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ACC 10000/143/2176 377/01 GRAIN COLLECTION

July 1944

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10000 / 143 / 2176

THIS FOLDER	
CONTAINS PAPERS	
FROM	JULY 1944
TO	
CATALOGUE.	

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SECURITY BRANCH

FILE

MINUTE SHEET

No. of sheet	Date	File No. of Ans'd Ltr.	From whom To whom	Subject
1	10 Jul		Adm. Sec.	Enforcement of grain collection
2.	13 "		PSO Sicily	Grains situation

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ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
SICILY REGION HEADQUARTERS
APO 394

→ Security Branch

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REPORT No.2 (PUBLIC SAFETY DIVISION)

FILE - No.RES/014.1.

July 13th, 1944.

SUBJECT - Grain Situation.

TO - AGO., Public Safety Sub-Commission,
Regional Commissioner, Reg. I
Colonel A. YOUNG
Economics & Supplies (Agricultural Section),
Regional Legal Officer

Security Branch
Rec'd 3/8
Book No. 1480
File No. 377.01
Action

(1) General Situation.

The resistance to the collection of grain continues. The resistance is based primarily on the economic system - a general complaint against the price. But it is questionable whether even an increase in price would break the resistance. The background of centuries of domination followed by 20 years of Fascism, the presence of German troops, a general suspicion of any or all governments, a low level of education, confidence in tangible physical things only, an uncanny skill and adroitness in evading the law and in particular in hiding things, the wide gap between classes - the small group of wealthy land owners on the one hand and the oppressed peasants on the other - the lack of industries as a result of which in centers of population a large proportion of people seek money without labor.

The granting of freedoms has developed a political situation which is confused. To date none of the parties have gained great strength. But as respects law and order there are cross currents of discontent which may be exploited by force.

The criminal situation has been held in balance. Crimes of violence are still numerous and are held in check only by pro-

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The granting of freedoms has developed a political situation which is confused. To date none of the parties have gained great strength. But as respects law and order there are gross currents of discontent which may be exploited by force.

The criminal situation has been held in balance. Crimes of violence are still numerous and are held in check only by pressure from the police.

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An anticipated peak of crime was reached following the invasion - former restrictions on criminals had been lifted, police forces had been broken, arms had been scattered around the countryside - in short the organized government that did exist had collapsed. Reorganization of the police on an island wide basis brought a decline in the crime rate. Since the turnover there has been some further reduction. But the Italian central government has not yet shown strong support of the police. The police still lack physical means and continue by voluntary effort rather than strong support.

The economic base would not appear sound. Some items are controlled - grain etc. - and controlled by the same despised Fascist

machinery - while prices of necessities such as shoes and clothing soar. The fear created, the actual need of more money to buy coupled with the machinations of the speculators lay the foundation for the black market and the resistance now encountered. And the grain which is turned aside at all points in the control makes the Black Market.

Recently the rations were raised to 100 grams a day. A favorable reaction was noted - and actually a reduction in black market prices of bread resulted. But soon thereafter the ration was reduced which now strengthens the fear, misunderstanding and of course strengthens the resistance to releasing the grain.

On this background is based the present program to collect grain. The situation is fraught with possibilities of threats to public order. But no estimate as to trends can now be made.

These facts are clear,-

- (a) that force must be used;
 - the police agencies are now committed to such a course.
- (b) the force now available is not sufficient.
- (c) the program for collection of the grain by force must be coordinated with the general public safety problem in order to maintain balance.
- (d) that continued consideration must be given to the economic problem to find and adjust causes.
- (e) that the public relations and propaganda be stabilized and coordinated with the whole program.

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(f) The total forces available for use are shown in the attached Annex No. 1. The total strength of forces available for collection of grain alone cannot be set aside accurately from the totals.

3. Police activities.

From CO. RA. sources for the period ending July 1, 1944,--

CATCH	Grain confiscated		Persons arrested	Persons denounced
	Quintals	Kilograms		
Int. Palermo	22	41	4	5
Ext. Palermo	3	63	-	2

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GROUP	Grain confiscated		Persons arrested	Persons denounced
	Quintals	Kilograms		
Trapani	38	04	2	27
Agrigento	741	10	26	255
Caltanissetta	23	02	5	4
Int. Messina	-	-	-	-
Ext. Messina	5	65	-	-
Catania	400	.44	29	342
Siracusa	35	-	12	15
Ragusa	123	-	1	80
Enna	25	33	15	14
Totals	1415	262	94	665

(4) The police forces are coordinated but have not yet reached maximum effort - this is largely dependent on efficient functioning of the committee where passive resistance is still found, and the means of transport.

(5) The special problem of the grain will be handled by Colonel YOUNG in collaboration with the general public safety problem. Reports respecting the public safety ~~problem~~ will emanate from the office of the R.P.S.O.

R. A. S. S. O. C.

Russell A. SMOCK,

Lt. Colonel,

Regional Public Safety Officer.

ANNEX I

Strength of Police Organizations

Questura

<u>Province</u>	<u>Agenti</u>	<u>Funzionari</u>
Agrigento	107	7
Caltanissetta	104	7
Catania	381	12
Enna	54	3
Messina	380	18
Palermo	1298	43
Ragusa	67	7
Siracusa	120	8
Trapani	150	7

Inter-Provincial Offices

Commanded by a Commissario of P.S. The P.S. personnel of these offices is drawn from the Questura and is included in the total strength of the Questura from which drawn.

There are 16 Agenti, 14 CC.RR. and a functionary in each Office except those of Corleone and Riesi, at present lacking a functionary.

Location

Corleone, Partinico
 Alcamo, Castelvetro
 Vittoria
 Paternò
 Mistretta
 Lentini
 Sciacca, Canicattì
 Riesi, Mussomeli
 Leonforte

Questura From Which Drawn

Palermo
 Trapani
 Ragusa
 Catania
 Messina
 Siracusa
 Agrigento
 Caltanissetta
 Enna

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Guardia di Finanza

Commanded by a Commissario of P.S. The P.S. personnel of these offices is drawn from the Questura and is included in the total strength of the Questura from which drawn.

There are 16 Agenti, 14 OC.RR. and a functionary in each Office except those of Corleone and Riesi, at present lacking a functionary.

<u>Location</u>	<u>Questura From Which Drawn</u>
Corleone, Partinico	Palermo
Alcamo, Castelvetro	Trapani
Vittoria	Ragusa
Paternò	Catania
Mistretta	Messina
Lentini	Siracusa
Sciacca, Canicattì	Agrigento
Riesi, Mussomeli	Caltanissetta
Leonforte	Enna

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Guardia di Finanza

Palermo Legion

Circolo, Palermo	451
" " Trapani	297
" " Agrigento	217
Compagnia Comando, Palermo	61
Automobile Section, Palermo	12

Messina Legion

Compagnia Comando, Messina	66
Circolo, Messina	440
" " Catania	342
" " Siracusa	326

ANNEX I (cont'd)

SPECIAL CORPS OF RAILWAY POLICE

<u>STATION</u>	<u>STRENGTH</u>
Palermo Centrale	84
Palermo-Chiavara	30
Palermo-Lolli	31
Palermo-Brancozio	16
Catania Centrale	56
Catania Acquicella	21
Termini Imerese	10
Roccapalumba	7
Alcamo Diramazione	7
Trapani	18
Palermo Marittima	8
Galtanissetta	36
S. Agata Militello	8
Messina	53
Petto Empedocle	7
Licata	12
Palermo-S. Erasmo	19
Agrigento	6
Partinico	9
Enna	7
Siracusa	6
Canicatti	5
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>456</u>

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MILITARY AUTHORITIES

XII Corpo d'Armata

S. Agata Militello
 Messina
 Porto Empedocle
 Licata
 Palermo-S. Erasmo
 Agrigento
 Partinico
 Enna
 Siracusa
 Canicatti

TOTAL

456

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MILITARY AUTHORITIESXII Corpo d'Armata

Palermo	46th Inf. Regt.....	600
Messina	II bn. 45 Inf. Regt.....	300
Catania	45th Inf. Regt.....	700
Siracusa	II gp. 16th Art. Regt. and	
	1 co. III bn. 45th Inf.....	400
Enna	1 co. 130 Eng. bn.....	100
Caltanissetta	III gren. 16th Art. Regt.....	350
Agrigento	XXX bn. mortar.....	350
Trapani	I ren. 16th Art. Regt.....	200
Ragusa	330 bty. 20 m/m.....	25

VI BRIGATA CC. RR.

<u>GROUP</u>	<u>Effective Strength</u>	<u>Strength Employed</u> (Grain)
Group Int. Palermo	920	96
" Ext. Palermo	655	300
" Trapani	570	296
" Agrigento	699	343
" Caltanissetta	439	321
" Int. Messina	762	396
" Ext. Messina	466	309
" Catania	829	572
" Siracusa	368	242
" Ragusa	284	132
" Enna	374	152
Total	6366	3159

ADVANCE HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394
ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION

12/12/44.

10 Jul 44.

377.01

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Enforcement of Grain Collection.

TO: Interior, Public Safety, and Legal Sub Comm.

1 Reference attached appendix 4. to 203/25/44., dated 6 Jul 44.
(copy attached)

2 Following the conference held 6 Jul 44 at which were present -
Col G.A. Upjohn (Chair)
Col R.B. Wilmer
Col R.B. Griggs
Major Wilcox
Capt R.P. Fesque
Legal Sub Comm.
Adm Sec.
Public Safety Sub Comm.
Interior Sub Comm.

Appended below are the Minutes, against which are marked the
authority responsible for action, in right hand column.

MINUTES

Action by

Reference Item

2-(1) Actg Head Adm Sec to discuss with Actg Chief Commissioner,
with a view to the latter arranging for RM to broadcast.
Text to be prepared by P.S.B. ? Adm Sec.

2-(11) Question of visits to be taken up on arrival in USSR Adm Sec.

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2-(111) C.O. to write to Regional Legal Officers Regions I & II,
calling for vigorous and immediate prosecution, and
the imposition of maximal penalties in cases of grain
collection evasion. Legal-

C.O. to arrange for Air Courier to transport sufficient
copies of "Special Number of Official Gazette citing
Maximal penalties decreed" to Sicily. Gazette under-
stood being printed 6 Jul 44.

2-(iv) Minister of Interior to issue instructions to Prefets
in Region II and H.O. Sicily to prosecute grain laws
enforcement. Interior.

Special Order of the day to be issued by Chief of

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Appended below are the minutes, against which are marked the authority responsible for action, in right hand column.

Reference Item

- | | | |
|---------|--|--------------------|
| 2a(1) | Actg. Insp. Adm. Sec. to discuss with Actg. Chief Commissioner, with a view to the letter arranging for PM to broadcast. Text to be prepared by P.W.B. ? | <u>Adm. Sec.</u> |
| 2b(11) | Question of visits to be taken up on arrival in Rome | <u>Adm. Sec.</u> |
| 2b(111) | GO to write to Regional Legal Officers Regions I & II, calling for vigorous and immediate prosecution, and the imposition of maximum penalties in cases of grain collection evasion.
GO to arrange for Air Courier to transport sufficient copies of Special number of Official Gazette citing above penalties decrees to Sicily. Gazette under stand being printed 8 Jul 44. | <u>Legal.</u> |
| 2b(1V) | Minister of Interior to issue instructions to Prefects in Region II and H.C. Sicily to prosecute grain laws enforcement.
Special Order of the day to be issued by Chief of Carabinieri extending their responsibilities in enforcing grain collection, and vigorously arresting and prosecuting grain speculators. | <u>Interior.</u> |
| 2b(VII) | Letter to FIMMOCCHIANO already in hand. No immediate action on MAF and DI. MAF will receipt of evidence in the case of the late named two. | <u>Public Aff.</u> |
| 2b(IV) | GO to interview Minister of Justice and press the importance of rapid trial of offenders in grain cases. (NOTE: Minister of Justice has already stated his willingness to do this) | <u>Legal.</u> |
| 2b(VII) | Public safety to investigate the possibility of looting in numbers of CGM in Region I & II. | <u>Adm.</u> |
| 2b(11) | | |

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9 Reference 2a(iv) and 23(vii). Major Wilson has since reported that the Chief of CORR is this day issuing a "Special Instruction", a copy of which will be obtained.

He stated further that the Commanding General CORR cannot furnish CORR for Region II but is moving an unspecified number up to a LOC to Sicily forthwith.

Copies to: DGC.

: Executive Commissioner.

: Security (for Col Young) ✓



R.R. CRIPPS Col.
CSO Admin Sec.

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