

ACC

10000/143/155

MINUTES OF EX
SEPT., OCT. 1943

10000/143/155

MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETINGS, NO. 52
SEPT., OCT. 1943

AMCOT/1142/73

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54

Minutes of Executive Council

Meetings

No 52

Minutes of Executive Council
Meetings

No 52

10000 43/55

THIS FOLDER
CONTAINS PAPERS
FROM SEPT 43
TO OCT 43
CATALOGUE.

1193
SECRET

HEADQUARTERS ANGOT

MIDWINTER 1942

MEMBER OF EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

2ND SEPTEMBER 1942

MEMBER:

Major-General Lord Hurrell
Brigadier-General Hurrell
Colonel Bailey
Colonel Cheyne
Colonel Grafton-Smith
Lieut-Colonel Chantler
Lieut-Colonel Harris
Lieut-Colonel Selts
Lieut-Colonel Spottiswood
Lieut van Henselton

C.C.A.O.
D.C.C.A.O.
C.P.S.
D.P.H.
C.F.O.
C.L.O.
C.P.
D.C.S.R.
C.S.O.
Secretary.

97.

The meeting was called to order by C.C.A.O. at 1505 hours.

98.

Action was reported on 91 as per submitted plan.

99.

Action on EFOO (92) was reported on, and it was announced that its first meeting would be held at 1600 hours on 4th September 1942.

100.

The C.P.S. reported that a plan had been prepared (94) and now required approval of the C.L.C. and D.C.S.R.

101.

Item 2 on the Agenda was explained by the D.P.H. The transportation shortage mentioned was a problem common to all ANGOT personnel. The C.C.A.O. recommended that civilian facilities be used when possible.

102.

Item 3. The D.C.S.R. reported that a survey for island-wide control and registration of vehicles had been submitted. A suggestion was made that a charge of 500 be made for each four months period to cover printing expenses. The C.C.A.O. directed that this be done. (Action D.C.S.R.)

103.

Item 4. The C.C.A.O. stated that the time had now come to be increasingly firm with black market violators, and directed that raids for wheat be initiated. Public Safety were directed to report on the effects of such raids at the next Executive Council Meeting. (Action C.P.S.)

104.

Item 5. (i) The C.S.O. recommended that the Labor Plan be referred to EFOO. The C.C.A.O. directed that this be done. No Italians were to be initially invited. The C.C.A.O. directed that any reports or recommendations of EFOO to the Executive Council be referred to EFOO.

Colonel Cheyne
Colonel Crafty-Cliff
Lieut-Colonel Charles
Lieut-Colonel Harris
Lieut-Colonel Seitz
Lieut-Colonel Stafford
Lieut van Houten

D.P.H.
C.F.O.
C.L.O.
C.F.
D.C.S.R.
C.S.O.
Secretary.

97. The meeting was called to order by C.C.A.O. at 1508 hours.
98. Action was reported on 91 as per unsubmitted plan.

99. Action on EFOO (92) was reported on, and it was announced that its first meeting would be held at 1600 hours on 4th September 1945.

100. The C.P.S. reported that a plan had been prepared (94) and now required approval of the C.L.C. and D.C.S.R.

101. Item 2 on the Agenda was explained by the D.P.H. The transportation shortage mentioned was a problem common to all ANGOT personnel. The C.C.A.O. recommended that civilian facilities be used when possible.

102. Item 3. The D.C.S.R. reported that a survey for island-wide control and registration of vehicles had been submitted. A suggestion was made that a charge of £50 be made for each four months period to cover printing expenses. The C.C.A.O. directed that this be done. (Action D.C.S.R.)

103. Item 4. The C.C.A.O. stated that the time had now come to be increasingly firm with black market violators, and directed that raids for meat be initiated. Public Safety were directed to report on the effects of such raids at the next Executive Council Meeting. (Action C.P.S.)

104. Item 5. (1) The C.S.O. recommended that the Labor Plan be referred to EFOO. The C.C.A.O. directed that this be done. No Italians were to be initially invited. The C.C.A.O. directed that any reports or recommendations of EFOO to the Executive Council be circulated before the next Executive Council Meeting. (ii) The P.C.S.A. reported that a second plan on agricultural organization, based on information received from S.C.A.O.s, had now been sent to all S.C.A.O.s. The C.S.O. recommended that this be referred to EFOO. The C.C.A.O. directed that this be done, and any reports or recommendations of EFOO to the Executive Council be circulated before the next Executive Council Meeting.

105. After a review of the general situation, the C.C.A.O. adjourned the meeting at 1615 hours.

Regular Distribution:

CAROL VAN HOUTEN,
1st Lt LC,
Secretary - Executive Council,
ANGOT.

5093

SECRET SECRET.

AMGOT/19

AMGOT H. SICILY

13 September 1943

HEADQUARTERS AMGOT

Minutes of
10th Meeting of Executive Council
10 September 1943

PRESENT

Lt. Col. Spofford (Chairman)	C.S.O.
Colonel Bellis	C.P.S.
Colonel Cheyne	D.P.H.
Col. Graffey-Smith	C.F.O.
Lt. Col. Charlier	C.L.O.
Lt. Col. Harris	C.P.
Lt. Col. Hayes	E.D.C.S.R.
Lt. van Heukelom	Secretary

106. The meeting was called to order by the C.S.O. at 1510 hours.
107. The minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed. C.P.S. stated that item 103 of the minutes of the ninth meeting should have read to the effect that plans for raids on wheat be initiated and not the raids themselves. The C.S.O. agreed. The C.P.S. reported that he had plans ready to commence immediate enforcement of black market regulations, and these would be circulated after being submitted to all Divisions for immediate approval and comments to C.P.S. (Action Heads of Divisions) (See appendix "A.")
108. The Labor Plan (No. 2)
C.S.O. discussed the plan which had been submitted by Capt. Morse to EFCO for approval. This plan had been approved by EFCO at a special meeting held on 7 September 1943, and EFCO had recommended adoption of this plan to the C.C.A.O. The C.S.O. asked the meeting for any comments and it was agreed that the plan attached as Appendix "A" to the Agenda be submitted to the C.C.A.O. or D.C.C.A.O. for final approval.
109. Raids on Black Market Violations (No. 3)
Discussion in number 107.
110. Meeting of C.A.A.P.Os.
C.P.S. reported that a meeting of C.A.A.P.Os from each Province had been held at AMGOT HQ.

Mr. C. H. Spenceford (Chairman)
C.P.S.
Colonel Bellies
Colonel Cheyne
Colonel Graffey-Smith
Lt. Col. Chahler
Lt. Col. Harris
Lt. Col. Hayes
Lt. van Reukelom
C.P.O.
D.F.H.
C.P.O.
C.L.O.
C.P.
D.D.C.S.R.
Secretary

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109. Raids on Black Market Violations (No. 3)
Discussion in number 107.
110. Meeting of C.A.A.P.Os.
C.P.S. reported that a meeting of C.A.A.P.Os from each Province had been held at AMGOT HQ.
111. Arrests and Detention.
C.P.S. now has a report on the disposition of cases of persons arrested or detained by 7th Army and a report on the cases of 8th Army will shortly also be available.
112. Military Discipline.
C.P.S. stated that all his C.A.A.P.Os are unanimous in their reports on breach of military discipline by the Allied Armies in Sicily. The M.Ps provided by the Armies had proved insufficient and whereas he felt that little good could come of attempting to take action with respect to past misconduct, plans should now be made for the future. The C.P.S. has submitted his recommendations to the C.C.A.O.

092

- 2 -

113. Assignment of C.M.F.Os to other Duties.

In this connection the C.S.O. stated that a directive has been sent out to the effect that this should cease.

114. Fire-arm Registration.

The C.F.S. reported that the fire arms situation was still unsatisfactory and a source of potential danger. A plan for a uniform registration system was now being prepared and would shortly be distributed to all concerned. (Action C.F.S.)

115. Ammunition Stores.

The question of responsibility for stores of ammunition, hand grenades, explosives and mines was brought up by the C.F.S. who stated that this should definitely be the responsibility of the Army and Navy. The C.S.O. agreed with this view and said that every effort should be made by AMGOT to have the Army or Navy bear this responsibility. The C.P.S. was requested to follow this through. (Action C.S.O.)

116. Curfew.

The question of lifting the early morning curfew for cameters was discussed. It was agreed that the C.F.S. should work this out "in principle" with the authorities. (Action C.F.S.)

117. Political Intelligence Questionnaire (No. 4)

The C.S.O. explained the purposes and reasons for using this Questionnaire. The advantages of making people put their personal and political history in writing were stressed. The Questionnaire and its immediate use were approved by the meeting.

118. Correspondence from Provinces.

The C.P. raised the point that correspondence was not coming to him through correct channels. The C.S.O. said that a further directive on this would be issued. (Action C.S.O.)

119. A request was made that AMGOT obtain from the armies for circulation at AMGOT HQ copies of 8th Army G.R.Os, 7th Army Daily Bulletins, Memoranda, Circulars and any other notices that they might issue. (Action C.S.O.)120. The meeting was adjourned at 1555 hours.

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The question of responsibility for stores of ammunition, hand grenades, explosives and mines was brought up by the C.P.S. who stated that this should definitely be the responsibility of the Army and Navy. The C.S.O. agreed with this view and said that every effort should be made by AMCOT to have the Army or Navy bear this responsibility. The C.P.S. was requested to follow this through. (Action C.S.O.)

116. Curfew.

The question of lifting the early morning curfew for commuters was discussed. It was agreed that the C.P.S. should work this out "in principle" with the authorities. (Action C.P.S.)

117. Political Intelligence Questionnaire (No. 4)

The C.S.O. explained the purposes and reasons for using this Questionnaire. The advantages of making people put their personal and political history in writing were stressed. The Questionnaire and its immediate use were approved by the meeting.

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120. The meeting was adjourned at 1555 hours.

Distribution:

C.C.A.O.
D.C.C.A.O.
C.S.O.
D.C.S.O.
Heads of Divisions - 6
Secretary
File
Float
War Diary
Spares - 10

Car. van Hecke
CARL van HECKELM
1st Lt., A.C.
Secretary Executive Council
AMCOT

Appendix A

AMCOT/1057/PS.

AMCOT R.O. SICILY.

11. Sept. 43.

BLACK MARKET PLAN.

1. Basis of Operations.

(a) Directive of the C.C.A.O. - The Directive issued by the C.C.A.O. at Council Meeting on 3. Sept. required the Public Safety Division to submit a plan to prevent black market operations. The directive provided that attention should be given primarily to wheat and wheat products.

(b) The following form the legal basis of action by the police :

- (i) General Order No. 3.
- (ii) General Order No. 5.
- (iii) Italian Penal Code.

2. Responsibilities of Divisions.

(a) The responsibility of Divisions will be as follows :-

- (i) Civil Supply Division.
The General Plan for survey of stocks, transportation, storage and distribution.
- (ii) Legal Division.
 - 1. Plan for uniform prosecution of defaulters and offenders.
 - 2. Supervise Prosecutions.
 - 3. Central record of results and convictions.
- (iii) Finance Division.
 - 1. Provide fund for purchase of stocks at controlled prices.
 - 2. Provide funds for use of police for investigation purposes and monetary rewards to informants in suitable cases.
- (iv) Public Safety Division.
 - 1. Searches of suspected premises to commence September 16th.
 - 2. Confiscation of undeclared excesses.
 - 3. Investigation of cases and charging offenders.
 - 4. Maintain central record of investigations and results.

(b) Civilian Supply Division has designated one officer to act as adviser to the Public Safety Division; Legal Division has designated one officer as the Chief Prosecutor.

3. Responsibilities of S.C.A.Os.

- (a) The posting of proclamations and notices.
- (b) The maintenance of the Central Provincial records of supplies.
- (c) Providing warehouses and storage.

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- (a) The posting of proclamations and notices.
- (b) The maintenance of the Central Provincial records of supplies.
- (c) Providing warehouses and storage.
- (d) Arranging the transportation and the movement of all supplies.
- (e) Direction of the employment of the Civil Police on the Provincial level.
- (f) The supervision of the investigation and charging of offenders on the provincial level.
- (g) The forwarding of all police activities within the Province through the Carabinieri Group Commander.

-2-

4. Employment of Civil Police.

(a) The Civil Police organizations will be employed as follows :

- (i) Carabinieri.
The Carabinieri is designated as the principal civil police agency employed under the control of their own superior Commander for the island of Sicily, General Ernesto Samino.
- (ii) Agents of Public Security.
The Questore and Agents of Public Security are at the disposal of the S.C.A.Os.
- (iii) Guardia di Finanza.
This organization employed in accordance with existing instructions.
- (iv) Guardia Municipale.
The Guardia Municipale, or local police, normally under the Sindaco will be employed locally.

(b) The activities of all police within the Province will be reported to the Group Commander of the Carabinieri in the manner prescribed herein.

5. Detailed Police Plan.

(a) The activities of the Police will be directed against violations of the system of supply from production to consumption.

- (i) Particular attention will be given to the following products : wheat and wheat products (flour and pasta), sugar and olive oil.
- (ii) Civil Police activities will be under the supervision of the Civil Police Section, Division of Public Safety.

(b) Action against consumers based on General Order No.5. Searches will be made on and after September 16 of premises other than those of producers and growers. Undeclared supplies in excess of the authorized amounts will be confiscated. Each case where undeclared supplies in excess of the authorized amounts are found, will be followed up with the necessary police investigation.

6. Action at the sources of supply.

(a) The S.C.A.O. of each Province, acting in accordance with the Civil Supply plan, will check as follows on the supplies in the possession of growers :

- (i) List of growers and estimated yield.
- (ii) Check on the amounts turned in to Grassi, and/or, Storehouses.
- (iii) Check on the amounts which have been declared by the respective growers.
- (iv) Determine from (i), (ii), and (iii) what discrepancies exist. These will be furnished to the police for investigation.

(b) On receipt of this information from the S.C.A.O. on representative the

instructions.

- (iv) Guardia Municipale.
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- (ii) Check on the amounts turned in to Massai, and/or, Storehouses.
- (iii) Check on the amounts which have been declared by the respective growers.
- (iv) Determine from (i), (ii), and (iii) what discrepancies exist. These will be furnished to the police for investigation.

(b) On receipt of this information from the S.C.A.O., or representative, the police will conduct searches of premises and make the necessary investigations in accordance with the facts disclosed. When making searches the police will be accompanied by persons who have the necessary technical knowledge to make estimates of the quantity and kinds of supplies.

7. Action against Distributors.

(a) All vehicles transporting the products named herein will be required to carry a manifest containing the following information:

- (i) Name, address and thumb print of owner.
- (ii) The product and amount.
- (iii) Destination.
- (iv) Authority for moving.
- (v) Agency from whom procured.

The S.C.A.O. will designate the representatives who are authorized to issue manifests and advise the police within the Province the form of the manifest. The S.C.A.O. will require all manifests to be surrendered and cancelled when the products, which they covered, have been delivered to the destination.

(b) The police will check the vehicles carrying products on the roads, and those which are not covered by manifests will be confiscated and turned in to the designated warehouse. Loads carried on Military vehicles must likewise be covered by a manifest. As the police cannot confiscate these vehicles, they will be required to make a report of same. Civilian vehicles carrying loads accompanied by military personnel must also carry the necessary manifest. Each investigation or irregularity discovered by the police will be followed by the necessary investigation.

8. Action against Production.

(a) By authority of General Order No. 3 all grain, except certain authorized amounts, must be turned in before Oct. 31. After that date searches will be conducted and confiscations made.

(b) Each confiscation or irregularity discovered by the police will be followed by the necessary investigation.

9. Action against Distributors.

The S.C.A.O. acting through the available agencies within the Province, will check on the quality and quantity of flour and bread from the mills and bakers. Irregularities and discrepancies will be followed by investigations.

10. Action against the Black Market.

The action outlined in the foregoing is directed at the control of supplies from source to consumer. Supplies which have been, or will be, diverted from this stream naturally come into circulation at prices in excess of the provisions of General Order No. 3. This is the Black Market. The details of the investigation of the black market itself will be contained in future orders. The action outlined herein is directed at the sources, and in the course of this action leads will be discovered, each one of which will be investigated as the circumstances require.

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11. Police Coordination.

(a) The central office of the Civil Police Section, Division of Public Safety, will perform the following functions:

- (i) Maintain the necessary contact with other Divisions --- Legal, Finance, and Civilian Supply.
- (ii) Correlate all information received, analyze same and distribute it to those concerned.
- (iii) Compile reports and maintain statistics respecting enforcement activities throughout the island.

The organization of the Central Office will consist of specialized personnel drawn from the Civil Police Agencies.

-4-

11. Police Coordination (Cont'd).

(b) The Central Office will compile statistics for the whole island. Each Province will maintain a consolidated record within the Province. These records will be maintained under the following headings :-

- (i) Total cases referred to the Police.
- (ii) Number of cases unfounded.
- (iii) Number of cases closed as undetected cases.
- (iv) Number of cases awaiting trial.
- (v) Number of cases under investigation.
- (vi) Number of persons convicted.
- (vii) Number of persons acquitted.
- (viii) Number of searches.
- (ix) Number of confiscations.
- (x) Value and quantities of confiscated property.

Each case and/or investigation will be supported by the necessary basic report.

(c) All police activities will be reported to the Group Commander of the Carabinieri in the Province, who will submit each week from Sunday to Saturday inclusive, consolidated reports containing the information shown in foregoing to the S.C.A.F.O. The Group Commander will, in addition, submit to his higher Commander reports required.

(d) The S.C.A.O. will coordinate the activities of all police within the Province. The Carabinieri is the principal or responsible agency.

(e) The S.C.A.Os. will maintain within the Province consolidated reports of police activities and supplies. The General summary of results for the period Sept. 16 to Sept. 30 inclusive will be submitted to the Public Safety Division. Future reports will be submitted as required.

CHARLES M. SPOTFORD,
Lt. Col, G.S.C.
Chief Staff Officer.

MOST SECRET
 AMOT H. 31011
 AMOT/11/H1
 17 September 1943

HEADQUARTERS AMOT

Minutes of
the 11th Meeting of the Executive Council
17 September 1943

PRESENT

Major General David Russell	- C.C.A.O.
Colonel Nelson	- C.P.S.
Colonel Cheyne	- D.P.H.
Colonel Griffith Smith	- C.F.O.
Lt. Col. Farley Smith	- D.C.S.O.
Lt. Col. Hayes	- D.D.C.S.R.
Lt. Col. Rowe	- D.C.L.O.
Captain Howard	- D.C.P.
Lt. Van Heukelom	- Secretary

121. The meeting was called to order by the C.C.A.O. at 1505.
122. The minutes of the 10th Meeting of the Executive Council were reviewed.
123. EXCO
There was a general discussion about EXCO and the C.C.A.O. expressed his opinion that EXCO could submit for discussion to EXCO problems specifically relating to economics and finance rather than problems of an administrative character.
124. The Labor Plan
Captain Morse presented his Labor Plan No. 2 for approval. There were a few changes to be made in the draft and the C.C.A.O. decided that as soon as all the Division Heads had given their approval, his own approval should be considered as having been given. (Action Captain Morse and Division Heads)
125. The meeting was adjourned at 1535.

DISTRIBUTION

C.C.A.O.
 D.C.C.A.O.
 C.S.O.
 D.C.S.O.
 Heads of Divisions - 6

Secretary
 File
 Floet
 War Diary
 Spares - 10

Carl van Heukelom
 CARL van HEUKELOM
 1st Lt., A.C.
 Secretary Executive Council
 AMOT

AUGUST H.Q.

Minutes of

The 12th Meeting of the Executive Council

24. Sept. 1943.

HQST SECRET

26. Sept. 43

Present:

Major-General Lord Rennell.

Colonel Bolles

Colonel Chayne

Colonel Graffey-Smith

Colonel Spefford

Colonel Zellars

Lt. Col. Chanler

Capt. Bovard

Lieut. van Heukelom

C.C.A.O.

C.P.S.

D.P.H.

C.F.O.

C.S.O.

D.C.S.R.

C.L.O.

D.G.P.

Secretary.

126. The Meeting was called to order by the C.C.A.O. at 1500 hours.

127. EMCO. (Item No. 123 of Minutes previous meeting.)
The minutes were discussed and it was agreed that EMCO's status was quite clearly understood by all members of EMCO as well as ENCO.

128. The Labor Plan. (Item No. 124 of Minutes of previous meeting.)
The present progress of the Labor Plan was reported by the C.S.O.

129. Reorganization of Civilian Supply Division. (Item No. 2 on Agenda)
The C.S.O. summarised the reasons for the decision to split up this Division. Its recent growth had been greater than originally anticipated, and its duties and responsibilities covered a considerably larger field than contemplated, so that it was thought advisable to split the Division into 5 Sections as proposed in Appendix "A" to the Agenda.

The advisability of having "B" and "C" (Civilian Transport Division and Communications, Utilities and Public Works Division) merged as one Division was discussed. The C.C.A.O. was of the opinion that it would be advantageous to have the functions of these two proposed Divisions combined in one Division at least to begin with. With this change, the proposed order was approved by the Council. (See Appendix "A"). (Action C.S.O.)

130. Policy reference Fascists since Armistice. (Item No. 3 Agenda).
The C.P.S. asked whether there was any change in present policy in view of the Armistice. The C.C.A.O. replied in the negative.

The C.C.A.O. requested that a short memorandum on Internees showing the totals now held in each category be submitted to him. (Action C.P.S.)

131. Authority for release of Civilian Internees.

The C.P.S. brought up as a matter of policy the question of responsibility for the release of such prisoners. The C.C.A.O. confirmed that it was his (the C.C.A.O.'s) responsibility.

120
Lt. Col. Chanler
Capt. Bovard
Lieut. van Heukelom
D.C.P.
Secretary.

126. The Meeting was called to order by the C.C.A.O. at 1500 hours.

127. ERCO. (Item No. 123 of Minutes previous meeting.)
The minutes were discussed and it was agreed that ERCO's status was quite clearly understood by all members of ERCO as well as ERCC.

128. The Labor Plan. (Item No. 124 of Minutes of previous meeting.)
The present progress of the Labor Plan was reported by the C.S.O.

129. Reorganization of Civilian Supply Division. (Item No. 2 on Agenda)
The C.S.O. summarised the reasons for the decision to split up this Division. Its recent growth had been greater than originally anticipated, and its duties and responsibilities covered a considerably larger field than contemplated, so that it was thought advisable to split the Division into 5 Sections as proposed in Appendix "A" to the Agenda.

The advisability of having "B" and "C" (Civilian Transport Division and Communications, Utilities and Public Works Division) merged as one Division was discussed. The C.C.A.O. was of the opinion that it would be advantageous to have the functions of these two proposed Divisions combined in one Division at least to begin with. With this change, the proposed order was approved by the Council. (See Appendix "A"). (Action C.S.O.)

130. Policy reference Fascists since Armistice. (Item No. 3 Agenda).
The C.P.S. asked whether there was any change in present policy in view of the Armistice. The C.C.A.O. replied in the negative.

The C.C.A.O. requested that a short memorandum on Internees showing the totals now held in each category be submitted to him. (Action C.P.S.)

131. Authority for release of Civilian Internees.
The C.P.S. brought up as a matter of policy the question of responsibility for the release of such prisoners. The C.C.A.O. confirmed that it was his (the C.C.A.O.'s) responsibility.

The C.P.S. asked for confirmation of his understanding as to release of (i) Civilian criminals and persons confined for violation of Proclamations, (ii) Prisoners confined by Fascist regime, or those civilians interned by A.M. authority who may not be held for more than 3 months without formal charge, (iii) Persons taken into custody by Allied Forces or Military Government authorities.

The C.P.S.'s understanding that (i) could be released by the court having final jurisdiction, was confirmed by the C.C.A.O. as correct. The C.P.S.'s understanding that those prisoners in (ii) could be released after review by the C.C.A.O. was confirmed by the C.C.A.O. as correct, and the C.P.S.'s understanding that those prisoners in Category (iii) could only be released by authority of the C.C.A.O. was also confirmed by the C.C.A.O. as correct.

388

- 2 -

132. The meeting was adjourned at 1600 hours.

Carol van Heukelom,
1st Lt. A.C.,
Secretary, Executive Council.
AMCOT.

DISTRIBUTION:-

C.C.A.O.
D.C.C.A.O.
C.S.O.
D.C.S.O.
Heads of Divisions.
Secretary.
File.
Fleet.
War Diary.
Spares 6.

SUBJECT:- Reorganization of Civilian Supply Division.

TO :- All Concerned,

AMGOT/213/HQ.
AMGOT N.9. SICILY.
25. Sept. 45.

1. Effective immediately the civilian Supply Division will be reorganized. The previous functions of the Division will be divided among the following Divisions which are hereby established :

- (a) Economics and Supply Division.
- (b) Transportation, Communication, and Utilities Division.
- (c) Agriculture Division.
- (d) Labor Division.

2. The particular functions of these Divisions will be as follows :-

(a) Economics and Supply Division: This Division shall be responsible for estimating and meeting essential civilian requirements; for supervising the rationing system of the territory, other than in respect of agricultural products; for the survey, development and control of natural resources of the territory, other than agricultural resources, to the extent required by the interests of the Allied Forces or the economy of the territory; for supervising price control, other than in respect of agricultural products; for the development and regulation of industrial and commercial enterprises and activities, other than those engaged in furnishing transportation, communication, or utility services; and in general for taking necessary measures to restore channels of supply and distribution and to rehabilitate the economy of the territory.

(b) Transportation, Communication and Utilities Division: This Division shall be responsible for rehabilitating and maintaining a system of civilian transport, whether by rail, water, highway or otherwise; for the regulation and control of existing civilian transport facilities or agencies; and for arranging transport required for civilian supply, mails, and civilian personnel, as may be required for the rehabilitation of the economy of the territory. This Division will not be responsible for AMGOT organic transport, that is, for operation, maintenance or control of (i) British or American Army vehicles, (ii) civilian and captured vehicles required for transport of AMGOT personnel or property in addition to Army vehicles.

This Division shall also be responsible for rehabilitating, and maintaining civil communications, and for the regulation and control of existing communication facilities, including telephone, telegraph, cables and radio; for the rehabilitation, regulation and control of electric, gas and water utilities; and for the rehabilitation and supervision of public works, including roads, bridges, water supply, sewers and sanitary facilities.

(c) Agriculture Division: This Division shall be responsible for the supervision of agriculture, including cropping and production, methods for improvement of agriculture and processing of agricultural products; for rationing and price control of agricultural products; for estimating and meeting agricultural requirements; and in coordination with the Economics and Supply Division for the collection and distribution of all agricultural products and edible commodities; also for the

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(d) Labor Division: This division shall be responsible for the supervision and control of all matters relating to labor supply, including the regulation of wage levels for both civilian and military labor; the supervision of regional and provincial labor offices and all other matters affecting labor in the territory.

3. The following are appointed chiefs of divisions :

- (a) Economics and Supply : Col. John T. Zellars (Acting).
(b) Transportation, Communication, and Utilities: Lt. Col. Leonard D. Denham.

5987

(2)

(c) Agriculture: Major J. Clayton.
 (d) Labor : Captain David A. Morse.

By Order of the Chief Civil Affairs Officer.

Charles M. Spowace

CHARLES M. SPOWACE,
 Colonel, G. S. C.
 Chief Staff Officer.

DISTRIBUTION: S.C.A.Os.	6	Pila 266 and 213/HQ	1
Argentino	6	Fleet	12
Caltanissetta	6	NGS. AMO.	10
Catania	4	Spares	1
Enna	35	Legal Division	1
Palermo	6	Finance "	1
Ragusa	10	Public Safety	1
Siracusa	6	Public Health	1
Trapani	8	Comptroller of Exps.	1
Messina	1	Excercises & Supply	1
AMCOT Liaison	10	Transportation	1
AMCOT 6th Army	10	Communication &	1
Region 2	10	Utilities Div.	1
AMCOT 5th Army	10	Agriculture Div.	1
Region 5	10	Labor Div.	1

MOST SECRET

AMGOT H.Q.

2 October 1943

Minutes of
the 13th Meeting of the Executive Council

1 October 1943

P. R. E. S. E. M. T.

Col. Spofford (Chairman)

Col. Bollis

Col. Cheyne

Col. Zellars

Lt. Col. Denamore

Lt. Col. Harris

Lt. Col. Menapace

Lt. Col. Howe

Major Chayton

Capt. Morse

Capt. Van Dusen

Lt. Van Heukelom

C.S.O.

C.P.S.

D.P.H.

D.E.S. Acting

D.C.T.U.

C.P.

D.C.F.O.

D.C.L.O.

D.A.D.

D.L.D.

Secretary

133. The meeting was called to order by the C.S.O. at 1500 hours.

134. The minutes of the last meeting were reviewed and approved.

135. Authority for release of persons taken into custody by Allied Forces or Allied Military Government. (Item 2 of Agenda)
The C.S.O. raised the question of the proper policy to adopt on this subject in view of the recent military and political developments. C.S.O. expressed the opinion that all those persons whose retention was not warranted under present circumstances be released, as soon as possible, and recommended that a decision be made upon C.C.A.O.s return. The Council agreed.
(Action C.S.O.)

The C.P.S. expressed the opinion that there were many undesirables still at large, who should be apprehended and detained.

The D.C.L.O. stated that most, if not all, of those arrested should be taken straight to Internment Camps, rather than to gaols, pointing out the unfavourable impression which might be created if this policy was not adopted.

The C.P.S. commented that, since the original planning, no other provision had been made for such cases. Chaotic conditions had existed in this respect from the day Allied tactical troops had commenced operations on the Island, and he saw no promise of any immediate solution to this problem. The C.S.O. directed that the C.P.S. and D.C.L.O. report jointly on this question at the next ENCO meeting. (Action C.P.S. and D.C.L.O.)

136. Re-establishment of Prefects Council and Provincial Giunta. (Item

Col. Zellers
Lt. Col. Densmore
Lt. Col. Harris
Lt. Col. Menapace
Lt. Col. Howe
Major Chayton
Capt. Morse
Capt. Van Dusen
Lt. Van Heukelom

D.P.H.
D.E.S. Acting
D.C.T.U.
C.P.
D.C.F.O.
D.C.L.O.
D.A.D.
D.L.D.

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136. Re-establishment of Prefects Council and Provincial Junta. (Item 3 of Agenda)

C.S.O. recommended that S.C.A.O.s be authorized to resurrect these bodies in cases where they considered it desirable. The C.S.O. stated that these organizations were a part of the Administrative set-up and might in some cases profitably be re-instated. The D.C.L.O. cautioned against requiring the approval of these bodies to communal orders and decrees as under the Italian law. The Council agreed. (Action C.S.O.)

137. Policy on revision of wages for employees of private employers. (Item 4 of Agenda).

The D.L.D. asked the Council's approval of the preparation of a survey of the prevailing wage scales being paid by private employers in Sicily. The survey would be accompanied by appropriate recommendations. The meeting agreed and recommended prompt action. (Action D.L.D.)

138. Rotation of S.C.A.O.s (Item 5 of Agenda)

The D.E.S. (Acting) summarized the difficulties encountered in the distribution of food, and other supplies, throughout the Island. The problem of equitable distribution could be solved only by the institution of various remedial measures. He proposed that, since the S.C.A.O.s of the provinces having present surpluses had not, in his opinion, taken the necessary steps to assist those now in need, S.C.A.O.s be interchanged between the "have" and "have-not" provinces.

The D.A.D. mentioned, as an example of inequitable distribution, that one Province was now granting to its own inhabitants more than the maximum permitted ration of bread and pasta, which was in fact double the weighted average of the island.

The D.E.S. strongly recommended that a greater control be exercised by this H.Q. over S.C.A.O.s.

General discussion ensued on the supply situation with particular reference to the province of Messina and Trapani.

139.

Reorganization of Agricultural Control. (Item 6 of Agenda).
The D.A.D. reviewed his Memorandum (Appendix C to the Agenda). He reported that the main difficulties had arisen from the necessity for improvisation by ALGOT personnel in the early stages. Consequently no uniformity existed, although it was badly needed. The D.C.L.C. pointed out the problems to be considered when contemplating the creation of new governmental units, not of an "ad hoc" character, but on a permanent basis.

The C.S.O. stated that he believed the decision should be postponed until the further development of the plan with the Legal Division had been completed. The final plan should be brought up at the next EXCO meeting. (Action D.C.L.C. and D...D.)

The D...D. recommended that certain existing institutions now not performing any useful function in the agricultural field be dissolved and was authorized by the Council to prepare a list for submission to the Council (Action D.A.D.)

140. Release of Control over certain agricultural products and foodstuffs.

(Item 7 of Agenda)

The D.A.D. reviewed his report (Appendix D to the Agenda) and suggested that, as the only commodities now being in fact controlled by ALGOT were wheat and olive oil future control be limited to bread, flour, olive oil and sugar. He further recommended that S.C.A.O.s be charged with the responsibility of fixing prices within maximum and minimum limits (See Para 6).

The Council approved the D.A.D.'s plan and the C.S.O. directed that steps be taken to issue a General Order to make it effective. (Action D...D.)

141. Public Safety Division Meetings. (Item 8 of Agenda).

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The Council approved the D.A.D.'s plan and the C.S.O. directed that steps be taken to issue a General Order to make it effective. (Action D...D.)
141. Public Safety Division Meetings. (Item 8 of Agenda).

Announcement was made of certain meetings planned by Public Safety Division, and the C.P.S. invited all Division Heads or their representatives who might be interested to attend these meetings.
142. Plan for Control of Inflation in Sicily. (Item 9 of Agenda).

Lt. Comdr. Southard was invited to review his Plan (Appendix A to the Agenda). He stated that he had drawn it with a view to the practicability of its enforcement by each division. Each division would be required to implement the details of that part of the program applicable to it. Lt. Comdr. Southard stated that as the Seventh and Eighth Armies withdrew from Sicily, some of the factors contributing to inflation would be reduced. The Plan was analysed by the Council and necessary action noted as follows:-

- 3 -

Par. 4 A. The C.P.S. drew attention to the multifarious trade and structural vendors' licenses etc. that had formerly been required in Sicily. He pointed out the difficulties that Finance Division would encounter in attempting to collect the revenue derived from these licenses and stated that he would make himself responsible for controlling their issuance and cooperation on the entire program with Finance Division.

(Action C.P.S. - D.C.F.O.)

Revenue.

The Finance Division was directed to report at the next meeting on the progress being made under Par. 4 A subsection No. 2 (Action D.C.F.O.)

Postal Savings.

Par. 4 B, subsection No. 2. Finance Division was directed to review cables from C.C.S. and to be responsible for the existence of a uniform policy on this subject at Headquarters. (Action D.C.F.O.)

Finance Division was further directed to ascertain from Major Head what Italian Post Offices will be reopened. (Action D.C.F.O.)

Wages - Par. 4 C.

Labor Division was directed to continue its present anti-inflation efforts and to carry out all the proposals applicable to it which were contained in the plan.

(Action D.L.D.)

Continued appeals to troops

Par. 4 D - Comdr. Southard expressed his doubts as to the efficacy of further action in this respect. The C.S.O. agreed.

Price and Rationing Enforcement, Par. 5 A - subsection No. 1.

The C.P.S. reported that all steps authorized by the directives, Proclamations and General Orders issued thus far were now being taken by him.

Supervision of distribution channels for commodities (Par. 5 B). The C.P.S. reported that every effort was being exerted to accomplish the desired results.

Ration level policy. (Par 5 C). It was reported that every effort was being exerted to carry out this proposal.

Limiting number of dealers. (Par. 5 D) After discussion, it was recommended that Public Safety Division and Agriculture Division formulate a joint policy on the subject. The Council agreed. (Action C.P.S. and D.L.D.)

Increase of Transportation Facilities. (Par. 5 E)

The D.E.S. (Aotting) reported that every effort was being made to secure more transportation.

Imports. (Par. 5 F) The desired action was being taken.

In reference Par. 5 G the Public Welfare Section was directed to report.

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(Action D.L.D.)

Continued appeals to troops

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In reference Par. 5 G the Public Welfare Section was directed to report on the possibility of re-opening amusement centres. In this connection the D.T.C.U. reminded the Council of the electric power shortage.
(Action D.P.H.)

Price Index (Par. 6)

Comdr. Southard was directed to discuss this further with Public Health Division, Finance Division and Labor Division. (Action D.P.H.)

(D.C.F.O. & D.L.D.)

Comdr. Southard's report was approved by the Council and all concerned were directed to have Action reports at the next meeting of the Council. Comdr. Southard was invited to attend the meeting.

143.

The C.S.O. reported that Major Gayre, Educational Adviser, was ill and brought the outline (Appendix B to the Agenda) submitted by the Educational Adviser to the attention of the Council.

- 4 -

144. In the course of discussion on Price and Rationing enforcement the C.P.S. recommended that one Division in this H.Q. be charged with the responsibility for delivering and posting of all Proclamations and General Orders.
(Action C.S.O.)
145. The meeting was adjourned at 1700 hours.

Distribution:

C.C.A.O.	D.C.T.U.
D.C.C.A.O.	D.A.D.
C.S.O.	D.L.D.
C.P.S.	Secretary (2)
D.P.H.	File
C.F.O.	Float
D.E.S. Acting	War Diary
C.L.O.	Spares (10)
C.P.	

for J. van Heukelom
 Carel van Heukelom,
 1st Lt. A.C.,
 Secretary, Executive Council
 AMGOT.

AMGOT HEADQUARTERS.A G E N D A.

14th meeting of the Executive Council to be held at 1500 hours
15th October, 1943, in the Conference Room.

1. Minutes of the last meeting.
2. Proposed Labor Plan No. 3 (D.L.D.) (Plan attached).
3. Interprovincial Movements of Foodstuffs. (DAD) (Appendix A).
4. Action to deal with Serious Grain Problem (DAD) (Appendix B).

Lewis H. Van Dusen

LEWIS H. VAN DUSEN

Capt., Ord.

Secretary Executive Council.

Distribution.

C.C.A.O.	D.E.S.	Secretary
D.C.C.A.O.	C.L.O.	File
C.S.O.	C.P.	Float
C.P.S.	D.T.C.U.	War Diary
D.P.H.	D.A.D.	Spares (10)
C.F.O.	D.L.D.	

SUBJECT: Labor Plan No. S E C R E T

AMGOT/9001/LAB
AMGOT HQ SICILY
10 October 43

TO : Executive Council
AMGOT/9001/LAB

1. The attached proposal is submitted for consideration and approval. If approved, certain of the provisions should issue from AMGOT by Amendment to General Order No. 8; others by Rule and Regulation. However, they are submitted in one proposal at this time so that they can be observed in relation to each other and expedite consideration.

2. Labor Plans 1 and 2 resulted in issuance of General Order No. 8. The Order has been well received by the public at large as a measure consistent with their views and the social and economic requirements of the day. The purpose of establishing governmental machinery in the labor field, operated by native civilians, is being accomplished so that if AMG were to remove its influence and supervision tomorrow, a civilian organization would be left to function with hope of stability and success.

3. It is submitted that one thing more remains to be done to complete the program, namely, the issuance by AMGOT of an order which implements General Order No. 8 and which states that the workers of Sicily may now proceed with organization. It should be left to the civilian labor offices (subject to AMGOT supervision as provided in General Order No. 8) to establish detailed machinery for the channeling of an organizing movement in the public interest, but the definite statement of policy should issue from AMGOT.

4. If this proposal is approved, AMG will have completed the following:

- a. Abolished the Fascist Corporative Syndical System (General Order No. 8).
- b. Substituted a civilian government machinery for handling labor relations (General Order No. 8).
- c. Assured a framework for a free labor movement which can be successful or not, limited or not, depending upon the capacity, leadership and desires of the population (Present Plan No. 3).
- d. Consolidated under the Government Regional Labor Office for Sicily previous Fascist functions which were of benefit to the workers and the public; having eliminated those which were objectionable (By administrative action, Labor Division).
- e. Provided a machinery for present and future self determination of labor disputes, contracts, wages, etc. (General Order No. 8, and Rules and Regulations).

5. AMGOT can then proceed with the following:

expedite consideration.

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- d. Consolidated under the government Regional Labor Office for Sicily previous Fascist functions which were of benefit to the workers and the public; having eliminated those which were objectionable (By administrative action, Labor Division).
- e. Provided a machinery for present and future self determination of labor disputes, contracts, wages, etc. (General Order No. 8, and Rules and Regulations).

5. AMGOT can then act solely in an advisory and supervisory capacity in the field of labor relations (with the civilian government functioning independently on a firm "constitutional" base) prepared to step in under its authority only in event of emergency.

DAM/jfl

Distribution:

All Divisions
CCAO
DCCAO
CSO
Float
Spares

David A. Morse
DAVID A. MORSE
Capt., A. C.
Director, Labor Division

5083

S E C R E T

S E C R E T

LABOR PLAN NO. 3

LABOR ORGANIZATION

AMCOT HQ SICILY
AMCOT/9801/LAB
9 Oct. 45

I. RIGHT OF ORGANIZATION.

Employees shall have the right to select representatives of their own choosing without interference, restraint, or coercion, by employers for the purpose of collective bargaining in matters concerning hours, wages and working conditions; adjusting grievances and disputes; and for mutual social and economic assistance.

II. INTERNAL ORGANIZATION.

Employees shall have the right to organize and function in accordance with constitutions, by-laws and such other fundamental documents as may be necessary or required, but in each instance the constitutions, by-laws and other documents must be approved and ratified by free and secret majority vote of the membership.

III. COLLECTIVE CONTRACTS.

Contracts shall specify hours, wages, working conditions, grievance machinery, and termination provisions.

IV. REGISTRATION AND FILING.

A. A certified copy of all collective contracts and arbitration decisions must be filed by both parties to the said contracts and decisions with the Regional Labor Office and the Provincial Labor Office of the province in which the employer is physically engaged within ten days after completion. If the contract or decision includes operations within more than one province, then said contract or decision must be filed with the Provincial Labor Office of each Province.

B. Union constitutions, by-laws, and other related fundamental documents, together with amendments, or revisions thereof, must be filed with the Provincial Labor Office and the Regional Labor Office within ten days after approval and ratification by the membership.

V. FINANCIAL REPORTS.

Each Union shall make an annual financial report to its membership within thirty days after the close of its fiscal year, based upon certified accountant audit. The Regional Labor Office shall specify the scope of the financial report and the items to be included. Reports shall be distributed to each member and be available for public inspection and publication. Within thirty days after the close of the fiscal year, one copy shall be filed with the Provincial Labor Office within the Province in which the Union Headquarters is located, and one copy shall be filed with the Regional Labor Office.

II. INTERNAL ORGANIZATION.

Employees shall have the right to organize and function in accordance with constitutions, by-laws and such other fundamental documents as may be necessary or required, but in each instance the constitutions, by-laws and other documents must be approved and ratified by free and secret majority vote of the membership.

III. COLLECTIVE CONTRACTS.

Contracts shall specify hours, wages, working conditions, grievance machinery, and termination provisions.

IV. REGISTRATION AND FILING.

A. A certified copy of all collective contracts and arbitration decisions must be filed by both parties to the said contracts and decisions with the Regional Labor Office and the Provincial Labor Office of the Province in which the employer is physically engaged within ten days after completion. If the contract or decision includes operations within more than one province, then said contract or decision must be filed with the Provincial Labor Office of each Province.

B. Union constitutions, by-laws, and other related fundamental documents, together with amendments, or revisions thereof, must be filed with the Provincial Labor Office and the Regional Labor Office within ten days after approval and ratification by the membership.

V. FINANCIAL REPORTS.

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DAK/jfl

Distribution

All Divisions

CCAO

DOCAO

CSO

Fleet

Spares

David A. Morse

DAVID A. MORSE

Capt., A. C.

Director, Labor Division

S E C R E T

APPENDIX A

MOOT P.O. 30000

1987/12002/AG

Subject: Price Control.

13 October, 1947.

1. In an attempt to bring order out of chaos the Civilian Supply Division after a careful study of the information available on the subject compiled and issued on 1st Sept. a very comprehensive retail price list for essential commodities. In order to allow for the flexibility necessary to deal with varying local conditions the following provisions were made.

a. The prices were island maximum and were to be used as a ceiling. Maximum prices in provinces could be fixed below these levels.

b. In cases where any particular scheduled price was regarded by an S.C.A.O. as too low, provisions were made for reconsideration in consultation with the Civilian Supply Division.

2. Cases have, however, arisen where the instruction has been ignored and prices have been paid above the scheduled limits without consultation. In some instances the differences are relatively important. This has created considerable difficulties and is tending to a price tag of war. It has also given rise to bad feeling between neighbouring provinces and trucks and produce have been seized in an attempt to prevent movements out of provinces. Other steps such as the posting of guards on roads to enforce embargoes on exports have also been taken.

3. The principles which should govern interprovincial movements of unrationed food stuffs were laid down by me and agreed at a conference of supply officers on 26th Sept. They were:

a. That movements must be agreed by the S.C.A.O.s of both supplying and receiving provinces.

b. That movements should be influenced by retail price differentials only and that economic forces should be allowed free play to offset the movement.

c. That relative price levels should be amended as necessary to increase or diminish the flow as mutually agreed and desired.

4. It was considered that if these principles were adopted it would provide the simplest means of effecting such movements as were required. Unfortunately, in some provinces the attitude appears to have been adopted that local prices are solely a matter for that province and attempts have been made to attract supplies disregarding the wishes of the supplying provinces. To take the case of beef (prime cuts) as an example, the Civilian Supply schedule fixes the island maximum at L.34 per kilo. Some provinces were able to fix a price well below this figure. In Enna for instance the price was about L.20 per kilo, but in Palermo the official price was L.42 per kilo. This price was fixed before the issue of the Civilian Supply Schedule but was allowed to stand in spite of the instruction. As a result the neighbouring provinces of Enna and Caltanissetta,

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5. The obvious answer in defence was a price increase to prevent the movement. Fortunately the S.C.L.O.s of the provinces affected realized the inflationary aspects of such a reply and attempted to prevent movement by physical means. This action, which should have been entirely unnecessary has not, however, solved the problem for these three provinces. The stock for slaughter is now forthcoming as suppliers say they will not kill except at prices in line with those in Palermo.
6. Meat is not the only item nor is Palermo the only province involved. Cases are submitted with added frequency of similar problems which are arising as a result of non observance of the ceiling price list and of the agreed principles.

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7. It is considered that action should be taken immediately to control the situation and to facilitate the removal of obstacles to interprovincial trade and to prevent any further stimulation to an already existing inflationary movement.

2.

B. Lombardy

- (i) The harvest has definitely been a poor one and total supplies of grain will in any event be insufficient to provide an adequate ration till the next harvest. Visible stocks in controlled channels indicate that these will be exhausted before the end of the year in Region I. There is nothing to show that the position in Regions II and III is very different.
- (ii) The bulk of the important alternative cereals, maize (70%) and rice (95%) are produced in the Plain of Lombardy and are therefore inaccessible.
- (iii) The army has almost certainly taken grain out of Regions II and III and is probably removing cereal crops from Regions now in its possession.

7. Considerations of the problems involved, having regard to the known facts, suggest that the following courses are open:

- (i) Allow the public to continue to supply its bread and pasta needs from rations insofar as they are available, supplemented by recourse to Black Market.
- (ii) Reduction of ration and/or substitution of other articles of food for bread and pasta.
- (iii) Discover and collect supplies outside controlled channels to increase supplies available to these channels. Steps such as the decrease of the quantities allowed for retention by farmers and increase in grain prices are supplementary.

8. The first course appears at present, a simple way out. One may well ask the question, "If the people are in fact being fed, why worry about how it is being done?" This is in any case only a short term solution. To counterbalance this state of affairs and to allow it to continue would not only be politically unsound, but would tend to stimulate black market activities to such an extent as to make supplies available to the controlled channels nonexistent within a very short time. It still does not provide for the poor man and is a negation of control and a full admission of the failure of our administration.

9. The maximum daily ration in Region I is 300 grs. of bread plus 40 grs. of pasta. Even those receiving the full permitted ration say that as this is their main article of diet it is insufficient. This claim is substantiated by Annex II of the AFHQ directive which estimates that the minimum diet requires 2,000 calories per day, of which 66% is to be from grain. On this basis, the daily consumption of flour per head will be 377 grs. which is equivalent to 452 grs. of bread.

10. A case can however be made out for a levelling of maximum permitted rations

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10. A case can however be made out for a levelling of maximum permitted rations to allow for a more equitable distribution of available supplies. The psychological effect on producing and supplying provinces must be considered. Reduction of the ration in these provinces will result in increased resort to the black market. The increase of demand in this channel will provide additional incentives for the accumulation of black market hoards and is likely to be an obstacle to any attempt to increase controlled stocks. For this reason, it might be considered that the reduction should be postponed till the end of the official period for collection. Against this, however, it seems unwise (a) to allow stocks to be exhausted unnecessarily and (b) to allow to continue the considerable difference in effective ⁵⁰⁹¹ which exists.

11. The average maximum daily ration in Region I at present is, however, only 165 grs. of bread and 15 grs. of pasta, equivalent to 152 grs. of flour. This represents 40% of the minimum requirements! The question of substitution of non-cereal for cereal foods does not therefore arise. Nor, on the same basis can a reduction in average ration be contemplated. It is unlikely that the conditions in Regions II and III are any better than those in Region I.

APPENDIX B.

LOT H.Q. NICELY.

Subject: Grain Supplies.

AFROT/13303/AG.

13 October, 43.

1. The Directive issued by AFRO, HQS of 29 Sept. 1943 contains in paragraph 3 a very clear indication that the help which we can expect from imports in feeding the population of occupied territory will be very limited indeed. The remainder of the directive which refers to A.L.G. is a refreshing reminder of our duty to tackle the problems confronting us and is not entirely devoid of value.
2. The matter of grain supplies is one to which a considerable amount of thought has been given at this H.Q. and, lest we should lose sight of its pressing importance, vigorous prods are constantly being conveyed by the provinces in Region I. I have no doubt that as soon as communications are improved similar problems of Regions II and III will be repeatedly and vigorously presented to us.
3. During the last week the S.C.A.Os of three provinces have attended this H.Q., and conferences have been held to discuss the question of grain supplies. An urgent request for assistance has also been received from S.C.A.O. Catania.
4. Action has been taken to deal with the immediate problem but new and urgent action is necessary if the problem is to be dealt with on more than a day to day basis. If nothing more is contemplated than the generally ineffective and uncoordinated steps now being taken in various provinces, it will soon become impossible to deal with the situation even on a hand to mouth basis.
5. Before a report is sent to AFRO on action taken on their directive, it is essential that we should be able to say that we have taken all possible measures to provide for the civil population from supplies locally available. We certainly cannot say this at present.

6. In considering what action can be taken, it is as well to set out in detail the fundamental facts governing the situation. They are as follows:

A. Immediate.

- (i) Before the date of commencement of effective control, considerable quantities of wheat disappeared into hoards and particularly into the hands of the black market operators.
- (ii) The quantities amassed since that date have been exceedingly disappointing. This is largely due to continued black market carrying and to withholding by producers.
- (iii) The quantity of wheat available from controlled sources will not support even an inadequate ration for more than a month or two. Black market sources are, under existing conditions, available for those who can afford to pay. They will probably continue to be available but the price is likely to increase considerably and the number of people supplied from this source will be correspondingly reduced.

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- (iv) Plans for stepping up the rate of amassing are for various reasons, weak and ineffective.
- (v) Distribution of such stocks that are available is exceedingly difficult owing to scarcity of trucks or of rail facilities and deterioration of roads following rains. The supply and distribution (transport) problems are such that days on which no bread at all has been available in certain localities are likely very soon to increase rapidly.
- (vi) The prospect of substantial assistance by imports appears to have vanished with the issue of the directive from AFHQ referred to above.

3.

12. With regard to the question of the discovery and collection of supplies outside controlled channels, much remains to be done, and it is almost entirely to this sphere of action that attention must be directed. Some help can be obtained by the reduction in the quantity which farmers are allowed to retain. The main effort must, however, be directed against hoards in the hands of farmers and black market operators. This problem has been discussed at length, but, with the exception of sporadic efforts in various provinces, no positive general vigorous action has been initiated. The position indicates that the matter is now one of the gravest urgency. It is essentially a police matter and the choice of actions which ultimately rest with the Public Safety Division is whether they will now take action to deal with this present problem or face the eventual one of handling the grave and growing food disorders, which may certainly be otherwise anticipated.

13. My conclusion is that we are left with the one main possible line of action referred to in the previous paragraph. But that action is required immediately. To await declarations under General Order No. 5 or the termination of the authorized period for grain collection merely puts off the evil day. Even if it were certain that we should then be in a considerably better position to take action, it is suggested that we cannot afford to wait. Our days are numbered. Every day which is lost now increases in marked measure the acuteness of the problem of feeding the population.

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MOST SECRET
17 October 1943

AMGOT HEADQUARTERS

Minutes of
The 14th Meeting of the Executive Council
15 October 1943

PRESENT

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Brigadier General McSherry (Chairman) | - D.C.C.A.O. |
| Colonel Zellars | - D.E.S. (Acting) |
| Colonel Bolles | - C.P.S. |
| Lt. Col. Farley Smith | - D.C.S.O. |
| Lt. Col. Rowe | - D.C.L.O. |
| Lt. Col. Harris | - C.P. |
| Lt. Col. Menapace | - D.C.F.O. |
| Lt. Col. Densmore | - D.C.T.U. |
| Major Chayton | - D.A.D. |
| Major Scheele | - D.D.P.H. |
| Captain Morse | - D.L.D. |
| Captain Van Dusen | - Secretary |

146. The meeting was called to order by D.C.C.A.O. at 1500 hours.

147. The minutes of the last meeting were read by the Secretary. Major Chayton stated that the words "only commodities" appearing in line 2 of the substance of paragraph 140 should be altered to read "only food commodities". D.C.C.A.O. directed that this change be noted. The minutes as altered were approved.

148. The following action was reported on the items brought forward at the last meeting.

- (a) 135-D.C.C.A.O. approved the system whereby through a Joint Board AMGOT could control the release of all political prisoners interned by the Allied Forces or AMGOT.
- (b) 135-D.C.L.O. stated that he would have a report at the next meeting on the advisability of putting political prisoners in all cases directly into internment camps rather than in gaols. (Action D.C.L.O.)
- (c) 136-D.C.S.O. reported that a directive was going to all S.C.A.O.s authorizing the reestablishment of the Prefects Council and the Provincial Giunta, in proper cases, to serve solely in an advisory capacity. (Action D.C.S.O.)
- (d) 137-The D.L.D. reported that the survey of wages paid by governmental agencies would be completed by the end of the week. The survey relating to wages paid by private employers would follow shortly thereafter. (Action D.L.D.)
- (e) 138-D.C.C.A.O. stated that in order to conserve personnel some of the

- Brigadier General McSherry (Chairman) - D.C.C.A.O.
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- Lt. Col. Rowe - D.C.L.O.
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 - (e) 138-D.C.C.A.O. stated that in order to conserve personnel some of the provinces would have to be temporarily consolidated. The suggested consolidation is as follows:

Ragusa to be combined with Siracusa
Agrigento to be combined with Caltanissetta
Catania to be combined with Enna
 - (f) D.C.C.A.O. stated that this subject would be brought up for discussion and final decision at the next meeting.
 - (g) 138-D.C.C.A.O. agreed that stronger control over S.C.A.O.s should be exercised in the future.
 - (h) 139-D.C.L.O. stated that he could report at the next meeting with a draft of a general order covering the proposed Agricultural Re-organization. (Action D.C.L.O.)

- 2 -

- (h) 140-D.A.D. reported that a general order had been prepared and submitted to C.C.A.O. (Action D.C.C.A.O.)
- (i) 142-(Par. 4a) D.C.F.O. and C.P.S. stated that they would report at the next meeting on the question of the revenue to be derived from licenses. (Action D.C.F.O. and C.P.S.)
- (j) 142-D.C.F.O. reported that (under Par. 4a (2)) the new Italian Budget had greatly increased the tax rates and that he was preparing data on the basis of which to make recommendations. D.C.C.A.O. wanted it clearly understood that no duty was to be levied on any imports for military use, including all AMGOT imports, whether for resale to civilians or not.
- (k) 142-Postal Savings - D.C.F.O. reported that Washington had authorized the treatment of Postal Savings Deposits on the same basis as bank deposits. Therefore, the Postal Savings Departments would be opened in the near future. D.C.F.O. thought that the withdrawals would not necessitate much help from APi as the banks had generally been able to finance themselves to date, with deposits exceeding withdrawals.
- (l) 142-D.J.F.O. reported that the Italian Post offices were now open.
- (m) 142-D.L.D. reported that the recent establishment of uniform wage scales for the island has in many cases resulted in a reduction of the existing rates.
- (n) 142-C.P.S. reported that under Par. 5a No. 1, price lists were not generally posted owing to the failure to secure a general distribution of General Order No. 3 as yet. A discussion followed concerning the efficacy of General Order No. 5 as an aid in the effort to control the Black Market in grain.
- (o) 142-(Par. 5b) D.A.D. stated that, after discussions with the Public Safety Division, he thought that the bottleneck through which control should be exercised was the miller. D.C.C.A.O. said that for the time being no further effort need be made to limit the number of dealers or millers.
- (p) 142-(Par 5e) D.T.C.U. reported that no hydro-electric power in the Western Part of the island would be available until mid-December except for the operation of large olive presses. He said that the policy of I.B.S. was one of extreme caution. They were keeping one or two months' supply of electric power in reserve for emergencies, whereas the facilities in the Eastern Part of the island had been turned over to AMGOT with few limitations. It is not possible to use the power available in the Eastern Part of the island in the Western Part because the lines were torn down and the wires removed at the time of the invasion. The lack of power in this part of the island has delayed the progress of the tobacco monopoly, as well as the various transportation facilities.
- (q) 142-D.C.F.O. stated that a report on the price index and a proposed method of enforcing it would be presented at the next meeting. (Action D.C.F.O.)
- (r) 144-D.C.S.O. and D.C.L.O. were directed to present a plan whereby the responsibility for preparing, delivering and posting Proclamations and orders would be definitely fixed. (Action D.C.S.O. and D.C.L.O.)

149. Proposed Labor Plan No. 3.
D.L.D. read the letter attached to Labor Plan No. 3 and explained the

154. Interprovincial Movement of Foodstuffs.

D.A.D. outlined his proposal (Exhibit A to the Agenda). He emphasized the failure of some S.C.A.O.s to adhere to the price ceilings and to cooperate in preventing movements of foodstuffs about the island. This action was not only inflationary but tended to absorb much transport taking food from places where it was already needed. Palermo was alleged to be a chief offender. D.C.A.O. directed D.A.D. to prepare a memorandum of any specific price violations so that he could talk the matter over with the S.C.A.O.s involved. (Action D.A.D.) With specific reference to the plan D.C.A.O. stated that there was a real inconsistency between the free trade referred to in Par. 3(b) and the price fixing authorized in Par. 3(c). D.A.D. stated that he favored removing all controls but he did not believe that the risk involved in so doing could be run. D.C.A.O. stated that he desired to discuss the proposal with various S.C.A.O.s before expressing his opinion on it. (Action D.C.A.O.)

151. Action to deal with Serious Grain Problem.

D.A.D. stated that the situation which motivated his proposal was the report that A.F.H.G. would be unable to furnish more than 15,000 tons of grain prior to Jan. 1, 1944 for Sicily. D.C.A.O. stated that the Allied had promised to feed the occupied portions of Italy and Sicily, that there was grain being shipped to Italy, and that AGOT, or its successor, would control the distribution of that grain to points where it was needed. However, as much grain should be gotten from Sicily itself as was possible.

D.C.A.O. stated that he was not in favor of transporting grain from Provinces with a present surplus to Provinces with a present deficit, if the former Provinces had not sufficient grain to last until the next harvest. Otherwise, unnecessary duplication in transportation would result.

D.A.D. outlined the conclusion reached in his proposal (Appendix B to the Agenda). He stated that the Public Safety Division had promised to inaugurate an agreed program for breaking the Black Market in mid-September but had failed to do so. He further contended that the Public Safety Division was relying on General Order No. 5 and the declarations required thereunder. D.A.D. thought it unwise to wait until these declarations came in and, further, thought that action should be taken to find the big operators holding large stocks of grain rather than to attempt to catch the small men. D.A.D. stated that if this hoarded grain could be secured the island would be self-sufficient until within two months of the next harvest.

C.P.S. stated that the action contemplated for September 15 was held up pending the posting of General Order No. 5. Since that time, every effort has been made to stop the Black Market with the resources at the command of the Division. He agreed that only a very small dent had been made in the Black Market, but stated that he was considerably hampered by the lack of transport and feed for the C.C.R.R. and the low wages paid to them. He paid high tribute to the morale, determination and devotion to duty of the C.C.R.R.

D.C.A.O. directed that D.A.D. and C.P.S. should confer to agree upon a program for attacking the Black Market. D.C.A.O. stated that he thought well of the plan to use the miller as the channel of enforcement. (Action D.A.D. and C.P.S.)

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D.A.D. stated that the situation which motivated his proposal was the report that A.F.H.Q. would be unable to furnish more than 15,000 tons of grain prior to Jan. 1, 1944 for Sicily. D.C.C.A.O. stated that the Allied had promised to feed the occupied portions of Italy and Sicily, that there was grain being shipped to Italy, and that AMGOT, or its successor, would control the distribution of that grain to points where it was needed. However, as much grain should be gotten from Sicily itself as was possible.

D.C.C.A.O. stated that he was not in favor of transporting grain from Provinces with a present surplus to Provinces with a present deficit, if the former Provinces had not sufficient grain to last until the next harvest. Otherwise, unnecessary duplication in transportation would result.

D.A.D. outlined the conclusion reached in his proposal (Appendix B to the agenda). He stated that the Public Safety Division had promised to inaugurate an agreed program for breaking the Black Market in mid-September but had failed to do so. He further contended that the Public Safety Division was relying on General Order No. 5 and the declarations required thereunder. D.A.D. thought it unwise to wait until these declarations came in and, further, thought that action should be taken to find the big operators holding large stocks of grain rather than to attempt to catch the small men. D.A.D. stated that if this hoarded grain could be secured the island would be self-sufficient until within two months of the next harvest.

C.P.S. stated that the action contemplated for September 15 was held up pending the posting of General Order No. 5. Since that time, every effort has been made to stop the Black Market with the resources at the command of the Division. He agreed that only a very small dent had been made in the Black Market, but stated that he was considerably hampered by the lack of transport and food for the CC.RR. and the low wages paid to them. He paid high tribute to the morale, determination and devotion to duty of the CC.RR.

D.C.C.A.O. directed that D.A.D. and C.P.S. should confer to agree upon a program for attacking the Black Market. D.C.C.A.O. stated that he thought well of the plan to use the miller as the channel of enforcement. (Action D.A.D. and C.P.S.)

D.T.G.U. stated that he thought further transport for the distribution of existing grain stocks could be secured through the island-wide reissue of permits contemplated.

152. The meeting adjourned at 1725 hours.

Distribution:

D.C.C.A.O.
D.E.S. (Acting)
C.P.S.
D.C.S.O.
D.C.L.O.
C.F.
D.C.T.O.

D.C.T.U.
D.A.D.
D.D.P.H.
D.L.D.
Secretary (2)
File
Float

War Diary
Spares (10)

LEWIS VAN DUSEN, Capt.,
Secretary to MG

5078

1240