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

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ACC WEEK

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

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ACC WEEKLY BULLETINS
Ap. - Oct 1944

PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISS

SECRET

PRB/R36/W329

22 October 1944.

ACC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 29
16 Oct to 22 Oct 44

1. Political

The most dramatic political event of the week was Thursday's riot in Palermo which we deal with under a separate heading. It came just in time for the meeting of the Council of Ministers on the following day. The forenoon meeting was given over to hearing Aldisio's report, considering "appropriate measures for normalizing the situation". At the end of the session Aldisio left by plane for Palermo, charged by the ministers to carry out a complete investigation of the affair....In the afternoon session the council, as promised, ratified the measures for the workers' subsidy as outlined in 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. 29 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

965

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

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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,

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 758016

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 "Macchiavellian"....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.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 758016

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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) 18 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

0840

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

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. 7C 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 franz 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 35,000 cultivated hectares yielding 9.6 quintals per hectare, giving a total of 345,000 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 360,000 quintals for seed and food retention, leaving an "amassable" total of only 95,000 quin-

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

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The position as outlined by Aldisio is a very long way from the declared plans of the AGC. 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 9.9 quintals per hectare, giving a total of 845,000 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 360,000 quintals for seed and food retention, leaving an "amassable" total of only 95,000 quintals. Of these in fact only 58,000 quintals have been amassed. The fact remains that the authorities do not deny that 455,000 quintals have been produced.

If the Trapani instance is indicative of the general amassing situation in Sicily, as it appears to be, there can be little doubt that the actual amount amassed (1,294,781 quintals on Oct 13) is only a fraction - perhaps not more than 18% - 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.

964

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

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 AGC 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 carbonyrates. 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 765 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 908 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 high prices there quoted, they simply do not get enough to protect their health. At the same time, while the black market is the only other source of supply, legally the authorities are committed to take measures to combat it. The ration increase to 300 grams in Naples was immediately reflected in a drop in black market prices. Thus, even to allow the population to purchase the extra needed foodstuffs in the black market, the ration should be kept to 300 grams and thus help control prices. Otherwise, prices will be so high this winter that poorer people will not get enough to eat, with the obvious consequences of further destitution by selling of clothing and furniture for money and, especially of prostitution which increases the V.D. among the troops.

What continuance of these conditions will mean in the way of social unrest and threat to military security is anyone's guess. The intertwined question of proper ration-black market control also has a positive effect on the amassing program, farmers hoarding their

0843

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

0844

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

provides a calorific content of only 750 calories. This is supplemented in urban districts over 50,000 population by meat and vegetable issues, providing an additional calorific value of 148 calories, making a total of 898 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 - 8.5 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 high prices there quoted, they simply do not get enough to protect their health. At the same time, while the black market is the only other source of supply, legally the authorities are committed to take measures to combat it. The ration increase to 300 grams in Naples was immediately reflected in a drop in black market prices. Thus, even to allow the population to purchase the extra needed foodstuffs in the black market, the ration should be kept to 300 grams and thus help control prices. Otherwise, prices will be so high this winter that poorer people will not get enough to eat, with the obvious consequences of further destitution by selling of clothing and furniture for money and, especially of prostitution which increases the V.D. among the troops.

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

6. Odds and Ends.

130 tons of American cotton has arrived at Naples to be made into cloth by Italian textile mills for essential civilian use... Col. Temperley, Regional Commissioner of Southern Region, is being posted to England; he will certainly be missed, particularly by PRB whose informative friend he ever was....The Granai del Popolo, as of

October 21, had received 8,769,172 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 8th Army AMG has made a distribution of 100 kilos of grain a person (enough to last a year on the present ration scale), a procedure (which if true) regarded as extremely unsound....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.

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

Files

PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

SECRET

15 October 1944

PRB/R26/WB28

ACC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 28
8 Oct to 15 Oct 44

1. Political

One of the political reviews now running in Rome contains a sketch in which Christopher Columbus presents himself to the ACC and finds that no one seems to remember his name. His allusion to his three caravelle is mistaken for just another request for 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 sun 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 pre-

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

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

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"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 sulefully 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, 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 Gronchi, the CGIL and employers' groups which took place on Friday. The basic subsidy is 35 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".

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 colony of Somalia and maladministration, involving neglect of sanitation, public health, water supply, education, maintenance of public order which obtained in Eritrea and Somalia, imprisonment for years without trial and under bad conditions of persons guilty of no crime known to the laws of civilized countries, he will assure the house that H.M. Government is opposed to the return of colonies to Italy and that their declaration that the Italian Empire in Africa is irrevocably lost will be strictly adhered to.

Answer: Yes, Sir.

(2) Mr. 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

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

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What was actually said.

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

Answer: Yes, Sir.

(2) Mr. 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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Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

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 missed 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 these territories?

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

Mr. Ivor Thomas: Is my right honourable friend aware that the Union of Eritrea and Abyssinia was not existed since the shadowy days of the 15th century and will he do his best to save the Emperor of Ethiopia from his friends in this country?

2. AMG with the Armies

Eighth Army AMG's September report is a good deal concerned - as Fifth Army AMG almost always is - with potential problems of the coming winter. Destruction of bridges has been very considerable and " if large areas are not to be isolated when Bailey bridges are withdrawn.... the construction programme will be heavy." Refugees have not so far presented a serious problem, save the report, but " it is only 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 [illegible] and ploughing have been held up by operations. Eighth Army reports 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....distasteful 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.

961

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 only with permission from the [illegible] hence between

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785046
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Mr. Ivor Thomas: is my right honourable friend aware that the Union of Eritrea and Abyssinia has not existed since the shadowy days of the 16th century and will he do his best to save the Emperor of Ethiopia from his friends in this country?

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0851

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

happened in Ancona. Mr Caccia held there might be repercussions if a man like Togliatti were jugged, but that some others might disappear and it would never be noticed. It was decided that Government officials on official business would be allowed in forward areas with the sanction of the SCAC or Regional Commissioner concerned. Representatives of foreign missions, who have created quite a problem in Florence, are to be arrested without hesitation if they are caught in Army areas without permission. Some Yugoslav representatives are in jail now in Florence for selling gold coin on the Black Market.

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 Northwere 890,000 tons. Equalized thiswould give a ration of 235 grammes. If we set the ration at 235 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

0852

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

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4. - <u>And a Follow-Up</u>

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

0853
Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

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 500,000 persons.

The Public Health Sub-Commission is simply taking no chances with any recurrence of a typhus outbreak such as occurred last year in which, from 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 - 3,266,786 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 [illegible] raised by subscription, and a public drive in prospect [illegible] The initiative

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

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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 on October 28 to raise more funds and spread the idea. The initiative for this move came chiefly from Lt. Col H. B. Simson, Naples Provincial Commissioner, who, as he says, could not continue to tolerate "the young boys in rags and tatters, uncared for, starving and homeless" in the streets of Naples. The scheme is arousing much enthusiasm and public support, and "these young waifs and strays are being collected from the streets, taken care of by volunteers seeking no remuneration, given a home, food, schooling and being taught crafts". Col. Simson is hoping one of these days to get for this orphanage the Costanzo Ciano college at Bagnoli which the Army has so far refused to give up. The idea seems to be one which might well, with some Allied initiative and encouragement, be followed elsewhere.

0855
Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

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 1,600 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 killed or injured weekly by the hidden mines no one knows, though one estimated had placed it at 200 a week at one time. The casualties in the private mine clearing team occurred on meeting the German wooden [illegible] ordinary mine detector.

0856
Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

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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

0857.
Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

Lieut. Col. Bonham-Carter, got hold of 12 detectors of a sort which they have lent their Italian Army team. Otherwise, the only recourse will have to be the old prodding method, slow and rather dangerous, considering the fancy hedevilments 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 shorts 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.

959

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 65,000 (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 [illegible] France have amounted to 94,000,000

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

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0859
Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

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

harbouring group(whatever that may be) from Chianciano to Pesaro (audacious fellows!) But "the weather broke on September 28 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,
Major,
Public Relations Director.

0860

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 8,664,373 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 43 Italians, charges being prepared against another 100, recovery of 1000 barrels of olive oil and discovery of 10 illicit distilleries.....24 murders were committed in the Region during the month, the figure being considered a normal quota for this part of the world.....In Brindisi 60 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

LIONEL FIELDEN,
Major,
Public Relations Director.

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

PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

SECRET

PRB/R26/WB27

8 October 1944

ACC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 27
2 Oct to 5 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.

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Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016
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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 - espec-
ially 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
/ sap. ...

0863
Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

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

"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 popularity-bidders are being limited to 200 with "admission by

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

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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

/ evacuated

0865
Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

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."

937

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

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

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0867
Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

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 AOC 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 responsibilities are increasing in some ministries while others are

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

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

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

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, 92.8 in 1943 and 113.4 in 1944. In May of this year the rate in Rome was 153.9, in June 169.2, 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 anc 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

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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, in charge of H.E. Stangoni, deals with the collection and disposal of Fascist organisations 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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Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

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 misomprehension, 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 ounces of sulfa powders, and nearly 15,000 quinine ampules imported from America, among a host of items. Of the 8,000 kilograms of

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

arrangements for power, coal and sacks are well under way. It is practically new and luckily untouched. 6-ton capacity cement

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.

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

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 1,600 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 8,283,988 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 Sub-Commission reports that studies are under way to bring back

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

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0875
Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

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.

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

File 99

PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

SECRET

PRB/R26/WB25

24 September 1944.

ACC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 25
16 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 12 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!"

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Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016
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/ In the field

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

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

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

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 89 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, CBE, his principal staff officer; Lt-Col Alfred Borman, 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 E.T. Tornadachi, 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.

959

"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

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

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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 80,000 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,

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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 [illegible]

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

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 [illegible] Street Journal to the effect that

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

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

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 AM 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. <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

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

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

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 520 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 40,000 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 15) ..... 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 2675 Regiment.... The Rome Labor Office of Region IV is receiving complaints from [illegible] that maids and domestic help are almost

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

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

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 Commission in 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 25 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 2,500 persons bringing in food personally, an increase of 2,000 persons daily..... Major Hamilton T. Walker, SCAC 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 Grand 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 [illegible] by the Germans for a petty theft), are to

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

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LIONEL FIELDEN,
Major, Public Relations Director.

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PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

SECRET

Files MP

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.

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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

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

"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 burghers to be members of the Society, and to give their services regularly in this way.

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

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

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 Minnie 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.

Mr Caccia, in a political survey, told the conference that a leading member of the Liberation Committee for northern Italy had managed to reach Rome and had stated that the Committee wished some sort of recognition by the Allies as being the representative

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016
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A statement characteristic of the fourth forward meeting on September 15 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.

Mr Caccia, in a political survey, told the conference that a leading member of the Liberation Committee for northern Italy had managed to reach Rome and had stated that the Committee wished some sort of recognition by the Allies as being the representative body of the Italian Government in German-held territory. Col Poletti, foreseeing possible headaches in Milan, was vigorously opposed to any such idea. The North were going to get Allied Military Government to start with and he did not wish to see the issue confused by anybody representing the Italian Government and acknowledged by us as such. Nor did Col Poletti welcome a suggestion that an Italian Minister should be allowed to go in as early as possible to contact political leaders. If one went they would all wish to go. They would be an embarrassment. The meeting clearly shared Col Poletti's views. The announcement of the resolution passed by the Italian Socialist Party that ACC be abolished was somewhat coolly received. However, a ray of hope was provided by the fact that Regional Commissioners would have the full authority of AFHQ behind them in helping to maintain the essential

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

essential needs of the civilian population, and the new arrangement of having a forward echelon to deal with the needs of the Army AMGs should prove invaluable.

Col Farren told the grim story of promotion possibilities - or lack of them; a representative of the Interior Sub-Commission pointed out the difficulty of producing prefects out of a hat. When the trick did come off the strain might not always be a pure one. But they were doing their best and practise in sleight-of-hand work is always a great thing. Public Safety told of their trials in getting Carabinieri for the north and what they had in sight. The Executive Commissioner was not impressed by the number of Carabinieri - 4000 - said to be trained and ready to go in. Shortage of transport was, of course, an ever present worry and on this Transportation Sub-Commission had a few possible words of encouragement - and hope. The conference ended with everyone present, it is safe to conclude, adequately convinced that in the North, ACC - AMG will meet the greatest tests - and greatest opportunity - of military government in Italy.

5. Cautionary Tale

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 likely 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.

Footnote:

Owing to a rush of mimeography work for the Economic Section, we regret that this week the Bulletin has had to be severely cut.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016
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LION[illegible] FIELDEN,
Major,
Public Relations Director.

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

PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

SECRET

PRB/R26/WB23

10 September 1944

ACC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 23
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 enterprice 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 generalizations 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 "fare" to the reactionary forces will be accepted

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

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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, POWs and refugees have returned to their paesi.

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0902
Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

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

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

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

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 SCAC 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, so 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, reforming 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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Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785046

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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

/ damage

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

damage caused by the fighting and German industrial sabotage was reiterated by the President himself. Our ACC general was to see the President later about plans for new aid to Italy, the reports said. The President told his press conference that 45,000,000 Italians were living in a area less than that of California; that the Allies had shipped $100,000,000 worth of supplies to the Italians; that England has furnished the bulk of the fuel and the United States the greater part of the food, and that there was a possibility that UNRRA would enter Italy, a decision which will be made at the UNRRA conference in Montreal, Canada this coming week.

Meanwhile Mr. A.G. Antolini, executive director of the Economic Section who will be named acting vice president pending the General's return, has been busy in negotiations with the Italian Government over transfer of operational responsibilities in several fields from ACC to the Italians, together with as much equipment as possible. Of the Economic Section sub-commissions, Agriculture and Public Works have probably turned over more of their operations, keeping only the supervisory functions, than any others. Next big transfer planned will be that of the operational functions of the Food and Transportation Sub-Commissions, with the turnover by the ACC to the Italians of available requisitioned and certain WD transport. Execution of plans for such transfers depends, of course, on Italian capacity to act. Presentation of the first Italian steps was made to the Economic Section this week from the hands of an Inter-Ministerial Committee consisting of Cerabona (Communications - Labor Democrat), Gullo (Agriculture - Communist), Gronchi (Christian Democrat - Industry, Commerce and Labor) and Scelba (Treasury - Liberal). The Italians ask for a nation-wide bread ration of 300 grams (to which ACC has no objection if the Italians can get the wheat out on their own hook); wage increases to both government and industrial employes on basis of need and size of family; and lastly, an increase in the price of bread by removal of the subsidy, allowing the economic price to emerge at 12 or 13 Lire a loaf from the present "political" price of 3 Lire.

The Economic Section through the Finance Sub-Commission and others, is also keenly observing actions of the Council of Ministers in regard to IRI, the gigantic holding company of the Italian Government which not only owns the three largest commercial banks of Italy but the biggest share of the armament and heavy industry of Italy. A plum of the first order, IRI is being reactivated under a technician as operating executive while the board of directors in process of formation will represent the varying shades of acceptable political and economic beliefs in the Italy of today. What happens in the management of this enterprise, ACC experts say, will be a guidepost to the economic future of the nation.

5. Granai del Popolo

An impression that recurs through these periodic reports on the grain collection is that the measure of success achieved is [illegible] in view of the difficulties involved. Convalescent [illegible] get the wheat in

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

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An impression that recurs through these periodic reports on the grain collection is that the measure of success achieved is surprising in view of the difficulties involved. Convalescent officers, one recalls, were assigned to help to get the wheat in and one regional commissioner publicly stated that one of these "harvest control officers" was worth 10,000 tons of wheat. There were 20 assigned on a 30-day basis and in view of the good results another request was made and 26 were assigned but with only 15 vehicles - and mobility is the essence of control. Now arrives an order withdrawing all 15 vecicles. There must be a war somewhere. Another enemy, smut, has seriously attacked the soft wheat in southeastern Italy, particularly Foggia. This will not affect overmuch the crop gathered - reducing the quality rather than ruining the grain - but will affect the seed wheat needed for next year's sowing, since smutted seed wheat will not grow. Rich Macerata Province in Region V had yet another problem - lack of storage space, necessitating temporary stoppage of the threshing, all

/ official

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

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	943,026	3,500,000
Southern	2,306,522	3,875,175
4	985,018	1,930,000
5	741,904	2,250,000
6	192,780	400,000
8	515,609	1,500,000
	5,673,903	13,455,175

946

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 [illegible] and Calabria a liter now brings 80 to 120 lire while in Rome [illegible] The amassing decree

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

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

Regions	Wheat collected (quintals)	ECs Collection Goals (quintals)
1	947,010	3,500,000
Southern	2,305,822	3,875,175
4	967,018	1,930,000
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Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

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 Bonomi 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

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

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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

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Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016
0912

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. Re-making the Patriots.

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 consider-

0913

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

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/ Officer

0914

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

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 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.

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 of Baedeker: the Misericordia Cemetery was blasted, many fine tombs

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016
0915

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/ fighting

0916

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

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

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

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0918

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

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 upon 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 Rome there were some 600 Italian journalists milling around. The PRB found itself willy-nilly besieged by a crowd of new acquaintances

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

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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 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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0920
Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

(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

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

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Lionel Fielden

LIONEL FIELDEN,
Major,
Public Relations Director.

0922 Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785046

Files

SECRET

PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

PRB/R26/WB17

30 July 1944.

ACC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 17
25 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 [illegible] named High Commissioner for sanctions

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016
0923

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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 "mercenaries" 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

0924

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

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 dictionary 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" reports ad nauseam, Caruso, ex-Police Chief of Rome, is still allowed to live and hasn't even been tried, the charges and counter-charges on the subject of [illegible] 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 short comings in no uncertain terms: we are bureaucratic and inefficient [illegible] too wont to in destruction in operations, too full of

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016
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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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0926
Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

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. 941

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 [illegible] is planning to get authority to have ACC take over all

0927
Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

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3. ACC 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.

/ Florence.

0928

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

Florence teams of 5th 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 5th to 8th Army AMG on 22 July. 8th 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 500 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 [illegible] but rough going even at only 20 m.p.h. Benevento

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 775016

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

/ outlet

0930

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

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	95,640	20 July
Calabria	52,000	27 July
Lucania	65,400	15 July
Apulia	301,205	22 July
Campania	11,940	25 July
Sardinia	54,750	27 July
Lazio	61,150	23 July
Umbria	6,520	25 July
Tuscany	3,200	15 July
Total reported	855,803	

Region	Quantity (quintals)	Date reported
I	95,640	20 July
II	72,544	15 July
Foggia	488,069	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	

930

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

0931

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

be 850 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	23 July
Sardinia	54,750	27 July
Lazio	61,150	25 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	78,544	15 July
Foggia	486,059	22 July
III	11,940	23 July
IV	67,870	23 July
V	No report	
VI	54,750	27 July
VII	52,000	27 July
VIII	3,200	15 July
Total reported	855,803	

910

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 50 per cent. Romans this week, incidentally, found with a mild shock that the white bread they have been receiving from Allied flour stocks is no longer the pure white delicacy they have been exclaiming over. It is now slightly darker. Explanation: Italian grain now beein milled in Rome is being used instead of imported American flour, which is 17 per cent free of bran while the Italian type is only 9 per cent free. Hence the darker shade.

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 Liberated

/ Italy

0932
Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

Italy: the first Badoglio Government opened this bone with the Leeds 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 15, 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.
1126	-	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.
1305	-	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.

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

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1645	-	Debus at Albergo.
1700	-	Reception to official party at Municipio.
1930	-	Regional Commissioner and Staff embus for Rome.

LIONEL FIELDEN,
Major,
Public Relations Director.

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

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 assemhly 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

0935
Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

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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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0936

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

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 CACs functioning in Matelica, Filottrano 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 Ad[illegible]

0937

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

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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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0938

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

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.

0939

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

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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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0940
Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785046

5. Consternation in Apulia

Besides his obvious headaches with the harvest in Region II, Colonel J.T. Zellars, 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

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016
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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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0942

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

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

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

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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.

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.

/ Foggia

0944

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

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 civilian traffic - with resultant black market operations in food and gasoline - between Rome and Naples. 703 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

0945

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

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 civilian traffic - 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 Esportazioni 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

Regional HQ were (temporarily) established at Orvieto on July 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". Repairs to water supply systems were in hand and Grosseto (more fortunate than Rome) was getting light and power from the hydro-electric station at Soarcsta. Some looting by troops and some cases of

/ rape

0946
Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785046

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.

0947
Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

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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 .....

/ back

0948

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

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

PRB 26/WB

Adjutant	
Asst. Aos.	M.P.
Asst Aos.	
Chief Clerk	

SECRET 113

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. Fees 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 Commissarieto 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

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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.

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

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 occupetion 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."

0952
Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

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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 [illegible] 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.

0953

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

From the latest sitrep we have had from 8th 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 than 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 forwarded from the acting CAPO who unearthed a very mixed bag of political internees including an Englishwoman who was sheltering two German officers [illegible] 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

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0955
Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

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 rococco 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.

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

6. Notes From Naples

Naples nowedays 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 Parco 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 Caracciolo.

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. 933

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

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0958

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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

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

0959
Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

mission, headed by the chief of ~~Mexican military mission~~ 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 window 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, AGD.,
DDPR AUC

Distribution same as No. 12

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

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SECRET 119

HEADQUARTERS
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 BadoglioGovt. 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 risorgimento, 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, Cianca, Saragat and Soccurten were not present at the ceremony. The last named had been delayed by an accident to his car and sent his excuses.

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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

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

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

[illegible] on the 20th 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 whose primary purpose would be the liberation of the country and its reconstruction.

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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 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" 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.

During the week there were some further changes in the Ministry. On the suggestion of Casati, General Piacentini of 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. Sonnmi also stated that the possibility of Badoglio's collaboration "was not to be excluded". For the moment ad ord 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. AMG 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 Bellonica 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 stockpiled in dumps and the harbor contained one large schooner and 18 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.

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

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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. Gcum 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 8th Army Sitrep states that on 15 June Region V took over Pescara, Aquila and Rieti provinces - both Rieti en

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

and Orvieto including cathedral were reported undamaged. In Rieti no military had entered and it is understood that Orvieto is also sealed from troops. Terni has suffered 50% damage. Terni contains steel mills which are described as 'repairable'. Again there is need for naphtha. Avezzano and Subiaco 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 Sitrep 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 bolting 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 Inspettorato Agrario Provinciale. The licenses of violators of threshing regulations will be immediately revoked.

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

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

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

Soldier labor has arrived in Foggia Province as per schedule and has assisted materially in keeping down labor costs. The [illegible] problem presents some difficulties these are stated to be under control.

During the past week members of the Agricultural S/C have visited Regions II, IV, V, and VII.

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 has been 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 AAI 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 come to Rome. But as for an Italian audiance - 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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Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785046

6. Addio Bella Napoli

On 20 June Col. Poletti became Regional Commissioner for Rome Region. The Risorgimento of 21 June printed his message of farewell to Naples and Domenic and appended a reply of some length, the the contents of which may be summed up in the words tristezza, gratitudine, ricordo affettuoso.

Col. Chapman, RLO Region III is now acting Regional Commissioner and Maj. Bemlet 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 alleviate the shortage of newsprint....The C&O 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 Alleato 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 Santangelo....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 "fall sweep" 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, Nasegni the composer of "Cavaliera Rusticana" said it was

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

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 had 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)....Bari students are in commotion again. Not Ondoc 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....Can't think why but we like this paragraph from Region III Order No. 60 somehow intriguing "Regional Order No. 13 (dealing with restriction of prostitution) is hereby repealed without prejudice to anything done thereunder."

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

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

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 AMG 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. Sesma Chief Asst. Economic Section
72-78 Col. Charles M. Spofford Asst. Chief of Staff C-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 PRO 5th Army AFC ly
86 Maj. J.P. Lemacos DPR. Advance Hq. ACC
87 Mr. John Reyner , PWB
88 Experimental Det. G-2 Rm. 41 Bank of Naples Bldg.
89 Sir Noel Charles, Asst. Rep. on Adv. Council for Italy
90-91 Information Division
92 Asst. Chief of Staff G-2 Sec. PWB
93 I.S.L.D. 126 Via Alessandro Tamoni
94 Ensign Henry Roberts, R&A Branch 628 Via Tasso 2nd Floor
95 Secretary General
96 Major E.T. De Wild, Fine Arts Sub-Commission
97 File 26 PWB
98 Lt. Col. T.V. Smith, Education Sub-Commission
99 Lt. Col. R.C.E. Spicer, Interior Sub-Com.
100 Col. G.L. Urjohn Legal Sub-Com.
101 Lt. C.R. Harris Property Control Sub-Com
102 Brig. G.S. Pemkinson, Public Health Sub.-Com.
103 Col. P.C. Kirk Public Safety Sub.-Com.
104 Lt. Col. W.A. Hartman, Agriculture Sub.-Com.
105 Col. J.F. Groffrey-Smith, Finance Sub.Com
106 Col. Edward H. Foley, Finance Sub-Com
107 Lt. Col. L.A. Jenny, Pub. Wks. & Utilities Sub-Com. 929
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
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Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

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117 Col. J.E. Henderson, Communications & Posts, Sub-Com
118 Maj. J.A. Campbell, War Material Disposal Sub-Com
119 Adjutent AGC
120 Sir Peter Origg, War Office, London, England
121 Maj. James M. Penick, Finance Sub-Com.

0973
Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

Adjutant RBL
Asst. Acs.
Asst Acs
Chief Clerk
PAS 26/HB 10

SECRET

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

16 June, 1944

ACC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 11
10 June to 17 June

1. Political

If it is admitted that economics is a part of politics certainly the biggest political news of the week was the increase in the daily bread ration. Beginning July 1st the ration will be 300 grammes in Regions I, II, III, VI, VII, and Campobasso and Foggia provinces. While this, in the nature of things, is an act of ACC the Italian press quite properly has played up the Government's share in the credit, throwing particularly fragrent bouquets in the direction of Gullo and Bergami. The targets are well chosen for if it is clear that the Badoglio Government deserves credit for the action, it is politically advisable too that the new Government in process of formation should share in the prestige. Gullo and Bergami, it will be remembered, are in both.

There has been during the week a sort of interregnum. The Bonomi ministry has not yet taken over and the Badoglio group has issued no communiques and taken no action ofimportance. There have been conferences between the Roman representatives and the Ministry at Salerno.

The Ministry of Communications has continued its activities. Various local bus services have been improved and a new special service has been established between Bari and Salerno to take care of travelling officials, ACC personnel included.

We are now in a position to make some corrections and additions to our list of ministers published in last week's Bulletin. There is to be a Ministero del Tesoro as well as a Ministero delle Finanze. Tesoro will be in the hands of Solari (Liberal), and Finanze under Siglienti (not as we wrote last week, alas!, Siglieri) of the Sardinian Action Party. This distinction is a return to the pre-Mussolini separation of governmental financial functions; Tesoro, it was explained, disburses and is regarded with affection, Finanze collects and is consequently looked upon as the enemy of mankind. A late change in the list puts Mancini (Sicilian Socialist) in place of Romita, doubtless to give Sicily representation in the new ministry.

The tentative list of under-secretaries has also been made known. It is as follows:

Presidency	Action	Penalties
	Christian Democrat	Spetaro

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

09744

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Interior	Socialist	Canevari
Foreign Affairs	Independent	Visconti Venosta
Italians Abroad	Liberal	Morelli
Treasury	Labour Democrat	Veneo
Finance	Communist	Pesenti
Justice	Labour Democrat	Bassano
Education	Christian Democrat	Mattarella
Industry and Commerce	Communist	Molinelli
Labour	Socialist	Coste
Agriculture	Liberal	Bergami
Communications and Mercantile Marine	Socialist	Corsi
Public works	Action	Bruno

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

Railways and Postoffice	Christian Democrat	Iervolino
War and Aviation	Communist	Pellegrino
	Labour Democrat	Scoccimaro
Navy	Action	Bonomi

2. Report from Rome

On the 16th Fifth Army AMG handed over to Rome Region. Colonel Norman E. Fiske was appointed acting Regional Commissioner. Rome Region includes the Governorate of Rome, the rest of Rome Province coming under the jurisdiction of Region IV.

In the field of political activity, defascistization is well under way. 87 officials have been removed for Fascist sympathies and Prince Filippo Andrea Doria Pamphilli, a member of one of Rome's oldest families and a staunch anti-Fascist, has been appointed Governor. The choice of Doria Pamphilli, who has suffered imprisonment and hardship because of his convictions, seems generally popular.

An equally popular action was the removal of Dr. Vincenzo Azzolini, Governor of the Bank of Italy, a well known Fascist and suspected of aiding the Germans in removing funds from Rome to Milan. A Roman Giunta containing two members of each of the 6 parties of the Committee of Liberation was sworn in at the Campidoglio on June 16.

The public services in Rome such as lighting, water, street transport and telephones were found in comparatively good shape although their functioning at present is erratic,-or should we say "intermittent". They at least meet immediate needs. Water mains leading to the city had been perforated in some places but pressure is increasing as these are repaired. Lighting is not too reliable but improvement will take place when hydro-electric producing plants are restored. Telephone services were least affected by damage but complete restoration is dependent on restoration of power facilities, and lines are naturally very much overcrowded with traffic. Gas had been discontinued since March. Lack of fuel is the difficulty. Plans have been made for speedy resumption of train service between Rome and Civitavecchia, Viterbo and Anzio.

There was approximately two days food supply when we entered the city, but emergency supplies were brought in via Anzio within a few hours. Fruit and vegetables are in short supply. About 4,000 persons in Rome were estimated to be without ration cards. These included refugees, persons returning from hiding, and others who had lost their cards. All these cases are being investigated.

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

0977

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

Rome monuments are untouched. [redacted] and galleries are closed and under guard but there are no reports of German looting, although there appears to have been some black market dealing in pictures from private collections by both Germans and local Fascists. Certain important modern archives were removed or destroyed by the Germans and Fascists and a considerable amount of material of historic import concerning the Fascist revolution was located by the anti-Fascist elements.

The press has created a problem. Certain daily and weekly periodicals which could prove publication at the time of our entry were given temporary permits to continue, but were finally recommended to conform to a certain size and format to economize in newsprint. Others which made their appearance after the liberation are to be combed through. Competition arose between party papers and papers which had been supported by the Fascists and now sought revival. They were urged to unite and coordinate their efforts in one paper only, choosing their own editor. At present only the six party papers and the Messagero and Corriere are permitted to publish.

Probably the greatest hardship of all - to both Romans and temporary residents - is the closing of the Lido on account of the numerous mines planted by the Germans. Its speedy opening will doubtless give a great filip to morale.

3. AMG with the Armies

We have the following report, dated 13 June from Major Bullock of this Branch, now attached to the 8th Army:

Eighth Army is advancing so fast that it has become impossible to keep in touch with AMG activities everywhere from day to day.

Because of the speed of our advance spearheads are turning over to Regions at a much earlier stage and leap-frogging ahead to newly taken towns further North.

Saturday I went to Avezzano. There were no troops in the town. We were preceded only by an FSS man who got through on a motor cycle while we were waiting for a bulldozer to fill a gap in the road wide enough to carry a Jeep. Wing Commander Beer and the N.Z. Divl. AMG Liaison Officer went directly to the Municipio and interviewed the Captain of Carabinieri, the Committee of Liberation and Municipal employee who showed up. Proclamations were posted and arrangements made for a CAO and supplies to move up the next day. Avezzano is about 20% destroyed and 20% badly damaged. An LO informs me that it was [redacted] after the Germans had withdrawn. The

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

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We have the following report, dated 13 June from Major Bullock of this Branch, now attached to the 6th Army:

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Some 200 British and American POW's have been befriended by the people in the Avezzano area. The Italians there have been pro-Ally for months and many have taken their lives in their hands to help our men. The inhabitants of Tagliacozzo gave a party for New Zealand troops this week. Unless we trust Partisans and others the run[illegible] risks for us with considerable confidence and trust, I'm afraid the reaction will be severe.-

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

Citizens who have worked without hope of pay or return, rebuilding bridges and roads so our troops could follow up the retreating Germans have deserved not to be let down. One British officer POW is reported to feel so strongly on the matter of the reward given Italian families who sheltered our men that he intends to go back when he received his accumulated pay and share it with the people who saved him. AMG can only pay the statutory sum.

The part of Italy through which the Eighth Army has been moving, where the people for the most part had no responsibility whatever for the war, where AMG 8th Army's extremely efficient and practiced spearheads can spend only a short time on their way north, has been hard hit. We are dealing with a more respectable and more politically conscious people than in the Neapolitan area and Sicily. These people do not want Fascism nor anything that looks or smells like it. Local self-government, locally chosen is going to be asked for more and more loudly AMG is and must be concerned only with keeping the L of C quiet, particularly when we are moving so fast. The problem is essentially one for the Region and any Italian government which may be formed.

The speed with which we can get supplies into forward areas is going to be a factor in shaping the reaction of the people to Regional Administration after Army AMG leaves. I think everybody is aware of the urgency of this problem. It is a matter of getting ample stockpiles forward in time to points from which AMG can collect them for distribution.

Keeping up with the AMG is an impossible task this week. As we write news comes of the fall of Grosseto. The line, to the best of our information, now runs due east and a little north to a point some 15 miles above Orvieto, further east to include Foligno, then drops south above Terrmo, whose capture is announced as we write. The advance has been and is continuous and rapid and detailed reports of AMG activities are slow coming in. A Sitrep of June 12th reported that Chieti had 80,000 civilian inhabitants, food for nine days and water for three days. Morale and order good. Ossegna, Guardiagrele and Tollo were practically uninhabited, having suffered 80 to 100% destruction. A spearhead C.O entered Sulmona on the 12th. Sulmona has suffered little; the main difficulty will be with supplies as the roads are in very bad condition.

A Fifth Army Sitrep of 14th June states that all but 10 of the 60 communes in Viterbo province have been occupied as well as two in Grosseto. Towns in the path of the armies are in bad shape, others are untouched. There is a universal shortage of salt, sugar and olive oil but in all communities there is some grain on hand. Viterbo was found to be not so badly dam-

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

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The Provincial Commissioner of Viterbo set up his Hq. in the town on 11 June and has made some progress in reorganizing the provincial administration.

In general, health conditions are good, even the hospital situation north of Roma. The wheat crop is now ripe and harvesting is the chief concern of the peasant. "Coum trouble" shows some improvement but another trouble has arisen in connection with the partisans. We quote: "A serious problem is presented by armed bands of civilians under the titles of 'Partisans,''patriots','police', or 'communists' who exist

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

in many of the newly captured communes. These people terrorize the official police and are found in complete control of the community and on one occasion held up a C/O at the point of a pistol. Prompt and firm action is necessary as well as tact and the mobile CCRR are very useful in disarming them and restoring law and order in cases where the local police have broken down on account of the numerical inferiority. The problem is made more complicated by the fact that many of these people are sincere and have on occasion helped the Allied cause."

AMG sections have received the congratulations of Corps Commanders of the II and IV Corps. The latter says:

"It is the first time in the world that an army has by previous planning been able to relieve combat personnel of the necessity of wasting men and time looking after the civilian population. We still wonder why it wasn't done 100 years ago.

4. Granai del Popolo

The Agriculture S/C is letting no grain ripen underfoot in its efforts to exploit the present favourable situation. About 15,000 pairs of American army shoes have been obtained and will be distributed for sale in those communes where farmers have the best record for getting their harvests into the Granai del Popolo. The shoes are worn but respectable and should be tempting to the farmers.

Col. Frothen tells us that his field men report a bumper crop is awaiting harvest in the Cassino, Terracina and Pontine Marshes areas, where effort is being made to organize quickly communal committees.

Such committees are now functioning everywhere in Southern Italy and in Sicily there is a committee for every commune on the island.

New posters have been printed and the Agriculture S/C urges all regions to obtain supplies for widespread posting. The posters summarize the terms of the decree indicate the amount each farmer may retain for his own use. Binder twine is also following the armies.

Plans are under way for a filming of the harvest, PWB the Agriculture S/C, this Branch and the Italian Government all collaborating----an effort was made to have a Regional Commissioner pose with the workers in the field but the answer was sharp: "Who do you think I am - Mussolini?"

5. Fine Arts

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Italian Fine Arts officials in Rome report that the Germans purchased a certain number of state-notified paintings from private collectors while in Rome. This is contrary to Italian law but the protests of the Superintendent of Galleries were overruled by the Minister of Education and the late Count Ciano. They also report that certain Fascists sold state-notified art-

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

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Col. Bertuzzi tells us that his field men report a bumper crop is awaiting harvest in the Cassino, Terracina and Pontine Marshes areas, where effort is being made to organize quickly communal committees.

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Fine Arts also reports the discovery of four volumes of 18th century musical MSS in the Villa Ferrero at Cerreno. The Marchese Ferrero being unaccountably absent the volumes were sent to the Conservatorio at Naples. The MSS include contemporary copies of the first act of an opera by Cimarosa and

0983
Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785046

end of Pergolesi's Stabat Mater. The Marchese may claim his property by applying at the Conservatorio any time within a year.

6. Odds and Ends

Announcement that Col. Brister is to make use of Cinecitta (Rome's Hollywood) for a refugee camp brought forth the remark from a High Source: "We await the filming of Brister's Millions' ....At present Cinecitta has a French flag waving over it.... 20% of the contadini have managed to get away between Naples and the Foggia grain fields. Measures are being taken...Col Kirkwood has gone to the command of Region VIII, Col. Massey succeeds him in Region VII....Mosquitoes have been reported in Hq. though there is an order out against them...Col. Bowman back from Adriatic inspection reports Pescara is a ghost town", Chieti quite intact....the region full of mud and roads and mined areas...Col. Shipp, back from Africa reports discovery of Carabinieri in abundance, also a few available doctors..... Telephonic communication between Hq. and Rome has been established, though still somewhat capricious... On civilian employees policy will be not to take Neapolitans to Rome... Accomodations awaiting AGC in Rome include the Grand Hotel with 50 rooms for general officers and colonels and 50 to spare for distinguished guests, the Flora for field grade officers and the Regina Carlton for junior officers. No requisitioning of villas- at least for the present..... The bread ration north of Rome is to be 100 grammes a day until it is clear that there will be no transport difficulties as we move north....There have been 150,000 smallpox vaccinations in Region III .... Labour Division in Rome are are working a 7 day week in order to recruit a band of interpreters, chauffeurs, English-speaking typists and common labourers....Public Relations Branch has its hand (and brains) in Rome, as we go to press. The tail is wagging feebly - as is probably evident.

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

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

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115

PRB 26/WB 10

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

10 June 1944.

Files

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), Lengobardi (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 Gaspari (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 5 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	Siglieri
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

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

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	LIBERAL	Croce
	CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT	De Gaspari
	LABOUR DEMOCRAT	Ruini
	SOCIALIST	Saragat
	INDEPENDENT	Sforza
	COMMUNIST	Togliatti

925

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

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

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. Two 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. Zanibeni 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 sympathisers.

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

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

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

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 22,000 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.

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

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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."

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

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

food supplies, balanced 5-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 5:-

'"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 Arce, 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, Gradignano, Velletri, Morolo, Sgurgla, Colliefevio, 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 Toscolana, 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 2 a.m. 5 June.

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

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"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

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

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 "Comm 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	..	..	1,200 lire per quintal
Chick peas	..	..	1,000 lire per quintal
			750 lire per quintal

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

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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
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

/ 23

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

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

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6: Political Note from an Esteemed Contemporary

BADOGLIO GETS OLD HEAVE-HO AS ITIE 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 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.

Distribution as for Bulletin No 9 dated 3 June 1944.

0995

83 ..... 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 6,000 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 Sellers, we understand, telegraphed for 10,000 but possibly added an unintentional zero.

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SECRET

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

PRB 26/WB 9

3 June 1944.

ACC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 9
28 May to 3 June

115

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 oversight 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.

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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

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

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 magnet of Rome) prevented the attendance of General [illegible] 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 reported 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 45 - 50%, 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 fertil[illegible]

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1001

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

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 a 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

1002
Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

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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.

1003

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

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 [illegible]

1004

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

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"(f) COLDRAGONE. This little town in the Liri Valley northwest of Roccasecca is becoming a refugee centre. Damage is comparatively light."

/ 6.

1005

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

6. Fog : 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 nude pleasing the people is in good taste, opinions vary: perhaps it may be regarded as only a temporary indication of a better world ... Passes, serially numbered and currently limited, showing occupation and period of stay, are to be made for every member of AGC 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 3 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 AGC is on the threshold of a new horse-and-buggy area ..... It is reported ... Pontine Marshes is

1006
Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

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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

1007

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

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

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

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PRB 26/WB 8

27 May 1944.

115

ACC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 8
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 Zaniboni 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.

1009
Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785046

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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

1010

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

	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	1,458	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 SCAO 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.

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

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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 to Gaeta.

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

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

AMG; that in several places reguler 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. 9 18 9 19

(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

1013

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

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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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1014

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

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 antied.

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 mainland on June 1 ..... Colonel Legge, 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 Snook 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

...Pollock dated May 27 is attached.

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

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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 and Adjutant.

1016

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

1017

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

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.

FILE

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

92

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.

916

Cevabona, 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

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

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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

1079

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

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.

1020

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

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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

1021

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

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

915

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

1922
Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

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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

/ family

1023

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

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 the 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, thefeast 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 [illegible] ration cards illegally issued on

1024

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

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/ Nellie

1025

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785062

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)

914

Translation, if required, next week.

1026

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

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LIONEL FIELDEN,
Major,
Public Relations Director.

/ Distribution overleaf

1027

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

Distribution:-

1-10	Regional Commissioner, Region I	For distribution to Provincial Commissioners
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, AMG Fifth Army	
65	" " " " AMG Eighth Army	
66	Chief Commissioner	
67	Deputy Chief Commissioner	
68	Executive Commissioner	
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	
76-77	Information Division	
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, 8th Army AMG	
82	Major John P. Leacacos, PRO, 5th 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 (2nd Floor)	
87	Secretary-General	
88	File 26 (PRB)	

1028

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

MP.

Files

PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

PRB 22/1.

1 April 1944.

Subject: ACC Weekly Bulletin.

To: Regional Commissioner, Region I, Region II, Region III, Region IV, Region V, Region VI.
Senior Civil Affairs Officer, Fifth Army AMG and Eighth Army AMG.

As instructed by the Executive Commissioner I forward herewith a short summary of the chief events of the week at HQ ACC. In future this summary will be despatched to you from here every Saturday. I should welcome any suggestions for additions or modifications.

LIONEL FIELDEN,
Major,
Director of Public
Relations.

913

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

6. 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 1630 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 carabinieri. 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 0350 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 at San Giorgio.

At 1100 hrs 21 March an Advanced 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 hostile

912

1030
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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

912

1031

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

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

PRB 26/WB1

1 April 1944.

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 H. Carr was appointed Regional Commissioner, Region VI.

Air Commodore W.A.B. Bower-Buscarlet was appointed Director of the Air Sub-Commission vice Air Commodore E.E. 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.

1032
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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.

/ 6. Vesuvius

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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 recommends, 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 610 cases during the week. Of these 450 were convicted. In Italian courts in Naples during the week there were 277 cases, and 201 convictions. An order was issued on 1 April by Region III for the appointment by Sindaci of citizens' squads for investigating and 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.

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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 312 cases during the week. Of these 250 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 and reporting on black market activities.

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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 be the last groups to go from ACC.

LIONEL FIELDEN,
Major,
Director of Public
Relations.

1035
Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

1036