

ACC

10000/143/985

MINUTES OF
MAY - JULY

10000/143/985

MINUTES OF MEETINGS ON PRISON SITUATION
MAY-JULY 1944

MINUTE SHEET.

20 May 44

to U.P. Admin.

M.N.I.

Minutes refer to prior developments for good information
and for transmission to the Executive Committee

dy.

Thompson S.

21 5-244

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Handwritten: New York, N.Y.

Tel. 489001-Ext. 502 *8A*

26 July, 1944

FROM : Prisons - Sicily

TO : Adm. Sec.

Reg. 1 f. 1c

1. Reference letter from A.S.I. dated 14 July 44 suggesting that a concentration camp be set up in North Africa to detain prisoners sentenced for violation of the grain collection decrees.

2. While it may be necessary to set up a camp to deal with the large number of prisoners involved, such a camp should be in Sicily, or in a small island such as Ustica, or one of the Lipari Islands. The idea of a camp in North Africa is not favoured.

3. On 28 June 44 A.S.I. was informed that arrangements have been made for the rebuilding and repair of the following prisons:-

TRAPANI - accommodation for 55 within 3 months.

AGRIGENTO - accommodation for 500 within 2 months.

CASTRONUEVO - accommodation for 100 within 3 months.

The completion of this building and repair program will provide accommodation for a further 1,150 prisoners.

4. The island of Ustica was used for prison purposes by the Italian authorities until our occupation in September 43. The island consists of 33 stone buildings, and also a number of houses with window gratings, and barred doors with padlocks. One stone building is in use by 35 men, and four are occupied as stores. The remaining 28 buildings provide accommodation for 500. One hundred specially adapted houses are available giving accommodation for 400. Total accommodation available 1400.

5. Almost all the premises are in fair condition and do not need substantial repairs. However, whitewashing, painting and repairs to doors and windows, adjustment of hydraulic and sanitary plants are needed.

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Palmerston

6. The hydraulic plant is served by a cistern placed about 50 metres above sea level with a capacity of 90 tons into which is pumped water carried by steamers in service between Palermo and Ustica. Another pump can carry the water from the first well to another large well situated on the highest point on the island with a capacity of 2000 tons.

7. If a prison is set up in the island, the steamer service now twice weekly (Tuesday and Thursday) will need to be increased to 3 or 4 trips weekly. The water reserve in the large well will have to be built up.

8. Kitchen facilities available could cater for a 1500 meal capacity.

9. The existing buildings at LIPARI are used as a school. They are in good repair and could hold at least 300 prisoners. Electric lights is available and they meet hygiene requirements. The local water system is insufficient, and water is brought from Neasina. Other camps could be constructed on the island on the stockade principle using prison labour.

10. On 1st June 44, AAI gave authority for the use of the LIPARI islands for Italian Military Prisoners but it is not now proposed to use the Islands for this purpose. The use of USTICA for civil prisoners will need to be cleared with AAI.

11. It is recommended that LIPARI and USTICA be used for civil prisoners. They would provide accommodation for 1300 prisoners. The rebuilding program is for 1,152 prisoners.

Total 2,452

If this is found to be insufficient, stockades could be constructed as suggested in para 9.

12. A Prison Inspector for Sicily will be appointed by the Ministry of Grace and Justice in the next few days. Steps will be taken to expedite his travel to Sicily, in order that he can co-operate with AGO Officers in dealing with this problem of prison accommodation.

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FJW/hgd

PAUL G. KIRK,
Colonel, Inf.
Chief, Public Safety
Sub-Commission

RESTRICTED

ROME AREA COMMAND FOR ACC ROME FOR FIDELITY INFO MINISTER OF WAR CHIEF OF STAFF SARE.
ACC.

MMIA

N 43/23

RESTRICTED

SD1005

June 22/1600

IMPORTANT

FOR PUBLIC SAFETY.

1. Any former member of the Italian Army picked up as result of the advance of the Allied armies will not be considered a member of the Active Italian Army until he has been screened by Italian Army Screening Agency, and found fully qualified for and returned to duty with an active unit of the Italian Army.
2. Any individual not returned to full duty is not, RPT, not to be considered as a member of the active Italian Army and will not, RPT not be picked up on Italian Army strength returns for any purpose BMA and therefore remains in same status as civilian.
3. If any of individuals mentioned in second ⁽²⁾ are to be confined for trial for any crime committed they must be confined in Civil Prisons.
4. Italian Army stockades are for confinement of members of active Army only.
5. No Italian Army Stockades will be established in Rome Area except by Commanders of Italian troops under Allied Command and then only for confinement of Soldiers who are assigned members of such units.

ACC DIST

For Minutes of Military Tribunal

6A
 NEAR HEADQUARTERS
 ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
 Public Safety Sub-Commission
 APO 394

ACC/14215/PS

June 14th, 1944

SUBJECT : Prisons, overcrowding.

TO : Chief, Public Safety

1. The prison population in Italy is in excess of the prison capacity. Overcrowding is principally due to four factors:-

- The requisitioning of prisons by Allied Forces.
- The detention of Italian military prisoners in civil jails.
- Disrepair of prisons and war damage.
- Delay in dealing with prisoners awaiting trial.

2. A broad view of the problem is given by the following figures:

<u>a. PRISONS</u>		<u>ACC Territory, AMG Territory.</u>		<u>Totals.</u>
Number of prisons (Penal and judicial)		60	15	75
Maximum accommodation		14,804	2,666	17,470
Present population		15,840	4,093	19,933
Extent of overcrowding		1,036	1,427	2,463
Italian Military prisoners (Included above)		1,720	64	1,784

<u>b PRISONS REQUISITIONED</u>			
<u>In ACC Territory</u>			
<u>REGION</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>CAPACITY</u>	<u>REMARKS</u>
I	AUGUSTO	400	Occupied by RN (needs repair
I	ACIREALE	125	Occupied by British Army
II	TARANTO	335	Occupied by British and
		610	Polish Armies.

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In AMG Territory

- b) The detention of Italian military prisoners in civil jails.
 c) Disrepair of prisons and war damage.
 d) Delay in dealing with prisoners awaiting trial.

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In ACC Territory

<u>REGION</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>CAPACITY</u>
I	AUGUSTO	400
I	ACIREALE	125
II	TARANTO	135
		<u>610</u>

REMARKS
 Occupied by RH (needs repair)
 Occupied by British Army
 Occupied by British and Polish Armies.

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In AMG Territory

REGION 3, BENEVENTO	50
POGGIOREALE	400
S. EFRANO	200
S. MARIA & CAPUA	
VETRRE	50
PORTICI	100
MISIDA	350
S. SEVERO	100
	<u>1,250</u>

Requisitioned
 Court Martial & Holding
 Center

FPC

American M.P.
 British Detention Camp
 British
~~British~~ U.S. Army.

TOTAL ACC & AID TERRITORY		1,860
<u>DAMAGED AND UNUSED PRISONS</u>		
<u>REGION</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>POSSIBLE CAPACITY</u>
I	CALTANISSETTA	126
VII	PALMI	115
I	FAVIGNA	150
	(closed as unsanitary 150 places damaged)	
III	NAPLES	300
	COLOMBIA	700
	(Repairs in progress)	<u>1,291</u>

3. On the 5th May, 1944 a meeting was held at Rear Headquarters AGO to discuss proposals for immediate improvement of the prison accommodation situation. The meeting was attended by Brigadier Lush (Executive Commission) and Lord Stansgate V.P. Adm. Section. Representatives were present from AAI, MII., Interior, Legal, P.O. and M.G and Public Safety. As a result of the discussion, certain proposals were made, and they are shown on appendix "A" attached to this report. — See 1A

The action taken to deal with the proposals made is shown below. The points are set out to compare with appendix "A".

4. Removal of Allied Troops from Civil Prisons.

- a) Information was received from Brigadier Paton D.A.C. on 14th May, 1944 that orders have been issued by him for the evacuation of Taranto and Benevento prisons. This cannot take place immediately as alternative accommodation has to be prepared, but it is expected that Taranto will be handed to the civil authorities by the end of June.

A complete list of requisitioned prisons was supplied to Brigadier Paton, and orders were issued by him directing Army Commanders to evacuate these premises, except in cases of operational necessity.

On 26th, May, 1944 lists of prisons in enemy occupied territory, were supplied to HQ AAI, and directions were given on 2nd June 1944, to 5th and 8th Army, that as far as is possible, these buildings were not to be requisitioned, and taken into Military occupation.

On 3rd June 1944, an order was issued by Executive Commissioner Regional Commissioners, and SCAO's 5th and 8th Army, to the requisitioning

ACC to discuss proposals for accommodation situation. The meeting was attended by Brigadier Lush (Executive Commission) and Lord Stansgate V.P. Adm. Section) Representatives were present from AAI, NMI., Interior, Legal, R.C. and M.G. and Public Safety. As a result of the discussion, certain proposals were made, and they are shown on appendix "A" attached to this report. — See 18

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On 3rd June 1944, an order was issued by Executive Commissioner to all Regional Commissioners, and SCAO's 5th and 8th Army, directing them to do their utmost to prevent the requisitioning of prisons in newly occupied areas. Lists of prisons were supplied.

- b) The only prison known to be used entirely by the United States Army, is at San Severo, Foggia, and this only holds about 50 persons. REGO Reg. V tried to get this prison released without success. American M.P.'s have 50 places at S. Maria Capua Vetere, a prison holding 535. On 6th June 1944 HQ AAI communicated with Peninsular Base Section asking for the early evacuation of troops from these two prisons.

REMOVAL OF ITALIAN MILITARY PRISONERS FROM CIVIL PRISONERS

On 10th May 1944 information was received from Ministry of War that Italian Military prisoners would be formed into special companies and later organized into two special Battalions, and used for labour. It was pointed out by the Minister that this was contrary to the Italian Military Penal Code. Accordingly a Royal Decree has been drawn up, conferring on Military Judges the power to assign ~~to~~ labour battalions those soldiers sentenced to serve a term of less than 3 years. The Minister has also caused the Lipari islands to be surveyed with a view to their use as a concentration camp.

An overcrowding problem has arisen at Bari prison. Capacity of prison 405, present population 1,700, of whom 464 are Italian Military prisoners. Arrangements were been made to move the Military prisoners to Tuturano Camp (near Trinità) where accommodation had been offered for 500 prisoners by Col. Findley of ~~Displaced~~ ^{that} Persons Sub-Commission.

It then became known ^{that} an instruction had been issued by HQ MHA, dated 23rd May, 1944, directing that all Italian prisoners serving sentences of 30 days or awaiting trial over 30 days, would be confined in civil prisons, and become a civil responsibility.

Gen. Browning, HQ MHA was communicated with, and a reply received, stating that the new policy had been approved by the Chief Commissioner. Further, that penal battalions would not be formed.

This new statement of policy, regarding Italian Military prisoners, is contrary to the views expressed by all authorities concerned in the amelioration of the present civil jail overcrowding problem. Accordingly, on 9th June, 1944 Major Wilson of this Sub-Commission, saw the Executive Commissioner at HQ ACC and discussed with him ^{the} question of prison overcrowding caused by Italian Military prisoners. The main issue was the new policy regarding these prisoners as outlined by HQ MHA. The Executive Commissioner did not agree with the new policy and suggested that the matter be discussed with Col. Findley MHA who was present at HQ ACC.

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Col. Fildesley pointed out that the new policy was approved by the Chief Commissioner. He went on to say that the problem had arisen as a result of the necessity of reducing the quantity of food being imported for Italian Military prisoners. It ^{30%} must be agreed that the effective strength of the Italian Army must be kept to a minimum, and only effective personnel would draw Army rations. Italian Army prisoners were non-effective, and would now be fed on a civilian scale and become a civilian responsibility. Col. Fildesley explained that for the period of imprisonment (if over 30 days) the soldiers became civilians, but after imprisonment they would be soldiers again.

On the question of providing guards for these prisoners if placed in stockade camps (such as TURANO), it was stated that any personnel guarding non-effectives would itself become non-effective. For that reason, no military guard could be supplied.

It was pointed out to Col. Pidsley that no information concerning the new policy had been forwarded to Rear HQ AOC, and that the Ministry of Grace and Justice were quite unaware of it. Brigadier Lush (Executive Commissioner) was then seen, and he supported the view of this Sub-Commission. He stated that the new policy appeared to have come into being by a misunderstanding, and that the whole question would be reopened and discussed by him in the next few days.

Lord Stanegate (W.E. Adm. Section) spoke to the Executive Commissioner on 12th June, 1944, and established that Brigadier Lush will secure a ruling from the Chief Commissioner on the policy regarding the removal of Italian Military prisoners from civil jails.

6. Clearance of Prisons used for other purposes.

Information has been received through 1 District that the civil prison at Augusta has now been evacuated. Steps are being taken with Region 1, to make use of additional accommodation as soon as possible.

7. Repair of Damaged Prisons.

Public Works and Utilities Sub-Commission is willing to assist in the repair of prisons by making special provision for the supply of building material. Lists and locations of prisons for repair and reconstruction are being prepared and priorities (in order 1, 2 and 3) will be shown.

A letter was sent by Executive Commissioner on 20th May, 1944, to all Regional Commissioners and SCAO's 5th and 8th Army, pointing out the urgency of rebuilding and repairing damaged prisons. The first priority in this programme will be BARI where the completion of an unfinished building in the prison grounds will provide accommodation for 500 prisoners.

8. Hastening of Trials.

The Legal Sub-Commission have held meetings with the Minister of Justice on this matter. Special arrangements are being made to deal with the problem of prisoners awaiting trial in SARDINIA. Officers of Legal S/C will accompany Italian officials to the island to set up special courts to deal with the matter. A draft decree has been prepared for

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On the subject of BARI, a draft decree has been prepared for the consideration of the Legal Sub-Commission. It is expected that persons awaiting trial for minor offences will be granted provisional liberty. The Decree will also contain an instruction on arrest for minor offences. In future, no arrest will be made for such offences, but the person concerned will be dealt with by process.

9. Forming of Labor Battalions.

Lt. Col. POLIZZI Regional Commissioner Reg. 3, was seen on 10th May 1944, and the suggestion made to him that prisoners serving short sentences be attached to Labor Battalions and housed in camps. Lt. Col. Poletti expressed himself willing to form a camp of 500 prisoners. A suitable site has now been found on the Naples-Capua road, 4 miles north of Aversa. Water is available

and as the proposed site is in a farming area, employment can be found for the prisoners. Arrangements are in hand to obtain the necessary material to build the camp on the lines of a Disciplinary Training Stockade, or Field Punishment Camp.

10. Possibility of using MONTESARCHIO Prison.

On 8th June the assistance of HQ AAI., was sought in an endeavour to evacuate Indian troops from this prison. At present it is being used by 57 Peace Area as a Penal Establishment for Indian troops.

11. Italian Government.

Conferences have been held with the Minister of Grace and Justice. As a result, the Minister will appoint a prison Inspectorate, which it is hoped will provide him with a technical control of this problem. There is no doubt that the Minister is displaying a practical and energetic interest in his prisons.

Travelling prison inspectors are to be appointed. Suitable officials have been approached, and their replies are awaited. The number suggested is 4 disposed of as follows:-

- 1 Sicily
- 1 Sardinia
- 2 Mainland.

12. The above indicates the progress made in dealing with the prison problem, in accordance with the proposals made on 5th May 1944.

13. Arrangements are in hand to transfer 500 long term prisoners from Region 3 to Sardinia. Accommodation is available and the men will be put to work on farms.

14. In the Littoria province area, the need arose for an energetic Italian prisons officer to accompany AME 5th Army, and deal on the spot with the prison problems arising. This was arranged, and on 6th June 1944, Dott. DENTE left NISIDA reformatory and joined Lt. Col. Doherty with 5th Army Rear AMG.

As far as ROME is concerned, it is known that all Prisons are 350 Prison Staffs are functioning in a normal manner. Lists of prisoners and prison directors have been received through Legal Sub-Commission.

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As far as ROME is concerned, it is known that all Prisons and Prison Staffs are functioning in a normal manner. Lists of prisons and prison directors have been received through Legal Sub-Commission.

15. With the exception of the Italian Military problem (as explained in Para. 5) all authorities concerned are co-operating with the endeavours of this Sub-Commission to clear up the present overcrowding problem. It is hoped that the directives issued, and the active work of the Italian Prison Directorate under the new Director Dott. De Luise, will result in an improvement of the position in the near future.

Frank J. Wilson
FRANK J. WILSON, Major
Prisons Section.

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
Public Safety Sub-Commission
APO 394

ACC/14215/ES/1

May 19, 1944

SUBJECT: Overcrowding of Prisons.

TO : Executive Commissioner. (through V.P. Admin. Section)

A meeting on PRISON ACCOMMODATION was held at Rear HQ ACC., at 14.30 hrs. 5 May 1944. Proposals for immediate improvement of the prison accommodation situation were made, and Action Points 1 to 8 were listed on Administrative Section Memo dated 6 May, 44 Ref. 4/6/1/AS.

The following is an Interim Report on progress made and action taken to date. The points are set out to compare with Administrative Section Memo quoted above.

1. Removal of Allied Troops from Civil Prisons.

a. Information received from Brigadier Eaton DAG on 14 May 1944, that orders have been issued by him, for the evacuation of TARANTO and BRINDISI Civil Prisons. It is understood that this cannot take place immediately as alternative accommodation has to be prepared. (During a visit to TARANTO, Major Wilson was informed by the Town Major that he had been urgently directed to provide alternative accommodation for Military personnel in Taranto Prison).

The position of certain other Civil Prisons is being considered by AAI. A complete list of such prisons and similar buildings now occupied by the Army is being prepared and will be forwarded to HQ AAI. Lists of prisons in areas at present under the control of the enemy are being prepared and will also be supplied to HQ. AAI in order to reduce future requisitioning to the minimum.

b. The only prison known to be used entirely by U.S. Army is at San Severo (Foggia) and this only holds about 50 persons. American M.P.'s have 50 places at St. Maria Capua Vetere, a prison holding 535. The U.S. Army is being contacted.

2. Removal of Italian Military from Civil Prisons.

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2. Removal of Italian Military from Civil Prisons.

On 10 May 1944 information was received from the Minister of
 War that Italian Military Prisoners would be formed into a special
 companies and later organized into two battalions and used for
 labour. It was pointed out by the Minister that this was contrary
 to the Italian Military Penal Code, and accordingly a Royal Decree
 has been drawn up, conferring on Military Judges, the power to
 assign to labour battalions those soldiers sentenced to serve a
 term of less than 3 Years. The Minister has also caused the
 LIPARI islands to be surveyed with a view to their use as a con-
 centration camp.

3. Clearance of Prisons used for other purposes.

Information received through 1 District that the Civil prison
 at AUGUSTA has now been evacuated. Steps are being taken with
 Region I to make use of additional accommodation as soon as possible.

4. Repair of Damaged Prisons.

Public Works and Utilities Sub-Commission was seen on 9th May 1944 and is willing to assist in repair of prisons by making special provision for the supply of building material. Lists and locations of prisons for repair and reconstruction are being prepared and priorities (in order 1, 2, and 3) will be shown.

Letter sent by Brigadier Ingh: Executive Commissioner, to all Regional Commissioners and COAC's 5th and 8th Army pointing out urgency of rebuilding or repairing damaged prisons. (copy attached)

5. Mastering of Trials.

The Legal Sub-Commission have held meetings with the Minister of Justice on this matter. Special arrangements are being made to deal with the problem of prisoners awaiting trial in SARDINIA: officers of legal S/C will accompany Italian officials to the island to set up special courts to deal with the matter.

On the subject of BALI, a draft decree has been prepared for the consideration of the Legal Sub-Commission. It is expected that persons awaiting trial for minor offences will be granted provisional liberty. The Decree will also contain an instruction on arrest for minor offences. In future, no arrest will be made for such offences, but the person concerned will be dealt with by process.

6. Forming of Labour Battalions.

It. Col. PONTI Regional Commissioner Region 3, was seen on 10th May 1944, and the suggestion made to him that prisoners serving short sentences be attached to Labour Battalions and housed in camps. It. Col. Polotti expressed himself willing to form a camp of 500 prisoners, and a suitable site is being sought.

7. Possibility of using MONTESARCHIO Prison.

It. DALRY Prisons officer Region 3, has this matter in hand and will submit a report on conditions at the prison in the future.

8. Italian Government.

conferences between the Minister of Grace and Justice and

to deal with the problem of prisoners. Italian officials to the officers of legal 3/3 will accompany Italian officials to the island to set up special courts to deal with the matter.

On the subject of BAIL, a draft decree has been prepared for the consideration of the legal Sub-Commission. It is expected that persons awaiting trial for minor offences will be granted provisional liberty. The Decree will also contain an instruction on arrest for minor offences. In future, a request will be made for such offences, but the person concerned will be dealt with by process.

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8. Italian Government.

Conferences between the Minister of Grace and Justice and members of this Sub-Commission took place on the 10th and 17th May (copy of minutes attached). As a result the Minister will appoint a prison Inspector which it is hoped will provide him with a technical control of this problem which until now has been entirely lacking. There is no doubt that the Minister is displaying much more practical and energetic interest in his prisons and it is the intention of this Sub-Commission to see that this newly created interest will be sustained.

9. General Conclusion.

The use of Tuturano Camp has been discussed with Col. Findlay of the Displaced Persons Sub-Commission and he has agreed that one half of the camp will be available for detention purposes if required. Sufficient accommodation is thus available for 500 persons but it is not proposed to use Tuturano for this purpose if other arrangements can be made.

I would confidently assert that the prison crisis is over, and that the situation, which is however still serious, is making steady progress every day. I hope to report within the next month that the prison difficulty is well under control and need present no further cause for anxiety. Much of the progress which has been made during the past two weeks is due to the energy of Major Wilson, now attached to this Sub-Commission, whose action, amongst other things, of clearing Brindisi Prison of 170 occupants within 48 hours was very much appreciated by the Army authorities concerned.

A. R. YOUNG, Colonel
Deputy-Chief, Public
Safety Sub-Commission.

REAR HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394
ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION

4/6.1/AS

6 May 44.

Action Points : reference meeting on Prison Accommodation held at Rear HQ ACC, APO 394 at 14.30 hrs 5 May 44.

Proposals for immediate improvement of prison accommodation situation.

1 Removal of Allied troops from Italian Civil Prisons.

ACTION (by Adm Sec)

- a Press AAI to remove their troops from prisons and house them instead in camps in so far as is possible - emphasizing that short sentence personnel particularly should serve in camps.
- b Contact should be made with U.S. Army to facilitate above.

2. Removal of Italian Military from Civil Prisons.

ACTION (by Army Sub-Comm)

- a Take steps with Italian Government to remove Italian military prisoners from civilian jails and prisons and place them in camps. (prison or penal battalions).

3. Clearance of Prisons used for other purposes.

ACTION (by Adm. Sec. and PS Sub-Comm)

Make representations to R.N. (through Naval Sub-Comm) for clearance of these prisons - AUGUSTO Prison in particular and any other that may be in this category.

4. Repair of Damaged Prisons.

ACTION (by RC & MG Section)

Note will be sent to Regional Commissioners and orders issued by RC & MG that jail repairs will be given high priority. This will be cleared first with Works and Finance Sub-Commission.

5. Hastening of Trials.

ACTION (by Legal)

Legal will take steps to investigate with Minister of Justice possibility of forming courts of non-professional judges for critical areas as a temporary emergency measure. (will make representations to Ministry of Justice on same) Will submit representations for the over all problem.

6. Forming of Labour Battalions.

ACTION (by PS Sub Comm)

Colonel Young was instructed to contact Lt. Col. Poletti and try this plan out in Region III. (Persons with a three months sentence or less will be attached to Labour Battalions; will be fed, but not paid and will thus work out their sentences

7. Possibility of using MONTESARCHIO Prison.

3/0

- 675

REAR HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
Public Safety Sub-Commission

19 May 1944.

ACC/14215/PS

SUBJECT: Overcrowding of Civilian Prisons.

TO : Regional Commissioners, Regions I, II, III, IV, V, VI AND VII.
SCAC's 5th & 8th Armies.

1. Overcrowding in civilian prisons throughout Liberated Italy has become acute.

2. The main causes of overcrowding are:-

- (a) Requisitioning of prisons by Allied Forces.
- (b) Use of prisons for detaining Italian Military prisoners.
- (c) Delay in dealing with prisoners awaiting trial.
- (d) War damage to prisons.

3. Representations have been made by Public Safety Sub-Commission to the Allied and Italian Military Authorities to release prison accommodation.

4. The Minister of Justice is being pressed to arrange for the release on bail of prisoners awaiting trial on minor charges.

5. The Minister of Justice has also been impressed with the Necessity of having an adequate staff to deal with Prison matters. He has also been advised to institute a system of inspection to visit Prisons.

6. Regional Commissioners are requested to inform this HQ as a matter of urgency what steps they have been able to take to rebuild or repair damaged prisons. Where it has not been possible to make arrangements locally, recommendations for rebuilding specific prisons should be forwarded to this HQ stating briefly the extent of the repairs and the relative priority. Arrangements will then be made by this HQ to secure priority of labour and materials.

7. The overcrowding of prisons must be regarded as an urgent problem. All possible steps to reduce overcrowding must be taken locally. Suggestions or recommendations are invited.

3/5

M. S. LUSH,
Brigadier,
Executive Commissioner.

(b) Use of prisons for detaining Italian Military prisoners.

(c) Delay in dealing with prisoners awaiting trial.

(d) War damage to prisons.

3. Representations have been made by Public Safety Sub-Commission to the Allied and Italian Military Authorities to release prison accommodation.

4. The Minister of Justice is being pressed to arrange for the release on bail of prisoners awaiting trial on minor charges.

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7. The overcrowding of prisons must be regarded as an urgent problem. All possible steps to reduce overcrowding must be taken locally. Suggestions or recommendations are invited.

343

M. S. LUSH,
Brigadier,
Executive Commissioner.

Copies to:

Economic Section.
Public Safety
Admin. Section (4)
Army Sub-Commission
File

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HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
Public Safety Sub-Commission
APO 994

Copy 50
ONLY

ACC/14215/PS

May 10, 1944

SUBJECT : Overcrowding of Prisons.

TO : H.E. The Minister of Grace & Justice.

Minutes of a meeting held in the Palace of Justice, Salerno, at 9.30 a.m.
10th May 1944.

Present

H.E. The Minister of Grace & Justice
Dott. DiVillo, Director General of Prisons.
Colonel A.E. Young, Public Safety Sub-Com.
Major A.F. Wilcox " " "
Capt. H. Young Jr. " " "

1. Col. Young stated that the overcrowding of prisons had reached such a critical stage that unless immediate action was taken the whole system of law and order would be threatened.
2. Already the prison population was far in excess of the prison capacity and the situation was becoming progressively worse.
3. Overcrowding was principally due to three factors.
 - (a) The requisitioning of prisons by Allied Forces.
 - (b) The detention of Italian military prisoners in civilian jails.
 - (c) Disrepair of prisons and war damage.
4. Col. Young stated that ACC is taking steps to clear prisons of Allied troops and to prevent requisitioning in the future. Demands for the removal of Italian Military from prisons are being presented by ACC to the Italian Supreme Command.
5. It was agreed that the repair of prisons was primarily the responsibility of the Italian administration; and should be put in hand at once. The Minister would supply ACC with a list of the prisons to be repaired and ACC would arrange for the release of material as a matter of priority.
6. It was agreed that the Minister would select a strong staff of experienced Prison

3/4

Present

H.E. The Minister of Grace & Justice
Dott. DiVilla, Director General of Prisons.
Colonel A.E. Young, Public Safety Sub-Comm.
Major A.F. Wilcox " " "
Capt. H. Young Jr. " " "

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5. It was agreed that the repair of prisons was primarily the responsibility of the Italian administration; and should be put in hand at once. The Minister would supply ACC with a list of the prisons to be repaired and ACC would arrange for the release of material as a matter of priority.

344

6. It was agreed that the Minister would select a strong staff of experienced Prison officials to cope with the present emergency.

7. Inspectors would be appointed to visit and report on Prisons.

8. ACC will assist in securing transport if the Minister states his needs.

9. The Minister with the Legal Sub-Comm. will consider how far bail can be granted to prisoners awaiting trial.

10. The Minister is taking steps to provide more Judges to speed up trials.

11. The Minister will consider enlarging the camps in Sicily and Sardinia and instituting camps on the mainland.

12. The Minister will supply ACC with a list of prisons in territory north of the fighting line in order that measures may be taken to prevent Allied troops from requisitioning.

13. Close contact would be maintained between the Minister and Public Safety Sub-Comm. ACC. would render every possible assistance.

A. E. YOUNG, Colonel
Deputy Chief, P

REAR HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
Public Safety Sub-Commission

18 May 1944.

ACC/14215/PS

SUBJECT: Overcrowding of Prisons.

TO : H.E. The Minister of Grace & Justice.

Minutes of Meeting Held in Palace of Justice, Salerno, at 1630 hours of 17 May 1944.

Present

H.E. The Minister of Grace & Justice.
Dott. DI VILLA, Director General of Prisons.
Major A.F. WILCOX, Public Safety Sub-Commission.
Major F.J. WILSON, " " "

1. The object of the meeting was to discuss progress made on the various points raised at the meeting on 19th May 1944.

2. It was established that travelling prison inspectors are to be appointed, suitable officials have been approached and their replies are awaited. The number suggested is 4, disposed as follows:

1 Sicily
1 Sardinia
1 Peninsula.

3. The question of transport for these inspectors was raised by Dott. DI VILLA. It was then pointed out that the Italian authorities have powers to requisition civil transport.

4. The Minister asked whether the ACC Regional Prison Officers would accompany Italian inspectors on their visits to Prisons. The opinion was expressed that while ACC officers would be willing to accompany the Italian Inspectors at any time, it was thought that the visits should generally be made by the Inspectors themselves.

5. On the subject of BAIL, the Minister stated that a draft DECREE was being prepared. This would be considered with the Legal Sub-Commission. It was expected that persons awaiting trial for minor offences would be granted provisional liberty.

6. The DECREE will also contain an instruction on arrest for minor offences. It is expected that in future, no arrest will be made for such offences, but the person concerned will be dealt with by PROCESS.

7. Special steps are being taken to deal with the problem of prisoners awaiting trial in SARDINIA. Officers of the Legal Sub-Commission will accompany Italian officials to the island to set up special courts to deal with the matter. 343

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6. The DECREE will also contain an instruction on arrest for minor offences. It is expected that in future, no arrest will be made for such offences, but the person concerned will be dealt with by PROCESS.
7. Special steps are being taken to deal with the problem of prisoners awaiting trial in SARDINIA. Officers of the Legal Sub-Commission will accompany Italian officials to the island to set up special courts to deal with the matter.
8. The Minister pointed out that difficulty was being experienced in compiling the list of damaged prisons. The cause of delay was the time taken to assess the cost of repair. It was then asked that the list be prepared, but that particulars as to cost be submitted in respect of the more important prisons only. The information as to those prisons in Priority 2 and 3 to be supplied later.

A. E. YOUNG, Colonel,
Deputy Chief, Public
Safety Sub-Commission.

-2-

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A. E. YOUNG, Colonel.
Deputy Chief, Public
Safety Sub-Commission.

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-34-

File copy only 14245/1
 EAR HEADQUARTERS
 ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
 Public Safety Sub-Commission
 APO 394
3A

May 10, 1944

ACC/14215/78

SUBJECT : Overcrowding of Prisons.

TO : H.E. The Minister of Grace & Justice.

Minutes of a meeting held in the Palace of Justice, Salerno, at 9.30 a.m. 10th May 1944

Present

H.E. The Minister of Grace & Justice
 Dott. Divilla, Director General of Prisons.
 Colonel A.E. Young, Public Safety Sub-Com.
 Major A.F. Wilson " "
 Capt. H. Young Jr. " "

1. Col. Young stated that the overcrowding of prisons had reached such a critical stage that unless immediate action was taken the whole system of law and order would be threatened.
2. Already the prison population was far in excess of the prison capacity and the situation was becoming progressively worse.
3. Overcrowding was principally due to three factors:
 - (a) The requisitioning of prisons by Allied Forces.
 - (b) The detention of Italian military prisoners in civilian jails.
 - (c) Disrepair of prisons and war damage.
4. Col. Young stated that ACC is taking steps to clear prisons of Allied troops and to prevent requisitioning in the future. Demands for the removal of Italian Military from prisons are being presented by ACC to the Italian Supreme Command.
5. It was agreed that the repair of prisons was primarily the

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Present

H.E. The Minister of Grace & Justice
Dott. Divilla, Director General of Prisons.
Colonel A.E. Young, Public Safety Sub-Com.
Major A.E. Wilcox " " "
Capt. H. Young Jr. " " "

1. Col. Young stated that the overcrowding of prisons had reached such a critical stage that unless immediate action was taken the whole system of law and order would be threatened.
2. Already the prison population was far in excess of the prison capacity and the situation was becoming progressively worse.
3. Overcrowding was principally due to three factors:
 - (a) The requisitioning of prisons by Allied Forces.
 - (b) The detention of Italian military prisoners in civilian jails.
 - (c) Disrepair of prisons and war damage.
4. Col. Young stated that AGC is taking steps to clear prisons of Allied troops and to prevent requisitioning in the future. Demands for the removal of Italian Military from prisons are being presented by AGC to the Italian Supreme Command.
5. It was agreed that the repair of prisons was primarily the responsibility of the Italian administration, and should be put in hand at once. The Minister would supply AGC with a list of the prisons to be repaired and AGC would arrange for the release of material as a matter of priority.
6. It was agreed that the Minister would select a strong staff of experienced prison officials to cope with the present emergency.

7. Inspectors would be appointed to visit and report on Prisons.
8. ACC will assist in securing transport if the Minister states his needs.
9. The Minister with the Legal Sub-Commission will consider how far bail can be granted to prisoners awaiting trial.
10. The Minister is taking steps to provide more Judges to speed up trials.
11. The Minister will consider enlarging the camps in Sicily and Sardinia and instituting camps on the mainland.
12. The Minister will supply ACC with a list of prisons in territory north of the fighting line in order that measures may be taken to prevent Allied troops from requisitioning prisons in the future.
13. Close contact would be maintained between the Minister and Public Safety Sub-Commission. ACC would render every possible assistance.

By W. L. X. May 11
A. E. YOUNG, Colonel
Deputy Chief, Public Safety
Sub-Commission.

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
R.C. & H.C. Section
APO 394

14215
JR
Buckley?
2A
10 May 1944

Ref/517/73/CA.

9 May 1944.

SUBJECT: Prison Accommodation.

1A refers

TO : Economic Section - For Public Works & Finance Sub-Commissions.

1. A meeting was held on Friday, 5th May 1944, at Salerno to discuss prison accommodation. At present, owing to a number of reasons, prisons are accommodating a larger number than they were originally built for and this question will become more serious as time goes on.
2. At the meeting it was decided to issue orders to Regional Commissioners that repairs of prisons be given high priority. By this means it would be possible to increase accommodation for prisoners and to some extent alleviate the situation.
3. Before sending out such instructions to Regions the comments of various Sub-Commissions interested are requested, please.

NP on 9th May 1944 I saw Lieut. Col. Rhodes,
Public Works Sub-Commission. He stated that if
we would send him a
list of prisons to be
repaired he would see
that we had priority

Norman E. Fiske
2

NORMAN E. FISKE,
Colonel,
Deputy Executive
Commissioner.

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RPW:lux Major

11th May 1944

Copy to: Admin Section (2)

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HEAD HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394
ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION

4/6.1/44.

Action Points: reference meeting on Prison Accommodation held at
Rear HQ ACC, APO 394 at 14.30 hrs 5 May 44.

Proposals for immediate improvement of prison accommodation situation.

1 Removal of Allied Troops from Italian Civil Prisons.

ACTION (by Adm Sec)

- a Press AAI to remove their troops from prisons and house them instead in camps in so far as is possible - emphasizing that short sentence personnel particularly should serve in camps.
- b Contact should be made with U.S. Army to facilitate above.

2 Removal of Italian Military from Civil Prisons.

ACTION (by Army Sub Comm)

- a Take steps with Italian Government to remove Italian military prisoners from civilian jails and prisons and place them in camps. (prison or penal battalions).

Clearance of Prisons used for other purposes.

ACTION (by Adm Sec and Re Sub Comm)

- a Make representations to R.A. (through Naval Sub Comm) for clearance of these prisons - AUGUSTO Prison in particular and any others that may be in this category.

4 Repair of Damaged Prisons.

ACTION (by HC & EC Section)

- a Note will be sent to Regional Commissioners and orders issued by HC & EC that jail repairs will be given high priority. This will be cleared first with Works and Finance Sub Comm.

5 Hastening of Trials.

ACTION (by Legal)

- a Legal will take steps to investigate with Minister of Justice possibility of forming courts of non-professional judges for critical areas as a temporary emergency measure. (will make representations to Ministry of Justice on same) will submit representations for the over all problem.

6 Forming of Labour Battalions.

ACTION (by Re Sub Comm)

- a Colonel Young was instructed to contact Lt Col Poletti and try this plan in Region III. (Persons with a three months sentence or less will be attached to Labour Battalions, will be fed, but not paid and will thus work out their

a Press AAI to remove their troops from prisons and house them instead

- 1 Press JAI to remove their troops from prisons and house them instead in camps in so far as is possible - emphasizing that short sentence personnel particularly should serve in camps.
 - a Contact should be made with U.S. Army to facilitate above.
- 2 Removal of Italian Military from Civil Prisons.
ACTION (by Army Sub Comm)
 - a Take steps with Italian Government to remove Italian military prisoners from civilian jails and prisons and place them in camps. (prison or penal battalions).
- 3 Clearance of Prisons used for other purposes.
ACTION (by Admin Sec and Re Sub Comm)
 - a Take representations to R.M. (through Naval Sub Comm) for clearance of these prisons - AUGUSTO Prison in particular and any others that may be in this category.
- 4 Repair of Damaged Prisons.
ACTION (by HC & MD Section)
 - a Note will be sent to Regional Commissioners and orders issued by JAI and that jail repairs will be given high priority. This will be cleared first with Works and Finance Sub Comm.
- 5 Hastening of Trials.
ACTION (by Legal)
 - a Legal will take steps to investigate with Minister of Justice possibility of forming courts of non-professional judges for critical areas as a temporary emergency measure. (will make representations to Ministry of Justice on same) Will submit representations for the over all problem.
- 6 Forwarding of Labour Battalions.
ACTION (by Re Sub Comm)
 - a Colonel Young was instructed to contact Lt Col Poletti and try this plan out in Region III. (Persons with a three months sentence or less will be attached to Labour Battalions, will be fed, but not paid and will thus work out their sentences.
- 7 Possibility of using MONTMARCHIO Prison.
ACTION (by Re Sub Comm)
 - a Matter to be taken up with JAI with a view to using as a military prison.
- 8 General Conclusion.
ACTION
 - a Col Young must take from the meeting specific recommendations and contact proper Italian authorities.
 - b Future meeting will be held.
 - c A meeting with proper Italian authority will be held.

1833

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HEAD HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394
ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION

6 May 44.

Minutes of Meeting on Prison Accommodation held at Rear HQ APO - 11.30 hrs to 5 May 44.

Present: Brigadier Lush (Executive Commissioner)
Lord Stensgate (VP Admin Section)
Colonel A.E. Young (Public Safety)
Lt Col H.R. Crigwe (Admin Section)
Lt Col J.D. Phillips (A.I.)
Lt Col G.F. Quinn Smith (Army)
Lt Col H.A.B. Spicer (Interior)
Major H.A. Fersell (Admin Sec)
Major A.B. Thacker (Legal)
Major J.S. Reakes (PO & MR)
Major A.F. Wilcox (Public Safety)
Capt A.J. Stewart (P.A. to Exec Comm)
Capt S. Young (Public Safety)

The meeting was called to order at 11.30 hrs.

1 Lord Stensgate discussed the reason for holding the meeting which was to arrive at a course of action to reduce the present overcrowding of Italian Prisons. He stated that there were seven proposals for immediate improvement which he would have discussed immediately. He then asked Col Young (Deputy Director of Public Safety Sub Comm) to present the situation.

2 Col Young presented numerous figures which indicated that the condition is becoming serious among them were these:

a. SUMMARY

ACC Territory. ACC Territory. Totals.

Number of prisons (penal and judicial)	60	15	75	
Maximum Accommodation	14,304	2,660	17,470	330
Present Population	15,040	4,093	19,933	
Extent of overcrowding	1,036	1,427	2,463	
Italian Military Prisoners (included above)	1,720	64	1,784	

by Col G. B. Spicer (Interior)
 Lt Col R. B. Spicer (Interior)
 Major R. A. Persell (Admin Sec)
 Major A. B. Mackay (Legal)
 Major J. B. McKee (PO & Mr)
 Major A. F. Gilcox (Public Safety)
 Capt A. J. Stewart (P. A. to Exec Comm)
 Capt R. Young (Public Safety)

The meeting was called to order at 14.30 hrs.

1. Lord Stenagete discussed the reason for holding the meeting which was to arrive at a course of action to reduce the present overcrowding of Italian Prisons. He stated that there were seven proposals for immediate improvement which he would have discussed immediately. He then asked Col Young (Deputy Director of Public Safety Sub Comm) to present the situation.

2. Col Young presented numerous figures which indicated that the condition is becoming serious among them were these:

a. PRISONS

ACC Territory. ACC Territory. Totals.

Number of prisons (Penal and Judicial)	66	15	75
Maximum Accommodation	14,304	2,666	17,470
Present Population	15,840	4,093	19,933
Extent of overcrowding	1,036	1,427	2,463
Italian Military Prisoners (included above)	1,720	64	1,784

330

b. PRISONS REQUISITIONED

in ACC territory.

REGION	LOCATION	CAPACITY	REMARKS
I	AGNETO	400	occupied by IM (needs repair)
I	ACQUALE	125	occupied by British Army
II	TRANTO	85	occupied by Br & Polish Armies.
		<u>610</u>	

in AAS territory.

REGION 3:	REQUISITIONED	CAPACITY	REMARKS
	POGGIOREALE	50	Requisitioned.
	S. ZERAMO	400	Court Martial & Holding Centre
	S. Maria & Capua	200	Z.P.C.
	Vetere	50	American M.P.
	PARTICI	100	British Detention Camp
	NIBIDA	550	British
	SAN SEVERO	100	British US Army
		<u>1,250</u>	

TOTAL ACC & AAS TERRITORY : 1,660.

(contin)

2. DAMAGED AND UNDEVELOPED PRISONS

PRISON	LOCATION	Possible Capacity
I	BRUSSELS/BRUXELLES	126
VII	BALEMI	145
I	BOVICHIANA	350
	(Closed as unnecessary 150 places damaged)	300
124	MAPIES	700
	COLLOMBIA	
	(Repairs in progress to make 500 places available by June a remainder in 4 months) 1,891	

4. SUMMARY BY COL. YOUNG

- i. Civilian accommodation for Italian military prisoners should be forbidden.
- ii. Use of Italian prisons for Allied Military prisoners should be reduced to the minimum, and their use for billets, for storage and billeting should be forbidden.
- iii. Damaged prisons and those in disrepair should be surveyed without delay and steps taken to make them habitable.
- iv. The Italian prison administration has failed to grasp the problem and to energetically pursue a definite plan. There is poor liaison between prison directors and the Ministry of Justice. Records kept are poor and there is apathy. Transport is lacking for making transfers.

ACTION: ACC to indicate a plan for the Ministry of Justice and assist in seeing that it is followed. This will include recruiting and training staff and provision of equipment where possible.

3. Lord Mountbatten offered the first proposal: the removal of Allied Troops from Italian Civil Prisons.

- a. Lt Col Philipp (A-1) feared that nothing could be done about that, although he thought that there would be no further requisitioning of prisons by the army.
- b. Brig Lush asked if it was not providential that prison buildings existed at all. He suggested that the military must have some plans which provided for premises exclusive of jail and building use.
- c. Lt Col Philipp (A-1) did not know what these plans were but emphasized the necessity of using jails etc to provide the proper prison atmosphere which could not be obtained in field punishment camps, especially when long time prisoners were concerned.
- d. Lt Col Quin Smith suggested that prisoners with short sentences (under 12 months) be placed in camps.
- e. Lt Col Spicer stated that camps of 3,000 operated smoothly in Palestine and useful labour was performed as well by the inmates.
- f. Brig Lush stated that perhaps civilian as well as military prisoners could be disposed of as suggested in d above.
- g. Lord Mountbatten summarized by suggesting two steps -
 - i. We must take steps with A-1 to see if they will remove their troops from prisons and house them in camps (those with short sentences of under 1 year).
 - ii. We must see if they can assist.

1. Use of Italian prisons for Allied Military prisoners should be reduced to the minimum, and their use for billets, for storage and billeting should be forbidden.
2. ~~Large~~ prisoners and those in dispersal should be surveyed without delay and steps taken to make them habitable.
3. The Italian prison administration has failed to grasp the problem and to energetically pursue a definite plan. There is poor liaison between prison directors and the Ministry of the Interior. Records kept are poor and there is apathy. Transport is lacking for making transfers.

4. Recommendation: AOC to indicate a plan for the Ministry of Justice and assist in seeing that it is followed. This will include recruiting, maintaining staff and provision of equipment where possible.

5. Lord Stansgate offered the first proposal: the removal of Allied Troops from Italian Civil Prisons.

1. Lt Col Phillips (A.I.) feared that nothing could be done about that. Although he thought that there would be no further requisitioning of prisons by the army.
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6. Brig Lush stated that perhaps civilian as well as military prisoners could be disposed of as suggested in 4 above.
7. Lord Stansgate summarized by suggesting two steps -
 a. We must take steps with A.I. to see if they will remove their troops from prisons and house them in camps (those with short sentences of under 1 year).
 b. We must communicate with U.S. Army to see if they can assist.

8. Lord Stansgate then offered the second proposal - Removal of Italian military from Italian Civil Prisons.

1. Lt Col Quin Smith suggested the construction of large camps on an island.
2. ~~At Col Phillips' suggestion~~
3. The LIPARI Islands were next suggested. However Col Young stated that two (2) penal battalions were being formed this month the details of which will be available later.
4. Lord Stansgate stated that there were hundreds of the Italian military in Sardinian jails.
5. Major Thacharuch stated that the Legal Sub Comm have been trying to push trials over to military courts with no noticeable effect as yet.
6. Brig Lush agreed that the utmost should be done to clear out the Italians from the jails, ^{stated}
7. Lord Stansgate stated that we must exploit -
 a. The use of prison camps
 b. Take steps with the Italian Government to facilitate above/5

- 5 The next proposal - clearance of prisons used for other purposes - was presented by Lord Stansgate. This was agreed to in principle but will require further representations to A.I.I. with a list of prisons so used and in what manner.
- 6 Lord Stansgate then offered for discussion the fourth proposal.
Repair of damaged prisons -
a Col Young will make an additional report on progress.
b Col Young's first figures were discussed
c Lord Stansgate summarised by stating that -
1 Jail repairs will take a high priority.
2 If note will be sent to A.I.I. orders will be issued by A.I.I. Section and will be cleared with works and finance sub Commissions.
- 7 The fifth proposal - Hastening of trials was discussed -
a Major Theobald stated that legal is working very hard on this. Requires close co-operation between A.I.I. and A.I.I. initially - and they should patrol together which will increase speed of handling prisoners. He also stated that lack of transport hinders rapid trials.
b Col Young stated that those awaiting trial outnumbered those tried and some thing must be done about it.
c Major Theobald stated that particularly in Sardinia we are short of legal officers. The Italians are aware of this but the difficulty is finding officials who will go to Sardinia. He added that courts must sit longer.
d Lord Stansgate said that this was an Italian problem.
e Brig Lush asked about the advisability of special courts, which were agreed to in principle. Prefect's Courts were discussed, composed of non-professional judges.
f It was decided that legal would make recommendations for the over all problem.
H.I.I.
(Legal has made plans with respect to Sardinia which are attached herewith as an appendix)
- 8 The forming of labour battalions was the next proposal offered for discussion by Lord Stansgate.
a Lt Col Spicer stated that both civil and military can form them with real benefit to all. He advised that the 3 month to 10 year men should serve therein. They can be made self supporting and can accomplish instructive work (on roads etc)
b Lt Col Quin Smith advised that the military have used these battalions.
c Brig Lush questioned we should try this scheme out first in Italy then to see how it works out.
d It was decided that Col Young and Lt Col Poletti would try this out in Region III. (Anyone with up to a three month sentence would labour without pay, but would be fed and attached to a Labour Battalion.
- 9 The next proposal discussed was - The possibility of using PRISONERS IN PRISON.
a Lt Col Phillips (A.I.I.) stated that this was being used for Indians but that it was ruined except for a small part.
b Col Young agreed, stating that it is in fact an Italian Military Prison B.I.G. and that it is being repaired for use by military prisoners.
c Lord Stansgate remarked that this is a matter which must be taken up with

as to cooperation between the two units - and they should patrol together which will increase speed of handling prisoners. He also stated that lack of transport hinders rapid trials.

Col Young stated that those awaiting trial outnumbered those tried and something must be done about it.

Major Macbratney stated that particularly in Sardinia we are short of legal officers. The Italians are aware of this but the difficulty is finding officials who will go to Sardinia. He added that courts must sit longer.

Lord Stansgate said that this was an Italian problem.

Brig Lush asked about the advisability of special courts, which were agreed to in principle. Prefect's Courts were discussed, composed of non-professional judges.

It was decided that legal would make recommendations for the over all problem.

M.B.

(Legal has made plans with respect to Sardinia which are attached herewith as an Appendix)

8 The forming of Labour battalions was the next proposal offered for discussion by Lord Stansgate.

a Lt Col Spicer stated that both civil and military can form then with real benefit to all. He advised that the 3 months to 20 year men should serve therein. They can be made self supporting and can accomplish instructive work (on roads etc)

b Lt Col Quin Smith advised that the military have used these battalions.

c Brig Lush questioned we should try this scheme out first in AMI territory to see how it works out.

d It was decided that Col Young and Lt Col Roletti would try this out in Region III. (anyone with up to a three month sentence would labour without pay, but would be fed and attached to a Labour Battalion.

9 The next proposal discussed was - the possibility of using MONTESAPONE Prison.

a Lt Col Philipp (A.I.) stated that this was being used for Indians but that it was ruined except for a small part.

b Col Young agreed, stating that it is in fact an Italian Military Prison Bldg. and that it is being repaired for use by military prisoners.

c Lord Stansgate remarked that this is a matter which must be taken up with A.I. also.

10 Lord Stansgate closed the conference by stating that -

a Col Young must take from this meeting specific recommendations and contact the proper Italian persons concerned.

b That a future meeting will be held.

c That a meeting with the proper Italian authority should be held.

11 Meeting adjourned at 16.30hrs.

R.A. PERRELL,
Major Infantry,
Acting Secretary.

APPENDIX TO - Minutes of meeting on Prison Accommodation held at Rear Headquarters
ACC -14.30 hrs 5 May 44.

Reference para 7. (NB)

Reference Hastening of Trials, the following is an excerpt from Minutes of Meeting with the Ministry of Pardon and Justice held on 3 May 44.

" After an extensive discussion it is agreed that the following steps shall be taken :

- a The Ministry will submit to the Legal Sub Commission a list of judicial personnel held as PWs with as many particulars as to their present location etc as is possible. The list will also include avvocati and procuratori who served with military courts at the time of their capture. Their re-patriation will facilitate the release of civil judges at present serving on military courts for military service. The Minister will apply any possible pressure upon the Ministry of War to give priority to this personnel on their lists of PWs proposed for release.
- b 11 or 12 uditori of Cagliari will be granted judicial powers by decree which will be signed next Monday. A list of these officials will be communicated to this Sub Commission which will advise the Sardinian authorities by wire.
- c The Ministry shall by tomorrow communicate to the Legal Sub Commission four names of judges serving at Naples who will be promoted and sent by air to Sardinia.
- d The Ministry shall propose four names of uditori who will be given judicial status and take place of the four judges mentioned above under c
- e The Ministry will issue a Circular to Primo Presidente of Cagliari authorising him to appoint avvocati and procuratori legali to judicial offices as a temporary measure."

Adc/14215/1/PS.

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MINUTES OF MEETINGS ON PRISON SITUATION.

Info Ref'd Date.

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MINUTES OF MEETINGS ON PRISON SITUATION.

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