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Censorship

Nov. 1944 - Feb. 1945

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Headquarters Allied Commission
CIVIL CENSORSHIP GROUP
APO 394, U. S. Army

CMB/vm
AHT

SPECIAL REPORT NO. 94

17 February 1945

SUBJECT: Appreciation and Censorship Report on Italian Civilian
and Military Mail for Four Weeks Ending 20 January 1945.

TO : G-2 (Communications Censorship), AFHQ, APO 312,
U. S. Army.

This report is based on 379,200 letters checked during the four weeks ended 20th January 1945. This does not include any military mail from the front lines.

Attached is a table (Appendix A) which shows the relation between favourable and unfavourable comments on every subject each week. In all cases the lowest number of comments is reduced to one, and the second figure shows the corresponding number of comments of the opposite opinion.

None of the comments used in this report have been used in any previous report.

1. FOOD SITUATION.

After a slight slackening off in the proportion of unfavourable comments noticed during the previous four weeks, civilian mail became more unfavourable during the period under review, and adverse comments were in a majority of 13.1 to 1 as compared with 10.8 to 1 during the preceding period. The situation in Terni seems to be particularly bad, there being no favourable comments at all as against 113 unfavourable; and Florence out of a total of 107 comments, only produced two that were favourable. Rome and Naples took a much gloomier view than they did during the previous period, and the adverse comments were in a majority of roughly 36 and 33 to 1 respectively. Military mail was also more unfavourable than during the preceding four weeks, though Naples, which is always favourably disposed, became even more optimistic to the extent of about 7 to 1.

Many letters speak of the 200 grams of flour or bread per day as being a totally inadequate ration, particularly since it is so difficult for many people to get other food stuffs. The absence of oil or other fats is also a constantly recurring complaint. Above all looms the oppressive cloud of high prices.

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Again and again the writers refer to this evil in one way or another. Even among letters admitting that there is a comparative abundance of food items available in various centres - Rome, for example - there is the bitter, qualifying criticism that the prices place these items out of reach. Favourable remarks nearly all come from people who can afford to patronise the black market. The following are a selection of comments illustrating the above complaints:

"As regards food we are in a really bad way. All we get is 200 grams of flour, no pasta, no rice, no fats. Meat is never seen because the Germans took away all the cattle. There are no pigs, no hens, no rabbits. Milk, sugar and salt have also vanished. The black market is spreading, and the price of salt, for one thing, is 500 lire per kilo." (23/12/44 - Pibbiena)

"We are enduring real starvation. We eat what we can find but it is without any seasoning because we are given neither oil nor fats. Some things can now be bought in the black market, but prices are fabulous, and I can't cope with them." (7/1/45 - Arezzo)

"Living conditions here are becoming more and more difficult. Food prices have gone sky high, to say nothing of goods in the black market. Honest people like us can only struggle on by tightening their belts." (17/1/45 - Florence)

"Every day I look forward to the evening with great eagerness so that I may be able to sleep until 9 a.m. the following morning, by this way lessening both hunger and cold." (18/1/45 - Florence)

"It is a long time now since I tasted anything but chaff. Nothing else is available." (29/12/44)

"They give each person one kilogram of paste products a month and 200 grams of bread daily, nothing else, just paste products and water. A kilogram of lentils costs 120 lire. Formerly we were well off, but now, believe me, existing means headaches." (19/1/45 - Grosseto)

"The food situation is always the same, that is, nothing or almost nothing to eat may be found, not even greens. The little food that occasionally comes to the market has fantastic prices." (18/1/45 - San Casciano, Pisa)

"Here in Rome life goes on amidst discomforts and the well known privations. I might almost say that the situation has become worse, especially as regards food, with a tremendous

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rise in the price of the few food stuffs found on the market, which are only within the reach of swindlers and inveterate black market dealers." (3/1/45 - Rome)

"When you have to go out early in the morning, your teeth shattering from cold and hunger, without a cup of hot milk and a piece of bread, and you have to stay till three o'clock without eating -- when children go to school without picnic lunch and see some of the in-school fellows eating ham sandwiches, what must an innocent child suffer?" (11/1/45 - Rome)

2. CLOTHING.

Unfavourable comments among civilian mail increased considerably during the four weeks under review, and outnumbered favourable comments by 50.1 to 1 as compared with 22.7 to 1 during the previous period. Ascoli, Foggia, Macerata and Terni produced no favourable comments at all, and there was only one from Ancona out of a total of 28 for that city. The position in Naples seems to have deteriorated considerably, there being only 5 favourable comments from a total of 753. Rome also revealed a markedly more pessimistic feeling. Except from Naples, there were hardly any military comments, and Naples, usually favourable, was about equally divided during the period under review.

There was a little mention of any shortage of clothing, shoes etc., though that has been the case hitherto. Nearly all the complaints were based on the prices of the various articles or the materials themselves. The following are typical examples:

"To have to buy a suit is a terrible problem nowadays, not to mention shoes and shirts. Five months ago I bought a shirt for 700 lire. Recently a similar shirt, which I had to buy, having run out of underwear, cost me 3000 lire. Materials to make such shirts cannot be bought for less than 200-300 lire per yard." (28/12/44 - Caspiglia Marittima)

"A pair of trousers, made of material that will come to pieces in a very short time, cost me 3000 lire. The price of a man's suit is 10,000 lire, and that of a pair of shoes 3000." (22/12/44 - Macerata)

"There is no joking about the clothing situation here. Shoes cost 2000 or 3000 lire a pair; the price of ladies' stockings ranges up to 2000 lire, and a spool of thread of about 100 yards costs 100 lire." (30/12/44 - Terni)

"Those who have clothing material to sell also have the audacity to ask 3000 lire a yard for it." (4/1/45 - Staffolo Ancone)

"We lack clothing, which can only be obtained at astronomical prices. Just think that a man's suit of the poorest

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material costs 25,000 lire. How can we office workers afford such expenses? In order to buy three pairs of shoes for my children I had to pay 6,000 lire." (5/1/45 - Fermo, Ascoli-Piceno)

"We are greatly in need of children's clothes and socks, of which we are entirely without. The prices of clothing materials are really out of all proportion. If anyone wants to buy a suit he must spend 10,000 lire at least." (14/1/45 - Caserta)

"Our fellow countrymen are all devoting themselves to black market activities. One yard of dress material will not cost less than 1000 lire, and a pair of men's shoes 4000 to 5000 lire. It is terrible to think of how one is to clothe oneself." (12/1/45 - Appignano, Macerata)

3. HOUSING SITUATION.

Civilian opinion on the housing situation took a turn for the worse during the four weeks under review, unfavourable comments being in a majority of 24.4 to 1 as compared with 20 to 1 during the previous period. There were no favourable comments from Arezzo. This also applies to several other places which produced very few comments. But it is in Naples that the situation seems to be worst, there being only 9 favourable comments out of a total of 826. Military mail was also more unfavourable, but since nearly all the comments came from Naples, the figures cannot be taken as indicating any general opinion.

Complaints are based on a variety of causes, though most of them really rest on the actual shortage of houses. Destruction due to the war is naturally the fundamental cause of complaint. Along with this there are letters that speak of too many families crowded into one house, or even one room. Soaring rents are also mentioned, and there is the inevitable grouse against requisitioning by the Allies. The following comments are typical:

"Life is very slow in reawakening, and this keeps us worried. There are still 1,500 families who cannot come back to town, for they have no homes. About another thousand live sharing their lodgings with other people." (2/1/45 - Pisa)

"Mama and I have come back to town, but just when we thought we were safely home after so many vicissitudes, the English came and occupied half of our house." (6/1/45 - Arezzo)

"Leghorn is in a terrible state. Half of it is razed to the ground, and there is no light, water or gas. All the

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houses left standing, have been requisitioned by the Allies. The only things left to us are collapsing walls and the rubble." (24/12/44 - Livorno)

"Our house was bombed, and most of our belongings were stolen. Now there are four of us living piled up in one furnished room. Such a housing situation makes our conditions even worse." (15/1/45 - Arezzo)

"It is impossible to live in boarding houses; besides, they have nearly all been requisitioned. Houses to rent are not to be found anywhere, and those that are going to be rebuilt will certainly be let at enormous rents." (6/1/45 - Florence)

4. INCOME.

Civilian opinion on the subject of wages, salaries and pensions became a little more unfavourable during the four weeks under review, and unfavourable comments were in a majority of 16.5 to 1 as compared with 14.1 to 1 during the preceding period. In many cases the number of comments was small, and no fair deduction can be made from the figures. In the case of Rome, however, there is no doubt that public opinion views this matter with growing concern, and adverse comments were in a majority of 52 to 1. There were no military comments from any centre.

Clarks, office workers generally and pensioners are the worst hit. Letter after letter complains that salaries are not nearly adequate to meet the cost of living. Many people have already used up their savings, and have now joined the ranks of those who are slowly selling anything saleable they can spare. Those who have neither savings nor anything left to sell write in resignation, and speak of tightening their belts, of losing weight, and of becoming run down. Some, in defiance, speak of intending to increase their incomes by dishonest means. The following are examples of the comments:

"We go along blindly, that is, without being able to depend on our salaries. One day we spend 200 lire and another 500 lire, but the salary is only 100 lire a day. It is useless to make any comments. As long as there is something to sell, one sells it; then we shall do as others do. There are people who steal, cheat, deal in the black market or prostitute themselves, and people who starve because they are not capable of doing any of these things. But nobody can get along on their salary alone." (9/1/45 - Rome)

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"Hunger is so pressing that, to satisfy ones need, a salary at least six times as high as the one we earn would be required. Nobody takes any notice of the situation of office workers. I have already 'eaten up' my share of inheritance as well as all the money I had been saving over many years. I also sold my radio, but the profit has already disappeared." (12/1/45 - Lacerata)

"Rages have been increased, but this is not sufficient to cope with the black market. On the other hand, one cannot do without the latter, for what one gets with ration cards is just enough to die from starvation." (29/12/44 - Terzi)

"Every day the situation grows worse on account of the prices. One's monthly wages are barely enough to keep one going for a couple of weeks." (27/12/44 - Storace)

5. NATIONAL GOVERNMENT.

From most centers there were very few comments on the National Government in the civilian mail, but the sum total revealed a more unfavourable attitude than during the previous period. Rome and Naples were the only two centers that produced comments in any numbers. There was not much change in Naples, but Rome became a little more unfavourable. Military comments were so few that the ratio figures are of little value.

The mail is not very helpful in giving any specific reasons for the adverse feelings of the majority towards the Government. A general condemnation rather than particular charges are brought against it, though there is some complaining that Fascists are still active, that there are too many political parties, and that there is no united driving force. The following comments give an idea of the general run of letters:

"We had better not make any comments on the sad political and social condition of our poor country. Just when it is necessary to devote every effort to reconstruction, they do nothing but make the situation worse. All that we have gone through has taught no lesson to those who intend to ruin the country." (27/12/44 - Ascoli-Piceno)

"The new plutocrats created by the Fascist regime, and enabled by our stupid Government which calls itself democratic, want to strangle working people." (12/1/45 - Ancona)

"I wish there were not so many parties in Italy. I would like to see just two of them, united and strong enough to avoid further risks to our country, especially revolutionary irreconcilable conditions in a new dictatorship for the people."

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The present situation of Italy would break the heart of anyone who stopped to consider it. Only hard work and harmony can lead, in due time, to the rebuilding of all that has been carelessly and wickedly destroyed." (9/1/45 - Florence)

"The Government ought to do away with so much politics and do something sensible. All the parties should disappear and come back later on." (27/12/44 - Florence)

"We will recall it when the war is over, in the way of a fire-side chat — but will we enjoy such memories? I don't think so, because the situation will grow still worse. The parties will spoil everybody and everything." (28/12/44 - Macerata)

"Ministries are in the hands of old men. The survivors of the first twenty years of this century. Stubborn, hard-headed and temporizing, they are not able to do anything, and they do not want others to do anything." (25/12/44 - Rome)

6. PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION.

Civilian mail was not so adverse towards the provincial administration as it was during the previous four weeks, but this is due entirely to a big reduction in the number of unfavourable comments from Rome. Seven centres produced no favourable comments at all, notably Arezzo which returned 23 unfavourable ones. Military mail was not concerned with this subject.

The comments themselves are of little help in explaining the reasons behind the unfavourable attitude towards the provincial administrations. The latter are often blamed for conditions for which they are not responsible, and are sometimes praised in like manner. Little can be said beyond the fact that the provincial administrations are not generally popular.

7. RELATIONS WITH THE ALLIES.

The popularity of the Allies, which has been waning for some months, deteriorated still further during the period under review, and civilian comments were only 4.7 to 1 in favour as compared with 5.3 to 1 during the previous four weeks. Aquila, Florence, and Macerata seem to be the most favourably disposed, with only 3 unfavourable comments between them out of a total of 78. Naples was more favourable than the average, and was even a little more so than during the previous four weeks. Rome opinion, on the other hand, again became less favourable. Mil-

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very opinion remained much the same, and was more and more favourable to civilian opinion.

Favourable comments are based on gratitude and relief; unfavourable chiefly on disappointment. But adverse opinion is also growing because of Allied behaviour with Italian women, and because of requisitioning. The following comments give some idea of the tone of many:

(A) Favourable.

"The Allies have been working miracles, and they have shown themselves to be real gentlemen, generous and kind-hearted. But what could they do after the Germans and their Fascist allies had robbed the town of everything." (16/1/45 - Florence)

"Here in Florence the Allies are preparing gifts which will be given to 500 needy children." (16/1/45 - Florence)

"We want to live a new life with the English and the Americans who behave very well." (16/1/45 - Florence)

An Italian doctor said: "The Americans under whom we are working are very kind towards us, and they help us all they possibly can." (14/12/44 - Reggio)

(B) Unfavourable.

"This war is taking all our strength away. Here the Allies keep on requisitioning the hotel, and nobody works. The waitresses were locked here during our month. They left one other day and did not pay either." (16/1/45 - Aquila)

"One thing is certain, wherever the Allies go there is complete destruction among women. In fact it does not exist where they are passing." (16/1/45 - Rome)

"Here in Rome there are so many Americans and nobody will let the girls go out with them. I don't know why they are not bothered at the figure they are cutting. I am so angry too. If I were a man, I would take all those who go with the Americans, and also those who go with those ugly negroes, and beat them with a red hot iron." (15/1/45 - Rome)

(C) PRESENT MILITARY SITUATION.

Civilian opinion, which had gradually become more optimistic until, during the previous four weeks, it became

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actually pessimistic, revealed a slight swing towards optimism again during the period under review; and comments were almost equally divided. Rome, Siena and Rome were definitely pessimistic. Military mail, though still optimistic, was less so than during the previous period; but the bulk of the comments came from Naples, and the figures can hardly be taken as representative of the country as a whole. Rome, for example, only produced 3 unfavourable comments out of a total of 22.

There is nothing much in the comments themselves except a hint of resignation at the apparently static state of the Italian front. The position may be summed up in the following brief extract from a letter:

"It seems to me that the Germans are deeply rooted in Northern Italy." (26/12/43 - Grosseto)

2. MILITARY SITUATION.

Opinion in the future military situation declined further during the period under review, and in fact the unfavourable comments were in a slight majority. However, most commenters hardly commented at all, and only Naples, Rome and Siena produced sufficient comments to provide some indication of the trend. Siena was about equally divided; Naples was over 25 to 1 optimistic; and Rome was about 55 to 1 pessimistic. Military comments were negligible.

Favourable comments are based on the belief that the Allies must win eventually, and that their victory will be Italy's victory too. Unfavourable comments arise from disappointment that Italy must go on enduring war. The following are some examples.

"The Allied armies have had some stormy moments as they have had to sustain violent German counter attacks on every front. They have now regained the initiative and are pushing forward, slowly, but they are suffering. Have no fear, therefore. Do not allow yourself to be influenced by any report spread by the Fascist Fifth column." (10/1/43 - Rome)

"Everything will go all right. We are hopefully waiting for the Allies to give the Germans the final blow on all the fighting fronts; and that will bring peace to the world. For the Allies' victory will be our victory too." (10/1/43 - Naples)

"Have you heard how bad is the general news about the war? Unfortunately it can be surmised that the war will not end."

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actually pessimistic, revealed a slight swing towards optimism again during the period under review; and comments were almost equally divided. Rome, Siena and Naples were definitely pessimistic. Military mail, indeed civil optimism, was lower than during the previous period; but the bulk of the comments came from Naples, and the figures can hardly be taken as representative of the country as a whole. Rome, for example, only produced 3 unfavourable comments out of a total of 22.

There is, in short, much in the comments themselves except a note of resignation at the apparently static state of the Italian front. The position may be summed up in the following brief extract from a letter:

"It seems to me that the Germans are deeply rooted in Northern Italy." (28/12/44 - Grosseto)

9. ITALIAN MILITARY SITUATION

Optimism in the future military situation declined further during the period under review, and in fact the unfavourable comments were in a slight majority. However, most centres hardly commented at all, and only Naples, Rome and Siena produced sufficient comments to provide some indication of the trend. Siena was about equally divided; Naples was over 2 to 1 optimistic; and Rome was about 5 to 1 pessimistic. Military comments were negligible.

Favourable comments are based on the belief that the Allies must win eventually, and that their victory will be Italy's victory too. Unfavourable comments arise from disappointment that Italy must go on enduring war. The following are some examples.

"The Allied armies have had some stormy moments as they have had to sustain violent German counter attacks on every front. They have now regained the initiative and are again advancing, slowly, but they are advancing. Have no fear, therefore. Do not allow yourself to be influenced by any recent report of the Allied High Command." (10/1/45 - Rome)

"Everything will be all right. We are hopeful for the Allies to give the Germans the final blow on all the fighting fronts; and that will bring peace to the world. For the Allied victory will be our victory too." (15/1/45 - Naples)

"Have you heard how bad is the general news about the war? Unfortunately it can be surmised that the war will not end

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in the new year; thus our fate is still not decided, poor us! There is no longer any peace or safety." (4/1/45 - Bologna)

10. INDUSTRIAL PROSPECTS.

Civilian mail took a slightly less gloomy view of the industrial situation as compared with the previous four weeks. Leghorn was the only centre that produced a majority of favourable comments. Naples remained about twice as pessimistic as the average, and Rome opinion deteriorated during the period. There were no military comments of any kind.

War damage to factories is the predominant theme in unfavourable comments. The following are examples:

"We are sorry to have it working for some years to come." (12/1/45 - Arezzo)

"As you may already know, almost everyone of us is out of work. The Eutoni factory was destroyed, so you can imagine to what a condition S. Sepolero has been reduced." (10/1/45 - Sansepolcro)

"Personally, I was uninjured, but my factory at Certaldo was entirely destroyed, which caused a loss valued at more than ten millions. Anyhow, we have already started rebuilding it." (4/1/45 - Florence)

The two following comments from Florence provide a contrast:

"Too many goods are still blocked, from textiles to dyeing products, from woollen-wear to drugs. Such a system is very like the old Fascist theories, and the leaders do not seem to realize that the fundamental laws of free commerce are stronger than controlled economy. The situation thus remains very serious, and in the long run the difficulties which producers and sellers have to face lead to nothing but steadily increasing prices." (27/12/44 - Florence)

"The Allied Government has adopted a resolution as to the release of textiles, so I'll soon begin to do something. Let us hope that this release will be the first step towards free commerce." (18/1/45 - Florence)

11. AGRICULTURAL PROSPECTS.

Civilian opinion showed little change throughout the

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period under review, being very slightly less favourable as compared with the previous four weeks, the ratio being 1.3 to 1 as against 1.4 to 1 in favour during the preceding period. Naples was the only area which was pronouncedly pessimistic, being, which was more than 2 to 1 unfavourable last period, going the other way and was 1.6 to 1 in favour. Military mail was almost devoid of comments.

Favourable comments speak of good fields, particularly of olives, and of the high prices brought by livestock. Unfavourable comments refer to flooding and hail, and of vines suffering for the lack of chemical treatment. The following are some examples:

"Thanks to the Lord we have already gathered the olives, and they have been plentiful." (17/1/45 - Arezzo)

"Aunt tells me that they have harvested plenty of olives and have also produced a great deal of wine. Now they have also sown the ground, so they will be quite well off." (24/12/44 - S. Croce, Rome)

"Don't worry because we have enough to satisfy our needs. It turned out quite well with pigs and cattle. Also 300 quintals of beetroots finished. The highest profit was yielded by pigs which were sold at 40,000 lire, and two heifers were sold at 100,000. Wine, beans, potatoes and sweet corn were rather scarce, but high profit was shown by all the rest." (1/1/45 - Arezzo)

"Vintaging has been very poor this year. Grapes suffered from lack of copper and sulphur, and damage was also caused by hail." (28/12/44 - Grosseto)

"Soon after the fields had been sown they flooded them, so everything went rotten." (27/12/44 - Faenza della Romagna)

"Agricultural work is rather slack here on account of hail and river banks being destroyed. Much wheat was left uncut, and this is also due to floods that turned the valley into a real sea." (1/1/45 - Ponte S. Savino, Arezzo)

13. EMPLOYMENT

Civilian mail bearers were gloomy about employment during the four weeks under review, and unfavourable comments outnumbered the favourable by 0.7 to 1 as compared with 1.5 to 1 during the previous period. The only centre which produced a majority of favourable comments was Leghorn. Naples became 6940
considerably more pessimistic; and Rome, where the adverse comment

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were in a majority of 13 to 1 during the previous period, increased this majority to 24.9 to 1. Military mail was silent on the subject.

The writers mentioned cuts in the staffs of offices, and offices being closed down. They tell of mines and factories that are closed indefinitely, and of the daily and weekly hunt for jobs, a search which, in many cases, they look upon as hopeless. Many people have been out of work for very long periods. The following comments are some examples:

"I feel so downhearted for many reasons, but principally because of my state of unemployment. Since my office was closed down I have not been able to find any work." (11/1/45 - Florence)

"From morning to night I rush about in all directions in order to find a job which may set my mind at rest about our future, but there have been no results up to now. After tomorrow I'll join a group of labourers who work in a stone house for the Allies; but it is only a temporary job." (5/1/45 - Arezzo)

"Notwithstanding the numerous acquaintances of Maria and her family, I have not been able to get a job. They make me many promises, but only for the distant future. (28/12/44 - Arezzo)

"I cannot give you a job now because I had to put off more than 500 of my employees who, for the time being, are only getting half their normal wages. All temporary workers have been dismissed." (28/12/44 - Florence)

"We have tried to find work, but in vain, because unemployment here is general. The mines are closed and so are the factories." (19/1/45 - Massa Marittima)

Gordon W. McKeen
GORDON W. MCKEAN,
Lt. Col. Cavalry,
Civil Censorship Officer.

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Report No. 24

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CIVIL CENSORSHIP GROUP. PUBLIC OPINION REPORT 24 Dec 44 - 30 Jan 1945

PROVINCE (VOLUME CENSORED)		FOOD SITUATION		CLOTHING		HOUSING		INCOME	
		F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U
Ancona	7,606	19	81	2	11	1	15	2	10
Aquila	27,716	206	1029	24	655	23	184	20	51
Arezzo	13,442	27	233	1	65	0	44	0	10
Ascoli Piceno	8,802	15	73	0	38	0	4	1	4
Florence	64,438	3	105	0	2	0	6	3	8
Foggia (CIV)	12,546	6	98	2	57	1	18	0	4
(MIL)	8,508	21	28	1	10	0	0	0	0
Grosseto	20,930	25	260	4	133	2	68	0	14
Lecce	62,540	36	134	12	41	9	56	8	11
Macerata	5,293	34	68	0	34	0	2	5	5
Naples (CIV)	140,980	54	1574	5	748	9	875	4	122
(MIL)	22,089	780	102	232	354	178	495	0	0
Perugia	18,515	17	23	4	96	4	38	2	35
Rome (CIV)	161,366	97	3493	13	567	15	425	16	830
(MIL)	34,793	53	31	6	13	4	6	0	0
Sienna	58,116	36	492	11	223	7	136	10	117
Terni	17,145	0	115	0	10	0	0	0	1
TOTAL CIVILIAN:	571,946	324	9243	66	2563	69	1608	74	1223
TOTAL MILITARY:	73,616	781	161	269	37	120	543	0	0
TOTAL ALL:	644,562	1420	9404	317	3010	249	2331	74	1223

This report is based upon 30 letters per censor being checked daily on a 5-day weekly basis. The number of censors employed each week averaged 316, making a total of 279,200 letters examined for this valley.

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APPENDIX A

RATIO TABLE BETWEEN FAVORABLE AND UNFAVORABLE COMMENTS ON FORTIFMENT POINTS
(24 December 1944/20 January 1945)

	FORE DEFUSION		CLOTHING		HOUSING		INCOME		NATIONAL GOVERN- MENT		PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT		RELATIONS WITH ALLIES		PRESENT MILITARY SITUATION		FUTURE MILITARY SITUATION	
	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U
30/12/44 CIV	1	14.7	1	13.1	1	26.7	1	27.9	1	3.4	1	11.7	4.5	1	1	1.4	2	11
MIL	9.3	1	1	1.2	1	2.2	0	0	1	2.3	0	0	5.3	1	1	1	0	1
5/1/45 CIV	1	22.4	1	20.3	1	34.9	1	12.2	1	2.5	1	1.6	5	1	2.4	1	1.1	1
MIL	7.1	1	1	3.2	1	4.5	0	0	2	0	0	0	21	1	1.1	1	0	0
13/1/45 CIV	1	12.2	1	61.7	1	16.8	1	12.6	1	2.6	1	3.7	4.9	1	1	1.9	1	2.7
MIL	3	1	1	1.1	1	2	0	0	0	10	0	0	10.3	1	7.5	1	0	0
20/1/45 CIV	1	17.5	1	22	1	99.9	1	20.2	1	6.1	1	5.2	7.7	1	1.3	1	2.3	1
MIL	3.2	1	1	1.7	1	4	0	0	2	1	0	1	13	1	4.1	1	0	0
20/2/45 CIV	1	13.1	1	30.1	1	24.4	1	16.5	1	3	2	4.7	4.7	1	1	1.1	1	1.1
MIL	6.9	1	1	1.6	1	3	0	0	1	2.9	0	1	10.4	1	2.3	1	0	1

.6935

APPENDIX A

Ratio Table Between Favorable and Unfavorable Comments on Permittent Points
(24 December 1944/20 January 1945)

6935

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COUNTRY	Favorable		Unfavorable		Ratio	National Government		Provincial Government		Relations with Allies		Present Military Situation		Future Military Situation		Domestic Prospects		Assigned U.S. Forces		Ratio of Comments	
	F	U	F	U		F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U
1	43.1	1	26.7	1	27.9	1	3.4	1	11.7	4.5	1	1	1-4	2	21	1	2.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	
1	1.2	1	2.2	0	0	1	2.7	0	0	5.1	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0.0	
1	20.3	1	12.9	1	12.2	1	2.5	1	1.6	5	1	2.4	1	1.1	1	1	2.7	1	1.7	1.7	
1	3.2	1	4.5	0	0	2	0	0	0	21	1	1.1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0.0	0	
1	47.7	1	16.8	1	12.6	1	2.4	1	3.7	4.9	1	1	1.5	1	2.7	1	2.4	1.6	1.1	7	
1	1.1	1	2	0	0	0	10	0	0	10.2	1	7.5	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	
1	22	1	99.9	1	20.2	1	6.1	1	5.7	7.7	1	1.3	1	2.3	1	1	1.5	1.2	1.1	1.5	
1	1.7	1	4	0	0	2	1	0	1	3.7	1	4.7	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.1	
1	36.1	1	24.4	1	16.5	1	1	1	4.7	4.7	1	1	1.1	1	1.3	1	2.2	1.3	1.1	2	
1	1.6	1	3	0	0	1	2.9	0	1	10.4	1	2.4	1	0	1	0	0	2	1	1	

701

21 December 1944

The Political Section of the Allied Commission presents its compliments to the Greek Delegation to the Advisory Council for Italy and has the honor of returning the three envelopes which were forwarded with their Aide-Memoire No. 2630 of December 16th.

It has been determined that letter Number 1 was examined properly by Naples censorship in accordance with existing Allied Force Headquarters regulations. Such regulations do not treat letter Number 1 as privileged mail. Although local inter-governmental or inter-departmental mail is treated as privileged, the outside of the envelope must be marked clearly and signed in such a way that the Allied Censor Control Officer will recognize it as official.

Letter Number 2 has not been censored although it is subject to censorship in that it is not a local inter-departmental or inter-governmental communication but is an incoming letter to Italy.

Letter Number 3 is privileged mail and has not been censored. The appropriate agency of the Allied Commission has indicated that it is not possible to answer further in regard to letter Number 3 due to the unknown means of delivery which were utilized by the addressor.

Political Section

M. George Erintaris
Greek Delegate to Advisory Council for Italy
Via Romagna, 42
Rome

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CONFIDENTIAL

WS

19 December 1944

CCG/107-75

SUBJECT: Aide Memoire Reference No. 2650.

TO : Political Subsection Allied Commission.

FROM : Communications Sub-Commission.

1. Letter No. 1 was examined by our Naples censorship as this is not privileged mail according to censorship regulations as promulgated by ANM. Our Postal Manual reads:

"Privileged Mail:

a. Official. The following classes of mail are considered official:

- (1) Italian Military, Naval or Air Force mail sent between commands.
- (2) Inter-governmental or inter-departmental mail pertaining to the function of the ministry or department concerned.

(a) Identification: In the above cases the outside of the envelope must be clearly marked and signed in such a way that the Allied Censor Control Officer will recognize it as official."

2. Letter No. 2 has not been censored. It would appear that the Post Office attempted to seal up a letter damaged in transit. This letter is also not privileged mail per regulation quoted above. Our Postal Manual reads:

"External Mail.

a.

b. Incoming. All incoming foreign mail is routed through the provincial censorship stations at the various points of exchange (at present, Bari, Naples and Rome), where the mail is scrutinized to determine that it has passed through a censorship station of the United Nations network. If such is the case, the entire dispatch is turned over to the Italian postoffice for delivery.

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- (1) If any incoming mails to Italy (including Sicily and Sardinia) arrive at postal exchange points without censorship from points within the Imperial Censorship Network, and particularly from the neutral countries of Europe, they are to be returned to London for treatment before they are delivered to addresses in Italy. This does not apply to isolated letter uncensored in a bag of examined mail, as the bag may have been spot censored."
3. Letter No. 3 is privileged mail and has not been censored. We cannot answer as to what means of delivery were used by the sender.
4. This office does not see where any error or indiscretion has been committed by Civil Censorship Group, Italy, in reference to the above mentioned three letters.

9211. [Signature]
J. L. HENDERSON, Colonel, [Signature]
Director, Communications Sub-Commission.

- 4 Incls:
Incl 1 - Letter No. 1
Incl 2 - Letter No. 2
Incl 3 - Letter No. 3
Incl 4 - Aide Memoire.

CONFIDENTIAL

Civil Censorship Group
 (Communications Sub-Commission)

Please afford Political Section
 your views on the subject
 discussed in the attached
 Aide Memoire, and return
 this document and the three
 attached letters in evidence

to Political Section

☒	CIVIL CENSORSHIP	
☒	CABLE & RADIO	WPA
☒	POSTAL	C
☐	ADVERSE	
☐	DISSEMINATION	
☐	SPECIAL AGENTS	
☐	ADJUTANT	
☐		
☐		
☐	FILE	

GREEK DELEGATION
TO THE
ADVISORY COUNCIL
FOR ITALY

Ref. N° 2650

AIDE MEMOIRE

The Greek Delegation to the Advisory Council for Italy present their compliments to the Allied Commission and have the honour to bring to their knowledge three cases of infringement committed by the Italian censorship in opening envelopes addressed to Greek Authorities.

1. From attached envelope N° 1 it appears that the Italian censorship censured a letter addressed to the Greek Authorities in Naples.

2. From attached envelope N° 2 it appears that the Italian censorship opened a letter from America addressed to the Greek Government which for some time, as is known, had its seat at Cava dei Tirreni near Naples. (The Greek Delegation send the envelope in question to the Allied Commission with the request that it be returned.)

3. According to an official telegraphic communication from the Greek Government Agent in Bari, the Italian censorship committed a yet more serious infringement in opening the official envelope N° 219 (N° 3 also attached herewith) of this Delegation addressed to the above mentioned Government Agent in Bari.

It must be noted that this envelope bore, in addition to the seal of this Greek Delegation, the stamps of the competent Allied Services in Rome and Bari through which, it is clear, the envelope in question had been sent. In spite of this, the envelope was delivered at the Office of the Greek Government Agent in Bari by an Italian post-man from the Italian Post-Office in Bari, the stamp of which it also bears.

The Greek Delegation consequently, kindly request the Allied Commission to issue, as soon as possible, the appropriate orders so that further repetition of such infringements should cease.

The Greek Delegation to the Advisory Council for Italy thank in anticipation the Allied Commission for all action they will take in this respect.

Rome, 16 December 1944

Allied Commission
Rome

6931

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
POLITICAL SECTION
APO 394

Ref #701

20 November 1944

MEMORANDUM TO: G-2, R.A.A.C. (Attn: Lt. Corso)

SUBJECT : Censorship of Letter .

1. There are enclosed herewith twelve pieces of correspondence from enemy diplomats interned at Taormina, Sicily, which have been received for onward transmission.

2. It would be appreciated were G-2, RAAC, to have this correspondence censored and returned to the Political Section.

For the Chief Commissioner:

WILLIAM R. CHOTT
Vice-President, Political Section

Encl:
12 pieces of correspondence

6930

0429

1016: 091.112 1st W/Ind. GJL/ws
ALLIED COMMISSION, SICILY REGION HEADQUARTERS, APO 394, US Army. 16/11/44.

TO: Hq. Allied Commission, APO 394, U.S. Army.
(Attention: Political Section)

1. Forwarded.

For the Regional Commissioner:


G.J. LEONE
CWO USA
Adjutant

Incls:

- ✓ 1 - Letter fr Hanzler Derkumder to
Elsa Derkumder
- ✓ 2 - Telegram fr German Diplomats to
Secty State of Vatican City

6929

File: RAG/091.112 1st. W/Ind. GJL/ws
ALLIED COMMISSION, SICILIA REGION HEADQUARTERS, APO 394, U.S. ARMY. 16/11/44.

TO: Hq. Allied Commission, APO 394, U. S. Army.

1. Forwarded.

For the Regional Commissioner:


G.J. LEONE
CWO USA
Adjutant

Incls. 3:

- 1 - Telegram fr German Amb to Holy See
to Secty State Vatican City
- 2 - Ltr fr Hanzler Perkumder to Elsa Perkumder
- 3 - " " " " Marie Reinhold

6928

ALLIED COMMISSION
EASTERN SICILYTo: Regional Commission,
Sicilia Region H.Q.

Our Ref: CAT/22

Subject: Diplomats' Correspondence.

Herewith, for onward transmission please to Political
Section, H.Q., A.C., NCSE, two letters and one telegram
from the Interned Diplomats.

CATANIA.
15 Nov 44.
HB/STWH.

H. Bentley
Major,
Executive Officer.

6927

091.112

1st. W/Ind.

GJL/ed

ALLIED COMMISSION, SICILIA REGION HEADQUARTERS, APO 394, U.S. ARMY. 9 Nov. 44.

TO: Hq. Allied Commission, APO 394, U.S. Army.
(Attention: Political Section)

1. Forwarded.

For the Regional Commissioner:


G.I. LEONE
CWO USA
Adjutant

8 Incls:

- ✓ 1 - Ltr fr Kurt Brink to G. Schwichtenberg
- ✓ 2 - Ltr fr Maria Roman to Tessa Roman
- ✓ 3 - Ltr fr Kurt Brink to Bruno Buyna
- ✓ 4 - Ltr fr Kurt Brink to Edith Brink
- ✓ 5 - Ltr fr Wollenweber Associates to Gilda di Marinis
- ✓ 6 - Cheque lire 20000 fr M. Maria Roman to Hq. AC for Mrs Tessa Roman ROSCHIATTI
- ✓ 7 - Ltr fr Menzlen Ferlander to Elsa Ferlander
- ✓ 8 - Telegram fr Wollenweber to Vatican City

6926

ALLIED COMMISSION
SICILY

To: Regional Commissioner,
Sicilia Region H.Q.

Our Ref: CAT/222.

Subject: Diplomats' Correspondence.

Herewith, for onward transmission please to Political
Section, H.Q., A.C., ROME, one letter and one telegram from
the Interned Diplomats.

CATANIA.
8 Nov 44.
ECB/PWCH.


Major,
Executive Officer,

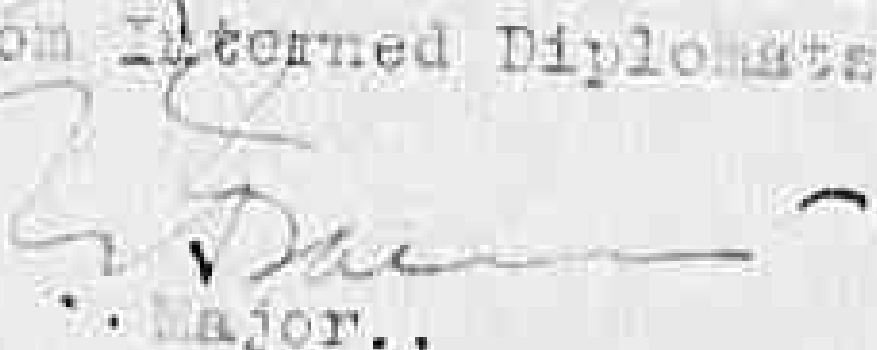
6925

ALLIED COMMISSION
EASTERN SICILY

WS 516

To: Regional Commissioner,
Sicilia Region H.Q.

Our Ref: CAT/222.

Subject: Diplomats' Letters.Herewith, for onward transmission please to Political
Section HQ AC, ROME, 5 letters from interned Diplomats.CATANIA.
2 Nov 44.
ECB/PWH.
Major.,
Executive Officer.

0185

ALLIED COMMISSION
EASTERN SICILY

To: Regional Commissioner,
Sicilia Region H.Q.

RE
Ref: CAT 223
15 NOV 1944

Subject: Diplomats' Correspondence.

Herewith, for onward transmission please to
Political Section, H.Q., A.C., ROME, one letter and
one telegram from the Interned Diplomats.

CATANIA.
HB/PSH.
14 Nov 44.

H. Bandy.
Major,
Executive Officer.

091.112

1st S/Ind.

GJL/wa

ALLIED COMMISSION, SICILIA REGION HEADQUARTERS, APO 994. 21 November 1944.

TO: Hq. Allied Commission, APO 994, U.S. Army.
(Attention: Political Section)

1. Forwarded.

For the Regional Commissioner:

G.J. LIONE
CWO USA
Adjutant

INCL:

1 - Letter fr G. Elling to Frank Brian Elling

REF: ZZO.1

2nd Ind

WES/sax

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION, Political Section, 21 Nov 44.

TO: C-2, Rome Area Allied Command (attn: Lt. Corro).

1. Forwarded for censorship.

For the Chief Commissioner:-

WILLIAM F. SCHOTT
Vice President, Political Section

6924

OUTGOING

LSC/HJD/cnd

SECRET

PRIORITY

FATIMA READ

URGENT

2/17
#2479

MAR

17:1557A

CAPTAIN LORIANO GHA ALSO A CENSORSHIP CONTROL OFFICER AT SALERNO GHA IN HIS
RELATIONS WITH UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND POINTS OF
THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT HAS CREATED A SITUATION WHICH CAN NOT BE TOLERATED IN
ORDER TO START FOR INS FOR EXETER FROM FATIMA READ FROM STONE SIGNED MACFARLANE
INSIST THAT HE BE IMMEDIATELY SUSPENDED AS ALLIED CENSORSHIP CONTROL
OFFICER AND THAT QUALIFIED REPLACEMENT BE DISPATCHED WHO WILL CONFINE HIMSELF
TO THE PROPER FUNCTIONS OF HIS OFFICE AND ACCORD ITALIAN OFFICIALS PROPER
TREATMENT IN LATTER FOLLOWS

AUTHENTICATED:

KELLEY W. STONE
Captain, USMC
Deputy Chief Commissioner

DISTRIBUTION:

- 2 - AG Files
- 2 - Ins Sec Gen
- 1 - Telecom & Data Supcom
- 1 - Deputy Chief Comm
- 1 - Chief Comm

SECRET

6923

6921

Outgoing message circulated 18/1/41

Col. 10-10-1941 -

Mod. 25-M (Telegrafi) - Ed. 1942 XX

DIREZIONE GENERALE DELLE POSTE E DEI TELEGRAFI

Servizio IV - Div. 1 - Sez. 2

TELEGRAMMA

Qualifica	Destinazione	Prov. ROMA	Num.	Parola	Data della presentazione		Annotazioni
					Giorno e mese	Ora e minuti	
Spedito il 194 ore per il circuito N. all'ufficio di - Firma							

UPU

Berne

~~71~~ Prière communiquer Administrations intéressées que de 15 septembre correspondances ordinaires L.C. provenant Espagne, Maroc espagnol, Portugal, Suisse et Tanger adressées toutes provinces italiennes ou vertes au trafic international devront être acheminées directement au "Allied Censorship Control Officer" à Rome par la voie de Napoli. Prière nous notifier réponses Administrations intéressées.

Sous Secrétaire d'Etat P. T.

6922

Major. Doe ✓

27 FEB 1944
XXII

This is the Cable I called
you about this AM. Capt Stone
thinks that a copy should go
to the Political Section

W. L. Slaughter
to H. C.

FRANK J. SLAUGHTER,
Captain, A.G.D.,

C-4447

RE AT PEN BASE SECT SIG MES CENT

25 FEB 44

SECRET

PRIORITY

FANGO FOR MAC FARLANE

NONE

SIGNED CINC

251041A

251341A

56243

PHINC

HAS BEEN RECEIVED IS ADVICE FROM TROOPERS REURAD PBS 8613 THAT
 BRITISH CENSORSHIP HAS NO AUTHORITY TO STOP NEWS ITEMS SUCH AS EXECUTIVE
 JUNTA MANIFESTO.

PBS DIST.

INFO HQ ACC

G-2

C. G.

SRCTY

ACC DIST.(ACTION) ~~SEC. ORN. (e)~~

(INFO) DEP C. C.

FILE

FLOAT

16161

C O P Y

SECRET

6921

RESTRICTED

ROUTINE

FATIMA

FREEDOM

OUTGOING

SP/ART

17/5

1292

051772A

DEC

DEC

BADOLIO HAS TODAY NOTIFIED ME THAT THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS HAS ABOLISHED THE
 MINISTRY OF POPULAR CULTURE AND IN ITS PLACE HAS CREATED A PRESS OFFICE UNDER THE
 UNDER SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR PD TO FREEDOM FROM FATIMA SIGNED JOYCE PD
 THIS IS TO CONSIST OF TWO DEPARTMENTS ONE FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC PD BADOLIO STATES
 FURTHER THAT THEREFORE PARELL CHANGES TO BE AN UNDER SECRETARY AND MEMBER OF
 THE GOVERNMENT

AUTHENTICATED:

ROBERT E. DOE
 Major, A.O.D.
 Secretary of the Commission

DISTRIBUTION:

- 2 - AG Files
- 1 - Diary
- 1 - Mr. Caccia

File 1223

RESTRICTED

6920

For Freedom from Fátima signed Joyce.

Badoglio has today notified me that the Council of Ministers has abolished the Ministry of Popular Culture and in its place has created a Press Office under the Under Secretary of the Interior & this to consist of two Departments, Foreign and Domestic & Badoglio states further that therefore Paggi ceases to be an Under Secretary and member of the Government.

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INFO MR CACCIA

Low.

6919

0193

TRANSLATION

THE CHIEF OF GOVERNMENT
No. 1223

4 December 1943

Dear General:

A provision approved by the Council of Ministers abolishes the Ministry of Popular Culture, and a Press Office has been created in its stead, consisting of two departments, Foreign and Domestic, under the control of the Under-Secretary of the Interior, His Excellency Reale.

Professor Pazzi, therefore, ceases to be Under-Secretary and a member of my Government.

BADOGLIO

General Kenyon A. Joyce
Head of the Allied Control Commission

6918

3/7

ft
92

"The Eighth Army News" this morning (March 7) contains an attack on Badoglio's Government, which I ^{think} should be reported as news and which I am passing on to you for your information, because there will undoubtedly be a blow-up of some kind about it. The article is headlined: "THE PRICE FOR YOUR FREEDOM, BUT Liberty of the Italian Press stands in peril."

"It provides the liberated countries four freedoms, - freedom of religion, freedom from want, freedom from fear and freedom of speech."

Harry Cropper, "Eighth Army News" Editorial, discusses this last freedom and has this to say:-

"Fascism is rearing its head in liberated Italy. Statements by democratic Italian journalists are distorted and censored. Sometimes they are made to write things with which they do not agree."

701

"The Italian troops are not allowed to receive in their barracks democratic newspapers. Even a speech by Mr. Winston Churchill was recently distorted in the official version put out by the Badoglio Government."

"This indictment of press and propaganda methods of the Badoglio Government was made to me by one of the most prominent of democratic Italian journalists, a man who has suffered imprisonment for his democratic principles under Fascism."

"Marshal Badoglio" he said "is boasting that he re-introduced liberty of the press. Liberty of the press was really introduced by the one-time newspaper chief, General Reissoli. He paid for his ideal by losing his job as chief of official press to run in twenty-four hours."

Re. 6917

-2-

"Political censorship by Italian authorities has again been introduced in Italy, in spite of the fact that the decree giving liberty to the press is still in being.

"Where is the liberty so solemnly promised by Roosevelt and Churchill?" asks this democratic Italian journalist, "and what is to become of the press in Italy?"

"Unless British and American public influence makes itself felt on our behalf, liberty of the press in Italy will perish within the first month of its rebirth."

In further conversation, I learned of the facts regarding press censorship in liberated Italy: only three out of the dozen or so newspapers in liberated Italy are allowed in the barracks occupied by Italian soldiers at a main headquarters.

One of the reactionary Government organs, recently named "La Realta Liberale" - another is "L'Unione" - an extreme right-wing paper which has already been suppressed on one occasion by the Allied authorities for a vicious attack on the Allies, and the third is "L'Italia", an Italian army newspaper read by officers.

Southern Italy's principal newspapers, "Gazzetta del Mezzogiorno" which is independent and non-party, is not allowed in. The same applies to Socialist, Liberal, Communist and other anti-Fascist newspapers.

Allied censors in Italy confine themselves generally to military security censorship; the official press bureau of the Badoglio Government tries to enforce a political censorship, with the object of suppressing criticism of the Government.

Even these censored democratic newspapers of liberated

. 6916

-3-

Italy do not necessarily reach the Italian public.

"Under the pretext that censors could not be available in every small town, the Badoglio Government has given full powers to prefects in small places to "control" any newspaper which, in their opinion, is objectionable.

"These prefects are Government nominees. Thus it comes about that the prefects of Potenza - Potenza is a town of considerable size - can ban three consecutive issues of the communist paper.

"Such instances can be repeated many times.

"The official press does not even hesitate to distort a speech by Churchill. For instance, in his recent statement, Mr. Churchill declared, after saying that the battle for Italy would be hard and long "I am not yet convinced that any other Government can be forced in Italy which would command the same obedience from the Armed forces": the official agency puts out this substitute: "I do not believe that in this moment a Government other than the present could command the consent OF THE PEOPLE".

"The censorship" continued my informant "stops the democratic newspapers from publishing accounts of the proceedings of the National Liberation Committee (which represents all Italian anti-Fascist parties) or eliminates the most important resolutions, so that they mean nothing.

"One editor, against his wishes, was made to make a statement in praise of Marshal Badoglio, Duke of Addis Abbaba."

"The Badoglio Press office maintains that it is the final authority on censorship and thus over-rides Allied democratic

6915

-3-

advisors."

I accept the statement made by this Italian democratic journalist, with other journalists, British and Italian, who are familiar with the censorship here. They are correct!

6914

0198