed briefly to watch the cabinet discussion, Togliatti held the floor." He stated that the release of 50,000 prisoners in Russian hands was discussed, and also defascistization, "which was listed rather humorously on the cabinet agenda."

This concludes the list of correspondents who filed stories before the release of the declaration.

/ COOPER (Daily Express)

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COOPER (Daily Express) filing at 1745 sent a straight story of the declaration, giving the agenda of the meeting. He described the setting in details, mentioning the murals as "depicting the ancient history of the town."

YENDRICK (News Chronicle) filing from Naples at 1750 sent a descriptive story of a comically exaggerated nature. "I climbed the huge staircase to the Cabinet Chamber ... a ceiling fifty feet high with walls topped by paintings of lovely women in various stages of undress ... the carafe of water and the glass on the table were untouched." HAMMOND (Sunday Times) also gave prominence to the untouched carafe. His statement of the declaration was factual without comment: he gave the full agenda.

ELEANOR PACKARD (U.P.) in a later despatch sent at 1836 said that the cabinet had allotted 200 million lire to public works, and added that the next meeting would be on 4 May.

KENNEDY (A.P.) filing at 1847 sent a perfectly straight story of the declaration. He included no mention of the agenda.

HOLLER ALGART (New York Herald Tribune) and JOHNSON (Chicago Sun) did not send stories till later and then gave the declaration without comment.

It seems clearly established that several correspondents entered the Council Chamber during the lunch recess and examined the documents left on the table. This was unfortunate, especially as a notice had been posted in the correspondents' room at Naples on Wednesday giving the location of the Italian Government Press Bureau in Salerno and stating specifically that correspondents would not be allowed in the Council Chamber. At the same time, if State papers are left lying about in a room not properly guarded, it is difficult to bring accusations against particular correspondents, especially since it is clear that the information was spread amongst nearly all of them: CHINNOC and PACKARD were merely quicker to scoop.

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SECRET

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

000021

22 April 1944.

PRB 26/WB3

ACC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 3
15 April to 22 April

1. Political

The political crisis which began with the unanimous resolution of the Communist Party on 1 April, and proceeded to the King's request on 17 April to the Marshal to form a new government, was finally resolved on 21 April when Badoglio succeeded in forming a government in which all the six recognized opposition parties were represented. The new Government is as follows:

Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs		Badoglio
Ministers without portfolio	ACTION PARTY	Sforza
	LIBERAL PARTY	Croce
	COMMUNIST PARTY	Togliatti
	SOCIALIST	Mancini
	CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT	Rodino
Minister of the Interior	CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT	Aldisio
Under-secretaries	SOCIALIST	(Salerno
	ACTION PARTY	(Caracciolo
Minister of Finance	NON-PARTY	Quintieri
Under-secretary	COMMUNIST	Pesenti
Minister of Communications	LABOUR DEMOCRAT	Cerabona
Under-secretaries	NON-PARTY	(di Raimondi
	NON-PARTY	(Puno
Minister of Public Works	ACTION PARTY	Tarchiani
Under-secretary	LABOUR DEMOCRAT	Cilento
Minister of Agriculture	COMMUNIST	Gullo
Under-secretary	LIBERAL	Bergami
Minister of Justice	LIBERAL	Arangio Ruiz
Under-secretary	LABOUR DEMOCRAT	Lombardo
Minister of Education	ACTION PARTY	Omodeo
Under-secretary	CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT	Jervolino
Minister of Industry	SOCIALIST	di Napoli
Under-secretary	CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT	Sansonetti
Minister of War	NON-PARTY	Orlando
Under-secretary	COMMUNIST	Palermo
	NON-PARTY	de Courten

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Minister of Communications	LABOUR DEMOCRAT	Cerabona
Under-secretaries	NON-PARTY	(di Raimondi
	NON-PARTY	(Fano
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Minister of Industry	SOCIALIST	di Napoli
Under-secretary	CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT	Sansonetti
Minister of War	NON-PARTY	Orlando
Under-secretary	COMMUNIST	Palermo
Minister of the Navy	NON-PARTY	de Courten
Under-secretary	SOCIALIST	Alberzo
AAir Minister	NON-PARTY	Sandalli
Under-secretary to the Presidency	LIBERAL	Morelli / Tais

* Sforza is not strictly speaking of any party but is closely associated with the Action Party.

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This gives a total of 17 ministers including Badoglio. Seven of these posts are held by the parties of the left, i.e. Action, Socialists and Communists. Five are held by the moderate parties, i.e. Christian Democrats, Labour Democrats and Liberals. Four are held by non-party men. Outside the three service Ministers no member of the previous government remains in office, although two are under-secretaries.

The party division of the whole government, including under-secretaries, gives the following picture:

Left	Action Party	4
	Communists	4
	Socialists	4
Moderate	Labour Democrats	3
	Christian Democrats	4
	Liberals	4
Non-party (including Badoglio)		7

The result was regarded by many as a striking victory for Badoglio in getting the parties together on reasonable terms.

Badoglio, who gave a press conference at 6 p.m. on the 21st, seemed in high spirits and said that "the Allies had wanted a representative Government and there it was." He refused to make a statement of policy which, he promised, would be issued after the first meeting of the new Cabinet on or about Tuesday next.

2. Harvest

The mastering of the promulgation of new decrees on the Ammassi, and the statement promised by Badoglio on the decrees and on the necessity of amassing, have both been delayed by the long-drawn-out government crisis. The Marshal has promised to include references to the Ammassi in his statement after the first meeting of the new Cabinet. Meanwhile the lines of a publicity campaign by PWB have been roughly drawn out by PR Branch on the advice of Food and Agriculture Sub-Commissions. There will be three phases in the campaign, viz (a) publicity and supporting articles for Badoglio's statement on the general necessity of contributing to the Ammassi (b) publicity for the announcement of prices which is to be made on May 1 and (c) publicity on transport, warehousing, machinery of decrees, advantages of early amassing etc from July 1 onwards. Suggestions from Regions as to the most effective methods of conducting the campaign will be very welcome.

3. Sardinian Coal

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3. Sardinian Coal

Headquarters mining experts seem to think that the much-maligned Sardinian coal situation is better than has been believed. The equivalent of 100,000 tons of coal that would otherwise have to come from the United States or the United Kingdom has been mined and brought to the Italian mainland for use in industrial plants. Technicians anticipate eventually surpassing the peak production of 104,000 tons a month attained under Italian management, which, incidentally, had been buying British coal to burn in the locomotives which hauled Sardinian coal to the port from the mines.

/ 4. Financial News

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4. Financial News

While most sub-commissions have in recent weeks been getting their share of the press limelight, one sub-commission in particular - finance - has been as silent as a well-kept banker's sanctum. This week, however, finance will make its first news release and probably hold a press conference to explain it. It should be news to the Italians as well as to the Allied press.

5. Manoeuvres

Units of the Fifth Army will shortly hold manoeuvres in street fighting in Capua for two weeks. AMG is helping by evacuating 1,500 civilians for the term of the training course.

6. Black Market in Palermo

Since Easter volunteer civilian squads have been investigating shops in Palermo in an attempt to curb the black market. Provincial Commissioner Thomas reports that it is hoped to extend the movement to other Sicilian towns. The Italian High Commissioner for Sicily, Francesco Musotto, is very keen on the experiment and is giving it strong personal support. The volunteers are looking particularly for hoarding and are checking on prices and quality of oil, milk, wheat and pasta. Offenders are dealt with in several ways. If merchants withdraw their goods from sale after the visit of a volunteer squad, new squads go in and seize the concealed goods and apply for revocation of the merchants' licenses. An experimental order has been issued in Palermo shutting off flour for the commercial baking of little cakes.

7. Bread

The bluff of a Sicilian baker was called on Tuesday by ACC officials who went into a Palermo bakery with a crew of army cooks and produced on the spot 137 kgs of bread from 100 kgs of flour. The test was made in the presence of Sicilian bakers who had claimed that no such quantity of bread could possibly be produced from so little raw material. Colonel W.J. Legg states that some of the smaller and less efficient bakeries will probably not be able to produce quite so much bread from 100 kgs of flour. There is no doubt, nevertheless, that dilution and adulteration of bread are being practised on a wide scale. One favourite trick is to bake bread quickly in a very hot oven, getting a thick, hard crust and leaving the inside soggy and half raw to get the official weight.

8. Guardia Campestri

Guardia Campestri, the private police force of the landowners in Sicily, will probably be revived soon as an adjunct to the senior agencies of public order. At a Regional Conference on Wednesday, Lt Col Hancock, Regional Commissioner, informed his Provincial Commissioners that Prefects have

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9. Messina

Illicit traffic across the straits of Messina is reported to be on a great scale and the Provincial Commissioner of Messina has asked for a coast guard service to check it. "Sicilian assets," he claims, "are being drained off to the mainland. Sicilian trucks are being sold for as much as 500,000 lire in Italy." Parochialism?

/ 10. Flashes from Sicil

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10. Flashes from Sicily

Sicily is exporting 10,000 tons of sulphur this week to UK. Revenue collections in Palermo in March 1944 reached 60 million lire as against 13 million in January and 16 million in March 43. Carabinieri in Catania seized a printing plant which was counterfeiting ration-books wholesale. At Agrigento a stock of 14,000 tons of Black Market flour was found. At Caltanissetta 90 quintals of Black Market wheat were caught in one convoy. Layettes and pyjamas given out by the Red Cross in Sicily seem to puzzle the Sicilians. Major Gilbertson, Finance Officer, Region I, reports that the only people neglecting payment of income-tax are AMG civilian employees. The Prefect of Trapani has started collecting public subscriptions from wealthy Sicilians for the purchase of food from the Black Market to feed the poor.

11. Psychological Warfare Branch

Psychological Warfare Branch came in for criticism by giving prominence in "Risorgimento" to McCaffrey's statement at the Regional Commissioners Conference. Coming at a time when the fate of the Badoglio Government was in doubt, the statement had political implications of an embarrassing nature. The case has led to some discussion of the activities and powers of PWB. The new head of PWB in the Italian theatre, Mr John Rayner, who has recently arrived in Italy, has undertaken to cooperate more closely with ACC in such matters in the future.

12. Allied Publications Board

It should be noted that the central APB includes representatives from the Political Section, Industry Sub-Commission and PR Branch of ACC, as well as representatives of Censorship and G-2. The control of newspapers and other publications is the function of this Board: PWB press officers are responsible to the Board. The present technical control of certain newspapers and of broadcasting stations is a temporary measure and steps to transfer responsibility to Italians are to be encouraged. Attention is drawn to PRB 14A of 13 April regarding clandestine newspapers.

LIONEL FIELDEN,
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Distribution:- Regional Commissioners, Regions I, II, III, IV, V, VI, VII.
Senior Civil Affairs Officers, Fifth and Eighth Armies.
Chief Commissioner
Deputy Chief Commissioner
Executive Commissioner
Deputy Executive Commissioner
Vice President, Administrative Section
Information Division
Mr George W. Edman, PWB.
Col Spofford, AFHQ.

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SECRET

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

PRB 26/WB2. 8 April 1944.

ACC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 2
1 April -- 8 April

1. Political

Sir Noel Charles has arrived in Italy in the capacity of British Member of the Advisory Council and High Commissioner in Italy, vice the Rt Hon Harold Macmillan, who remains British Resident Minister at Allied Force Headquarters.

Sir Noel Charles was Counsellor in Rome, Minister in Lisbon, and Ambassador to Brazil from 1941-1944.

Mr Alexander Kirk, American Member of the Advisory Council vice Mr Robert Murphy, is expected in Italy shortly.

The Advisory Council will meet on Saturday, 8 April. Members now present are M. Guerin (France); Mr Murphy (U.S.A.); Sir Noel Charles (Great Britain); M. Krek (Yugoslavia); and M. Kapsambelis (Greece).

Great political activity in Italian circles has resulted from the speech of Ercoli, given at a Press Conference in Naples on 1 April, in which he defined the attitude of the Italian Communist Party. Ercoli's proposals in brief were

(a) that all antifascist parties stop quarrelling and get together;
(b) that the question of the monarchy be waived until after the war on the understanding that it should be decided then by a fully representative constituent assembly; and
(c) that a new government be now formed based on the overriding necessity of giving all support to the war effort.

The second point was naturally something of a bombshell. The six parties went into conference at Sorrento on 6 April and put out a somewhat guarded resolution stressing the necessity for a war government. Benedetto Croce announced that, on an approach by Enrico de Nicola, the King had expressed his willingness to nominate, when Rome fell and while awaiting confirmation by the Italian people, the Prince of Piedmont as Lieutenant Governor.

Salerno gossip indicates a coming shuffle in the Government. Sforza's attitude as to whether he would enter Government while the King and Badoglio remain is still undefined. Badoglio's speech at Palermo on 31 March had a good many points in common with that of Ercoli on the following day. Italian newspapers predict the fall of Ministers Reale, Cobbino and Junk. New names canvassed are those of Ercoli

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2. Air Vice Marshal Foster's Report

In a report to the Air Commander in Chief the Head of the Air Force Sub Commission gives some interesting figures and conclusions. The operational units of the Italian Air Force now comprise Fighter, Bomber and Seaplane Wings which are

/ carrying

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carrying out a useful and steady programme of supply, escort, patrol and air-sea rescue work, besides operating against coastal shipping and other targets. In the six months since the Armistice the Italian Air Force has flown 8,784 hours and accomplished 8,309 sorties. On a general estimate it is stated that the three wings together should be able to reach an aggregate of 1,000 sorties a month during the summer. Apart from these activities the Italian Air Force has supplied personnel numbering more than ten thousand to the USAAF and RAF. The Air Vice Marshal states at the conclusion of his report that in his judgment "the Italian Air Force has, during the past six months, made a whole-hearted effort to contribute its share in operations against the enemy, and this fact should be plainly recorded, so that it can be placed to the credit of the Italians when the time for settlement comes."

3. Heavy Workers' Rations

At a meeting of the Labour and Wages Control Committee of the Allied Force Local Resources (Italian) Board held on 3 April it was recommended that the Board accept, with certain amendments, the 400 proposals for supplementary rations to heavy workers. These include "pesanti" and "pesantissimi", but not "operai leggeri" or "impiegati". The proposal eliminates the midday meal (with the exception of dehydrated soup, which shall be available to all personnel, as qualified, employed by the Allied Armed Forces) and incorporates its components in a supplemental ration which, however, gives an overall increase. The supplementary ration will not be a free issue and must be paid for by the worker.

4. Courts

The drive against the Black Market continues. In AMG Summary Courts during the week there were 280 cases and 240 convictions: in the Italian courts 295 cases and 257 convictions. Terms of from 3 to 10 years were given to 14 out of 16 accused persons who were found dividing up a sum of 400,000 lire, proceeds of the theft of two truckloads of flour.

For cutting wire one sentence of 20 years (for repeated offences) was given, and 4 of 5 years each.

Two Italians accused of the fatal stabbing of an Allied soldier (a case of attempted rape) were acquitted.

5. Collection of Refuse

There has been a drive to improve the collection of garbage in Naples before the hot weather comes. Sixty trucks and two-hundred horse-drawn carts

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6. Archives

Mr Fred W. Shipman, Librarian of the Franklin Delano

/ Roosevelt

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Roosevelt Library at Hyde Park has arrived at ACC Headquarters to advise on archives.

Mr Hilary Jenkinson, Secretary of the Public Record Office, arrived from England in February for the same purpose. No doubt our archives will be very good.

7. New Region

Region II has been divided into two Regions. Calabria now becomes Region VII with headquarters, however, of five officers only. This change has been effected owing to the lack of communications in the original territory of Region II.

8. Sicilian Railways

Sicilian railways are now being run by ACC and practically all lines are back in operation.

9. Appointment of Consuls-General

United States and British Consuls-General have been appointed at Palermo and Naples. They will not, for the time being, exercise the full functions of Consuls-General.

10. Monthly Publication of Staff List

It is intended to maintain Special Order No 58 dated 1 April 1944 (nominal roll of all officers in ACC) as a monthly publication which will give not only the names of officers in ACC, but their actual duties and locations. Regional Commissioners are being asked to bring complete lists of their personnel to the Conference on 14 April.

11. Extract from letter asking for brick contract

"Perfectly acquainted with the difficulties of how much they ask you for, notwithstanding they dope in your soul-nobility and will of rendering you acceptable to Sicilian people, who so much admiration feels towards you Nations ... do in a way for trust of a mother and of a maiden be not in vain; strong is the hope, very cruel would turn out the indecisive.

"To the ain you be informed, aforesaid firm furnishes with bricks a great part of Concerns in the Province; we list below the lately requests, with the addresses of the applying, with due "buoni' of AMGOT, or now ACC.

"Gentlemen, I don't last more; your spirit of ready perception and tacitive sagacity proper of you, will inspire to you what is to be do."

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Director of Public
Relations.

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Copy

ACC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO.1
26 March - 1 April

1. Political.

A convention regarding the treatment of Italian prisoners-of-war has been under discussion with the Italian Government. The negotiations are still proceeding and it is not desired to give any publicity to them until and unless they are successfully concluded.

The Advisory Council for Italy met at Naples on 1 April.

Palmiro Togliatti (Ercoli), leader of the Italian Communist Party, arrived in Naples after 18 years of exile on 28 March.

2. Movements.

Marshal Badoglio left for a tour of inspection in Sicily on 30 March.

3. Appointments and Changes.

General Xavier de Sevin arrived in Italy to take up his duties as French on the Allied Control Commission. General de Sevin was air attache in Rumania from 1938 until July 1941, when the Germans expelled him. The Gestapo threw him into prison at Marseilles in February 1943. He escaped with his two sons through Spain in September 1943. He is a Commander of the Legion of Honour, was wounded three times in the last war, mentioned twelve times in Army orders and is credited with having brought down 17 enemy planes in 1917-1918.

Brigadier J.K. Dunlop was appointed Regional Commissioner, Region IV.

Brigadier M. Carr was appointed Regional Commissioner, Region VI.

Air Commodore W. A. B. Bowen-Buscarlet was appointed Director of the Air Sub Commission vice Air Commodore E. M. Foster.

4. ACC Personnel.

Arrangements so far worked out, but not absolutely final, for the allocation of ACC personnel, give a ceiling of 291 officers at Headquarters, 50 officers at Regional HQ and 881 officers in the Field. It is proposed that ACC agree to work on this ceiling up to the Rimini-Pisa line

5. Refugees.

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5. Refugees.

The stream of Italian refugees from operational areas, which has totalled more than 70,000 since 1 January, is now decreasing and is only about 1,400 a week. 2,000 refugees are being evacuated from the Polish front. About 50,000 refugees have been placed in the compartments of Calabria, Puglia and Lucania (Region II). Refugees are also accommodated in Sicily, where they will be dispersed in the country and not placed in camps. Cooperation in Sicily has been excellent: newspaper and poster appeals have been very successful in arousing the sympathies of the Sicilians and helping to place the refugees.

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/6. Vesuvius.

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b. Vesuvius.

On 13 March, 1944 the cone of Mount Vesuvius caved in, activity stopped and there was hardly any smoke until the exceptional eruptive activity started at ;630 hrs 18 March. The lava stream started to flow down the northwest slope. At 1000 hrs 19 March the lava stream was headed towards Cercola, was 12 feet high, 500 feet wide and moving 12 feet an hour, and building up quite a head. At 1100 hrs 20 March the lava stream had increased its speed, reached a precipitous slope about 115 feet high above San Sebastiano and was literally pouring over this spot like a cataract of fire. Civilians were alarmed, were told by ACC officers on the spot that San Sebastiano and Cercola would be evacuated before lives were imperilled. Civilians living in the lava path were told to start moving household effects to nearby homes of friends.

Lieut.-Colonel James Kincaid, Naples Provincial Commissioner, in personal charge of the emergency, telephoned Naples from the field to send all available trucks, his public safety chief and a detachment of cerabinieri. At 1245 20 March the men reported for duty and at 1500 trucks began evacuation work, as the lava stream had struck outskirts of San Sebastiano and was within ½ mile of the main street. Lieut.-Colonel Charles Poletti, Regional Commissioner, ordered evacuation of civilians from Cercola, to start at 0600 21 March. At 0330 21 March the main lava stream had crossed the main street of San Sebastiano; by that time the town had been completely evacuated.

At 0600 Cercola evacuation began. At that time lava was within 2,000 metres of the town. A large detachment of MP's from PBS arrived to take over traffic control, for the narrow streets were clogged with trucks, donkey carts and pedestrians loaded with personal effects.

About 600 persons from Massa and 2,150 from San Sebastiano were moved out of the area to the homes of relatives or friends; 125 were quartered in the movie theatre of San Giorgio.

At 1100 hrs 21 March an adganced HQ of Naples Province was opened in the Municipio at Cercola, from where Colonel Kincaid directed operations. Food arrived in trucks and was give n to ration card holders. By 1200 hrs 22 March the lava movement became frozen, with the points of two prongs, one 1450 metres from the main street of Cercola with a salient between, running up the mountain for some distance, and the other prong about 150 feet from the Municipio at San Sebastiano.

PBS, 57 Area and other Allied units cooperated fully, providing equipment and manpower. Feeding of refugee civilians continued 23 March, but further evacuation was halted. After that period comparative quiet prevailed. There was at no time any looting.

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About 600 persons from Massa and 2,150 from San Sebastiano were moved out of the area to the homes of relatives or friends; 125 were quartered in the movie theatre of San Giorgio.

At 1100 hrs 21 March an adganced HQ of Naples Province was opened in the Municipio at Cercola, from where Colonel Kincaid directed operations. Food arrived in trucks and was given to ration card holders. By 1200 hrs 22 March the lava movement became frozen, with the points of two prongs, one 1450 metres from the main street of Cercola with a salient between, running up the mountain for some distance, and the other prong about 150 feet from the Municipio at San Sebastiano.

PBS, 57 Area and other Allied units cooperated fully, providing equipment and manpower. Feeding of refugee civilians continued 23 March, but further evacuation was halted. After that period comparative quiet prevailed. There was at no time any looting.

A great dust bowl has been created around the towns of San Giuseppe, Terzigno and Pugliano. Traffic is handicapped, fields are covered (drifts of ash in some places are five feet high) and Region III has undertaken a relief programme. Forage for livestock, candles for homes (electric power in those areas is off) and trucks and bull-dozers for highway clearance have been brought in: Region III officers are working with civilian agencies on a plan to procure fresh vegetables and other foodstuffs for the dust bowl area.

A maximum of 77 officers, enlisted men and other ranks was used during the emergency. Other units demonstrated fine cooperation - the 57th Area loaned 300 trucks, PBS provided 100 military police and the Red Cross set up soup kitchens.

/Colonel Kincaid

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Colonel Kincaid in a report to ACC praised the work of officers and men, but added that in the future, in such emergency operations, officers assigned to tasks should report with complete kits and be prepared to remain on duty until relieved. Too many officers, he said, appeared to have just come out from town to see the sights and many asked to return almost at once for changes of clothing, a shave, their kits etc. Each officer so assigned to an emergency should, Colonel Kincaid recommended, carry with him at least two days' rations.

7. Prices of luxury goods and souvenirs.

It is too early to say how far the drive against high prices has been successful. An amusing sidelight is the reported attempt of racketeers to pose as Allied price-fixers and extort a bribe for removing out-of-bounds notices.

8. Drive against black market activities.

The Special Investigating Officer has continued his drive against the black market. In the AMG Summary Courts in Naples alone there were 512 cases during the week. Of these 450 were convicted. In Italian courts in Naples during the week there were 277 cases, and 251 convictions. An order was issued on 1 April by Region III for the appointment by Sindaci of citizens' squads for investigating an reporting on black market activities.

9. Summer Time.

Clocks will be advanced one hour throughout Liberated Italy from 0200 hrs on 2 April.

10. Public Relations Branch.

A Public Relations Branch has been established at Headquarters. Public Relations work for the whole of ACC activities will be controlled by this Branch and no Public Relations Officers will be permanently assigned to regions, although the Director (Major Fielden) will be empowered to make temporary assignments as required, and the fullest contacts will be developed and maintained with all regions. It may be noted that owing to the lull on the battlefronts war correspondents are now taking an active interest in the work of the ACC and it is hoped that many of them will be visiting the regions. PR Branch will shortly issue a note of guidance in this connection.

11. Officers for UK.

A draft of about 70 officers, 64 British and 6 American, will be leaving very shortly for UK. A further group of about 50 Civil Affairs officers is forming in North Africa under Lieut.-Colonel Gerry for shipment. It is hoped that these will

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