

ACC 10000/143/2352 610/1

SITUATION REPORTS - FLORENCE

Feb. - Nov. 1945

FULL
PIENO

CONFIDENTIAL

ITALIAN WEAPONS HEADQUARTERS
Psychological Warfare Branch
File No. 14 AP 512

Security
Divided
3/2
4622
File No. 6.10.1.
Action.....

CONFIDENTIAL

7th Section

26th January, 1945.

No. 3 INTELLIGENCE REPORT COVERING TUSCANY AND ADJOINING TERRITORY OF
LIBERATED ITALY



INDEX

Paragraph		Page
	SUMMARY OF THE REPORT	
1.	POLLUTES	1
2.	Reactions to Mr. Churchill's speech in Parliament	3
3.	Recruiting Campaign	4
4.	Fascism in Fiesole	4
	European Federalistic Association	
	ECONOMIC	
5.	Regional Transport Board	5
6.	La Societa Idrocarburi Nazionali	5
7.	Oil production	6
8.	Medicinal Supplies assigned by Allies to Tuscany	6
9.	Regional convention of glass-workers	6
	PROPAGANDA	
10.	Press reaction	7
11.	Weekly newspaper for the parties in Florence	8
12.	Il Corriere	9
	PUBLIC OPINION	
	Wall writing	9
	GENERAL	
13.	Italian Catholic Scout Association	9
	APPENDIX	
	LATEST NEWS FROM LAGHORN	I-VIII

4547

CONFIDENTIAL

No. 3.

ALLIED AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS
Psychological Warfare Branch
Unit No. 14 APO 512

WD Section

26th January, 1945.

No. 3 INTELLIGENCE REPORT COVERING TUSCANY AND ADJOINING REGIONS OF LIBERATED ITALY

SUMMARY OF THE WEEK

The main topic of public interest in Florence during the week has been the recruiting campaign for army volunteers. On the whole good results have been achieved and the numbers provisionally hoped for have come in. The various political parties were very active doing propaganda work for the campaign and ex-officers of the Army distinguished themselves by the high proportion of their class who answered the call. Students on the other hand were conspicuous by their absence.

Mr. Churchill's references to Italy in his recent speech in the House of Commons provoked a sharp and somewhat hostile reaction amongst that portion of the public which is interested in politics. A subsequent statement issued by Mr. Churchill from No. 10 Downing Street explaining the most discussed passages in his speech may do much to allay this rattled public opinion.

In the province of Forli reconstruction appears to forge rapidly ahead. The Forli newspaper Libera Voce announces that 19 miles of high tension electric lines have already been rebuilt in the devastated province.

In Florence the return to more normal conditions is presaged by the announcement that citizens will soon be able to have the use of gas for about 5 hours daily.

4540

No. 5.

CONFIDENTIAL

ITALIAN THEATRE HEADQUARTERS.
Psychological Warfare Branch
Unit No. 14.
450 512.

26th January, 1945.

"D" Section

NO. 1 INTELLIGENCE REPORT CONCERNING TUSCANY AND ADJOINING TERRITORY
OF THE LAST YEAR.

REMARKS.

1. Reactions to Mr. Churchill's Speech in Parliament on 10.1.45.

While in certain respects the British Prime Minister's survey of European affairs in the House of Commons produced amongst Florentines who show an interest in these matters, a greater appreciation of hard facts in relation to British policy in Italy, Greece and Yugoslavia, the general effect was, once again, that of a cold douche in winter. The positive results of the speech are to be found in a greater readiness to concede that British policy in Greece, is not so reactionary as had for some time been supposed; that the men of EIAS are not the pure martyrs for liberty which many had been led to believe, and that the Greek patriot movement had not yielded a dividend in the fight against the Germans on anything like the scale of the Yugoslav or Italian resistance. That part of the speech which defines British policy in liberated Europe, as being first victory over the Germans, then the setting up of some temporary government and the maintaining of order until such time as elections could be regularly held, seems to have made a good impression.

Far less fortunate in the reactions provoked were the references to Italy. The least happy of these was the passage in which the Prime Minister permitted himself to say that England had no more need of Italy than of Spain, because there were no English problems which required the assistance of such powers. It is felt here that such a statement even if true, is not particularly helpful, and it is thought that to dismiss as of no consequence the good-will of a nation of 45 million people, shows a certain lack of political wisdom and of a sense of European solidarity. Another passage which has aroused adverse comment in Florentine political circles, is the reference to the aggressive political men of the north who, as soon as the country is liberated, will throw themselves hungrily upon the fragile structure of the Italian Government of Rome, with consequences that cannot be exactly predicted. Some Italians are not quite clear as to what these aggressive political men may be, since most of the northern politicians, and some of the most aggressive of those that are already in Rome. Others believe that this statement reveals a lack of confidence on the part of Churchill in the powers of survival of the Bonomi Government.

The newspaper of the parties in Florence, LA NAZIONALE DEL

February 21st January, begins to comment on Churchill's speech,

1. Reactions to Mr. Churchill's Speech to Parliament on 10.1.45.

While in certain respects the British Prime Minister's survey of European affairs in the House of Commons produced amongst Florentines who show an interest in these matters, a greater appreciation of hard facts in relation to British policy in Italy, Greece and Yugoslavia, the general effect was, once again, that of a cold douche in winter. The positive results of the speech are to be found in a greater readiness to concede that British policy in Greece is not so reactionary as had for some time been supposed: that the men of ELAS are not the pure martyrs for liberty which many had been led to believe, and that the Greek patriot movement had not yielded a dividend in the fight against the Germans on anything like the scale of the Yugoslav or Italian resistance. That part of the speech which defines British policy in liberated Europe, as being first victory over the Germans, then the setting up of some temporary Government and the maintaining of order until such time as elections could be regularly held, seems to have made a good impression.

Far less fortunate in the reactions provoked were the references to Italy. The least happy of these was the passage in which the Prime Minister permitted himself to say that England had no more need of Italy than of Spain, because there were no English problems which required the assistance of such powers. It is felt here that such a statement even if true, is not particularly helpful, and it is thought that to dismiss as of no consequence the goodwill of a nation of 45 million people, shows a certain lack of political wisdom and of a sense of European solidarity. Another message which has aroused adverse comment in Florentine political circles, is the reference to the aggressive political men of the north who, as soon as the country is liberated, will throw themselves hungrily upon the fragile structure of the Italian Government of Rome, with consequences that cannot be exactly predicted. Some Italians are not quite clear as to who these aggressive political men may be, since most of the northern politicians, and some of the most aggressive of those that, are already in Rome. Others believe that this statement reveals a lack of confidence on the part of Churchill in the powers of survival of the Bonomi Government.

The newspaper of the parties in Florence, LA NAZIONALE DEL POPOLO, on 21st January, begins to comment on Churchill's speech, by quoting a saying of the Chinese philosopher Lao-Tse: "words of truth are not pleasing and pleasing words are not true." While recognizing the affection and admiration which all lovers of liberty retain for Mr. Churchill, the writer states that his speech has hurt Italians.

CONFIDENTIAL

2

NO. 3.

The article admits that the Italian government does not owe its authority to elections, as was said by the British Prime Minister, but it points out that the government could not exist without the consent of the people and that being formed out of the Committee of Liberation it does represent the expression of the popular will of the anti-fascists, demonstrated throughout the sanguinary struggle with the Germans and the Fascists. In Europe now, new forces have arisen which seek to express themselves in new forms and these must be comprehended. The writer of the article, in his issue with Churchill with regard to the phrase: "We have no more need of Italy than of Spain etc." saying that Italians believe that Europe, and hence also Great Britain, cannot ignore Italy.

Individual opinions, which have been taken on the speech, show on the whole the same concern with Churchill's apparent indifference to Italy's usefulness. A young intellectual of aristocratic family said that either British public opinion will really see Churchill's blindness and overthrow the conservative party, already somewhat threatened, or the British will follow Churchill's policy and find themselves confronted, one day, with an Italian government of definitely communist complexion, hostile to British imperialism and backed by Russian arms. A country like Italy with a population of 45 million people and whose geographical position in the Mediterranean is so predominant, cannot be ignored by Great Britain which has large interests in the Mediterranean. However, British policy, at present, according to this young aristocrat, is now disturbing the Italian people in a manner which none of our bombardments was able to do and this is particularly regrettable to those who looked to Britain for help in the reconstruction of Italy and to the English governing classes to prevent the Mediterranean from becoming a Russian lake.

A middle-aged commercial man sees in Churchill's words, the throwing of dust in the eyes of Stalin. Russia is to be convinced that Britain is not preparing any political game in Europe. This man appreciates Churchill's sincerity. Churchill is an enemy of the Italians and says so frankly, but it would be better if others who continue to promise the Italians an alliance, would cease to do so. If the Allies wish to treat Italy as a vanquished nation, they are entitled to do so, only let them say so with sincerity, as does the British Premier.

A fervent anti-communist stated that Churchill's aggressive attitude in the Greek dispute revealed him as the only man who would defend Italy against the Communist menace. It was vital that Britain should not alienate Italy who could collaborate with her to produce an efficient economic system in the Mediterranean and above all could help to prevent the realization by Russia of her old plan of bringing the land-bound sea under Russian domination.

Mr. Garce writing the above note a clarification of the most discussed phrase in Mr. Churchill's recent speech has been publi-

4543

Individual opinions, which have been taken on the speech, show on the whole the same concern with Churchill's apparent indifference to Italy's usefulness. A young intellectual of aristocratic family said that either British public opinion will realize Churchill's blindness and overthrow the conservative party, already somewhat threatened, or the British will follow Churchill's policy and find themselves confronted, one day, with an Italian government of definitely communist complexion, hostile to British imperialism and backed by Russian arms. A country like Italy with a population of 45 million people and whose geographical position in the Mediterranean is so predominant, cannot be ignored by Great Britain which has large interests in the Mediterranean. However, British policy, at present, according to this young aristocrat, is now disturbing the Italian people in a manner which none of our bombardments was able to do and this is particularly regrettable to those who looked to Britain for help in the reconstruction of Italy and to the English governing classes to prevent the Mediterranean from becoming a Russian lake.

A middle-aged commercial man sees in Churchill's words, the throwing of dust in the eyes of Stalin. Russia is to be convinced that Britain is not preparing any political game in Europe. This man appreciates Churchill's sincerity. Churchill is an enemy of the Italians and says so frankly, but it would be better if others who continue to promise the Italians an alliance, would cease to do so. If the Allies wish to treat Italy as a vanquished nation, they are entitled to do so, only let them say so with sincerity, as does the British Premier.

A fervent anti-communist stated that Churchill's aggressive attitude in the Greek dispute revealed him as the only man who would defend Italy against the Communist menace. It was vital that Britain should not alienate Italy who could collaborate with her to produce an efficient economic system in the Mediterranean and above all could help to prevent the realization by Russia of her old plan of bringing the land-bound sea under Russian domination.

M. S. Broe writing the above notes a clarification of the most discussed phrase in Mr. Churchill's recent speech has been published in the P.W.E. controlled CORRIERE DEL MATTINO of 24th January. The English text as given by BASIC NEWS is as follows: "Let me say once and for all that we have no political combinations in Europe or elsewhere in respect of which we need Italy as a party. We need Italy no more than we need Spain because we have no designs which require the support of such powers."

It is hoped to obtain the public reaction to this further statement for the next report.

4343

CONFIDENTIAL

3

No. 3.

2 Recruiting Campaign.N.B. The following is for information only.

The recruiting campaign which is now going forward in Italy has two separate aims. First it must supply the needs of the Italian armed forces, whether these be fighting troops or supply services. No regular reserve battalions seem to have been organized so far, though a depot has been formed where troops can train and get ready to go as reinforcements to Italian units working or fighting with our armies. That the system is somewhat sketchy is demonstrated by the fact that a short time ago General Cerica, who is the Commander of all the Italian forces in the forward area, had to find replacements at short notice for an Italian Division which is doing supply work with the V Army. He recruited these from among the partisans in Florence who had been soldiers. Obviously the wastage of man-power among the fighting units of the Italian Army is likely to be far greater than among supply and lines of communication troops. The need for replacements will be proportionately more and recruiting for these is a necessity. So far about 500 men have been enlisted in Florence on a voluntary basis.

In addition to the above mentioned form of recruiting, there is another kind which is more in the nature of an inquest than of an actual enlistment. This drive is in the line of an Order of the Day passed on January 10th by the Central Committee of Liberation in Rome asking the government to intervene with the Allies on behalf of the Italians who deeply desire the formation of a strong army. It was decided at the same time by the Central Committee to send a message to the heads of the United Nations imploring them to take note of the demands contained in the Order of the Day. So as to supplement this initiative of the Central Committee, the local Committees were instructed to gather in names of volunteers for the Army so that lists could be prepared in various parts of the country indicating the numbers of those who were willing to fight. For the province of Florence the number of enrolments expected was about 10,000 and in the city itself, which has been listed as still open, a total of over 5,000 names had been collected. The greatest number of volunteers, in proportion to the size of the class, has come from the ranks of ex-officers. The least number of volunteers has come from the student class. A leader in the Florence paper LA NAZIONALE DEL POPOLO (23rd January) examines this lack of enthusiasm on the part of the students. "The mass of the students", writes the author of this article, are not fighting have not fought and above all have neither the wish nor the intention to fight. Why? The reply is simple because they are cowards." A considerable number of volunteers have responded to the appeals launched by the various parties which were published in the Florence papers throughout the month of January. On Sunday 14th January, it was announced in the paper, the DEL POPOLO that the C.T.L.N. had authorized the Comando Militare Toscano to organize recruiting in a number of centres including the various party headquarters. It was stated that the forces in the other

542

General Cerica, who is the Commander of all the forces in the forward area, had to find replacements at short notice for an Italian Division which is doing supply work with the V Army. He recruited these from among the partisans in Florence who had been soldiers. Obviously the wastage of man-power among the fighting units of the Italian Army is likely to be far greater than among supply and lines of communication troops. The need for replacements will be proportionately more and recruiting for these is a necessity. So far about 500 men have been enlisted in Florence on a voluntary basis.

In addition to the above mentioned form of recruiting, there is another kind which is more in the nature of an inquest than of an actual enlistment. This drive is in the line of an Order of the Day passed on January 10th by the Central Committee of Liberation in Rome asking the government to intervene with the Allies on behalf of the Italians who deeply desire the formation of a strong army. It was decided at the same time by the Central Committee to send a message to the heads of the United Nations imploring them to take note of the demands contained in the Order of the Day. So as to supplement this initiative of the Central Committee, the local Committees were instructed to gather in names of volunteers for the Army so that lists could be prepared in various parts of the country indicating the number of those who were willing to fight. For the province of Florence the number of volunteers expected was about 10,000 and in the city itself, which lists are still open, a total of over 5,000 names had been collected. The greatest number of volunteers, in proportion to the size of the class, has come from the ranks of ex-officers. The least number of volunteers has come from the student class. A leader in the Florence paper LA NAZIONALE DEL POPOLO (23rd January) examines this lack of enthusiasm on the part of the students, "The mass of the students", writes the author of this article, are not fighting have not fought and above all have neither the wish nor the intention to fight. Why? The reply is simple because they are cowards." A considerable number of volunteers have responded to the appeals launched by the various parties which were published in the Florence papers throughout the month of January. On Sunday 14th January, it was announced in the paper, the NAZIONALE DEL POPOLO that the C.T.L.M. had authorized the Comando Militare Toscano to organize recruiting in a number of centres including the various party headquarters. It was stated that the forces thus recruited would be used as fighting troops and a notice in the other Florentine paper CORRIERE DELLA SERA of the 20th January said that all those who enrolled themselves at the recruiting centres must be ready to leave for training camps in a few days. In fact, however, the enrolment form, as has been stated, is no more than a promise to fight if called upon and recruits are to inform them received not more than 200 volunteers have so far been told to prepare to go to the training camp.

4542

CONFIDENTIAL

4

No. 3.

According to an Italian informant the recruiting has proceeded satisfactorily. The influx consists chiefly of very young men or of ex-partisans animated by feelings of genuine patriotism. The lukewarm are spurred on by their companions and families count it to their credit to have a son a volunteer.

It was not to be expected that the recruiting campaign would be concluded without some demonstration. On the morning of the 24th January a group of partisans marched into the Piazza San Marco near the University to stage a demonstration against the absence of the students, to which attention had been called in the newspaper article mentioned above. The students streamed from their class-rooms with the evident intention of engaging in a counter-demonstration, when the police intervened and quiet was restored. An Italian P.W.B. collaborator recalls that this is not the first time that a conflict has arisen between the student class and the workers. A previous example was furnished at the time of Italy's entry into the war against the United Nations.

3. Fascism in Fermo.

An Allied officer reports that in Fermo, in the Province of Ascoli Piceno, there have been some fascist manifestations recently. A crowd was heard in the streets shouting: "Vogliamo il puzzone" (Puzzoni) ("We want the stinker" - presumably one of the Duce's more recent appellations). In the barracks a number of young men, recently conscripted, sang the Fascist song "Giovinezza". Several attacks on Allied soldiers have also been reported in the area recently.

4. European Federalistic Association.

With a view to co-ordinating and developing the various currents of European federalistic thought an association styled Associazione Federalisti Europei has been formed in Florence. Its aims are:

- a) to give an impulse to the study of federalistic problems,
- b) to establish connection between Italian and foreign organizations with a view to exchanging ideas,
- c) to co-ordinate efforts directed towards the formation of a European Federalistic Committee.

4540

CONFIDENTIAL

- 5 -

No. 3.

ECONOMICC. Regional Transport Board.

Interview with one of the Directors of the Ente Autonomo Autotrasporti Regionale.

The function of the Ente Autonomo Autotrasporti Regionale is the coordination and organization of means of transport in order to avoid, by the application of a fair standard of priorities, the natural preference of drivers for the more lucrative branches of the carrying trade.

Thus the Ente, in response to requests made especially by the SEPRAL and the Consorzio Agrario as well as those of business houses and private persons, assigns a certain number of auto-vehicles for given transport services, to be paid directly by the person utilising the service to the driver or the proprietor of the vehicle on the basis of national tariffs, which are, however, subject to modifications according to mileage and tonnage.

The Ente has actually at its disposal 1,287 auto-vehicles with a total tonnage of 22,132 quintals, which allows of a daily utilisable tonnage of 8,000 quintals.

It should be remembered that urban street cleaning and garbage removal, the removal of war debris and transport for funerals also depends upon the Ente; it also carries out a service of road and communal control by means of its representatives scattered in the 49 Communes of the Province, in direct communication with the central office in Florence.

The use of transport especially for inter-provincial purposes is essentially linked up with the prevailing system of barter either of food-stuffs or other merchandise, and these exchanges are not always easy to arrange owing to the lack of goods.

In view of the continual deterioration of rolling stock and the lack of spare parts, a further increase in transport is hoped for from the allies via A.M.G., which has already provided the Ente with a certain quantity of tyres, inner tubes and liquid rubber for repairs. In addition, permission has been given for the requisition of one of the leading firms in Tuscany for the regeneration of rubber necessary for motor vehicles.

S. La Società Idrocهربuri Nazionale (S.I.N.)

This Company extracts methane from the mines of Pietramala. Of the 89 existing workines only 30 are at present in operation. The most productive district of Castel dell'Alvi is inactive. The reasons for this inactivity can be ascribed to demolitions in the works and to the removal of certain vital pieces of mechanism. Further lack of means of transport has also hindered production, although A.M.G. has furnished some since January 20th, and the lack of electrical energy sufficient to bring the gas to the pressure required to force it along the gas-duct into Florence. This difficulty has been practically overcome by furnishing an electrical generator. The gas-duct, which has been much damaged by the Nazis, has now been repaired along its entire

4534

SEPRAL and the Consorzio Agrario as well as those of business houses and private persons, assigns a certain number of auto-vehicles for given transport services, to be paid directly by the person utilising the service to the driver or the proprietor of the vehicle on the basis of national tariffs, which are, however, subject to modifications according to mileage and tonnage.

The Ente has actually at its disposal 1,287 autovehicles with a total tonnage of 22,132 quintals, which allows of a daily utilisable tonnage of 8,000 quintals.

It should be remembered that urban street cleaning and garbage removal, the removal of war debris and transport for funerals also depends upon the Ente; it also carries out a service of road and communal control by means of its representatives scattered in the 49 Communes of the Province, in direct communication with the central office in Florence.

The use of transport especially for inter-provincial purposes is essentially linked up with the travelling system of Barber either of food-stuffs or other merchandise, and these exchanges are not always easy to arrange owing to the lack of roads.

In view of the continual deterioration of rolling stock and the lack of spare parts, a further increase in transport is hoped for from the Allies via A.M.G., which has already provided the Ente with a certain quantity of tyres, inner tubes and liquid rubber for repairs. In addition, permission has been given for the requisition of one of the leading firms in Tuscany for the regeneration of rubber necessary for motor vehicles.

6. La Società Idrocarburi Nazionali (S.I.N.)

This Company extracts methane from the mines of Pietramala. Of the 89 existing workings only 30 are at present in operation. The most productive district of Castel dell'Altri is inactive. The reasons for this inactivity can be ascribed to demolitions in the works and to the removal of certain vital pieces of mechanism. Further lack of means of transport has also hindered production, although A.M.G. has furnished some since January 20th, and the lack of electrical energy sufficient to bring the gas to the pressure required to force it along the gas-duct into Florence. This difficulty has been practically overcome by furnishing an electrical generator. The gas-duct, which has been much damaged by the Nazis, has now been repaired along its entire length of 80 km. and ends at the distributing centre of Piazza Alberti. Another such centre in Via L. Parenti, has not yet been reactivated. Production which previously was 30,000 cubic metres a day, is now about 7,000, which is distributed to hospitals and to the Gas Company and the hospitals of Careggi, S. Maria Nuova and Via Giusti.

4539

CONFIDENTIAL

- 6 -

No. 3.

The Company is directly controlled by the Italian Petroleum Committee, which in turn, depends on A.M.G. The problem of containers for the gas has been brilliantly solved and a sufficient quantity exists for the whole Province, due to the initiative of the Italian Petroleum Company. There is ample gas for vehicles, but it is said that it has not been possible to get parts to convert vehicles for methane consumption in the time limited.

As regards the future, it is foreseen that there will be a great development in the use of methane for industrial purposes and as a substitute for gas extracted from anthracite coal for domestic use. The present price is 3 lire per cubic metre for industrial and domestic use and 11 lire for vehicles (due to the duty of 8 lire per cubic metre, imposed by the Italian Petroleum Committee).

Oil Production.

Oil production for the Province of Florence is estimated at a figure of 5,65 quintals. Of these 1,500 quintals have already been handed over to the Opera del Petrolio, and it is hoped that before the end of the olive-oil campaign, next June, several thousands of quintals more will be collected.

The handing over of the oil is slow both because of the reticence of the producers and because out of 600 oil presses only 225 remain after the destruction wrought by the Germans. Lack of electric energy has reduced the work of these presses from 24 hours daily to 8 hours daily.

8. Medicinal Supplies assigned by Allies to Tuscany.

In January 22nd the Allied authorities began the consignment to the Director of the Enteina of 2,600 cases of medicinal supplies amounting in weight to 100 tons.

These supplies, comprising about 120 different kinds, among which are ether, alcohol, gauze, syringes, plaster bandages, sterilized absorbent cotton, soap, thermometers, insulin, morphine, atropine, cocaine, sulfamides (M. & B.) and vitamins, have been put at the disposal of the civil population of Tuscany by the Allies and are destined to meet the needs of the months of January and February.

9. Regional convention of glass-workers.

At Empoli there took place the first regional convention of glass-workers. It was attended by representatives of the C.G.I.I. An Order of the Day was voted which took note of the fact that a number of factories were in good working order and could immediately begin work, if authorized to do so by A.M.G. and if raw materials could be obtained.

A temporary committee of the trades union of glass-workers was set up.

4538

CONFIDENTIAL

7

10.5.

PROPAGANDA.

10. Press Meeting.

Various problems regarding reconstruction work and organization in Florence were discussed at the second meeting between Allied officers and Florentine journalists under the presidency of Col. Michie, S.C.A.C.

Gas.

To the enquiry whether gas pipes could not be passed across the river beneath the temporary structure of the Victory Bridge, as has been done with water pipes, the reply was that the vibrations of the metal structure might cause breakages in the pipes and consequent explosions, whereas the danger of water leakage was far less serious.

Bridges.

For military reasons the reconstruction of a bridge of Italian construction to replace the present military metallic bridge on the site of the old Victory Bridge is, it was stated, being hastened as much as possible. That is why the term for submitting plans has been restricted. Meantime the reconstruction of the Carrara Bridge has begun, the piers having been already in part re-built. A one-way metallic bridge of Italian construction will be thrown over the Arno. One track of the temporary Victory Bridge can then be removed and the area liberated over the arching will then be utilised for the reconstruction of the piers, upon which another temporary bridge will be laid at such a height as to permit of the reconstruction in masonry of the arches beneath. The addition of the ornamental super-structure will be a job for the future. Rapidity is at the present the essential and in any case military exigencies might lead to alterations of plans: the idea of a suspension bridge is impracticable owing to scarcity of metal.

Street Lighting.

The competent officers of MAG held that at least partial lighting would be possible from a security point of view, seeing that the black-out has been abolished; but to use electric current for street lighting would mean taking it from industrial plants and domestic uses. In any case, for the increased safety of the citizens during the night, various patrols of the Allied Military Police drive around the town in jeeps until late hour, while patrols of carabinieri and Italian police make their rounds until the early hours of the morning.

Olive Oil

The responsible Allied officer stated that it is hoped to distribute a ration of about 270 grammes of olive oil per head to the population before the end of this month. Last month 300 grammes per head were distributed. The amount was

4537

to the enquiry whether gas pipes could not be passed across the river beneath the temporary structure of the Victory Bridge, as has been done with water pipes, the reply was that the vibrations of the metal structure might cause breakages in the pipes and consequent explosions, whereas the danger of water leakage was far less serious.

Bridges

For military reasons the reconstruction of a bridge of Italian construction to replace the present military metallic bridge on the site of the old Victory Bridge is, it was stated, being hastened as much as possible. That is why the term for submitting plans has been restricted. Meantime the reconstruction of the Carrara Bridge has begun, the piers having been already in part re-built. A one-way metallic bridge of Italian construction will be thrown over the Arno. One track of the temporary Victory Bridge can then be removed and the area liberated over the arching will then be utilised for the reconstruction of the piers, upon which another temporary bridge will be laid at such a height as to permit of the reconstruction in masonry of the arches beneath. The addition of the ornamental super-structure will be a job for the future. Rapidity is at the present the essential and in any case military exigencies might lead to alterations of plans: the idea of a suspension bridge is impracticable owing to scarcity of metal.

Street Lighting.

The competent officers of AMG held that at least partial lighting would be possible from a security point of view, seeing that the black-out has been abolished; but to use electric current for street lighting would mean taking it from industrial plants and domestic uses. In any case, for the increased safety of the citizens during the night, various patrols of the Allied Military Police drive around the town in jeeps until a late hour, while patrols of carabinieri and Italian police make their rounds until the early hours of the morning.

Olive Oil

The responsible Allied officer stated that it is hoped to distribute a ration of about 270 grammes of olive oil per head to the population before the end of this month. Last month 300 grammes per head were distributed. The amount needed to share this same ration has not yet been got in. Although 80 tons are ready for distribution and 10 tons remained on hand in the warehouse, this is still below the 230 tons required to distribute oil to the whole population of the Florence Province. It is hoped, however, to reach the 3 decalitres per head by means of contributions from other provinces (see also note on the olive campaign).

4537

Soap.

It is hoped to distribute a ration of soap of 150 grammes per head since a monthly assignment of 11 tons of caustic soda has been obtained. The Provincial Medical Officer has already received 2 tons of soap for distributions to the hospitals and other similar institutions of Florence town and province.

Candles.

There are no raw materials for the making of candles, and, as a partial substitute for these, a certain quantity of petrolatum will probably be distributed, in addition to the normal assignment to the province, to hospitals and other institutions.

11. Weekly Newspaper for the Parties in Florence.

On Sunday 21st January there appeared on sale in Florence a supplement to the parties' newspaper LA NAZIONE DEL POPOLO. This supplement is to appear weekly and will be edited by the five parties of the C.T.L.M. who will thus have the means of expressing their ideas and opinions. The supplement is a paper of two sheets and the plan is to allow two parties to divide the space weekly in rotation. In the first number the Liberals and Communists shared the pages of the supplement. The Liberal articles are about such subjects as "The Aim of Liberalism", "Politics and Rhetoric", "Liberals to-day" and there is an extract from Croce's writings dealing with Marxist philosophy.

The Communist articles are less generic. They are entitled "Our War", "Why we are in the Government", "Strikes in the North". There is an article accusing the Great Italian industrialists of collaboration with the Germans and another exhorting partisans to join the army.

CONFIDENTIAL

9

P. 3.

PUBLIC OPINION

12. Vall writing.

The following writing, supposed to be of student origin, appeared on the walls of Florence about mid-January:

"Italian youth is invited to take up arms again on the following indispensable conditions:

1. Recognition of Italy as an ally by the United Nations.
2. Treatment of Italian soldiers to be equal to that accorded to Allied soldiers.
3. Explicit certainty that no Italian soldier will be compulsorily transferred to other war fronts while a single German is left on Italian territory."

GENERAL

13. Italian Catholic Scout Association.

An Associazione Scoutistica Cattolica Italiana was formed in Florence a couple of months ago with a certain Renzo Loris acting as Regional Commissioner. From him depend the zone Commissariats, which follow the diocesan boundaries, and these in turn are split up into groups according to the different quarters of the city.

The aims of the Associazioni, which derive its authority from headquarters in Rome, are educative, charitable and athletic. Members, which at present number more than a thousand, are divided into categories according to age, viz: Wolf Cubs 8 to 12; Explorers 13 to 16; Pioneers 17 to 20; Cavaliers, of the Lily over 20.

Each detachment is provided with an ecclesiastical assistant appointed by the Bishop. The regional commissariat has a co-operative stores attached to it for the provision of equipment to members. Allied organizations have been very helpful in the provision of tents, uniform etc.

453)

CONFIDENTIAL

X

No. 3.

APPENDIX

LATEST NEWS FROM LEGHORN

N.B. The following is a report by an Italian P.M.B. collaborator dated mid-January. It is compiled on the basis of reports received from a number of Italian sources amongst whom are the following: the Prefect, the Mayor, the director of Sismi, the chief of the Civil Engineers, the Inspector of schools, the delegate of the Lega Commission for Education, the C.M.I., the Camera del Lavoro, representatives of the political parties, the editors of the newspapers, etc.

General situation in Leghorn.

The general situation of Leghorn is greatly improved as compared with conditions on the previous visit made in the beginning of last November. Life is resuming its normal rhythm; the streets are beginning to be thronged with citizens; the shops are reopening; the usual goods are to be found in the markets; the schools are functioning regularly; the public offices have now been re-established in the town, returning from the quarters to which they had been evacuated; the public services are beginning to operate normally. Although yet far from living a normal life, the town can hope for this in the near future.

From January 5th, by a decree of the Sindaco (Mayor) and with the approval of the Allied Command that part of the city which was designated "black city", and ingress to which was barred to civilians, has been reopened to general civilian life. It comprised the whole zone surrounding the port from the sea as far back as the line of the Fossi or canals. Today 70% or more than half have been rendered habitable by small repairs carried out by the local Civil Engineer Corps. The repairs carried out have rendered life possible in a total of 1,000 rooms.

Political conditions in Leghorn.

The political situation of Leghorn differs from that of other Tuscan cities chiefly owing to the makeup of the Committee of Liberation, which reflects the most outstanding tendencies of the mass of the population. As compared with the information given in the previous Report the only new developments are:

1. Introduction into the Committee of Liberation of the Christian Democrat Party, whereas this was previously overborne by the influence of the Christian Social Party.
2. Almost complete disappearance of the Party of Action, which has been entirely absorbed by the Italian Republican Party.
3. Full adherence of the Social Christians to the views of the head of the party, Gerardo Bruno, and consequent opposition to any idea of amalgamation with the Christian Party of the Left-wing.

Relations between the Christian Parties.

4537

General situation in Leghorn.

The general situation of Leghorn is greatly improved as compared with conditions on the previous visit made in the beginning of last November. Life is resuming its normal rhythm. The streets are beginning to be thronged with citizens; the shops are reopening; the usual goods are to be found in the markets; the schools are functioning regularly; the public offices have now been re-established in the town returning from the quarters to which they had been evacuated; the public services are beginning to operate normally. Although yet far from living a normal life, the town can hope for this in the near future.

From January 5th, by a decree of the Sindaco (Mayor) and with the approval of the Allied Command that part of the city which was designated "black city", and ingress to which was barred to civilians, has been reopened to general civic life. It comprised the whole zone surrounding the port from the sea as far back as the lane of the fossi or canals. To-day 70% or more than half have been rendered habitable by small repairs carried out by the local Civil Engineer Corps. The repairs carried out have rendered life possible in a total of 1,000 rooms.

Political Conditions in Leghorn.

The political situation of Leghorn differs from that of other Tuscan cities chiefly owing to the makeup of the Committee of Liberation, which reflects the most outstanding tendencies of the mass of the population. As compared with the information given in the previous Report the only new developments are:

1. Incorporation into the Committee of Liberation of the Christian Democrat Party, whereas this was previously overcome by the influence of the Christian Social Party.
2. Almost complete disappearance of the Party of Action, which has been entirely absorbed by the Italian Republican Party.
3. Full adherence of the Social Christians to the views of the head of the party, Gerardo Brunini, and consequent opposition to any idea of amalgamation with the Christian Party of the left-wing.

Relations between the Christian Parties.

The Catholic parties, both represented in the Committee of Liberation, exist in Leghorn: the Christian Democrat Party and the Christian Social Party. The first represents the right wing, the second is definitely on the left.

The Social Christians have openly refused to adhere to the Christian Party of the left. This latter had its origin in Rome from the movement of

4533

CONFIDENTIAL

14

No. 3.

the Catholic Communists, who, severely admonished by Cardinal Salotti, thought it opportune to change their name to that now in use. They did not, however, change the political principles for the defense of which they had organized their party, which principles consist in the acceptance of Marxism including the theory of class value.

Some time ago a part of the provisional Directorate of the social Christians (among them Miano, Mottal, etc.) united in Rome with the Christians of the left, expelling from the party Gerardo Eandi who is the founder of the Christian Social party, and who absolutely refused to adhere to this dangerous union. There was a moment of vacillation in Italy, since it was impossible to foresee the attitude of the various local sections; but these, and among them that of Leghorn, remained faithful to the old head and the old principles, and supported the order of the day signed by Bruni, Lavroni and Sesini, in which the union with the Christians of the left was definitely condemned.

The Social Christians of Leghorn are, consequently, in no way affected by the Vatican note which denies the Catholicism of the Christians of the left. This note is considered perfectly legitimate, considering that all the principles of the Christians of the left are in absolute contrast with those of the Social Christian School since they accept historic materialism in full. It is easy to detect manoeuvres of the Communist Party tending to attract Italian Catholics within its orbit.

As for relations with the Christian Democrat Party, the Social Christians of Leghorn deny that this can be considered the sole party of the Italian Catholics. No one sole party of the Catholics can exist, they argue. To be a Catholic signifies a moral position, not a political position. The Catholic, as such, may be republican or monarchial, of the right or of the left. That is why any party which should seek to monopolise all the Catholics could have no definite programme and would merely arrive at being a clerical party, reawakening in Italy, as a result, the anticlericalism of pre-fascist days.

The Social Christians maintain that without doubt the Vatican supports, and perhaps subsidises, the Christian Democratic party. And this for two obvious reasons:-

1. Because there exists a Concordato or Agreement with the Italian State, and the Vatican can hope to maintain it only so long as the monarchy survives. That is why Christian Democracy, the Vatican party, is, fundamentally, a party of the right and monarchial.
2. Because Christian Democracy has, in effect, a good number of adherents, and, in the national plans, is, actually, a strong party. As for the cause of this large number of members, it may be said that it rests (always according to the opinion of the Social Christians) upon a misunderstanding. In fact, in the part of Italy occupied by the Germans, the Catholics who went to join a party adhere to Christian Democracy, about which they hear a great deal of talk, without even knowing its programme.

Relations between the Parties of the Committee.

founder of the Christian Social Party, and who absolutely refused to adhere to this dangerous union. There was a moment of vacillation in Italy, but these, and among them that of Leghorn, remained faithful to the old head and the old principles, and supported the rear of the day signed by Brunel, Lavroni and Sesini, in which the union with the Christians of the Left was definitely condemned.

The Social Christians of Leghorn are, consequently, in no way effected by the Vatican note which denies the Catholicism of the Christians of the Left. This note is considered perfectly legitimate, considering that all the principles of the Christians of the Left are in absolute contrast with those of the Social Christian School since they accept historic materialism in full. It is easy to detect manoeuvres of the Communist Party tending to attract Italian Catholics within its orbit.

As for relations with the Christian Democrat Party, the Social Christians of Leghorn deny that this can be considered the sole party of the Italian Catholics. No one sole party of the Catholics can exist, they argue. To be a Catholic signifies a moral position, not a political position. The Catholic, as such, may be republican or monarchial, of the right or of the left. That is why any party which should seek to monopolize all the Catholics could have no definite programme and would merely arrive at being a clerical party, re-arranging in Italy, as a result, the anticlericalism of pre-fascist days.

The Social Christians maintain that without doubt the Vatican supports, and perhaps subsidises, the Christian Democratic party. And this for two obvious reasons:-

1. Because there exists a Monarchist or Agreement with the Italian State, and the Vatican can hope to maintain it only so long as the monarchy survives. That is why Christian Democracy, the Vatican party, is, fundamentally, a party of the right and monarchial.
2. Because Christian Democracy has, in effect, a good number of adherents, and, on the national plane, is, actually, a strong party. As for the cause of this large number of members, it may be said that it rests (always according to the opinion of the Social Christians) upon a misunderstanding. In fact, in the part of Italy occupied by the Germans, the Catholics who want to join a party adhere to Christian Democracy, about which they hear a great deal of talk, without even knowing its programme.

Relations between the Parties of the Committee.

The parties within the Committee work together in perfect harmony, as has been testified to even by people outside the parties, as, for example, the Prefect of Leghorn. The parties, in fact, in view of the nearness of the front battle-lines and the special conditions of Leghorn, are still very strong for the national anti-fascist front.

4532

CONFIDENTIAL

112

No. 3.

The relations between the Communists and Socialists are characteristic. They have never been any one good, nor do they ever lose or then ever. The Communists, taken individually, themselves of the participation of the party in a government to little representative of the vanguard; officially, however, they have submitted to cooperation. They were so much amazed by the way in which the crisis was resolved that at first they declared the news to be false.

Relations between the Committee and the Prefect

The relations between the Prefect Dr. Mireglio and the Committee are better than could be expected from a Committee composed as is that of Leonora (that is, with a definite trend to the left). The Prefect is considered a bourgeois, but, on the whole, the fact that he tries to maintain friendly relations with the Committee, showing much deference to its decisions, is appreciated. Dr. Mireglio, a Calabrian, states that he is satisfied with the Committee. He treats him with much consideration and gives him practically no trouble. The Sindaco, Furio Diaz, a very moderate communist and much liked, says the same.

Relations between Italian and Allied Organizations

About the beginning of last November the political situation in Leghorn was characterized by a violent hostility on the part of the Italian organization towards the Allied Government. This latter was accused of having turned Leghorn into a "closed port". There were complaints of bad treatment as regards food, of frequent incidents occurring between Allied troops (especially American Negroes) and citizens, and of the indifference of the Allied authorities with regard to the resumption of civic life. The Committee of Liberation, with the concurrence of all the municipal civic officials, gave out an order of the day in which it was stated that if the Allies had not taken effective means of settling things right, the possibility of a general strike, with the consequent resignation of the entire body of public officials, would be taken into consideration.

Today the situation is, as a whole, much better, at least according to the Prefect and Sindaco. The order of the day was, in fact, followed by talks between the Committee and the Prefect, the Sindaco, and representatives of the Allied Government. These latter promised to do their best for the improvement of the situation. They promised that they would have the available fuel subject reported so as to guarantee water to the whole town population (this work is almost complete); they promised to prohibit the vehicles from the food provisioning of the town (this promise has not yet been kept); the Prefect says they would be satisfied with even six or seven empty vehicles; they promised to study the possibility of such link-up of power lines to secure electric lighting for the civil population (this however has also, as yet, not been done).

These promises had the effect of calming the Committee and public opinion. Today a certain calm prevails; but the people are beginning to ask for the promises made them to be fulfilled.

The Allied Government has sought above all to give a stop to the continued incidents concerning the civil population and the collapsed troops. Incidents which have not been normal yet, are in their way. This

The relations between the Prefect Dr. Kiraglia and the Committee are better than could be expected from a Committee composed as is that of Leghorn (March 12, with a definite trend to the left). The Prefect is considered a conservative, but, on the whole, the fact that he tries to maintain friendly relations with the Committee, showing much deference to its decisions, is appreciated. Dr. Kiraglia, a Calabrian, states that he is satisfied with the Committee; he wants him whom much consideration and gives him practically no trouble. The Sindaco, Furio Diaz, a very moderate communist and much liked, says the same.

Relations between Italian and Allied Organizations.

About the beginning of last November the political situation in Leghorn was characterized by a violent hostility on the part of the Italian organization towards the Allied Government. This latter was accused of having turned against into a combat party. There were complaints of bad treatment of vegetable food, of frequent incidents occurring between Allied troops (especially American negroes) and citizens, and of the indifference of the Allied authorities with regard to the resumption of civic life. The Committee of Liberation, with the concurrence of all the political parties, officials, gave out an order of the day in which it was stated that if the Allies did not take effective means of settling things right, the possibility of a general strike, with the consequent resignation of the entire body of public officials, would be taken into consideration.

To day the situation is, as a whole, much better, at least according to Dr. Prefect and Sindaco. The order of the day was, in fact, followed by talks between the Committee itself, the Prefect, the Sindaco, and representatives of the Allied Government. These latter promised to do their best for the improvement of the situation. They promised that they would have the suitable roadwork repaired so as to guarantee water to the whole town population (this work is almost completed); they promised to protect the vehicles of the town (this promise has not yet been kept); they promised to study the possibility of such even say or seven (ent-vehicle); they promised to study the possibility of such linking-up of power lines as would secure electric lighting for the civil population (this however has also, as yet, not been done).

These promises had the effect of calming the Committee and public opinion. Today a certain calm prevails; but the people are beginning to ask for the promises made them to be fulfilled.

The Allied Government has sought above all to put a stop to the continual incidents occurring between the civil population and the colored troops incidents which usually had normal violence as their aim. This happened on the fact that there was only a very small force of the Allied police in Leghorn. Today the situation is greatly improved. The police forces have been largely augmented (also with the aim of checking the very active black market which is being carried on with Allied goods), and the local Commandant, Major Mackenzie, is considered extremely energetic.

331

CONFIDENTIAL

Evacuation.

The Delegate of the High Commission for Evacuation has now been nominated. He is Avv. Ugo Bassani, a Leghorn Jew well known for his former anti-fascism. His nomination was made in full agreement between the Prefect and the Committee of Evacuation. The Delegate has already set to work and the Investigative Sub-Commission for the evaporation of the local and provincial Ente, or organizations, which also deals with those of the State, will shortly begin to function. The adjudicating Commission for employees of factories will also begin its work shortly.

Things are still very much helter-skelter with all that regards sanctions against fascist crimes and the investigation of large profits. The Delegate will have to nominate the other sub-Commissions which will transmit the material collected to the Procuratore del Re or Public Prosecutor and to the President of the Tribunal.

Many fascists are, anyhow, still going about freely, and the people complain of this. They complain above all that in Leghorn, as elsewhere, not a few fascists have been taken on in various capacities by Allied bodies and organizations.

Leghorns

Conditions as regards salaries in Leghorn are greatly improved. The wages of workmen employed by the Allied organizations have been raised from an average of 75 lire a day to an average of 145 lire a day. Considering that almost all families have more than one member working with the Allies, it can be understood that living conditions are not very hard for the people and permit of a fair standard of maintenance.

The national regulators respecting insurance against accidents when at work have been extended to the employees of the Allies in Leghorn also. Such, at least, is the announcement on the public posters signed Gronchi, Minister of Public Works.

Unemployment, which is being so much felt in some centres of the Province, is scarcely noticeable in Leghorn. Any who have not fixed employment devote their activities to some or less legitimate trading and in the absence of this to various types of casual work.

Food Situation.

The people of Leghorn are really better fed than those in other Italian towns. In fact trade in allied goods is very brisk. Since the disembarkation work of the port of Naples was transferred to Leghorn, the town has become the centre for a whole host of persons dedicated to various forms of smuggling. Many kinds of goods are brought into the town and put on the market by workers in the port.

It is undeniable that the ultimate source of such traffic is to be traced to the survivors of allied soldiers, above all Americans, who, without any courtesies, trade in whatever they can. Not infrequently the Allied Police take part in this smuggling. To cite an example: two young

Things are still very much in confusion. The delegate against fascist crimes on the investigation of large profits. The delegate will have to nominate two other sub-commissions which will transmit the material collected to the Procuratore del Re or Public Prosecutor and to the President of the Tribunal.

Many fascists are, anyhow, still going about freely, and the people complain of this. They complain above all that in Leghorn, as elsewhere, not a few fascists have been taken on in various capacities by Allied bodies and organizations.

Labour

Conditions as regards salaries in Leghorn are greatly improved. The wages of workmen employed by the Allied organizations have been raised from an average of 75 lire a day to an average of 145 lire a day. Considering that almost all families have more than one member working with the Allies, it can be understood that living conditions are not very hard for the people and permit of a fair standard being maintained.

The national regulations respecting insurance against accidents when at work have been extended to the employees of the Allies in Leghorn also. Such, at least, is the announcement on the public posters signed Gronchi, Minister of Public Works.

Unemployment, which is being so much felt in some centres of the Province, is scarcely noticeable in Leghorn. Any who have not fixed employment devote their activities to one of three legitimate trading ends in the absence of this to various types of commercial traffic.

Food situation

The people of Leghorn are really better fed than those in other Italian towns. In fact trade in Allied goods is very brisk. Since the disembarkation work of the port of Naples was transferred to Leghorn, the town has become the centre for a whole host of persons dedicated to various forms of smuggling. Many kinds of goods are brought into the town and put on the market by workers in the port.

It is undeniable that the ultimate source of such traffic is to be traced to the salvance of allied soldiers, above all Americans, who, without any subtleties, trade in whatever they can. Not infrequently the Allied police take part in this smuggling. To cite an example: two young men, surprised by the police with a conspicuous number of packets of cigarettes, were left in peace after they had paid these members of the police themselves the price of the cigarettes at the rate of fifty lire per packet of twenty.

The black market prices are less high than elsewhere in Florence, for instance. Here are some of them:

330

No. 3.

V

Cigarettes	5	50	live	the	packet
Charcoal	15	"	"	the	bills
Sugar	230	"	"	"	"
American flour	90	"	"	"	"
Italian flour	70	"	"	"	"
American tinned tomatoes	450	"	"	"	"
Tins of sausages	500	"	"	"	each,
Wine	50	"	"	"	the crates

Apart from the Black Market and cont. aband. traffic, regular and frequent distributions of rationed goods are made. The actual director of the Food organization (Seprel) is Dr. Murgida, who has been sent by the Ministry to take the place of Commissar Peggini who until recently directed the section. Peggini was considered an honest man, but lacking in any special technical competence.

Dr. Murgida, a young and ambitious functionary, has changed the Seprel with a new and original dynamism. He started out on the principle that the particular situation of Leghona (a maritime strip about 310 kilometers wide without agricultural hinterland, called for a special regime. Thus he centralized all the business houses of Leghona dealing in foodstuffs (about 90 in number) in SEVEN groups according to a principle based on the type of good dealt with. Each group nominated two purchasing agents who, in determining the importation of the given product, do not act in the interests of the individual trader but in those of the group which they represent. The goods thus imported are considered as at the disposal of the Seprel, which fixes the price and gives them out for use of the public.

As for transport, the new Director found an already existent Committee of Transportation which was acting under the control of the R.I.C.I. From the technical point of view he has transferred it into the Seprel in such a way as to be able to control it more easily. The Seprel authorizes the Committee to issue the transport permits, firmly holding to the principle that food products must have absolute precedence over other industrial products. Naturally the difficulties of transport are very great since the Allies, despite their promises, have not so far given any aid.

The problem of the Co-operative Societies has also been dealt with on new principles. The Co-operative Societies are obliged to inform the Seprel of their regulations and the nominations of their participants. Among the co-operatives the Seprel has organized authorized distribution centres and has applied to them the so-called "ferra C" system of genuine and regular registration. Moreover, all the Co-operative Societies have been united in a Consorzio or Association, which functions, for purchases made beyond provincial boundaries, as one of the various commercial groups already referred to. Thus, side by side with the 14 representatives of the 7 groups, there are also the two representatives of the Co-operative Societies.

The Director of the Seprel believes that he has, by this means, curbed the desire of the political parties to invade the alimentary field, and above all laid upon the parties themselves a grave responsibility in regard to the food problem.

The System of Rationing established in Leghona is also original. The distribution of rationed commodities was previously made through the

As for the Black Market and cart board traffic, regular and frequent distributions of rationed goods are made. The actual director of the Food organization (Sepreal) is Dr. Murgida, who has been sent by the Ministry to take the place of Commissioner Peggini, who until recently directed the section. Peggini was considered an honest man, but lacking in any special technical competence.

Dr. Murgida, a young and ambitious functionary, has changed the Sepreal with a new and original dynamism. He started out on the principle that the particular situation of Ispahon (a maritime strip about 110 kilometers wide without agricultural hinterland), called for a special regime. Thus he centralized all the business houses of Ispahon dealing in foodstuffs (about 90 in number) in SEVEN groups according to a principle based on the type of goods dealt with. Each group nominated two purchasing agents who, in determining the importation of the given product, do not act in the interests of the individual trader but in those of the group which they represent. The goods thus imported are considered as at the disposal of the Sepreal, which fixes the price and gives them out for the use of the public.

As for transport, the new director found an already existing Committee of Transportation which was acting under the control of the RUC. From the technical point of view he has transferred it into the Sepreal in such a way as to be able to control it more easily. The Sepreal authorized the Committee to issue the transport permits, firmly holding to the principle that food products must have absolute precedence over industrial products. Naturally the difficulties of transport are very great since the Allies, despite their promises, have not so far given any aid.

The problem of the Co-operative Societies has also been dealt with on new principles. The Co-operative Societies are obliged to inform the Sepreal of their regulations and the nominations of their participants. Among the co-operatives the Sepreal has organized authorized distribution centres and has applied to them the so-called "firm Q" system of genuine and regular registration. Moreover, all the Co-operative Societies have been united in a Consumers Association, which functions, for purchases made beyond provincial boundaries, as one of the various commercial groups already referred to. Thus, side by side with the 14 representatives of the 7 groups, there are also the two representatives of the Co-operative Societies.

The Director of the Sepreal believes that he has, by this means, curbed the desire of the political parties to invade the alimentary field, and above all laid upon the parties themselves a grave responsibility in regard to the food problem.

The System of Rationing established in Ispahon is also original. The distribution of rationed commodities was previously made through the UDIS (the Office for the distribution of rationed and controlled goods) which represented the commercial categories under the control of the Sepreal. This office went out of existence along with other fascist organizations.

4529

CONFIDENTIAL

VI

No. 3.

The system applied by the Leghorn Sopral is (Vids)-

1. The Communes of the Province send in to the Sopral C forms upon which the needs of the Commune as regards the various rationed goods are listed.
2. On the back of these forms the Sopral indicates the total amount assigned, putting at the disposal of the mayors the quantity asked for.
3. The Victualling Offices of the Communes, under the control and responsibility of the Sindaco or Mayor, divide the goods there among the retail dealers of the Commune.

The Work of the Civil Engineer Corps for the Reconstruction of the Town.

The first task which the Civil Engineer Corps had to deal with was that of small repairs serving to put in habitable condition those buildings which had not been too much damaged. It may be said that 3.4% of the town is absolutely uninhabitable. Of the remaining 70%, 40% has been repaired, making up a total of 474 buildings comprising in all 10,000 rooms or passages. These figures only relate to the work carried out after the arrival of the Allies.

Another urgent work which has already been begun is that of repairing the drains. A part of the drainage system has in fact been already repaired; the work of clearing away the ruins in that part of the town which was shut off as the "black zone" (reopened January 5th) is going forward, so as to be able to undertake drainage repairs in that quarter also.

Another heavy task for the Genio Civile or Civil Engineers is that of road maintenance; the strain on the roads is very great in view of the continual traffic. The Allied Command has entrusted the task to the Civil Engineer Corps, limiting itself to the furnishing of materials and to approving their estimates.

The road situation is on the whole very fair; only 25 bridges have been destroyed by the war (this figure refers only to the provincial and communal roads, not to the national roads, which were managed by the old Azienda Autonoma Statale della Strada). Of these 25 bridges, some have been rebuilt by the Allies in wood, all are still urgently needed and their reconstruction has been entrusted to the Civil Engineers Corps. Transit is, however, ensured by improvised means.

One of the greatest difficulties which confronts the Genio Civile in the reconstruction of the town is the requisitioning of the Fornace Laterizi S.A. Magone, of Cecina. It is the only factory for the production of building materials in the Province, and its regular functioning is vital to the recovery of Leghorn. It has been requisitioned as a depot or warehouse for the Allied troops, and the efforts of the head engineer of the Genio Civile to obtain its release from requisition have been unavailing.

Public Services.

The repairing of the aqueduct is going on but up to the present

4528

The Work of the Civil Engineer Corps for the Reconstruction of the Town.

The first task which the Civil Engineer Corps had to deal with was that of small repairs serving to put in habitable condition those buildings which had not been too much damaged. It may be said that 3% of the town is absolutely uninhabitable. Of the remaining 70%, 40% has been repaired, making up a total of 474 buildings comprising in all 10,000 rooms or passages. These figures only relate to the work carried out after the arrival of the Allies.

Another urgent work which has already been begun is that of repairing the drains. A part of the drainage system has in fact been already repaired; the work of clearing away the ruins in that part of the town which was shut off as the "black zone" (reopened January 5th) is going forward, so as to be able to undertake drainage repairs in that quarter also.

Another heavy task for the Genio Civile or Civil Engineers is that of road maintenance; the strain on the roads is very great in view of the continual traffic. The Allied Command has entrusted the task to the Civil Engineer Corps, limiting itself to the furnishing of materials and to approving their estimates.

The road situation is on the whole very fair; only 25 bridges have been destroyed by the war (this figure refers only to the provincial and communal roads, not to the national roads, which were casavari of the old Azienda Autonoma Statale della Strada). Of these 25 bridges, some have been rebuilt by the Allies in wood, 11 are still urgently needed and their reconstruction has been entrusted to the Civil Engineer Corps. Transit is, however, ensured by improvised means.

One of the greatest difficulties which confronts the Genio Civile in the reconstruction of the town is the requisitioning of the Fornace Laterizi S.A. Megone, of Cecina. It is the only factory for the production of building materials in the Province, and its regular functioning is vital to the recovery of Leghorn. It has been requisitioned as a depot or warehouse for the Allied troops, and the efforts of the head engineer of the Genio Civile to obtain its release from requisition have been unavailing.

Public Services.

The repairing of the aqueduct is going on but up to the present time the water supply is very irregular. The possibility of interconnections aiming to give the town back its electric lighting is being studied, but so far no results have been attained. Only some of the public premises have been able to obtain light. As for gas, there is not even any talk of it; and the condition of the people as regards fuel is deplorable.

4528

CONFIDENTIAL

VII

No. 3.

The trolley bus service, which first went only as far as Montenero, now extends to Antignara. Only 3 or 4 cars are, however, running. There are other 14 or 15 vehicles, but without tyres. If the Allied Government could provide some the civil population, above all those who work in Allied organizations, would derive a great advantage.

The Schools.

The scholastic situation in Leghorn is better than might be expected, thanks to the efforts of the Provveditorato agli studi, Prof. Menasci.

The destruction of school buildings has been very great; and three of the finest and most modern (the Micheli, De Amicis and Benedetto Brin Schools) are to-day requisitioned by the Armed Forces.

Nevertheless, the whole scholastic population of Leghorn, whether that of the secondary or of the elementary schools, has been provided for, and this applies to the entire Province. Precise information relative to the scholastic conditions in the Island of Elba, which comes under the Inspectorate of Leghorn, is not yet obtainable.

The Provveditorato has succeeded in procuring window glass for all the town schools, although no heating.

The sanitary conditions are none too good because the schools are without water and thus the latrines are in a deplorable state.

Figures respecting the scholastic population are as follows:-

In Leghorn Itself:	elementary	3,500
	secondary	1,200

In the Province	Elementary	7,000
	secondary	2,000

Before the evacuation, that is to say, under normal conditions, the statistics of the scholastic population were as follows:

Leghorn and Province:	elementary	20,000
	secondary	11,000

Newspapers.

Leghorn will have its own daily paper. It will take the title of Il Tirreno and will probably appear for the first time on Sunday January 28th. For the present it will print a local edition of about 30,000. The zone for the distribution of the paper has been fixed as extending from Grosseto to La Spezia. A Societa anonima Editrice Italiana has been formed for the publication of the paper and has received from P.W.B. the use of the plant of the Telegrafo, the old Leghorn paper, which has now ceased to exist. The editor of the paper is Athos Gastone Benti, an old and much esteemed Journalist, well known for his tenacious opposition to Fascism.

4527

of the finest and most modern (the Micheli, De Amicis and Benedetto Brin Schools) are to-day requisitioned by the Armed Forces.

Nevertheless, the whole scholastic population of Leghorn, whether that of the secondary or of the elementary schools, has been provided for, and this applies to the entire Province. Precise information relative to the scholastic conditions in the Island of Elba, which comes under the Inspectorate of Leghorn, is not yet obtainable.

The Provveditorato has succeeded in procuring window glass for all the town schools, although no heating.

The sanitary conditions are none too good because the schools are without water and thus the latrines are in a deplorable state.

Figures respecting the scholastic population are as follows:-

In Leghorn Itself:	elementary	3,500
	secondary	1,200
In the Province	Elementary	7,000
	secondary	2,000

Before the evacuation, that is to say, under normal conditions, the statistics of the scholastic population were as follows:

Leghorn and Province:	elementary	20,000
	secondary	11,000

Newspapers.

Leghorn will have its own daily paper. It will take the title of Il Tirreno and will probably appear for the first time on Sunday January 28th. For the present it will print a local edition of about 30,000. The zone for the distribution of the paper has been fixed as extending from Grosseto to La Spezia. A Societa Anonima Editrice Italiana has been formed for the publication of the paper and has received from P.W.B. the use of the plant of the Telegrafo, the old Leghorn paper, which has now ceased to exist. The editor of the paper is Athos Gestone Santi, an old and much esteemed journalist, well known for his tenacious opposition to Fascism.

The population of Leghorn is on the whole well satisfied by the decision to publish a local paper. In certain circles there is, however, unconcealed disappointment that the paper is dependent on P.W.B. rather than being under the Committee of Liberation. The paper will, in fact, be a news bulletin and will only deal with politics in general.

The Corriere del Mattino is brought daily to Leghorn from Florence, although it is late occasionally. A certain number of copies of the

4527

CONFIDENTIAL

VIII

No. 3.

Florence paper La Nazione del Popolo are also brought into the city. These papers are eagerly skimmed upon, and the people rush to the distributing centres as soon as word goes round that the papers have arrived.

Allied Propaganda Shop

Under the direction of Mr. Gino Belforte, proprietor of the Turin bookshop situated in the Via Riccaoli, a Propaganda Shop and Documentation Centre has been opened, where Allied magazines are on sale and photographs sent by P.M.B. are displayed.

In view of the limited space which the shop affords and the fact that the staff of the bookshop has to carry on all the normal activities of the regular business, it is considered that it would be opportune to transfer the Centre to more suitable and convenient premises. The Leghorn population is absolutely avid for documentary information and the actual premises do not afford space for more than twenty people at a time.

Reactions to the propaganda are most favourable. The magazines are almost fought over, especially "Victory", for the back numbers of which there is also a demand. About 800 copies of the last number were sold within a few minutes. The "Masse" is much appreciated, and the collection of the first six months, in book form, as already in sale in Florence, is greatly desired.

Relations between the Allied troops and the population.

These are on the whole excellent, and the more so since they have also interests in common. This is evident from the numerous dances given by the various Allied departments. The feminine population, especially the more frivolous part, throngs to these in the hope of lavish refreshments, which afford occasion for displays of sheer voracity.

It is thought that the organization of these entertainments should be avoided at least so far as regards the negro troops. Women who have been to them come away deeply disgusted.

Monarchical and Republican Sentiments.

Leghorn is traditionally a republican town. The republican party, which is represented in the Committee, is one of the most influential political parties; but on the other hand there is not a party in Leghorn which is not republican in its tendencies. The most lukewarm in this respect, owing to national directives, is the Communist.

There formerly existed in Leghorn a so-called fronte anti-monarchico or anti-monarchical front. Today, as a logical outcome of this, the Movimento Repubblicano Sociale or Social Republican Movement has come into being, formed by the participation of the Socialists, Social Christians and Republicans. The movement starts with the assumption that there are various forms of republic; and that consequently, when the republic has been secured, the task of the parties of the Left is by no means ended. Not only, indeed, must a republic be aimed at, but a socialist republic, or at least one of popular tendencies. By means of meetings and talks the Movement means to prepare the youth of Leghorn along these lines. The

4528

Centre has been opened, where Allied magazines are on sale and photographs sent by P.W.B. are displayed.

In view of the limited space which the shop affords and the fact that the staff of the bookshop has to carry on all the normal activities of the regular business, it is considered that it would be opportune to transfer the Centre to more suitable and convenient premises. The Leghorn population is absolutely avid for documentary information and the actual premises do not afford space for more than twenty people at a time.

Reactions to the propaganda are most favourable. The magazines are almost fought over, especially "Victory", for the back numbers of which there is also a demand. About 600 copies of the last number were sold within a few minutes. The "Kase" is much appreciated, and the collection of the first six months, in book form, is already in sale in Florence, is greatly desired.

Relations between the Allied troops and the population.

These are on the whole excellent, and the more so since they have also interests in common. This is evident from the numerous dances given by the various Allied departments. The feminine population, especially the more frivolous part, throngs to these in the hope of lavish refreshments, which afford occasion for displays of sheer voracity.

It is thought that the organization of these entertainments should be avoided at least so far as regards the negro troops. Women who have been to them come away deeply disgusted.

Monarchical and Republican Sentiments.

Leghorn is traditionally a republican town. The republican party, which is represented in the Committee, is one of the most influential political parties; but on the other hand there is not a party in Leghorn which is not republican in its tendencies. The most lukewarm in this respect, owing to national directives, is the Communist.

There formerly existed in Leghorn a so-called fronte antimonarchico or anti-monarchical front. This, as a logical outcome of this, the Movimento Repubblicano Sociale or Social Republican Movement has come into being, formed by the participation of the Socialists, Social Christians and Republicans. The movement starts with the assumption that there are various forms of republic; and that consequently, when the republic has been secured, the task of the parties of the left is by no means ended. Not only, indeed, must a republic be aimed at, but a socialist republic, or at least one of popular tendencies. By means of meetings and talks the Movement means to prepare the youth of Leghorn along these lines. The Movement is the first of its kind.

4528

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

ITALIAN TREATY HEADQUARTERS,
Psychological Warfare Branch
Unit No 14, A/O 512.

"E" Section

10th January 1945

NO 2 INTELLIGENCE AREA: COVERING TUSCANY AND ADJOINING REGIONS OF
LIBERATED ITALY.

INDEX

Paragraph.	SUMMARY OF THE NEWS.	Page.
1.	POLITICS.	1.
2.	Interview with the Prefect.	2.
3.	The case of Dr. Palazzo	3.
4.	Communist Declaration on the political situation in Pisa.	4.
	Strength of the political parties in Florence.	
5.	ECCLESIASTICAL.	6.
6.	S.C.A.O. Talk on Civic Problems.	7.
7.	Interview with the Manager of the Gas Company.	7.
8.	Threat to occupy a Factory.	7.
9.	Arrival of Grain from Neighbouring Provinces.	8.
10.	Livestock in Tuscany	8.
11.	Inter-Provincial Trade.	9.
	Natural gas in substitution of Petrol.	
12.	PUBLIC AFFAIRS.	10.
13.	Reaction to Statement by British M.P.s	10.
14.	Cost of Furnished Rooms.	10.
15.	Attack on the Prefect of Florence.	11.
	Comment on German Behaviour in captured Mail	
16.	GENERAL	12.
17.	Anti-Monarchist Handbill.	12.
18.	Note on crime.	13.
19.	Allied Courses at Florence University.	13.
20.	Enlistment of Volunteers.	14.
21.	Sermon by Cardinal Della Costa	14.
	A storm in a Test-Cup.	
	APPENDIX.	15 - 19
	Patriots.	

10th January 1945

Section
 No 2 INTELLIGENCE REPORTS CONCERNING TUSCANY AND ADJOINING REGIONS OF
 LIBERATED ITALY.

INDEX

Paragraph.	SUMMARY OF THE NEWS.	Page.
1.	POLITICS.	1.
2.	Interview with the Prefect.	2.
3.	The case of Dr. Palazzo	3.
4.	Communist Declaration on the political situation in Pisa.	4.
	Strength of the political parties in Florence.	
5.	ECONOMIC.	6.
6.	S.C.A.O. Talk on Civic Problems.	7.
	Interview with the Manager of the Gas Company.	7.
7.	Threat to occupy a Factory.	7.
8.	Arrival of Crabs from Neighbouring Provinces.	8.
9.	Livestock in Tuscany	8.
10.	Inter-provincial Trade.	9
11.	Natural gas in substitution of Petrol.	
	PUBLIC AFFAIRS.	
12.	Reaction to Statement by British M.P.s	10.
13.	Cost of Furnished Rooms.	10.
14.	Attack on the Prefect of Florence.	10.
15.	Comment on German Behaviour in captured Mail	11.
	GENERAL.	
16.	Anti-Monarchist Handbill.	12.
17.	Note on crime.	12.
18.	Allied Congress at Florence University.	13.
19.	Enlistment of Volunteers.	13.
20.	Sermon by Cardinal Dalla Costa	15.
21.	A storm in a Tea-Cup.	14.
	APPENDIX.	
	Patriots.	15 - 19



CONFIDENTIAL

No. 2.

ITALIAN THEATER HEADQUARTERS
Psychological Warfare Branch
Unit No. 14 APC 512

7th Section

19th January, 1945.

No. 2 INTELLIGENCE REPORT COVERING TUSCANY AND ADJOINING REGIONS OF LIBERATED
ITALY

SUMMARY OF THE WEEK

A survey of reconstruction and rehabilitation in Tuscany and forward areas for the month of December was issued on January 15th by AC and AMG. The report showed an increased production of wood and charcoal in Tuscany, progress with rebuilding of bridges and roadmending, intensified repair work on two large power lines. Railway communications have been re-established with Pisa. Sugar and olive oil were distributed to the population. The health of the whole area is generally good.

In the world of politics a fresh discharge of grape shot against the Prefect resulting from his appointment to the SERRAVALLE of Dr. Fortunato Feluzzi seems to have left the intended victim unscathed and to have failed to produce the reverberations which were expected. Handbills quoting an extremely anti-British speech made by the Prefect in 1941 have been posted around the city's walls, but in an interview with P.W.S. officers the Prefect made it plain that he considered it quite natural for him to have made such a speech at such a time.

The handling of the patriot problem by the Allies, which was thought, even by a number of Allied officers, to have been deplorable, has greatly improved in the past fortnight and less discouragement and loss of morale is to be observed among partisans since better rations and more considerate treatment have been meted out to them.

4327

CONFIDENTIAL

No. 2.

ITALIAN INTERNAL SECURITY MATTERS
 Psychological Warfare Branch
 Unit No. 34 APO 513

"D" Section

19th January, 1945.

No. 2 INTELLIGENCE REPORT COVERING TUSCANY AND ADJOINING REGIONS OF LIBERATED ITALY

POLITICAL

1. Interview with the Prefect of Florence.
 (N.B. The report of this interview is for information only).

Two P.W.B. officers visited the Prefect of Florence in his room in Palazzo Medici-Riccardi. Paterno, an elderly white-haired man, with a marked Sicilian accent, discussed the various problems with which he has been faced since his arrival here. These were, he said, of an administrative and political nature.

Administratively the officials of all the communes of the region depended on the Prefect. He found, however, on taking over, that the local Committees of Liberation had already appointed officials in all administrative positions. He recognized that this had been an excellent thing since it prevented a state of chaos between the departure of the Germans and the possibility of setting up a legal administration. Much the same situation existed in a number of public administrations, such as the Questura and the Consiglio dell'Economia Provinciale, and charitable organizations, where the previous heads had left or been dismissed as a result of Fascist antecedents. In some cases the substitutions made by the local C.L.N.s had been satisfactory. In others, people of no experience and scant talent had occupied these positions, solely on the ground of their political connections. He had found and was still finding it very difficult to get suitable men to fill these places.

The work of administrative reorganization had proved an almost continuous political conflict between the Prefect and the C.L.N., which flared up whenever the latter took a step which was not in accordance with the Committee's advice. When first he had arrived he had received members of the committee who made it clear that they expected him not to change any of the establishments which they had made and merely to confirm with his signature any new appointments they might suggest. Paterno felt that he could not act under these conditions. He sought the advice of A.C. and of Ben. and received directives which accorded with the legal functions of a Prefect as hitherto conceived. He could consult the Committee, but he must make his own decisions on administrative matters. As tactfully as possible, said the Prefect, he conveyed to the Committee, that he was acting according to instructions from a higher level. However, this did not prevent attacks on him early in October, when he dissolved a Commission of Control on the Questura which had been set up by the Committee of Liberation. This Commission had dismissed or obtained the resignation of a number of employees of the Questura, some of whom have since been released and established its representative in the Questura's

ITALY

POLITICAL

1. Interview with the Prefect of Florence.
(N.B. The report of this interview is for information only).

Two P.N.B. officers visited the Prefect of Florence in his room in Palazzo Medici-Riccardi. Paterno, an elderly white-haired man, with a marked Sicilian accent, discussed the various problems with which he has been faced since his arrival here. These were, he said, of an administrative and political nature.

Administratively the officials of all the communes of the region depended on the Prefect. He found, however, on taking over, that the local Committees of Liberation had already appointed officials in all administrative positions. He recognized that this had been an excellent thing since it prevented a state of chaos between the departure of the Germans and the possibility of setting up a legal administration. Much the same situation existed in a number of public administrations, such as the Questura and the Consiglio dell'Economia Provinciale, and charitable organizations, where the previous heads had left or been dismissed as a result of fascist antecedents. In some cases the substitutions made by the local C.L.N.s had been satisfactory. In others, people of no experience and scant merit had occupied these positions, solely on the ground of their political connections. He had found and was still finding it very difficult to get suitable men to fill these places.

The work of administrative reorganization had provoked an almost continuous political conflict between the Prefect and the C.L.N. which flared up whenever he took a step which was not in accordance with the Committee's advice. When first he had arrived he had received members of the committee who made it clear that they expected him not to change any of the appointments which they had made and merely to confirm with his signature any new appointments they might suggest. Paterno felt that he could not act under these conditions. He sought the advice of A.C. and of Bonaldi and received directives which accorded with the legal functions of a Prefect as adherents conceived. He could consult the Committee, but he must make his own decisions on administrative matters. As tactfully as possible, said the Prefect, he conveyed to the Committee, that he was acting according to instructions from a higher level. However, this did not prevent attacks on him early in October, when he dissolved a Commission of Control on the Questura which had been set up by the Committee of Liberation. This Commission had dismissed or obtained the resignation of a number of employees of the Questura, some of whom have since been released and established its representative in the Questura's office. Since the Questura depends directly from the Prefect, Paterno could not allow this situation to continue. He therefore gave orders that the activities of the Commission should cease. There followed the first of the series of attacks upon him, which spread into the columns of the Roman press where Norma in the AVANTI of October 9th devoted a leader to the need for removing the fascist Prefect of Florence. 'UNITA' also indulged in diatribes against him.

4522

CONFIDENTIAL

- 2 -

No. 2.

The latest casus belli between the parties and the Prefect was the appointment of Prof. Fortunato Palazzo to the SIPRAL. The Prefect said that he had decided, some time ago, to remove the Commissioners who had been introduced into SIPRAL by the C.T.I.N. He had given the latter a fair run, because although SIPRAL was an organization of which the Prefect is legally the President, and for which, he is by law, entirely responsible, he did not wish to be thought a saboteur of the dramatic appointments of the two Communist nominees of the Committee, Barbieri and Dall'Oglio. These men, however, revealed a considerable incompetence and had no preparation for the job, one having been a pastry-cook with a record of bankruptcy and the other a traveller for a firm selling flour. They had also procured for themselves salaries and emoluments which reached a figure of 20,000 lire a month. They had enormously increased the running expenses of the SIPRAL. He had decided to get rid of them in November but in the absence of a number of the members of the Committee in Rome, he held the matter over till the following month. Paterno said that he had discussed the matter with some members of the C.T.I.N. and that he thought members of all, except the Communist and Socialist parties were favourable to the dismissal of Barbieri and Dall'Oglio. He said that Avv. Reschiatto, the President of the Committee and a member of the Partito d'Azione, had in confidence expressed his entire approval of the dismissal of these men.

Meanwhile, Barbieri and Dall'Oglio, about mid-December, had gone to Rome, to see the Communist Minister of Agriculture Gullo, and get themselves made respectively, director and Vice-director of SIPRAL. The appointment of the Director and Vice-Director of SIPRAL, until the creation of the office of Vice-Commissioner of Alimentation (about December 10th) was a function of the Minister of Agriculture. The Prefect pointed out, however, that at the time when Barbieri and Dall'Oglio reached Rome, the Minister of Agriculture had no competence to appoint them to SIPRAL, that power having passed to the Vice-Commissioner of Alimentation, and that it was only by ante-dating it before December 10th that a semblance of legality was given to the decree. Since, however, the ministerial act received no confirmation by AMG, neither Barbieri nor Dall'Oglio achieved the positions which they had hoped to get.

The Prefect described his choice of Prof. Palazzo as director of SIPRAL as one with which he had been and continued to be satisfied. Palazzo, he said, was a professor of agricultural chemistry at Florence University and he considered him a competent man. The charges hurled against him were untrue and he was now taking steps to sue 'UNITA' for libel on account of the article which appeared in that paper on January 5th.

As to the attacks upon himself, the Prefect said that these would continue upon every occasion when he took a step which was contrary to the desires of the parties. He said that he had no particular wish to remain in Florence which was still a city of Gaels and Chibelines or their modern counterparts, but so long as the Government imposed upon him the duty to stay, he would carry on his work without dictation from outside.

The Prefect referred to the recent attacks upon him in handbills, quoting a speech of his attacking England (extracts from which are quoted

is legally the President, and ICP which, no less by law, entitles it to do as he did not wish to be thought a setback of the Democratic appointments of the two Communist members of the Committee, Barbieri and Dall'Oglio. These men, however, revealed a considerable incompetence and had no preparation for the job, one having been a pastry-cook with a record of bankruptcy and the other a traveller for a firm selling flour. They had also procured for themselves salaries and emoluments which reached a figure of 20,000 lire a month. They had enormously increased the running expenses of the SEPMI. He had decided to get rid of them in November but in the absence of a number of the members of the Committee in Rome, he held the matter over till the following month. Paterno said that he had discussed the matter with some members of the C.F.I.M. and that he thought members of all, except the Communist and Socialist parties were favourable to the dismissal of Barbieri and Dall'Oglio. He said that Avv. Escehianni, the President of the Committee and a member of the Partito d'Azione, had in confidence expressed his entire approval of the dismissal of these men.

Meanwhile, Barbieri and Dall'Oglio, about mid-December, had gone to Rome, to see the Communist Minister of Agriculture Gullo, and get themselves made respectively, Director and Vice-director of SEPMI. The appointment of the Director and Vice-Director of SEPMI, until the creation of the office of Vice-Commissioner of Alimentation (about December 1944) was a function of the Minister of Agriculture. The Prefect pointed out, however, that at the time when Barbieri and Dall'Oglio reached Rome, the Minister of Agriculture had no competence to appoint them to SEPMI, that power having passed to the Vice-Commissioner of Alimentation, and that it was only by ante-dating it before December 10th that a semblance of legality was given to the decree. Since, however, the ministerial act received no confirmation by AMG, neither Barbieri nor Dall'Oglio achieved the positions which they had hoped to get.

The Prefect described his choice of Prof. Palazzo as director of SEPMI as one with which he had been and continued to be satisfied. Palazzo, he said, was a professor of agricultural chemistry at Florence University and he considered him a competent man. The charges hurled against him were untrue and he was now taking steps to sue 'L'Unita' for libel on account of the article which appeared in that paper on January 5th.

As to the attacks upon himself, the Prefect said that these would continue upon every occasion when he took a step which was contrary to the desires of the parties. He said that he had no particular wish to remain in Florence, which was still a city of Guelphs and Ghibellines or their modern counterparts, but so long as the Government imposed upon him the duty to stay, he would carry on his work without dictation from outside.

The Prefect referred to the recent attacks upon him in handbills, quoting a speech of his attacking England (extracts from which are quoted elsewhere in this report). He admitted that he had made the speech and authorized it to be printed and actually attempted to justify it on the grounds that Italian morale was very low at the time, (the Verelli campaign was well under way), that Mussolini had summoned all the Prefects to Rome and had instructed them all to step up the spirits of the population, that they were all making more or less characteristic speeches, that the passages referring to England were only a small part of a long speech, that after all England was then the main enemy, as America was not, yet in the war.

M.B. It appears from reliable information that there are two Palazzos. There is a Prof. Palazzo who is an expert on agricultural chemistry at the

CONFIDENTIAL

- 3 -

No. 2.

University and his nephew Dr. Fortunato Palazzo, who is the appointee to the Directorship of SEPRAI. The Prefect in his interview with the P.W.B. officers appears to have confused the two.

2. The case of Dr. Palazzo.

In the last report it was stated that considerable tension has been created between the Prefect of Florence and members of the C.T.I.N. by the appointment as Director of SEPRAI of Dr. Fortunato Palazzo. Dr. Palazzo succeeded two Communists Dell'Oppio and Barbieri who appeared to have the confidence of the Tuscan Committee, whereas a number of Italian sources reported that Dr. Palazzo had been a squadrista and the republican fascist Mayor of Bagno a Ripoli. An echo of the outcry which was first raised by this appointment and an indication, possibly, of where the loudest cry was coming from, was to be found in the Roman paper UNITA' of 5th January which, in a renewed attack on the Prefect of Florence, states that the most scandalous act which he has committed recently was the nomination of Dr. Palazzo to SEPRAI. The paper repeats the charge that Palazzo was a squadrista and adds that he was removed from the administration of Bagno a Ripoli due to popular feeling running high against him. Further investigations, however, appear to have modified the views of the Tuscan Committee about Dr. Palazzo, who on the 13th January 1945 published a letter in the CORRIERE DEL MATTINO, to the editor, referring to manifestos appearing in the town, some of them anonymous and some signed the "Florentine Co-operatives", and containing attacks of a political and moral character against his person. The Consorzi Co-operative U Consumi of Florence disclaimed all knowledge of the authorship of the handbills. Dr. Palazzo in his letter states that he has presented a suit to the Procurator against unknown authors of these accusations and now invites them to take advantage of the opportunity he offers to emerge from their anonymity and prove their charges in public debate.

In the same issue of the CORRIERE DEL MATTINO appears a letter signed by the members of the GIUNTA MUNICIPALE of Bagno a Ripoli, in which they declare that Prof. Fortunato Palazzo was never a squadrista; that he was nominated Commissario Prefettizio of the Comune on 2nd August 1943 soon after the fall of Fascism and remained in that post after 8th September by the will of the anti-fascists of the Comune; that he was in touch with the anti-fascists throughout the German occupation and at grave personal risk he sabotaged the work of the nazi-fascists and helped the partisans; that the Committee of Liberation of Bagno a Ripoli in recognition of his good work and honesty, unanimously elected him Mayor of the town in which position he is still serving to everybody's satisfaction. The assessors of the Giunta Municipale finish their letter by remonstrating the anonymous calumnies against their Mayor, and deprecating that in a Regime of liberty, there should be mud-slinging against persons occupying public positions.

In Bagno a Ripoli itself, an Italian P.W.B. collaborator interrogated a number of persons about Palazzo. In the house of Avv. Citti, a member of the local C.L.N., the now Director of SEPRAI was described as an honest and studious man. The priest, some peasants and a few frequenters of a local cafe, agreed that he was very little known in their place, amongst the usual

In the last report it was stated that considerable tension has been created between the Prefect of Florence and members of the C.T.L.N. by the appointment as Director of SEPVAL of Dr. Fortunato Palazzo. Dr. Palazzo succeeded two Communists Dell'Onio and Barbieri who appeared to have the confidence of the Tuscan Committee, whereas a number of Italian sources reported that Dr. Palazzo had been a squadrista and the republican fascist Mayor of Bagno a Ripoli. An echo of the outcry which was first raised by this appointment and an indication, possibly, of where the loudest cry was coming from, was to be found in the Roman paper UNITA' of 5th January which, in a renewed attack on the Prefect of Florence, states that the most scandalous act which he has committed recently was the nomination of Dr. Palazzo to SEPVAL. The paper repeats the charge that Palazzo was a squadrista and adds that he was removed from the administration of Bagno a Ripoli due to popular feeling running high against him. Further investigations, however, appear to have modified the views of the Tuscan Committee about Dr. Palazzo, who on the 13th January 1946 published a letter in the CORRIERE DELLA MATTINO, to the editor, referring to manifestos appearing in the town, some of them anonymous and some signed the "Florentine Co-operatives", and containing attacks of a political and moral character against his person. The Consorzi Co-operative di Consumo of Florence disclaimed all knowledge of the authorship of the handbills. Dr. Palazzo in his letter states that he has presented a suit to the Procurator against unknown authors of these accusations and now invites them to take advantage of the opportunity he offers to emerge from their anonymity and prove their charges in public debate.

In the same issue of the CORRIERE DELLA MATTINO appears a letter signed by the members of the GIUNTA MUNICIPALE of Bagno a Ripoli, in which they declare that Prof. Fortunato Palazzo was never a squadrista; that he was nominated Commissario Prefettizio of the Comune on 2nd August 1945 soon after the fall of Fascism and remained in that post after 8th September by the will of the anti-Fascists of the Comune; that he was in touch with the anti-Fascists throughout the German occupation and at grave personal risk he sabotaged the work of the Nazi-Fascists and helped the partisans; that the Committee of Liberation of Bagno a Ripoli in recognition of his good work and honesty, unanimously elected him Mayor of the town in which position he is still serving to everybody's satisfaction. The assessors of the Giunta Municipale finish their letter by reprobating the anonymous calumnies against their Mayor, and deprecating that in a Regime of liberty, there should be mud-slinging against persons occupying public positions.

In Bagno a Ripoli itself, an Italian P.M.S. collaborator interrogated a number of persons about Palazzo. In the house of Avv. Citti, a member of the local C.L.S., the new Director of SEPVAL was described as an honest and studious man. The priest, some peasants and a few frequenters of a local cafe, agreed that he was very little known in their place. Amongst the people there seems to be no particular feeling either for or against him. Some wall writings, inviting the authorities to remove him are said by the Carabinieri of the place, to have been made by the usual irresponsible elements. It cannot be said that any popular animosity was observed against Palazzo by this P.M.S. collaborator, nor did it appear that any great number of people were interested in him.

Some members of the Christian Democrat Party revealed that the agitation against Palazzo was mostly the work of the Communists and Socialists, who were

No. 2.

CONFIDENTIAL

- 4 -

particularly aggrieved at the dismissal of Barbieri and Dell'Uccio. These Christian Democrats further disclosed that the two ex-commissaries of the SUREAL had assigned to themselves large salaries but had excused this on the grounds that they subscribed a large part of these salaries to party funds.

It appears that the Communists are not disposed to accept the statements made by the Giunta Municipale of Bagno a Ripoli with regard to Dr. Falasco's connection with the anti-Fascist elements of the Comune.

5. Communist declaration on the political situation in Pisa.

The Communist Provincial Federation of Pisa states in an announcement in the MESENGGER DEL POPOLO of January 16th 1945 that in recent times various regrettable acts of violence have been committed against innocuous Fascist elements.

"From summary investigations", continues the Communique, "we have been able to ascertain that in the generality of cases the aggressions were organized by disorderly and violent individuals who have no connection with the Communist Party. Some of them gather around someone or other who gives himself out as a communist, even as a party director, although never having formed part of our organizations nor being considered a desirable element. Cases have also been verified of individuals who, qualifying themselves as communists, have presented themselves, with threats, in the houses of Fascists."

It is stated that the Secretariat has intervened energetically, urging the organizations of the Federation to check and prevent any active reprisals on the part of individual members, exasperated by the feebleness and apathy manifested by the competent authorities in the work of eversion and punishment, such individual reprisals being declared by the Party and harmful to its interests, as well as to national interests.

They continue the Communique, "Whilst the Directorate of our Party is active in promoting the constitution of a strong Italian Army and our Federation is calling both within the C.I.N. and among the Pisan youth, for a mass enrolment for the redemptive struggle, such acts of individual violence are a mockery of the generous offer of these youths."

Regarding the essential eversion, the Communique adds that:- "We must frankly state that in Pisa little has so far been done. Many authentic anti-Fascist criminals continue to circulate with impunity; the eversion proceeds slowly and often meets with secret resistance, while some public offices remain under the control of ex-squadrists. The Commission for the attribution to the State of fascist gains has not yet begun to function; nor has the Commission for the assignment of dangerous fascists to labour camps."

It is stated in conclusion that this state of things, added to the increasing audacity of the fascists, causes much resentment and discontent among the people, and leads to those sporadic acts of violence which are so strikingly deplored.

It appears that the Communists are not disposed to accept the statements made by the Giunta Municipale of Bagno a Ripoli with regard to Dr. Palazzo's connection with the anti-Fascist elements of the Comune.

6. Communist declaration on the political situation in Pisa.

The Communist Provincial Federation of Pisa states in an announcement in the NAZION DEL POPOLO of January 16th 1945 that in recent times various regrettable acts of violence have been committed against innocuous Fascist elements.

"From summary investigations", continues the Communique, "we have been able to ascertain that in the generality of cases the aggressions were organized by disorderly and violent individuals who have no connection with the Communist Party. Some of them gather around someone or other who gives himself out as a communist, even as a party director, although never having formed part of our organizations nor being considered a desirable element. Cases have also been verified of individuals who, qualifying themselves as communists, have presented themselves, with threats, in the houses of Fascists."

It is stated that the Secretariat has intervened energetically, urging the organizations of the Federation to check and prevent any active reprisals on the part of individual members, exasperated by the feebleness and apathy manifested by the competent authorities in the work of epuration and punishment, such individual reprisals being declared by the Party and harmful to its interests, as well as to national interests.

For, continues the Communique, "while the Directorate of our Party is active in promoting the constitution of a strong Italian Army and our Federation is calling both within the C.I.N. and among the Pisan youth, for a mass excitement for the redemptive struggle, such acts of individual violence are a necessary of the generous offer of these youths."

Regarding the essential epuration, the Communique adds that: "we must frankly state that in Pisa little has so far been done. Many authentic Nazi-Fascist criminals continue to circulate with impunity; the epuration proceeds slowly and often meets with secret resistance, while some public offices remain under the control of ex-squadristi. The Commission for the attribution to the State of fascist gains has not yet begun to function; nor has the Commission for the assignment of dangerous fascists to labour camps."

It is stated in conclusion that this state of things, added to the increasing eudacity of the fascists, causes much resentment and discontent among the people, and leads to those sporadic acts of violence which are so strongly deplored.

4. The strength of the political parties in Florence.

An Italian collaborator of P.M.E. has recently carried out investigations to determine the strength of the parties. It is in fact extremely difficult to get accurate figures of enrolled members, as there is a con-

4519

CONFIDENTIAL

.. 5 -

No.2.

siderable reticence among the parties on this topic. The figures given below are an estimate, which is believed to be approximate, but certainly cannot be vouched for as exact. The informant points out, that out of about 500,000 people living in Florence, the party members do not number more than 12,000, which is an indication of how little the mass of the Florentines is interested in politics. It is necessary to indicate, however, that nearly every party, besides its active, enrolled members has a probably greater number of sympathizers. In an election the votes of the sympathizers would give a very different total of party strengths from the figures quoted below. It is also possible that the sympathizers would to some extent modify the policy of the party. For instance, two Christian Democrat leaders in Florence, in a conversation with P.M.B. officers, declared that while a majority of inscribed members of the party in this area were of left republican tendencies, most of the sympathizers were monarchists and somewhat conservative. One of these Christian Democrats added that it was a function of the leaders and active members of the party to bring the mass of the followers in line with the active members.

The number of members of the different parties is reported as follows:-

Communists	4,000	33.33%	of members of all parties
Christian Democrats	2,000	25%	" " "
Partito d'Azione	800	6.66%	" " "
Socialists	200	5.55%	" " "
Liberals	600	5%	" " "
Various	2,800	23.54%	" " "
Total	12,000		" " "

In considering the reasons for the indifference to politics of the Florentine people, our informant points to the following causes: First, the need for dedicating one's activities to the more urgent problem of feeding oneself; second, a natural scepticism towards all militant politics, deriving, of course, from the fascist experience; thirdly, the conviction among many intellectuals, that until Italy can conduct her foreign policy freely, there is no chance of pursuing an effective internal policy. The same informant goes on to explain that while there are a number of persons interested in politics and in the good of their country many consider that all political programmes should be subordinated to the moral re-education of the people, whose unbridled rapacity for gain, lack of national solidarity, loosening of family ties, lowering of religious feelings and want of honesty, make them unfit for political responsibility.

that out of about 100,000 people living in Florence, the party members do not number more than 13,000, which is an indication of how little the mass of the Florentines is interested in politics. It is necessary to indicate, however, that nearly every party, besides its active, enrolled members has a probably greater number of sympathizers. In an election the votes of the sympathizers would give a very different total of party strengths from the figures quoted below. It is also possible that the sympathizers would to some extent modify the policy of the party. For instance, two Christian Democrat leaders in Florence, in a conversation with P.C.D. officers, declared that while a majority of inscribed members of the party in this area were of left republican tendencies, most of the sympathizers were monarchists and somewhat conservative. One of these Christian Democrats added that it was a function of the leaders and active members of the party to bring the mass of the followers in line with the active members.

The number of members of the different parties is reported as follows:-

Communists	4,000	33.33% of members of all parties
Christian Democrats	3,000	25% " " " "
Partito d'Azione	800	6.66% " " " "
Socialists	800	6.66% " " " "
Liberals	800	5% " " " "
Various	2,800	23.33% " " " "
Total	12,000	

In considering the reasons for the indifference to politics of the Florentine people, our informant points to the following causes: First, the need for dedicating his activities to the more urgent problem of feeding oneself; second, a natural scepticism towards all militant politics, deriving, of course, from the fascist experience; thirdly, the conviction among many intellectuals, that until Italy can conduct her foreign policy freely, there is no chance of pursuing an effective internal policy. The same informant goes on to explain that while there are a number of persons interested in politics and in the good of their country men; consider that all political programmes should be subordinated to the moral re-education of the people, whose unbridled rapacity for gain, lack of national solidarity, loosening of family ties, lowering of religious feelings and want of honesty, make them unfit for political responsibility.

No. 2.

ECONOMIC.5. S.C.A.O. Talks on Civic Problems.

This week Lt. Col. W. A. Lichie, S.C.A.O., began a series of conversations with representatives of the local press to inform the people of Florence respecting many problems of vital interest to them, and also to be informed in his turn, as to the needs of the population.

Gas.

This will be distributed at the end of February. The heating of the gas ovens began towards the end of December and about 60 days are required to reach a temperature sufficient for the distillation of the gas, which will be composed of a mixture of methane and other gases derived from the distillation of coke, lignite and olive saws (the refuse left after oil-crushing). This gas, of excellent heating quality, will at first be available only on the north side of the river, since the pipes which passed over the river have been destroyed, together with the bridges, by the Germans.

Electric Light

It is not as yet possible to put into action a rationing system for civilian use, and those private houses which are receiving current only do so because they happen to be included in a part of the network which furnishes power to some installation of essential importance. The current reaches Florence from Central Italy and its low voltage results from the weakness of the transmitting lines, which grow overstepped and disperse it along the way. Moreover towns, such as Arezzo and Siena, along the line of transmission, sometimes consume a quantity of power in excess of the amount calculated, thus diminishing the amount available for Florence.

Tramways.

The tram service, although some of the lines have been repaired, cannot yet begin to function owing to lack of electric current.

Other Transportation

It was asked whether some of the military trucks parked around the city could be used for bringing in additional supplies. The reply was that the matter is under consideration, but the fact that many are stationed here for very short periods renders it difficult to utilize them for a systematic service. Moreover, being required for the transport of troops, they could not be used for transporting charcoal, lignite or anything which would dirty the interior. It is hoped, however, to arrive shortly at some, at least partial, solution.

conversations with representatives of the local press to inform the people of Florence respecting many problems of vital interest to them and also to be informed in his turn, as to the needs of the population.

Gas.

This will be distributed at the end of February. The heating of the gas ovens began towards the end of December and about 60 days are required to reach a temperature sufficient for the distillation of the gas, which will be composed of a mixture of methane and other gases derived from the distillation of coke, lignite and olive saws (the refuse left after oil-crushing). This gas, of excellent heating quality, will at first be available only on the north side of the river, since the pipes which passed over the river have been destroyed, together with the bridges, by the Germans.

Electric Light

It is not as yet possible to put into action a rationing system for civilian use, and those private houses which are receiving current only do so because they happen to be included in a part of the network which furnishes power to some installation of essential importance. The current reaches Florence from Central Italy and its low voltage results from the weakness of the transmitting lines, which grow overheated and disperse it along the way. Moreover towns, such as Arezzo and Siena, along the line of transmission, sometimes consume a quantity of power in excess of the amount calculated, thus diminishing the amount available for Florence.

Tramway.

The tram service, although some of the lines have been repaired, cannot yet begin to function owing to lack of electric current.

Other Transportation.

It was asked whether some of the military trucks parked around the city could be used for bringing in additional supplies. The reply was that the matter is under consideration, but the fact that many are stationed here for very short periods renders it difficult to utilize them for a systematic service. Moreover, being required for the transport of troops, they could not be used for transporting charcoal, lignite or anything which would dirty the tracks. It is hoped, however, to arrive shortly at some, at least partial, solution.

Civil Security.

The Allied Military Authorities are well aware of the incidents which have been occurring and are taking all possible provisions and precautions for their prevention and suppression. Meanwhile they have authorized the publication of a list of Allied Military Police Stations to which the civil population can apply for immediate assistance in any predicament whatsoever.

4517

CONFIDENTIAL

'7

No. 2.

Individual officers, at the close of the meeting, gave additional detailed information to the various journalists.

The A.G. Plan to hold periodical meetings has given great satisfaction, establishing as it does a direct contact between the responsible Allied officers and the representatives of the press and population.

6. Interview with the Manager of the Gas Company (Florence.)

The heating of the retorts was started some time ago and on February 1st work on the clearing of the air from the pipes will begin. It is expected that gas will be available to the public on February 20th, (at 3.30 ante)

The gas will be composed of a special mixture of coal, lignite and olive waste gases and a good percentage of methane furnished by the Società Idrocarburi Nazionali.

It is expected to make a daily distribution of 70,000 cubic metres, equivalent to 2000-3000 calories for the first days, with a progressive increase which in a maximum period of two months ought to be fully acclimated.

The gas will be distributed according to a fixed time-table, and it is calculated that it will be possible to give it for 3 or 5 hours a day. The question of the cost to the user has not yet been gone into; but it is unquestionable that the price will be raised; the extent of the increase depending on the volume of gas produced and the cost thereof.

7. Treaty to occupy a factory.

A few days after the liberation of Besto, a detachment of Allied engineers took over the Arrigoni Canning Factory as a depot for bridge-building materials. Dr. Sanguinetti, proprietor of the factory, thinking the situation to be a temporary one, continued to pay his workers during this period of forced inactivity. Owing to the continued requisition, a meeting was held on Jan. 5th attended by Dr. Sanguinetti, a representative of the C.G.I.L. and the foremen, at which it was decided to suspend payments until work could be resumed. The workers then decided to take over the factory in order to force Dr. Sanguinetti to pay them.

Both the C.G.I.L. and Sanguinetti appealed to the Allies for the de-requisitioning of the factory, and obtained a promise of early evacuation. Upon this Dr. Sanguinetti stated that he would continue payment to the workers for a month, but should the factory not be in working order by then, he would be unable to continue doing so.

... to help... satisfaction, establishing as it does a direct contact between the responsible Allied officers and the representatives of the press and population.

6. Interview with the Manager of the Gas Company (Florence.)

The heating of the reports was started some time ago and on February 1st work on the clearing of the air from the pipes will begin. It is expected that gas will be available to the public on February 20th, (but not later)

The gas will be composed of a special mixture of coal, lignite and olive waste gases and a good percentage of methane furnished by the Società Idrocarburi Nazionali.

It is expected to make a daily distribution of 70,000 cubic metres, equivalent to 2005-2002 calories for the first days, with a progressive increase which in a maximum period of two months ought to be fully doubled.

The gas will be distributed according to a fixed time-table, and it is calculated that it will be possible to give it for 3 or 5 hours a day. The question of the cost to the user has not yet been gone into; but it is unquestionable that the price will be raised, the extent of the increase depending on the volume of gas produced and the cost thereof.

7. Threat to occupy a factory.

A few days after the liberation of Besto, a detachment of Allied engineers took over the Arrigoni Canning Factory as a depot for bridge-building materials. Dr. Sanguinetti, proprietor of the factory, thinking the situation to be a temporary one, continued to pay his workers during this period of forced inactivity. Owing to the continued requisition, a meeting was held on Jan. 5th attended by Dr. Sanguinetti, a representative of the C.G.I.L. and the foremen, at which it was decided to suspend payments until work could be resumed. The workers then decided to take over the factory in order to force Dr. Sanguinetti to pay them.

Both the C.G.I.L. and Sanguinetti appealed to the Allies for the de-requisitioning of the factory, and obtained a promise of early evacuation. Upon this Dr. Sanguinetti stated that he would continue payment to the workers for a month, but should the factory not be in working order by then, he would be unable to continue doing so.

A meeting will be held on the 8th February at which an Allied officer will be present.

8. Arrival of Grain and Pasta from Siena and Arezzo

On the 2nd-3rd January civilian lorries brought 80 tons of grain a day from Siena to Florence and Prato, and military lorries 50 tons.

4516

CONFIDENTIAL

Owing to the electricity shortage the output of pasta has been slowed down and 200 tons have been imported from Arezzo, which will be shortly distributed to the Florentine population.

9. Livestock Problem in Tuscany.

Owing to war operations in Tuscany livestock has been reduced to the following proportions:-

Cattle:	1943	499,028	head
	1945	270,134	"
Horses:	1943	72,086	
	1945	45,462	
Sheep:	1943	730,508	
	1945	656,002	

The soil of Tuscany can only be ploughed by oxen, and the lack of these animals is a serious problem. A vast area of land could not be sown this year and is lying fallow. The Province of Leghorn is fairly well off as regards draught animals. Siena and Grosseto have a slight surplus; the other provinces have a serious shortage.

10. Inter-Provincial Trade. (a reliable Italian assessment)

A few days ago the local press reported a meeting of the Prefects of Tuscany, sponsored by the Prefect of Florence, with a view to discussing the food situation of the region and the best way of promoting trade among the several provinces. A statement issued at the end of the meeting spoke of perfect agreement among the prefects in this field, an assertion however, which hardly corresponds to the true state of things.

The various provinces are, in point of fact, practically closed economies, the primamobile of each being sheer selfishness. The war loosened the ties which bound local authorities to the central government in some and the passage of the armies left the provinces to fend themselves, with the result that the economy of the region has been split up into water-tight compartments. Regulations prohibiting the export of merchandise to other provinces have been issued and barter agreements have been concluded, for which, in reality, there is no sound reason. Thus whereas in foreign policy there is general agreement that trade barriers should be abolished, in Tuscany the trend is to raise them sky-high. The provinces which are suffering from this state of things are Florence and Leghorn, while those which have nothing to lose by a cessation of inter-provincial trade are Siena, Arezzo and Grosseto. The provinces of Lucca, Pistoia, and Pisa are still subject to the vicissitudes of war and do not

Owing to war operations in Tuscany livestock has been reduced to the following proportions:-

Cattle:	1943	429,028	head
	1945	270,134	"
Horses:	1943	72,086	
	1945	45,422	
Sheep:	1943	790,508	
	1945	556,002	

The soil of Tuscany can only be ploughed by oxen, and the lack of these animals is a serious problem. A vast area of land could not be sown this year and is lying fallow. The Province of Leghorn is fairly well off as regards draught animals. Siena and Grosseto have a slight surplus; the other provinces have a serious shortage.

10. Inter-Provincial Trade. (a reliable Italian assessment)

A few days ago the local press reported a meeting of the Prefects of Tuscany, sponsored by the Prefect of Florence, with a view to discussing the food situation of the region and the best way of promoting trade among the several provinces. A statement issued at the end of the meeting spoke of perfect agreement among the prefects in this field, an assertion however, which hardly corresponds to the true state of things.

The various provinces are, in point of fact, practically closed economies, the primum mobile of each being sheer selfishness. The war loosened the ties which bound local authorities to the central Government in Rome and the passage of the armies left the provinces to fend themselves, with the result that the economy of the region has been split up into water-tight compartments. Regulations, prohibiting the export of merchandise to other provinces have been issued and barter agreements have been concluded, for which, in reality, there is no sound reason. Thus whereas in foreign policy there is general agreement that trade barriers should be abolished, in Tuscany the trend is to raise them sky-high. The provinces which are suffering from this state of things are Florence and Leghorn; while those which have nothing to lose by a cessation of inter-provincial trade are Siena, Arezzo and Grosseto. The provinces of Lucca, Pistoia, and Pisa are still subject to the vicissitudes of war and do not come into the picture. Normally they would be self-supporting.

The present barter system is easily open to criticism. Florence, for example, which could obtain food-stuffs against delivery of manufactured goods, is not in a position to supply the necessary counterpart, owing to the destruction of the industrial plant. This explains, for instance, why the price of flour on the Black Market in Florence is 120 lire per chilo, while it is only 80 lire in Arezzo; and pork 800 and 300 respectively. The Prefects of the favoured provinces argue (if argument it can

No. 2.

CONFIDENTIAL

be called) along these lines: "We are not giving anything away for nothing, therefore for what we do deliver, we want immediate payment in kind." This is why they are so incredibly jealous of their statistical data, and why the Project of Arezzo, in particular, lives in such constant dread of its being known that it has an exportable surplus of a certain commodity that no one is allowed to ask for information from the UPSEMA (Ufficio Provinciale Statistico Economico dell'Agricoltura) without his permission.

Broad conclusions which can be drawn from a study of this problem are:

- a) Tuscany as a single unit is self-supporting.
- b) The present unsatisfactory situation is due to the selfish attitude of the authorities of the more favoured provinces.
- c) Free trade between the provinces would eliminate price disparities.
- d) Condition sine quo is an overhauling of the existing transport organizations of the various provinces, which seem to vary in efficiency inversely as the degree of well-being of the provinces. The problem of transport serves as a pretext for the "have" provinces for postponing the settlement of inter-provincial exchanges.

II. Natural Gas in Substitution of Petrol.

A.I.G. issued an order some time ago for the conversion of low-powered vehicles to natural gas (methane). January 1st was set as the dead line, but owing to technical difficulties the term was extended. The vehicles affected are those under 10 quintals registered in the Comune of Florence.

Reactions to the change-over are conflicting. A.C.I. and the Regional Transport Board (Italian) favour the plan: the drivers on the contrary, are decidedly opposed to it. They see no reason for instance, why they should have to pay 11 lire per cubic metre as against 3 lire charged to the hospitals: the absence of filling stations in the countryside exposes them to the risk of being stranded on the road; the order is discriminatory in that it applies only to the Comune of Florence. These points were made by a group of drivers to the Società Idrocarburi Nazionali which is in charge of the technical arrangements for the changeover. The drivers left the Company's offices protesting and threatening to put out of gear any methane installations they came across unless the order were cancelled. And to show that theirs was no idle threat, they compelled the driver of the first methane-driven truck they met on their way home to dismantle his installation.

As against the drivers' grievances certain definite advantages accrue from the running of light vehicles on methane. Actually in something like 6,000 cubic metres of methane is daily available in Florence and the use of this would release a sizable volume of petrol. The gain from the price differential complained of is

to ask for information from the OPSEA (Ufficio Provinciale Statistico Economico dell'Agricoltura) without his permission.

Broad conclusions which can be drawn from a study of this problem are:

- a) Tuscany as a single unit is self-supporting.
- b) The present unsatisfactory situation is due to the selfish attitude of the authorities of the more favoured provinces.
- c) Free trade between the provinces would eliminate price disparities.
- d) Conditione sine quo is an overhauling of the existing transport organizations of the various provinces, which seem to vary in efficiency inversely as the degree of well-being of the provinces. The problem of transport serves as a pretext for the "have" provinces for postponing the settlement of inter-provincial exchanges.

II. Natural Gas in Substitution of Petrol.

A.I.G. issued an order some time ago for the conversion of low-powered vehicles to natural gas (methane). January 1st was set as the dead line, but owing to technical difficulties the term was extended. The vehicles affected are those under 10 quintals registered in the Comune of Florence.

Reactions to the change-over are conflicting. RACI and the Regional Transport Board (Italian) favour the plan: the drivers on the contrary, are decidedly opposed to it. They see no reason, for instance, why they should have to pay 11 lire per cubic metre as against 5 lire charged to the hospitals: the absence of filling stations in the countryside exposes them to the risk of being stranded on the road; the order is discriminatory in that it applies only to the Comune of Florence. These points were made by a group of drivers to the Società Idrocarburi Nazionale which is in charge of the technical arrangements for the changeover. The drivers left the Company's offices protesting and threatening to put out of gear any methane installations they came across, unless the order were cancelled. And to show that theirs was no idle threat, they compelled the driver of the first methane-driven truck they met on their way home to dismantle his installation.

As against the drivers' grievances certain definite advantages accrue from the running of light vehicles on methane. Actually something like 8,000 cubic metres of methane is daily available in Florence and the use of this would release a sizable volume of petrol. The gain from the price differential complained of is returned to public funds via the CIP (Comitato Italiano Petroli) and does not go to swell anybody's banking account. A considerable amount of Black Market activity is automatically suppressed by the elimination of the corresponding petrol coupons, which serve as a sort of legal tender.

According to RACI the number of vehicles affected is about 700 and there would seem to be sufficient parts for their conversion as also a fair supply of cylinders for holding the gas.

4513

CONFIDENTIAL

IC

No. 2.

PUBLIC OPINION.I2. Reactions in Florence to the Statement by Members of Parliament in Italy.

Italian collaborators report that the statement made by the six members of Parliament to the Italian people during their recent tour of the country has excited no great repercussions. It can scarcely be said that it has been a topic of burning interest. Certain politically-minded circles have made comments and shown some interest, particularly the Communists. Amongst these circles a certain satisfaction is shown at the realization of how hard hit Italy has been, though here the comment is that evidently, people in England know little or nothing about the sorry state of this country. Some people are perplexed because they feel that while the M.P.s appreciate the efforts which Italy is making, whether in the field of reconstruction or of the war effort, a similar understanding does not appear to be manifested by the Allies in Italy.

I3. Cost of Furnished Rooms.

The dearth of furnished rooms is a common phenomenon in the large urban centres of liberated Italy and particularly so in Florence, where there has been a considerable influx of refugees. Nevertheless it was felt that as far as Florence is concerned the figure of 4,000 lire a month, which is the rent at present demanded for a furnished room, was inexplicable by this factor alone. It now transpires that the pressure on the available accommodation of the city has been perceptibly increased by the action of members of the Allied forces who are hiring rooms as a pied-à-terre for their own indulgence, which knowledge has naturally created a bad impression among the population.

I4. Attack on the Prefect.

On the morning of 12th January a manifesto was to be seen stuck on the walls of the city, in which the Prefect of Florence was once again publicly attacked. The manifesto called for the dismissal of the Prefect in the name of the Florentine people and of all patriots and went on to quote a speech alleged to have been made by him when as Prefect of Frosinone in January 1943 he awarded prizes for the grain campaign (battaglia del grano). The main parts of the text of this speech as printed in the manifesto are given below. The speech is stated to have been published on the initiative of the Provincial Federation of Combattenti of Frosinone by Arti Grafici S.A. Stracca, Frosinone 1941.

"In England the war damage inflicted by us is hidden or minimized, the truth is travestied, they lie, they unleash an ever growing offensive of falsehoods, of threats, in the idiotic hope of breaching the faith and devotion of our people in their King and in their Duce..."

recent tour of the country has excited no great repercussions. It can scarcely be said that it has been a topic of burning interest. Certain politically-minded circles have made comments and shown some interest, particularly the Communists. Amongst these circles a certain satisfaction is shown at the realization of how hard hit Italy has been, though here at the moment is that evidently, people in England know little or nothing about the sorry state of this country. Some people are perplexed because they feel that while the M.Ps appreciate the efforts which Italy is making, whether in the field of reconstruction or of the war effort, a similar understanding does not appear to be manifested by the Allies in Italy.

13. Cost of Furnished Rooms.

The dearth of furnished rooms is a common phenomenon in the large urban centres of liberated Italy and particularly so in Florence, where there has been a considerable influx of refugees. Nevertheless it was felt that as far as Florence is concerned the figure of 4,000 lire a month, which is the rent at present demanded for a furnished room, was inexplicable by this factor alone. It now transpires that the pressure on the available accommodation of the city has been perceptibly increased by the action of members of the Allied forces who are hiring rooms as a pied-à-terre for their own indulgence, which knowledge has naturally created a bad impression among the population.

14. Attack on the Prefect.

On the morning of 12th January a Manifesto was to be seen stuck on the walls of the city, in which the Prefect of Florence was once again publicly attacked. The manifesto called for the dismissal of the Prefect in the name of the Florentine people and of all patriots and went on to quote a speech alleged to have been made by him when as Prefect of Frosinone in January 1943 he awarded prizes for the grain campaign (Battaglia del grano). The main parts of the text of this speech as printed in the manifesto are given below. The speech is stated to have been published on the initiative of the Provincial Federation of Combattenti of Frosinone by Arti Grafici S.A. Stracca, Frosinone 1941.

"In England the war damage inflicted by us is hidden or minimized, the truth is trevestied, they lie, they unleash an ever growing offensive of falsehoods, of threats, in the idiotic hope of breaching the faith and devotion of our people in their King and in their Race.."

"The vacillating British Empire is imotent to set bounds to the progressive vigour of the destruction wrought by the Allies (i.e. the Axis) upon the opulantly cursed island. Never will the Anglo-Saxon arrogance be able to break the principles of the unbending strength of our Latin and fascist spirits, steadfast in the unshakable resolution to stamp down the enemy, so that he can never rise again."

11

No. 2.

CONFIDENTIAL

The English pretend to know so many things, but about our people, who have always lived outside their abominable sphere of influence, it is necessary that they should know a few essential things, clearly and without equivocation, that is to say that we keep faith religiously to our friendships and our pacts in all circumstances, without hesitation and without possibility of compromise; that we, spiritually sound and chivalrous, listen with contempt to all attempts at intimidation and to all deceptive baldishments; that the bonds of loyalty between the people and the King Emperor and the people and the Duce are unbreakable.

"There's another thing that the English will learn very quickly; that they will definitely break their backs against our people and the Germans. And the whole world will breathe more freely."

Two smaller manifestos, in larger type, were also scattered about the walls, each purporting to quote a passage from the Prefect's speech. One of these reproduces the last paragraph in the extract quoted above. The other gives the following quotation:

"Overseas they cultivate the stupid illusion that bombs hurled upon our prostrate cities can disrupt our nervous system, and the striking news of overwhelming assistance from beyond the ocean to the vacillating British Empire, impotent to limit, with its own means and its own resources, the progressive vigour of the destruction wrought by the Allies on the 'opulent cursed island'."

The latter passage, it will be observed, appears to be a version of a part of the passage first quoted. But it is neither textually similar, nor is the sense complete.

15. Comment on German Behaviour in Captured Mail.

The following letter, dated 8th October 1944, is from a man in Forlì to an addressee in Milan:

"Here the Germans have by now cleaned out the stables of the farmers, cows, veals, oxen, horses, donkeys, chickens, sheep, bicycles, motor-cycles; well, they are fighting to save our Italy and they have a right to live well and we poor slaves, are nearly starving. And yet we can't complain, at present, as we eat meat every day, and we are nearly tired of it, because the peasants, rather than lose them all are killing their cattle every day, and they kill them in their own houses and they sell meat at 30 lire a kilo: they are doing the same with chickens and rabbits, so that we are eating like wolves to strengthen ourselves in view of the time when we shall have to fast for months. The peasants gathered all the fruit and grapes they needed and left what they did not want in the fields, and we all go with our bags and baskets and take what we like without paying, nobody says anything, as they think that all these things are going to be eaten by foreigners like living in America. Even for

...hesitation and without possibility of compromise; that we, spirally sound and chivalrous, listen with contempt to all attempts at intimidation and to all deceptive baldfishments; that the bonds of loyalty between the people and the King Emperor and the people and the Duce are unbreakable.

"There's another thing that the English will learn very quickly; that they will definitely break their backs against our people and the Germans. And the whole world will breathe more freely."

Two smaller manifestos, in larger type, were also scattered about the walls, each purporting to quote a passage from the Prefect's speech. One of these reproduces the last paragraph in the extract quoted above. The other gives the following quotation:

"Overseas they cultivate the stupid illusion that bombs hurled upon our prostrate cities can disrupt our nervous system, and the striking news of overwhelming assistance from beyond the ocean to the vacillating British Empire, impotent to limit, with its own means and its own resources, the progressive vigour of its destruction wrought by the Allies on the 'opulent cursed island'."

The latter passage, it will be observed, appears to be a version of a part of the passage first quoted. But it is neither textually similar, nor is the sense complete.

15. Comment on German Behaviour in Captured Mail.

The following letter, dated 5th October 1944, is from a man in Forlì to an addressee in Milan:

"Here the Germans have by now cleaned out the stables of the farmers, cows, veals, oxen, horses, donkeys, chickens, sheep, bicycles, motor-cycles: well, they are fighting to save our Italy and they have a right to live well and we poor slaves, are nearly starving. And yet we can't complain, at present, as we eat meat every day, and we are nearly tired of it, because the peasants, rather than lose them all are killing their cattle every day, and they kill them in their own houses and they sell meat at 30 lire a kilo: they are doing the same with chickens and rabbits, so that we are eating like wolves to strengthen ourselves in view of the time when we shall have to fast for months. The peasants gathered all the fruit and grapes they needed and left what they did not want in the fields, and we all go with our bags and baskets and take what we like without paying, nobody says anything, as they think that all these things are going to be eaten by foreigners, in short it is really like living in America. Even for wood they are doing the same thing, those who are without it go to a field and cut down a tree. Poor peasants. If you saw them you would feel pity for them. There are Germans in every house; they are sleeping in their beds and they have got to live in huts; is full of Germans. Mario is obliged to sleep downstairs with his family, in the little room near the kitchen, as he had to leave his bed-room where the Germans wanted to live. They left only mother in her room. To-morrow, all men aged from 16 to 60 must go to work at Ronco, for the laying of cannons, you can imagine how we are feeling, the three of us."

CONFIDENTIAL.

12

No. 2

GENERAL

18

Anti-Monarchist Handbill.

The following handbill was distributed in Florence on the occasion of Prince Humbert's visit to the city a few days ago:

PEOPLE OF FLORENCE.

The Imperial Royal Lieutenant is within our walls; the indifference and hostility manifested towards him by the citizens, as a whole, in the days immediately following upon the liberation has not been a sufficient lesson.

One of the principal accomplices of Fascism and of the present ruin is going about in our streets, a living insult to all our sorrows and all our miseries.

PEOPLE OF FIRENZE.

Let our indifferent disdain make it finally plain to this sprig of royalty in what manner the people will settle the Savoia question at the moment of the convocation of the "Costituente".

LONG LIVE THE ITALIAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC.17. Note on Crime.

Although it would be an overstatement to say that law and order prevailed everywhere in Tuscany, the situation on the whole does not give cause for alarm. There have been sporadic cases of hold-ups in Florence and instances of banditry have been reported from outlying districts. An A.G. official was robbed of a sum of money near Empoli; in the beginning of January and rumours of ex-partisans operating in groups with criminal intent, are common. From enquiries made however, it would seem that these marauding bands consist of habitual criminals. To deal with the situation the Questura of Florence is considering a plan, whereby mixed squads (Allied I.P., C.C.R.R. and agenti) would patrol the countryside in cars within a radius of 12 miles of Florence. The policing of the rest of the region would have to be left to the Public Safety authorities of the nearest inhabited centre.

The Florence Questura, which incidentally still retains its own organization (Squadra mobile, Buon Costume, Sezione Politica) has about 600 agenti to cover the city, but a P.W. official walking home late one night found, that with the exception of an occasional patrol-wagon, the Police Force was conspicuous by its absence. Car-stealing (this includes the thefts of bicycles, trucks, anything in short that runs on wheels) is the chief activity of the Florence underworld. The accessories and tyres are the attraction, as the receivers pay top prices for them. The vehicles, especially if military, are usually abandoned, stripped of everything that can be removed. The tyres are suitably treated, the marks filed off

PEOPLE OF FLORENCE.

The Imperial Royal Lieutenant is within our walls; the indifference and hostility manifested towards him by the citizens, as a whole, in the days immediately following upon the liberation has not been a sufficient lesson.

One of the principal accomplices of Fascism and of the present ruin is going about in our streets, a living insult to all our sorrows and all our miseries.

PEOPLE OF FLORENCE.

Let our indifferent disdain make it finally plain to this sprig of royalty in what manner the people will settle the Savoia question at the moment of the convocation of the "Costituente".

LONG LIVE THE ITALIAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC.

17. Note on Crime.

Although it would be an overstatement to say that law and order prevailed everywhere in Tuscany, the situation on the whole does not give cause for alarm. There have been sporadic cases of hold-ups in Florence and instances of banditry have been reported from outlying districts. An A.G. official was robbed of a sum of money near Empoli in the beginning of January and rumours of ex-partisans operating in groups with criminal intent, are common. From enquiries made however, it would seem that these marauding bands consist of habitual criminals. To deal with the situation the Questura of Florence is considering a plan, whereby mixed squads (Allied I.P., C.C.P.R. and agenti) would patrol the countryside in cars within a radius of 12 miles of Florence. The policing of the rest of the region would have to be left to the Public Safety authorities of the nearest inhabited centre.

The Florence Questura, which incidentally still retains its own organization (Squadra mobile, Buon Costume, Sezione Politice) has about 600 agenti to cover the city, but a P.W.B. official walking home late one night found, that with the exception of an occasional patrol-wagon, the Police Force was conspicuous by its absence. Car-stealing (this includes the thefts of bicycles, trucks, anything in short that runs on wheels) is the chief activity of the Florence underworld. The accessories and tyres are the attraction, as the receivers pay top prices for them. The vehicles, especially if military, are usually abandoned, stripped of everything that can be removed. The tyres are suitably treated, the marks filed off and the design of the tread altered, after which they find their way to the Black Market, where they fetch anything up to 50,000 lire each.

N.B. Five cars, from which the drivers had removed the distributors, 4509 have been stolen from this P.W.B. Unit within the last few months.

CONFIDENTIAL

13

No. 2.

18. Allied Courses at Florence University.

Special courses have been organized for Allied Forces at the University of Florence. The plan was sponsored by the Canadians and approved by AMG and the Rector of the University; Professor Calamandrei.

About 300 Canadian officers and soldiers attend these courses, the benefit of which it is hoped to extend to other members of the Allied Forces.

Professor Calamandrei was duly elected Rector of Florence University on 14th January. This confirms his temporary appointment as acting Rector.

19. Enlistment of volunteers.

As part of a campaign to attract recruits for the Italian Army sponsored by the various political parties, various centres have been opened in Florence where these young Italians, who wish to do so, can enlist.

The aim is to constitute an army in Tuscany of about 10,000 men. General Cerice, who is devoting himself to this, is optimistic as to the influx of young volunteers. It is definitely stated that the volunteers, contrary to what some believe, will retain the rank they held in the regular army and not that conferred upon them in the partisan brigades.

Meantime, according to a reliable Italian source, there is no great rush to the recruiting centres, and recruits, up to now, do not number more than a few dozen. The political parties complain that they cannot carry on the propaganda they wish to. During the last few days, however, various mural placards have appeared, inviting Italians, especially ex-partisans, to continue the struggle against the Germans, attention being especially drawn to the spirit shown by the "Potente" brigade in presenting a mass request to be enrolled.

In general, however, it is felt that the volunteer problem will not be solved until the young men receive adequate guarantees of decent treatment.

20. Sermon by Cardinal Della Costa.

After a week of prayer and exhortation in all the churches of Florence to recall the people to a sense of duty and morality, the Cardinal Archbishop officiated at a special service in the Duomo on Sunday 14th January. Round the enclosure of the high altar a large crowd was gathered to assist at the ceremony. The great building was in complete darkness save for some large candles at the high altar, which was draped with a cloth of gold and in the

the benefit of which it is hoped to extend to other members of the Allied Forces.

Professor Calamandrei was duly elected Rector of Florence University on 14th January. This confirms his temporary appointment as acting Rector.

19. Enlistment of volunteers.

As part of a campaign to attract recruits for the Italian Army sponsored by the various political parties, various centres have been opened in Florence where those young Italians, who wish to do so, can enlist.

The aim is to constitute an army in Tuscany of about 10,000 men.

General Cerico, who is devoting himself to this, is optimistic as to the influx of young volunteers. It is definitely stated that the volunteers, contrary to what some believe, will retain the rank they held in the regular army and not that conferred upon them in the partisan brigades.

Meanwhile, according to a reliable Italian source, there is no great rush to the recruiting centres, and recruits, up to now, do not number more than a few dozen. The political parties complain that they cannot carry on the propaganda they wish to. During the last few days, however, various mural placards have appeared, inviting Italians, especially ex-partisans, to continue the struggle against the Germans, attention being especially drawn to the spirit shown by the "Potenza" brigade in presenting a mass request to be enrolled.

In general, however, it is felt that the volunteer problem will not be solved until the young men receive adequate guarantees of decent treatment.

20. Sermon by Cardinal D. Ila Costa.

After a week of prayer and exhortation in all the churches of Florence to recall the people to a sense of duty and morality, the Cardinal Archbishop officiated at a special service in the Duomo on Sunday 14th January. Round the enclosure of the high altar a large crowd was gathered to assist at the ceremony. The great building was in complete darkness save for some large candles at the high altar, which was draped with a cloth of gold and in the organ loft half way up the central piers of the nave. In the centre of this circle of golden light the Archbishop stood before a microphone which carried the words of his sermon through loudspeakers to the furthest corners of the cathedral. He spoke of the importance of the woman in the home and the sovereign efficacy of maternal education. He deplored the way in which so many women, whether girls, wives or mothers, flouted the most elementary principles of moral conduct, and proposed a crusade for morality amongst all citizens, invoking to this end the aid of the press, the cinema and the theatre.

CONFIDENTIAL.

11

No. 2.

21. A storm in a Tea-Cup.

Lack of a sense of balance is a wide-spread failing among Italian students, as was demonstrated a short time ago in Florence. On 9th January in the newspaper NAZIONALE DEL POPOLO, there appeared an article by a young philosopher, Cancogni, entitled: "The modest proposals of an educator". In somewhat ironic vein the article urged that Italian schools must recover their sericus-mindedness which they had lost under Fascism. It was proposed that education should be carried on in the old seats of learning: "those ancient, unadorned edifices with discoloured walls" where the bleakness of the surroundings exacted a certain solemnity. Another proposal was that the teachers should maintain a certain aloofness from their pupils to impose respect and to raise their prestige, and the writer demonstrated a nostalgic yearning for the old time professors with their long beards and stern demeanour. Finally he urged longer working hours and more concentrated study.

There was an immediate reaction among the students who considered the safety of the schools had been threatened. The city walls became a palette of the most lively slogans of protest. They were covered with such phrases as: "Down with the inhuman Cancogni." "Death to Cancogni." "Death to Cancogni; the slave-driver." "We want to see Cancogni dead!" And thus it was hoped to safeguard the present school system.

an article by a young philosopher, Cancogni, entitled: "The modest proposals of an educator". In somewhat ironic vein the article urged that Italian schools must recover their serious-mindedness which they had lost under Fascism. It was proposed that education should be carried on in the old seats of learning: "those ancient, unadorned edifices with discoloured walls" where the bleakness of the surroundings exacted a certain solemnity. Another proposal was that the teachers should maintain a certain aloofness from their pupils to impose respect and to raise their prestige, and the writer demonstrated a nostalgic yearning for the old time professors with their long beards and stern demeanour. Finally he urged longer working hours and more concentrated study.

There was an immediate reaction among the students who considered the safety of the schools had been threatened. The city walls became a palette of the most lively slogans of protest. They were covered with such phrases as: "Down with the inhuman Cancogni." "Death to Cancogni." "Death to Cancogni, the slave-driver." "We want to see Cancogni dead!" And thus it was hoped to safeguard the present school system.

4507

CONFIDENTIAL.

18

p. 2.

APPENDIX.

PARTISANS IN LIBERATED ITALY.

During the past 3 months Partisans
 a) from bands which have been mopped up and forced to
 disband by the Germans,
 b) who have decided to abandon the fight and infiltrate
 into liberated territory.
 c) Whose area of operation has been liberated by the
 advancing armies,
 have appeared in the areas immediately behind the front.

Partisan Transit Camps

There are two partisan transit camps, one in Florence, Via
 Montebello and one in Pescia, both under the supervision of A.G.

Partisan Transit Camp of Pescia.

This camp was opened just over 5 weeks ago. A wing of the
 Agricultural Institute of Pescia was chosen originally to house
 the partisans. Living conditions here are, of course, very primitive,
 but all essential needs are catered for. The men have
 enough clothes of every type and description to keep sufficiently
 warm, mess tins to eat out of, two blankets per man (this is not
 quite sufficient) and straw to sleep on. The latrines are also
 rather primitive, but adequate and hygienic. Partisans are also
 present sharing some shower-baths in Pescia with British Troops
 billeted in the town. They march down, without supervision, in
 batches of 10 and are allowed to use the shower-baths when British
 troops are not using them. This arrangement has not proved entirely
 satisfactory, and the construction of new shower-baths has, therefore,
 been undertaken; these will be used exclusively by partisans,
 and should be ready in about a fortnight's time. The original
 billets in the Istituto Agrario, not being large enough to contain
 all the men who are expected to arrive later in, old Italian
 barracks and other buildings in Pescia are now being repaired and
 put in order for this purpose. At present there are 170 men in transit
 and some 800 men permanently attached to the camp; these carry
 out all staff duties in the camp, including administrative work,
 and the cleaning of barracks rooms, bath house, latrines etc.
 This arrangement seems to work very well. The permanent staff is
 all voluntary; the men know their duties well, are well trained,
 disciplined and contented. The net result is that barracks-rooms,
 bath-houses, latrines, cook-houses etc, are as well kept as possible
 in these primitive surroundings. The barracks-rooms are quite large
 enough to contain the present number of partisans in transit, but
 the rooms are not heated. As was mentioned before, there is enough
 straw for all men to sleep on; this is covered over with canvas-
 sheeting as no blankets are as yet available. Cases of lice
 should the partisans of the

disappear by the Germans.

b) who have decided to abandon the fight and infiltrate into liberated territory.

c) Whose area of operation has been liberated by the advancing armies.

have appeared in the areas immediately behind the front.

Partisan Transit Camp.

There are two partisan transit camps, one in Florence, Via Montebello and one in Pescia, both under the supervision of A.G.

Partisan Transit Camp of Pescia.

This camp was opened just over 5 weeks ago. A wing of the Agricultural Institute of Pescia was chosen originally to house the partisans. Living conditions here are, of course, very primitive, but all essential needs are catered for. The men have enough clothes of every type and description to keep sufficiently warm, mess tins to eat out of, two blankets per man (this is not quite sufficient) and straw to sleep on. The latrines are also rather primitive, but adequate and hygienic. Partisans are also present sharing some shower-baths in Pescia with British troops billeted in the town. They march down, without supervision, in batches of 10 and are allowed to use the shower-baths when British troops are not using them. This arrangement has not proved entirely satisfactory, and the construction of new shower-baths has, therefore, been undertaken; these will be used exclusively by partisans, and should be ready in about a fortnight's time. The original billets in the Istituto Agrario, not being large enough to contain all the men who are expected to arrive later on, old Italian barracks and other buildings in Pescia are now being repaired and put in order for this purpose. All these billets, when completed, should hold about 1500 men. At present there are 170 men in transit and some 800 men permanently attached to the camp; these carry out all staff duties in the camp, including administrative work, and the cleaning of barracks, bath house, latrines etc. This arrangement seems to work very well. The permanent staff is all voluntary; the men know their duties well, are well trained, disciplined and contented. The net result is that barracks-rooms, latrines, latrines, cook-houses etc, are as well kept as possible in these primitive surroundings. The barracks-rooms are quite large enough to contain the present number of partisans in transit, but the rooms are not heated. As was mentioned before, there is enough straw for all men to sleep on; this is covered over with canvas sheeting as no pillows or bags are as yet available. Cases of lice amongst the inmates of the camp, are not infrequent, due to the difficulty of changing the straw often enough and other difficulties, such as lack of hot water in the camp itself. Soap is not abundant, but is available to the men when they go to the shower-baths. In this and the other camp of Via Montebello the main grouse is that of the monotony of the food. The rations are really quite sufficient: 400 grammes of bread; 120 grammes of pasta, milk, sugar, peas, beans, meat and vegetables, Canned Soup; but it is invariably dished out in the same way, every day, twice a day: a thick nourishing soup, containing most of the above mentioned ingredients;

CONFIDENTIAL

13

No. 2,

milk, sugar and bread are served out for breakfast. There are several causes for this monotony, but chiefly the lack of cooking-utensils and cooking facilities, and the lack of condiments, such as butter or margarine and tomato-extract.

On the whole the atmosphere of this camp is a very good one, taking into consideration all the elements of the situation. The men look very healthy, there are few cases of sickness and discipline is fairly well maintained, especially among the camp staff. The men arrive from Viareggio, Lucca, Lizzano or some civilian hospital. The average stay of a partisan in this transit camp is a fortnight. The men are encouraged and strongly advised to join some organized form of service: they can enlist in the Italian army, join Civil Labour Units, or find some other civilian employment. If they refuse to do any work at all, they are treated as refugees and sent to a refugee centre. About 170 men from this camp have joined the Italian army, up to date. This constitutes quite a high proportion of the number of men who have passed through this camp in just over a month.

The men in transit are difficult to handle; they have lived for months as outlaws, recognizing no authority, except the one they chose to submit to temporarily, of their own volition. These men cannot be ordered about like soldiers and a good deal of tact is necessary. In Pescia, partisans have met with a rather hostile attitude amongst the civilian population. This is due partly to the fear which civilians instinctively feel when confronted with a bunch of reckless and wild looking individuals, but also to the fact that, during the German occupation, 18 inhabitants of Pescia were hanged from the trees of one of the main streets of the town, because some partisans had killed 3 Germans. The situation is now, however, improving and there are being organized weekly for the amusement of the patriots.

The Patriot Transit Camp in Florence. (Via Montebello).

Patriots arriving in Florence, (like those arriving in Pescia) must prove that they are authentic patriots. The authenticity of their status must be vouched for by the partisan formation leaders; they are then issued with the patriot certificate, signed by General Alexander. This is countersigned by the C.O. Camp and the partisan formation leader. If there is room for them, they are housed in this transit camp. The camp of Via Montebello was at one time a school. The buildings are large enough to house about 300 men; this is the greatest number of patriots to have been admitted here at any one time.

The general aspect of the camp is not very encouraging. Discipline and cleanliness are far from being ideal. The atmosphere of the town seems a bad one, inasmuch as it seems to have a demoralising effect on the partisans. The men lounge about with a surly discontented look on their faces and take very little care of their personal appearance and cleanliness. Some competent Allied officers feel that it would be better if the camp were moved to a more pleasant location.

men look very healthy, there are few cases of sickness and discipline is fairly well maintained, especially among the camp staff. The men arrive from Viareggi, Lucca, Lizzano or some civilian hospital. The average stay of a partisan in this transit camp is a fortnight. The men are encouraged and strongly advised to join some organized form of service: they can enlist in the Italian army, join Civil Labour Units, or find some other civilian employment. If they refuse to do any work at all, they are treated as refugees and sent to a refugee centre. About 170 men from this camp have joined the Italian army, up to date. This constitutes quite a high proportion of the number of men who have passed through this camp in just over a month.

The men in transit are difficult to handle; they have lived for months as outlaws, recognizing no authority, except the one they chose to submit to temporarily, of their own volition. These men cannot be ordered about like soldiers and a good deal of tact is necessary. In Pescia, partisans have met with a rather hostile attitude amongst the civilian population. This is due partly, to the fear which civilians instinctively feel when confronted with a bunch of reckless and wild looking individuals, but also to the fact that, during the German occupation, 16 inhabitants of Pescia were hanged from the trees of one of the main streets of the town, because some partisans had killed 3 Germans. The situation is now, however, improving and dances are being organized weekly for the amusement of the patriots.

The Patriot Transit Camp in Florence. (Via Montebello).

Patriots arriving in Florence, (like those arriving in Pescia) must prove that they are authentic partisans. The authenticity of their status must be vouched for by the partisan formation leaders; they are then issued with the patriot certificate, signed by General Alexander. This is countersigned by the C.O. Camp and the partisan formation leader. If there is room for them, they are housed in this transit camp. The camp of Via Montebello was at one time a school. The buildings are large enough to house about 600 men; this is the greatest number of patriots to have been admitted here at any one time.

The general aspect of the camp is not very encouraging. Discipline and cleanliness are far from being ideal. The atmosphere of the town seems a bad one, inasmuch as it seems to have a demoralising effect on the partisans. The men lounge about with a surly discontented look on their faces and take very little care of their personal appearance and cleanliness. Some competent Allied officers feel that it would be highly desirable that the camp be removed from the town of Florence and thus from the disturbing political influences at work in the town. There is a permanent staff in this camp, but it differs from the one in Pescia in this respect, that all fatigues: i.e. cleaning of barrack-rooms, latrines, court-yards etc, is supposed to be done by the fatigues parties of 20 men, chosen each day in rotation. This system does not seem to work as well as the system adopted in Pescia of a permanent staff to do all the work in the camp. The reason for this inefficiency lies in the difficulty of getting these rather wild and indisciplined young men to obey orders. They actually

CONFIDENTIAL

17

No. 2.

prefer living in a dirty mess, rather than work with their own hands to improve conditions in the camp. This camp is less fortunate than the Pescia one with regard to washing arrangements and especially the latrines; these are inadequate. A large hole has been dug in the court-yard for this purpose, but the patriots still prefer to use other, perhaps less dangerous, sites. The sick bay is too small and not very clean. Up to quite recently the patients were sleeping on pallets on the floor, rather closely packed. This situation may, however, improve very soon; as this report is being written, it is understood that the under-secretary of State for War, Dr. Palermo, has visited the camp and promised that a number of military beds will soon be made available there for the sick bay as well as for the whole camp.

All men are issued with 4 blankets apiece (2 more than in Pescia). Pallets are not available for all men in the camp; some sleep on the stone floor with their blankets. There is no heating; stoves are available, but have not yet been installed, because of the lack of fuel, and perhaps too, for lack of transport to carry fuel which might be available to the camp. In fact lack of transport seems to have been a very grave handicap to this camp. The men have been eating out of discarded M & V cans and suchlike, but it seems that in the next few days, Italian mess tins will be made available. Cook-house arrangements in this camp are very similar to Pescia. In both these camps only a few large kettles are in use, in which to prepare large quantities of soup and stew. There are no other cooking utensils to enable the kitchen staff to vary the monotonous fare.

Propaganda and Politics.

The transit camps are strictly non-political, but the Communist party tries to gain influence amongst the partisans. On Christmas Day several thousand parcels were distributed to partisans, containing, among other odds and ends, a red neckerchief, which is now worn by many partisans who are not really Communists at all. - There is an ex-partisan leader from Bologna, known as GINO (who is in charge of about 600 men in civil labour units in Marradi) who is a very hard-working and competent person, but also a very active Communist. He distributes pamphlets among his men in Marradi, and gives them Communist talks and leaflets: these are scattered about the town from lorries, when the partisans are in transit through the town. In Pescia, a few weeks ago, five students were arrested, because they were engaged in subversive propaganda against the Allies, trying to discourage the partisans from enlisting in the Italian army and generally sowing unrest and despondency. They all belong to the Communist party. There is also a students' union in Pescia, an organ of the Communist party; these people organize dances and try to provide entertainment for the men in the transit camp. In Florence partisans draw 10 lire a

still prefer to use other, perhaps less dangerous, sites. The sick bay is too small and not very clean. Up to quite recently the patients were sleeping on pallets on the floor, rather closely packed. This situation may however, improve very soon; as this report is being written, it is understood that the under-secretary of State for War, Dr. Palermo, has visited the camp and promised that a number of military beds will soon be made available there for the sick bay as well as for the whole camp.

All men are issued with 4 blankets apiece (2 more than in Pescia). Paillasses are not available for all men in the camp; some sleep on the stone floor with their blankets. There is no heating; stoves are available, but have not yet been installed, because of the lack of fuel, and perhaps too, for lack of transport to carry fuel which might be available to the camp. In fact lack of transport seems to have been a very grave handicap to this camp. The men have been eating out of discarded L & V cans and suchlike, but it seems that in the next few days, Italian mess tins will be made available. Cook-house arrangements in this camp are very similar to Pescia. In both these camps only a few large kettles are in use, in which to prepare large quantities of soup and stew. There are no other cooking utensils to enable the kitchen staff to vary the monotonous fare.

Propaganda and Politics.

The transit camps are strictly non-political, but the Communist party tries to gain influence amongst the partisans. On Christmas Day several thousand parcels were distributed to partisans, containing, among other odds and ends, a red neckerchief, which is now worn by many partisans who are not really Communists at all. There is an ex-partisan leader from Bologna, known as GINO (who is in charge of about 600 men in civil labour units in Marradi) who is a very hard-working and competent person, but also a very active Communist. He distributes pamphlets among his men in Marradi, and gives them Communist talks and leaflets: these are scattered about the town from lorries, when the partisans are in transit through the towns. In Pescia, a few weeks ago, five students were arrested, because they were engaged in subversive propaganda against the Allies, trying to discourage the partisans from enlisting in the Italian Army and generally sowing unrest and despondency. They all belong to the Communist party. There is also a student union in Pescia, an organ of the Communist party; these people organize dances and try to provide aertainment for the men in the transit camp. In Florence partisans draw 10 lire a day pocket-money; the Communist party tries to supplement this with an occasional packet of cigarettes and other small, but welcome gifts.

The Communist party here, as elsewhere in Italy, is by far the most active and effective in disseminating propaganda. In the last day or two, posters and leaflets, urging partisans to enrol, have appeared all over the town, printed and issued by the Communist party.

4503

CONFIDENTIAL

Where are the Italians going for Partisans?

A number of organizations, mainly party ones, have been taking an interest in partisans, but their activities have been rather vague, resolutely disconnected and ineffective. This Section is trying to obtain more detailed information about what has been and is being done in this sphere. Recently the Unione Donne Italiane made an appeal through press and wireless to collect clothes for partisans. In the last month they managed to distribute over 700 articles of clothing. The Command Militare Toscano has been authorized to carry out a recruiting campaign by C.T.L.N.

The Delegation "Il Stato Maggiore Regio Esercito", headed by General Cerica, is supposed to be in charge of recruiting partisans for various military units, including such supply units of C units as the "Salmeristi". The results achieved by this delegation have not yet been fully ascertained.

A new phase in the assistance of partisans is about to begin. A few days ago, Marcene Medici Tornaquinci, Under-Secretary of State for Occupied Italy, arrived here to resign from the presidency of the local Liberal Association; but he had also been entrusted with the sum of a million lire (now deposited at the Cassa Provinciale); this is the first instalment of a series of payments which the Ministry for Occupied Italy intends to make, in order to help partisans. The question of how these funds should be administered has not yet been settled. Marcene Medici has returned to Rome, but he has left Dr. Pertusi, a young solicitor from Trieste) in Florence as his representative. Dr. Pertusi intends to set up a board which should include the following members: an Allied representative; a representative for the Ministry for Occupied Italy (Dr. Pertusi himself); a member of the C.T.L.N. (Dr. Campolmi of the Party of Action); a member appointed by the Prefect (Dr. Borchelli, an Italian Civil Servant); a member of the Provincial Administration (Dr. F. Greppi, a lecturer at Florence University, who should take a particular interest in the health side of the partisan problem); and a representative of the Associazione Nazionale Partigiani d'Italia (Gino Carravaglia, the President of the Association, an ex-partisan, Communist). This National Association of Italian Partisans is a government-sponsored organization, set up by the Italian Cabinet; its central office is in Rome and Bonomi is supposed to be President of the Association.

Dr. Pertusi is a very active and co-operative person; he emphasizes that he is determined to keep party politics out of the board, which should, according to him, be run on a strictly business-like basis. He hopes to obtain from A.G. full collaboration and assistance in his task.

Conclusion

and is being done in this sphere. Recently the Orange Bands Italians made an appeal through press and wireless to collect clothes for partisans. In the last month they managed to distribute over 700 articles of clothing. The Comando Militare Toscana has been authorized to carry out a recruiting campaign by C.T.L.W.

The Delegation "P" Stato Maggiore Regio Esercito, headed by General Cerice, is supposed to be in charge of recruiting partisans for various military units, including such supply units of units as the "Selmeristi". The results achieved by this delegation have not yet been fully ascertained.

A new phase in the assistance of partisans is about to begin. A few days ago, Marcure Medici Tornaquinci, Under-Secretary of State for Occupied Italy, arrived here to resign from the presidency of the Local Liberal Association; but he had also been entrusted with the sum of 3 million lire (now deposited at the Cassa Provinciale); this is the first instalment of a series of payments which the Ministry for Occupied Italy intends to make, in order to help partisans. The question of how these funds should be administered has not yet been settled. Marcure Medici has returned to Rome, but he has left Dr. Pertusi, a young solicitor from Trieste) in Florence as his representative. Dr. Pertusi intends to set up a board which should include the following members: an Allied representative; a representative for the Ministry for Occupied Italy (Dr. Pertusi himself); a member of the C.T.L.W. (Dr. Campolmi of the Party of Action); a member appointed by the Prefect (Dr. Borchelli); an Italian Civil Servant; a member of the Provincial Administration (Dr. F. Greppi, a lecturer at Florence University, who should take a particular interest in the health side of the partisan problem); and a representative of the Associazione Nazionale Partigiani d'Italia (Gino Carravaglia, the President of the Association, an ex-partisan, Communist). This National Association of Italian Partisans is a Government-sponsored organization, set up by the Italian Cabinet; its central office is in Rome and Bonomi is supposed to be President of the Association.

Dr. Pertusi is a very active and co-operative person; he emphasizes that he is determined to keep party politics out of the board, which should, according to him, be run on a strictly business-like basis. He hopes to obtain from AGG full collaboration and assistance in his task.

Conclusion.

To relieve the immediate tension of the situation the following suggestions have been made:-

- a) that the decision that patriots will be fed on Italian army rations, instead of refugee rations should be carried out, by making these rations available as quickly as possible to the AGG supply depots.
- b) to assign to the two Patriot Transit Camps sufficient transport for their essential requirements.

4502

CONFIDENTIAL.

10.

No. 2.

For the solution of the problem in its broader aspect, other suggestions have been advanced: i.e. that matters regarding partisans, should be treated as matters of very high priority. It is estimated that when German Italy falls to advancing Allied armies, the Allies will have on their hands anything from 50 to 100,000 patriots. It is suggested that to cope with this problem, an organization be set up, complete with staffs (ever very small ones) and the power to obtain such essential things as food rations, some sort of clothing, straw and cooking utensils. Allied and Italian officers and officials feel that it would be very dangerous to leave these men to themselves, with no roofs over their heads, and no food in their bellies, as they would then become an easy prey to extreme forms of propaganda and could easily cause serious trouble.

It has also been suggested that organizations such as Civil Labour Units be developed and increased in scope; these could absorb the thousands of men which will become available and thus reduce to a minimum the period of time which patriots would have to spend in Transit Camps. Most competent Allied and Italian officers agree that a long stay in any Transit Camp has a bad effect on partisan morale.

100,000 patriots. It is suggested that to cope with this problem, an organization be set up, complete with staffs (even very small ones) and the power to obtain such essential things as food rations, some sort of clothing, straw and cooking utensils. Allied and Italian officers and officials feel that it would be very dangerous to leave these men to themselves, with no roof over their heads, and no food in their bellies, as they would then become an easy prey to extreme forms of propaganda and could easily cause serious trouble.

It has also been suggested that organizations such as Civil Labour Units be developed and increased in scope; these could absorb the thousands of men which will become available and thus reduce to a minimum the period of time which patriots would have to spend in Transit Camps. Most competent Allied and Italian officers agree that a long stay in any Transit Camp has a bad effect on partisan morale.

4501

CONFIDENTIAL

SJ/610.1

Newfile 214

No 1.

ITALIAN RE-ENTRY HEADQUARTERS
Psychological Warfare Branch
Unit No. 14
PO 512

"D" Section

12th January, 1945.

NO 1 INTELLIGENCE REPORT COVERING TUSCANY AND ADJOINING REGIONS
OF LIBERATED ITALY.

1

INDEX

Paragraph

Page

SUMMARY OF THE WEEK

POLITICS

1	Further reactions to the formation of the second Bonomi Government	1
2	Relations between the Prefect of Florence and C.T.L.N.	2
3	President Roosevelt's message to Congress	3
3a	Churchill's statement on Poland	4
3b	Mussolini's speech in Milan	4
4	Political broadcasts from Radio Firenze	5
4a	Views of Socialist leader	5
4b	Views of Christian Democrat member of the C.T.L.N.	5
4c	Summary of Communist broadcast	6
4d	Broadcast of the Action Party	7
5	ECONOMICS	9
6	Wage increase for Italian workers	9
7	Social Insurance for Italians employed by the Allies	9
8	Natural Gas	10
9	Black Market Prices at the Year-end	10
10	Local food taxes raised	10
11	Cooperative movement in Florence and Province	11
12	Fuel Situation	12
13	Ben on Olive Oil Substitutes	12
14	Local Poster	12
	Quotations on the Florence Stock Exchange	12

NO. 1 INTELLIGENCE REPORT COVERING TUSCANY AND ADJOINING REGIONS
OF LIBERATED ITALY.

INDEX

Paragraph

Page

SUMMARY OF THE WEEK		
POLITICS		
1	Further reactions to the formation of the second Bonomi Government	1
2	Relations between the Prefect of Florence and C.T.L.N.	2
3	President Roosevelt's message to Congress	3
3a	Churchill's statement on Poland	4
3b	Mussolini's speech in Milan	4
4	Political broadcasts from Radio Firenze	5
4a	Views of Socialist leader	5
4b	Views of Christian Democrat leader of the C.T.L.N.	5
4c	Summary of Communist broadcast	6
4d	Broadcast of the Action Party	7
ECONOMICS		
5	Wage increase for Italian workers	9
6	Social Insurance for Italians employed by the Allies	9
7	Natural Gas	9
8	Black Market Prices at the Year-end	10
9	Local food taxes raised	10
10	Cooperative movement in Florence and Province	11
11	Fuel Situation	12
12	Ben on Olive Oil Substitutes	12
13	Local Poster	12
14	Quotations on the Florence Stock Exchange	12
15	Rebirth of Florentine Industry	13
16	De-blocking of Commodities	13
17	Railway reconstruction	13
18	Extension of Frontalities	13
PROPAGANDA		
19	Allied Publications	14
20	Radio Firenze	14
21	Films	15

4500

1

CONFIDENTIAL	INDEX	No 1.
Paragraph		Page
22	PROP.G.M.D. (contl) Discipline by the Communist Party in the Florence Press.	15
23	University expositions	15
24	Allies' Communist Parties for Florentine children	16
25	PUBLIC OPINION	17
26	Reaction to Roosevelt's Statement German atrocities	18
27	Reviews	18
	APPENDICES	
	No 1. LATEST NEWS FROM LUCCA	19-20
	No 2. THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORENCE AND LILLY REQUISITIONING	21-23
	No 3. SURVEY OF PERUGIA	24-30

CONFIDENTIAL

N° 1.

ITALIAN THEATRE HEADQUARTERS
 Psychological Warfare Branch
 Unit No. 14. -FO 512

"I" Section.

12th January, 1945

N° 1 INTELLIGENCE REPORT COVERING TUSCANY AND ADJOINING REGIONS
 OF LIBERATED ITALY.

SUMMARY OF THE WEEK

After a period of comparative quiet relations between the Tuscan Committee for National Liberation and the Prefect of Florence there once more strained as a result of a new appointment to the directorship of Sepp's, the organization for food distribution. Manifestoes against the Prefect are once more appearing on the walls.

Public opinion in Florence is sceptical as to the value of the recent announcement about further help to Italy which was made by President Roosevelt. The President's message to Congress is viewed as confirming the supposition held for some time by many Italians that the Allies are in Italy primarily to fight the war and not to liberate the country.

A series of broadcasts by members of the different parties were made from Florence radio during the week. The Christian Democrat stressed the theme of reconstruction and of Italy's rebirth through hard work and honesty. The Communist emphasized war needs, the importance of the partisan struggle, of enlistment for the army and the necessity of the war being a revolutionary war. The Socialist traced the history of his party and its influence upon the national life and announced its programme of socialization. The party of action representative foretold the rebirth of Italy through the fighting of her partisans, and through insistence on the political fight for a democratic republic, socialization and the transformation of the old fashioned Italian economy into something technically better.

Wage increases for Italian workers employed by the Allies and the extension to them of various social insurance benefits has produced a good impression.

NO 1 INTELLIGENCE REPORT COVERING TUSCANY AND ADJOINING REGIONS OF LIBERATED ITALY.

SUMMARY OF THE WEEK

After a period of comparative quiet relations between the Tuscan Committee for National Liberation and the Prefect of Florence were once more strained as a result of a new appointment to the directorship of Segrè, the organization for food distribution. Manifestoes against the Prefect are once more appearing on the walls.

Public opinion in Florence is sceptical as to the value of the recent announcement about further help to Italy which was made by President Roosevelt. The President's message to Congress is viewed as confirming the supposition held for some time by many Italians that the Allies are in Italy primarily to fight the war and not to liberate the country.

A series of broadcasts by members of the different parties were made from Florence radio during the week. The Christian Democrat stressed the theme of reconstruction and of Italy's rebirth through hard work and honesty. The Communist emphasized war needs, the importance of the partisan struggle, of enlistment for the war and the necessity of the war being revolutionary war. The Socialist traced the history of his party and its influence upon the national life and announced its programme of socialisation. The Party of Action representative foretold the rebirth of Italy through the fighting of her partisans and through insistence on the political fight for a democratic republic, socialization and the transformation of the old fashioned Italian economy into something technically better.

Wage increases for Italian workers employed by the Allies and the extension to them of various social insurance benefits has produced a good impression.

4499

CONFIDENTIAL

No 1.

ITALIAN THEATRICAL HEADQUARTERS
Psychological Warfare Branch
Unit No. 14. APO 512.

"D" Section

12th January, 1945.

No 1 INTELLIGENCE REPORT COVERING TUSCANY AND ADJOINING REGIONS
OF LIBERATED ITALY.

POLITICS

(General)

1. Further reactions to the formation of the second Bonomi Government.

Interviewed by an Italian collaborator of P.W.B. Sig. Tommasi of the Confederazione Generale del Lavoro, stated that on the whole the public reaction to the new government was excellent on all sides. With the C.L.N. also a good relationship has been established and a greater degree of regional autonomy has been obtained through the suppression of some communal Committees of Liberation and the strengthening of the Provincial one. At Lucca, besides the already existing Committee there has been formed a new one for the Province whose special care is assistance to the Patriots and which has a representative on the C.T.L.N. The Socialist Party and the Party of Action have not clearly defined their attitude to the Tuscan Committee. The Socialists are angry with the Communists and accuse the latter of betraying them. The Party of Action is very reserved.

The same Italian collaborator also sought the views of Avv. Adone Zoli, a Christian Democrat Leader and member of the C.T.L.N. He declared that the new Government had better and more permanent prospects than its predecessor and its work is likely to be good for the following reasons:-

- a) That the Government is tackling the problem of depuration, which provoked the crisis, with vigour and seriousness.
- b) That the Government is looked upon favourably by the Allies and this gives rise to hopes for further help.

POLITICS

(General)

1. Further reactions to the formation of the second Bonomi Government.

Interviewed by an Italian collaborator of P.M.B. Sig. Tommasi of the Confederazione Generale del Lavoro, stated that on the whole the public reaction to the new government was excellent on all sides. With the C.L.N. also a good relationship has been established and a greater degree of regional autonomy has been obtained through the suppression of some communal Committees of Liberation and the strengthening of the Provincial one. At Lucca, besides the already existing Committee there has been formed a new one for the Province whose special care is assistance to the Patriots and which has a representative on the C.L.N. The Socialist Party and the Party of Action have not clearly defined their attitude to the Tuscan Committee. The Socialists are angry with the Communists and accuse the latter of betraying them. The Party of Action is very reserved.

The same Italian collaborator also sought the views of avv. Adone Zoli, a Christian Democrat Leader and member of the C.T.L.N. He declared that the new Government had better and more permanent prospects than its predecessor and its work is likely to be good for the following reasons:-

- a) That the Government is tackling the problem of epuration, which provoked the crisis, with vigour and seriousness.
- b) That the Government is looked upon favourably by the Allies and this gives rise to hopes for further help.

avv. Zoli thought, however, that with the liberation of Northern Italy the second Bonomi Government would have to retire as a result of new political currents and personalities. The attitude of the C.L.N. to Bonomi's present Government is far more cordial and the Committee has entirely abandoned the attitude which it took up prior to the crisis. The new relationship is based on a policy of greater regional autonomy and reciprocal collaboration.

4498

CONFIDENTIAL

- 2 -

N° 1.

The attitude of the Socialist and Action parties to the Committee is fairly friendly. It was agreed that these parties should not constitute an opposition but should limit themselves to more or less benevolent criticisms. Relations between the Communists and Christian Democrats are not so cordial, since the Communists declared that they entered the Government to prevent it being a Government of three parties which they accuse the Christian Democrats of trying to bring about.

2. Relations between the Prefect of Florence and C.F.L.N.

Differences between the Prefect of Florence, Paterno, and the Tuscán Committee of National Liberation which were acute in November gave place to an era of apparent peacefulness in the month of December. It may be recalled that after conducting an active campaign against the Prefect, members of the Tuscán Committee went to Rome on November 9th and presented proposals to the first Bonomi Ministry which called for a limitation of the powers of prefects. They proposed in the first place that the president of the local Committee of Liberation should be appointed prefect (as was done subsequently in Lucca) and secondly that in certain specified letters the prefect should be empowered to act only with the consent of the Committee, according to a member of the Tuscán Committee who also went to Rome on this occasion, most of the ministers were favourably impressed by these proposals. Ruini was the only one definitely opposed to the suggestions. The delegation returned to Florence full of hope but soon afterwards, on 25th November, there began the government crisis which lasted 12 days during which, of course, no decision was taken. Bonomi emerged from the crisis considerably reinforced as did those parties who wished to see a strengthening of the central Government as against the local Committees of Liberation. Sgarbi who had been the minister to receive with most warmth the plan presented by the Tuscán Committee in Rome was not a member of the new government. Soon after the formation of the second Bonomi Ministry Paterno was confirmed in office and no more was heard of the proposals put up by the Tuscán Committee. In fact the latter appeared to have resigned itself to the new situation and the attacks against the Prefect ceased for the time being.

With the entrance of the New Year, however, this peace has been shattered. The immediate cause of renewed hostility is due to the removal of the two communist commissaries of Sgarbi.

the Communists declared that they entered the Government to prevent it being a Government of three Parties which they accuse the Christian Democrats of trying to bring about.

2. Relations between the Prefect of Florence and C.T.L.M.

Differences between the Prefect of Florence, Paterno, and the Tuscan Committee of National Liberation which were acute in November gave place to an era of apparent peacefulness in the month of December. It may be recalled that after conducting an active campaign against the Prefect, members of the Tuscan Committee went to Rome on November 9th and presented proposals to the first Bonomi Ministry which aimed at a limitation of the powers of prefects. They proposed in the first place that the president of the local Committee of Liberation should be appointed prefect (as was done subsequently in Lucca) and secondly that in certain specified matters the prefect should be empowered to act only with the consent of the Committee, according to a member of the Tuscan Committee who also went to Rome on this occasion, most of the Ministers were favourably impressed by these proposals. Ruini was the only one definitely opposed to the suggestions. The delegation returned to Florence full of hope but soon afterwards, on 25th November, there began the government crisis which lasted 12 days during which, of course, no decision was taken. Bonomi emerged from the crisis considerably reinforced as did those parties who wished to see a strengthening of the central government as against the local Committees of Liberation. Saragat who had been the Minister to receive with most warmth the plan presented by the Tuscan Committee in Rome was not a member of the new government. Soon after the formation of the second Bonomi Ministry Paterno was confirmed in office and no more was heard of the proposals put up by the Tuscan Committee. In fact the latter appeared to have resigned itself to the new situation and the attacks against the Prefect ceased for the time being.

With the entrance of the New Year, however, this peace has been shattered. The immediate cause of renewed hostility is due to the removal of the two communist commissaries of Sepral, the food distributing agency, and their replacement by a man of strong fascist antecedents. The communists Barbieri and Dall'Oppio were nominated directors of Sepral by the C.T.L.M. during the clandestine period. They acted in this capacity until about the middle of December. They were nominated as director and vice-director of Sepral by a letter from the Minister of Agriculture dated December 1st. This nomination was not approved by A.M.C. and therefore had no effect. According to an Allied source these commissaries had been guilty

4497

CONFIDENTIAL.

3

No. 1.

of inefficiency and certain undesirable practices, such as for instance, using an undue proportion of transport allocated to SEPAL for the use of the Communist cooperatives. By a decree of December 15th the Prefect appointed Prof. DR. Fortunato Palazzo, as director of SEPAL. According to reliable Italian sources, Palazzo, who like the Prefect, is a Sicilian, and was in addition a squadrist, had been Podestà of Bagno a Ripoli and Antella, near Florence, and had retained this position under the Republican Fascist Régime after 8th September 1943. The population of these places had asked for his removal by hostile demonstrations. His appointment to Supral has aroused much criticism in party circles.

The COMPTON DEL GATILLO of Dec. 26th publishes a letter from the Prefect to Dr. Palazzo, which contains a number of directives as how to run the SEPAL. This letter amongst other things warns against direct interference and purchases by SEPAL, forbids agreements as to exchange of goods with other provincial organizations, suggests the supervision of cooperatives and factory stores, proposes the abolition of the system of road blocks between province and province which prevent the free flow of goods, deplores unnecessary duplication of papers in office work and the use of cars for all unessential journeys and insists that no handling of Monies by SEPAL is justified other than that of contributions and administrative expenses and these only through banks and the office employees designated for the job. These various points and some others are taken up in a letter from Barbieri and Dall'Oppio in the parties' newspaper LA MARCHE DEL POPOLO of 30/31 Dec. The two ex-commissaries of SEPAL justify their stewardship point by point in order to certify the obscure form and indirect insinuations of the letter from the Prefect and ask the Indirect Committee to obtain a detailed enquiry on the whole of their action while in action and to publish the results.

Reactions to speeches.

5. President Roosevelt's Message to Congress.

An Italian collaborator supplies the following note: What the President says about the Italian theatre of war confirms that which public opinion has been thinking for some time. From the moment when the Allied armies halted on the Volturno, we were convinced that the ultimate end of the Allied armies was not so much to liberate Italy as to hold engaged large forces and prevent their being used on more decisive fronts. The rapid advance of the Allies through the Gothic Line, induced some to believe that the liberation of northern Italy was imminent. Successive events have confirmed the old suspicion that the acquisition of the Po valley was of no great importance to the Allied Command. As far as the war is concerned it is the same whether the front is at the Brenner or on the Appennines. If this point of view is logically comprehensible it is very painful to have it so explicitly confirmed.

Italian public opinion follows with great attention the English

Republican Fascist régime after 15th September 1943. The population of these places had asked for his removal by hostile demonstrations. His appointment to Supral has aroused much criticism in party circles.

The CORRIERE DELLA MATTINA of Dec. 26th publishes a letter from the Prefect to Dr. Palazzo, which contains a number of directives as to how to run the SPAL. This letter amongst other things warns against direct interference and purchases by SPAL, forbids agreements as to exchange of goods with other provincial organizations, suggests the supervision of cooperatives and factory stores, proposes the abolition of the system of road blocks between province and province which prevents the free flow of goods, deplores unnecessary duplication of papers in office work and the use of cars for all unessential journeys and insists that no handling of Monies by SPAL is justified other than that of contributions and administrative expenses and these only through banks and the office employees designated for the job. These various points and some others are taken up in a letter from Barbieri and Dall'Oppio in the parties' newspaper LA MATTINA DEL POPOLO of 30/31 Dec. The two ex-commissaries of SPAL justify their stewardship point by point in order to certify the obscure form and indirect insinuations of the letter from the Prefect and ask the Tuscan Committee to obtain a detailed enquiry on the whole of their action while in action and to publish the results.

Reactions to speeches.

3. President Roosevelt's message to Congress.

An Italian collaborator supplies the following note:

What the President says about the Italian theatre of war confirms that which public opinion has been thinking for some time. From the moment when the Allied armies halted on the Volturno, we were convinced that the ultimate end of the Allied armies was not so much to liberate Italy as to hold engaged large forces and prevent their being used on more decisive fronts. The rapid advance of the Allies through the Gothic Line, induced some to believe that the liberation of northern Italy was imminent. Successive events have confirmed the old suspicion that the acquisition of the Po valley was of no great importance to the Allied Command. As far as the war is concerned it is the same whether the front is at the Brenner or on the Appennines. If this point of view is logically comprehensible it is very painful to have it so explicitly confirmed.

Italian public opinion follows with great attention the English and American attitude to France. Without doubt the resurrection of this Latin country is viewed by Italy with pleasure. One of the main reasons why Fascism lost all the sympathy of Italians was the cause of the predatory attack on prostrate France. As a contrast to this friendly feeling for the Latin nation is the general idealism to France's attitude after the German conquest. It is the common opinion that France collaborated with the Germans more than she should have done. Further more than two years the attitude of

4496

CONFIDENTIAL

4.

No. I.

French circles enabled the Germans to speak of European collaboration. Pétain was not alone in his views; in truth a good part of the French people followed him even in those intellectual circles, which in Italy have always been locked upon with respect and admiration. The Allies should not forget this is the construction of the new Europe of after the war.

The part of Roosevelt's message which was most closely was that which reaffirmed his will to adhere always more closely to the principles of the Atlantic Charter. A considerable part of Italian public opinion is convinced that this is mere rhetoric. The painful feelings aroused by Churchill's attitude on the Polish question are still too much alive - his pliability to Russian pretences. Either Churchill thinks differently from Roosevelt or Roosevelt is in bad faith, but it is certain that the English attitude in this recent period is in contrast with the principles of the Atlantic Charter as regards the freedom of peoples to choose their own Government.

3a. Churchill's statement on Poland.

The statement made on 15th December 1944 in the House of Commons by the British Prime Minister with regard to the Polish question, made a very bad impression on public opinion in Florence, according to a usually reliable Italian source. It is observed that by giving way to the Russian view, great Britain is going back on her war-aims and is subverting all programmes for the future peace. If we are fighting to support the right for imperialism, why bow to the imperialist visions of Russia? This is the question which the public asks itself without finding an answer. People think that this is the way to lay the foundations of future irredentist conflicts. That these can be healed by the expedient of a transfer of populations does not appear convincing to public opinion here, which views the development of the Polish situation as a symptom of weakness on the part of British diplomacy.

3b. Mussolini's Speech in Milan.

The speech which Mussolini made in the Teatro Lirico in Milan was not heard on the wireless in Florence on account of a failure of electricity here during the transmission, but reports of it appear to have startled Florentines, according to a reliable Italian who did not expect the ex-Duce to give such signs of life. Florentine public opinion criticises the lack of attention paid to these manifestations of Mussolini's vitality in the press and radio of Liberated Italy. Since Mussolini specifically mentioned that it was a motive for pride amongst all Italians that the Allies had been so coldly received by the Florentine population the same source suggests that some radio propaganda be made to counteract this affirmation.

4405

upon with respect and admiration. The Allies should not forget this is the construction of the new Europe of after the war.

The part of Roosevelt's message which was most discussed was that which reaffirmed his will to share always more closely to the principles of the Atlantic Charter. A considerable part of Italian public opinion is convinced that this is mere rhetoric. The painful feelings aroused by Churchill's attitude on the Polish question are still too much alive - his pliability to Russian pretences. Either Churchill thinks differently from Roosevelt or Roosevelt is in bad faith, but it is certain that the English attitude in this recent period is in contrast with the principles of the Atlantic Charter as regards the freedom of peoples to choose their own Government.

3a. Churchill's statement on Poland.

The statement made on 15th December 1944 in the House of Commons by the British Prime Minister with regard to the Polish question, made a very bad impression on public opinion in Florence, according to a usually reliable Italian source. It is observed that by giving way to the Russian view, Great Britain is going back on her war-aims and is subverting all programmes for the future peace. If we are fighting to support the right for imperialism, why bow to the imperialist visions of Russia? This is the question which the public asks itself without finding an answer. People think that this is the way to lay the foundations of future irredentist conflicts. That these can be healed by the expedient of a transfer of populations does not appear convincing to public opinion here, which views the development of the Polish situation as a symptom of weakness on the part of British diplomacy.

3b. Mussolini's Speech in Milan.

The speech which Mussolini made in the Teatro Lirico in Milan was not heard on the wireless in Florence on account of a failure of electricity here during the transmission, but reports of it appear to have startled Florentines, according to a reliable Italian who did not expect the ex-Duce to give such signs of life. Florentine public opinion criticises the lack of attention paid to these manifestations of Mussolini's vitality in the press and radio of liberated Italy. Since Mussolini specifically mentioned that it was a motive for pride amongst all Italians that the Allies had been so coldly received by the Florentine population the same source suggests that some radio propaganda be made to counteract this affirmation.

4495

CONFIDENTIAL

- 5 -

No 1.

(Parties)

4. Political broadcasts from Radio Firenze.

During the first week of the year representatives of the various parties broadcast a cycle of talks dealing with their party activities. A summary of each is given below.

4a. Views of a Socialist leader.

On 5th January Alberto Albertoni spoke for the Socialist party. He said that after 20 years of clandestine life the party had now re-emerged under the name of the Socialist Party of Proletarian Unity, thus affirming its resolutely socialist programme. He traced the history of the party which originated in the need for social justice saw its period of rapid expansion and progress at the same time that the whole country was developing. The ceasing of socialist activity also coincided with the regression of all political, economic and social conditions of the Italian people. The speaker went on to describe the reforms obtained by the Socialist party in the field of improved education, increased salaries for workmen, the re-education of the bourgeoisie in 1898 and 1904 when many socialists were imprisoned, there follows a rather violent attack on the Italian middle class and Albertoni then proceeds to point out that when the Socialist party gained strength and threatened, not only were reforms, but a revolution, then there occurred the reaction familiar to everybody, namely, fascism.

Looking to the future, the speaker observes that socialism today has a whole host of admirers, including Hitler and Mussolini. The Socialist party does not need to compromise to gain adherents. It has ties of loyalty with other parties of the Committee of Liberation. It will not deviate from its programme although this may not be realized for decades and although it present the more urgent problems of the war exacts the complete attention of the party.

4b. Views of a Christian Democrat member of the C.T.L.N.

4vv. Attilio Piccioni, one of the leaders of the Christian Democrat Party in Florence, delivered the first of a series of talks from "Radio Firenze", on behalf of the party on January 6th. His broadcast is typical of the restrained yet encouraging and fundamentally reasonable attitude of the Christian Democrat

494

party activities. A summary of each is given below.

4a. Views of a Socialist leader.

On 5th January Alberto Albertoni spoke for the Socialist party. He said that after 30 years of clandestine life the party had now re-emerged under the name of the Socialist Party of Proletarian Unity, thus affirming its resolutely socialist programme. He traced the history of the party which originated in the need for social justice since its period of exile expansion and progress at the same time that the whole country was developing. The ceasing of socialist activity also coincided with the regression of all political, economic and moral conditions of the Italian people. The speaker went on to describe the reforms obtained by the Socialist party in the field of improved education, increased salaries for workmen, the reaction of the bourgeoisie in 1898 and 1904 when many socialists were imprisoned, there follows a rather violent attack on the Italian middle class and Albertoni then proceeds to point out that when the Socialist party gained strength and threatened, not a mere reform, but a revolution, then there occurred the reaction familiar to everybody, namely, fascism.

Looking to the future, the speaker observes that socialism today has a whole host of admirers, including Hitler and Mussolini. The Socialist party does not need to compromise to gain adherents. It has ties of loyalty with other parties of the Committee of Liberation. It will not deviate from its programme although at present the more urgent problems of the war exacts the complete attention of the party.

4b. Views of a Christian Democrat member of the C.T.L.N.

494
 avv. Attilio Piccioni, one of the leaders of the Christian Democrat Party in Florence, delivered the first of a series of talks from "Radio Firenze", on behalf of the party on January 6th. His broadcast is typical of the restrained yet encouraging and fundamentally reasonable attitude of the Christian Democrat party. He begins by conjuring his listeners to cast aside all pessimism which only results in moral weakness and to remember the condition of the country a year or even six months ago. In this way they can discern the signs of rebirth and progress. Material reconstruction, he points out, is inevitably slow, because of the total destruction wrought by the Nazis and Fascists. If epuration does not proceed as quickly as was hoped, he reminds his listeners that this is due not to tardiness, but to the realization on the part of those who are responsible for

CONFIDENTIAL

- 6 -

No 1.

epuration, that while it must be prophylactic and punitive, it must also be impregnated with firm and manifest justice and whole-hearted humanity.

From a consideration of material reconstruction, he passes to that of social and moral reconstruction - the rebuilding of a sound democracy in Italy. The first stones of the edifice have been laid with the freely organized syndicates and with the formation of the six parties. The unity of the trade unions is a great conquest for the workers and a promise of future gains in the economic changes which inevitably take place. The political parties, in spite of such facile criticisms, do represent the main support of the new democratic structure. The speaker emphasizes that the parties are still in a state of progressive formation and organization, but what is important is that they live in an atmosphere of friendliness and collaboration with one another. As for his own party

Avv. Piccioni outlined the main points of its policy as follows:-

- a) The complete extension of liberty in all spheres, from that of physical liberty to political, moral and spiritual liberty, which can only be realized in a democratic régime.
- b) Social justice, which will make work the real basis of economic life.
- c) Christian brotherhood in all human relationships.

All this, concludes the speaker, will be less difficult now that Italy is undergoing the eternal, mysterious test of suffering, through which she is slowly rising from the abyss and regaining her position in the world through dignity, honesty and hard work.

4c. Summary of Communist Broadcast.

The Communist representative spoke on January 8th. He said that the Italians are today faced with two essential problems; the war and reconstruction; both are equally important. They are so closely bound together that they may be said to form one and the same problem; Italy must be furnished with economic power and international dignity.

4493

... reconstruction - the rebuilding of sound democracy in Italy. The first stones of the edifice have been laid with the freely organized syndicates and with the formation of the six parties. The unity of the trade unions is a great conquest for the workers and a promise of future gains in the economic changes which inevitably take place. The political parties, in spite of such fierce critics, do represent the main support of the new democratic structure. The speaker emphasizes that the parties are still in a state of progressive formation and organization, but what is important is that they live in an atmosphere of friendliness and collaboration with one another. As for his own party Piccioni outlined the main points of its policy as follows:-

- a) The complete extension of liberty in all spheres, from that of physical liberty to political, moral and spiritual liberty, which can only be realized in a democratic régime.
- b) Social justice, which will make work the real basis of economic life.
- c) Christian brotherhood in all human relationships.

All this, concludes the speaker, will be less difficult now that Italy is undergoing the eternal, mysterious test of suffering, through which she is slowly rising from the abyss and regaining her position in the world through dignity, honesty and hard work.

4c. Summary of Communist Broadcast.

The Communist representative spoke on January 8th. He said that the Italians are today faced with two essential problems; the war and reconstruction; both are equally important. They are so closely bound together that they may be said to form one and the same problem; Italy must be furnished with economic power and international dignity.

The more industrialised part of Italy being still used for German warfare, reconstruction can be taken up only when this part of the country has been freed. Strikes, the clandestine struggle and the partisan campaign are part of reconstruction, but as long as the battle-field divides the country in two, no lasting solution can be brought about in the political and economic field.

Much has been said about the "north wind". The contribution of energy and strength from the Northern Provinces will certainly

4493

CONFIDENTIAL

- 7 -

No 1.

be an important step towards the construction of a solid democracy.

Another aspect, of the utmost importance in international politics, is to be considered. Italy was ambitiously dragged into an imperialistic war against England, then against Russia and finally against the United States. The consequences of such a war are only too discernible. But when this country seemed to be at the bottom of an abyss, the partisan army came into existence, and the same men who had fought unwillingly for Mussolini, suddenly became lions. This army after a year of heroic struggle has given the best proof of Italy's reconstructive capacities.

But more remains to be done. The war effort must be greatly intensified, an Italian army is necessary and Italians should make every effort to free their own land from Nazi tyranny, and so prove to the world that it is worthy of liberty.

The Italian Communist Party, sure of its position in the common struggle, is doing all in its power to form an army which is to take its place on the battle-field as soon as possible. The Government and the C.L.N. Parties have approved this movement. Now it is up to Italian youth to see that this war, despite destruction and death, is fruitful for Italy and the world at large and that it is a revolutionary war.

4d. Broadcast of the Action Party.

The Party of Action was on the air on the 7th, the spokesman being Enzo Spagnoli. If Italy, he said, can prove to the world her willingness to fight for her liberty by resistance, sabotage and partisan action in the occupied part and by operational activity of regular troops in the liberated part, the preliminary conditions for her re-birth will have been fulfilled. But since all men look to the future for strength before the present and since every Italian is asking in what kind of Italy he will be living tomorrow, everything possible must be done to enable people to see, judge and choose.

Italians realize that they must fight and fight now, but they want to fight for a society different from that which has brought Italy and Europe to ruin. Italians understand that the problem of war and national unity is not always the problem of democracy. The totalitarianism knew how to make war but they have proved themselves incapable of civilisation and democracy. 4492

war are only too discernible. But when this country seemed to be at the bottom of an abyss, the partisan army came into existence, and the same men who had fought unwillingly for Mussolini, suddenly became lions. This army after a year of heroic struggle has given the best proof of Italy's reconstructive capacities.

But more remains to be done. The war effort must be greatly intensified. An Italian army is necessary and Italians should make every effort to free their own land from Nazi tyranny, and so prove to the world that it is worthy of liberty.

The Italian Communist Party, sure of its position in the coalition struggle, is doing all in its power to form an army which is to take its place on the battle-field as soon as possible. The Government and the C.L.N. Parties have approved this movement. Now it is up to Italian youth to see that this war, despite destruction and death, is fruitful for Italy and the world at large and that it is a revolutionary war.

4d. Broadcast of the Action Party.

The Party of Action was on the air on the 7th, the spokesman being Enzo Spinoletti. If Italy, he said, can prove to the world her willingness to fight for her liberty by resistance, sabotage and partisan action in the occupied part and by operational activity of regular troops in the liberated part, the preliminary conditions for her re-birth will have been fulfilled. But since all men look to the future for strength to bear the present and since every Italian is asking in what kind of Italy he will be living tomorrow, everything possible must be done to enable people to see, judge and choose.

Italians realize that they must fight and fight now, but they want to fight for a society different from that which has brought Italy and Europe to ruin. Italians understand that the problem of war and national unity is not always the problem of democracy. The totalitarianism know how to make war but they have proved themselves incapable of civilization and democracy. This problem of the future of Italy divides and must divide Italians, but the struggle for the creation of a modern liberal democratic state must be waged with the same energy, sacrifice and organizing spirit that characterized the struggle in the clandestine period of fascism.

It may be asked why then is the Action Party out of the Government? The answer is that the Government is at present constituted and faced with the opposition of the Action and

4492

CONFIDENTIAL

- 8 -

N° 1.

Socialist Parties incapable of implementing a democratic program in part. But the Government would be incapable of so doing had all the parties entered it sheep-like without any guarantees from below, that is from the people and the Committee of National Liberation.

It is experimenting to give still to be republican in 1945. It is experimenting to think that such energy and patience must be employed to overthrow an institution condemned by democracy, recent history and common decency. On the other hand there is the satisfaction of knowing that when finally this institution does fall it will bring down with it all the reactionary forces which through the centuries have transmitted the Bourbonic infection to the Italian people.

Note to Part. 2.

According to the latest information available the accusations against Dr. Pelizzo would appear to be unfounded. The members of the Giunt' Comarciale of B'gno e Ripoli denied that he was ever a squadrista, or that he served Fascist republican interests while he held office in that town. In an open letter in the Florentine paper Corriere del Mattino, Pelizzo invites his accusers to emerge from their anonymity and to substantiate their charges in court.

any guarantees from below, that is from the people and the Committee of National Liberation.

It is experimenting to have still to be republican in 1945. It is experimenting to think that such energy and patience must be employed to overthrow an institution condemned by democracy, recent history and common decency. On the other hand there is the satisfaction of knowing that when finally this institution does fall it will bring down with it all the reactionary forces which through the centuries have transmitted the Bourbonic infection to the Italian people.

Note to P. 2.

According to the latest information available the accusations against Dr. Palizzo would appear to be unfounded. The members of the Giunt' Commerciale of Bagno a Ripoli denied that he was ever a squadrista, or that he served Fascist republican interests while he held office in that town. In an open letter in the Florentine paper Corriere del Mattino, Palizzo invites his accusers to emerge from their anonymity and to substantiate their charges in court.

4491

CONFIDENTIAL

9

No. 1.

ECONOMICS(Labour).5. Wage Increase for Italian Workers.

General Alexander's orders which provides for increase in pay for Italians working with Allied military organizations, has naturally been well received. The wage rates originally fixed by the Allies, although fair enough to begin with, soon got out of line with the rising cost of living, while the average pay of Italians, employed by the Allies, rose as a result of provision made by the Italian Government to adjust wages to the prevailing level of prices. The action of the Allied authorities is not only felt to be an act of justice and humanity, but also a recognition by the Allies of the contribution of Italian civilians to the common cause.

6. Social Insurance for Italians employed by the Allies.

Another Allied gesture which has been duly appreciated, is that which provides for the coverage with social insurance of Italians employed by Allied organizations. Workers will be in benefit as from 1st. December for the following types of insurance consumption, marriage; and birth bonuses. The insurance will be effected through the Istituto Nazionale della Provvidenza Sociale.

(Food Situation).7. Natural Gas.

With the help of the Allies, Italian engineers have succeeded in tapping a near-by source of natural gas (methane), which will be soon made available to the city of Florence. The hospitals will be priority recipients of the supply, after which the needs of transport will be considered, seeing that many vehicles are already converted for driving on gas; what is left will go to the civil population for domestic uses. In the meantime, Allied engineers are busy putting the ordinary gas-works in order, and it is planned to mix natural gas with coal-gas when once the retorts get going and so increase the pressure, thereby solving one of the knottiest problems of the Florentine housewife.

(N.B.) The above is the gist of a news item which appeared recently in the NATIONALE DEL POPOLO of Florence. Its accuracy has since been queried and it looks as though the prospect of an early supply of natural gas, at least to the general public, is as distant as that of the promised increase of the bread ration.

In connection with the foregoing, it is interesting to note that on Sunday morning, 17th December, a plant for the substitution of methane for coal gas, was put into operation for the first time

by General Alexander in the presence of JMG Officials.

naturally been well received. The wage rates originally fixed by the Allies, although fair enough to begin with, soon got out of line with the rising cost of living, while the average pay of Italians, employed other than by the Allies, rose as a result of provision made by the Italian Government to adjust wages to the prevailing level of prices. The action of the Allied authorities is not only felt to be an act of justice and humanity, but also a recognition by the Allies of the contribution of Italian civilians to the common cause.

6. Social Insurance for Italians employed by the Allies.

Another Allied measure which has been duly appreciated, is that which provides for the coverage with social insurance of Italians employed by Allied organizations. Workers will be in benefit as from 1st December for the following types of insurance consumption; marriage; and birth bonuses. The insurance will be effected through the Istituto Nazionale della Provvidenza Sociale.

(Food Situation)

7. Natural Gas.

With the help of the Allies, Italian engineers have succeeded in tapping a near-by source of natural gas (methane), which will be soon made available to the city of Florence. The hospitals will be priority recipients of the supply, after which the needs of transport will be considered, seeing that many vehicles are already converted for driving on gas; what is left will go to the civil population for domestic uses. In the meantime, Allied engineers are busy putting the ordinary gas-works in order, and it is planned to mix natural gas with coal-gas when once the retorts get going and so increase the pressure, thereby solving one of the knottiest problems of the Florentine housewife.

(N.B.) The above is the gist of a news item which appeared recently in the NALIZIONE DEL POPOLO of Florence. Its accuracy has since been queried and it looks as though the prospect of an early supply of natural gas, at least to the general public, is as distant as that of the promised increase of the bread ration.

In connection with the foregoing, it is interesting to note that on Sunday morning, 17th December, a plant for the substitution of methane for coal gas, was put into operation for the first time at Careggi Hospital, in the presence of A.G. Officials.

The gas, closed up in high-pressure cylinders, is reduced to normal pressure by means of a special plant. It is then introduced into the ordinary gas pipes. When it comes into contact with the air, it assumes almost the same characteristics as coal gas as regards its lighting and heating capacities.

490

10.

No. I.

CONFIDENTIAL

At present the application of methane is restricted to the kitchen and surgical wards of Careggi Hospital. Later it will be distributed to all the hospitals of the city, so solving, at least in part, their fuel problem.

8. Black Market Prices at the year-end

Food.	a kilo	100 lire.
Flour	"	30
Charcoal	"	800
Oil	"	90
Beans	"	600
Butter	"	600
Beef	"	480
Jam	"	700
Honey	"	650
Sugar	"	80
Maize Flour	"	50
Potatoes	"	"
Clothing		
Man's shirt in rayon	1950	"
Man's shoes (leather)	4500	"
Man's pullover (wool)	3000	"
Man's gloves (leather)	1000	"
Ladies pure silk stockings	1000	"

9. Local food taxes raised.

In view of the fact that the Budget of the Florence Municipality shows a deficit of 130 million lire, the Municipal junta have ordered an increase in the tax on consumption goods. Increases in characteristic items are as under:-

DRINKS:-	
Wine	From L. 100-1.200 per 100 litres.
Sparkling wine	L. 5-1.10 on each bottle.
MEAT:-	
(a) Veal	From L. 158 to L. 258 a quintal.
(b) Beef	" L. 84 to L. 168 a "
(c) Pork	" L. 150 to L. 240 a "
(d) Mutton	" L. 96 to L. 192 a "
(e) Horse meat	" L. 30 to L. 60 a "
OTHER FOODSTUFFS:-	
All kinds of fish	" L. 200 to L. 400 a "
Biscuits and similar products	" L. 200 to L. 400 a "
a) ordinary	" L. 500 to L. 1000 a "
b) better quality	" L. 150 to L. 300 a "
Jam and tinned fruit	"
FUEL:-	
Gas for lighting and heating	" L. 0.06 to L. 0.20 "
Electric power for lighting	" L. 0.06 to L. 0.12 per KWH.
New items have been added to the list of taxable commodities	

Food	a kilo	100 lire
Flour	"	30
Charcoal	"	800
Oil	"	90
Beans	"	600
Butter	"	500
Beef	"	480
Jam	"	700
Honey	"	650
Sugar	"	80
Maize Flour	"	50
Potatoes	"	"
Men's shirt in rayon	1950	"
Men's shoes (leather)	4500	"
Man's pullover (wool)	3000	"
Man's gloves (leather)	1000	"
Ladies pure silk stockings	1000	"

9. Local food taxes raised.

In view of the fact that the Budget of the Florence Municipality shows a deficit of 130 million lire, the Municipal Junta have ordered an increase in the tax on consumption goods. Increases in characteristic items are as under:-

DRINKS:-	From L. 100-1,200 p. 100 litres.
Wine	L.5-1.10 on each bottle.
Sparkling wine	From L. 158 to L. 356 a quintal.
MEATS:-	" L. 84 to L. 168 a "
(a) Veal	" L. 120 to L. 240 a "
(b) Beef	" L. 86 to L. 192 a "
(c) Pork	" L. 30 to L. 60 a "
(d) Mutton	" L. 200 to L. 400 a "
(e) Horse meat	" L. 200 to L. 400 a "
OTHER FOODSTUFFS:-	
All kinds of fish	" L. 200 to L. 400 a "
Biscuits and similar	" L. 500 to L. 1000 a "
Products:	" L. 150 to L. 500 a "
a) ordinary	" L. 0.06 to L. 0.20 "
b) better quality	" L. 0.06 to L. 0.12 per KWH.
Jam and tinned fruit	" the list of taxable commodities
FUEL:-	
Gas for lighting and heating	L. 50 per 100 litres
Electric power for lighting	L. 300 per quintal
New items have been added to the list of taxable commodities as follows:-	L. 500 "
Mineral waters	L. 150 "
Soft drinks and extracts (non alcoholic)	L. 175 "
Venison	L. 200 "
Rabbits:	
Alive	"
Dead but not skinned	"
Dead but skinned	"

4484

CONFIDENTIAL

II

No. I.

F.W.I.
Alive
DeadL. 300 per quintal
L. 360 "

IC. Cooperative Movement in Florence and Province. (From
CORRIERE DEL
MATTINO) 1/9/45)

The Cooperative Movement, which was operating on a sound basis before the advent of Fascism, has after the liberation of the city come to life again.

In a very short period about 150 cooperative stores have been organized in Florence alone. Nearly 80 are annexed to industrial concerns.

On enquiry it has been ascertained that about 80,000 heads of families with 200,000 dependants are registered in these cooperatives from which they derive much advantage. The cooperative stores are aiming at two results, namely: to kill the Black Market and to make urgently needed goods available.

Immediately after liberation, the food problem was very serious in Florence, which, happily, was only for a short time under fire. Transport was very scarce, as the Germans had stolen almost all the vehicles and consequently victuals were very scarce also. Citizens, firms, tradesmen and all the authorities collaborated with praiseworthy briskness in solving this difficult problem. The result was that cooperative stores were formed, at first spontaneously and without any legal constitution.

Organized by political parties, private individuals and public bodies, they managed to control prices. A few drawbacks were caused by the fact that being organized under stress of circumstances, liaison was wanting among the various organizers.

In order to put an end to this inconvenience, two Committees have been established, which cover a considerable cooperative field. Both Committees, although of different political tendencies (Socialist-Communist and Christian Democrat) collaborate, so proving that political parties, with opposing ideologies, can solve in perfect harmony important and urgent social problems. So close is this collaboration, in fact, that the two Committees are expected to merge shortly. They do not function solely as a disciplinary body for the entire Florentine cooperative movement, but they are trying with all the means at their disposal to obtain a solid financial basis, which will allow them when free competition again starts on the market, to sell goods to the poor at lower prices than other tradesmen.

Some of these cooperatives have members who draw rationed food-stuffs from them. Vegetables, especially potatoes and chestnuts, are sold in the greatest quantities. One of the

CONFIDENTIAL
MATTING) I/9/45)

The Cooperative Movement, which was operating on a sound basis before the advent of Fascism, has after the liberation of the city come to life again.

In a very short period about 150 cooperative stores have been organized in Florence alone. Nearly 80 are annexed to industrial concerns.

On enquiry it has been ascertained that about 80,000 heads of families with 500,000 dependants are registered in these cooperatives from which they derive much advantage. The cooperative stores are aiming at two results, namely: to kill the Black Market and to make urgently needed goods available.

Immediately after liberation, the food problem was very serious in Florence, which, happily, was only for a short time under fire. Transport was very scarce, as the Germans had stolen almost all the vehicles and consequently victuals were very scarce also. Citizens, firms, tradesmen and all the authorities collaborated with praiseworthy briskness in solving this difficult problem. The result was that cooperative stores were formed, at first spontaneously and without any legal constitution.

Organized by political parties, private individuals and public bodies, they managed to control prices. A few drawbacks were caused by the fact that being organized under stress of circumstances, liaison was wanting among the various organizers.

In order to put an end to this inconvenience, two Committees have been established, which cover a considerable cooperative field. Both Committees, although of different political tendencies (Socialist-Communist and Christian Democrat) collaborate, so proving that political parties, with opposing ideologies, can solve in perfect harmony important and urgent social problems. So close is this collaboration, in fact, that the two Committees are expected to merge shortly. They do not function solely as a disciplinary body for the entire Florentine cooperative movement, but they are trying with all the means at their disposal to obtain a solid financial basis, which will allow them when free competition again starts on the market, to sell goods to the poor at lower prices than other tradesmen.

Some of these cooperatives have members who draw rationed food-stuffs from them. Vegetables, especially potatoes and chestnuts, are sold in the greatest quantities. One of the Committees recently bought dried fruit and salted fish in Southern Italy and these goods are already being sold in local shops. Efforts are being made to organize food transport and thus reduce prices, which given the vicinity of the city to the front line, are naturally high. 4487

The cooperative movement is just beginning. Good results have already been achieved, but better ones will be forthcoming when certain drawbacks have been eliminated and collaboration has reached the point of making it possible for all workers to buy from what might well be termed: "The People's Cooperative Stores".

CONFIDENTIAL

I2.

No. I.

II. Fuel Situation.

In the period from 12th November to 31st December according to a report in the CORRIERE DEL MATTINO, of 10/1/45, over 1700 Allied military vehicles, placed at the disposal of AMG, transported to Florence 4700 tons of lignite and 200 tons of charcoal for the civilian population. This means, adds the newspaper, 20 trucks were daily withdrawn from military work to serve the needs of civilians.

I2. Ban on Olive Oil Substitutes.

The SEPRAL (Sezione Provinciale dell'Alimentazione) for the Province of Florence has issued a notice to tradesmen, placing a ban on the sale of substitutes for olive oil.

I3. Mural Poster.

The following couplet appeared on walls in industrial quarters of Florence late December:-

"Senz'acqua, senza pane, senza luce
Si stava meglio quando c'era il Duce."

(Finance)I4 Quotations on the Florence Stock Exchange, reported 10/1/45.

The figures in brackets are those quoted a week previously.

GOVERNMENT STOCK

Buoni del Tesoro			
1948:	97.75	(98.)	
1949:	96.75	(96.80)	
1° 1950:	96.30	(96.80)	
2° 1950:	96.10	(96.70)	
5% 1951:	96.	(96.65)	
4% 1951:	88.40	(89.30)	
Rendita 3 1/2%	119.25	(120)	
Rendita 5%	95.	(95.50)	
Redimibile 3 1/2%	87.	(87.25)	
Redimibile 5%	97.75	(97.)	

SHARES

Ferrovie Meridionali:	2850	(2850)
La Centrale	2850	(2850)
Fondiarria Incendia	2140	(2150)
Fondiarria a Vita	2250	(2300)
Teti,	2800	(3000)
Snia Viscosa	1600	(1600)
Siele	1800	(1800)
Amiata	2200	(2200)
Magone d'Italia	1450	(1450)
Montecatini	468	(450)
Ilva	295	(292)

20 trucks are daily withdrawn from military work to serve needs of civilians.

I2. Ban on Olive Oil Substitutes.
The SEPRAL (Sezione Provinciale dell'Alimentazione) for the Province of Florence has issued a notice to tradesmen, placing a ban on the sale of substitutes for olive oil.

I3. Mural Poster.
The following couplet appeared on walls in industrial quarters of Florence late December:-
"Senza acqua, senza pane, senza luce
Si stava meglio quando c'era il Duce."

(Finance)

I4 Quotations on the Florence Stock Exchange, reported 10/1/45.

The figures in brackets are those quoted a week previously.

GOVERNMENT STOCK

Buoni del Tesoro:			
1948:	97.75	(98.)	
1949:	96.75	(96.80)	
1% 1950:	96.30	(96.80)	
2% 1950:	96.10	(96.70)	
5% 1951:	96.	(96.65)	
4% 1951:	88.40	(89.30)	
Rendita 3 1/2%	119.25	(120)	
Rendita 5%	95.	(95.50)	
Redimibile 3 1/2%	87.	(3 1/2%)	
Redimibile 5%	97.75	(97.)	

SHARES

Ferrovie Meridionali:	2850	(2850)
La Centrale	2850	(2850)
Fondiarria Incendio	2140	(2150)
Fondiarria a Vita	2250	(2300)
Teti.	2800	(3000)
Snia Viscosa	1600	(1600)
Siele	1800	(1800)
Amiata	2200	(2200)
Magone d'Italia	1450	(1450)
Montecatini	468	(450)
Ilva	295	(292)
Terni	600	(600)
Veraci	1450	(1450)
Meccaniche	100	(100)
Pignone	185	(185)
Fiat	1800	(1800)
Elettrica del Valdarno	2825	(2760)

4485

CONFIDENTIAL

N° I.

I3.

Adriatica de Elettricit�	480	(480)
Biondi	840	(835)
Zaccheri	500	(500)
Birra	137	(137)
Pegna	145	(145)
Edificatrice	1000	(1000)
Industria Carta	595	(600)

(Industry)15. Rebirth of Florentine Industry.

Since September last, Florentine Industry has benefited to the tune of 200 million lire in the shape of Allied payments for goods requisitioned, according to A.M.G. As it is felt that contemporaneously with the development of industrial activity steps should be taken with a view of stabilizing prices, AMG officials and local industrialists are often in conference together in order to discuss the most effective means for achieving this end.

16. De-Blocking of Commodities.

The recent de-blocking of certain commodities by AMG for sale on the open market, has not produced any strong reaction, in view of the fact that the blocking was never water-tight and the goods were to be easily found on the market, even though at an enhanced price. The commodities affected are piece goods of various kinds: ready-made suits: furs: lingerie: woollen articles and hosiery: shoes and solid fuel. The only comment which has been made is that now the items, hitherto controlled, will drop in price and be found in greater abundance, at least in theory.

(Transport)17. Railway Reconstruction.

A Committee has recently been at work examining, as part of the programme of national reconstruction, the problem of putting the railway system of Tuscany into working order. The committee's report, just issued, is now being used by engineers of the region as the basis of a comprehensive plan to get the lines working as soon as possible. (From an Italian source.)

(Agriculture)18. Extension of Farm Tenancies.

Farm tenancies and share-cropping contracts which would normally have expired this year-ending, are being extended for a year by order of the Prefect, in agreement with AMG.

Zaccheri (500)
 Birra (137)
 Pegna (145)
 Edificatrice (1000)
 Industria Carta (600)

(Industry)

15. Rebirth of Florentine Industry.

Since September last, Florentine Industry has benefited to the tune of 200 million lire in the shape of Allied payments for goods requisitioned, according to A.M.G. As it is felt that contemporaneously with the development of industrial activity steps should be taken with a view of stabilizing prices, AMG officials and local industrialists are often in conference together in order to discuss the most effective means for achieving this end.

16. De-Blocking of Commodities.

The recent de-blocking of certain commodities by AMG for sale on the open market, has not produced any strong reaction, in view of the fact that the blocking was never water-tight and the goods were to be easily found on the market, even though at an enhanced price. The commodities affected are piece goods of various kinds: ready-made suits; furs; lingerie; woollen articles and hosiery; shoes and solid fuel. The only comment which has been made is that now the items, hitherto controlled, will drop in price and be found in greater abundance, at least in theory.

(Transport)

17. Railway Reconstruction.

A Committee has recently been at work examining, as part of the programme of national reconstruction, the problem of putting the railway system of Tuscany into working order. The committee's report, just issued, is now being used by engineers of the region as the basis of a comprehensive plan to get the lines working as soon as possible. (From an Italian source.)

(Agriculture)

18. Extension of Farm Tenancies.

Farm tenancies and share-cropping contracts which would normally have expired this year-ending, are being extended for a year by order of the Prefect, in agreement with AMG.

CONFIDENTIAL

- 14 -

No 1.

PROP-C-ND-

(Reaction to Allied Prop'g'nd').

19. Allied Publications.

The two favourite magazines of Allied prop'g'nd are undoubtedly "IL MONDO LIBERO" and "VICTORY".

Everyone considers them excellent, being both interesting and technically well produced.

Any little defects noted are in the "MONDO LIBERO", some complaints being made about the extreme brevity of the news items and the fact that some of the photos are not very clear.

The preference in favour of "VICTORY" also has its effects on the sales which are summed up as follows:-

"IL MONDO LIBERO" (weekly) average monthly sales from 10,000 to 12,000 copies; that is from 3,000 to 4,000 of each new issue.

"VICTORY" (monthly) average sales from 5,000 to 6,000 each issue.

The only complaints made about "VICTORY" is that this review does not arrive very punctually, and sometimes even two months pass before it reaches the Prop'g'nd Shop.

The "LESE" is also much appreciated, although, given the international character of its issues, it would be liked better if some articles by Italian writers were also included.

20. Radio Florence

Complaints are often made that the Radio, following the Fascist tradition, allows its artists to indulge in ribald cracks and in broadcasts of vulgar songs. This offends seriously indeed Italians who remember that Fascism made use of vulgarity for its own particular ends. On the other hand, the results of a questionnaire, given hereunder, put out by the Corriere del Mattino, are not so condemnatory.

What do you think about our programmes? Good 53%: Media 42%:

Everyone considers them excellent, being both interesting and technically well produced.

Any little defects noted were in the "MONDO LIBERO", some complaints being made about the extreme brevity of the news items and the fact that some of the photos were not very clear.

The preference in favour of "VICTORY" also has its effects on the sales which are summed up as follows:-

"IL MONDO LIBERO" (weekly) average monthly sales from 10,000 to 12,000 copies; that is from 3,000 to 4,000 of each new issue.

"VICTORY" (Monthly) average sales from 5,000 to 6,000 each issue.

The only complaints made about "VICTORY" is that this review does not arrive very punctually, and sometimes even two months pass before it reaches the Propaganda Shop.

The "MESE" is also much appreciated, although, given the international character of its issues, it would be liked better if some articles by Italian writers were also included.

20. Radio Florence

Complaints are often made that the Radio, following the Fascist tradition, allows its artists to indulge in ribald cracks and in broadcasts of vulgar songs. This offends seriously indeed Italians who remember that Fascism made use of vulgarity for its own particular ends. On the other hand, the results of a questionnaire, given hereunder, put out by the Corriere del Mattino, are not so condemnatory.

What do you think about our programmes? Good 53%: Medium 42%: Bad 5%.

Is the news bulletin interesting and well compiled? Yes 81%: No 19%.

Are comments interesting? Yes 78%: No 22%.

Are there too many miscellaneous conferences? Yes 34%: No ~~66%~~ ^{44%}

Are musical programmes well divided up into classical, operatic and chamber music? Yes 35%: No 64%.

CONFIDENTIAL

- 15 -

No 1.

Do you like jazz music? Yes 43%. No 52%.

Do you like the broadcasts of plays and other dramatic items? Yes 99%. No 1%.

Are they well distributed in the program? Yes 65%. Too many 26%. Not enough 9%.

From the answers it appears that Radio Firenze satisfies public demands. The public as a whole appreciates the program and is content with the news bulletin. It has managed to please the people in the difficult political field with its comments and lectures as it tells the truth however unpleasant it is.

21. Films.

Films put into circulation by F.W.R. generally run from fortnight to month at the leading cinemas in Florence. Outstanding films like "The Great Dictator", "Sun Valley Serenade" and "Hold Back the Dawn" are appreciated at their true worth, but on the whole the consensus of opinion is that the range is poor. While there is nothing to object to from a photographic and technical standpoint, the plots are considered insipid and vacuous and the absence of Italian doubling deprives Italians of the pleasure of hearing dialogue which to an English audience may sometimes excuse a weak plot. It is also regretted that documentaries which have been hit in Rome and Naples have not yet reached Florence. United Nations news reels are well liked although shots of the Italian front would be a welcome addition.

(Neo-Fascist and other subversive propaganda).

22. Disciplines by the Communist Party in the Florence Press.

"We are informed that mimeographed notices are being circulated in which members of the Italian Communist Party are invited to join the 'Red Legions'."

The Secretariat of the Communist Party hereby declares that the Communist Party has nothing whatever to do with such notices, and warns all members against such propaganda, which is the work of irresponsible people and agents provocateurs."

CONFIDENTIAL - About mid-December Florence was provided with a notice

From the answers it appears that Radio Firenze satisfies public demands. The public as a whole appreciates the program and is content with the news bulletin. It has managed to please the people in the difficult political field with its comments and lectures as it tells the truth however unpalatable at times.

21. Films.

Films put into circulation by P.W.B. generally run from fortnight to a month at the leading cinemas in Florence. Outstanding films like "The Great Dictator", "Sun Valley Serenade" and "Hold Back the Dawn" are appreciated at their true worth, but on the whole the consensus of opinion is that the ratings is poor. While there is nothing to object to from a photographic and technical standpoint, the plots are considered insipid and vacuous and the absence of Italian doubling deprives Italians of the pleasure of hearing dialogue which to an English audience is a so-called excuse of a weak plot. It is also regretted that documentaries which have been hit in Rome and Naples have not yet reached Florence. United Nations news reels are well liked although shots of the Italian front would be a welcome addition.

(Neo-Fascist and other subversive propaganda).

22. Disciplines by the Communist Party in the Florence Press.

"We are informed that unheeded notices are being circulated in which members of the Italian Communist Party are invited to join the 'Red Legions'."

The Secretariat of the Communist Party hereby declares that the Communist Party has nothing whatever to do with such notices, and warns all members against such propaganda, which is the work of irresponsible people and agents provocateurs."

(P.W.B. about mid-December Florence was placarded with a notice inciting the population to armed rebellion against the bourgeois government by joining certain self-styled 'Red Legions' which it was claimed had already been formed throughout the country).

23. University examinations.

Students studying law at the University of Florence complain that during the examinations in constitutional law the questions put by Professor Lessen, using his own book, dealt with the organs and institutions created by Fascism.

4482

CONFIDENTIAL

- 16 -

No 1.

24. Allies' Christmas Parties for Florentine children.

Over Christmas the Allies gave parties for 5,000 Florentine children. General Hume and other Allied authorities visited the parties which took place in ten schools. These parties were organized by the Allies, who from the 17th December made a collection for the necessary funds - collecting 700,000 Lire, 550,000 of which was contributed by the Florentines. Besides giving money, many soldiers gave their Christmas parcels of sweets sent to them by their families. Every child received a gift parcel containing sweets, candies, soap and a toy. At every party there was a Christmas tree and an improvised stage and the children were able to enjoy musical plays and songs performed by the pupils of the various schools.

children. General Huie and other allied authorities visited the parties which took place in ten schools. These parties were organized by the allies, who from the 17th December made a collection for the necessary funds - collecting 700,000 Lire, 550,000 of which was contributed by the Florentines. Besides giving money, many soldiers gave their Christmas parcels of sweets sent to them by their families. Every child received a gift parcel containing sweets, candies, soap and a toy. At every party there was a Christmas tree and an improvised stage and the children were able to enjoy musical plays and songs performed by the pupils of the various schools.

4481

CONFIDENTIAL

- 17 -

No 1.

PUBLIC OPINION

25. Reaction to Roosevelt's State ment.

In view of the disillusion which still prevails on account of Roosevelt's unredeemed promise of an increase in the bread ration, local opinion is inclined to regard with scepticism the statement recently made by the President of the United States for further despatches of foodstuffs according to a new programme for increase of aid to Italy. A few reactions are given hereunder:-

(Young intellectual, about 25 years old, middle class).

"Roosevelt's aim is certainly not disinterested. The new promises are either instigated by a desire to counteract English or Russian influence in Italy, or are a sop intended to remove the bad impression caused by his previous unfulfilled promises. This time there is reason to believe that he will keep them."

(A young Communist).

"It is possible that Roosevelt is aiming at obtaining a larger participation by Italy on all fronts on the basis that this cannot be expected from a starving nation. I do not think however, that the general situation will be greatly improved."

(Middle-class man of about 50 years).

"It is still a policy of the carrot and the stick. After the English stick (Sforza case) comes the American carrot. Anyhow let it come, so at least we may eat."

(Young Liberal of 30 years).

"The Americans could help us if they wanted to, and they should do so before Italy's public opinion turns against them. They (The Americans) should realize that acting as they have done so far they are merely playing the Russian game."

(Woman of the people).

of Roosevelt's unredeemed promise of an increase in the bread ration, local opinion is inclined to regard with scepticism the statement recently made by the President of the United States for further despatches of foodstuffs according to a new programme for increase of aid to Italy. A few reactions are given hereunder:-

(Young intellectual, about 25 years old, middle class).

"Roosevelt's aim is certainly not disinterested. The new promises are either instigated by a desire to counteract English or Russian influence in Italy, or proposed intended to remove the bad impression caused by his previous unfulfilled promises. This time there is reason to believe that he will keep them."

(A young Communist).

"It is possible that Roosevelt is aiming at obtaining a larger participation by Italy on all fronts on the basis that this cannot be expected from a starving nation. I do not think however, that the general situation will be greatly improved."

(Middle-class man of about 50 years).

"It is still a policy of the carrot and the stick. After the English stick (Sforza's case) comes the American carrot. Anyhow let it come, so at least we may eat."

(Young Liberal of 30 years).

"The Americans could help us if they wanted to, and they should do so before Italy's public opinion turns against them. They (The Americans) should realize that acting as they have done so far they are merely playing the Russian game."

(Woman of the people).

"The winter is hard and if the Americans don't help us there is going to be trouble. At bottom we have always listened to their propaganda and will willingly send our sons to be partisans. We are not to blame for Fascist misdeeds."

(Reactions in University circles)

Roosevelt's statements have given rise to reflections on the difference in policy adopted by England and America. It is

CONFIDENTIAL

- 18 -

N° 14

considered symptomatic that America should be attempting to be capturing the sympathies of the European nations, whereas England by her too rigidly conservative attitude is rising up barriers of strong hostility against herself.

26. German atrocities.

The quotations given hereunder are from letters taken from mail captured in Forli. The first is dated 13.9.44 and was written by a woman living in Saltechio (Lucca) and the second dated 7.10.44 is from a woman of Civitella di Romagna (Forli).

1. "Here they have destroyed all the factories existing, and they were not few, and caves, hills, bridges, roads. It's a calamity. Fancy that all the country around Lucca produces only corn, and we have already been left without any flour for some days. Flour was to be imported from Bologna; paid in advance, but for lack of transport the people were left without it and we have had no bread for several days. We have had no rations of sugar or "past" for a month, because nothing can get here and the worst has still to come...."

"Poor me, what a torture, what misery, this blasted war. The worst is that the Germans, while they go back, take away all men from sixteen years on, what a torture it is when we see them pass by in rows, such a lot of them, without any difference of rank..."

2. "The day before yesterday at Seggio, in the ditch going down towards Monte Vecchio, the Germans found two dead officers without their hands and their heads; you may imagine how furious the Germans got about it. They came down to Seggio and took Besson, Marini Mario of the furnace, one of the Lucinis, Gigetto's father, Gueff's son and a son of his 17 years old with two peasant brothers; they brought them to the place where their dead men were and killed them all; imagine the terrible grief of those poor families and how these things are getting everybody into trouble. All this was due to the Partisans who have no conscience. These cries will weigh on their consciences because they know quite well that innocent people get into trouble for them and so many innocent families have sunk into despair through their fault."

4470

26. German atrocities.

The quotations given hereunder are from letters taken from Mail captured in Forli. The first is dated 13.9.44 and was written by a woman living in Soltecchio (Lucco) and the second dated 7.10.44 is from a woman of Civitella di Romagna (Forli).

1. "Here they have destroyed all the factories existing, and they were not few, and caves, mills, bridges, roads. It's a calamity. Fancy that all the country around Lucco produces only corn, and we have already been left without any flour for some days. Flour was to be imported from Bologna; paid in advance, but for lack of transport the people were left without it and we have had no bread for several days. We have had no rations of sugar or "post" for a month, because nothing can get here and the worst has still to come...."

"poor me, what a torture, what a misery, this blasted war. The worst is that the Germans, while they go back, take away all men from sixteen years on, what a torture it is when we see them pass by in rows, such a lot of them, without any difference of rank...."

2. "The day before yesterday at Seggio, in the ditch going down towards Monte Vecchio, the Germans found two dead officers without their hands and their heads; you may imagine how furious the Germans got about it. They came down to Seggio and took Boson, Marini Mario of the furnace, one of the Lucinis, Gigetto's father, Guefo's son and a son of his 17 years old with two peasant brothers, they brought them to the place where their dead men were and killed them all; imagine the terrible grief of those poor families and how these things are getting everybody into trouble. All this was due to the Partisans who have no conscience. These crimes will weigh on their consciences because they know quite well that innocent people get into trouble for them and so many innocent families have sunk into despair through their fault."

27. Rumours.

An Allied officer reports a rumour in Florence that two Italian divisions are in training in the Campobasso area for eventual use against the Japanese.

4479

CONFIDENTIAL.

APPENDICES,

IS

APPENDIX I, No. I.

LATEST NEWS FROM LUCCA.

Public Sentiment

On December 28th and 29th news went round in Florence that the German troops had succeeded in breaking through the Allied front in the Garafagnana and that in consequence the city of Lucca was in danger. Some signs of panic were manifest, and more than one Florentine began to make preparations for evacuation.

In Lucca itself, on the contrary, the population remained, and still continues to be very calm. Some convoys of refugees from Barga and other places occupied by the enemy arrived in the town. They were taken in at the San Frediano Centre, kept by a religious order, which, ever since the liberation of the town, has been carrying on a much appreciated work, to alleviate the tragic sufferings of the refugees. Life in the town continues in its normal rhythm; shops are open and full of the usual goods; the cinemas function regularly; there have also been some performances of prose drama at the Giglio Theatre. The people are, in short, living according to their customary habits.

During the morning of December 30th, from a special truck of the PWB, the latest news announcing the halting of the enemy advance was read out in the public squares of the town. This served to quiet all fears.

A few evenings ago a German aeroplane dropped some bombs in the environments of Lucca and at Capannori. There were some casualties, but on the whole there was little panic among the masses.

Generally speaking the events at the front caused more excitement in the Florence population, than in that of Lucca. Not a few Florentines who had unsettled business affairs at Lucca rushed to settle them up, convinced that the occupation of the town by the Germans was now a matter of but a few hours.

Food Situation.

The Province is still in the usual food difficulties, deriving from two principal sources:-

- a). The fact that the Province is cut in half. The part occupied by the Germans is productive of food stuffs of primary importance, (oil and chestnuts).
- b). The question of transport. Months ago the Compagnia Autotrasporti Lucchese (C.L.A.) was formed but is making heavy going because of the absolute lack of means.

Relations with the Allies.

Relations with the Allies are not so cordial as they once

front in the Garafagnana and that in consequence the city of Lucca was in danger. Some signs of panic were manifest, and more than one Florentine began to make preparations for evacuation.

In Lucca itself, on the contrary, the population remained, and still continues to be very calm. Some convoys of refugees from Barga and other places occupied by the enemy arrived in the town. They were taken in at the San Frediano Centre, kept by a religious order, which, ever since the liberation of the town, has been carrying on a much appreciated work, to alleviate the tragic sufferings of the refugees. Life in the town continues in its normal rhythm; shops are open and full of the usual goods; the cinemas function regularly; there have also been some performances of prose drama at the Giglio Theatre. The people are, in short, living according to their customary habits.

During the morning of December 30th, from a special truck of the PWB, the latest news announcing the halting of the enemy advance was read out in the public squares of the town. This served to quiet all fears.

A few evenings ago a German aeroplane dropped some bombs in the environments of Lucca and at Capannori. There were some casualties, but on the whole there was little panic among the masses.

Generally speaking the events at the front caused more excitement in the Florence population, than in that of Lucca. Not a few Florentines who had unsettled business affairs at Lucca rushed to settle them up, convinced that the occupation of the town by the Germans was now a matter of out a few hours.

Food Situation.

The Province is still in the usual food difficulties, deriving from two principal sources:-

- a). The fact that the Province is cut in half. The part occupied by the Germans is productive of food stuffs of primary importance: (oil and chestnuts).
- b). The question of transport. Months ago the Compagnia Autotrasporti Lucchese (C.L.A.) was formed but is making heavy going because of the absolute lack of means.

Relations with the Allies.

Relations with the Allies are not so cordial as they once were. This is due above all to disappointments in national problems. (for instance, the attitude to the Sforza affair and that towards the partisans); and also in a secondary degree to certain incidents, which have occurred in various localities of the Province between American negro troops and civilians. The Prefecture has been notified of many acts of violence, and has had to appeal to the Provincial Commissioner asking him to obviate such incidents. One of the regions most affected is that of Massarosa. As a consequence of this and the recent events of the war the curfew has been set at 19.00 hrs for all troops.

During the last week there has been a notable diminution of such incidents.

4478

CONFIDENTIAL

20

No. I,

Political Situation

The interplay of the political parties is little headed by the people as a whole, who, as in other regions, are very apathetic and think only of food problems. The Communist party is seeking, by means of an energetic propaganda, to counteract the prevalent influence of the Christian Democrats, a party which is in a very flourishing state in the town owing to the character of the region, which is much under the influence of the clergy.

Partisans.

Lucca is a centre for the assemblage of the partisans, who continually come in from the zones along the front, especially from Modena. The C.L.M. is appealing to the population for clothing and money in order to assist the partisans.

The situation of the partisans is, on the whole, better than in Florence. This is also because here, they are fewer in number.

Propaganda

Owing to lack of power, it is only with the greatest difficulty that the broadcasts of the Florence Radio can be heard at all. On the other hand, the Republican Radio from northern Italy can be heard extremely well.

A few days ago a Propaganda Shop, established and controlled by the PWB of Florence, was opened in Via Fillungo, the traditional meeting place and promenade of the people of Lucca. There is a fine exhibition of photographs and propaganda booklets and magazines. The publications "Il Mese", "Victory" etc, which have been much asked for and desired in Lucca, are on sale.

4477

THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORENCE AND MILITARY REQUISITIONING.

Following a conversation with PWB officers, the Rector of the Florence University, Prof. Piero Calamandrei, has sent in an aide-memoire, given in extenso hereunder, dealing mainly with the requisition of the University buildings by the Allied Military Command. The Rector is sufficiently broad-minded to appreciate that military needs take absolute precedence, and in making this written statement his chief concern is, obviously, to ensure that there shall be no break in the activities of the University.

"The University of Florence, composed of ten Faculties, Letters and Philosophy, Teaching, Law, Political Sciences, Economics and Commerce, Medicine and Surgery, Mathematical, Physical and Natural Sciences, Architecture, Chemistry, Agricultural Studies, and numerous specialized Institutes (Institute of Colonial Studies, of Papyrology) resumed its activities a few days after the liberation of the city, with the solemn inaugural ceremony of September 15th. On this occasion, General Hume being present, the pro-Rector made a speech which was widely diffused by the PWB, which body thus proved itself aware of the great political importance of the fact that the Allies, even though the war was still so near to Florence, should have facilitated with so much solicitude the resumption of studies in our University.

"The University of Florence has done all it could in these three months to reciprocate the trust manifested by the Allies. At the beginning of October the quarterly complementary courses were opened to enable the students, who had been kept from the University by the German occupation, to resume their studies and prepare seriously for the autumn examinations. The complementary courses were frequented by very large numbers. The examinations which are now going on reveal encouraging signs of seriousness and assiduity in the Florentine student body. In the meantime the restoration of the University institutions, some of which have been seriously damaged by the war and by German looting, has been taken in hand and is in great part completed. Libraries and scientific apparatus have been taken from their hiding places and replaced; the return to the university cabinets and museums of scientific collections which had been removed during the German occupation, has begun. In short, the moral and material reconstruction of the University is going on with great alacrity and more than satisfying results.

"But this work of reconstruction, in which the Allied Military Government of Florence has not only encouraged, but actively aided the academic authorities, is now in danger of being seriously compromised or altogether nullified by the military requisitions of some of the most important of the University institutions, which have been ordered during the last few weeks and by the threat of a general requisition which is hanging over the whole University.

that military needs take absolute precedence, and in making this written statement his chief concern is, obviously, to ensure that there shall be no break in the activities of the University.

"The University of Florence, composed of ten Faculties, Letters and Philosophy, Teaching, Law, Political Sciences, Economics and Commerce, Medicine and Surgery, Mathematical, Physical and Natural Sciences, Architecture, Chemistry, Agriculture) and of numerous specialized Institutes (Institute of Colonial Studies, of Papyrology) resumed its activities a few days after the liberation of the city, with the solemn inaugural ceremony of September 15th. On this occasion, General Hume being present, the Rector made a speech which was widely diffused by the press, thus proving itself aware of the great political importance of the fact that the Allies, even though the war was still so near to Florence, should have facilitated with so much solicitude the resumption of studies in our University.

"The University of Florence has done all it could in these three months to reciprocate the trust manifested by the Allies. At the beginning of October the quarterly complementary courses were opened to enable the students, who had been kept from the University by the German occupation, to resume their studies and prepare seriously for the autumn examinations. The complementary courses were frequented by very large numbers. The examinations which are now going on reveal encouraging signs of seriousness and assiduity in the Florentine student body. In the meantime the restoration of the University institutions, some of which have been seriously damaged by the war and by German looting, has been taken in hand and is in great part completed. Libraries and scientific apparatus have been taken from their hiding places and replaced; the return to the university cabinets and museums of scientific collections which had been removed during the German occupation, has begun. In short, the moral and material reconstruction of the University is going on with great alacrity and more than satisfying results.

"But this work of reconstruction, in which the Allied Military Government of Florence has not only encouraged, but actively aided the academic authorities, is now in danger of being seriously compromised or altogether nullified by the military requisitions of some of the most important of the University institutions, which have been ordered during the last few weeks and by the threat of a general requisition which is hanging over the whole University.

"AIG has declared all the University premises to be in use for purposes of public utility and hence not requisitionable, but the military authorities of the Armed Forces are not bound by these declarations of immunity from requisition. It has thus come about that during these last few weeks, Allied officers, sent direct from the Command of the 5th Army, have visited the University buildings, and without taking into account their scientific scope, have requisitioned them for military use (as centres for offices of the various commands and quarters for the troops). Towards the middle of December the threat of requisition was directed even against the central building of the University, in the Piazza San Marco, where the Rectorate, the faculties of letters and philosophy,

CONFIDENTIAL

22

No. I.

the library etc, are situated; in view of which the Pro-rector thought it his duty to go in person and inform General Hume that were this to happen to the Florence University, there would be nothing for it but to consider its immediate closing down, with serious repercussions in Florence public opinion and the student body; especially in consideration of the fact that even during the period of the German occupation the University premises requisitioned in the first days by military units were then left free to serve their purpose as centres of study. General Hume, who has always been a friend and steadfast defender of our University, at once took steps to ward off this last and worst step, with the result, that at least, the premises in Piazza San Marco were left free. But military requisitions have been successfully been decreed and immediately put into force in respect of the following Institutes; Chemistry Physiology, General Pathology, Health, Anatomy, Agrarian Mineralogy. The premises of the first five Institutes are at Careggi, the last at the Cascine.

"Each of these Institutes has its own building, comprising numerous rooms used as cabinets, laboratories, libraries, lecture halls etc. Many of them are equipped with delicate and modern scientific apparatus, collections etc. All these premises have been indiscriminately occupied, without any account being taken of the necessities of instruction and scientific research. The most delicate and valuable scientific instruments and materials have had to be removed in a few hours, piled up all together in a single room, subject to all the dangers which derive from a hurried removal. It is easy to foresee that the troops lodged in these buildings, even if highly disciplined, will be unable to take that special care which is needed for such valuable material.

"Even if the requisitions ordered by the Military Authorities, should stop short at this point, they have already produced this very serious result, viz: that, when the lectures are shortly resumed the Institutes occupied will not be able to function and it will be impossible to teach the corresponding subjects, or, at the most, they will be taught only in theory without that auxiliary aid of experimental and laboratory means which in the positive sciences is indispensable for any serious instruction.

"It is to be noted that already, two months ago, with the fullest agreement and collaboration between the Academic and the Allied Authorities, University cultural courses were started, given by Italian professors in English, for English and Canadian students; and courses in the Italian language for American soldiers who made request for them. Moreover, the Allied Military Authorities have many times expressed the intention, to us most welcome, of making Florence, as soon as the hostilities end, a great University centre for students of the Allied Forces, a plan which can contribute in every way in its power, be realized, if during these months it is prevented from being so. Buy 475

who has always been a friend and student of the University, at once took steps to ward off this last and worst step, with the result, that at least, the premises in Piazza San Marco were left free. But military requisitions have been successfully been decreed and immediately put into force in respect of the following Institutes; Chemistry Physiology, General Pathology, Health, Anatomy, Agrarian Mineralogy. The premises of the first five Institutes are at Careggi, the last at the Cascine.

"Each of these Institutes has its own building, comprising numerous rooms used as cabinets, laboratories, libraries, lecture halls etc. Many of them are equipped with delicate and modern scientific apparatus, collections etc. All these premises have been indiscriminately occupied, without any account being taken of the necessities of instruction and scientific research. The most delicate and valuable scientific instruments and materials have had to be removed in a few hours, piled up all together in a single room, subject to all the dangers which derive from a hurried removal. It is easy to foresee that the troops lodged in these buildings, even if highly disciplined, will be unable to take that special care which is needed for such valuable material.

" Even if the requisitions ordered by the Military Authorities, should stop short at this point, they have already produced this very serious result, viz: that, when the lectures are shortly resumed the Institutes occupied will not be able to function and it will be impossible to teach the corresponding subjects, or, at the most, they will be taught only in theory without that auxiliary aid of experimental and laboratory means which in the positive sciences is indispensable for any serious instruction.

"It is to be noted that already, two months ago, with the fullest agreement and collaboration between the Academic and the Allied Authorities, University cultural courses were started, given by Italian professors in English, for English and Canadian students; and courses in the Italian language for American soldiers who made request for them. Moreover, the Allied Military Authorities have many times expressed the intention, to us most welcome, of making Florence, as soon as the hostilities end, a great University centre for students of the Allied Forces. But how can this splendid plan, to which the Florence University is eager to contribute in every way in its power, be realized, if during these months it is prevented from setting its institutions to work and if the damage, already caused to its scientific material, is increased?"

Professor Piero Calamandrei.

Rector of the University of Florence, 2/I/45.

Bu 4475

CONFIDENTIAL

23

No. I.

N.B. The number of students so far enrolled for the year 1945-46 is 6,566, distributed as follows among the various faculties:-

Letters and Philosophy	727
Teaching	1051
Economics and Commerce	1529
School for Statistics	27
Law	448
Agriculture	277
Natural Sciences	1021
Architecture	399
Medicine and Surgery	725
School of Obstetrics	85
Chemistry	207

To the above figure should be added the students enrolled in the Faculty of Political Sciences now being dissolved and students of the University of Pisa at present continuing their studies in Florence.

4474

1890

- Economics and Commerce 1529
- School for Statistics 27
- Law 448
- Agriculture 277
- Natural Sciences 1021
- Architecture 599
- Medicine and Surgery 795
- School of Obstetrics 35
- Chemistry 207

To the above figure should be added the students enrolled in the Faculty of Political Sciences now being dissolved and students of the University of Pisa at present continuing their studies in Florence.

4474

CONFIDENTIAL

34

APPENDIX III. N° I.

SUMMARY OF PERUGIA.

M.B. The following notes have been compiled by a PWB collaborator sent to Perugia for the express purpose of collecting information on the general political and economical situation of that town. An assessment of the value and accuracy of this survey for any particular purpose must accordingly take into consideration the fact that the report is not the considered opinion of a resident official, but is a summary recording of information and impressions gained from contacts made during a short visit.

General

On the whole conditions in Perugia are good. The food situation is excellent compared with other cities, thanks to the surrounding agricultural district. Rationed food-stuffs are distributed regularly and in abundance. The Black Market is easy, and almost everybody can buy on it. Inflation is hardly noticeable and paper money has a fairly small circulation. Restaurants are very expensive.

Therefore, life is not very hard and the streets are full of people much less worried than those of other towns. Cinemas are crowded, shops pretty well stocked and propaganda shops quite busy.

On the whole the population takes very little interest in politics. The ministerial crisis was only very slightly felt and the Sforza affair hardly noticed. Parties live an insignificant life and the C.L.N. is of no importance at all. The Prefect is considered an honest though not very brilliant man. Fascist feelings are still rife. There has been no epuration to speak of, nor do the people expect it. The rise of Democracy is judged by fascist standards.

Relations with the Allies might be better. People complain of the severity of the Military Court of Justice, of unreasonable requisitions, of transport difficulties and because girls are too friendly with the Allied soldiers. Many clashes are due to the fascist way of thinking.

Feelings against Rome and Florence are running high. The population is convinced that if most of the agricultural products were not exported to these cities, life in Perugia would be ideal. The natural reaction to this conviction is an almost complete indifference towards the Government residing in Rome and a mistrust of outsiders.

Political

of this survey for any particular purpose most take into consideration the fact that the report is not the considered opinion of a resident official, but is a summary recording of information and impressions gained from contacts made during a short visit.

Comments.

On the whole conditions in Perugia are good. The food situation is excellent compared with other cities, thanks to the surrounding agricultural district. Rationed food-stuffs are distributed regularly and in abundance. The Black Market is easy, and almost everybody can buy on it. Inflation is hardly noticeable and paper money has a fairly small circulation. Restaurants are very expensive.

Therefore, life is not very hard and the streets are full of people much less worried than those of other towns. Cinemas are crowded, shops pretty well stocked and propaganda shops quite busy.

On the whole the population takes very little interest in politics. The ministerial crisis was only very slightly felt and the Sforza affair hardly noticed. Parties live an insignificant life and the C.L.L. is of no importance at all. The Prefect is considered an honest though not very brilliant man. Fascist feelings are still rife. There has been no epuration to speak of, nor do the people expect it. The rise of Democracy is judged by fascist standards.

Relations with the Allies might be better. People complain of the severity of the Military Court of Justice, of unreasonable requisitions, of transport difficulties and because girls are too friendly with the Allied soldiers. Many clashes are due to the fascist way of thinking.

Feelings against Rome and Florence are running high. The population is convinced that if most of the agricultural products were not exported to these cities, life in Perugia would be ideal. The natural reaction to this conviction is an almost complete indifference towards the Government residing in Rome and a mistrust of outsiders.

Politics

Public Sentiment.

The population of Perugia took little interest in the ministerial crisis. It showed itself indifferent towards the birth of an Italian Democracy. The representatives of the Parties realized the difficulties confronting the Government in Rome in achieving its political ideals. The fact that the representatives of the Communist Party formed part of the Government does not signify, even according to the Communists, that they have made an ideological compromise, but that they have adapted themselves to present needs. The Communists confirm

4473

CONFIDENTIAL.

25

No. I.

that the National Pact with the Socialists is not broken owing to the latter's absence from the Government and they are convinced that it is a question of a temporary situation to which they must adhere for tactical reasons.

The trend of the masses is towards a Republic, but in a very platonic manner. Monarchist forces are not lacking, especially among Christian Democrats, who definitely tend towards the right, and of the Liberals who hold the chief public offices. Among the Liberals, the young men who actually control the movement are, on the contrary, republicans.

The Prefect.

The Prefect of Perugia is Avv. Luigi Peano, member of the Liberal Party. He is considered an insignificant and tiresome person. He is not really disliked by the population, but he is accused of exporting food-stuffs in which the district is rich to Rome and Florence, so depriving the people of Perugia of their privileged position.

The Mayor

The Mayor is Avv. Andreani, member of the Liberal Party. He is very popular, especially among the syndical corporations, despite his political leanings. He understands the needs of the working-classes and does all in his power to better their condition. On his own initiative he has fixed an increase of 40% on pensions paid by the Comune, holding himself responsible before the local administration. He has, by this action, won the sympathy of the Camera del Lavoro, where the Communists are in the majority.

The C.I.L.M.

The President is Avv. Apponi, member of the Action Party. He is young, active and ambitious. With him at the head, it is hoped that the Committee will be more active. During the clandestine period it was not the centre of the struggle, and there was no real partisan movement in the district, although many insist on the contrary. It is almost unknown by the majority of the population.

The Parties.

Besides the usual parties, the Republicans are strongly represented. On the whole the people of Perugia, and in fact, all the inhabitants of the Province of Umbria are indifferent to politics. Two reasons contribute to this state of affairs: a) historical conditions and in particular Papal rule; b) present conditions, which are favourable to this part of the country.

The Prefect.

The Prefect of Perugia is Avv. Luigi Peano, member of the Liberal Party. He is considered an insignificant and tiresome person. He is not really disliked by the population, but he is accused of exporting food-stuffs in which the district is rich to Rome and Florence, so depriving the people of Perugia of their privileged position.

The Mayor

The Mayor is Avv. Andreani, member of the Liberal Party. He is very popular, especially among the syndical corporations, despite his political leanings. He understands the needs of the working-classes and does all in his power to better their condition. On his own initiative he has fixed an increase of 40% on pensions paid by the Comune, holding himself responsible before the local administration. He has, by this action, won the sympathy of the Camera del Lavoro, where the Communists are in the majority.

The C.I.L.L.

The President is Avv. Apponi, member of the Action Party. He is young, active and ambitious. With him at the head, it is hoped that the Committee will be more active. During the clandestine period it was not the centre of the struggle, and there was no real partisan movement in the district, although many insist on the contrary. It is almost unknown by the majority of the population.

The Parties.

Besides the usual parties, the Republicans are strongly represented. On the whole the people of Perugia, and in fact, all the inhabitants of the Province of Umbria are indifferent to politics. Two reasons contribute to this state of affairs: a) historical conditions and in particular Papal rule; b) present conditions, which are favourable to this part of the country.

The following parties are represented in Perugia:

1. The Liberal Party. It is influential in the city and surrounding district. It includes members with innate conservative tendencies. Their propaganda is directed at all classes, especially small landowners and tradesmen. They play a leading part in public affairs and may have a certain political importance in Umbria in the future.
2. The Christian Democrats. Owing to former Papal influence this party has a large following, more of a sentimental than practical nature. In fact, in syndical affairs, members of this party turn to other sources. It is of right-wing leanings and inclined to support monarchy.

4472

CONFIDENTIAL

26

No. I.

3. The Communist Party. It is not so influential as elsewhere. It finds it very difficult to inflame the quiet, resigned franciscan mentality of the population. Communist propaganda is greatly hindered by the fact that there are no large industries in the Province and that all important positions in public affairs are filled up by members of the right-wing parties. There are very few Communist mayors in the whole of Umbria. This party is very influential in the Camera del Lavoro and through this has obtained success in syndical affairs. Communists are moderate and know very little about real Communism.
4. The Socialist Party. Former Socialists belong to this Party for sentimental reasons. In syndical affairs they follow in the footsteps of the Communists.
5. The Action Party. Is of small importance and its members belong to the intellectual and middle-classes. It was quite active during the clandestine period, but at present it is disappearing, as elsewhere.
6. The Democratic Labour Party. This party tried to obtain syndical success by organizing communal employees, but it failed in this as in previous enterprises.
7. The Republican Party. has only a small following, although the population is as a whole republican. It is accused of shouting "Away with the King", without defining the reason for this slogan.

ECONOMIC.

The Food Situation

Perugia being a rich agricultural Province, transport and not produce, is the main problem of the food situation. On the whole the population does not complain, since it realizes that it is better off than other towns. The daily ration of bread, which used to be 300 grammes, is to-day 200, and the population is still expecting the increased ration promised by the American Government. Actually the wheat production of the Province is such as to permit of a larger ration.

Distribution of food-stuffs has been as follows:-

Pasta.

Regular distribution over and above fixed ration..

Fresh meat.

Weekly or fortnightly.

Sugar.

Two distributions of 100 and 50 grammes respectively.

Salt.

200 grammes per month.

Oil.

No distribution, substituted by lard.

Soap.

2 distributions of 100 grammes each.

are treated up by members of the right-wing parties. There are very few Communist mayors in the whole of Umbria. This party is very influential in the Camera del Lavoro and through this has obtained success in syndical affairs. Communists are moderate and know very little about real Communism.

4. The Socialist Party. Former Socialists belong to this Party for sentimental reasons. In syndical affairs they follow in the footsteps of the Communists.

5. The Action Party. Is of small importance and its members belong to the intellectual and middle-classes. It was quite active during the clandestine period, but at present it is disappearing, as elsewhere.

6. The Democratic Labour Party This party tried to obtain syndical success by organizing communal employees, but it failed in this as in previous enterprises.

7. The Republican Party. Has only a small following, although the population is as a whole republican. It is accused of shouting "Away with the King", without defining the reason for this slogan.

ECONOMIC.

The Food Situation

Perugia being a rich agricultural Province, transport and not produce, is the main problem of the food situation. On the whole the population does not complain, since it realizes that it is better off than other towns. The daily ration of bread, which used to be 300 grammes, is to-day 200, and the population is still expecting the increased ration promised by the American Government. Actually the wheat production of the Province is such as to permit of a larger ration.

Distribution of food-stuffs has been as follows:-

Pasta.	Regular distribution over and above fixed ration.
Fresh meat.	Weekly or fortnightly.
Sugar.	Two distributions of 100 and 50 grammes respectively.
Salt.	200 grammes per month.
Oil.	No distribution, substituted by lard.
Soap.	2 distributions of 100 grammes each
Pharmaceutical and Chemical products and fertilisers.	Very scarce.
Labour.	

The Camera del Lavoro and Labour Problems.

Communists, Socialists and Christian Democrats are represented in the Camera del Lavoro and each party has a member on the Executive Committee. The Communist Party was the first to obtain

CONFIDENTIAL

27

No. I.

admission to the Camera and it is the most influential, particularly in syndical affairs. The Christian Democrats are of little importance.

The Action Party asked to be admitted to the Camera, but it was refused, because it had no real working-class following. The Camera has Sections in the main districts of the Province namely: Città di Castello, Umbelide, Gubbio, Guclido, Spoleto, Foligno, Assisi, Bastia and Todi. In all these sections only 3 parties are represented. At Spoleto, it appears, there is a representative of the Action Party.

The Camera has a Civil Labour Bureau. Actually it does only statistical work, as the Provincial Labour Office generally finds work for the unemployed. The Allied Organizations use the Bureau, only when they are unable to find labour via their own sources.

Owing to the lack of large industrial enterprises, Factory Commissions exist only in the match and Angora Wool Factories.

Syndicates are important. Formerly they were divided according to the various branches of industry and trade; at present a single syndicate of private enterprises is cooperating with the Civil Service Syndicate.

Unemployment is rare. About 400 bridges have been destroyed in the Province and a large number of workmen are employed in their reconstruction by the Civil Labour Unit.

A solution has been found concerning wages. Except in the Civil Hospital and the Lunatic Asylum, all employees have received cost-of-living bonus, plus 70% rise in wages and in some cases another bonus of 30 lire. Thus the average wage amounts to 100-150 lire per day. This is considered sufficient for the actual working-class mode of living. For the present, workers are satisfied, and only further inflation would cause discontent.

Peasants, on the contrary, are not satisfied. They are difficult to organize and satisfactory syndical results are not easy to obtain. Only 3000 peasant families in the Province of Perugia belong to the Labour Organizations, yet the Camera declares that this class suffered most under the Fascist Régime. The Provincial Liaison Officer has, therefore, planned the following reforms:-

- a) The total abolition of obligation on the peasants to hand over to the landowner a certain number of fowl or to pay an equivalent sum of money.
- b) Landowners are to pay for livestock stolen by the Germans or requisitioned by the Partisans.
- c) Poor peasants are to be paid a small wage, particularly in such districts as Norcia, where share-croppers cannot live for 6 months on their share of the produce.

The Camera has a Civil Labour Bureau. Actually it does only statistical work, as the Provincial Labour Office generally finds work for the unemployed. The Allied Organizations use the Bureau, only when they are unable to find labour via their own sources.

Cowing to the lack of large industrial enterprises, Factory Commissions exist only in the March and Angora Wool Factories. Syndicates are important. Formerly they were divided according to the various branches of industry and trade; at present a single syndicate of private enterprises is cooperating with the Civil Service Syndicate.

Unemployment is rare. About 400 bridges have been destroyed in the Province and a large number of workmen are employed in their reconstruction by the Civil Labour Unit.

A solution has been found concerning wages. Except in the Civil Hospital and the Lunatic Asylum, all employees have received cost-of-living bonus, plus 70% rise in wages and in some cases another bonus of 30 lire. Thus the average wage amounts to 100-150 lire per day. This is considered sufficient for the actual working-class mode of living. For the present, workers are satisfied, and only further inflation would cause discontent.

Peasants, on the contrary, are not satisfied. They are difficult to organize and satisfactory syndical results are not easy to obtain. Only 3000 peasant families in the Province of Perugia belong to the Labour Organizations. Yet the Camera declare that this class suffered most under the Fascist Régime. The Provincial Liaison Officer has, therefore, planned the following reforms:-

- a) The total abolition of obligation on the peasants to hand over to the landowner a certain number of fowl or to pay an equivalent sum of money.
- b) Landowners are to pay for livestock stolen by the Germans or requisitioned by the Partisans.
- c) Poor peasants are to be paid a small wage, particularly in such districts as Nocera, where share-croppers cannot live for 6 months on their share of the produce.
- d) Peasants are to control oil crushing, through special committees.

Members of the Perugian Syndicates consider these reforms very important for an essentially agricultural district.

Agriculture.

The agricultural situation in the Province of Perugia, is despite the passage of the war and consequent destruction, is

4470

28.

CONFIDENTIAL

N° I.

excellent. The principal products are oil, grain and wine.

Grain

The statistics supplied by the Economic Statistical Office of Agriculture of Perugia are the following:

Estimated production for 1943-44	1,830,000 quintals.
This production which is believed can actually be arrived at, will be thus divided:	
Reserved for seed	280,000 quintals.
Reserved for producers	690,000 "
Needs of civil population.	580,000 "
Grain for export	280,000 "
Total	1,830,000 "

The needs of the civil population are calculated on the basis of 300 grammes of bread a day. Exports could be directed to the Provinces of Rome and Florence so as to be able to raise the bread ration from 200 to 300 grammes. The grain will be exported in its natural state, it not being possible, in view of the state of the mills in the Province, to reduce it to flour and farinaceous produce.

The sowing for the new year has been carried on regularly, despite war conditions. A diminution of 27 in the amount of sowing can be calculated. It has not been found necessary to make a loan of oxen and other traction animals and of agricultural tractors obligatory between peasants. Livestock has, in fact, not been much injured.

Oil

The figures supplied by the Economic Statistical Office of Agriculture are as follows:-

Anticipated production	35,000 quintals
For the pools	20,000 "
For export	2,000 "
For the civil population	18,000 "
For use of farmers	15,000 "

The province of Perugia being one of the principal oil-producing regions, the problem of the oil presses is of great importance. The actual situation is very serious, because the greater number of the presses cannot receive electric power. Every effort has been made to motorize the mills, but not all are capable of being converted. When, to this situation, is added the serious problem of transport, it is obvious that the olive crop will suffer both as to quantity and as to quality.

Livestock.

The reduction in livestock, resulting from war operations and the number carried off by the Germans, is not very great in proportion to the losses suffered elsewhere. A reduction of 20-25%

469

Estimated production for 1943 44 1,830,000 quintals.
 This production which is believed can actually be arrived at,
 will be thus divided:
 Reserved for seed 200,000 quintals.
 Reserved for producers 690,000 " "
 Needs of civil population 580,000 " "
 Grain for export 280,000 " "
 Total 1,830,000 " "

The needs of the civil population are calculated on the basis of 300 grammes of bread a day. Exports could be directed to the Provinces of Rome and Florence so as to be able to raise the bread ration from 200 to 300 grammes. The grain will be exported in its natural state, it not being possible, in view of the state of the mills in the Province, to reduce it to flour and farinaceous produce.

The sowing for the new year has been carried on regularly, despite war conditions. A diminution of 27% in the amount of sowing can be calculated. It has not been found necessary to make a loan of oxen and other traction animals and of agricultural tractors obligatory between peasants. Livestock has, in fact, not been much injured.

OIL

The figures supplied by the Economic Statistical Office of Agriculture are as follows:-

Anticipated production	35,000 quintals
For the pools	20,000 " "
For export	2,000 " "
For the civil population	18,000 " "
For use of farmers	15,000 " "

The province of Perugia being one of the principal oil-producing regions, the problem of the oil presses is of great importance. The actual situation is very serious, because the greater number of the presses cannot receive electric power. Every effort has been made to motorize the mills, but not all are capable of being converted. When, to this situation, is added the serious problem of transport, it is obvious that the olive crop will suffer both as to quantity and as to quality.

LIVESTOCK.

The reduction in livestock, resulting from war operations and the number carried off by the Germans, is not very great in proportion to the losses suffered elsewhere. A reduction of 20-25% may be calculated, which will be made good in the coming year.

The gathering of meat into the pools continues, quantities of meat being taken from those farmers who at the end of the preceding campaign had not yet made the 35% contribution imposed by the state. This was established by a prefectorial decree, approved by the A.N.C.

23

CONFIDENTIAL.

No. I.

Wine.
Wine production has diminished from 25 to 40% in comparison with last year.

Industry.
In the Province of Perugia as a whole there are no large-scale industries, but only handicrafts and small industries connected with the handling of agricultural products (especially mills, oil-presses and sugar refineries.)

The actual state of the industrial structure of the Province (with an indication of damage caused by war operations) is as follows:-

Mills

1. The Esercizio Molini of Assisi is the most modern in Umbria. It used to employ 55 workers. Production 1400 quintals of flour per day.
2. The Molino Pambuffetti, in Foligno. Production 750 quintals per day.
3. The Molino Cappelletti in Todi. Production 550-600 quintals per day.
4. The Molino Mignini in S. Giovanni, Perugia. Production 950 quintals per day.

All these mills have been destroyed. The situation has been to some extent saved by putting some small local mills into production, which can grind sufficient grain to satisfy local needs. It has not been possible to produce farinaceous pastes (maccheroni, vermicelli etc) owing to the lack of electric power. The distribution of power has now been suspended for all other industries of the Province so as to give it to the mills. Export to other provinces, which once comprised chiefly farinaceous products, is carried on to-day with unground grain.

Sugar Refineries.

The principal refinery is that of the Società Romana Zuccheri of Foligno, which had formerly 180 workers on its pay-roll. To-day it is seriously damaged; but the department for the production of alcoholics has already been put in a condition to resume normal work. The sugar refining department will also be able to resume 70% of its normal activity. The next harvest of beet is gathered in.

Metallurgy and Varied Industries.

The productive capacity of the Società di Costruzioni Meccaniche of the Franchi Brothers in Bastia, with a personnel numbering 650, is reduced to about 10%. All the machinery has

4468

4468

Wine. Wine production has diminished from 25 to 40% in comparison with last year.

Industry.

in the Province of Perugia as a whole there are no large-scale industries, but only handicrafts and small industries connected with the handling of agricultural products (especially mills, oil-presses and sugar refineries.)

The actual state of the industrial structure of the Province (with an indication of damage caused by war operations) is as follows:-

Mills

1. The Esercizio Molini of Assisi is the most modern in Umbria. It used to employ 55 workers. Production 1400 quintals of flour per day.
2. The Molino Pambuffetti, in Foligno. Production 750 quintals per day.
3. The Molino Cappelletti in Todi. Production 550-600 quintals per day.
4. The Molino Mignini in S. Giovanni, Perugia. Production 950 quintals per day.

All these mills have been destroyed. The situation has been to some extent saved by putting some small local mills into production, which can grind sufficient grain to satisfy local needs. It has not been possible to produce farinaceous pastes (maccheroni, vermicelli etc) owing to the lack of electric power. The distribution of power has now been suspended for all other industries of the Province so as to give it to the mills. Export to other provinces, which once comprised chiefly farinaceous products, is carried on to-day with unground grain.

Sugar Refineries.

The principal refinery is that of the Società Romana Zuccheri of Foligno, which had formerly 180 workers on its pay-roll. To-day it is seriously damaged; but the department for the production of alcoholics has already been put in a condition to resume normal work. The sugar refining department will also be able to resume 70% of its normal activity. In 1947 the next harvest of beet is gathered in.

Metallurgy and Varied Industries.

The productive capacity of the Società di Costruzioni Meccaniche of the Franchi Brothers in Eastia, with a personnel numbering 690, is reduced to nought. All the machinery has been carried off. The premises are still partly standing.

The Società Anonima Terno Elettrica Umbra, in Giano, with personnel numbering 1547, is now partially operating. The mine can maintain only a limited production owing to lack of transport and electric power.

Handicrafts.

The typical industry of the Umbrian region is majolica pottery. It is considered an artisan industry but in reality calls for a very complex organic and co-ordinative system. It

CONFIDENTIAL.

30

No. I.

is centred at Perugia and in the Province, especially at Deruta, formerly electric ovens were in use, but now wood-heated ovens have to be used. Production as a whole is much reduced.

PROPAGANDA

Press.

One newspaper the CORRIERE DI PERUGIA is published in this city under the auspices of the Provincial Committee of National Liberation. It is a news bulletin which gives local news, side by side with articles on General politics. It would be difficult to find a more badly compiled paper.

If one considers that Perugia is the capital of a region, that it possesses a University and a very large intellectual class, it is surprising that its newspaper should be of so low a standard, not only in the tone of its articles, but also in the way in which they are composed. It is easy to find orthographical errors in them.

For some time past a service has been organized to bring the CORRIERE DEL MATTINO of Florence to Perugia.

As regards the political press, there was an outburst of newspapers of all political colours, immediately after the liberation. In consequence of the restrictions imposed by the Allied Government they have disappeared from circulation. The political papers of Rome, however, arrive in the city.

Attitude towards the Allies

Although in Perugia, traditional friendship for the Allies did not exist as elsewhere, e.g. in Florence, nevertheless they have been warmly welcomed by the population. Public opinion considers that the Allies have committed psychological errors in their treatment of the Italians.

Arbitrary requisitions, for instance, of flats and cars is looked upon with disfavour and the Allies are compared unfavourably with the Germans who did no looting in Perugia. There have been some clashes between Allied soldiers and young men of the city. The latter put a lock of woman's hair in a shop window in the centre of the town, declaring that it had been torn from a girl who was always seen about it with the Allied soldiers. A list of girls' names was also posted up in the city. Public opinion and local newspapers, including those of the Left, blame the Italians for these conditions.

Allied Courts are blamed for imposing heavier fines than the people can pay. It is probable that the Allied authorities do not realize that the price level is not so high here as elsewhere.

PROPAGANDAPress.

One newspaper the CORRIERE DELLA PERUGIA is published in this city under the auspices of the Provincial Committee of National Liberation. It is a news bulletin which gives local news, side by side with articles on General politics. It would be difficult to find a more badly compiled paper.

If one considers that Perugia is the capital of a region, that it possesses a University and a very large intellectual class, it is surprising that its newspaper should be of so low a standard, not only in the tone of its articles, but also in the way in which they are composed. It is easy to find orthographical errors in them.

For some time past a service has been organized to bring the CORRIERE DELLA PERUGIA of Florence to Perugia.

As regards the political press, there was an outburst of newspapers of all political colours, immediately after the liberation. In consequence of the restrictions imposed by the Allied Government they have disappeared from circulation. The political papers of Rome, however, arrive in the city.

Attitude towards the Allies

Although in Perugia, traditional friendship for the Allies did not exist as elsewhere, e.g. in Florence, nevertheless they have been warmly welcomed by the population. Public opinion considers that the Allies have committed psychological errors in their treatment of the Italians.

Arbitrary requisitions, for instance, of flats and cars is looked upon with disfavour and the Allies are compared unfavourably with the Germans who did no looting in Perugia. There have been some clashes between Allied soldiers and young men of the city. The latter put a lock of woman's hair in a shop window in the centre of the town, declaring that it had been torn from a girl who was always seen about it with the Allied soldiers. A list of girls' names was also posted up in the city. Public opinion and local newspapers, including those of the Left, blame the Italians for these conditions.

Allied Courts are blamed for imposing heavier fines than the people can pay. It is probable that the Allied authorities do not realise that the price level is not so high here as elsewhere.

On the whole the population is content with the food-rationing but deeply resent the export of wheat, and seem to blame and Rome.

4467

1905

