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

ACC. 10000/143/2353 610/18

SITUATION REPORTS · FLORENCE

Feb. - Nov. 1945

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

2 NOV 1945

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

JPL/DO

Ref. 112/PRB

(10)

28 Nov. 45

SUBJECT : Alleged transport of Arms.

TO : Public Safety Sub-Commission.

With reference to your SD/610.01 - 10 dated 21 Nov. 1945.

1. The Director of "Italia d'Oggi" newsagency, which released the story of an alleged transport of arms, told us verbally that he had the information from people coming from Grottamare.

2. He suggested writing to the Sindaco of Fermo or to the Prefect of Ascoli Piceno for further details.

John P. Leacacos

JOHN P. LEACACOS
Major NMB
Executive Officer
Public Relations Branch

4665

Security
Division
30/11
2185
610-01
-10

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

HEADQUARTERS,
ALLIED COMMISSION
AIGCIA.

CONFIDENTIAL.

Ref.: ACC/2/77

5 Jan 45.

SUBJECT: Alleged Transport of Arms.

TO: U.S.AC. Public Safety Sub-Commission (Security Division)

1. Ref. your SD/SIC.02 of 7 Nov 45 and this office letter ACC/2/77 of 17 Nov 45.

2. The attached copy of letter received from H.Q. 2 Polish Corps is forwarded for your information please.

H.F.VAUGHAN, Capt.Man.Regt.
A/Liaison Officer, AIGCIA.

1 Enc.
HFV/ek

Copy: U.S. 61 Area (with encl.)
U.S. 314 Field Security Section (with encl.)

Security
Division
Reg'd. 7/1...
Book No. 2665.
File No. 610.01
Action.....
4004

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

HEAD QUARTERS
ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
ANCONA PROVINCE

LEGAL OFFICE

Subject: .....

To: .....

From: .....

Ref: .....

Date: .....



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

G.S.I. (b), Main 2 Polish Corps,
No 1478/II.T.TJ/45.
17 Dec.45

Subject: Alleged Transport of Arms.

To: A.C. Liaison Officer, ANCONA.

Reference your ANC/A/77 dated 16 Nov.45 in connection with the alleged transport of arms.

Please note that thorough investigations have been carried out and it has been found that the incident reported in the "Voce Repubblicana" is untrue and completely without any foundation whatsoever.

Captain,
G.S.I. (b).

4663

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

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
A.P.O. 394
PUBLIC SAFETY SUB COMMISSION
SECURITY DIVISION

REF. : SD/610.01 -10 21 November 1945

SUBJECT : Alleged Transport of Arms.

TO : Director, Public Relations Branch.

1. A report appears in Voce Repubblicana of 7 Nov. 1945 to the effect that in a collision involving a Polish vehicle and a civilian truck near Grottammare, several cases in the latter vehicle were broken, disclosing that they contained arms. The report continued that the Poles arrested the three civilian occupants who were found to be Russians, and handed them over to the Allied Command of Ancona.

2. Would you please ask the Editor of this paper on what grounds this report is based.

JOHN W. CHAPMAN,
Colonel, J.A.G.D.
Director Public Safety,
Sub Commission.

TPC/lnb

4662

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

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
ANCONA

SECRET

Subject: Alleged Transport of Arms & Arrest of Russians.

To : Public Safety Sub-Commission (Security Division) HQ AC

From: Liaison Officer, Ancona.

Ref : ANC/A/77

Date: 17 Nov 1945.

Security Division
Rec'd 20/11
Doc. No 2036
JWGS/fm 610-01-10
Action

1. Your SD/610.01 dated 7 nov 1945 refers.

2. With regard to para 2 of a/m letter, investigations as to whether the "occurrence" on which you instruct a report to be submitted, actually took place, have been carried out with:

a) the APM 61 Area
b) G.Branch 61 Area
c) 26 BLU Ancona
d) 314 F.S.S. Ancona
e) HQ, 2 Polish Corps.

3. A reply is awaited from e) and will be communicated to you as soon as received.

4. No knowledge of the occurrence is possessed by a) b) and c).

5. A copy of the report from d) is attached herewith.

6. Should you desire to pursue the matter further it is respectfully suggested that you communicate with No 3 District, but it is further suggested that information first be obtained from "Voce Republicana" as to the source of the report they published, which report, it will be seen, has caused considerable trouble to both British and Italian Military Authorities.

1 Enc (as per para 5)

4661

J.W. GUTHRIE SQUAIR,
Capt., Int Corps,
Liaison Officer, ANCONA.

Copy: HQ 61 Area
O.C. 314 Field Security Section.

To A.C. Liaison Officer,
ANCONA
From OC 314 FSS
Subj Rumour of tnt. of arms.

SECRET
15 Nov 45
314/MAS/45

1. Reference conversation between FSO 314 FSS and AC Liaison Officer this morning, the following details cover the position up to date and it is NOT expected that there will be any further developments.

2. About a week ago, the local Italian CS organisation received a report by wireless from their HQ in ROME that an Italian Lorry with trailer, loaded with large wine barrels, had collided with a WD vehicle on Route 16 near SAN BENEDETTO DEL TRONTO (ASCOLI PICENO), and that, as a result, the barrels had burst open and had been found to contain arms and ammo. There was also a subsidiary story that four Russians had been riding on the Italian lorry. The Major of CS covered the ground immediately with another officer from his organisation. CCRR., GG.FF. and Polish tps. in the area all knew nothing of the supposed collision.

3. A day or two later, the story had reached the Captain of GGFF, MACERATA, and, accompanied by him, FS Det. in that town again checked over the whole area, questioning Civilians, Polish tps. and, of course, the Italian police and GG.FF. station commanders. The result of their enquiries confirmed the earlier impression. No one had heard or seen anything of the alleged collision.

4. It is considered, therefore, that there is NO truth in the story since it is quite impossible that such an incident could have taken place on a main road, which carries a good deal of traffic, without it becoming known, particularly as a WD vehicle was supposed to have been involved.

5. It was subsequently established that the story appeared in the ROME newspaper, VOCE REPPUBLICANA, and - as far as is known - this is the origin of it.

(A.J.A.LASCELLES)
Lieut
Commanding 314 Field Security Sec.

4660

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

Subj: Rumour of tnt. of arms.

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(A.J.A.LASCELLES)

Lieut
Commanding 314 Field Security Sec.

1000

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HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
A.P.O. 394
PUBLIC SAFETY SUB COMMISSION
SECURITY DIVISION

REF : SD/610.01

7 November 1945

SUBJECT : Alleged Transport of Arms

TO : L.O. Allied Commission
Ancona

1. A report appears in Voce Repubblicana of 7 Nov. 1945 to the effect that in a collision involving a Polish vehicle and a civilian truck near Grottamare, several chase in the latter vehicle were broken, disclosing that they contained arms. The report continued that the Poles arrested the three civilian occupants who were found to be Russians, and handed them over to the Allied Command of Ancona.

2. Please submit a report on the occurrence together with full particulars of the Russians referred to.

JOHN W. CHAPMAN,
Colonel J.A.G.D.,
Director Public Safety,
Sub Commission.

CHM/mb

4659

CONFIDENTIAL FLORENCE REPORT Nº 1.

REPORT ON CONDITIONS IN TUSCANY.

NOTE:

This report is compiled from Italian and other sources and is intended to give a summary of prinicpal events and a survey of public opinion. It does not necessarily represent the views of the compilers. The contents are strictly confidential and must on no account be disclosed or distributed to third parties. Passages marked on the side are for information only.

P.W.B. "D" Section. April 24th 1945.

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

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P.W.B. "D" Section. April 24th 1945.

4658

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CONFIDENTIAL FLORENCE REPORT N°1.

REPORT ON CONDITIONS IN TUSCANY.

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Psychological Warfare Branch
Unit No 14. APO 512 U.S.Army.

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POLITICAL

1. Labour Democrats versus Liberation Committees.

The Florentine section of the Democrazia del Lavoro has just released the following statement to the local press:

" The Democratic Labour Party refers to what has been discussed at the Provincial Congress of Liberation Committees (see last Report) and expresses it [illegible]:

1) The Liberation Committees of Liberated Italy constitute a useful provisional instrument at the service of democracy only insofar as they embrace all anti-fascist parties and are collaborators with the public organs that represent the continuity of the State.

2) Effective Democracy can come about only through the free choice by the people of the governing classes, within the framework of the law. The possibility of making this choice must be expedited as much as possible.

3) The function of the Parties - directing opinion and positive political action - must not be diminished once the country has been liberated by an authoritarian interpretation of the functions of the Committees of Liberation which, with the aim of achieving unity of action among those holding opposing political-social views, operate in a manner tending to obscure that political clarity of which the country is in need."

This open hositility of the Democrazia del Lavoro to the Liberation Committees calls for a word of explanation. It should be noted that this party has not been admitted to the Tuscan C.L.N. Immediately after the liberation of the area, Dr. Filippo Tedeschi, (see biographical note in an Appendix to Report N° 15), the present Regional Delegate of the Party, called on the C.L.N. when snipers were still active in Florence and asked for his Party to be admitted to the Committee. He was received coldly and was told that as the activities of the Democrazia del Lavoro had been negative during the clandestine period, the Party could not be admitted until it had a sizable membership. Subsequently when the Party established a centre in Florence and enrolled its first members (at present numbering a few hundred) a further application for admittance was made and again rejected. Now, taking a sour-grapes attitude, the exponents of the party make out that they are glad not to belong to the C.T.L.N. because the Committee does not live up to the principles of pure democracy and hampers the work of the State departments.

What claims to be an objective survey of the political horizon, by the Labour Democrats, is given in a Appendix to the present Report.

2. Constitution of Regional Socialist Federation for Tuscany.

With the participation of representatives of the Socialist Federations of the Province of Florence, Pistoia, Lucca, Leghorn, [illegible]

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only insofar as they embrace all anti-fascist parties and are collaborators with the public organs that represent the continuity of the State.

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2. Constitution of Regional Socialist Federation for Tuscany.

With the participation of representatives of the Socialist Federations of the Province of Florence, Pistoia, Lucca, Leghorn, Apuania and Arezzo and wi h the full adhesion of the Federation of Pisa Province, a meeting was held in Florence on April 22 to form a regional Socialist Federation.

After Lombardi, the secretary of the Florence Federation, which had hitherto in part acted as a regional body, had explained the necessity for such a move, a brisk discussion developed, the upshot of which was that the constitution of a regional federation was

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unanimously agreed upon.

It was decided that a Giunta should be formed composed of one or more representatives from each provincial federation, each of which to be entitled to one vote. The HQ of the federation will be rotated year by year from one provincial party centre to another;

The task of the regional federation will be essentially one of co-ordination, with the various provincial federations operating independently. Florence has been decided as the location of the HQ for the current year.

3. Provincial Committees for War Crimes.

A circular was sent out on March 16th by the Minister for Occupied Italy to all Prefects and Presidentsof Liberation Committees instructing them to set up a Provincial Committee whose task it would be to collect material relating to war crimes committed in their areas. Each episode would have its own folder in which the data and documents relating thereto would be kept. In addition a register would be kept in which would be entered a short narration of the episode, the names of those known or suspected as responsible for it and an annotation of the evidence proving guilt. The register along with the relative folders would be forwarded periodically to the Central Committee at the Ministry for Occupied Italy which in its turn would take the necessary action for bringing the perpetrators of the atrocities in question to book.

Altogether a praiseworthy plan and one calculated to shorten the preliminary phases of investigation and arraignment of the criminals, but also one whose success depends largely on the collaboration between centre and outposts. In the case of the Province of Florence this collaboration seems to be lacking because from inquiries made it would seem that no Committee has as yet been set up. The Prefecture states that requests to nominate representatives to sit on the Committee have been made to the Law Courts and the C.T.L.N. but that so far only the Law Courts have complied.

4. Sicilian Separatists: Note to San Francisco.

The note sent by the Sicilian Separatists to the Conference of San Francisco has raised a storm of protests. Indignation is ripe in all circles in Florence and the action of the Separatists is regarded as high treason calling for the intervention of the government.

Although it is taken for granted that the powers represented at S. Francisco will ignore the scatter-brained scheme put forward, it is felt that the Separatists have put Italy in a bad light portreying the country as rent by political dissensions and tyrannised by a government which does not pratice what it preaches.

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HQ for the current year.

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5. .umoured Resignation of President of the C.T.L.N.

A rumour has been going the rounds of political circles that Prof. C.L. Ragghianti was about to hand in his resignation as President of the C.T.L.N. The C.T.L.N. has now given first an unofficial and then an official denial. The rumour, according to Prof. Mariotti, Socialist representative on the C.T.L.N. arose from the possibility of Ragghianti's accepting the chairmanship of the new Reconstruction Committee about to be set up following a decision taken at the recent Congress of the Liberation Committees of the Province of Florence (see Report N° 15), and it was argued that in this event he would resign from the presidency of the C.T.L.N.

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PROPAGANDA.

6. Reactions to Allied Propaganda.

Films:

" Tarawa " and "Dividere per Conquistare (Divide to Conquer.)

A programme composed entirely of documentaries usually has little attraction for Italians, but whether the war has modified this prejudice or whether word has gone round that here was something out of the ordinary, the fact remains that for successive nights the "Standing room only " notice was displayed, People approached for an opinion unanimously voted the programme an outstanding success, and if the second of the two films received a greater measure of praise this was mainly and naturally because it protrayed situations with which Italians were to their cost only too familiar.

"Ho sposato una Strega " ("I married a Witch").

Black Magic has always appealed to adults in all ages, ours not excepted, especially when to boot it is served up in the form of a surrealistic fantasy by such a one as René Clair, In trade jargon the film must have been a real "box office" attraction, and although to many the moral of the film (for moral there evidently was, if only that of making sure that the lady you are leading to the altar is not over-psychic) must have been lost, Florentines certainly enjoyed the show.

Radio:

The first results of an attempt to take a poll to ascertain the listening-in habits of Florentines are definitely discouraging. So much so that until further research has been made it will be impossible to formulate any general conclusions. Meanwhile, however, it may be safely stated that the public has virtually lost the habit of listening in to foreign stations and this for a variety of reasons of which the chief are:-

a) insufficient current to pick up any but local transmissions,

b) dilapidated state of receiving sets and impossibility of getting them reconditioned,

c) competition of other publicity media such as press and news-reels which serve up the same news,

d) Lack of interest in what is happening outside their own country now that they have been liberated (once on shore we pray no more). This, of course, is merely a first impression and quite possibly may undergo modification in the light of fuller information.

7. Allied Speakers at Florence University.

With a view to bringing Italian and Allied nationals closer together special courses in Italian were instituted some time ago

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7. Allied Speakers at Florence University.

With a view to bringing Italian and Allied nationals closer together special courses in Italian were instituted some time ago for British and American soldiers. The idea has now been further developed by the inauguration of a series of lectures to be given alternately by Allied and Italian savants. The opening lecture, given on April 20th, was by a P.W.B. officer, Capt. Astley, who took the relations between the United States and Engalnd ("Gli Stati Uniti visti da un Inglese") as his subject. The audience, representing the élite of Florence, followed the speech with the greatest interest and at the finish gave the speaker a splendid ovation.

4656

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CONFIDENTIAL

PUBLIC OPINION

8. Reactions to the Liberation of Bologna.

The news of the liberation of Bologna has been received with quiet satisfaction by the population of Florence. An outburst of frenzied jubilation was hardly to be expected as the fall of Bologna had been imminent since last Autumn and people had inklings that reasons of global strategy, which they were incapable of appreciating, had prevented this from happening.

Interest has been aroused by a statement made by the correspondent of the New York Times to the effect that the people of Bologna received the Allied troops somewhat reservedly, if not coldly. This reception, in the view of the correspondent, is to be regarded as evidence of the political maturity of Bologna, and although Florentines are prepared to concede the point, they think that it might also be interpreted as a cooling-off of pro-Allied sentiment in consequence of the ordeal through which they, the inhabitants of Bologna, have passed as a result of Allied procrastination. This reaction is based on a seeming misunderstanding as reports from Bologna show that the reception of the Allied troops by the population of Bologna has been anything but cold.

As regards the cordon sanitaire-cum-economique which it is proposed to extend across Italy in the transitional period, the measure is considered by many to be essentially political. It is thought that the Allies no less than the Italian authorities are preoccupied about the "wind from the north". The Allies, they argue, cannot afford to commit errors of political assessment as has sometimes happened in Central and Southern Italy. The workers of the North are much more politically educated and they possess arms.

9. San Francisco.

Early in the morning of April 25th and coinciding with the opening of the San Francisco conference, students of Florence staged a demonstration to protest against the non-admission of Italy to the conference - a subordinate reason was to affirm the "italianità" of Trieste. The exclusion of Italy from San Francisco, which the masses consider an affront to the country, has certainly been a hard knock and the suggestion was seriously put forward that April 25th should be proclaimed a day of national mourning. Educated Italians think a little more intelligently and consider that the refusal to admit Italy to the Conference is based on the fact that the country is still partly occupied by enemy forces and that what could be granted to a really democratic Italy could not easily be granted to a communist Italy, which is what the country might become when once the north is liberated.

Whatever construction is placed upon the refusal, however, it seems true that public confidence in the Allies has been shaken and the effect might very well be a shifting of political sympathies leftwards.

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frenzied jubilation was hardly to be expected as the fall of Bologna had been imminent since last Autumn and people had inklings that reasons of global strategy, which they were incapable of appreciating, had prevented this from happening.

Interest has been aroused by a statement made by the correspondent of the New York Times to the effect that the people of Bologna received the Allied troops somewhat reservedly, if not coldly. This reception, in the view of the correspondent, is to be regarded as evidence of the political maturity of Bologna, and although Florentines are prepared to concede the point, they think that it might also be interpreted as a cooling-off of pro Allied sentiment in consequence of the ordeal through which they, the inhabitants of Bologna, have passed as a result of Allied procrastination. This reaction is based on a seeming misunderstanding as reports from Bologna show that the reception of the Allied troops by the population of Bologna has been anything but cold.

As regards the cordon sanitaire-cum-economique which it is proposed to extend across Italy in the transitional period, the measure is considered by many to be essentially political. It is thought that the Allies no less than the Italian authorities are preoccupied about the "wind from the north". The Allies, they argue, cannot afford to commit errors of political assessment as has sometimes happened in Central and Southern Italy. The workers of the North are much more politically educated and they possess arms.

9. San Francisco.

Early in the morning of April 25th and coinciding with the opening of the San Francisco conference, students of Florence staged a demonstration to protest against the non-admission of Italy to the conference -- a subordinate reason was to affirm the "italianità" of Trieste. The exclusion of Italy from San Francisco, which the masses consider an affront to the country, has certainly been a hard knock and the suggestion was seriously put forward that April 25th should be proclaimed a day of national mourning. Educated Italians think a little more intelligently and consider that the refusal to admit Italy to the Conference is based on the fact that the country is still partly occupied by enemy forces and that what could be granted to a really democratic Italy could not easily be granted to a communist Italy, which is what the country might become when once the north is liberated.

Whatever construction is placed upon the refusal, however, it seems true that public confidence in the Allies has been shaken and the effect might very well be a shifting of political sympathies leftwards.

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GENERAL

10. Press Meeting.

It was stated at this week's Press Meeting in Florence that something like twenty million lire would be needed to restore the Teatro Comunale (the city's chief Opera House and Concert Hall) to its former grandeur.

A bank in Florence had promised to finance the reconstruction, the plans for which had been duly approved by the competent authority and all that was wanted was for the Allied authorities to deblock the necessary building materials. There was, it was thought, reason to believe that this aspect of the problem would also be satisfactorily solved and that a start would be made on the work next month.

In connection with the recent traffic regulations, a plea was put forward for the abandonment of the system at present in use whereby persons contravening these regulations brought before a court of summary jurisdiction, an entry of the sentence being made in police records in case their guilt is proved. In place of this precedure, it was suggested that fines should be imposed and paid on the spot "in via amministrativa". It was stated that the legal office of the Commune would be studying the proposal.

In the discussion on foodstuffs, it was mentioned that to make good the shortage of meat, of which there is not likely to be an early distribution, a consignment of herrings is expected to arrive in Florence shortly.

11. Reconstruction of Railways.

In an interview with the NAZIONE DEL POPOLO (April 20th) a member of the Railway Workers' Syndical Commission gave the following information on the condition of the railways and stations in and near Florence.

Before leaving, the Germans systematically destroyed lines and plant, used the last trains to take engines and rolling stock north, and burnt the rest. Tracks, signal boxes, tunnels, bridges, and viaducts were blown up. Employees of Florence station were deported (June 19th,1944) and with the aid of the Fascists, office material was looted or destroyed. Before the Allies arrived and with the Partisans in partial occupation of the city, Ing. Rissone, who had been appointed by the C.T.L.N., began to reorganize the railway offices and has continued to work on with his team. With the resumption by the Allies of the rail service Rome-Arezzo, it was decided to link Florence with Leghorn and Arezzo: the line as far as Prato has already been finished with Italian labour. On 27th March, the Florence-Pisa-Leghorn line was reopened with

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12. Reconstruction Example: S. A. Pignone.

The Società Anonima Pignone was a medium sized firm in Florence normally employing 700 to 800 workers. It specialized in the manufacture of armaments, Diesel engines, oil refining machinery etc. German demolitions reduced the production capacity of the firm considerably. Broadly speaking the foundry suffered 20% damage, the rolling mills 30%, while 70% of the machine tools and jigs were destroyed or removed.

The damage has since been repaired as far as practicable with the firm's own resources but there are still gaps in the machine shop owing to the impossibility of replacing the missing machinery.

The firm now devotes its activities almost entirely to repair work for the Gas Company, the railways, the textile mills of Prato and electrical undertakings, but a start has been made on the manufacture of compressors, motors and agricultural machinery.

Employees now number over a thousand (more than in peace time) and only the shortage of raw materials prevents others from being engaged. Relations between the shop committee and the management are very cordial and the workers' desiderata have been practically satisfied in full.

In accordance with an agreement stipulated last September a sum of approximately eleven million lire was distributed to the personnel during the emergency period and pensions to the firm's old workers have been adjusted to meet the increased cost of living. Five million lire yearly have also been set aside for the provision of workers canteens.

The question of the workers' participation in the running of the firm will be settled very shortly by the appointment of workers' representatives elected by the workers themselves. They will sit on the board of directors and on any other consultative committees there may be.

13. Treasury Bond.

Subscriptions to the new Treasury Bond Issue are tapering off as was naturally to be expected, considering the time the lists have been open. Nevertheless this week's takings for the Province of Florence are quite respectable and bring the total of 775,200,000 lire to 892,120,000 an increase of 116,920,000 as compared with one of 291,846,500 the proceeding week. Bank of Italy officials estimate that total subscriptions for the Province by the time the lists close next month will be in the neighbourhood of 1,500 millions.

14. Black Market.

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14. Black Market.

The following prices are current on the Florence Black Market.

Foodstuffs.

White Flour	120	lire	per kg.
Oil	300	"	" "
Sugar	800	"	" "
Pork	400	"	" "
Beans	110	"	" "
Salt	215	"	" "

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Tomatoe Conserve	450 lire per kg.
Sausages (an average of)	900 " " "
Fresh Cheese	450 " " "
Dried Cheese	700 " " "
Lemons	100 " " "
Tunny Fish in Tins	900 " " "
Pilchards in Tins	750 " " "

Various Articles

Tyres for Automobiles	100,000 lire
American Cigarettes	130 " a packet
English "	90 " " "
Woollen cloth for dresses	4,000 " " metre
Silk cloth " "	2,180 " " "
Men's shoes (leather)	5,500 " a pair
Needles for sewing machines	30 " each (Allied mark)

Note: A slight diminuation in the prices of foodstuffs has been noticed while those of other articles show an upward trend. There is a great demand for spare parts for automobiles and agricultural machines.

15. Accademia della Crusca

In an interview with the NAZIONE DEL POPOLO (April 21st), Professor Luigi Foscolo Benedetto, Commissario Straordinario of the Accademia della Crusca, gave his views on the future of the Institution. This famous old Florentine Academy dates back to 1528; its principal activity was lexicography and for the first three centuries it functioned as a private undertaking. After 1811, the Academy became a State institution, recognized as the custodian of the Italian language, and was entrusted with the compilation of an Italian dictionary. In 1923 a state decree substituted these activities by the function of official editorial office for text-books, to which that of Centre of Italian Philology was later added. In Professor Benedetto's view the substitution had been a great mistake. With the disappearance of the Accademia d'Italia, however, the situation has become more hopeful, and he is of the opinion that there should be no difficulty in reviving the original activities of the Academy. One of the suggestions which the Professor puts forward is the incorporation in the Academy of two distinct offices, one for text-books and one for the Dictionary, each with its own staff and equipment. He also advocates an increase in the membership of the Academy to at least 20 persons, to be drawn from all parts of Italy, irrespective of profession, provided they have made a valuable contribution to Italian literature. The character of the Institution should remain essentially that of "accademia ... its traditional independence and breadth of

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Pilchards in Tins 750 " "

Various Articles

Tyres for Automobiles	100,000	lire
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Throughout the centuries the Academy has dedicated its work to Letters and it served as a model for the Accademie Française.

In conclusion the Professor said he favoured State recognition of the social and national value of Letters, and the setting up of an office which would operate as a jury for the conferment of State awards in the form of honorific mentions.

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16. Florentine Artists' Offer for Devastated Regions.

The Rector of the Fine Arts Academy in Florence, Professor Giovanni Colacicchi, has addresses a letter to the President of the Committee for aid to devastated regions notifying him that Florentine artists have decided to open a selling exhibition of 50 pieces, the entire proceeds of which are to be placed at the disposal of the Committee.

The exhibition will be opened on April 28th and will consist of carvings, paintings and engravings.

17. New Florentine Publication.

The first number of "Rassegna", a monthly review edited by R. Bracco has appeared in Florence. Bracco is Professor of Economics at the University of Siena and a member of the Christian Democratic Party. The review is Catholic in character, with articles by De Gaspari, Professor La Pira - a fervent Catholic - and other Florentine democrats. It is published by Salani, well-known as a publisher of periodicals and books of a Catholic and moral character.

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CONFIDENTIAL I NUMBER I.

APPENDIX.

REACTIONS TO ALLIED FOREIGN POLICY.

In continuation of the series of statements started in the last report, hereunder will be found the views of Professor Bianchi-Bandinelli which, as the Professor himself is at pains to add, are not necessarily those of the Communist party of which he is a member. A biographical note on Bianchi-Bandinelli will be found in Report No. IO.

I. ARMISTICE AND COBELLIGERENCY

The 45 days of Badoglio's government following the fall of Mussolini, proved a disillusion for the Italian people eager to rid the country of Fascism and declare war against Germany. Popular enthusiasm waned as it became clear that the government's chief preoccupation was to save the dynasty and conservative classes which had supported Fascism. Hopes were further dashed after September 8th, when lack of preparation, organization and of clear vision on the Italian side became apparent, resulting in a lack of understanding and extreme diffidence on the part of the Allies - particularly the English - as to the true situation internally. Severe Armistice terms were expected, but hope in possible mitigation was cherished, and the admission of Italy as "cobelligerant" was considered a promise. Cobelligerency - an equivocal term indicating a provisional state - would, it was hoped and is still hoped, lead to "alliance". But when Italians heard from all the Allied officers in private conversations that Mussolini had been a great man up to 1936 and had only done good to Italy, they began to feel there was little hope of comprehension. When they saw that partisans were disarmed after liberation and not incorporated in the Italian army; that the strikes in Northern Italy of Spring 1944, were forgotten, while in liberated territory too many fascists continued to live undisturbed and Allied officers frequented fascists and anti-fascists indiscriminately provided they moved in "good society", Italians began to think an alliance would never come about, or only at the end of the European war when troops would be needed against Japan.

As on many previous occasions, the people feel they are treated as inferiors, colonials, and as pawns in a game of other peoples' interests, without friends or protection, (Fascism had given Italians abroad a sense of protection, even though it was false and at the price of liberty). The general

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party of which he is a member. A biographical note on Bianchi-Bandinelli will be found in Report No. IO.

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As on many previous occasions, the people feel they are treated as inferiors, colonials, and as pawns in a game of other peoples' interests, without friends or protection, (Fascism had given Italians abroad a sense of protection, even though it was false and at the price of liberty). The general feeling that self-interest predominates and no one cares about Italy's welfare either at home or abroad, destroys initiative and makes any effort seem useless.

Personally, I too, see our defects: the lack of energy and perseverance, of practical organization, morality and a religious sense of life. But, as I do not believe in racialism, I find historical and economic reasons for these faults: the widespread poverty, the centuries-old lack of freedom which has extinguished all civic sense, for Italians have always seen in the

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state (i.e. in their leader) a foreigner and enemy; the formal and unsubstantial morality of the Catholic Church with its political intrigues whenever a choice has to be made between the interests of the Church and those of the nation. But I also see the qualities which are many and peculiar to the country, but which are lost if popular enthusiasm - so quick to die - is not believed in or used in time.

2. PASSAGE OF THE ARMIES.

From the military point of view the Allied armies have given an impression of strength, especially when compared with the poor conditions of our own soldiers. Italians frequently complain of the slow pace of war operations which expose them to Nazi-fascist persecution and looting. But for the most part they recognize the Allies' right to wage their own war - not ours. The fact that the life of an English soldier is considered of much greater value than that of several Italians, may at times arouse bitterness; but we accept this sacrifice as the consequence of and expiation for our mistakes, even if there is small hope of the sacrifice being recognized. This confirms our feeling of ranking, according to English opinion, with the "natives" of other colonial countries. Sometimes the doubt whether fear of "aggressive politicians" in the North and a desire to consolidate conservatives in liberated territory have not delayed liberation, causes discontent and is considered politically and internationally a mistake. (As a matter of fact, the leaders of anti-fascist Italy are all in liberated territory; in the North, the masses are doubtless more politically conscious and determined).

Nothing but good can be said of the behaviour of the troops, especially the English. Complaints of the slight inconveniences caused by requisitioning etc., come only from neurasthenics, philo-Nazis and demi-mondaines. All agree it is easier to live with English troops than with Italian soldiers. (A learned German who lived in Florence told me before leaving after the Armistice, that his consolation for the hostility of Italians towards them was that the Allies would behave much worse than the Germans - to which I replied that although individuals, especially Americans might behave worse because everyone would offer them wine whereas none was offered to the Germans, they would only be individual and personal cases, while German violence was organized by higher authorities: therein lay a vast difference).

3. ASSISTANCE

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3. ASSISTANCE

I have no direct information on this point, but I think a great effort has been made to give material assistance to civilians. Italian troops attached to British units praise the good treatment received. I do not think, however, there is any real desire to raise Italy up again.

4. PEACE - ENGLISH POLICY IN GENERAL

In my opinion Italians are not much interested in the Dumbarton Oaks statement, as they know their opinion will have no

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influence on decisions. Personally I feel very sceptical about the efficacy of the complicated system for ensuring peace. The war has now become ideological (democracy versus Nazism), but fundamentally it has always had and always will have an economic motive and a positive aim - not only a negative aim, (defeat of Hitler). Peace will be assured if America's markets and Britain's maritime routes do not get tangled, and the elimination of Germany would contribute towards establishing peace. But if Germany and the rest of Europe became a federation of communist states supported by Russia assurance of peace would vanish. England, therefore, will try to delay any such event, and in so doing will serve her own interests and the interests of peace. She will however oppose the march of history necessary for Europe, unless Europe is reduced to small vassal states with a semblance of liberty, as happened in the eastern Mediterranean under the Roman Empire. Remedies can only be provisional unless a radical change of policy is made, especially in England which I do not think probable because it would lead to the inclusion of England in Europe but to the collapse of the Commonwealth. Certainly "neutrality" of the small powers can no longer be considered; these must come in with the great powers to eliminate the void created by neutrality and easily assailable. A division in the spheres of influence will result. If Italy remains in the British sphere of influence, England will have to decide what is most in her own interests: a discontented Italy, deprived of initiative with a conservative governing class, or an Italy with a truly popular government, capable of bringing out the best effort, but anti-capitalist.

As Italy must submit to decisions reached at conferences (for example, the forthcoming conference at San Francisco), I am opposed to appeals that Italy should also be invited (as Croce). It would satisfy national pride, but Italy has little reason for pride at present, and in the past had far too much. Italy is defeated and back where she was before the country was united: it is more dignified to keep silence, without exposing the nation to affronts and humiliations, brutal pressure or diplomatic tricks. She will regain her position when she has been able to rise again.

I have nothing to say on English policy towards Italy: first of all, I do not understand or take an interest in politics, and am not in a position to form an opinion as I do not follow the local press or listen to the wireless.

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Broadly speaking, it seems to me that England follows a policy consistent with her own interests, which is natural even if her interests do not coincide with those of Italy. I am not at all scandalized when Mr. Churchill or Mr. Eden say they do not trouble about Italy's opinions - indeed I admire their sincerity. England needs to strengthen, or at least not weaken, her Mediterranean position; she cannot therefore renounce holding a position in Italy and Greece. It would, I think, be [illegible] Italy's interests to become the most advanced nation in the Balkans rather than the most backward among western European

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nations, by resuming trade with the Near East and thus gravitate towards the eastern orbit and Russia. This would be in keeping with the popular wish to remove the power from the capitalistic minority class, for a new political class is forming in the left parties which are convinced of the need for a democratic way of life.

I do not know if England's interests could not be better safeguarded or for a longer period by an agreement with the left parties. Otherwise there is a serious danger that the real Italy, tricked again by the internal interests of a minority and by foreign interests, will once more have to play the hateful card of betrayal, which circumstances have imposed on her more than once.

I fully appreciate the great and admirable qualities of civilisation, of political education and strength of character of the English people. With these and the force of arms she has won the war, and they are personified in the figure of Mr. Churchill. With them, the English have created and still create their policy, a policy beneficial to themselves, and they are right, even if they create an attitude towards Italy which contrasts with Italian aspirations, and dissatisfaction towards England among Italians, which never existed in the past - except for Mussolini's personal feelings. England does not need to take notice of this discontent; but I hope Italian political leaders will be cautious and patient enough to avoid the tragic experiences of revolutionary Greece..

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APPENDIX II

POLITICAL SURVEY.

(Purporting to Represent the Views of the Tuscan Section of Democrazia del Lavoro).

The following survey contains information and opinions drawn from a variety of sources in different localities and social stratas, and deals with (a) political tendencies of the masses, (b) Committees of Liberation and chief problems relating thereto in Tuscany.

a) Political Tendencies of the Masses:

That a large percentage of the masses appear disinterested in politics should not in any way be taken to mean that they are to be ignored as incapable of influencing the political situation. Disinterestedness in Tuscany, as elsewhere, is largely caused by the difficulties of everyday life. Those however who take advantage of this enforced "absenteeism" are often the very persons who profess to represent the masses - a state of affairs which applies equally to town and country. The number of inscribed members in the political parties is insignificant compared with the number of abstainers. In Florence 12,000 are inscribed out of 500,000; similar proportions exist in Lucca, Pistoia, Arezzo, Siena and Grosseto: - Livorno alone with its traditional left political feeling may show an increase.

The Communist Party is considered to have the largest number of inscribed members. Certain zones of Tuscany (Livorno, Empoli, Versiglia, etc.,) have their own "red" tradition; for years communism - at least among the less cultured classes - was synonymous with anti-fascism; during Fascism, Liberal propaganda benefitted Communist leaders, while the Partisan movement, mainly Communist in character, has influenced the peasants, many of whom have given their sons to the movement. Although Communism spread rapidly in Tuscany after liberation, the Party has caused disappointment by not fulfilling promises made during the clandestine period. Other questions rankle, e.g. Trieste, moreover under the mezzadria system Tuscan peasants are not at loggerheads with the land owners. In fact the Camere del Lavoro with their agricultural sections have hardly succeeded in gaining any hold on the peasants, even in the most war-damaged regions.

In view of the firm stand taken by [illegible]

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social strata, and deals with (a) political tendencies of the masses, (b) Committees of Liberation and chief problems relating thereto in Tuscany.

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In view of the firm stand taken by democracy in Tuscany - parish priests are using their influence especially in preparing women for the vote, and denouncing marxism where this conflicts with Christian social teaching. while Cardinal Dalla Costa made a special Easter appeal for the Church's interest in education - the subservience of the Christian Democrats in the CLN to their left colleagues appears all the more displeasing. In Florence, the "Nazione del Popolo" (organ of the C.T.L.N.) is practically speaking a Left paper, in spite of Allied censorship. The Liberal Party shows the same servility;

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Secretly, their representatives complain, but they have not the courage to break the chains. The Christian Democrats however constitute a serious rival to the Communists in that the latter have exhausted their election ammunition, while the former have still a large reserve in the political educational potentiality of their many Catholic organizations. Dissidence between Socialists and Communists exists, especially in Livorno and Elba: Socialists in Tuscany, unwilling at first, have ended by following the directives laid down by Nenni in central and southern Italy. The Party of Action, the most active during the clandestine period, is a "fighting party of professionals and intellectuals, and the anonymous producer of notices stuck about upholding the republic and socialization. It, too, is in a state of crisis, and its dissident elements may bring about its final disbanding. The Liberal Party is also divided among itself: in Livorno its representatives urged a move to the Left; in Siena they voted an Order of the Day proclaiming themselves republicans; in Florence they expresseed their desire to postpone the "institutional" question. Republicans in Florence represent a small party of professionals and followers of Mazzini; the Italian Democratic Party has more members than is generally believed and works side by side with the Monarchical Front and other monarchist movements.

b) Committees of Liberation.

Florence was the first city to demonstrate the military and governing capacities of the CLN. The excellent work of the C.T.L.N. during the clandestine period, has since, however, fallen short of expectations, for exaltation in success has led to loss of its popular democratic character and hence of its principal functions. Instead of realising its task was finished it persists in remaining as a political organism and has recently reaffirmed its desire for State recognition. The C.T.L.N. bases its request on the fact that the Liberation Committees are the expression of the masses, for they represent all tendencies: This is not so as :

a) the Democrazia del Lavoro, for example, has been rigorously excluded from the Tuscan Committee,

b) 98% of the masses are not inscribed in any parties within the Committee.

Tuscans feel that where there was previously a one-party dictatorship, there is now a dictatorship of five parties.

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Tuscans feel that where there was previously a one-party dictatorship, there is now a dictatorship of five parties. The fact is that the Tuscan Committees are in the hands of the Left coalition, and there is evidence in rural localities of Right representatives being reduced to moral and political slavery, often as the result of intimidation. The Florence Committee calls itself Tuscan, but many provincial committees not only do not recognize Florence authority, but have no contact with it at all (e.g. Committees of Livorno, Arezzo, Piombino, Elba, Grosseto), while other minor committees do not even recognize the authority of their chief provincial committee. Florence should have a regional Tuscan Committee

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a provincial Committee for Florence Province, and a strictly communal Committee.

The question of Prefects affords an illustration of the anti-government attitude adopted by the C.L.N. in view of the fact that State recognition of the Committees has not yet been conceded. The appointment of Dr. Paternò as Prefect of Florence has been looked upon unfavourably since the beginning, both for personal and theoretical reasons, for he is a careerist Prefect and according to the C.L.N. a bureaucratic Prefect is no longer in keeping with the development of democracy. In Lucca, however, Avv. Carignano, a former head of the local Committee, while supported by his own Party (Christian Democratic), is criticised by the others, particularly by the Socialist-Communists. What then is wanted? The answer is the Committees do not want Prefects, Carabinieri, police or government. They want absolute power to create their own militia, officials and councils. As they cannot achieve this, ("full powers to the Committees of Liberation"! is the slogan of the Florence Committee), they try to undermine the government's authority and weaken the backbone of the nation by confusing the peoples' minds, provoking equivocal situations with the Allies, suffocating the democratic instincts of the masses and subjugating the moderate, the weak or timid - in a word they try to prepare revolution and civil war. This is the situation in Tuscany.

It would be well to clear up the position of the C.L.N. and the political situation of the country as a whole, and above all not to make difficulties with the Allies. At San Miniato (Pisa province) the Allies were greeted as the Red Army. It required firmness on the part of Allied authorities to make the few Communists understand who had liberated them. Again at the recent C.T.L.N. Congress, the AMG representative did not conceal his disapproval of the criticism made of the absent Prefect by the Mayor, Professor Pieraccini. However small these incidents they cannot fail to make an impression on the Allies which is in direct contrast with the sentiments which the friendship and sympathy of the masses should arouse.

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SECRET

Special Report No.I

POLITICAL SITUATION IN THE PROVINCE OF LEGHORN

This report is compiled from Italian and other sources, and does not represent the views of compilers. The contents are strictly confidential and must on no account be disclosed or distributed to third parties or used in publicity. The report is circulated for information only.

P.W.B.
D SECTION

24 April 1945

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SECRET Special Report No I

THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN THE PROVINCE OF LEGHORN

1. Personalities Interviewed

Furio DIAZ - Dott. Furio Diaz, Communist "sindaco" of Leghorn, is a 28 year old law graduate. He has been in office since the entry of the Allies in town. He is very well liked by the entire population irrespectively of party affiliation.

LEONE - Dott. Leone, "Procuratore del Regno", at the Tribunal of Leghorn, is a young Sicilian and a carrier magistrate. He has been in Leghorn's Public Prosecutor's office since 1939. Since Leghorn's "Procuratore del Regno" has been transferred to Siena (a few months ago), he has been acting "Procuratore del Regno". Dott. Leone has a rather weak personality.

Roberto MIGLIETTA - Miglietta was born in Florence about 40 years ago. He met Banti in Florence when the latter was editor of NUOVO GIORNALE, a Florentine daily suppressed by the Fascist regime in its early days. He worked for Banti for a while, and then, after the suppression of NUOVO GIORNALE, he became correspondent of IL TELEGRAFO, the old Leghorn' daily. In 1942 he was dismissed from IL TELEGRAFO by its editor, Giovanni Ansaldo. He went to Rome where he got again in touch with Banti. When Banti was invited to direct and edit IL TIRRENO, the present Leghorn daily, he asked Miglietta to follow him.

PICCIONI - Mons. Piccioni, bishop of Leghorn, was born in Umbria about 65 years ago. He has been in charge of Leghorn's diocesis since 1921. His brother, Avv. Piccioni, is the representative of the Demo-Christian party at the Tuscan Committee of National Liberation. He is quite popular in town. During the Fascist regime he made a few mildly pro-Fascist speeches. During the German occupation he never made a public appearance and lived quietly outside Leghorn.

Pier Luigi TOGIURI - Togiuri, a Jew, was born in Leghorn about 45 years ago. He spent most of his life in Rome where he was sports correspondent of the daily LO SPORTIVO. According to his own statement, he was never a member of PNF. He is at present working on the staff of IL TIRRENO. He does not want to join any party. His sympathies however are for the Socialist party, where he numbers several friends. Yet, he declared himself an anarchist at heart. He thinks that it would be contradictory for an anarchist to join any party except the Anarchist party itself.

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Ugo BASSANO - Avv. Ugo Bassano was born in Leghorn less than 40 years ago from a Leghornese Jewish family. He is the Communist representative at the C.L.N. of Leghorn. He was also appointed by the High Commission as provincial delegate for the epuration in the province of Leghorn. He was never a member of PNF and he is a fairly well known legal student. Bassano is a remarkably intelligent and alert man. He is very well prepared on political questions, he is very frank and he enjoys a very good reputation in town. With the exception of the clandestine

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period, during which he lived "alla macchia", he spent all his life in Leghorn. According to his own statements, his first contacts with the Communist party date back to 1938. During the Fascist racial campaign he managed quietly to carry on his law practice.

Renato ORLANDINI and Luciano MERLINI - Rag. Renato Orlandini was born in Leghorn 21 years ago and he is at present an accountant at Banca Commerciale Italiana. He is a member of the executive committee of the Christian-Socialist party. Luciano Merlini is a 23 year old philosophy student and is the representative of the Christian-Socialist Part on the C.L.N. of Leghorn. They are both intelligent, alert, and, especially Merlini, very well prepared in politics. They took part in partisan warfare against the Germans during the clandestine period and cooperated in the formation of armed bands of patriots. From Communist sources it appears that during the clandestine period Merlini showed exceptional qualities of leadership and unusual personal courage. Their conversation is very lively, they are very tense and outspoken about their political feelings.

Giuseppe FUNARO - Avv. Giuseppe FUNARO is an elderly Jewish lawyer born in Leghorn where he spent all his life. He was a prominent Socialist in pre-Fascist days and remained faithful to his own party. He does not have a very pleasant personality and is not very communicative.

Francesco MIRAGLIA - Dott. Francesco Miraglia, the prefect of the Province of Leghorn, arrived in this town a few days after the Allied occupation. He is a Sicilian, public career official. In contrast to what happened to his colleague and compatriot of Florence, he is very highly appreciated by the local population. He is a hard worker and spends seven days a week at his desk giving audience to all citizens who appeal to him. He takes great pleasure in explaining to outsiders what he did for the province and what he plans to do. Like most men of his class and profession, he does not have any particular political preference and he is not interested in politics. Therefore he calls himself "independent".

Manlio GINI - Manlio Gini is a member of Leghorn's C.L.N., where he represents the Partito Comunista-Libertario", the new denomination of the Anarchist party. He is a mechanic and at present he is employed by Avv. Bassano for the epuration of the province of Leghorn. Gini spent a good part of his life in France (1922-1926, 1937-1943). He came back to Italy shortly [illegible] During the years which he spent in

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He enjoys a good reputation in Leghorn, although many consider him an unpractical idealist.

Virgilio ANTONELLI - He is an anarchist and works at "Consorzio Agrario". He is a friend of Cini, but his mental standard is considerably lower than Cini's. He spent about five years in jail, and eight years at "confino". He was twice arrested under a charge of murder: once in 1921 and a second time in 1922. In both cases the victims were Fascists, and in both cases he was acquitted for lack of evidence.

Giovanni BORRAZZO - Prof. Borrazzo, a native of Avellino, has been teaching in a Jesuit school in Leghorn for the last 19 years. He is Leghorn's secretary of the Demo-Christian Party. He was also appointed by Avv. Bassano a member of the boards of inquiry for epuration proceedings of the confederation of industry and commerce and of the local government insurance agency. He does not appear to be particularly brilliant. He does not show a strong personality and he certainly does not have the qualities of a leader. He declared himself to be decidedly monarchical.

Franco CROVETTI - Dott. Franco Crovetti, a law graduate of the University of Pisa, was born thirty years ago on the island of Elba. Some time before the fall of Mussolini, during his stay in Pisa, he joined the Action Party to which he was initiated by Prof. Calogero, of the University of Pisa. Some time thereafter, while he was in Leghorn, he left the Action Party and went over to the Republican Party. He is at present the secretary of the Italian Republican Party. Dott. Crovetti is City Councillor of Leghorn. Occasionally he collaborates with IL TERRENO by sending articles. Crovetti spent most of his life in Leghorn, of which he has a thorough knowledge. He impressed the interviewer as a very intelligent man, very well prepared on political problems, and a very dependable source of information.

Alemanno BERNARDINI - Bernardini, a native of the province of Pisa, is a student of physics at the University of Pisa. He is about 26 years old, and has spent most of his life in Leghorn where he has been teaching physics for the last three years at the naval school. He is the secretary of Leghorn's section of the Liberal Party. He is a quiet, mild looking man. He is more the type of a professional school teacher than of a party leader or politician.

2. GENERAL

Prefect Miraglia gave a very detailed account of the province of Leghorn from the first day of Allied occupation up to now. He

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2. GENERAL

Prefect Miraglia gave a very detailed account of the province of Leghorn from the first day of Allied occupation up to now. He succeeded in reorganizing an efficient administration in a town which in normal times had 140,000 inhabitants. When the Allies entered they were reduced to 19,000. Leghorn has now a population of 95,000 to which should be added several thousand Italian Army soldiers and Italian PWs, all working under Allied supervision.

According to Miraglia, the Leghorn population is very quarrelsome and restless; this has been a trait of the Tuscan people ever since the time of Dante. With the exception of the leaders of the

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parties who are all honest and well behaved individuals, the mass of people behind these leaders lack the most elementary politic-al preparation. It is up to their leaders to educate them.

Talking about the entire Italian people (which includes the people of Leghorn), Miraglia pointed out that in 1860 Italy ob-tained unity and freedom, when she was not prepared for either one. This freedom which the Allies have restored to her should not be abused by the masses.

In the appointment of local offices Miraglia has not gi-en any preference to any party. When he arrived in Leghorn, he found that the only party active in the town was the Communist Party. He persuaded the Allied authorities to delay appointments to all local offices until a considerable part of the resident popula-tion had returned to their homes. With the influx of the popu-lation other parties began to organize and the authorities had a larger choice of elements to be appointed to local offices. In the appointments to local offices he tried to have all parties represented, with the exception of the anarchists. In fact, he thinks that an anarchist, because of his political views should not be appointed to a public office: it would be somehow contra-dictory. With reference to "sindaci" for other towns of the province he gave preference to non-political elements.

Miraglia thinks very highly of Diez, who was appointed by the Allies and confirmed by him.

Diez who was born in Leghorn did not commit himself on the preparedness of his co-citizens for political problems. He sim-ply stated that politics are very lively and that Leghorn has always shown a keen interest in politics, even in Fascist times. It is natural that with the present freedom this interest has been greatly increased.

On the other hand, Crovetti, also a native of Tuscany, takes the opposite view to Miraglia. He thinks that Leghorn is, com-paratively, one of the most politically minded towns in liberated Italy, in the sense that the proportion of people who consciously take part in political activities is higher than in any other Italian city. He comes to this conclusion by estimating the num-ber of people who have obtained membership cards in any of the local parties. He gives the following figures which are of course, the expression of his personal opinion:

10,000	Communists
2,000	Socialists
2,000	Republicans
1,500	Demo-Christians
200	Liberals
500	Anarchists and Christian Socialists
16,200	Total of

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10,000	Communists
2,700	Socialists
2,000	Republicans
1,500	Demo-Christians
200	Liberals
500	Anarchists and Christian Socialists
16,200	Total of persons who have joined a political party in the town of Leghorn

Crovetti added: "If we consider that the present population in Leghorn is only 95,000, the above figures show that Leghorn appears to be politically more mature than other towns."

Crovetti does not have much information with regard to other towns in the province. He said that Piombino is supposed to have

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fifteen thousand Communists. On the other hand, he thinks it possible that on Elba island the Demo-Christians are the strongest party.

According to Crovetti, the best way to stimulate the initiative of the Italian people is to encourage their participation in political life. Political apathy is a far more serious disease than people usually think. The entire class of public employees which in Italy is proportionately more numerous than in any other country in the world, takes pride in declaring its lack of interest in politics. The few of them who take some part in Italian political life, do it almost secretly, as if they were ashamed of it or were afraid of the disfavour of their superiors. Crovetti showed openly his blame toward all those Italians who cover their ignorance or uncertainty in political problems by calling themselves "indipendenti".

Considering the town of Leghorn as a whole, Migliatte said that, irrespective of any party affiliation, practically the entire population of the town is anti-monarchical. According to Migliatte, the king ought to be tried by a court and executed, like Louis XVI. He is responsible for 20 years of Fascist government. This view was shared by Tagiuri.

Basseno specified that the people of Leghorn have been traditionally leftist. During the Fascist regime they gradually became moderately Fascist without ever exploding into manifestations in favour of the regime. There was, without doubt, in Leghorn a group which was fanatically Fascist: the group around the Ciano family, which gradually gained control of the daily IL TELEGRAFO, of the shipyards "Orlando", and, in brief, of most of the industrial enterprises in Leghorn. Yet, it cannot honestly be said that the Ciano family is now particularly hated by the population. The Cianos never committed acts of violence in Leghorn. The major charge which can be brought against them is that they became fabulously rich by using all kins of unlawful means, but they never abandoned themselves to acts of cruelty against individual opponents nor did they particularly oppress the lower classes. The Cianos come from the lowest section of the Leghornese population and, because of their origins, they knew how to mix with the people and how to understand them.

It should also be added that a great part of the recent industrial development was due to the Ciano family, which made of IL TELEGRAFO one of the leading papers of Tuscany, and greatly contributed to the prosperity of Leghorn's shipyards.

Some of the Cianos are now in Florence, and, according to Basseno, there is no widespread desire of taking vengeance on them.

Leghorn was one of the last towns of the kingdom to yield to Fascism. Prof. Mondolfi, the last pre-Fascist "sindaco" (a Social-

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Leghorn was one of the last towns of the kingdom to yield to Fascism. Prof. Pondolfi, the last pre-Fascist "sindaco" (a Socialist) was literally kicked out of the town hall, which was occupied by the Fascist authorities.

During the Fascist regime, the only opposition was organized by a thin group of Communists who refused to bow. They suffered all kinds of persecutions. This group, however, was so small, that it did not have any practical influence in town. The anti-Fascist feeling began to take shape after Italy's entry into the war, when

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it became clear that Italy was going to lose. According to Bassano, the people in Leghorn realized what their fate was in November 1942, when the Allies invaded North Africa. Beginning that day, the anti-Fascists began to organize themselves. The groups which began to be active were the Communists and the Socialists. They were the only two parties which appeared to have an organized existence on July 25, 1943. On that occasion, none of those acts of violence which took place in other towns occurred in Leghorn. With the exception of a few "gerarchi" who were slapped on the face by some over-excited individuals, the Fascists and their property were left unmolested.

Bassano pointed out that a particular feature of Leghorn's political life became clear right from the beginning: the town declared itself uncompromisingly and totally anti-monarchical and, a fortiori, anti-dynastic. At the fall of Mussolini, Leghorn did not have manifestations similar to those which took place in front of the Quirinale, where masses of people acclaimed the king. This anti-monarchical attitude maintained itself unabated from July 25, 1943 until the present day. Bassano concluded that today all political parties in Leghorn, including the Liberal Party, are definitely anti-monarchical.

Bassano added that during the German occupation other parties, besides the Communists and the Socialists, began to organize, namely the Republicans and the Christian-Socialists.

Mons. Piccioni explained his opinion on Leghorn's political situation. Strangely enough, his views are perhaps closer to Bassano's and Crovetti's than to Miraglia's.

Mons. Piccioni was in Leghorn in pre-Fascist days, and he assisted in the struggle between the leftist forces who were at that time followed in Italy (Socialists and Anarchists) and the Fascist bands, in the process of organization. He compared the situation of those days with the present situation.

He said, "In those days the left was represented by Socialists and Anarchists. The Communists came later. They were not as numerous, nor as well organized as they are now. They were far more violent and inclined to take more extreme action than now. They were strongly anti-clerical. Although they always respected me, they often commited acts of violence against the clergy. They were read to kill. Riots were frequent. They did not consider Fascism as their only or even most important enemy. They fought, besides Fascism, the bourgeoisie, the clergy and most of the intellectuals. It is clear that, under those circumstances, they could not have such a large following as they have now.

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Today the situation is considerably different. Socialists and Communists are still politically unprepared as they were in 1919. Twenty years of Fascism, of course, could not make them more mature. The masses are just as ignorant as they were in those days. They lost however their jacobine attitude. They concentrated their hatred against Fascism and Fascists. They are not as anti-clerical as they used to be. With the exception of a few isolated cases of priests who have been rudely insulted on the street by passers by, there has not been in Leghorn any noticeable episode of anti-clericalism. They are also far less violent than they used to be.

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The only ones who seem to like the old system are the anarchists, but they are a very small group.

This new attitude is probably the reason of the success which the leftist parties (Socialists and Communists) have today in Leghorn. I cannot say that they are politically more mature insofar they are the same people who, three years ago, shouted VIVA IL DUCE, but they certainly behave a lot better."

The Liberal view view on political preparedness and maturity of the Italians and of the Leghornese, in particular, was given by Bernardini in the following terms:

"It is an established fact that the great majority of the Italian people refuse to take an interest in political life. According to the principles of liberalism, no pressure should be put on the people to induce them to join a certain party. However when the people are invited to public election, they ought to be obliged to vote. It is the duty of every citizen to participate in elections and if a penalty was imposed on those who refuse to exercise the right to vote, this penalty would be fully justified."

It appears that during the clandestine period the following parties were active in partisan warfare against the Germans; the Socialists, the Communists, the Republicans and, according to Funaro, also the Liberals.

A movement in favour of regional autonomy is apparently unknown in Leghorn. Funaro, questioned on this matter, commented that even if this movement existed there are now more pressing problems than regional autonomy. The only persons who have mentioned a possibility of regional autonomy were Anarchists - Cini and Antonelli.

According to Orlandini and Merlini, on January 15, 1945, in Leghorn the Christian-Socialists, the Socialists and the Republicans signed a pact of alliance against the Government. They were later joined by the Anarchists. The two Christian-Socialist representatives claimed that Leghorn is the first town which with this pact has formed a front of opposition against the Government.

Tagiuri reported that there has been an attempt by one Brosi to organize in Leghorn a section of Labour Democracy, but this attempt has completely failed. According to Tagiuri, a party with the program and the name of Labour Democracy should have a large following in Leghorn where the majority are laborers; its failure simply means that this party is not properly organized and its leaders have no prestige among the masses.

3. C.L.N. (Committee of National Liberation)

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3. C.L.N. (Committee of National Liberation)

The CLN of Leghorn presents these particular features:

a) the absence of two parties which are members of the Central Committee of National Liberation, namely the Action Party and Labour Democracy; and

b) the participation of three parties which have not been admitted in said Central Committee, namely the Republican Party, the Christian Socialist Party and the "Partito Comunista-Libertario" (Anarchists).

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Leghorn's CLN consists of the following men:

Prof. Giorgi	- Liberal
Dott. Berdi	- Demo-Christian
Pagani	- Socialist
Avv.Bessano	- Communist
Merlini	- Christian Socialist
Cini	- Anarchist

Bessano analysed this combination by dividing Leghorn's CLN into two wings : the left wing is represented by the Communists, the Socialists, the Christian-Socialists, the Republicans and the Anarchists. The right wing is represented by the Liberals and Demo-Christians. It is clear that the left wing is far stronger than the right wing.

Bessano added that the present composition of Leghorn's CLN is the result of a bitter fight between the original members of the clandestine CLN. In fact, when the Allies arrived in Leghorn some members of the CLN refused to admit within its ranks the representatives of the Liberal and Demo-Christian parties since these parties, during the clandestine period had not participated in the struggle against the Nazi-Fascists. The most bitter opponents to an enlargement of the CLN were the Christian Socialists. The majority, however, decided to admit them in order to conciliate Leghorn's politics with the central administration. The minority view was clearly expressed by Orlandini and Merlini.

In their views, the entire system of Committees of National Liberation is wrong. Such committees should exist and have authority only in those towns where they existed before the Allied occupation. It is rather clowning, for instance, to form now (as reported by the most recent press) a CLN in a Sicilian town, which never had any clandestine life. Furthermore, only those parties which have been active in the struggle for the liberation of a locality ought to be admitted into its CLN. There is no reason, for instance, why the Demo-Christians, who arrived in Leghorn with the Allies, or the Liberals who have organized themselves during the last few months, find a place in Leghorn's CLN.

Mireglio thinks that the CLN of Leghorn is a body of excellent men. All the party leaders who became members of the CLN are highly respectable persons. The CLN is doing well a very important job; it advises the Prefect's office on the most important local problems. Mireglio gives particular credit to the Communist member of the CLN, Bessano, on whose judgment he relies heavily.

Diaz described the CLN as a pretty compact body where all parties work in close harmony. It has broad authority in the admin-

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Diaz described the CLN as a pretty compact body where all parties work in close harmony. It has broad authority in the administration of the town and of the province. Diaz confirmed that the Prefect consults it in many cases and the advice of the CLN carries considerable weight.

4. Liberals

The president of Leghorn's section of the Liberal Party and its representative at the CLN is Prof. Giorgi, who teaches literature at the technical school.

According to Bernardini, the Liberal Party was organized in

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Leghorn as soon as the town was liberated. Bernardini admitted that the Liberal Party cannot have much following in a town of workers and proletarians. It numbers a few members among the professional classes and the intellectuals. They are not too keen about obtaining a large enrollment, since it is against the doctrine of liberalism to make use of a propaganda campaign. Of course the parties which have more following in Leghorn are the Communists and the Socialists. However, since the majority is still non-political, it is possible that, when the provincial and municipal elections take place, the Liberal ticket will carry the majority.

Bernardini said that the Liberal Party is heavily relying on the non-political block, which will probably remain the most numerous group in Italy for many years.

Miglietta, who is non-political, said that the Liberal Party is the most serious party but its conservative policy cannot have any following in a town like Leghorn.

5. Demo-Christians

Prof. Borrazzo explained that the first section of the Demo-Christian Party in this province was organized in August 1944 in Ardenza, just outside Leghorn, before the town was open to the civilian population. In October 1944 the first office inside Leghorn was established.

According to Borrazzo, the Demo-Christian Party has now over 300 members in the town of Leghorn. However they enjoy much greater favour in the country among small landowners, who are deeply worried about the Communist danger. The island of Elba is the part of the province where Demo-Christians appear to have absolute control. Five delegates from Elba have recently arrived. In the town of Leghorn they have now six sections, from which they conduct a very active propaganda. It is doubtful, however, whether the Demo-Christians will ever control the mass of the Leghorn population, since practically all workers have been enticed into the leftist parties. Demo-Christians have about 50 members among Leghorn's professional class. One of their most prominent exponents is Avv. Guarducci.

Demo-Christians of Leghorn are now directing all their energies to intensifying their propaganda. The Demo-Christian section of Leghorn follows closely the directives of the headquarters of the party. Therefore, they don't bring up the issue of the monarchy, since the institutional question will, and must, be decided by the Italian people by a national referendum.

Mons. Piccioni confirmed the history of the party section in Leghorn given by Prof. Borrazzo. Mons. Piccioni however regretted

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Mons. Piccioni confirmed the history of the party section in Leghorn given by Prof. Borrazzo. Mons. Piccioni however regretted that this party does not have in Leghorn any strong leaders; at the last internal elections the party officers elected were totally unknown to him. Their number is however steadily growing in the province. Mons. Piccioni could not say whether they are, or will be, the majority. In any event, there is always the possibility that when general elections take place their lists might carry the majority, although there is no sign of a conspicuous following. Piccioni thinks that future elections might follow the trend of 1921's elections when Don Sturzo's peculer party, at the national election had a success which nobody (not even his party members) expected.

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Orlandini and Merlini confirmed that Demo-Christiens are without doubt gaining ground. The main criticism which they make against this party is that it is not (and cannot be) independent; it is the mouthpiece of the Vatican and, as such, it has not taken any stand with reference to any of the major problems of national life, as for instance the monarchy, social or agrarian reforms etc. All they want is the mass, without having the courage of giving to this mass a definite plan of reconstruction. This is the same old policy of the (now extinguished) clerical party (Don Sturzo's Popular Party).

A clerical policy will cause anti-clericalism. They act in bad faith. Orlandini and Merlini denounced the following fact: when Leghorn was liberated, a self-styled representative of the Demo-Christian Party approached the leaders of the Christian Socialist Party and told them that in Rome the two parties had decided to merge in a united Demo-Christian party. They later found out that this was entirely false. Orlandini and Merlini are certain that the same man will go to every town in Northern Italy and will play the same trick. With this system they take advantage of the existing Christian-Socialist organizations and get control of their files. Thereafter they claim to their own credit any act of courage and sacrifice accomplished by Christian Socialists during the clandestine period.

Miglietta thinks that they are becoming strong not only in the country but also in town. Diaz thinks that they will gain considerable success in the country, which they will eventually control but they do not stand a chance in Leghorn nor in any other town.

Funaro fails to see any difference between them and the Christian Socialists.

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6. Christian Socialists.

Orlandini gave the history of this party in the following terms. The Christian Socialist Party was originally created in Rome by Professor Bruni in 1942. At that time the Demo-Christian Party was not in existence. Christian-Socialists represented the only Christian forces against Fascism. The party had considerable underground activity until the fall of Fascism. After July 25th, 1943, the Demo-Christian Party began to organize, but, before it had reached any strength the armistice was signed. During the German occupation Demo-Christians did not give any sign of activity. Shortly after the armistice, Christian-Socialists resumed their clandestine activities all over occupied Italy.

According to Orlandini, in Leghorn it was the strongest anti-German and anti-Fascist movement. In Leghorn were active the two most representative figures of the movement, Don Angelo, later deported to Germany, and Anna Maria Enriques-Agnoletti, shot by the Germans in Florence. Several bands of patriots were organized by Christian-Socialists in the Alpi Apuane. During all this period Demo-Christians were entirely non-existent in this territory.

At the liberation of Leghorn (July 1944) Christian-Socialists were probably the strongest party in the town. Together with the advancing Allied troops came the man who proclaimed that in Rome Christian Socialists had resolved to merge into Demo-Christians. Leghorn's Christian-Socialists were misled by this statement, which later appeared entirely false, and joined the Demo-Christian Party.

Some time thereafter (October 1944) they realized that they had been played by unscrupulous politicians, the program of Christian-Socialis was altogether different from the Demo Christian program, and they resolved to re-organize their own files. As members of Leghorn's CLN, they resisted with all their energies the admission of the Demo-Christian representative into the local CLN. However the latter party, largely financed by the Vatican and strongly backed by the Italian government, was gaining ground in the province, and finally Leghorn's CLN decided to admit Demo-Christians.

Orlandini and Merlini frankly admitted that Demo-Christians are much stronger than Christian-Socialists. They have more means, the bishop and the greater majority of the clergy are behind them and they have a powerful organization. Yet, Christian-Socialists feel that their battle is not lost. They occupy the e extreme left in Leghorn's CLN. They feel that Leghorn has a population which is particularly favourable to their movement, and, although reduced to a minority, they hope to carry the majority in a provincial election. Orlandini gave the instance of the recent elections of the workers' representatives at the shipyards "Orlando".

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Christian-Socialism is a party of young people. They are far more radical than the Communists who followed a policy of compromise with the king, with the government and with the other parties. Christian-Socialists are "intransigent". They condemn the monarchy "a priori", and they would not accept a post in a

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government which still carries Vittorio Emanuele as king and Umberto as Lieutenant General.

Orlandini explained that Leghorn's Christian-Socialists follow literally the policy of their headquarters in Rome, where they recognize in Professor Bruni their leader. They refuse to merge into Catholic Communists (now "Christian Left"); because they are just camouflaged Communists.

They resent the hostility which the Government has against them: they accuse the secretary of the Press Office, Avv. Rossini (dem. christ:) of discriminating unduly against them, by hampering their weekly paper in Rome. They would like to have the license to publish at least a monthly periodical in Florence. They fail to understand why Christian-Socialists who during the German occupation published a clandestine weekly, RINASCITA, which was printed in Leghorn, cannot have the license to publish the same paper under the Allied government.

Christian-Socialists are not in favour of the socialization of private property. For large enterprises they favour the application of the cooperative system, which would leave ample room to private initiative.

Borrazzo calls the Christian-Socialists the most bitter enemies of Demo-Christians. According to Borrazzo, there are not over 200 Christian-Socialists in liberated Italy. In Leghorn, they are just a small group of exalted young men, led by Merlini. Orlandini and Merlini are the only cause of this movement; if they quitted their propaganda against Demo-Christians, all Christian-Socialists of Leghorn would be absorbed into the Demo-Christian party.

Borrazzo said that both Orlandini and Merlini were Demo-Christians until October 1944. Then, all of a sudden, for merely personal reasons, they broke off and formed their own party. They are close to the Socialists in tendencies. They have already received some warnings from the Holy See, threatening them with excommunication.

Borrazzo denounced as a lie the statement that Demo-Christians did not take any part in partisan warfare. He mentioned the names of Merli and Tacchelli, both Demo-Christians, who hold a certificate attesting their partisan activities.

Mons. Piccioni's explanation of Leghorn's Christian-Socialist section differs slightly from Borrazzo's version.

Piccioni said that Christian-Socialists organized themselves after the constitution of the Demo-Christian section. However, it was not a secession from the Demo-Christian lines. It was rather a spontaneous formation of a group which refused to join the already established Demo-Christian party. The points of

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they resent the hostility which the Government has against them; they accuse the secretary of the Press Office, Avv. Rossini (dem. christ:) of discriminating unduly against them, by hampering their weekly paper in Rome. They would like to have the license to publish at least a monthly periodical in Florence. They fail to understand why Christian-Socialists who during the German occupation published a clandestine weekly, RINASCITA, which was printed in Leghorn, cannot have the license to publish the same paper under the Allied government.

Christian-Socialists are not in favour of the socialization of private property. For large enterprises they favour the application of the cooperative system, which would leave ample room to private initiative.

Borrazzo calls the Christian-Socialists the most bitter enemies of Demo-Christians. According to Borrazzo, there are not over 200 Christian-Socialists in liberated Italy. In Leghorn, they are just a small group of exalted young men, led by Merlini. Orlandini and Merlini are the only cause of this movement; if they quitted their propaganda against Demo-Christians, all Christian-Socialists of Leghorn would be absorbed into the Demo-Christian party.

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a) Christian-Socialists want to do away with the monarchy as a preliminary step to any plan of economical reconstruction. While Demo-Christians have not yet taken sides on the institutional question, Christian-Socialists have decidedly taken side with the anti-monarchist group.

b) Christian-Socialists have a slightly more radical plan than Demo-Christians. Their plan brings them closer to the Socialists.

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According to Mons. Piccioni there is no reason for the existence of the Christian-Socialist party, as separate from the Demo-Chrsitian party. They are represented by a certain number of intelligent young men, who could easily fit inside the Demo-Christian Party, at its extreme left wing. In fact, Demo-Christians admit the existence of different currents within their own ranks, and the presence of Demo-Christians of a more radical tendency is perfectly legitimate.

Mons. Piccioni confirmed the information that Christian-Socialists largely contributed to the clandestine battle against the fascists. He added that Anna Maria Enriques-Agnoletti, whom Demo-Christian claim as one of their martyrs, was actually a member of the Christian-Socialist section.

Finally Mons. Piccioni said that Demo-Christians in this province are far more numerous than Christian Socialists.

The shrinkage of Christian-Socialist ranks was described by Diaz. He said, that when Leghorn fell under Allied control this party had a strong following. However, since the Demo-Christian party has been organized in this province, the Christian-Socialist party has been declining. Diaz agreed with the majority, stating that during the clandestine period, while Christian-Socialists were quite active, Demo-Christians did not display any activity whatsoever.

Bassano places Christian-Socialists at the extreme left of Leghorn's CLN. They have the same freedom of action as the Republicans, since they do not have any government responsibilities. They are no longer numerous and the rank and file are bound to be absorbed by Demo-Christians. The leaders are just a group of young idealists. Bassano places their program close to the program of the Republicans insofar as both parties are fanatically republican. Christian-Socialists, however, are far more radical than the Republicans. Their representative at the CLN, Luciano Merlini, did a remarkable job as a partisan during the clandestine period.

7. Republicans.

Leghorn has an old republican tradition which dates back from the days of Mazzini. When the Action Party was organized, its Leghorn followers remained a minority in front of the already flourishing republican section, and they resolved to merge into the latter.

Crovetti, who comes from the ranks of the Action Party, explains his passage to the Republican Party on the grounds that, since the Republican Party had a far older and stronger tradition than the Action Party, it would have been unreasonable to sponsor a more recent party having

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Crovetti admitted the inherent weakness of both the Republican and Action Parties in the sense that neither one of them has taken a

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stand on the major economical and social problems. According to Crovetti, the only two parties which have proposed a concrete solution to these problems are the Communist Party and the Liberal Party. The final issue of Italian politics will be which one of these two will win. The Republican Party is fairly strong in Leghorn (2,000 members). Other important Republican centres in Tuscany are reported to be Grosseto and Carrara.

Crovetti explained that the Republican Party has a few members among Leghorn's wealthy people, but to draw from this fact (as some people have done) the conclusion that it is a reactionary party is false and misleading. The Republican Party is trying very hard to obtain the largest following in the class which is most reluctant to be attracted into a political party: public and government employees. Crovetti claims that his efforts in this field have been satisfactory.

Orlandini and Merlini declared that their party is on excellent terms with the Republicans. They pretend, however, that the Republican Party in Leghorn represents the intereste of capitalists. They come to this conclusion by analysing the program of the Republicans. They say, in fact, that the most advanced part of their plan is the immediate proclamation of the Italian republic. If, and when this will happen the Republican Party will become one of the most conservative parties in Italy, since their main object will be obtained. This Party has not advanced one inch from Mazzini's original program. Orlandini added that one can come to the same conclusion by looking at the actual members of this party, most of whom come from the wealthy class.

Diaz, who explained at length the history of the Republican Party in Leghorn, confirmed the existence of a strong republican tradition in the entire province. Miglietta confirmed Orlandini's views on the conservative nature of the Republican Party.

On the other hand Bassano seems to share Crovetti's views on the nature of said party. He thinks that Republicans are far more radical and advanced than the Communists. There are several reasons for that. Republicans are not represented in the government, hence they do not share the responsibility of governing the country and are not tied by the policy of the Italian cabinet. Republicans are not even represented inside the central CLN of Rome: hence they are not bound by any tie to the other parties. The Republicans of Leghorn are free to follow any principle which the local section sees fit. They draw their members from almost any class.

8. Socialists.

Funaro gave briefly the history of the Socialist Party, in

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8. Socialists.

Funaro gave briefly the history of the Socialist Party. in Leghorn. Leghorn's section of the Italian Socialist Party was opened in 1892, the year of the Party's birth in Italy. It gradually increased in popularity until 1921, when a socialist "sindaco" was elected in the person of Professor Mondolfi, a man of sound principles and great integrity. Mondolfi remained in office until 1923 when he was violently ousted by a "commissario prefettizio" sent by the government.

During the Fascist régime the Socialist Party remained inactive, but maintained many sympathizers. It came out again after July 25th, 1943. During the 45 days of the first Badoglian government, Leghorn did not have a very active political life:

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that period of limited liberty was too short to bring any definite result. The Socialists sent some representatives to Rome where they established contact with Buozzi, but before they could bring a definite change in the administration, the armistice broke out, immediately followed by the German occupation.

During the clandestine period the Socialists were quite active and were led by Pagani, who represents them now at the CLN.

After the liberation of the town the Socialist Party affirmed itself rather through the quality of its components than through the strength of its numbers. Pagani, its leader, is a worker who enjoys the general respect of the population.

At present the Socialists, far less numerous than the Communists, are acting in complete agreement with the latter. The Communists realise that, although they control the masses, they do not possess such capable key men as the Socialists, and are anxious to have their co-operation. In fact, whenever there is a local election (as happened at the "Orlando" shipyards) Socialists and Communists present the same list. The split between these two parties will happen only at the general election: then, Tunaro says, it will be surprising how the list presented by a comparatively small party will carry the majority of electors. The Socialist party is not a mass party, as the Communist or Democ-Christian parties. Although it is radical, it is still quite moderate. Leghorn's Socialists follow Saragat's policy rather than Nenni's.

According to Tagiuri, the Socialist Party of Leghorn was never a majority party. Nevertheless, it always managed to impose itself through the quality of its members. Two famous men, Modigliani, Member of Parliament, and Mondolfi, the last pre-fascist mayor of Leghorn, came from the Leghorn Socialist Party. To-day, the Leghorn Socialist section still numbers in its ranks many intelligent and influential citizens. IN case of local elections it is most likely that the Socialist ticket will carry the majority. Of course, this would happen if, and only if, we can guarantee the absolute secrecy of the vote, so that the electors can vote without fear or threats. Migliotta shares Tagiuri's views. Migliotta, who does not belong to any political party thinks that in case of elections most of the "independents" would vote for a Socialist ticket. Migliotta is of the opinion that relations between Socialists and Communists in Leghorn are very good.

Bassano said that next to the Communists, the Socialists are the strongest party in Leghorn. The requirements for admission to the Socialist Party are far more strict than for the Communist Party. They do not consider themselves a mass party any longer. So far as their policies are concerned, they are today far more extremist than the Communists. Since they do not have any government responsibilities they can follow a much stiffer policy. They own an excellent cadre.

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9. Communists.

Bassano described at length Leghorn's Communist section.

Communists are to-day probably the most conservative group of the Italian leftist parties. According to Bassano, not only the Allies fail to understand the nature and purpose of the Italian Communist parties, but also the majority of the Italian people. Bassano admits that it is increasingly difficult for a Communist leader to convince an intelligent non-Communist of the logic, and of the sound and consistent policy of Italian Communism.

Italian Communism was born in 1921 in Leghorn in the Theatre Goldoni at a general meeting of the Italian Socialist party. That

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day the Socialist party split itself into two parties: the Socialist and the Communist.

The main reason why Anglo-Americans and non-Communist Italians fail to understand the present policy of Communism in Italy is that they do not distinguish between Communism of 1921 and to-day's Italian Communism.

In 1921 Italian Communists followed blindly Marx, Lenin and Trotski. They were revolutionary, internationalist and dictatorial. Those days are gone for ever. In 1917 Lenin proclaimed the war of the proletariat against the bourgeoisie and large landowners. To-day this war is no longer necessary because the European bourgeoisie is dead, and in the largest part of Europe large landowners have lost their influence. The present war, to a large extent, has taken the place of the revolution. Scoccimarro, who is one of the most intelligent and progressive Communists, during a recent closed meeting of all Communist leaders, said: "We do not need a revolution any longer. World War II has taken the place of a revolution".

Communism is no longer international, as it used to be 23 years ago: in fact, since each country has its own problems, the Communist party of each country will solve these problems according to local conditions. The Communist party of Yugoslavia must solve an agrarian problem which does not exist in Italy. On the other hand, the Communist party in Italy or Spain cannot ignore the Catholic religion because religion plays too large a role in the inner life of these countries. Likewise, the communism of Belgium has to solve problems which do not exist in the aforementioned countries. On the other hand, it should not be said that Communism is turning nationalistic. No party is more against nationalism than Communism: therefore Italian Communism cannot be nationalistic. Recently, the Yugoslav mission in Rome was attacked by some unknown individuals. The reaction in Yugoslavia was most violent, and Tito's government took this pretext to claim Trieste and Dalmatia for Yugoslavia. If the Italian Communist party had taken issue on this point with the Yugoslavs, it would have played the game of the most reactionary anti-communist forces in the country. Italian Communists refused to argue the matter, considering that between Italian and Yugoslav masses (when ruled by the same form of government) there should be no place for arguments of this kind. True, the older comrades refuse to accept this new principle and they stick to the old revolutionary ideas but they are now a minority inside the party. The new forces have abandoned their views a long time ago.

Leghorn Communism clearly follows the modern trend. There are towns, like Piombino, where the labour element is far more radical than in Leghorn and somehow has not changed much from 1921.

Bassano said that the Communist party in Leghorn is now more numerous than all the other parties combined. He would not disclose, however, the number of regular members because of a strict rule established by the headquarters of the party.

Registration is made on the basis that the Communist party is a mass party. Therefore, the selection is not very strict. Provided a man has not held any high office in PNF or has not collaborated with the Fascist republican government, he is eligible for member-

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Registration is made on the basis that the Communist party is a mass party. Therefore, the selection is not very strict. Provided a man has not held any high office in PNF or has not collaborated with the Fascist republican government, he is eligible for membership. With regard to younger people, the control is even looser. With the exception of those who fought for the fascist-republicans, they are all admissible. Bassano thinks that the role played by the young in the fight against the Germans has been so great that they have redeemed themselves for their previous errors.

Tagiuri also thinks that the Communist party is the majority party in the town of Leghorn. According to Tagiuri, we ought to have given credit to the Communists for their extremely practical sense. They understand better than anybody else the political situation of the moment. Their politics are extremely elastic. They never stiffen on an issue nor a position which may compromise their success

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with the majority: for instance, during the past year they skipped the institutional question, feeling that the time is not yet ripe to bring up the question of the monarchy. They know how to organise their members; they show far more comprehension of the masses than any other political party. They also impose an iron discipline on their members.

However, Tagiuri added, it is doubtful whether they will maintain their apparent majority and their control over the masses in case of an election by secret ballot, because the best men in Leghorn are not Communist candidates. A recent instance of the outcome of a secret ballot was given at the elections of the "Orlando" shipyards. Among the electors there were 700 Communists and probably only 250 Socialists. The election was secret. The Socialist candidates won by absolute majority. This happened because many Communists voted for the Socialist candidates. When the Communists can get free from their party control, they tendentially choose the people whom they trust rather than the people designated by their party.

The relations between the Socialists and the Communists are, on the outside, excellent. Actually, however, they are very tense. On the one hand, the Communists, who feel stronger because they have now the majority, try to absorb the Socialists since they need outstanding men for their own ranks. On the other hand, the Socialists are reluctant to sacrifice their liberties by joining the Communist party.

Tagiuri thinks that although it is possible that some Socialists may one day run the country, the Italian Socialist party, on the whole, is on the way to fading out.

Diaz seems to take an intermediate view between the two views above mentioned. He said that Leghorn, being a town of workers, it is natural for the Communist party to have a large following. He thinks, however, that it is a little early to say which is the predominant party.

Diaz, however, thinks that the Communists are "probably" the strongest party in the town. In any case, even if they are not, he is certain that the combination of the leftist parties (Communists, Socialists and Republicans) has behind it the majority of the population.

With reference to Communist leaders, Migliotta thinks that although the provincial leaders are Diaz and his friends, they are in fact only the tools in the hands of the local labour leaders. Diaz, who comes from a wealthy and distinguished family, cannot be a Communist at heart. The Communists found in him a very useful instrument to control local politics, because he has education, good manners and appearance, all qualities which are rare to find among Communists. Migliotta agreed that Communists are very strong in the town. He also agreed with Diaz on the point that, together with the Socialists, they would carry the majority of the people in case of a general election.

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This is the Demo-Christian view given by Prof. Borrazzo: Communists arewithout doubt the strongest party in the town. In the province Communism has considerable success among farmhands and small lease-holders. Small landowners, however, who are in the majority in Tuscany, are against Communism.

The Communist party, according to Borrazzo, is led by capable men, who are using every means to intensify their propaganda, even unlawful means. For instance, the AMG has expressly prohibited all parties to print bulletins for circulation among the population. The Communist party, in violation of this order, regularly publishes a bulletin, which is printed clandestinely. "Evidently", Borrazzo

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commented, "even if the printer is caught and jailed, the Communists do not worry about the loss of a man provided they get their bulletin printed and circulated."

Borrazzo admitted that, on the whole, the Communist Party behaves very well with reference to other parties; he never heard of any act of violence committed by them and does not have any complaint against them. "Yet", he said, "I would not trust them too much. They are playing the double game. They say that they respect religion but one day they may throw off the mask and persecute all men who follow a religion."

Communists will lose their present popularity when the issue of Trieste comes up before the Italian people. Italians will not follow a party which is willing to sacrifice Trieste, the prize of World War I.

Orlandini and Nerlini, who agree that the Communists in Leghorn are very strong, accuse them of unfair practices during the clandestine period. Whenever Christian-Socialists organized a band of partisans the Communists sent over one of their men to join the band. After a while this representative of the Communist Party issued a membership card to each member of the band and then reported that it was a Communist band.

10. Anarchists

Cini explained that the new name of this party is "Partito Comunista Libertario".

The origins of the Italian Anarchist Party date back to 1872 when the Socialist Party of the First International broke up into two currents - the Socialist Party proper which followed Marx's views modified by a milder policy, and the Anarchist Party which was led by Bakhunin and was introduced into Italy by Malatesta, Cipriani and Cafiero. The Italian Anarchist Party had a particular following in central Italy (Tuscany and Marche) and in Sicily. The Anarchist Party was strongly opposed by the pre-Fascist government. In 1898 it was outlawed by Crispi, then Italy's premier. Later it was again legalized and it continued its existence until the advent of Fascism. The Fascist government persecuted the Anarchists more violently than any other party. Scores of them were killed or thrown into jail or silenced in some other way. After the fall of Fascism, Badoglio freed all political prisoners except the Anarchists.

After the arrival of the Allies, the Anarchists obtained a certain amount of freedom of action. They have been tolerated but according to Cini and Antonelli, they still suffer all kinds of

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10. Anarchists

Cini explained that the new name of this party is "Partito Comunista Libertario".

The origins of the Italian Anarchist Party date back to 1872 when the Socialist Party of the First International broke up into two currents - the Socialist Party proper which followed Marx's views modified by a milder policy, and the Anarchist Party which was led by Bakhunin and was introduced into Italy by Malatesta, Cipriani and Cafiero. The Italian Anarchist Party had a particular following in central Italy (Tuscany and Marche) and in Sicily. The Anarchist Party was strongly opposed by the pre-Fascist government. In 1898 it was outlawed by Crispi, then Italy's premier. Later it was again legalized and it continued its existence until the advent of Fascism. The Fascist government persecuted the Anarchists more violently than any other party. Scores of them were killed or thrown into jail or silenced in some other way. After the fall of Fascism, Badoglio freed all political prisoners except the Anarchists.

After the arrival of the Allies, the Anarchists obtained a certain amount of freedom of action. They have been tolerated but according to Cini and Antonelli, they still suffer all kinds of restrictions and limitations which are not imposed on the other parties.

Italian Anarchists are now organized in "Federazioni". There is a central "Federazione" and also regional and provincial ones. Leghorn's "Federazione" has joined the "Federazione Comunista-Libertaria Toscana". Leghornes federation is devided into six groups. Cini claims that the Anarchist Party is particularly strong in this province where they have obtained a seat at the CLN, and a representation at the provincial "Camera del Lavoro". Although they do not have any representative in the local administration

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(provincial and communal), they are represented at the "Ente Comunale di Assistenza". In Tuscany they are particularly strong in the recently liberated areas (Massa, Carrara, and Lunigiana), where the Anarchists formed numerous bands of patriots. Cini said that he has already established contact with these bands. Another important Anarchist centre is Piombino; Piombino's representative at CGIL is an Anarchist. Other centres in Tuscany where they have considerable following are Empoli and Pistoia.

Cini explained at length the purpose of the Anarchist Party. He explained that the Anarchists do not believe that the present democratic system is adequate to give satisfaction to the lower classes, but they do not necessarily advocate the use of violence. They realize however that democracies as well as authoritarian regimes have always resorted to the use of violence whenever the ruling class has met resistance by the masses. This has been true in democracies such as France and England and in authoritarian governments such as Fascist Italy and Soviet Russia. Anarchists are against Communism as much as against a liberal form of government, since state capitalism is just as oppressive as private capitalism. Large and small industries should be owned not by private individuals nor by the state but by labour federations or syndicates. This is why their movement has been identified with the syndicalist movement. An Anarchist wants socialization of industry through and by the trade unions, and not through or by the state.

From Cini's conversation it appeared that the Anarchists are in favour of regional autonomy.

Bassano and Diaz said that the Anarchists are just a small group of workers of extremist theories.

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11. The Church

According to Mons. Piccioni, Leghorn is not less religious than any other large Italian town. Of course, the members of the leftist parties are rather reluctant to go to church, but they are not against it. During the Easter holidays everybody in town welcomed the priests who came to bless the houses. No Communist prevented a priest from entering his home. In fact a priest went into the headquarters of the Communist Party and blessed the offices with the general approval of the bystanders.

During the XIX century there were in Leghorn several flourishing non-Catholic churches. There was an English church, a Dutch church, an Armenian and Syrian church, and a Jewish synagogue. Most of these churches are still in existence, but their communities have been thinning away. The reason for so many religions is purely historical. Before the formation of the kingdom of Italy Leghorn was a free port of the Grand Duchy of Tuscany. In time, it became an important commercial centre with a numerous colony of foreign merchants. Most of them have either left or have assimilated themselves with the local population

According to Bernardini there is a widespread lack of interest among high school and college students with regard to religious instruction, which according to the concordat between Italy and the Holy See, is still compulsory in all Italian public schools. The best solution would be to let each class of students decide by free election whether such instruction should be discontinued. When the students are below a certain age, this referndum should be taken among their parents. If the majority of a class wants to have the instruction continued, this decision will be followed with reference to that class only.

Bernardini is opposed to a general Government decree imposing or abolishing religious instruction.

With reference to the attitude of the church during the German occupation, Funaro stated that, to his knowledge, the bishop of Leghorn, Mons. Piccioni, did not do a thing to help patriots or refugees.

According to Bassano, Mons. Piccioni is a fairly well liked man. During 20 years of Fascist regime he played his part as Fascist sympathizer as most high clergymen did all over Italy. During the clandestine period he was conspicuous for his absence. Although he did not flee from Leghorn, he lived quietly in a little ville on the outskirts of town. Bassano thinks that the Archbishop of Florence, Cardinal Della Costa, showed a little more courage and energy; he is in fact responsible for saving Florence's art treasures and from sparing the city from total destruction.

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12. Italian Army

There are in Leghorn between 10,000 and 14,000 PWs and a certain number of soldiers of the regular army, recently drafted under the current conscription decrees. The first group, which is much larger, wears the American uniform with a shoulder badge having the shape of Italy, and the second group wears the British uniform in the dark-green shade.

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According to Crovetti, the Italian PWs constitute by far the most serious and worrying problem in Leghorn, and, possibly, in all other towns where they will eventually be dispatched. They do not constitute an immediate danger, but a potential source of trouble in their relation with the civilian population and in the relations between the Italians the the Allies.

Crovetti considered their problem calmly and without animosity. PWs, whether officers or ORs hate the Allies. Most of them come from North African camps where apparently they were treated rather severely. When they were sent to Italy they thought that their status of PWs would cease as soon as they touched Italian shores. This did not happen and they resent being still considered PWs.

They are still strongly tainted with nationalism, and this feeling is ably kept alive by their officers who still are (from the rank of major upward) strongly monarchical, nationalistic and full of the old imperialistic doctrines. They resent the loss of the war far more than the civilian population which after two years of actual warfare on the mainland and a long period of German occupation, and the passage of modern warfare from house to house, has somehow buried its nationalistic feelings and considers the problem of reconstruction as the most urgent matter.

PWs despise the civilians because of their sincere cooperation with the Allies; they say that all Italian women are now prostitutes for Allied soldiers. They refuse to mix with the local population.

PWs despise the present Italian regular army, of recent conscription. They call them Badoglieni...The regular army soldiers are a much more quiet element; they are the offspring of the present political situation; most of them do not have any particular interest in Italy's eventual claims, nor have they any particular ideals or ambitions, and they are very much like sheep. They reply to taunts by PWs by calling them Mussolini's soldiers.

According to Crovetti the main reason for the present state of mind of PWs is that they ignore what the German occupation means; they all remember the Germans as their brave Allies and that, while Badoglio betrayed the Axis armies by signing the armistice, the Germans loyally carried on their war. They still talk about Alemain as the place where they fell short of complete victory over England. PWs left Italy at the peak of her success and they found the country now at its lowest ebb, without having witnessed its downfall.

PWs tried to organize their own party. Apparently they were led by their own officers. This new party appears to be a complete failure.

PWs get into a frenzy whenever the question of Trieste comes up; they keep alive among the population the problem of Italian claims over Istria and Trieste. Crovetti, who discussed at length the question of Trieste fears the dan[illegible]

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PWs get into a frenzy whenever the question of Trieste comes up; they keep alive among the population the problem of Italian claims over Istria and Trieste. Crovetti, who discussed at length the question of Trieste fears the danger of this ultra-chauvinist attitude of PWs more than any reactionary party. On the issue of Trieste, PWs found a good element of cooperation in the "Gruppo Giuliano" of Leghorn. "Gruppi Giulieni" are organizations which have recently flourished in Tuscany among the most nationalistic elements, who place above all other problems the claim to the

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Italian frontier as established after World War I. Prof. Pontevivo presides over the Leghorn branch of this group.

Crovetti explained that the Communist Party is making a tremendous effort to divert some of these men from this dangerous line of thought, but they have not had much success. PWs are still indifferent to any political program. The Republican Party has also launched a campaign to train PWs to think and act with a civilian mentality. Crovetti was very disappointed with the results.

Funaro expressed himself rather harshly with regard to PWs. He declared that their morals and behaviour are rather bad. Most of them who have been in the army for eight or nine years have acquired the mentality of adventurers ("soldati di ventura"). They steal anything they can get their hands on, either from the Allies or from the civilian population. They do not belong to any particular party nor follow any particular tendency. They are ready to follow anyone who pays them. For the time being the majority of the officers are monarchical and a good part of the soldiers declare themselves so. They could eventually support a "coup d'état" in favour of the monarchy and use their arms to that purpose. There are a few Communists among them but they are so scarce as to have no influence.

Tagiuri agreed with Funaro in declaring that the Italian PWs now operating in Leghorn are a serious element of disorder. Unfortunately in all armed robberies which occur in these days in the Leghorn area Italian prisoners play a conspicuous part. They are men who have lost the habit of decent social life. From trucks loaded with PWs one often hears Fascist anthems.

Bassano said that he and other members of CLN have made a strenuous effort to conciliate the local population to these soldiers after years of absence and sacrifices of all kinds.

According to Bassano, PWs are accused of all crimes including that of being instruments of Fascist propaganda. This causes considerable resentment against them. During the days of Roatta's escape a few Fascist manifestations took place such as smearing the marbel memorial placed in the centre of town to commemorate the partisans killed in action. Many people accused the PWs. It appeared later that they had nothing to do with this. Over one hundred people were arrested (all Italian civilians) and one of them was found guilty of most of the crimes.

Miraglia confirmed Bassano's report on Italian PWs and regular army soldiers, asserting that their behaviour has not been worse than expected. Rumours charging PWs with Fascist activities do not have any ground, since the few manifestations which took place in Leghorn were found to be promoted by Fascist local elements.

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Italian prisoners, according to Miraglia, receive excellent treatment and have nothing to complain about.

S E C R E T

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13. The Press

The only paper published in Leghorn is the daily IL TIRRENO, owned by Banti.

According to Diaz, IL TIRRENO is a fairly good paper. He thinks however that for a town like Leghorn it is necessary to allow papers of different tendencies to circulate. IL TIRRENO is independent, and Banti is a man who enjoys a very good reputation.

Mons. Piccioni complained bitterly that the people of Leghorn cannot get the Roman dailies OSSERVATORE ROMANO, IL POPOLO, and other Catholic papers. He recieved only a few numbers of these papers from people who brought them over to Leghorn. The only paper which seems to arrive with a certain regularity from Rome is UNITA', but that too is hard to get, because Communist of course have priority on it.

Funaro thinks that IL TIRRENO is a very poor paper, and that it is necessary to import the Roman dailies with a certain regularity. With the exception of a few numbers of UNITA' or AVANTI which are brought very irregularly and with considerable delay from Rome, and which quickly disappear from the market, no outside papers are to be seen in Leghorn.

Cini and Antonelli made bitter complaints with regard to the Italian press, similar to those made by Orlandini and Merlini.

Cini and Antonelli feel that their movement was unfairly treated with reference to the issue of a license and newsprint. Only as late as a fortnight ago did the anarchists obtain from the Italian Government a permit to print in Rome a weekly sheet UMANITA' NUOVA, and even for that weekly they have not yet obtained a Government allotment of newsprint. They are thereby forced to buy it on the black market. In fact, before issuing each number they must ask for contributions from all their sympathizers in order to raise enough money to buy the necessary amount of paper. UMANITA' NUOVA arrives occasionally in Leghorn where it is brought very irregularly by some friends.

Cini bitterly remarked that in Rome there are about 22 dailies, many of which do not represent any party, but just business groups. Nevertheless, they have all been favoured by the Government. The Anarchist group whose existence has been officially authorized was the last to obtain a permit and they still meet all kinds of resistence. He thought it particularly regrettable that one of their comrades in Florence, Lentini, was condemned by an AMG court to five years imprisonment because he printed an unauthorized edition of UMANITA' NUOVA in Florence before the paper obtained the necessary license in Rome.

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Cini claims that if the Italian Government had given the Anarchists a square deal, by letting them publish their paper in Rome at the same time as the other political papers, Lantini would not have resorted to a clandestine paper in Florence. Cini sadly compared the present situation with the press situation in 1921 when the Italian Anarchist Party had at least one daily paper and a number of weeklies in most large towns.

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14. Epuration

Dott. Leone expressed his views on the application of the laws on sanctions against Fascism.

Leone is solely concerned with the prosecution of crimes committed by Fascists. Epuration of the public administration falls under the jurisdiction of Bassano, provincial representative of the High Commission.

Leone has received a great number of denunciations from different sources: RR CC, police and CLN. Many of these are already under investigation, some of them have already been assigned to trial and the cases will be taken up as soon as the proper court meets. Only one case (Gino Niccolaj-Gamba) has been tried and decided, and the sentence has been executed. Niccolaj-Gamba was a "gerarca" accused of having committed acts of violence while holding his Fascist office. It appeared from the record that during the clandestine period he was active in the fight against the Germans. He was condemned to one year, ten months and fifteen days in jail. Leone submitted a statistical table showing the work done.

Leone thinks that the prosecution of Fascist crimes is proceeding in a very satisfactory way. Cases which can be investigated, tried and dealt with within the city limits of Leghorn can be disposed of in a reasonably short time (two to three months). Cases which involve evidence to be collected in the province of Leghorn (outside the city limits) will require a much longer time since communications between the provincial capital and the more distant "municipii" are still very irregular. It is therefore impossible to forsee when the prosecution of such crimes will end.

The CLN has cooperated with the "Procustore del Regno"s office in bringing in a large number of denunciations. According to Leone practically all denunciations of CLN come from the Communist Party.

Leone does not approve the policy which is now prevailing over the entire country of allowing the CLN to assume activities which used to be exclusive to the police forces (RR CC and city police). It would be better if the CLN brought its denunciations to the authorized police forces and the latter turned them over to the Prosecutor's office. The current practice has caused confusion and inconvenience - sometimes the same cases have been denounced by two or three different agencies with statements which were in contradiction.

Bassano has been appointed by the High Commission as provincial delegate for Leghorn. Two more delegates have been recently appointed to assist him on the job. His mission is to stimulate the application of the law of sanctions against Fascism. His field is extremely broad. [illegible]

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He has organized twenty boards of inquiry, one for each branch of the administration and public institutions. In the appointment of members of such boards Bassano picked members of the branch in question as well as outsiders, provided that they could give guarantees of honesty and probity. The inquiry phase of the

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epuration is over, in the sense that all boards of inquiry have collected the necessary evidence and have turned the records over to Bassano and his assistents. A part of these records concerning members of the central administration have been sent to Rome where they will be passed upon by the "Commissione Centrale", and the rest have been turned over to the local board of decision which has been recently organized for the province of Leghorn. This board according to the recent amendments of the law consists of three members - the president of the Tribunal of Leghorn, Dott. Martini, presiding; a member of the Prefettura, Dott. Cordova, associate justice; and a worker, Minghi (Socialist), associate justice. During his last trip to Rome, Bassano insisted to the High Commission that officials of the central administration who have been active in Leghorn ought to be tried by the Leghorn board of decision. Bassano thinks that his suggestion will be followed.

According to Bassano there are offices like the Prefettura where all officials with the exception of the Prefect himself, and Dott. Cordiva, swore allegiance to the Fascist Republic. Now, if this oath was given by a janitor or a minor clerk he should not be effected by the law of epuration. If on the other hand the oath has been given by a high ranking official, as a "consigliere di Prefettura" he can no longer be tolerated at the office.

Bassano thinks that Leghorn's Questura is not as Fascist-ridden as the Prefettura and that the present Questore is a very dependable man.

Although Bassano's jurisdiction is strictly limited to the epuration of public offices in the province of Leghorn, yet he has played an important role in the application of the rest of the law (prosecution of Fascist crimes and disposition of Fascist profits). In fact he has been insisting to the "Procuratore del Regno", Dott. Leone, that he (Leone) should carry on his work with more energy. According to Bassano, Leone is not the right man for the job. Besides the fact that he has a conspicuous Fascist past which makes him unfit to prosecute Fascist crimes, Bassano thinks that Leone does not have the intelligence nor the ability, nor the energy to carry on the job.

Leone has shown great zeal in prosecuting and bringing to final decision two cases, Niccolaj-Gamba and Gori (who was condemned in default), both of whom were minor "gerarchi", and has neglected more important cases for which there is a greater demand for justice.

With reference to Fascist profits, Bassano displayed considerable activity in seizing the property of Fascist "gerarchi". This job has been comparatively easy in Leghorn where practically all Fascist profits concentrated during the last [illegible]

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With reference to Fascist profits, Bassano displayed considerable activity in seizing the property of Fascist "gerarchi". This job has been comparatively easy in Leghorn where practically all Fascist profits concentrated during the last twenty years around the Ciano family. All Ciano's estates are now under a government administrator.

In this field Bassano went even further than the law expressly authorized him to do. In fact he has also condemned the property of people who were never members of the PNF, but nevertheless largely profited from their contacts with Fascist "gerarchi". Bassano proudly said that to obtain this result he had to put up a terrific fight against these subjects who loudly claimed that under the existing laws their riches were legitimately acquired.

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S E C R E T

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Bassano said that in most cases the Allied authorities have been quite cooperative in the epuration problem. He paid a high tribute to the AMG governor who held that in matters of epuration the Italian law was the only one to be applied and remitted the entire matter to the Italians. He regretted however that, in a few isolated cases, men generally condemned by the public opinion enjoyed a certain amount of protection by Allied officials. He cited two instances - Curzio Malaparte and Morelli. Malaparte is practically unknown to the mass of the people. Only the intellectual class know him or of him. A few of them possibly are still flattered if they can associate with him. However most of those who know him cordially despise him as one of the most equivocal, immoral and politically repulsive characters of the Italian press. They call him a master of the triple game (triplo gioco) in contrast with (doppio gioco). Apparently Malaparte some time ago asked Bassano to receive him. Bassano replied: "As the delegate of the High Commission for epuration I do not have any objection to receiving you in my office."

Morelli, who was first arrested, then released and finally rearrested, appears now to be safely and for good under custody with two charges of murder. Yet, according to Bassano, the Italian authorities seem to have had considerable difficulty in taking any action against this man who appeared to enjoy some protection from outside.

Crovetti, who discussed Malaparte's case, approves the opinion given by the Roman weekly CONTRACHIARO, which defines Malaparte as a "journalist whore". Crovetti regrets that such a man is now used by the Allies as liaison officer. He should be placed in a concentration camp.

According to Diaz, while the epuration of the public administration is proceeding in a satisfactory way, the prosecution of Fascist crimes leaves much to be desired.

With regard to epuration, although no suspension from public offices has yet been made final, because the deciding board has only just been organized, the inquiry part of the proceeding has already been practically completed by Bassano.

The prosecution of Fascist crimes has not been speeded up with the necessary energy. Diaz does not know what kind of directives Leone received; in any case he feels that Leone lacks the energy and drtermination necessary for such a job. Diaz expressed his feelings in an article which he wrote for IL TIRRENO of

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Diaz explained that the people of Leghorn have a particularly violent nature; they are known all over the country as ruffians and trouble makers. They have suffered because of the war more than the majority of Italians, since their town has been partially destroyed. They have never been rich; the great majority are plain laborers. Diaz thinks that unless satisfaction is given to the people by means of speedy and efficient trials of Fascist criminals there is going to be a lot of lynching. A few days ago a Fascist was found killed on the highway. A factor which arouses popular indignation is the release of Fascists by the police authorities after they have been arrested.

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With reference to the law of sanctions against Fascism, Cini who works under Bassano's directives, confirmed the widespread criticism that the law is inadequate in so far as it does not consider the case of Fascists who committed all sorts of illegalities and covered all kinds of Fascist offices, where they are not public employees. Cini said that he would like to see in a concentration camp all "gerarchi" whether they are public employees or not.

Cini agreed that the prosecution of Fascist crimes leaves much to be desired. He gave the following instance. Giorgio Lazzari and Loris Vignoli, during the Fascist regime, obtained the certificate of "squadrista" by pretending that they took part in an expedition during which an Anarchist, Filippo Filippetti, was killed. One of them was arrested and after a short while released. The other has never been touched and has a job in town. This is not fair to the Anarchists who for twenty years suffered the most inhuman persecutions. Antonelli commented: "In Fascist days it was enough for a man to say he approved the conduct of an Anarchist for him to get five years "confino".

Borrazzo was extremely vague on this point, and declined to make any clear statement on the policy of the Demo-Christian Party on this problem. He said that with reference to the epuration from public offices nothing definite had been done yet, since he had not signed the list of names which the boards of inquiry (of which he is a member) are supposed to have presented to Bassano.

Prof. Borrazzo seems to think that a policy of general forgiveness should be preferred to the application of any epuration law. He noticed with bitterness that about a month ago a few former Fascists of Leghorn had been beaten up by an excited mob.

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DOCUMENTS

PROVINCIAL COMMITTEE OF NATIONAL LIBERATION
MASSA-CARRARA

Decree No. 1

CARRARA, 27 March 1945

THE PROVINCIAL COMMITTEE OF NATIONAL LIBERATION OF MASSA-CARRARA, representing all forces which have collaborated in the struggle for national liberation

by the will and action of the people

and on the strength of a mandate conferred by the democratic Italian Government to the C.L.N. of Massa-Carrara, thus representing legitimately the government itself and as such recognized by the Allied Authorities

assumes all the powers of administration and of government in the territory of Massa-Carrara.

It decrees:

Art. 1) Until there is a free popular election and until there are further laws issued by the democratic Italian Government, all powers of administration and government will be carried on through the groups and persons appointed for this purpose by the C.L.N. of Massa-Carrara.

Art. 2) The C.L.N. as above constituted assumes the duties of a provisional Governing Giunta and is composed of:

On.	Ventavoli Lorenzo (Soc.)	Bondielli Alberto (Dem.Cris.)
	Boncini Gino (Soc.)	Galleni Giuseppe (Dem.Cris.)
	Mariani Giuseppe (Com.)	Vannucci Paolo (Azione)
	Landini Romeo (Com.)	Martinelli Filippo (Azione)
	Procuranti Gino (Repub.)	Del Papa Romualdo (Liber.)
	Fredieni Arturo (Repub.)	Lodovici Onofrio (Liber.)

Art. 3) The members of the Giunta appointed as representatives ~~of organizations~~ of the people shall be approved as quickly as possible by the democratic assemblies of these organizations.

Art. 4) The Prefect of the Province who is responsible to the Provincial Governing Giunta is Sig. Giovanni del Giudice, appointed by the provincial C.L.N. He is assisted by two Vice prefects, Sig. Dazzi Gastone and Piccini Pietro.

Art. 5) The administration of the province is entrusted to a provincial deputation whose appointed members are:

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struggle for national liberation

by the will and action of the people

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Giorgi Uberto - President
Vatteroni Primo, deputy
Don Rosini Giuseppe, V. Pres. (Dem. Cris.)
Corsi Ugo, deputy (Soc.)
Barzaghi Napoleone; deputy
Pieruccini Gino, deputy (Republican)

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Art. 6) The Head of the Police (Questore) appointed by the Provincial J.L.N. is Dott. Battistini Fulvio.

Art. 7) All the armed forces of the nazi-fascist regime have been broken up. Those belonging to the disbanded armed forces of the past regime should, under pain of death, declare themselves and turn over their arms and equipment to the command of the Freedom Volunteer Corps within five days after the publication of the present decree.

Art. 8) All the national armed forces of the Province of Massa-Carrara come under the orders of the J.L.N. and through it under the command of the Freedom Volunteers with the aim of continuing the war of liberation at the side of the Allies. In accord with this command and with the help of the armed forces that the command will put at their disposal, and relying on the public spirit and collaboration of all the people, the Prefect of the Province and the head of the police will look after the strict maintainance of security and public order.

Art. 9) A Provincial Commission of epuration is constituted alongside the Provincial Giunta to ensure the rapid epuration from local life of the remnants of the past regime of corruption and treachery, for the punishment as an example of war criminals and of as many as are guilty of barbarism and of enemy oppression. The members appointed to this commission are:

Banelli Pietro (Soc.) — Angeli Giorgio (Azione)
Foglini Eliseo (Com.) — Andreani Giuseppe (Dem. Cris.)
Lazzerini Remo (Repub.) — Viaggi Giuseppe (Libertario)

The Provincial Committee of National Liberation of Massa-Carrara

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THE PROVINCIAL COMMITTEE OF NATIONAL LIBERATION
MASSA- CARRARA

Decrees

Carrara 27 March, 1945

The Provincial Committee of National Liberation of Massa-Carrara, representing all forces which have collaborated in the struggle for national liberation, in its function of Provisional Governing Giunta

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The Provincial Committee of National Liberation of Massa-Carrara

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THE PROVINCIAL COMMITTEE OF NATIONAL LIBERATION
MASSA-CARRARA

Decrees — Carrara 27 March, 1945

The Provincial Committee of National Liberation of Massa-Carrara, representing all forces which have collaborated in the struggle for national liberation, in its function of Provisional Governing Giunta

Considering its request of 11 March 1945 inviting local Committees of National Liberation to propose the names of persons for the jobs of "pro-sindaci, assessori and consiglieri comunali":

Considering the nominations proposed by the C.L.N. of Carrara:

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In virtue of the mandate conferred by the democratic Italian government:

DECREES

That Andrei Carlo is appointed Sindaco of Ferrara.

Assisted by two pro-Sindaci: Enrico Isoppi and Giulio Girotello, by the popular Administrative Giunta, and by a town council composed of the following members:

Popular Administrative Giunta

Del Pappa Mario
Dunchi Carlo
Fattori Guido
Gallignani Augusto
Lattanzi Mario
Lodovici Pietro
Macchiarini Ismaele
Mariani Roberto
Nicosia Guglielmo
Sgolambro Giuseppe
Storti Angelo

Town Council

Ambrosini Ottero
Angeloni Medardo
Andreani Giuseppe
Bazzani Enrico
Baruzzo Pietro
Bernardi Giovanni
Bolgioni Orlando
Botti Guglielmo
Chiericoni Fausto
Cricca Francesco
Del Nero Carmelo
Garella Giuseppe
Gentili Ugo
Ghidoni Giuseppe
Malvetti Francesco
Mariani Gino
Nitrini Ezio
Pinelli Mario
Ragaglini Colombo
Tonelli Luciano
Viti Adolfo
Viti Renato

The Provincial Committee of National Liberation
of Massa-Carrara

COMITATO DI LIBERAZIONE NAZIONALE PER L'ALTA ITALIA
CORPO VOLONTARI DELLA LIBERTA'
COMANDO UNICO MILITARE EMILIA-ROMAGNA (C.U.M.E.R.)

COMUNICATO

Extracts.

....."The Bolognese Division, because of its recognition by the democratic government in Rome, is considered an integral part of

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composed of the following members:

Popular Administrative Giunta	Town Council
Dolcoppe Mario	Ambrosini Omero
Dunchi Carlo	Angeloni Medardo
Fattori Guido	Andreani Giuseppe
Gallignani Augusto	Bazzani Enrico
Lattanzi Mario	Baruzzo Pietro
Lodovici Pietro	Bernardi Giovanni
Macchiarini Ismaele	Bolgioni Orlando
Mariani Roberto	Botti Guglielmo
Nicosia Guglielmo	Chiericoni Fausto
Sgalambro Giuseppe	Cricca Francesco
Storti Angelo	Del Nero Carmelo
	Garella Giuseppe
	Gentili Ugo
	Ghidoni Giuseppe
	Malvetti Francesco
	Mariani Gino
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	Pinelli Mario
	Ragaglini Colombo
	Tonelli Luciano
	Viti Adolfo
	Viti Renato

The Provincial Committee of National Liberation
of Massa-Carrara

COMITATO DI LIBERAZIONE NAZIONALE PER L'ALTA ITALIA
CORPO VOLONTARI DELLA LIBERTA'
COMANDO UNICO MILITARE EMILIA-ROMAGNA (C.U.M.E.R.)

COMUNICATO

Extracts.

....."The Bolognese Division, because of its recognition by the democratic government in Rome, is considered an integral part of the national army of the new Italy.

The Bolognese Division will soon be called upon to contribute, by fighting according to prearranged plans in coordination with the victorious Allied Armies, toward freeing your city and

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your province, and to continue to fight until the sacred soil of our native land is completely liberated and until Hitler's Germany surrenders unconditionally.

After Bologna is liberated some of the forces of the Division will have to keep order and insure civil discipline under the orders of the Committee of National Liberation for Emilia-Romagna which is the governing body of our region. Other members of the Division will carry on the war of liberation in the front lines beside the Allied armies.

.....

The members of the Volunteer Freedom Corps will arrest, without further orders, all those who are not in line with the special instructions for the active members of the Volunteer Freedom Corps, and who are found with arms in their possession.

Every patriot in possession of arms must either put them at the disposal of the Volunteer Freedom Corps or regularize matters with the latter at once. This is necessary because fascist traitors have tried and will try to infiltrate the ranks to kill the fighting men, particularly those in command. Some of these traitors who were discovered and who confessed, have already been arrested.

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CONFIDENTIAL

N° 9.

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

"D" Section

9th March, 1945.

N° 9 INTELLIGENCE REPORT COVERING TUSCANY AND ADJOINING TERRITORY OF LIBERATED ITALY

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

"D" Section

9th March, 1945.

N° 9 INTELLIGENCE REPORT COVERING TUSCANY AND ADJOINING TERRITORY OF LIBERATED ITALY

SUMMARY

The passion with which the average Italian discusses and agitates about internal political problems is in striking contrast with the indifference he displays to equally vital questions of international relations. The contrast was illustrated this week in the spontaneous and excited reaction on the part of all classes of people to the news of General Roatta's escape as compared with the relatively abstract interest evinced in Mr. Churchill's recent speech to the House of Commons and President Roosevelt's declaration to Congress. A recrudescence of anti-monarchist feelings was already making itself felt in Florence when the Roatta incident focused popular attention once more on the problems of epuration. A detailed study of this question is included in this report, which indicates that while the laws for Sanctions against Fascism are being applied with justice and impartiality the results so far achieved, though real, do not satisfy the public desire for swift and thorough action.

CORRECTIONS

Correction to N° 7 INTELLIGENCE REPORT COVERING TUSCANY AND ADJOINING TERRITORY OF LIBERATED ITALY dated 23rd February 1945.

Information which was thought to be reliable and was quoted in Paragraph 14, page 18, to the effect that gas distribution in Florence would be held up owing to technical difficulties was incorrect and the gas distribution was made on 18th February as previously announced by A.M.G.

Correction to N° 8 INTELLIGENCE REPORT COVERING TUSCANY AND

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Correction to N° 8 INTELLIGENCE REPORT COVERING TUSCANY AND ADJOINING TERRITORY OF LIBERATED ITALY dated 2nd March 1945.

On page 13 (paragraph 12) it was stated that there had been a typhus epidemic in the Refugee Centre in Florence. The report should have referred to typhoid instead of typhus, and although the first case reported was traced to the Refugee Centre the figures given in the report were for the entire city of Florence and not for the Refugee Centre alone.

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CONFIDENTIAL N° 9.

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

"D" Section 9th March, 1945.

N° 9 INTELLIGENCE REPORT COVERING TUSCANY AND ADJOINING TERRITORY OF LIBERATED ITALY

POLITICAL

1. Reaction to the speeches of Churchill and Roosevelt on their return from Yalta.

Italian opinion, depressed at the omission of any mention to Italy in the findings of the Crimea Conference, and by the silence that greeted Bonomi's telegram to the "Big Three", has undoubtedly been cheered by the statements of Churchill in the House of Commons and of Roosevelt before Congress. Unlike Rome, with its many papers, where comment and approval have been the order of the day, Florentines, both in conversation and in their press, have been restrained. Public opinion, due perhaps to the absence of party papers, is unformed and uncertain. However, enthusiasm was general for Churchill's tribute to the "invaluable services, the full story of which cannot yet be told, of the Italian men and women in the armed forces, on the seas and in the countryside and behind the enemy lines in the North, which are being rendered steadfastly to the common cause" and this has done much to cancel the opinion that Churchill and Great Britain are irremediably hostile to the aspirations of the anti-fascist Italians for a greater administrative responsibility and more active part in the fighting in Italy. People point out that this is almost the first time that Churchill has spoken of Italy without recalling fascist Italy's part in the war on the side of Germany. Interest has also been aroused by Churchill's declaration that the measures that took form in the recent MacMillan statement were initiated by him in conversations with Roosevelt.

Pro-British Italians claim that in recent months they have suffered many disillusions. This opinion is strong

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Pro-British Italians claim that in recent months they have suffered many disillusions. This opinion is strong among members of the Action party, the parties to the right of it, and a section of the Socialists, who would like to see Italy take her place alongside the Western democracies.

Roosevelt's statement to Congress has attracted less attention among the public than the Prime Minister's, as it contains no specific reference to Italy. In educated circles however it has been most favourably received and the President

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is spoken of as the statesman principally concerned in the defence of the rights, not only of his own country, but of the whole world, and especially of those of the small nations. They look to Roosevelt to assure that all the nations have a part in the future organisation of the world (peace must be based on the collaboration of the whole world) - and as the chief opponent of the policy of political balance and the division of the globe into spheres of political influence between the three great powers. The Nazione del Popolo remarks that the President's assurances preclude the fear that after winning the war America will abstain from taking part in the Peace, and thereby assuming responsibility for another world conflict.

It is impossible to talk to any Italian without sensing a note of scepticism about any declaration by Allied or Italian politicians and leaders. Italians of the poor and middle classes are only interested in such declarations in so far as they may effect their own conditions. They will judge the results of Yalta in the improvement of their own fortunes and working conditions. Thinking Italians are disheartened that as yet their country has not been mentioned in connection with the San Francisco Conference, and point out that Turkey, Egypt and the Arab lands, who have only recently declared war on Germany and Japan will probably go to San Franciso, leaving out Italy, whose people and armed forces have been engaged against the Germans for over eighteen months. Of course, every statement from the Allies about Italy is seized on avidly and construed in an ultra-favourable sense, with subsequent demoralisation when circumstances turn out in a different way. The bleak note is never absent, as for example the following comment on the speeches in the C.T.L.N. paper:- "The war draws to its close and there is much talk of peace. The Atlantic Charter gave place to Dumbarton Oaks and that to the Yalta Conference. In all these meetings there is an impression of fragility - the old type of bi-lateral agreement at the mercy of the absolute sovereignty of the contracting parties... It is just that the victors do the rebuilding in the immediate post-war period, but let us hope that all will be called on to contribute in a future period."

In an article in the same paper, entitled "Italy and the World" the socialist Giovanni Pieraccini expresses the pariah-sense felt by many Italians. He writes:- "This war has often been spoken of as a civil war between Liberty and Tyranny, and

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division of the globe into spheres of political influence between the three great powers. The Nazione del Popolo remarks that the President's assurances preclude the fear that after winning the war America will abstain from taking part in the Peace, and thereby assuming responsibility for another world conflict.

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In an article in the same paper, entitled "Italy and the World" the socialist Giovanni Pieraccini expresses the pariah-sense felt by many Italians. He writes:- "This war has often been spoken of as a civil war between Liberty and Tyranny, and not as an imperialistic war. If this were so, once the fascist régime had been defeated and overthrown no obstacle should have been found in the way of Italy's return to the ranks of the peace-loving nations. On the contrary, the war now seems daily to lose a little more of its ideological character... We Italians, during the years of suffering under Fascism and during the war were buoyed up by the hope of a better

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future, but now we have the sensation that we are on the brink of a chasm, into which we may easily topple."

The uncertainty about Italy's future, and a tendency to compare her to Poland is expressed by a 23 year-old student who writes that after Yalta Italy's position is as unclear as before. She is still ex-enemy and co-belligerant, and the longed-for alliance seems as far off as ever. He expresses gratitude to Mr. Churchill for his recognition of the "inestimable services" that Italy has rendered to the cause of the United Nations, but is anxious to know what Italy has still to do finally to rehabilitate herself in the eyes of the Allied nations. Also he seeks assurances as to the concessions that will be obtained when Italy has worked her passage home.

A young Christian Democrat professor considers that the two speeches have been very favourably received, and that Churchill's references to Italy gave considerable pleasure. He says that the references to Poland in Eden's and Churchill's speeches have reassured many people, and that it is understood that these measures had to be taken to meet an emergency situation. Some regret is felt that the Polish Government in London could not have been consulted, but it seems clear from the speeches that if the part of the Yalta decisions regarding Poland was a compromise, there was at least some sacrifice of the Russian point of view, as well as the British and American. The professor says that public opinion is still anxious about the treatment of the AM-lire, and would like to know whether the Allied governments will back this currency.

One of the younger members of the Party of Action in Florence says that in spite of the friendly tone of the speeches Italians are depressed that their country has not been invited to San Francisco. He thinks that this omission will make many of the soldiers and sailors ask themselves why they are fighting, if Italy's claims are ignored. Italy's needs cannot be satisfied with platonic recognitions; she needs food and arms. Italy feels great kinship and sympathy for France (especially the Action Party, which was born there from the Giustizia e Libertà movement of the Italian exiles) and hopes that England and America will smile on the bettering of relations between the two countries.

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Finally, a very well-known lawyer expressed the fear that in spite of the cordiality of recent statements Allied policy to Italy is still based on a disconcerting opportunism. At one moment the Allies extend the hand in the velvet glove, at the next reveal the mailed fist. This only increases the sense of disorientation and scepticism prevalent today. Nor, says this lawyer, is it equable that Italian soldiers and partisans should give their lives for the common cause when certain reports

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from America say that the United States are technically still at war with Italy. He thinks that clearer directives in one sense or the other are necessary before the Italians can regain self-confidence and real trust in the Allies.

2. Epuration.

Now that the Italian laws for epuration are beginning to take effect in the province of Florence, a description of the people who are carrying out these measures and the satisfaction or otherwise which their work affords to public opinion may be of some interest.

The epuration law in general, it will be recalled, was to be set in motion by a High Commissioner (originally Count Sforza) with a central office in Rome. The work itself was divided into four branches (a) epuration from public offices, (b) prosecution of fascist crimes, (c) confiscation of illicit fortunes made under Fascism, (d) administration of property of the suppressed Fascist Party. To each of these branches a deputy High Commissioner was delegated, their names being (following the above order), Scoccimarro, (Communist); Berlinguer (Action Party); Cingolani (Christian Democrat) and Dott. Stangoni.

After the retirement of Count Sforza it was announced that the office of High Commissioner for Sanctions against Fascism was abolished and that there would be established a Commission consisting of three members and a secretary-general. These are Grieco (Communist), who replaced Scoccimarro on January 15th, Berlinger (Action Party), Cingolani (Christian Democrat). The change has not materially affected the functioning of the law.

The office of the High Commission for Sanctions against Fascism is able under the laws to do no more than initiate proceedings against persons charged. It is in the position of a summary court which commits a case for trial.

I. The functioning of the law in Florence Province.

In Florence province the epuration of public administrations is entrusted to Consigliere Dott. Emilio Gabrielli, a Socialist

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According to Gabrielli his work is limited territorially to the province of Florence although he has obtained from the High Commission an extension of his jurisdiction to adjoining

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provinces in dealing with railway personnel and motor-transport firms. As far as people are concerned he can deal with all public employees whether of the government, of the province, or of the communes of the province, and his powers cover in addition the staff of all companies which can be classified as public utilities. Gabrielli and his two assistants received denunciations of personnel from the directors of various public offices and used these denunciations as a basis of their enquiries, but they found that these directors were not the best sources of information and therefore set up boards of enquiry whose job it was to collect names and charges. These boards are entirely independent of the branch of administration - judiciary, municipality, schools etc. - which is being investigated. Gabrielli and his assistants continue to receive private denunciations.

So far over 3,000 denunciations have been received and Gabrielli expects to have to deal with anything up to 8,000. He has completed the investigation of 100 cases. On completing a case he makes a recommendation on it and passes it for executive action to a deciding board. One of these is presided over by Dott. Giuseppe Notarbartolo. To use Gabrielli's own phrase his board acts as prosecutor while Notarbartolo's acts as a court of justice. It should be noted, however, that Notarbartolo's board can only deal with municipal and provincial employees and charitable organizations. He has no competence to act in cases of government employees or workers in public utilities. Other deciding boards will have to be set up to deal with such cases if they are not already organized (as e.g. that for state railway workers).

An appeal can be brought to the central Commission of Epuration in Rome from all decisions of provincial boards, so that before executive action is taken against anyone his case is examined first by a commission of enquiry which recommends the treatment to be meted out to him then by a board which decides whether or not the recommendation shall be followed, and lastly by an appeal tribunal in Rome which confirms or annuls the decision of the board.

II. Personalities concerned with Epuration in the province of Florence.

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II. Personalities concerned with Epuration in the province of Florence.

1. Dott. Gabrielli, representative in Florence of the High Commission for Epuration. He is a Socialist, about 50 years of age. He is a judge of the Court of Appeal of Florence. He was always an anti-fascist and prior to 1943 he had contacts with the Action Party. He became a Socialist after the fall of Fascism. He was promoted by Badoglio after 25th July to the Court of Appeal from the Tribunal. He is considered an active man and so far to have carried out his job with zeal.

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2. Dott. Notarbartolo. President of a Board of Epuration for Florence province. An honest and scrupulous Sicilian magistrate who is now the presiding judge of a section of the Court of Appeal in Florence. He was a judge in Florence from 1914 with only two interruptions, the first when he served at the front during the last war and the second when for three years he was in Turin as Consigliere (associate-judge) of Turin's Court of Cassation. He enjoys a good reputation in legal circles in Florence. He joined the Fascist Party after Italy's entry into war, when all judges were asked to do so, in order, he says, not to impair Italy's war effort by an act of resistence against her rulers. In 1915 although he was against Italy's entry into the war, once he was drafted he served loyally in the armed forces, earning a war decoration (Croce di guerra).

III. Opinions on the effectiveness of the epuration law and on the way in which it is being carried out.

The general opinion of those concerned with carrying out epuration is that the law is adequate and just but not speedy. This assessment, however, is usual amongst people with legal training or amongst those who have a developed sense of justice. It is otherwise with the general population who do not understand the technicalities of the law. Here are some individual opinions:-

Avv. Adone Zoli, Christian Democrat, President of the Bar Association of Florence and Vice-Sindaco of Florence.

"It is reasonable that the public wants quick justice but a laymen does not understand the technicalities of a proceeding which is supposed to administer justice. I am firmly convinced that in time the process of epuration will be concluded in such a way that the mass will have full satisfaction. The procedure fixed by the Italian government is rather slow and cumbersome but it is obvious that in a proceeding based on principles of justice this length is necessary to assure a minimum of legality for each case."

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"The length of time required is easily understood by a lawyer and by people with some experience. The common people think that we should prosecute all cases falling under the law of Sanctions against Fascism and that we should do summary justice in the most important cases. It is easy for the public to compare the epuration which we are conducting in Florence with the epuration carried out in France, but there it was a case of collaborating with the enemy during the war, while here

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the problem is spaced in time over 22 years. Moreover, we have here the dual administration, Allied and Italian. Taking into consideration all the difficulties, I think the law of Sanctions against Fascism is quite adequate and has a sound base of justice."

Dott. Notarbartolo, judge of the Florence Court of Appeal.

"Epuration is a necessary measure and it must be conducted energetically and quickly. There is a growing discontent in the population because of the delay. We must give satisfaction to the people or we are going to have more cases of lynching and popular rebellion.

"The current law of Sanctions against Fascism is quite adequate, but it has the structural defect of most Italian laws. It attempts to classify with excessive precision all possible situations so as to leave no discretion whatever to the deciding board.

"The amount of work which is piling up on my desk and the practical difficulties in carrying it on are such that I doubt whether I shall be able, with the available facilities, to spped up a satisfactory epuration."

The judge mentioned as his difficulties some doubts raised by local authorities as to the validity of his appointment; lack of stationery, ink, filing cards etc., lack of transport which is required for the examination of cases involving persons who live as far as 100 km. away from the provincial capitol.

Notarbartolo expects the number of cases to run into several thousand. He will deal with those involving employees of municipal and provincial organisations. These, in his opinion, will need more purifying than the state organisations. The reason for this is that it was always necessary to take a public examination in order to obtain a government appointment. You had to be a member of the party but no special fascist merits were required. It was different with municipal or provincial jobs. There was no competitive examination and appointments were normally made, irrespective of ability, of persons who were proved fascists.

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Dr. Alberto Predieri, member of the Florence section of the ~~Associazione Nazionale~~ Partigiani d'Italia. He probably reflects the point of view of the partisans

The law of Sanctions against Fascism and in particular the process of epuration have hitherto been conducted with too much hesitancy. All those who have contributed to fascist policy and in particular the Ovra spies should be dealt with

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most severely. The mass of partisans is in favour of very drastic measures.

The measures actually taken are considered too easy and are applied with excessive legal cavils which enable a mass of people to get away with it. Penalties are considered too lenient and are applied with too great indulgence.

Giuseppe Rossi, leader of the Communist Party in Florence.

The general feeling of the people is that epuration is not being carried out properly and that is our own feeling also. Too many interests are being protected. There is considerable exasperation among the people on account of fascists being at liberty who ought to be locked up. At present these fascists are lying low but the Republican Fascist radio is continually inciting them to acts of violence. Supposing one of these men should assault or shoot a Communist, we would not be able to answer for the reaction of our fellow members of the party. It was likely that if one Communist was killed, ten Fascists would be shot as a reprisal. Rossi cited the case which occurred a short time ago in Florence when a woman spy and collaborator with the Germans, who had betrayed a number of patriots to them, was recognized in the streets. She was savagely mauled by some men. If more of such people were in confinement, the dangers of public disturbances would be greatly lessened.

To the above individual views may be added certain other opinions. A P.W.B. officer interviewed the three secretaries of the Camera Confederale del Lavoro of Florence (the syndical organization which represents the workers of the province of Florence). These were Bitossi, the president (Communist), Bertoletti (Socialist) and Cappugi (Christian Democrat). They said the law of Sanctions against Fascism was quite satisfactory and so were the people administering it. They referred to certain loopholes in the law and criticized the system of referring to a deciding board in Rome all cases involving higher members of the administration. These cases should be decided in Florence. The three secretaries of the Camera Confederale del Lavoro blamed the Prefect of Florence for protecting some of the high-ups in the public administration.

A certain indication of the state of public opinion on this subject is to be found in the reports of meetings, though

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A certain indication of the state of public opinion on this subject is to be found in the reports of meetings, though it must be confessed far less attention has been paid by the parties to the question than might have been expected. Orders of the day calling for a thorough-going epuration have been voted since the beginning of the year by the Socialist and Christian Democrat parties. In a meeting on March 1st of young Socialists in Florence where problems of epuration were discussed, it was generally felt that while the law in theory was satisfactory, it worked out too slowly in practice.

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An interesting opinion has been expressed by several persons, namely that it is only in the factories that radical epuration has been carried out. There the workmen have threatened to quit if fascist directors or employees were not dismissed.

IV. Some criticisms of the law.

Specific criticisms of the law and of the way in which it has been administered so far have not been wanting. The variety of these show how many different angles of approach there are to complicate the matter. One example is particularly interesting because the difference of opinion is so wide.

Judge Noterbartolo said that he felt that the wider the participation by judges in epuration proceedings, the more would justice be guaranteed. A layman was liable to be too easily influenced. He instanced the case of a man who because he volunteered for military duty in 1940 was accused under the law of faziosità (party spirit). The judge pointed out that he had himself joined the Fascist Party after June 10th 1940, since he felt that not to do so would be to impede the country's war effort. He does not think that his moral position is in any way affected by his joining the P.N.F. after Italy's entry into the war.

A very different point of view was expressed by the three secreteries of the Camera Confederale del Lavoro, Bitossi, Bertoletti and Cappugi. They maintained that the law worked unfairly because it penalized squadristi who may have been irresponsible youngsters of 15 or 16 years of age when they joined the party, while it did not directly incriminate those who joined the P.N.F. after the outbreak of war in 1940. These latter, however, were according to the three secreteries of the Camera Confederale del Lavoro far more responsible and guilty than the type of squadrista mentioned above, because they had had 20 years time in which to judge of fascist crimes and activities. Cappugi went on to say that the charge of faziosità which is supposed to cover these late adherents to the party is insufficient since it leaves too wide a discretionary power in the deciding board.

A further criticism of epuration proceedings (also made by Bitossi, Cappugi and Bertoletti) was that charges made against certain members of the administration were sent to

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A further criticism of epuration proceedings (also made by Bitossi, Cappugi and Bertoletti) was that charges made against certain members of the administration were sent to Rome for decision. Public opinion, however, demanded that if a government employee had been an active fascist in the province of Florence, he should be tried in the province. People do not trust Roman justice. They also complained that all public employees temporarily suspended from their employment pending epuration proceedings are not only drawing their full salary but also the indemnities and extras to which only men

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who are actually working are entitled.

V. The punishment of fascist crimes and the sequestration of illicit profits due to Fascism.

Not much has been done up to now in the province of Florence to deal with the above matters. Charges of fascist crimes when brought before the epuration boards are turned over to the ordinary courts for trial. The law for the sequestration of illicit profits due to Fascism is not satisfactory according to Dott. Tommasi, the Chief Justice of the Tribunal of Florence. The administration of this law is within his competence as the confiscation of fascist profits is to be ordered by a commission presided over by the Chief Justice of the Tribunal. Some months ago Dott. Tommasi at the behest of the Prefect of Florence, formed his commission and so far has ordered 50 confiscations. Dott. Tommasi revealed however that there were great difficulties besetting his task. When he receives a denunciation he makes a summary enquiry and if this reveals evidence to support the charge he orders a provisional sequestro (confiscation). It is very hard to assess the extent of this confiscation which must seize not the profiteer's capital, but his profits. Suppose a fascist owns a big plant in full production, a town house and a country estate. How much of this is fascist profit? If you attach the whole property and 'freeze' it you have to stop paying salaries of employees, stop production and call a halt to everything. This remedy, said Dott. Tommasi, caused more disturbance than his previous inactivity in the matter of epuration. Now he has adopted the system of making an estimate of the fascist profit and freezing enough of the fascist estate to act as security for the payment of the confiscation required by law.

VI. The Allies and Epuration.

According to the two Communist leaders Rossi and Montelatici, there is a widespread feeling among the common people that the Allies are hindering the work of epuration. This opinion has also been voiced among educated people but it is not shared by those Italian officials who have been appointed to carry out the task. Of the persons interviewed Notarbartolo, Gabriolli, Zoli and Cappugi were all in substantial agreement about this though they made some reservations which it may be interesting to note.

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Notarbartolo - I never noticed any interference by the Allies in our work of epuration except during the first days of Allied occupation. As soon as the Allies entered we immediately set up a commission for epuration presided over by Gabrielli. This commission brought up a long list of fascists and collaborators to the Allied authorities. The Allied police officers arrested

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these people and shortly thereafter released them. The popular reaction against this was violent.

Gabrielli - The Allied authorities of this province have shown a keen interest in the work we are doing; we have had many instances of their most cordial collaboration. It is true that we have met some resistance in attempting to remove a man from his job. We have the case of the Vice-Prefetto Gigli against whom we have collected an enormous amount of evidence. We have made direct representations to the High Commissioner for his immediate removal. Somehow he still holds his job.

Coppugi - The Allies have in no way interfered with the work of the inquiry board or of the deciding board. There is only one regrettable exception, Dott. Devoto, director of a department of the railways. As soon as Florence fell under Allied control he was expelled from his office and put in jail. After 20 days he was liberated and became an interpreter with an Allied unit. He was later re-arrested, then released again and once again employed by this unit. This fact became widely known throughout the railroad syndicate and led to bitter comments against the Allies.

Zoli - With one exception Allied authorities have never interfered with our work. The first Allied commissioner when he arrived in Florence relieved about 400 employees of the 'municipio', because they were members of the Fascist Party prior to 1922. Many of them could not have been squadristi because in 1922 they would only have been 10 years old. Half of them were taken back into office.

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ECONOMIC

3. Visit by a P.W.B. officer to Azienda Agricola, VICARELLO, Volterra.

The story of "Vicarello" is interesting not so much because of war damage and subsequent reconstruction, but as an example of the social and political questions large land-owners may face in liberated Italy.

"Vicarello" is situated in the valley of the Era, Province of Pisa. It borders vast stretches of poor, sub-marginal land, hilly, deeply gullied, and largely uncultivated. The Assicurazioni Generali "Venezia" bought the 1,600 ha property in 1936 from the Banca Toscana. 300 ha are woodland; 200 ha are permanent pasture; 900 are cultivated to produce grain, sugarbeets, wine and olives; the rest is largely uncultivated.

When the Generali took over, there were 41 "Case Coloniche" of farm buildings, to house the "Contadini" or farmers who work the land on a "mezzadria", of 50/50 basis with the owners. The "Casa padronale" - as the castle-like main building is called - includes large storage facilities for grain, wine and oil. An oil press, a brick furnace and a flour mill complete the equipment of Vicarello.

During seven years of its tenure - that is, up until 1943 - the Generali built 6 additional farm houses, adding that many families of Contadini to those already working the soil. Three of the existing houses were completely rebuilt; 10 others substantially improved. Terrace-plowing and scientific fertilisation tended to improve the soil. The number of live-stock was more than doubled, its quality greatly improved. 15 vineyards, consisting of 16,271 plants, were newly planted. A tractor and several threshing machines were added to the equipment. Despite these substantial capital outlays, the General made a satisfactory profit from the operation of the property. The living standard of the Contadini - formerly equal or below that of the surrounding farms - was claimed to have been raised by some 60%.

In June/July 1944 the war went right through Vicarello. Artillery-fire damaged a number of buildings; 13 oxen, 4 horses, 15 pigs and 60 sheep were lost, most of them taken away by the Germans. Damage was also done to the land itself as the war

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With the exception of one building - badly damaged and only half restored - all damage has now been repaired. 90,000 bricks and tiles were made in the farm's own furnace; 4,000 tiles were bought (at 15 lire each) at Castelfiorentino. The rebuilding job was done by the Contadini themselves - and

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apparently they went to it with a will. Nor did the owners spare expense in trying to put the property back into condition as promptly as possible. 5 oxen and 2 horses were bought. The rest of the live-stock has meanwhile been made up by natural increase. The land is cultivated and seeded.

Soon following liberation, a lawyer from Volterra came to address the farmers of Vicarello. He told them that the Assicurazioni Generali was owned and operated by a group of reactionary fascists whose property was being taken over by the State; that they, the Contadini, were therefore no longer half, but full owners of the live-stock and other property on their farms; and that they should lose no time in taking over the management of the property.

By a Communal Ordinance the Sindaco of Volterra subsequently confirmed the establishment of a Committee of Contadini to operate the property. Giacomo Morini, the Assicurazione's manager, was stripped of all authority (and cash), but asked to function as technical adviser to the Committee. It seems that he was actually consulted chiefly by those Contadini who, not being members of the Committee, became increasingly dissatisfied with the new management.

Some two months later, after due deliberations before the Sindaco of Volterra and other communal authorities, the property was formally returned to the Assicurazioni Generali, with Morini back as Manager. He and his family are now speaking contemptuously of the few "Communists" - especially one Contadino, whom he calls "The Podestà" (the Mayor) - who were trying to get rich quick. His considered judgment is, however, that the majority of the Contadini had been badly shocked by the cannonading and actual fighting passing through their lands. Thus they became the easy prey of the glibly talking communist lawyer from Volterra. If that man had not appeared on the scene there would have been no trouble whatever. For the farmers had been appreciative of the management. Even those forming the Committee had been personally very considerate and friendly to him. Today no trace of animosity remains.

Morini emphasizes that he is trying to have the property contribute as much as possible to the ammassi. In addition he tries whenever possible to help feeding the poor, of whom

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Morini emphasizes that he is trying to have the property contribute as much as possible to the ammassi. In addition he tries whenever possible to help feeding the poor, of whom there are said to be many among the refugees and bombed-out of Volterra.

The following are believed by him to be the most essential needs to operate the farm at full efficiency:

(1) Fertilizer (phosphates) - the farm at one time had a two-year supply on hand; this must be replenished.

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(2) Fuel (petrol) - without which it is impossible for the tractor and threshing machines to be operated.

(3) Transportation - the roads leading to the property are in bad repair, bridges are still down. For lack of a truck and automobile, the property is practically isolated. At present a rest-place and school for soldiers are being maintained in the main buildings; they incidentally supply the only practical means of communication with the outside world.

(4) Shoes and clothing for the Contadini - who are today unable to obtain even the most essential articles.

4. War damage to Roads, Bridges and Buildings in Florence City and Province.
Excerpts from a Statement by Chief Engineer A. Rossi of the Florence Office of the Ministry of Public Works (Ufficio del Genio Civile di Firenze).

The very first repairs undertaken were those of the Military and Civilian Hospitals of the city, the buildings belonging to moral and charitable bodies, and two groups of 86 living quarters of state employees. At the same time the demolition of parts of buildings or buildings which constituted a danger to the public, and the clearance of debris from the principal arteries and streets of the city was begun.

Secondly, encouragement was given to private enterprise in repairing roofs of damaged houses so as to prevent further damage by atmospheric conditions.

Present knowledge of building conditions in Florence city indicates:

Buildings completely or partially destroyed, about	1,500
Buildings damaged "	5,000
Vani (rooms, passages or other enclosed household spaces) repaired by the Public Works Office	2,000
repaired by individual owners	4,200

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The total costs sustained up to date by the Public Works Office for the Florence Commune for the above-listed repairs amount to about 100 million lire.

No sooner had some auto-vehicles been secured than work was begun in the Province, especially in the Communes south of the Arno.

The number of bridges destroyed in the network of provincial and communal roads of 27 communes amounts in all to

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about 307. The damages to the connecting bridges of the roads of the other 22 communes of the Province have yet to be ascertained.

Reconstruction plans for a part of these bridges call for an expenditure of 130 million lire.

The Public Works Office has been unable to effect any repairs of roads under its control outside inhabited centres, being prevented by the almost uninterrupted passage of war traffic.

Roads are in very bad condition and ill adapted to Italian means of locomotion, especially south of the Arno. On the other hand the clearance of debris and wreckage from the roads and the demolition of tottering buildings has been carried out by the Communes themselves and the Office of Public Works at a total cost of about 200 millions in round figures.

The building situation in the 49 communes of the Province, so far as it has been possible to ascertain it, is as follows:-

Houses destroyed	2,400
Houses damaged	17,760
Vani (rooms or other enclosed spaces repaired:	
By the Public Works Office	1,045
By individual owners	8,600

In addition to the difficulties regarding the supply of building materials, transportation, etc., the Public Works Office claims that it requires:-

(a) 4 auto-vehicles with an adequate assignment of fuel.
(b) 80 bicycle tyres.

It is also considered essential that the individual Communes afford the representatives of the Office the possibility of living in the various communities, establishing messes and making offices and living quarters available.

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PUBLIC OPINION

5. Anti-monarchist campaign.

A usually reliable Italian source reports as follows:-

During the first days immediately after the liberation of Florence the anti-monarchist campaign had a rather extremist and violent tone. For a time it softened down but now there is once more quite a revival.

During the last few days a more active anti-monarchist propaganda has been noticeable. When the Lieutenant of the Realm came to Florence in January there were slight demonstrations against him outside the Casa del Soldato and the Partisan Centre.

At the end of February a small poster was pasted on the outskirts of the town containing these words:-

"Roatta is tried, Anfuso is tried, Caruso is shot.

Why are we waiting before we do the same thing with Vittorio Emanuelo?"

Early in March in a number of localities in the town there was exhibited a photograph of Victor Emanuel and Prince Umberto of Savoy together with Mussolini and Hitler, and underneath was written in two languages: "Epurazione" and "Epuration".

Among young people, especially in the University, the House of Savoy is no longer popular, and everybody considers it the most responsible factor in Italy's downfall.

6. Roatta's escape.

The escape of General Roatta from the 'Virgilio' military hospital in Via Giulia in Rome on 5th March has caused general consternation in Florence. The day after the announcement of the event posters appeared on the streets hinting at the complicity of highly-placed persons and lack of vigilance on the part of the government. It is a common opinion that the monarchy is somehow implicated and in certain political circles it is held that the incident may lead to changes in the government. Further comments on reactions to this event will be made in the next report.

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GENERAL

7. Interview with Maj. General Cerrica, Commander of Italian troops in 15th Army Group Area.

General Cerrica said that he was pleased with Churchill's declarations, which contain an acknowledgement of the efforts of the Italians to redeem their country and to set up and equip a national army.

Enormous efforts not yet fully disclosed have been made to start the new army. The Italian military authorities are most grateful for this acknowledgement, mainly because Churchill's words are bound to give back to the Italian government a prestige which is necessary in order to stimulate Italy's resurrection.

General Cerrica added that since last November a great improvement was made in the relations between the Allied armed forces and the Italian army. At first there was a good deal of mistrust and incomprehension. Now relations are excellent, the Italian army is granted all possible advantages, and all reasonable requests are met by the Allied authorities.

Soldiers are pleased, well equipped and have enough food.

As soon as possible partisans from Tuscany, recently enlisted in the regular army, will be sent to the front.

Enlistment in Tuscany brought 3,500 partisans into the regular army. Most of them were sent to training centres, and a small group was sent directly to the front.

These partisans are now members of the regular Italian army, and they are led by their own partisan officers.

There are still in Florence from 500-600 patriots who did not enlist. They have resumed their civilian life without causing any trouble or showing any dissatisfaction.

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General Cerrica was very glad about the gold medal granted to the partisan leader "Bulow" in Ravenna. The real name of this partisan is Major Brisgogli, of the army. The German-sounding nickname "Bulow" derives from the slang word "bullo", which means roughneck.

8. Appeal by Cardinal Elia Della Costa.

On 3rd March an appeal to the people of Florence was read over the radio on behalf of the Cardinal Archbishop. The appeal was for help to the populations of the devastated regions of the province. The Tuscan Committee of Liberation has initiated

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a relief campaign in aid of these people and the Cardinal, recalling the divine precept of charity to the poor and the generous traditions of the Florentines, exhorted all classes to contribute freely to the cause. He alluded to the happy and loyal collaboration of all the parties in this campaign, which was a cause of confidence and satisfaction to everybody and referred to the excellent work of the Central Catholic Committee which he had set up for refugees and which had distributed amongst them 41,000 objects of clothing and spent 674,370 lire.

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APPENDIX I.

A. GENERAL REPORT ON CONDITIONS IN LUCCA.

This report is provided by a P B Italian collaborator after consulting the following sources: C.L.N., Prefettura personnel, L'Ufficio Provinciale del Lavoro, Industrial Association, Directors of Coats Cotton Firm, various persons from all classes.

The Committee of Liberation.

Seven parties are represented in the Committee of Liberation in Lucca:-

1. Liberal Party	representatives	Avv. Andrea De Vita Avv. Nicola Spremolla
2. Demochristians	representatives	Avv. Giovanni Carignani Geom. Ferdinando Martini
3. Communist Party	representatives	Rag. Mario Raggiunti Geom. Alessanno Breschi
4. Action Party	representatives	Ing. Vincenzo Silvietti Prof. Aldo Huston
5. Socialist Party	representatives	Prof. Eugenio Luperini Dott. Andrea Fabbricotti
6. Labour Party	representatives	Prof. Augusto Mancini Avv. Andrea Maionchi
7. Republican Party	representatives	Ing. Giorgio Di Ricco Dott. Frediano Francesconi

The inclusion of the Republican Party in the Committee is explained by the fact that this Party has always been very active in Lucca, especially during the clandestine period.

The president of the C.L.N. is Avv. Giovanni Carignani, a demo Christian, who is also the Prefect for the province.

The C.L.N. of Lucca is very closely linked with the Tuscan Committee in Florence. This is not usually the case, as between Leghorn and Florence and Arezzo and Florence there is little cont ct. The provincial Committees keeps Florence informed

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The C.L.N. of Lucca is very closely linked with the Tuscan Committee in Florence. This is not usually the case, as between Leghorn and Florence and Arezzo and Florence there is little contact. The provincial Committees usually act independently, but the Lucca Committee keeps Florence informed and frequently takes no action before having consulted with it.

The Prefect.

Lucca is one of the few provinces in Central Italy where the Prefect has been elected by the Committee of Liberation. However, this has not eliminated the usual differences between the people and the Prefect, and above all between the political parties and the Prefect. There is a fight for power between the Demo-Christians and the Socialists and Communists. In the city itself the influence of the clergy is predominant but towards the Viareggio area there is a strong tendency towards the Left - Versilia having always been one of the "red" centres in Italy.

4015

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Avv. Carignani is opposed by the Communist Party. Some time ago leaflets appeared in which the Prefect was described as being "elected by God and by the Archbishop but not by the people." Carignani is a very severe and moral man. It appears, however, that he is very much under the influence of the clerby, and acts too strongly in favour of the Christian Democrats.

Epuration.

The people of Lucca are not satisfied with the manner epuration proceedings have been carried out. The majority is convinced that those chiefly responsible for the Italian crisis have been protected, while the small employee and worker, who were members of the Fascist Party out of necessity, have suffered severely. Epuration in syndical organizations presents a severe problem. Labour Provincial Order No. 2 (L'Ordine provinciale del Lavoro No. 2) issued by A.M.G. states that all former employees of the dissolved Fascist Syndical Organizations shall not be re-employed in the new free associations.

This has caused much alarm among the typists, clerks, etc. at present employed in Syndical organizations who are fearful of sudden dismissal. They are desperate because the fact of their being epurated will make it impossible for them to find other employment in such a restricted area as Lucca.

Secondly the order has aroused a feeling of discontent in syndical circles. They had already started epuration proceedings of their own, liquidating those who were compromised with the old regime. It is said that an Allied order is issued interfering in a field of activity which, as a rule, is thought to come under Italian jurisdiction. This appears strange as it was generally believed that the Allies had no interest in speeding-up epuration proceedings in order to maintain order in state and public organizations. The following reasons for this action were mentioned by one syndical employee: The Allied Governor has been influenced by some elements wishing to disturb the present order, and to oppose the activities of free syndical organizations.

The question is raised whether this is a local order or applies to other provinces as well. For instance, it is known that in Pisa no such order has been issued.

Conditions in the town.

Although Lucca is near the front line and a good part of the province is still in German hands, the life of the city is almost normal. All of the shops are open and fairly well stocked, also cafes and cinemas. Theatrical performances are given in aid of partisans who cross the line, also art exhibitions (at present the paintings of Renate Natali and Giuseppe Parenti are being shown). Intellectual and educational activities are normal, the only difficulty being that there are no fixed means of transport for students to Pisa (on which Lucca culturally depends). It is suggested that a daily bus service should be arranged, or that students could take the train - the line Pisa-Lucca being in working order.

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B. REPORT ON COST OF LIVING IN LUCCA.

The following data, for January 1945, have been supplied by the Ufficio del Lavoro of Lucca. They are based on a careful account kept by one of its employees, for a family of 5 (3 children aged 4, 8 and 12) considered typical for the Province. The original statement mentions only "free market" prices, whereas, in some instances, they might properly be called "black market". In this connection, it might be noted that only about 8% of food expenditures are for rationed goods.

COST OF LIVING IN LUCCA FOR JANUARY 1945.

A.

I. FOOD.

All meals have a vegetarian basis. They consist of foods distributed with ration cards and of what is available on the free market. The total cost is 9,272.50 lire or 66% of living costs. A complete breakdown into individual food items is reproduced below (List I).

2. HOUSING.

The dwelling consists of a flat of 4 rooms and kitchen without bath. Charcoal is used for cooking. For heating small portable terracotta stoves with charcoal dust are used. Total cost Lire 1,745 or 12½% (See List II of items below)

3. CLOTHING.

No purchase of shoes, clothing, linen. The housewife does all her own washing, ironing and mending and makes the clothes for the children. Cost Lire 773 (or 5½%). (See itemized List III).

4. OTHER EXPENDITURES.

Cultural, educational. These total Lire 2,270 (or 16%). (See List IV below).

COMPARISON BETWEEN THE FAMILY'S INCOME AND EXPENDITURES.

The average earnings of a worker or employee are about Lire 145 per day or Lire 3,625 per month. That is, he earns only ½ of what it costs his family to live.

A considereble improvement could be obtained with an increase in the rations of:

Bread	from	200 gr.	to	300 gr.	per	person
Oil	"	280 "	"	500 "	"	"
Pasta	"	500 "	"	1100 "	"	"

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A considerable improvement could be obtained with an increase in the rations of:

Bread	from	200 gr.	to	300 gr.	per person
Oil	"	280 "	"	500 "	" "
Pasta	"	500 "	"	1100 "	" "
Charcoal	"	10 kg.	"	60 kg.	per month for each family.

This would reduce food expenditures by more than one-quarter.

B.

MEALS.

The family had only 2 meals a day: midday and evening, each

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consisting of one main dish with bread. Wine was served at only 12 meals out of the 62 in the month, a litre per meal. Dried fruit only at 12 meals, in quantities of between 300 and 500 grs. a meal. They had pasta only 3 times during the month. The staple dishes of the month were 'polenta' or 'farinata' (a gruel of flour), (23 meals), vegetable soup (14 meals), potato dishes (12 meals) and other vegetable dishes, all of which, with a slight furnishing of onion and oil and a little flavouring constituted a full meal by themselves. Small quantities (between 160 and 300 grs.) of cheese (7 meals) and tinned meat or fish (10 meals) were also served occasionally to round off the meals.

LIST OF FOOD EXPENDITURE

LOT I.

FOODS	TOTAL CONSUMPTION IN KG.	TOTAL COST	BOUGHT ON RATION CARD			BOUGHT ON FREE (OR BLACK) MARKET		
			AMOUNT IN KG.	PRICE PER KG.	TOTAL COST	AMOUNT IN KG.	PRICE PER KG.	TOTAL COST
Milk, Ltr.	31.5	574	7	12	84	24.5	20	490
Bread	31.00	186	31	6	186			
Maize flour	16.8	1512				16.8	90	1512
Eggs No.	23	552				No. 23	24 each	552
Oil	3.34	1082.5	1.4	8	112.5	1.94	500	970
Onions	3.4	187				3.4	55	187
Tomato preserve	0.64	320				0.64	500	320
Pasta	5.7	267	3	8	24	2.7	90	243
Beans	3.5	355	1	30	30	2.5	130	325
Wine, Ltr.	12	480				12	40	480
Dried Fruit	4.8	528				4.8	110	528
Yellow maize Flour	13.6	514	1	10	10	12.6	40	504
Potatoes	15.75	472.5				15.75	30	472.5
Concentrated Soup	1.25	37.5	1.25	30	37.5			
Turnips	4	60				4	15	60

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Potatoes	15.75	472.5				15.75	30	472.5
Concentrated Soup	1.25	37.5	1.25	30	37.5			
Turnips	4	60				4	15	60
Yellow Marrow	9.5	95				9.5	10	95
Tinned beef (mixed)	1.25	148.75	1.25	119	148.75			
Dried herrings	0.66	87.5	0.5	63	31.5	0.16	350	56
Tinned meat & vegetables	0.9	60.75	0.9	67.5	60.75			

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FOODS	TOTAL CONSUMPTION IN KG.	TOTAL COST	BOUGHT ON RATION CARD			BOUGHT IN FREE (OR BLACK) MARKET		
			AMOUNT IN KG.	PRICE PER KG.	TOTAL COST	AMOUNT	PRICE PER KG.	TOTAL COST
Olives	0.6	48				0.6	80	48
Cheese (ricotta)	2.2	154				2.2	70	154
Cardoons	6	90				6	15	90
Sweet flour	4.5	360				4.5	80	360
Carrots	2.5	55				2.5	22	55
Salad	4.5	135				4.5	30	135
Tinned beans	0.3	9	0.3	30	9			
Spinach	9.5	190				9.5	20	190
Anchovies	0.4	140				0.4	350	140
Sugar	1.125	309.4	0.625	15	9.4	0.5	300	600
Ersatz coffee	0.5	45				0.5	90	45
Salt	2.1	217.6	1.1	16	17.6	1	200	200
		9,272.5			761			8,511.5

HOUSING EXPENDITURE

LIST II.

Rent: (Flat of 4 rooms and kitchen)	Lire 240
Electric light (10 Kw.)	50
Water (6 cubic metres)	9
Removal of refuse	6
Charcoal dust for scaldini (terra-cotta hand stoves) (30 kg.)	360
	80

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[illegible]	0.6	48				0.6	80	48
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Water (6 cubic metres)	9
Removal of refuse	6
Charcoal dust for scaldini (terra-cotta hand stoves) (30 kg.)	360
Charcoal for cooking (60 kg.) (10 with ration card)	80
(50 on free market)	900
Total:	Lire 1,745

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CLOTHING EXPENDITURE (YEARLY)

LIST III.

No.	1 Leather resoling (men's shoes)	Lire 700
No.	1 Resoling with substitute materials (men's shoes)	300
No.	1 Resoling with substitute materials (women's shoes)	180
No.	6 Leather resoling (boy's shoes)	2,400
Cleaning and pressing of man's overcoat		200
" " " " woman's "		150
1 man's suit turned		300
Making of two boys' suits (from old material)		280
Purchase of two pairs of summer clogs (women's)		200
" " three " " " " (children's)		300
" " 12 handkerchiefs		960
" " 3 pairs men's socks		450
" " 9 pairs children's socks		900
" " 2 pairs thick women's stockings		360
" " 2 pairs gloves		350
" " 12 reels of thread (100 metres each)		600
" " 6 balls of mending thread		120
" " 12 lengths of strong thread (25 metres each)		180
" " 1 packet needles		50
" " Buttons, elastic, tape, etc.		300
	Total: Lire	9,280

= Lire 773 monthly.

OTHER EXPENDITURES

LIST IV

Cultural & School	1 son 8 years, 3rd class Elementary School	
	1 " 12 " 1st class Lower Secondary School	
Entrance Tax (1st class Lower Secondary School)		Lire 270
Internal Tax		63
Books " " " " "		1,300
Accessories " " " " "		350
Books (3rd class Elementary School)		61
Accessories (3rd class Elementary School)		250
	Total: Lire	2,294 per annum
	or monthly Lire	191
Newspaper	"	60
Hygienic & Sanitary		

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No. 1 Resoling with substitute materials (men's shoes)	[illegible]
No. 1 Resoling with substitute materials (women's shoes)	180
No. 6 Leather resoling (boy's shoes)	2,400
Cleaning and pressing of man's overcoat	200
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Making of two boys' suits (from old material)	280
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Internal Tax	63
Books " " " " "	1,300
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Books (3rd class Elementary School)	61
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Total:	Lire 2,294 per annum
	or monthly Lire 191
Newspaper	" 60

Hygienic & Sanitary

Haircut and shave (twice a month)	" 30
Haircut for boy (once a month)	" 20
Woman's hairdressing (6 per year)	" 40
Razor blades (5 a month)	" 25
Shaving soap	" 10
Laundry soap (5 pieces of 250 grs. per month)	" 225
Talcum powder	" 10
carried forward	611

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		brought forward	611
Chlorine mixture for laundry (6 bottles a month)		monthly Lire	90
Bath in tub (1 a month, head of the family)		"	25
Face powder and lipstick		"	20
Pumice powder (kg. 1.5 a month)		"	9
Broom (1 every two months)		"	30
Shoe polish		"	60
Medical visits and Medicines		"	120
Toothpaste		"	15
			980
Expenditure for Household articles			
Purchase of 12 ordinary glasses	Lire 360		
" " 6 flat plates	300		
" " 6 soup plates	300		
	960	"	80
Luxury expenditure			
Cigarettes (10 a day)		"	900
Matches		"	10
Unaccountable expenditure		"	300
Total: Monthly Lire			2,270

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Shoe polish		"	60
Medical visits and Medicines		"	120
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Cigarettes (10 a day)		"	900
Matches		"	10
<u>Unaccountable expenditure</u>		"	300
	Total: Monthly Lire		2,270

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APPENDIX II

FLORENCE PERSONALITIES : THE LIBERAL PARTY

(I) Conte Vittorio Fossombroni.

Born in Florence 1892. His great-grandfather, a minister of the then Grand Duke of Tuscany, was responsible for the large scale reclamation of land in the Val di Chiana.

At the age of 20 Fossombroni was member of the Town Council of Arezzo. During the First World War he served in the Air Force as a pilot and later commanded a squadron. Twice decorated for military valour. In 1920 and 1923 topped the polls for two Florentine wards in the provincial elections. Unsuccessful liberal candidate for the chamber in 1921. Abstained from political activity during Fascism.

Called up in 1940 for the Air Force, with rank of Lt.Col. 'Forgot' to order the playing of Giovinezza during the swearing in of new recruits at Orvieto, but saved from consequences of Court of Enquiry by loyal support of officers and men. After the coup d'état of 25th July 1943 began to write in the press. Arrested at Massa Marittima by the neo-Fascists in November 1943, but under a false name, and later managed to obtain release, and took to the Maquis in the Maremma.

After the liberation returned to Florence and wrote for the Liberal press. President for the Tuscan Committee for the collection of funds destined to aid the devastated areas. Recently entrusted with the organisation of his party in Tuscany.

(2) Avv. Eugenio Artom.

Born at Asti (Piedmont) in 1896 of a Jewish family that since the Risorgimento has given several members to the world of science, politics and diplomacy. During the 1915-1918 war served as a reserve officer, winning the Croix de Guerre and a medal for military valour. Graduated in Law in 1919 and began to practise at the Rome bar. Joined the Liberal Party in 1921. Fought the elections of 1924 as Liberal candidate for Alessandria (his house was attacked by the Fascists and the press that printed his bills and posters was set fire to). After the Matteotti crime took part in the opposition and sat on the Liberal party council in Rome. Also pleaded for political prisoners before the Special Tribunal.

In 1932 the Bank of Italy appointed him to [illegible]

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In 1932 the Bank of Italy appointed him to represent it in the liquidation of the "Credito marittimo" but he was later removed as not belonging to the Fascist party. In 1934 appointed Administrator of the Fondiaria Insurance Company and moved to Florence. Removed from all public activities by the racial laws of December 1938.

Joined the anti-Fascist Front, headed by Bonomi, in 1942 and after Mussolini's fall assisted in the reconstruction of the Liberal party.

[illegible]

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After the German occupation of Florence worked with a group of priests for the relief and protection of the Jewish community in the city. After the arrest of Vannuc[illegible] Mari and Di San Giorgio became, with Medici Tornaquinci, co-director of the Liberal party in Tuscany. His house was the meeting place of the CLN, and especially of the military committee.

After the appointment of Medici Tornaquinci to the Italian Government, Arton became President of the Tuscan section of the Liberal party.

Before Fascism published two books on social and economic problems and has now a study on Lord Palmerston in the hands of the publishers.

(3) Prof. Giacomo Devoto.

Expert on the ancient languages of the Italian peninsular (Umbrian, Etruscan etc.) and author of authoritative works on this subject as for example "Gli antichi Italici", 1931, "Tabulae Iguvinae", 1937 (the most accurate recent work on the pre-Roman texts known as the Gubbio tablets).

Devoto has also published standard works on Latin and on modern Italian literature. He is as well a specialist of the Baltic languages and founded and directs the review of Baltic studies, the only review on this subject, eight volumes of which have appeared.

He is now preparing a volume on comparative grammar, to be called "Indo-European Origins".

Devoto is a Genoese, son of Luigi Devoto, professor of medicine in Genoa University and founder of the clinic for illnesses caused by working conditions, said to be the first of its kind in the world.

Served as an officer in the Alpini in the First World War and twice decorated with the Bronze Medal for military valour.

Studied at the Sorbonne, Basle and Berlin and is one of the Italian savants who has most contacts outside his own country. Has lectured in Germany, Scandinavia, the Baltic States, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Roumania, Bulgaria and Jugoslavia.

Member of the Press Commission in the clandestine period. Joined the Liberal party in April 1944. Assessor of the Commune of Florence.

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(4) Marchese Aldobrando Medici Tornaquinci.

Born in Florence 1910 of a noble Florentine family that claims descent from the Medici.

Did his military service in the cavalry and then joined the Ansaldo company where he worked in the office that dealt with foreign relations, especially business with China. Left Ansaldo and founded his own business for export and import.

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Always hostile to Fascism joined the underground movement in 1938. After 25th July 1943 joined the Liberals and served on the Inter-parties Committee and took part in the attempts to defend the city in September of the same year. When the Germans occupied Florence he first organised a band at Garfagnana which he armed with weapons he had previously assembled. Shortly after returned to the city, where he remained as one of the most active members of the Committee of Liberation.

In October 1943 organised the first patriot HQ under General Gritti, and acted as liaison officer between this and the CLN. After the arrest of Nari and San Giorgio represented with Artom the Liberals on the CLN. Denounced to the SS in May 1944 and wanted by the notorious Fascist torturer Carità, he escaped by scaling a wall and bicyling, with Cesare Matteucci, out of Florence to the lines. They crossed the lines successfully and eventually reached Rome. He returned to Florence and was made vice-president of the CLN. As such took part in the fighting for his city's liberation.

Elected President of the Florentine Section of the Liberal Party and member of the Executive Committee of the party in Rome.

Appointed Under-Secretary for the new Ministry of Occupied Italy in the second Bonomi Government (December 1944).

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N° 8.

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

2nd March, 1945.

"D" Section

N° 8 INTELLIGENCE REPORT COVERING TUSCANY AND ADJOINING TERRITORY OF LIBERATED ITALY

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Security Division
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Action

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

CONFIDENTIAL N° 8.

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

"D" Section 2nd March, 1945.

N° 8 INTELLIGENCE REPORT COVERING TUSCANY AND ADJOINING TERRITORY OF LIBERATED ITALY

SUMMARY

The granting of "pieni poteri" to the Italian Government was naturally the political highlight of the week. It has not been possible up to the present to obtain authoritative statements from local political leaders but a few opinions taken at random reveal a sceptical attitude as to the practical value of the Allied decision. More interest seems to have been aroused by the resolutions of the Council of Ministers of February 16th, and the ministerial dispositions in the matter of Fascist fortunes, in particular, have been hailed with satisfaction. The Avanti incident evoked considerable indignation and was the subject of a spirited Order of the Day by the C.T.L.N.

There is little to report on the economic side. The food situation loomed large at the usual weekly Press Meeting and the situation with regard to the increase in the bread ration was clarified by a timely announcement of the S.C.A.O., thereby cutting short ironical remarks that were circulating. The conspectus of the operations by the Monte di Pietà in Florence is interesting as reflecting the depreciation of the currency. Jewellery is not being pawned to any large extent, at least compared with other articles, and the reason is that in case of forfeiture of the pledge any gold has to be sold to the Bank of Italy at the official selling price instead of being put up to auction. The data on public health supplied by the Chief Medical Officer of Florence (see para 12) reveal a fairly comforting situation all things considered. The picture of industrial conditions in Prato on the contrary, described in an Appendix, is anything but cheerful and a disconcerting feature is that there

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Unit No. 14. APO 512

"D" Section 2nd March, 1945.

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POLITICAL

1. Note on the Resolutions of the Council of Ministers of 16th February, 1945.

An Italian P.W.B. collaborator writes:-

The deliberations of the Council of Ministers was in principle very favourably viewed. Criticisms are not lacking of certain parts of these deliberations but in general people are convinced that the decisions tackle the situation in Italy in a courageous manner and seek to resolve it with energy. Comments on the various headings discussed are as follows.

a) Proposals to balance the budget.

There is still some doubt in Italy as to whether the government can save the lira. In recent times the rumour has spread with great rapidity among the population that complete inflation will take place, whence confidence in the money now circulating has diminished. The declarations by government spokesmen as to the monetary situation, instead of calming down this state of agitation, has only contributed to enliven it. A rumour is going the rounds that in America they are printing a new Italian currency, as a result of which all that actually in circulation would almost entirely lose its purchasing power. The consequences have been observed in a notable increase in the price of certain goods, in particular of goods handled by the peasants who seem particularly affected by the fear of devaluation. Today a pair of oxen is worth 400,000 lire while the pre-war price was 20,000 and that of a few months ago 150,000.

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In certain circles it is thought that the only system for restoring the value of money would be the intervention of the Allies in this delicate field of Italian economy. It is known, without too much precision, that there exist projects for the stabilization of money on a world basis after the war (such as the Morgenthau plan) and in Italy there is more confidence in such plans than in any policy in economic matters carried out by the Government.

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In spite of this the tax proposals are very favourably commented on not only because they will to some extent serve to restore finances but also above all because they will introduce a greater degree of social justice. The disposition with regard to application to agriculture of the measures dealing with excess war profits has been received with real enthusiasm. In these last years there has arisen in Italy on the part of workmen and employees a violent feeling of rancour against the greatly privileged class of the peasants, the only one which has not suffered from the war in the matter of nutrition. The average man has come to see the peasant as an enemy and profiteer and in truth the peasant class lacks almost entirely a social sense and has given itself up entirely to the extortionate gains which the war has made possible. At times the situation has been so tense that it was to be feared that the land would be invaded by the workers. This state of affairs had almost been reached in Florence soon after the liberation when there was a complete scarcity even of fruit and greens. Further the workman considers the peasant, as was indeed the case, to have been a beneficiary under the régime, for Fascism by its propaganda gave a tremendous boost to the agricultural class as a result of which it had become practically unassailable. What is hoped for today is that the peasants will be smitten with the full rigour of the most energetic income-tax provisions on the excess profits in wartime. Above all the Government should hit not only the landed proprietor but the mezzadro (tenant) who is now practically speaking the master of the situation.

The dispositions with regard to the energetic reclamation of profits due to the régime are also viewed with pleasure. As in the field of epuration so in that of fascist fortunes, people in Italy are convinced that it is necessary to proceed with far more energy and thoroughness and above all with less bureaucratic delays.

b) Provisions against a rise in prices.

The provisions to curb the Black Market leave people somewhat sceptical. It is well known that with the existing system of rationing life is not possible and that until this is changed a Black Market will remain which will fix prices in a monopolistic way because food is a basic need to satisfy which man is prepared to make any sacrifice. The scandal of the restaurants should cease, however, for in these 800-1.000 lire per meal is

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Among the measures which the Government should take there is one which has been suggested in certain circles and which merits particular attention. Supervision of restaurants should not be entrusted to the usual squads for enforcing the rationing laws (these are easily corruptible and are in fact always corrupt), but to a special body of respectable citizens who, while continuing their ordinary avocations, dedicate their spare time voluntarily to the exposure of these sordid affairs. There would be thousands of people only too pleased to belong to a body charged by the Food Office with such a responsibility. The application of such a system would serve to increase further that sense of social collaboration which is today so much lacking.

c) Wages and salaries.

One notes with pleasure that the Government is beginning to deal seriously and positively with the question of employees salaries. This class has, in fact, been the hardest hit by the war and having the least opportunity of frequenting the Black Market, has to go hungry and suffer from the cold and lack of clothing. Above all, it is hoped that the Government rather than give increases of salaries, which only result in a rise in prices, will grant coupons for the purchase in stores owned by the State of the goods which are most necessary to a family; clothes and indispensable foodstuffs.

2. The Avanti Incident.

The incident has been stigmatized by all progressive circles in Florence as an instance of the use of methods in the best tradition of Fascism. The resolution issued by the C.T.L.N. with which the Deputazione Provinciale associates itself, seems to sum up the general feeling. It reads:-

"Whereas the C.T.L.N. takes note of the incident provoked in Rome by a group of sailors on the premises of the newspaper Avanti; and

"Whereas this act of violence bears considerable resemblance to the infamous punitive expeditions by means of which Fascism came into being and thereby represents a symptom of the danger which still hovers over the recently reconquered democratic liberties;

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"Be it therefore resolved that the Government should provide for the prompt punishment of those responsible and accelerate the process of epuration in military circles so that there shall be no repetition of such an incident, a line of action which will have the full support of Italians."

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3. Plenary Powers to the Italian Government.

Pending official comment on the MacMillan statement by the various political parties in Florence, P.W.B. collaborators report the following reactions by the general public:-

Contrary to what might have been expected the statement has aroused no great interest. People are still feeling the disappointment caused by the exclusion of Italy from participation in the San Francisco Conference. It is pointed out that Italy has been in a state of war with Germany for over a year and her contribution to the defeat of Nazism is compared with the equivocal attitude of Turkey who instead has been invited to attend the meeting. Public opinion is also sceptical as to the practical value of the Allied decision, the view being taken that, as happened when A.C.C. became A.C., there will be no radical change. Nor is the statement as such regarded as a model of clarity. Explicit recognition of Italian spheres of action would have been preferred. As it is, there is considerable doubt as to whether the advice to be tendered by A.C. will be of the type known in Italian as "obbligatori", i.e. involving obligation to ask for an opinion but not necessarily to follow it, or of the type called "vincolanti", where the advice tendered must be followed. A further question, the continual shelving of which is the cause of considerable humiliation and resentment, is that relating to Italian prisoners of war. It is felt that real collaboration with the Allies will only be possible when the last prisoner has been repatriated.

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4. Reactivation of the Glass Industry.

With windows at a premium the reactivation of the glass industry in Italy should be especially welcome even though its importance as a means of relieving unemployment does not amount to much. Although the glass works in liberated Italy are hardly comparable with those in the occupied part of the country, there are a few of more than local importance. One of these is the SAIVO (Società Anonima Italiana Vetro Ottico) on which a brief note is given hereunder.

The SAIVO dates back to the immediate post-war period when as the Istituto Sperimentale boro-sodico it belonged to the Larderello group. It later fell into the hands of IRI and after reorganization came out as SAIVO, with a capital of 10 million lire, half of which provided by IRI and the rest by S. GIORGIO and GALILEO. Actual control, however, was vested in the Italian Navy. The works never employed more than 120-130 operatives, but these were all skilled hands and even today out of the 100 workers (plus 30 clerical employees) on the pay-roll there are only two ordinary labourers.

(i) The firm specialises in the production of

(a) optical glass (the production formerly covered 70% of national requirements), out of which it makes lenses for telescopes, telemeters, periscopes, searchlights etc.

(b) Semi-optical glass for the manufacture of ordinary lenses of which its normal output, using three furnaces, was 150,000 lenses per month.

(c) Glass for windows etc.

(ii) The SAIVO works which has suffered no war damage whatever, constitutes an integrated unit with its own cycle of production ranging from the manufacture of the crucibles to the finished product.

(iii) Despite present difficulties SAIVO have kept four furnaces going since September last for the manufacture of optical glass; one of these has been modified for the manufacture of blown, transparent or coloured glass. The coloured glass

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(iii) Despite present difficulties SAIVO have kept four furnaces going since September last for the manufacture of optical glass; one of these has been modified for the manufacture of blown, transparent or coloured, glass. The coloured glass was asked for by the State railways for use in signals.

(iv) SAIVO are in a position to supply any sort of moulded glass and five furnaces are ready for such work. 4603

(v) The GALILEO works and other firms would be willing to place orders with SAIVO ~~for spectacle lenses~~, of which 80,000

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can be turned out monthly; moreover, Allied organizations have been enquiring about optical glass for naval instruments and binoculars.

(vi) SAIVO can begin work immediately if sufficient quantities of fuel and raw materials, especially potash and caustic soda, can be obtained. Naphtha is the fuel normally used, but the Allied assignment is small and some furnaces have therefore been adapted to use gas in anticipation of the resumption of the supply. The fuel required to smelt a crucible of 300-400 kg. amounts to 20 quintals of naphtha and 8 quintals of coke. Alternatively 3 cubic metres of coal gas or 1 cubic metre of methane gas, if obtainable, would be needed for each kilogramme of glass.

(vii) In addition to the works in Via Mazzoni, Florence, SAIVO has another works in Castello, which is at present occupied by Allied troops, but which if de-requisitioned could begin production within a month. About 400 quintals of cement would be needed to put the works in order. The potential of the Castello works is 15 crucibles a month for which methane gas led directly from the source by means of a gas-duct could be used as fuel. This would allow of a monthly output of 7,000 kg. of semi-optical glass, sufficient for the manufacture of lenses for 300,000 pairs of spectacles.

(viii) The shop committees work in full agreement with the management and are consulted on everything that concerns the technique of production. A canteen has been in operation since September for supplying workers with one meal a day - present price 12 lire. As union wages are considered by the management to be inadequate, a system of premium bonuses has been introduced, the effect of which has been to raise average wages to 200 lire a day.

5. Fruit and Vegetables.

The Mayor of Florence has issued an order revoking the permission previously granted to tradesmen and hawkers to obtain supplies of fruit and vegetables direct from producers. The producers for their part have been warned against making such sales and instead to send their produce direct to the

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6. R. Azienda dei Presti di Firenze.

Statistics on pawning operations, when obtainable, are a faithful barometer of the misery prevailing in a community. The collection of such data in Italy is greatly facilitated

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by the circumstance that there is only one place where things can be pawned. This is the Monte di Pietà, one of which is to be found in every large centre. It is operated as a public trust and is a non-profit organisation in the sense that all its profits are devoted to charity. Mussolini took exception to the title on the grounds of national prestige and ordered it to be changed to Monte di Credito su Pegno, There are local variants as e.g. the Monte in Florence, which is known as the R. Azienda dei Presti.

The following figures have been supplied by the Florence institution and disclose the operations effected by it during recent months.

Objects on hand 30.9.44.

Jewellery	1,450	valued at	L.1,562,043
Sundries	7,009	" "	1,597,942
Total no. of objects in pawn:	8,459	" "	3,159,985

Objects on hand 31.10.44.

Jewellery	1,678	" "	2,694,088
Sundries	6,722	" "	1,727,363
Total no. of objects in pawn:	8,400	" "	4,421,451

Objects on hand 30.11.44.

Jewellery	1,902	" "	3,327,197
Sundries	6,461	" "	1,814,238
Total no. of objects in pawn:	8,363	" "	5,141,435

Objects on hand 31.12.44.

Jewellery	1,991	" "	3,799,791
Sundries	6,320	" "	2,016,125
Total no. of objects in pawn:	8,311	" "	5,815,916

Objects on hand 31.1.45.

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Objects on hand 31.1.45.

Jewellery	2,160	" "	4,359,171
Sundries	6,291	" "	2,218,844
Total no. of objects in pawn:	8,451	" "	6,578,015

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Objects on hand 28.2.45.

Jewellery	2,121	valued at	4,812,788
Sundries	6,008	" "	2,226,918
Total no. of objects in pawn:	8,121	" "	7,039,706

N.B. The Aziends only pays out 8% of the estimated value of the articles pawned.

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PROPAGANDA

7. "Questa era il fascismo".

The second address with "Such was Fascism" as the theme broadcast by Radio Florence was given by Professor Calamandrei, Rector of Florence University, on February 22nd. As the Professor specializes in constitutional law it was perhaps only natural that he tried to make out a good case for the attitude of the legal profession during Fascism. Admitting that the charge of nepotism was not unfounded he contended as an extenuant that the legal profession as a whole had, more than any other class, taken the measure of Fascism and seen the rottenness behind its façade of legality.

8. Films.

(i) Tom, Dick and Harry.

This film is considered to be the best at present showing in Florence. Although propagandistic in tone, the pill is so well coated that it goes down almost unperceived. The film "sells" the American way of living very adroitly and leaves the spectator with great hopes for the democratic future of Italy.

(ii) Stalingrad.

Mediocre is the word used by many to describe this Russian documentary, the finale of which, in particular, is considered not to be in the best of taste.

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PUBLIC OPINION

9. Press Meeting.

The greater part of this week's meeting of local journalists and A.M.G. officials was devoted to discussion of the food situation. The following replies were given to points raised.

Salt: A distribution of 150 grammes is under consideration. This amount, in all probability, will be the normal ration for the coming months.

Matches: These are ready and will be distributed as soon as the excise stamps have been optained.

Supplementary oil ration for the sick: This question is under consideration by the Allied authorities.

February ration of sugar: Instructions are awaited.

Salt for Bakeries: Bread is of good quality and palatable. If there are any cases where bakers use the salt for purposes other than those specified, the authorities should be immediately informed.

Slaughter of pigs: Contrary to other provinces in Tuscany the slaughter of pigs in the Florence province is not permitted for the simple reason that the resulting quantity of pork would not be enough to go round.

Gas: A town commission is studying the price to be charged for gas. For those areas not supplied with gas the charcoal ration will be increased to 8 kilogrammes a month - for those with gas it will be reduced to 2.

Tram Service: It is not possible to start even a partial tram service owing to the lack of electric power. The special committee which controls the supply of electric power in liberated Italy meets once a month and it has already been decided that for February and March there will be no increase. There is therefore no hope of the service being started before April.

To a question whether excess rations from Allied messes could not be distributed to charitable institutions rather

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t. points raised.

Salt: A distribution of 150 grammes is under consideration. This amount, in all probability, will be the normal ration for the coming months.

Matches: These are ready and will be distributed as soon as the excise stamps have been optained.

Supplementary oil ration for the sick: This question is under consideration by the Allied authorities.

February ration of sugar: Instructions are awaited.

Salt for Bakeries: Bread is of good quality and palatable. If there are any cases where bakers use the salt for purposes other than those specified, the authorities should be immediately informed.

Slaughter of pigs: Contrary to other provinces in Tuscany the slaughter of pigs in the Florence province is not permitted for the simple reason that the resulting quantity of pork would not be enough to go round.

Gas: A town commission is studying the price to be charged for gas. For those areas not supplied with gas the charcoal ration will be increased to 8 kilogrammes a month - for those with gas it will be reduced to 2.

Tram Service: It is not possible to start even a partial tram service owing to the lack of electric power. The special committee which controls the supply of electric power in liberated Italy meets once a month and it has already been decided that for February and March there will be no increase. There is therefore no hope of the service being started before April.

To a question whether excess rations from Allied messes could not be distributed to charitable institutions rather than be destroyed, the A.M.G. reply was that mess officers had long since been instructed to hand over any such excess to institutions which made application. Orphanages had first priority and it was made clear that the foodstuffs thus given away were not mere kitchen leavings.

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10. Reaction to the Bread Ration Increase.

The increase in the bread ration has given rise to comments which fall into a definite chronological sequence, namely:-

(1) Official announcement in the press in which it was mentioned that the increase could be taken in bread or in pasta. General jubilation and gratitude to Roosevelt for keeping his promise.

(2) Modification of the previous announcement to the effect that the increase affected pasta and flour and not bread. Popular enthusiasm on the wane because, knowing the present conditions of the pasta factories, people argue that the necessary quantities cannot be produced.

(3) Radio commentary suggesting that the increase would depend on the availability of transport. People lose all hope and are persuaded that the increase is only another instance of American bluff.

N.B. Public confidence in Allied statements has been restored by the timely announcement of the S.C.A.O. over Radio Florence to the effect that, starting March 1st, the bread ration will be increased by 50 grammes, bringing it up to 250, and that there will be a fortnightly issue of 600 grammes of pasta or 40 grammes per diem. As 40 grammes of pasta is the equivalent of 50 grammes of bread, a daily total of 300 grammes is reached corresponding to the amount promised.

11. Epuration.

A poster has been seen in Florence during the past week which draws attention to the leading personalities of the 'Lyceum' club. This is a well-known women's club to which many ladies of the Florentine aristocracy belonged. It became a centre of Fascist culture and was much frequented by Republican Fascist officials such as Manganiello, the Prefect of Florence, prior to the arrival of the Allies. The premises of the club have now been requisitioned by an Allied organisation.

4600

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(2) Modification of the previous announcement to the effect that the increase affected pasta and flour and not bread. Popular enthusiasm on the wane because, knowing the present conditions of the pasta factories, people argue that the necessary quantities cannot be produced.

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The text of the poster is as follows:-

EPURATION

One can understand bureaucracy but collaboration with old Fascists is too much. This is what is being done at

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the Lyceum where all the administrative and professional posts are held by the most fervent Fascists of yesterday, while these might be handed over to persons who gave everything and endured silently all those sufferings which only the monstrosity of Fascism can inflict on its enemies.

ENOUGH....

Let there be at least the dismissal of the most conspicuous personalities who took part with enthusiasm in the commemoration of Gentile and in the dinner given for Hitler and who wished, of their own free will, the moral and material ruin of our country.

The names of those who are most in view are the following:-

Sig. PANDOLFINI BEATRICE	- The president, an active collaborator with the filo-fascists. Took part in the Hitler dinner.
Sig. VICE PRESIDENT	- whose name we do not know, ante-marcia and marcia su Roma, Fiduciaria Provinciale.
Sig. GOLFARELLI	- Painted the designed vignettes for a republican paper. An ardent republican fascist.
Sig. CRESPI DEGLI UBERTI	- Association of rural housewives in Bologna
Sig. BARONESSA RICASOLI	- Was Fiduciaria Rionale and has a brother in a concentration camp.
Sig. SALMI	- One hundred per cent germanophil.
Sigg. MARCHESA NICCOLINI & DUCHESSA DI CANEVARO	- were red cross nurses at the service of the German soldiery.

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In general all the members of the club took part with fervour in the commemoration of Gentile.

Florentine journalism has also come in for its share of mud-slinging. The attack on the "direttore responsabile" of the Nazione del Popolo (see last Report) has been followed by articles in L'Arno, a Florentine weekly, urging investigation into the pasts of everybody connected with the Tuscan press.

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GENERAL

12. Public Health.

That cases of infectious diseases are not more numerous in Florence must be contributed primarily to the cleanly habits of the population. The proportion of fatal cases, as the figures for mortality given hereunder show, is however fairly heavy and this is undoubtedly due to the diminished powers of resistance of patients. Malnutrition, overcrowding, bad hygenic conditions, all the adverse factors in short which can be expected to prevail in a war-ravaged district, have helped to produce this general state of debility and it says much for the efforts of all concerned that the situation is not worse. The number of deaths from all causes in Florence during January this year was 994, compared with 695 in January 1944 and 642 in January 1943. The following table gives figures for infectious diseases (notifiable) during the last four years together with those for the ensuing mortality.

Year:	Population:	No. of cases:	% of Pop:	No. of deaths:	% of Pop:
1941	361,824	659	0.18	433	0.120
1942	364,482	3,304	0.91	575	0.158
1943	364,440	3,508	0.96	632	0.173
1944 (up to 31/X)	362,459	1,273	0.35	772	0.213

Sundry notes.

Typhus.

There was a slight epidemic of typhus towards the end of October and the beginning of November at the Refugee Centre. 99 cases were reported in October but with the prompt intervention of the health authorities and the application of suitable preventive measures, the number of cases gradually fell until by the end of January there were only 32 new ones. This last figure is normal for Florence.

Diptheria.

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Diptheria.

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Cases of diptheria, especially among unweaned babies, also occurred in October and November, there being 99 and 81 cases respectively. The situation is however now well in hand.

T.B. and Malignant Tumours.

Formerly Florence had a larger number of cases of malignant tumours than of T.B. The contrary is now the case as the

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following table shows:-

Year:	T.B.	Malignant tumours
1937	482	618
1938	501	637
1943	805	669
1944	1,100	667

V.D.

The number of cases being treated in the clinics would not seem to be above the peace-time average. Statistics regarding patients being treated privately however are unobtainable but it may be safely assumed that the number has increased considerably.

Scabies.

This disease arises out of unhygienic conditions and there have naturally been numerous cases, especially in December. As the Allied Command has now provided considerable quantities of soap the curve is now tending downwards and the city will probably soon be able to present a clean bill of health.

13. Voluntary Public Assistance Committee.

Since September last an ever increasing number of needy people has been helped by a Committee sponsored by A.M.G. in Florence. The organization set-up by the committee is a purely voluntary one and is run by ladies of the city who distribute foodstuffs, clothes and medicine supplied by A.M.G. The original idea, for which credit is due to the Public Health Officer of A.M.G., was to meet what was thought to be a temporary situation by making a single distribution of necessaries furnished by the Economic and Supply Section. The distress was so great however, that it was decided to continue to provide relief throughout the winter and actually more than 3,000 persons a month benefit by it. For the purpose of the distribution of supplies Florence is divided into four zones in each of which there is a depot managed by a Sub-Committee. The Central Committee has two doctors attached to it and technical help is provided by the city's Ente Comunale d'Assistenza.

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Unfortunately, supplies are giving out and the Committee will soon have to cut short its existence. Members and voluntary workers will, however, have the satisfaction of knowing that they have helped considerable numbers of their follow-beings through a hard winter.

14. German Depredations and Atrocities.

Extracts from Civil Censorship intercepts:

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(letter dated 8th February 1945 from a man in Empoli per Pegnana to an addressee in Florence).

"Thos wicked Germans took everything away from us in a few days, especially from Oraste they took calves, cows, a small cart, a big cart, a donkey and a pig which weighed a quintal and a half - in a word they cleaned up everything. On the 14th of July, after so much suffering, we were ordered to leave in 24 hours, luckily my cows and my cart were left. We took all we could leaving the house, and we first went to Montabore to Rina's. We took to the woods and dug holes as shelters; after 15 days the Germans passed and sent us away because they said it was dangerous.

"We went home running the danger of mines which they had left on the roads and in the fields near the Arno where many died.

"As to your brother-in-law Virgilio, they are all well but I don't know if anything has happened to them. At S. Miniato the Germans blew up the rock. The forced all the civilians to go to the church, and then blew it up. There were many dead."

(letter dated 11th February 1945 from a man in Florence to addressee in Arezzo: the events described, if true, took place in the district of Camaiore (in the province of Lucca).

....."In the village some S.S. battalions were stationed, and every day they took away some men (unlucky those who fell into their hands) some of whom were killed and others left on the roads. Some were taken to other places, but very few of these have returned to their homes. After having killed all the people in the village of S. Anna, including women and children, they burned it and only a heap of ruins is left. You will understand that also here we have gone through a lot apart from the hunger we suffered for three months when we had to feed the babies on fruit to appease their hunger."

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APPENDIX I

INDUSTRIAL SITUATION IN PRATO

General.

As Prato is the first wholly industrial town which has fallen, practically intact, into Allied hands since the opening of the Mediterranean campaign, a short description of industrial conditions there will not be out of place.

Prato's chief line of production is shoddy for which it is famous the world over and as shoddy is made from rags it would seem that considering the present ragged state of humanity the mills should have an inexhaustable supply of raw material. As it is, production is at a low ebb and the chief reason for this, apart from the lackadaisical spirit of the mill owners, is the lack of electric power. This business of electric power is a sore point with the people of Prato. There are from 12 to 14,000 people, half of them women, out of work, but ready to turn to any time the power is switched on and as most of them, with the exception of a few key workers, have been definitely taken off the pay-roll, it will be appreciated that they have more than an academic interest in the matter. On several occasions the town has been promised KW and the continued dashing of the workers' hopes has certainly not improved their morale.

The woollen industry.

The following extract taken from a memorandum recently submitted by the Unione Industriale Pratese to the Consiglio Provinciale dell'Economia gives a fair idea of the position of this industry:-

"The Unione stated in a letter of the 23rd October, addressed to the Consiglio ed Ufficio Provinciale dell'Economia, that regarding the woollen textile industry (which represents by far the most important group amongst those of the industrial centre of the province) the number of spindles available at that date could be calculated around 80,000. The number of the spindles was given as this is the best method of estimating the size of the textile industry.

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"After more accurate investigations were carried out 4597
covering, if not all, at least the greatest majority of the textile firms (including amongst these those of first and secondary importance) the following information was obtained:

Spindles:	available for immediate use	95-100,000
	in repair at the present time	40-45,000

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"The difference between the above total of 135-145,000 spindles existing at present and the number, almost 190,000, existing before the war (with an increase of nearly 20,000 from 1939, 1940 onwards) is due principally to spindles which are completely destroyed or so badly damaged as to be useless for a long period of time and also by the number of spindles installed in smaller plants which it has been impossible to account for in this report but which can be considered, almost with certainty, to be in good order for they belong to the undamaged or lesser damaged firms:

Spinning frames: available for immediate use....about 1,800
in repair at the present time..about 900

"The difference between the total of 2,700 frames calculated in this report and the number of frames, about 4,800, existing before the war (with an increase of 800 frames from 1939, 1940 onwards) is made up by about 1,500 frames belonging to artisans which can be considered to be in working order or easily repaired, and by looms that are completely destroyed or require a long time to repair, and those belonging to the lesser firms not reckoned in this report. To summarize, we can count, almost surely, on about 3,000 to 3,300 frames in working order."

The memorandum then goes on to describe the various stages through which the raw material has to pass and reviews the existing equipment, at present in working order, necessary for the various processes. In the matter of man-power it would appear from the memorandum that the mills, if working at full capacity with the existing machinery, could absorb 10,000 workers, of which 2,500 loom-minders. As regards raw materials (rags), for an estimated annual production of 15-18 million kg. of medium type yarn, the minimum requirement is from 20-25 million kg. Existing stocks are sufficient for six months. The power necessary to work the mills is calculated at 6-9,000 KW. At the moment the town is only receiving 400 in addition to a small amount of power which firms generating their own electricity are obliged to supply. The mills also use something like 30,000 tons of lignite, equal to about 420-450 tons a week, in normal times. Lack of transport precludes even the smallest fraction of this requirement being met at present.

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The present position as regards the mills themselves (Prato town only) is as follows: 59 mills are working at low capacity using either electricity generated by themselves or other sources of power - oil engines, steam. Another 50 including the largest (Fabbricone) are at a complete standstill for lack of power - 20 of them are occupied by Allied troops; and there are 36 small mills of which 20 are out of commission through enemy action.

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As mentioned, some production is going on, chiefly of blankets, of which 140,000 have been supplied up to now. The mill-owners, however, prefer to work to stock as with blankets selling at 600 lire each, they are losing 100 lire per blanket plus the oncost (one blanket requires 2 kg. of rags and rags cost at present 350 lire a kilo delivered). Actually most of the blankets supplied up to now to the Allies or the Italian Government are from pre-liberation stocks.

The foregoing notes are intended to give merely a general idea of the woollen industry in Prato (a more detailed report is available on application) and to bring out the dangers inherent in the existence of a large body of unemployed for whom the future holds very little. Black Market, prostitution, rackets of all kinds and of course misery are rampant in Prato and the situation lends itself to easy political exploitation. There are, it should be added, other industries in Prato - the dye-works, which did an enormous business in peace time, something like 130 firms of contractors employing 5,000 men, and a number of iron foundries - but they are all more or less ancillary to the woollen industry.

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APPENDIX II

FLORENTINE PERSONALITIES - THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS

It is the intention of the compilers of this report to publish from time to time biographical details of leading personalities in the territory covered by the report. The series will start with notes on prominent men in the various political parties, beginning with the Christian Democrats.

Name: ZOLI Adone

Born: Cesena, 16th December 1887.

Occupation: Lawyer

In 1907 became a law graduate at Bologna University. Practiced law in Florence gaining a first-class position. Decorated in the Great War. Active in the Catholic party. In 1919 became a member of the Partito Popolare Italiano, and was a member on the Council of the Party from 1920 up to its liquidation. Always professed openly anti-fascist views and was never a member of any Fascist organization. Before the 25th July was one of the organizers of the Christian Democrats and a member of the Committee set up by the anti-Fascist parties. During the Badoglio rule he was elected Commissario dell'Ordine degli Avvocati of Florence. Arrested by the nazi-fascists in November 1943 and kept in gaol for two months as member of the first Committee of Liberation. Was able to escape capture a second time though his family was arrested and his son threatened with shooting as a hostage. At the Naples Congress of the Christian Democrats in July 1944 was elected National Councillor. After the liberation of Florence was elected by the C.T.L.N. and by A.M.G. as Deputy Mayor of the city and President of the Ordine degli Avvocati, posts which he still holds.

Name: MARTINI Mario Augusto

Born: Florence, 20th December, 1884.

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Occupation: Lawyer

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Giunta for the elections. Made a special study of the Catholic Trade Unions (leghe bianche) and was one of the sponsors of the Economic Pacts of 1919-20. At that time MARTINI represented the National Federation of Sharecroppers. Before Fascism was at one time Under-Secretary of State for Public Works.

At the beginning of 1943 was representing the Christian Democrats on the Clandestine Committee and later was representative of the Party on the Florence C.L.N. and on the provisional Committee set-up during the Emergency Period. President of the Deputazione Provinciale and Provincial Commissioner of the Opera Maternità e Infanzia. Up to a short time ago was President of the Provincial Provisional Committee of the Christian Democrats. He is now Ambassador-Designate to Brazil.

Publications: GLI ECCESSI DI PRODUZIONE
LA RIFORMA AGRARIA
LA MEZZADRIA TOSCANA
LA MISSIONE SOCIALE E POLITICA DELLA DEMOCRAZIA CRISTIANA

Name: TOMMASI Nereo

Born: Recchette (Vicenza) 3rd January, 1911

In 1929 graduated as an electrical expert at the Industrial Institute of Vicenza. 1930: employed at the sugar refineries at Ceggia (Venezia) as an electrician. (earning L.1.64 an hour.) Called up for military service and in July 1931 became a 2nd Lieut. in the Engineers. 1932: returned as a worker to Ceggia. In February 1933 was employed by the Società Aeree Mediterranee Officine at Venice as motor technician and in 1934 as a technical assistant. In 1935 was recalled to the army with the 1911 class and went to fight in Africa. Returned ill to Italy and, obtaining his release, took up employment with the Ala Littoria. In 1936 was transferred to Asmara as foreman. In 1939 was transferred to Rome to the Direzione Generale Ala Littoria as technical inspector. Obtained a Civil Pilot's licence (3rd class) and was inscribed at Naples University (Economics and commerce).

In 1941 was recalled to the army as a pilot with the rank of lieutenant. 1942: promoted to Captain and sent to Sicily

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Democrats on the Clandestine Committee and later was representative of the Party on the Florence C.L.N. and on the provisional Committee set-up during the Emergency Period. President of the Deputazione Provinciale and Provincial Commissioner of the Opera Maternità e Infanzia. Up to a short time ago was President of the Provincial Provisional Committee of the Christian Democrats. He is now Ambassador-Designate to Brazil.

Publications: GLI ECCESSI DI PRODUZIONE
LA RIFORMA AGRARIA
LA MEZZADRIA TOSCANA
LA MISSIONE SOCIALE E POLITICA DELLA DEMOCRAZIA CRISTIANA

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In 1941 was recalled to the army as a pilot with the rank of lieutenant. 1942: promoted to Captain and sent to Sicily where he saw a great deal of action. On 8th September, dressed as a civilian, he rejoined his wife in Florence. There he started recruiting patriots from among the Christian Democrats, inspected various bands of partisans and by the time of the liberation of Florence was head of the military clandestine movement of the Christian Democrats and Deputy Commander of the

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Tuscan Military Command. On the 1st October 1944 he was asked by the Christian Democrats to become Secretary of the Camera Confederale del Lavoro, which post he still holds.

Name: BRANCA Vittorio

Born: Savona, 9th July 1913.

Completed his studies at Pisa University where he came into contact with anti-fascist elements.

Member for Central Italy of the F.U.C.I. (Federazione Universitaria Cattolica Italiana) from 1934-36, where he did active work with President Righetti as this organization maintained an attitude of hostility towards Fascism.

Graduate in literature in 1935 he continued his studies in Austria and Germany and then taught at Pisa and Pistoia. In 1938 he took up a post with the Accademia della Crusca which he still holds.

He actively participated in the Christian Democrat Movement, presided at the first official meetings of the Party (April 1943) and after the 8th September was a member of the Directorate of the Party for Tuscany. From November 1943 to April 1944 was one of the five members of the clandestine C.T.L.N., organising among other things, the Nazione del Popolo, of which he has been editor since 1944. During the Clandestine Period he organized the Youth Movement of the Christian Democrats, editing the news-sheet La Punta; organized anti-nazi propaganda in the German army with various publications in German. On the morning of the 11th August he occupied the University as head of the action squad "Franco Martelli" composed of University students.

He has published many works on Italian literature and many literary essays in reviews and newspapers. He has written political articles for clandestine papers, the Nazione del Popolo (nearly always unsigned), and the review Studium. He is the co-editor, with Pietro Pancrazi, of a collection of Italian classics published by Le Monnier, and is editor of the review Il Ponte, directed by Piero Calamandrei.

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

"D" Section 23rd February, 1945.

Nº 7 INTELLIGENCE REPORT COVERING TUSCANY AND ADJOINING TERRITORY OF LIBERATED ITALY

Security Division
Box No 5333
File No 6.10.01
Action ....

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NOTE: Throughout this report passages marked with a line at the side are for information only.

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

23rd February, 1945.

"D" Section

N° 7 INTELLIGENCE REPORT COVERING TUSCANY AND ADJOINING TERRITORY OF LIBERATED ITALY

SUMMARY

The subjects chiefly discussed by local politicians since the last report - the ordinary workaday inidvidual is either too busy or too apathetic to bother about them - are the policy of the Centre Bloc and the Crimean Conference. Opinions regarding the constitution of a Centre Bloc follow fairly closely, when they do not merely echo, those voiced in Rome, although it is interesting to note that there are divergencies of views within both the Action Party and the Christian Democratic Party. Public reaction to Yalta is also what might have been expected, viz. general agreement with the main principles enunciated coupled with chagrin at the complete absence of any mention of Italy.

The financing of reconstruction in Tuscany is the subject of an interesting report by the leader of the local Liberal Party. Predicting that the Italian Government will not be able to foot the war damages bill in full, he urges adoption of a system of intermediate financing by an independent organisation following in its broad lines the plan used for a similar purpose after the last war.

The recent incident in which two ex-squadristi were beaten up by a crowd may be taken as an indication that the public is beginning to tire of official procrastination in the handling of the epuration problem. There has also been a recrudescence of "smearing", involving chiefly intellectuals and the aristocracy.

The Press in Tuscany comes in for more than usual attention in this week's report, the highlight being the transfer of the P.W.B. Corriere del Mattino to the Commune of Florence, a step which is redolent of implications for the future of Italian [illegible] which has now been

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The Press in Tuscany comes in for more than usual attention in this week's report, the highlight being the transfer of the P.W.B. Corriere del Mattino to the Commune of Florence, a step which is redolent of implications for the future of Italian journalism. The Corriere di Lucca affair, which has now been satisfactorily settled, brings to the fore the whole question of press administration in forward areas and points to the need for adequate control of journalistic activity in outlying districts.

The report ends with appendices illustrating conditions in Forli and Piombino respectively.

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ITALIAN THEATRE HEADQUARTERS
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POLITICAL

1. The Policy of the Central Bloc.

Towards the end of January an interesting discussion was started in the Roman press by the Action Party leader Ugo La Malfa, who, in the paper Italia Libera, sustained the thesis that to avoid revolutionary changes in the structure of the state it was necessary to form a bloc of democratic parties. The argument was that this bloc, of radical tendencies, would be able to give such a thorough overhaul to the present economic system that reforms commensurate to the needs of the situation would be carried out, but without revolution, and democracy would be thereby preserved. The plan envisaged the separation of the Socialists from the Communists, and the inclusion of the Christian Democrats, Socialists and Action Party in the bloc on a platform which would carry the Catholic Party somewhat to the left of its present position. This plan was said to have the advantage of preserving the political outlook of the lower middle classes who are at present opposed to revolution and the totalitarian state but whose economic condition is forcing them into the ranks of the proletariat, and might lead them eventually to pursue the way of mass revolt. If the central bloc attracted this large class by its practical promise of reform, it would also have the result of avoiding an opposite danger to that mentioned above, namely, it would prevent a terrified bourgeoisie, threatened by a powerful Communist-Socialist coalition, from falling into the arms of reaction.

The Secretary of the Socialist Party, Pietro Nenni, replied in Avanti that the Socialists would not break their pact of unity with the Communists recalling that there had

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The Secretary of the Socialist Party, Pietro Nenni, replied in Avanti that the Socialists would not break their pact of unity with the Communists recalling that there had been a triumph of reaction in France and Germany, where the two proletarian parties had separated. Guido Genella, on the other hand, writing in the Christian Democrat paper Il Popolo, contested Nenni's statement by pointing out that in Russia Communism had completely absorbed Socialism, and he substantially agreed with La Malfa's thesis that a central bloc must be formed in which the Socialists should also take part. The Communist Party, as was to be expected, showed considerable hostility to the proposal and by the beginning of February the discussion of the plan, at least in the Roman newspapers, had

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ceased. The ballon d'essai, however, though it has not travelled very far is still probably hovering in the political sky.

No sooner had the clash of contending arguments fallen silent in Rome than the same polemic was opened in Florence on February 10th in an article by the editor of the Corriere del Mattino Count Fossi (who belongs to no party) in which he argued in favour of the creation of the central bloc, comprising progressive Liberals, Labour Democrats, Christian Democrats, Socialists and members of the Action Party and declared that such a 'centre' ought to have the political direction of the country. Fossi argues that men's social freedom - the freedom from feudal privileges, from inequalities before the law - was conquered by the triumph of the liberal spirit, but that no sooner had this freedom been won than it became apparent that men were being enslaved in other ways. Beneath the apparent equality of all citizens there were being born new privileges and inequalities, those which the large industries and financial organisms brought into being. The problem of liberty has therefore taken on a new aspect, it must now be dealt with by enriching the legal liberty of the citizen with the economic liberty of the worker and it can be achieved practically by the uniting in a joint programme of the aims of liberalism with those of socialism.

The first reply to these suggestions was made by the Communist Luigi Sacconi, director of the Press Committee of the Nazione del Popolo, in that paper on 15th February. He pointed out that the omission of the Communists from the bloc would be to exclude this party from active participation in the political reconstruction of the country and to relegate it to a role of opposition and criticism. The writer recalled the honourable part played by Communists in the ranks of the Committees of National Liberation during the fight against Fascism, the sacrifices of Communist partisans, the unity of action obtained by the party on the formation of the last Badoglio cabinet and the second Bonomi government and its energetic propaganda in favour of a strong national army. The formation of this bloc with the exclusion of the Communists, argues Sacconi, would be tantamount to an admission by the parties of the coalition that the present programme for which all parties in the Committee are fighting - that is to attain

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The Socialist reply was made in La Nazione del Popolo on 17th February. It was written by Giovanni Pieraccini, who states

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that his chief object in replying is to dispel the impression that the Socialists adhered to Count Fossi's views. Pieraccini's main criticism of the central bloc programme is that it would break up the unity of the Committees of National Liberation in which all the anti-Fascist forces of the country were pledged to lead the people, by means of the Constituent Assembly, towards a progressive democracy and the material and moral reconstruction of the nation. Hence a policy of blocs was superfluous. The Socialist-Communist pact was no mere party bloc but a particular aspect of the general will to collaborate of the six parties of the Committee. The pact of unity of action, which admittedly had not functioned perfectly, was a guarantee that the workers would not neutralize their political activity in fratricidal strife. It was not directed against any other party. The writer states: "We Socialists have the same social claims to make as the Communists. We are not a centre party; whoever imagines that we are further to the right than the Communists is profoundly mistaken." Since the name of Saragat was mentioned in Fossi's article as being representative of the Socialist current which it was hoped would detach itself from the alliance with the Communists, Pieraccini quotes a passage which Saragat wrote in the Roman paper Avanti of January 16th:- "It is therefore clear that the (Socialist) party cannot adhere to a policy which tends towards the formation of a central bloc which would result in a weakening of the pact of unity of action."

The above newspaper articles indicate to some extent the disposition of political opinion in Florence in this debate. They do not however present a complete picture. A P.W.B. officer interviewed political personalities on this subject and obtained some statements which help to colour the design. The most interesting account was given by the young President of the Tuscan Committee of Liberation, Professor Ragghianti. According to him, the idea of forming a central bloc of democratic parties was born several months ago as a result of conversations which he had had with Avv. Piccioni of the Christian Democrat Party. The germ of the idea was derived from the fact that in Ragghianti's view the present line-up of the parties did not correspond to political realities. Doctrinaires in each party produced the differences of opinion and the polemics which filled the papers, but there was also in various parties a progressive democratic section whose views on the fundamental problems of Italian politics were very similar. Ragghianti mentioned the names of politicians who were of this progressive and reformist temper - in the Socialist Party, Saragat, Silone,

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After his talks with Piccioni, said Ragghianti, there was further discussion of the question between representatives of the Christian Democrat and Action Parties when the Christian Democrat minister of industry, Gronchi, came to Florence on 25th October, 1944. These discussions gave some hope of developing the idea practically, when the rapprochement between the two parties was somewhat energetically disturbed by a speech of Emilio Lussu in Rome on 19th November 1944 in which the Action Party leader deprecated the move of the Communists in breaking up the left-wing alliance with their policy of compromises and characterized the Christian Democrats as reactionaries. The Christian Democrats thereafter became somewhat diffident as to the possibilities of collaborating with the Action Party. Lately, however, according to Ragghianti, better relations have been re-established. He said that Avv. Piccioni of the Florentine Christian Democrats was at present in Rome and was no doubt discussing the idea of the central bloc with his party leaders there. Ragghianti himself was soon going to Rome and would bring up the same subject in talks with his own leaders.

As to the future of the proposal among the parties in Florence, Ragghianti maintained that there were good hopes of its realization here. The Action Party leaders get on well both with the Christian Democrats and the Socialists, though the latter two parties are not on such good terms owing to the inherited anti-clericalism of the Socialists. On the other hand, said Ragghianti, Communists and Socialists in Florence and especially in smaller provincial centres are often competitors - they too often have the same objectives to be on the best of terms. Although Nenni, who is the extreme exponent in the Socialist Party of the unity of Communism and Socialism, had at the moment a great ascendancy within his party, he was, in Ragghianti's view, a man of an outworn generation whose influence must decline.

The opinions of Ragghianti were not altogether confirmed by an active member of the Christian Democrat Party in Florence, Professor Vito Branca. He declared himself to be personally against the idea and said that although Avv. Piccioni had once been attracted by the idea, he had certain doubts about it now. In Branca's view there were considerable disadvantages and difficulties in carrying out the scheme.

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The disadvantages were that it would destroy the unity of the Committees of Liberation which are now an integral part of the political rebirth of the nation. Secondly it would have the effect of excluding the Communists, making them more extreme and antagonistic to the other parties of the Committee. It would have a similar effect on the right-wing groups. Thirdly if the centre bloc was to be formed of elements of various parties, it would end by creating more parties than at present. On the other hand if it was to be an alliance of existing parties, there were many difficulties. Branca did not believe in a split between the Communists and Socialists. Though they

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sometimes expressed open disagreement this was in the nature of a family quarrel. Moreover there were many points of divergence between the Christian Democrats and Action Party which would make combined action in many spheres impossible. He instanced the questions of Church and State and the Schools. Between Socialists and Christian Democrats there was a fundamental disagreement as to ends - the Socialists desiring nationalization of private property while the Christian Democrats were aiming at its socialization. Further Christian Democrats wanted participation by workers in the ownership and management of factories while the left was opposed to this on the grounds that it would make the worker a bourgeois. Thus even if there was agreement in accepting the democratic method among the components of the central bloc, there would be disagreement about many questions of policy. In Branca's view co-operation between democratic parties for specific political purposes was both possible and desirable and this would be practical on major issues such as what should be the form of the state. He himself envisaged eventually a political configuration of four large parties or groups - the Marxist-group, comprising Communists and non-reformist Socialists; the Liberal-Socialist group, comprising reformist Socialists, Action Party and Advanced Liberals; the Christian Democrat group, and the Conservative group, comprising elements of the present Liberal Party, Monarchists and other Conservatives. This formation of parties would, according to Branca, respond to the realities of the political situation in Italy. A Communist member of the C.T.L.N., Giulio Montelatici, when interviewed, did not contribute anything very new to the discussion. He re-stated the arguments of his party as they appeared in Luigi Sacconi's article in the Nazione del Popolo - already referred to - and made the point that at least until the holding of the Constituent Assembly the parties should do nothing to jeopardize the unity of the Committees of Liberation which were the best guarantee, in present conditions, for ensuring the reconstruction of the country.

To sum up the discussion it may be said that the idea of the central bloc is one which has received careful attention in many quarters and is probably destined to grow in strength as the Committees of Liberation fade from the political scene. The propagators of the idea - leaders of the Action Party - have an obvious interest in getting it accepted since they would seem at the moment to be running the risk of being relegated to the limbo of political enterprises where the statesman is

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nationalization of private property while the Christian Democrats were aiming at its socialization. Further Christian Democrats wanted participation by workers in the ownership and management of factories while the left was opposed to this on the grounds that it would make the worker a bourgeois. Thus even if there was agreement in accepting the democratic method among the components of the central bloc, there would be disagreement about many questions of policy. In Branca's view co-operation between democratic parties for specific political purposes was both possible and desirable and this would be practical on major issues such as what should be the form of the state. He himself envisaged eventually a political configuration of four large parties or groups - the Marxist-group, comprising Communists and non-reformist Socialists; the Liberal-Socialist group, comprising reformist Socialists, Action Party and advanced Liberals; the Christian Democrat group, and the Conservative group, comprising elements of the present Liberal Party, Monarchists and other Conservatives. This formation of parties would, according to Branca, respond to the realities of the political situation in Italy. A Communist member of the C.T.L.N., Giulio Montelatici, when interviewed, did not contribute anything very new to the discussion. He re-stated the arguments of his party as they appeared in Luigi Sacconi's article in the Nazione del Popolo - already referred to - and made the point that at least until the holding of the Constituent Assembly the parties should do nothing to jeopardize the unity of the Committees of Liberation which were the best guarantee, in present conditions, for ensuring the reconstruction of the country.

To sum up the discussion it may be said that the idea of the central bloc is one which has received careful attention in many quarters and is probably destined to grow in strength as the Committees of Liberation fade from the political scene. The propagators of the idea - leaders of the Action Party - have an obvious interest in getting it accepted since they would seem at the moment to be running the risk of being relegated to the limbo of political enterprises where the statesman is able neither to suffer the infernal agitation of an effective opposition nor to enjoy the beatific activity of successful government. Their championship of the central bloc is perhaps prematurely optimistic, they exaggerate the tendencies in other parties which are favourable to the idea. Yet it is probable, after the total liberation of Italy, the dissolution of the Committees of Liberation, the beginning of the inter-party struggle for power, that the idea will find a large number of adherents.

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2. Public Reaction to the Crimea Conference.

The historic declaration made at Yalta in the Crimea by President Roosevelt, Mr. Churchill and Marshal Stalin could not fail to rouse some interest among the people of Florence, though reactions to the document have been somewhat divergent. The general public, which is apt to judge things in terms of its immediate interests, felt a sharp disappointment, increased no doubt by certain speculative articles in the press about the forthcoming inclusion of Italy in the alliance, that no mention was made of Italy in the course of the declarations. The people find it unfair that they should be asked to give full co-operation in the war effort and should have made a considerable contribution to this effort, without being given any indication of what their future status will be and with the undisclosed terms of an allegedly hard armistice hanging over them. Thus the man in the street if asked about the conference at Yalta will shrug his shoulders and say: "What do I care about it? It has nothing to do with us."

In political and intellectual circles the reaction is more positive. There is a feeling among certain politicians of mature outlook that the decision of the Big Three to keep matters in their own hands for some period after the conclusion of the war, by re-establishing order and creating those conditions in which free elections can be held, is the only one that corresponds to the realities of the situation and the only one that can prevent European anarchy. In this view both Carlo Morandi, Professor of History at Florence University and a Labour Democrat in politics, and the President of the C.T.L.N., Ragghianti, a member of the Action Party, concurred. The same opinion was also expressed by Vittorio Santoli, a Liberal writer, in an article in the Nazione del Popolo of 16th February. Whereas however, these men of balanced outlook appear to trust the intentions of the Big Three in assuming the tutelage of Europe, there exists amongst younger intellectuals a feeling of suspicion that the tutelage will be developed into a stern discipline to suit the temperament of the tutor and that the maxim "cuius regio illius religio" is likely to be verified. This argument is supported by reference to the settlement of the Polish and the Yugoslav problems without consulting all the interested parties and by the sanctification of the principles of Dumbarton Oaks which were not considered, in these Italian circles, to be very democratic. It may be said in general that most people agree as to the necessity for leader-

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The settlement of the Polish dispute has roused great misgivings in sections of public opinion, particularly among Catholics who have a deep distrust of Russia's intentions with regard to Poland. The protest of the Polish government in London has made a considerable impression. There are however, sections of public opinion towards the left who have little sympathy for the London Poles. It is generally felt however, that the solution adopted represents a diplomatic triumph for Russia. The opening phrase of that part of the declaration which deals with Poland - "following the complete liberation of this country by the Red Army a new situation has been created" - which is used as an introduction to the dispositions which follow, is looked at with suspicion because if any new situation of fact were to justify modifying frontiers and making other radical changes in the sovereignty of states without their consent, the Atlantic Charter could only be considered a very dead letter.

Though this decision of the Big Three of a concrete case has not given satisfaction generally, certain enunciations of the principles of international collaboration after the war were welcomed. The commentaries in both the Florence newspapers observed that the promise of combined action by the three Great Powers in giving assistance to those people, who, after liberation from nazi-fascist tyranny, are trying to exercise their rights in the atmosphere of liberty, disposes of the fears, which were widely entertained, that Europe was to be divided into spheres of influence. It is also felt, in principle at least, that the Crimea Conference has reinforced the doctrines of the Atlantic Charter.

Some Individual Opinions.

1. Statement by leaders of the Labour Democrat Party (which has a certain following among University students.)

"The Labour Democrat Party welcomed with great satisfaction the results of the Yalta Conference...not only for the contribution which they will bring to a successful conclusion of the war and the equitable and timely solution of immediate problems but for their high constructive value. The Party recognizes in the decisions of the Conference and in the spirit which inspired them (1) the re-affirmed will of the United Nations to

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2. Professor Carlo Roschienti, President of the C.T.L.N.

The general impression was that the war would be shortened and that though agreement between the Big Three was not complete

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the declaration was less generic than others and some knotty problems had been settled e.g. Poland and Yugoslavia. Moreover public opinion was pleased to note in the declaration a re-statement of the principles of the Atlantic Charter. He had his doubts about the advisability of the territorial changes planned with relation to Poland but believed the device of forming an all-party provisional government there would be a wise move as there were numerous political currents in that country. He felt the declaration regarding Yugoslavia was fair. As to Italy, it was of course a disappointment to Italians that their country had not been mentioned but in his view it was intended to show that judgement on Italy was being suspended. There was one point which Italians were anxious to know about. Since Italy's declaration of war on Germany the Italians were being treated as enemies by the Germans who were robbing Italy of money, works of art and industrial machinery. Would Italy have the benefit of reparations paid by Germany?

3. Professor Vito Branca of the University of Florence, Christian Democrat.

There has been great disappointment at the failure to mention Italy at the conference. This together with certain other events such as the publication (in Voce Repubblicana of February 4th) of a dispatch sent by Lord Halifax to the U.S. Government in August last stating British policy with regard to Italy as being the minimum help necessary to enable her to co-operate in the war effort, have caused some distress amongst Italians.

Though it is realized that the Big Three must exercise overriding powers to restore order in Europe, it is a pity that it was not made clear that these powers were of a temporary nature. He was very apprehensive as to the results of the solution of the Polish question which was to be imposed upon the Poles without consulting them. If the future of states is to be shaped by a few great powers the rights of sovereignty will be imperilled. Some limit to national sovereignty is no doubt necessary at present to arrive at a settlement but it should be obtained if possible by consent rather than by imposition.

4. Giulio Montiletici, Communist, Member of the C.T.L.N.

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4. Giulio Montilatici, Communist, Member of the C.I.L.N.

The Communist Party of Florence is completely satisfied with the results of the Yalta conference both with regard to the plans concerted for finishing the war and with regard to post-war policy. The conference was a triumph of unity. Like all Italians the Communists would have been pleased if Italy had been dealt with at the conference but they understood the silence about their country for they felt that the Italian nation as a whole had not shown a decided will to

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dedicate itself entirely to winning the war. Certain classes still had a nostalgia for the past and this may have influenced the attitude of the Big Three towards Italy.

3. Partisans in the Ravenna Area.

The following account has been received from an Italian officer who has been in close contact with the partisans in VII Army area.

The best formation of partisans which VIII Army has met with in its advance up the Adriatic coast is the 28 Garibaldi Brigade called the Mario Gordini Brigade after a patriot who, after inspiring the local partisan bands, was captured by the Germans and shot. Gordini was a Communist.

The men of the brigade were formed into five detachments under the single command of Bulow: they were about 1,000 strong with 500 more collaborators.

I have been with this brigade about two months and a half. The members declare themselves to be apolitical but in reality the majority are communists. They are well disciplined and obey scrupulously the orders of their chief Bulow, who is a reserve lieutenant of the infantry. He is a man of the people, intelligent and an indefatigable worker and he has the patriotic sentiments of a good Italian. I don't know whether he receives any orders from others, (N.B. Orders from Italian political superiors are presumably intended here), but certainly in appearance he is the absolute head. He does not talk politics but I believe he belongs to the communist party.

To begin with the Patriots showed no sympathy for the Italian army but a while ago the situation changed in this area. There is in fact a well organized propaganda by the partisans in favour of the army and every effort is made to bring about contacts between partisans and soldiers. This is a point worth noting. This change of attitude followed the return early in January of Bulow from a journey in southern and central Italy. I think he was also in Rome.

About a fortnight ago a Partisan Centre was opened in Ravenna which was started by VIII Army, A.M.G. In this centre

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About a fortnight ago a Partisan Centre was opened in Ravenna which was started by VIII Army, A.M.G. In this centre demobilized patriots find asylum and assistance. There are at the moment 90. The Partisan Centre is a large edifice furnished with every comfort. It will be capable eventually of taking in 600 people: at present it is fitted up to take 300. Rations and a large part of the fittings are supplied by the Allies. After a period of rest up to a month, patriots are given employment according to their bent. The various administrative posts are entrusted to a committee of 5 patriots under my control each of whom represents a political party. The Allied officer in charge is well liked by all the partisans.

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.....In general the partisans have not created trouble for the Allied authorities; there have been some incidents but these were not serious and were due to misunderstandings. The patriots in general collaborate willingly with the Allies but there is great discord between them and the Carabinieri. This is due amongst other things to the traditional Mazzinian republicanism which is widespread throughout the zone.

Owing to recent happenings in Greece, the patriots, while deprecating the fact that these disturbed the military operations of the Allies, showed themselves favourable to the Greek partisans.

The attitude of the Allies towards the partisans of Ravenna is regarded with satisfaction and the young men are grateful for the treatment accorded to them. Generally speaking there is no discontent.

I do not think that in this zone there will arise to-morrow a serious partisan problem as long as things go on in the same way as at present. It is necessary to choose with great care the Allied and Italian officers who have to deal with the partisans (especially the latter officers). This is a delicate job and it is absolutely vital to remember that these men have lived, for a long time, a life of adventure and in many cases respect for the law has been lost sight of by the very nature of the case. It is necessary to lead back the partisans to the way of law and order gradually and with tact and comprehension.

In this zone partisans enrolled in the army are very few for two reasons, mainly - the recruiting campaign was carried out badly and neglectfully (by a representative of the Italian Army); and, secondly, the partisans now enrolled do not leave their formations."

The contributor of this report added that it was his impression that the partisans were now doing their utmost to mix with soldiers of the Italian Army, inviting them to entertainments, to their Centre and so forth. A good deal of political propaganda is done by means of these contacts according to this source.

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ECONOMIC

4. Financing Reconstruction.

Avv. Eugenio Artom, Liberal and Vice-President of the C.T.L.N., who was instructed some time ago by the Committee to work out a plan for the financing of reconstruction in the region of Tuscany, has now presented his report.

Avv. Artom starts out from the assumption that in practice the State will not be able to foot the bill for war damages in toto and that in any case payments would not be made until after completion of the repairs or rebuilding involved. The intermediate financing of this work is accordingly a prime necessity in the majority of cases. Artom considers the ordinary forms of credit unsuitable and foresees the necessity of promoting legislation for establishing a system of intermediate financing analogous to what was used with success after the last war in connection with the reconstruction of Veneto. This credit, which would be secured by first mortgage and which would normally be granted for a period not exceeding five years, would place the "sinistrato" in funds to enable him to undertake repairs or reconstruction without delay (the actual money would be paid out gradually according as the work progressed). The rate of interest would be low, there would be no sinking fund provisions, and repayment would be by easy instalments.

Artom then considers the various media through which the credit could best be extended and comes to the conclusion that the Savings Bank of Florence being a non-profit institution is the most suitable organization for the purpose. He thinks that the Bank could devote from 10-15% of its deposits for this financing, a percentage not likely to constitute too great a strain on it. Moreover, the loans would chiefly be utilized for urban reconstruction and the Bank would only engage in land credit operations where it was found necessary to help out the already existing Istituto Federale di Credito Agrario, which would be granting reconstruction credit to farmers.

5. Prices.

Prices of unrationed commodities show a slight decrease following the deblocking of stocks, although they are still beyond the purse of the ordinary individual. Eggs, for instance, have dropped from 29 to 25 lire each, dried figs from 14 to 11 [illegible] and chestnut flour from 110 to 90 the kilo.

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The sale of fish, which has hitherto been subject to rationing, is now free. This is because it has been found impossible to control its distribution on account of the difficulty of conserving supplies. The electrical pressure at present available does not in fact allow of the satisfactory

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operation of the communal refrigerator.

The following prices are current on the Florence Black Market:

Food stuffs.	Lire
White flour	120 the kilo
Maize	80 " "
Salami	900 " "
Ham	1,000 " "
Olive oil	400 the litre
Beef	450 the kilo
Sugar (white)	800 " "
Sugar (brown)	650 " "
Other goods.	
Linseed oil	350 the kilo
Varnish (enamel)	700 " "
Fish Glue	800 " "
Needles	120 the packet of 20
Kerosene	130 the litre
Petrol	30 " "
Sheet brass	300 the kilo
Shoes (men's - in leather)	6,000 the pair
Sprigs for shoes	1,500 the kilo

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PUBLIC OPINION

6. Florentines beat up Fascists.

The offices of the Communist Party were the scene of an incident on February 21st in which two persons recognized as ex-squadristi were beaten up by a crowd. Nobody attempted to interfere and it looks as though this sort of reaction has been accepted as a natural consequence of official procrastination in dealing with collaborationists.

An erroneous opinion commonly voiced in Florence is that the Allied Command are purposely countenancing leniency vis-à-vis ex-Fascists, and it is a fact that persons notoriously identified with the old régime are still at large. It is thought that unless epuration is speeded up secret groups of the Klu Klux Klan type will spring up and take the law into their own hands.

7. Leaflet.

An unsigned leaflet attacking the manager of the Nazione del Popolo appeared the other day on the walls near the Nazione offices in Florence. The leaflet, which is probably the work of an "epurated" journalist, states that Piero Compagno is a pseudonym used by the "direttore responsabile" to hide his fascist past. Incidentally, the slow epuration of Florentine journalists is causing considerable discontent and it is the popular belief that the editorial staffs of the two Florentine news-sheets are composed of old and ardent fascists.

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PROPAGANDA

8. The Corriere di Lucca Affair.

The affair started with an editorial which appeared in January in the Corriere di Lucca and was brought into prominence when Avanti of February 3rd issued a "corsivo" alleging that the editorial staff of the Lucca sheet was 100% Fascist. The incident, it seems, has now been settled satisfactorily but it is thought that in view of the publicity given to it, a few words would not be out of place here describing the events leading up to the situation and the way such situation was handled.

The C.L.N. of Lucca approached this P.W.B. Unit strongly protesting against the abovementioned editorial, against the editors of the Corriere di Lucca whom they accused of being Fascists and against a P.W.B. sergeant in Lucca whom they said was arbitrarily allowing the paper to be run on lines contrary to the declared policy of P.W.B. and A.M.G. The Press Officer of this Unit went to Lucca to investigate. He saw the acting A.M.G. Provincial Commissioner who agreed that the article complained of was unsuitable for publication but backed up the P.W.B. sergeant against the C.L.N. Certain steps were adopted to prevent a repetition of the incident and the whole matter seemed to be closed until Avanti launched an attack on the grounds that the paper was Fascist-ridden. In the meantime a new Provincial Commissioner had been appointed and he invited the P.W.B. Press Officer to Lucca for a discussion of the whole business. It was found that the person who was the bete-noir of the Comitato was a certain Beccari, ex-Fascist, who was the chief editor. The Comitato also complained that they had no representative on the staff. After a thorough investigation it was decided to take the following action:-

(a) Beccari to be asked to resign. (This has been done).

(b) The present director to become administrator and a member of the Comitato, Avv. de Vita, to become "Direttore responsabile".

(c) The paper is to continue to avoid any political editorials and comment and publish only NMU news and features.

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(b) The present director to become administrator and a member of the Comitato, Avv. de Vita, to become "Direttore responsabile".

(c) The paper is to continue to avoid any political editorials and comment and publish only PWB news and features.

(d) The name of the paper is to be changed to GAZZETTA DEL SERCHIO

(e) The Comitato press commission to continue to function by holding a watching brief for the Comitato and report any deviation from the line agreed upon.

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(f) The Florence Nazione del Popolo to continue its Lucca edition to cover the Comitato point of view.

9. Press Meeting.

Points discussed at this week's Press Meeting in Florence included the distribution of fish, postal and telegraph services, blankets and the closing hours of shops. As usual A.M.G. officers were in attendance to answer questions.

The scarcity of fish was attributed to the fact that the Naval authorities in Leghorn had not yet granted permission for resumption of fishing and also to the freezing over of Lake Trasimeno. It was hoped however, to arrange for daily arrivals shortly at reasonable prices. (see also note on page 11, paragraph 5).

In connection with the closing hours for shops it was disclosed that A.M.G. had issued no particular regulations. The only limitation - and one which will lose its efficacy as the days draw out - has to do with the electric light, which may not be used in shops after 5 o'clock.

The question of blankets links up with an assertion made at last week's meeting by a Press correspondent to the effect that the Florence hospitals were being neglected. This suggestion was energetically rebutted by the Public Health Officer of A.M.G, who in reply stated that defects and deficiencies, if any, were to be attributed to lack of cooperation on the part of the hospital administration.

10. Corriere del Mattino changes hands.

An event which may have far-reaching consequences for Italian journalism took place a few days ago when the ownership of the P.W.B. Corriere del Mattino was formally transferred to the Commune of Florence. Approximately 1½ million lire, representing current profits, was handed over at the same time. To judge by an editorial in the Nazione del Popolo the change-over has been well received by the political parties represented on the C.T.L.N., whose fear was that the paper might fell into the hands of financiers who would serve up to the public whatever mental pabulum they thought fit. A glowing tribute is paid to the Press Section of P.W.B. not only for the way in which the paper has been handled but also for its bold and far-seeing

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A.M.G. officers were in attendance to answer questions.

The scarcity of fish was attributed to the fact that the Naval authorities in Leghorn had not yet granted permission for resumption of fishing and also to the freezing over of Lake Trasimeno. It was hoped however, to arrange for daily arrivals shortly at reasonable prices. (see also note on page 11, paragraph 5).

In connection with the closing hours for shops it was disclosed that A.M.G. had issued no particular regulations. The only limitation - and one which will lose its efficacy as the days draw out - has to do with the electric light, which may not be used in shops after 5 o'clock.

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4583

11. Series of broadcasts from Radio Florence.

The Allied director of Radio Florence has arranged a series of broadcasts entitled "Such was Fascism" in which the most prominent personalities in Florence will be speakers.

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The series was opened on Saturday evening 17th January when Mons. Vittorio Bartolesi was to have read a script which the Cardinal Archbishop of Florence had agreed to prepare. Unfortunately on the day of the broadcast the Cardinal sent an emissary to say that he would be unable to write the script and charged Monsignor Arturo Bonardi to do so in substitution for him. Monsignor Bonardi himself broadcast the talk which he had prepared under the title "The Church of Rome with the people and for the people". He traced the civilizing mission of the Church from the days of the Roman Empire until the present time and concluded by drawing a parallel between the democratic principles enunciated by Pope Pius XII in his recent Christmas message and the declarations made by the three great leaders at the Crimea Conference. There was no mention of Fascism throughout the talk.

12. Films.

(1) Peter the Great.

This is the third Russian film to reach Florence and it has been unanimously judged to be the worst. In Compagno P Russian propaganda reached a high level and was appreciated accordingly. In the case of Peter the Great it is generally considered that the film is technically poor and that the outside shots, in which the Russians usually excell, are particularly bad. Historical veracity has been sacrifised for propaganda purposes and in some parts the distortion has hardly deceived the ordinary movie-going ignoramus. A critique in the local Nazione del Popolo, while not so condemnatory, agrees on the main point, viz that the film is not to the liking of Florentines.

(2) Rassegna del 1944.

This United Nations documentary has produced an excellent impression and has helped considerably to convey a clear idea of the Allied war effort and of the blows inflicted on the Tripartite.

13. Patriots Day in Florence.

Patriots' and Soldiers' Day was celebrated in Florence (February 18th) with ceremonies calculated to strengthen the close ties already existent between partisans and army. General Cerica, commanding the Delegazione T, accompanied by representatives [illegible] visited the Partisan

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Avv. Arton then spoke on behalf of the C.T.L.N., and the Vice-Commandant of the Partisan Centre, Bergonzini, after thanking the authorities on behalf of the partisans, emphasized the necessity for taking up arms and uniting in one single block for a rapid liberation of the country.

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General Cerica, in addressing the partisan officers, expressed the wholehearted gratitude of the Italian people and the new democratic government for the services rendered. Later, with the authorities, he visited the premises. A distribution of gift packages was made to the partisans and to the representative group of soldiers who had been present at the ceremony, after which the Commandant of the 36th Garibaldi Brigade "Bianconcini" addressed his men, on their departure for the front, emphasizing the necessity of resuming the struggle in the Army of National Liberation.

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GENERAL

14. Gas for Florentines.

The resumption of the gas supply in Florence on February 18th* was the occasion for an exchange of compliments between A.M.G. on the one hand and the gas works staff and civic authorities on the other. It is indeed true to say that without the material assistance of the former and the good will of the latter the distribution, which even now excludes certain parts of the city, would not have been possible so soon after the liberation of the area. It has now been disclosed that through the emergency period a squad of workmen remained permanently at the works to safeguard the plant and to see to the gradual extinguishing of the retorts which otherwise would have sustained almost irreparable damage.

(*) It has since transpired that owing to unforeseen technical reasons the actual distribution has been deferred.

15. Meals for Schoolchildren.

The Giunta Provinciale Amministrativa has approved a decision of the Giunta Municipale of Florence to provide free meals for poor children in Kindergarten and elementary schools of the city. The meal will consist of a bowl of soup made from farinaceous substances or vegetables supplied by A.M.G. The estimated cost for the school-year is 1,600 thousand lire.

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APPENDIX I

CONDITIONS IN FORLI

P.W.B. of VIII Army reports as follows:-

1. Reactions to the Allies.

The situation has not recently changed much though opinion has tended to harden against the Allies. The town is still crowded with troops and the general discomfort, caused mainly by mass requisitioning of houses, has led to this anti-Allied feeling.

Furthermore, people cannot - or will not - understand why the Allies are not advancing faster. A Partisan leader expressed the following opinion on Allied troops, and it apparently reflects that of the masses: "We know, now, that you are not good fighters. We saw the German strength and equipment and, when we first saw your enormous superiority in both, we really thought that you would have liberated Italy in no time."

One of the Political Leaders alleged that if they did not fight to counteract the ill-feeling felt by the population against the Allies, anti-Allied demonstrations would break out in Forli and become a daily occurrence. This is undoubtedly a very pessimistic and biased view of the situation but one can say that bad morale does exist. Not very long ago, women demonstrated in the main square because an entire section of the town had been requisitioned by the troops.

2. Reaction to the Arrival of Italian Troops.

The arrival of Italian troops in the area has not raised any enthusiasm whatsoever among the apathetic population.

Italian soldiers who got a very good reception in Tuscany on their way to the front, strongly resent the present attitude of their compatriots.

The present Italian Army is considered the army of the King and the anti-monarchist inhabitants of Forli are all unanimous in discrediting the regular officers, whom they label Fascists.

150 Partisans have recently volunteered to reinforce the

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150 Partisans have recently volunteered to reinforce the Ravenna G.A.P. Bde, but it would seem that nobody in Forli wants to volunteer for the regular army. 4581

3. Economics.

Water and electricity (except for hospitals and other public services) are still lacking. The food situation is generally

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good but all complain of the lack of fuel. They say that there are big forests in the Appenines, 15 miles away from Forli, and people criticize A.M.G. for not being able to organise the wood supply for the province. In point of fact A.M.G. has organised the scientific cutting of timber for fuel from the PINETA di CLASSE (nr. Ravenna) which has resulted in the distribution of thousands of quintals. Furthermore, Sindacos have been made responsible for organising the fuel situation inside their own communes. It has not been possible to collect fuel from the Appenines because of the state of the roads, cratered and snow-bound, and the absence of bridges.

The few industries which could be reactivated are at a standstill. There are rumours in the town that the machinery of a big sugar refinery which used to employ 2,500 workers would be removed very soon to Cesena in order to reactivate the Cesena sugar factory. A.M.G., however, state that there is no truth in this rumour. Workers are quite worried and might create trouble if this were to happen.

4. Press.

The great news from the Eastern front has encouraged hopes that the war may soon be over - it has also created a tremendous appetite for news. In spite of the Corriere Alleato (twice a week) and regular visits from the sound trucks, people complain of the absence of a daily newspaper, - a bulletin. The absence of electric current in private houses makes it impossible for citizens to use their wireless sets.

All political parties are very active and carry on clandestine propaganda, printing their party newspapers just as they did before the liberation.

The communist paper Unità from Rome arrives regularly. It is alleged that it comes up to Rimini by railway and A.M.G. transport is used for the distribution in Cesena and Forli.

Anti-communists say that, as most of the Mayors in the province of Forli are communists, the party uses official transport for the distribution of its propaganda.

Commemoration of Gaspare Sozzi in Cesena.

On the 4th February, a ceremony took place in the cemetery

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Commemoration of Gaspare Sozzi in Cesena.

On the 4th February, a ceremony took place in the cemetery of Cesena to commemorate G. Sozzi, who was tortured and killed by the Fascists in Perugia in 1928.

All political parties were represented and, apart from the Communist Party, who displayed numerous red flags with hammer and sickles, they all obeyed A.M.G. orders. Speeches were made by various representatives.

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One of the communist leaders, in his speech, said that they had been forbidden to display posters and flags and then went on to say that they did not need permission from any police or government to commemorate their comrade. This was received by the crowd with cheers.

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APPENDIX II

NEWS FROM PIOMBINO

(Intelligence supplied by an Italian collaborator. His chief sources of information were: the Prefect of Leghorn, the Mayor of Piombino, various communal organisations, local Party leaders, the local C.L.N., and a representative cross-section of the Population.)

GENERAL FACTS.

Piombino forms part of the province of Leghorn and is one of its most important centres. It has a population of about 26,000 inhabitants including a very conspicuous body of workers, whose livelihood depends on the large industrial establishments of the ILVA and the MAGONA D'ITALIA.

POLITICAL SITUATION

The Mayor.

The Mayor of Piombino is Signor Terrosi, a man of Liberal tendencies. He belongs to the aristocracy and possesses a considerable fortune; hence he is not very acceptable to the working classes who are extremely democratic and of the left wing. He was not nominated by the C.L.N. which would have liked a working-class Mayor, but by A.M.G., which has full confidence in him, the more so because not even his enemies can accuse him of fascism or of dishonesty.

In the month of November last the C.L.N. addressed a letter to him asking him to tender his resignation pointing out to him that the bulk of the people did not like having an aristocratic Mayor. The Mayor showed the letter to the Prefect of Leghorn asking for his decision in the matter. The Prefect would not accept his resignation as he considered him to be an excellent man for the office.

When the C.L.N. was informed of this it began to show its hostility towards him. Above all it speculated upon the miserable food situation of the masses to stage demonstrations. Groups of women invaded the Municipality demanding bread and the resignation of the Sindaco. No acts of violence were committed.

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Young and thin, the appearance of the Mayor of Piombino convinces one of his gentlemanly instincts. Probably he is not highly intelligent, but he shows himself to be very precise and meticulous in the fulfilment of his functions. 4579

The Giunta Comunale or Town Council.

The Town Council consists of six political members, representing the usual parties.

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The C.L.N.

Only the Communist, Socialist and Democratic Christian parties are represented on the Committee of National Liberation. The president is the communist Pio Lucarelli.

In Piombino the situation of the various parties is very clear. 90% of the masses here, as elsewhere, is definitely apolitical and indifferent to any and all questions save that of everyday existence. The working classes are however definitely of the left, and, for the most part, communist. Piombino is a very favourable centre for the diffusion of extremist political theories, owing, above all to the wretched working conditions (unemployment) in which the great majority of the working classes are living; secondly because the region forms part of that strip of Tyrrhenian coast which comprises Massa, Leghorn and Grosseto and which might be described as one of the most traditionally red hotbeds of Italy.

According to the Mayor, the local political situation is so difficult that it will be a veritable victory for him if he can carry on until the spring without disturbances breaking out in his commune. Until the middle of last October the local situation was fairly calm; the mass of the people was suffering but, on the other hand, was not thinking of demonstrating. It was at that time that there came into the district an emissary of the Communist party of Leghorn, a certain Aramis, who easily succeeded in inciting the mass of the people, using the syndical organizations for that purpose to a certain extent. The only way to avoid eventual distrubances (which might have repercussions also in Leghorn) would be to solve the labour problem by reopening the two local establishments, the ILVA and the MAGONA.

EPURATION.

In accordance with the regulations in force regarding epuratio seven communal employees have been suspended.

Public opinion is desirous however that matters should be carried much further and that the entire communal and other administrations should be freed from fascist dross.

The Institutional Problem.

The tendency of the masses on the whole is generally republi-

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The Institutional Problem.

The tendency of the masses on the whole is generally republican. Writings accusing the King of betrayal and of connivance with Fascism can be read on the walls in the town.

There have not however been any dissensions with the Carabinieri, although this force is generally regarded with disfavour by the more riotous and turbulent elements.

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THE LABOUR SITUATION.

Piombino was essentially a metallurgical town. The two great local firms the ILVA and the MAGONA D'ITALIA, absorbed a large number of workmen. When, in consequence of war damages, the two works suspended production, about 6,000 workers found themselves suddenly out of work. The actual state of the two industries is as follows:- The ILVA could be re-adapted to resume work if it could have sufficient funds: as for the MAGONA, there is already a project for its reconstruction in another locality, at Baratti, which is also in the province of Piombino.

To obviate in some degree the present state of things, which is the cause of much preoccupation, the authorities of Piombino called meetings of farmers with the aim of arranging for the employment of a large number of metallurgical workers in agricultural work. It was found possible to arrive at an agreement, to which the Camera Confederale del Lavoro was a party, but obstacles were raised by the workers themselves who refused to devote themselves to agricultural work, declaring that they were ready to resume metallurgical work only.

The problem therefore still exists in all its tragic intensity and might lead to disagreeable consequences of a political nature. Actually the MAGONA has employed about 500 for repair work, the ILVA about 1,000 on reconstruction work, while about another 600-700 are employed by the Allied Maintenance Deports. There still remains a mass of about 3,000 persons without regular work.

Wages paid by the ILVA, the MAGONA and the Maintenance Depots average 149 lire per day per family of three (Husband, wife and one child). They are utterly insufficient to meet the high cost of living.

Almost all the workers are organized by the local Section of the Camera Confederale del Lavoro.

LOCAL CONDITIONS.

War Damages.

These have been very extensive. About 60% of the town [illegible] People left homeless number [illegible]

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LOCAL CONDITIONS.

War Damages.

These have been very extensive. About 60% of the town has been destroyed or damaged. People left homeless number about 8,000. Damaged houses which can still be rendered habitable by timely repairs comprise a total of 1,500 rooms, capable of accommodating about 3,000 persons.

4578

Mined Areas.

The number of mines still remaining is very considerable, even

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in Piombino itself. No one has attended to the removal of them. The Commune has applied unavailingly to the Italian Forces, the Allied Commands and the Leghorn Prefecture.

Water.

The drinking water is insufficient to supply the town. This is due to the fact that the communal hydraulic station is not supplied with sufficient electric power. The power is distributed daily from about 22 hours to 6 with a low voltage.

Electricity.

This is insufficient even for essential needs (mills, aqueducts, hospitals, paste factories, bakeries). A continuous transmission of 100 KW would be required as compared with the actual distribution of 200 KW distributed intermittently during the 24 hours. At present private houses are without electric current save for an hour or so a day.

Roads.

Work is going on for a summary of the town's road system which has been seriously damaged. The work is being carried out with makeshift material owing to lack of asphalt bitumen and a suitable type of small stones.

Flour Mills.

Two mills exist in Piombino, which suffice for the town. The chief one is that of the Lazzareschi brothers which can produce about 250 quintals of farinaceous products per day. Both mills at present are working at low capacity for lack of electric power.

Local Production and Food Situation.

The food situation is rather bad. It is believed that there will be sufficient wheat to last until the next harvest unless it is carried off by Leghorn. It is the same with olive oil. On the other hand, meat products are a minus quantity. Since the Liberation there have been only three distributions of tinned meat. There is also a lack of sugar and pig

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Pasta is distributed at the rate of 600 grammes a month per head and is of local production. American soup powder has been distributed once.

The salt which is issued is absolutely insufficient for the population (about 80 grammes per head a month.)

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The Commune possesses a truck which has been furnished by the UNRRA. It is sent to Southern Italy to purchase such products as are on sale without restrictions (dried fruit, etc.) Recently 142 quintals of sulphate for vine spraying were purchased at Benevento.

The Black Market is naturally very active although its prices are not excessively high. Maize flour costs 40 lire a kilo, and oil 800 lire a fiasco.

Production of Wood and Charcoal.

Wood:	
Production anticipated for 1945	Quintals 6,000
Requirements " " "	" 6,000
Total: self sufficiency.	
Vegetable charcoal:	
Local annual production	Quintals 3,000
Annual requirements	" 30,000
Deficit: Quintals 27,000	

The Commune counts at the present time on a deposit of 2,000 quintals of vegetable charcoal at Montioni. When that is exhausted the Commune will find itself in very serious embarrassment.

PROPAGANDA AND RELATIONS WITH THE ALLIES.

Newspapers.

Piombino is in a neutral zone in which neither the Lazio or Tuscany news-sheets are regularly received. Party papers have a ready circulation and are read with great interest. The mural news bulletin of the P.W.B. in Florence is affixed to the walls. Everyone is in hopes of the daily and regular arrival of some big Tuscan daily paper, such as Il Corriere del Mattino of Florence.

4577

Propaganda.

No real documentation centre or propaganda shop exists, but there are some bookshops which display propaganda material.

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Total: self sufficiency.	
Vegetable charcoal:	
Local annual production	Quintals 3,000
Annual requirements	" 30,000
Deficit: Quintals 27,000	

The Commune counts at the present time on a deposit of 2,000 quintals of vegetable charcoal at Montioni. When that is exhausted the Commune will find itself in very serious embarrassment.

PROPAGANDA AND RELATIONS WITH THE ALLIES.

Newspapers.

Piombino is in a neutral zone in which neither the Lazio or Tuscany news-sheets are regularly received. Party papers have a ready circulation and are read with great interest. The mural news bulletin of the P.W.B. in Florence is affixed to the walls. Everyone is in hopes of the daily and regular arrival of some big Tuscan daily paper, such as Il Corriere del Mattino of Florence.

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Propaganda.

No real documentation centre or propaganda shop exists, but there are some bookshops which display propaganda material. On the whole, however, Russian propaganda is more to the fore than Allied.

Relations with the Allies.

These are on the whole cordial although brawls between soldiers and rowdies occasionally take place. The local Governor has taken to the population and is liked and esteemed in return.

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ITALIAN THEATRE HEADQUARTERS
Psychological Warfare Branch
Unit N° 14. APO 512

"D" Section 16th February, 1945.

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NOTE: Throughout this report passages marked with a line at the side are for information only.

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CONFIDENTIAL N° 6.

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

"D" Section 16th February, 1945.

N° 6 INTELLIGENCE REPORT COVERING TUSCANY AND ADJOINING TERRITORY OF LIBERATED ITALY

SUMMARY

The week has been a quiet one politically. Nearly everyone's attention is focused on the progress of the Allies' campaign in Germany and hopes are high in all quarters that the end of the war will not be long delayed.

Enthusiasm continues to be shown in the enrolment of volunteers for the Army. Up to 11 February 1,500 had left for training camps. A newspaper for troops and partisans called Patria will soon be published in Florence.

Epuration is carried out with a steady rhythm and a number of denunciations have been made to the High Commissioner's office in Florence, Arezzo and the Marche.

The activity of the parties has been very limited. The Christian Democrat party held a provincial congress. A note in this report on the relations between the Communist, Socialist and Action Parties points out that in Florence it is generally believed that the collaboration between Communists and Socialists is less close here than in Rome.

The collection of oil in Tuscany is proceeding fairly well. The province of Florence is lagging behind the other Tuscan provinces in its yield to the Olieri del Popolo because most of the presses in the province are electrical and the energy to work them is lacking.

The commune of Florence has always prided itself upon the care it has bestowed on the poor and it appears to be maintaining with Allied help its high standard in this respect. This report gives an account of how public assistance functions in Florence and describes also the recreation centre for Italian soldiers who are here on leave. 4575 -

Conditions in the island of Elba are dealt with in an appendix. In the opinion of the islanders their problems all

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Conditions in the island of Elba are dealt with in an appendix. In the opinion of the islanders their problems all centre upon the revival of the Ilva iron foundry which was the main industry in Elba and gave employment to 2,000 men.

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16th February, 1945.

"D" Section

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POLITICAL

1. Relations between the Communist, Socialist and Action Parties as seen by Public Opinion in Florence.

Towards the end of January the papers announced the formation by the Socialist and Communist parties of a commission to formulate a joint statement embodying the political ideas of both parties. A P.W.B. Italian collaborator supplies the following note on the effect of this announcement in Florence.

"Comments in Florence are based on the knowledge of the effective relationship between the Communist and Socialist parties and their attitude to the Party of Action. It is known that Nenni, the head of the Socialist party, is practically a Communist. He fought with them in Spain and it is believed that he subsequently assumed the leadership of the Socialist Party on the advice, given under directions from Moscow, of the Italian Communist Party, which wishes to draw the Socialists behind it in all its political moves. In fact Nenni has impressed on Socialism an aspect which is distinctly favourable to Communism, he having desired and engineered the pact of unity of action.

It seems, however, that, although the impress given by Nenni to Socialism has been accepted passively by all Socialists of southern and central Italy, from Tuscany northwards the Socialists do not approve of it at all and are anxious to free themselves from such a servitude. Thus it happens that between Socialists and Communists in the Tuscan Committee of Liberation there has always been a certain hidden divergence of opinion, which has only been restrained out of deference to the national directives.

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This difference of opinion has been getting more and more marked recently and was accentuated by the Communist participation in a government which the Socialists consider compromised. In several Committees of National Liberation in Tuscany (for example Leghorn) a certain coldness between Communists and Socialists has been noted.

It is also to be observed that within the Socialist Party there are men who look to the creation of a central block which should unite the Party of Action to Socialism. The most representative of these men on the national plane is Saragat who

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worked in France with the Giustizia e Libertà Movement from which the Party of Action emerged. Saragat in a number of meetings and specially in his speech at Siena did not hide his sympathies for the Party of Action. The members of the Action Party say that if all the leaders of the Socialists were like Saragat the fusion of the two parties would already be an accomplished fact. Saragat is considered a veritable anti-Nenni. It appears, however, that Saragat's position is somewhat shaken. Nenni is recovering with much ability any ground he may have lost and the nomination of the commission in Rome is the proof of this."

2. Note on Communist Organization and Propaganda in Tuscany.

This note is based on conversations with the Communist leader Giuseppe Rossi and the industrialist Luigi Alemanni.

Rossi has been a Communist for many years and during the Fascist period worked for the Communist party underground. He lived abroad in France, Switzerland and Germany and made many trips to Italy on behalf of his party. He belongs to the select band of thirty or forty thousand Italians who suffered persecution at the hands of Fascism for their political convictions. In his case it was a 15 years imprisonment sentence by the Special Tribunal of which he had served 8 when he was released soon after July 25th. He, with other Communists, was for a time in the Civitavecchia gaol in charge of the ill-fated Carretta who in September last was torn to death by a Roman mob. Rossi describes Carretta as having been a most inhuman prison director who delighted in imposing special punishments such as a bread and water diet on his prisoners.

Giuseppe Rossi is still a youthful looking man but his hair has gone quite white. He gives an impression of great self-confidence and quiet efficiency. There was very little rhetoric in his talk and quite a lot of reserve.

He said that when Italian territory is liberated there is in every centre an already flourishing Communist organization. During the clandestine period the organizers were not sent to their own regions. He himself, being a Tuscan, was never sent to work in Tuscany but always carried on his propaganda activities in the North - Milan, Turin and the Veneto. At the present time he is leader of the party in Tuscany though he does not belong to the C.T.L.N. or any official organization.

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Rossi was confident that the Communists possessed an absolute majority of the workmen in Florence. He thought the party had a considerable following among the peasants in the province of Florence, more so than in Siena province where he declared the country districts were less well organized.

Luigi Alemanni is Managing Director of the Olivetti Typewriter Company in Tuscany. He is a Milanese businessman who throughout the Fascist dictatorship maintained an attitude of

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independence to politics, and who during the German occupation was in close contact with members of the C.T.L.N. by whom he is trusted. After 25th July, he was appointed a member of the Committee of the Industrial Workers Trades Union, and during the period up to 8th September when the Factory Councils were once again set up in many works he came into contact with many Communist leaders. He has maintained his acquaintance with a number of these up to the present time and claims that they discuss politics quite freely and openly with him. Some of these leaders and propagandists of the party have told him that the first requirement in their campaign to capture the workers is to divest themselves completely of their bourgeois education. Then they can go to work, and their first job as propagandists in the factory or village is to build up among the workmen a feeling of trust and comradeship for themselves. In this phase it is scarcely necessary for politics to enter in. You must find out the needs of the people and convince them that you serve those needs. Alemanni declared that the communist propagandists he had met were mostly people of outstanding personality, dedicated to their cause, many of whom had served long prison sentences under Fascism. This in itself is of great advantage to them since it sets the stamp of sincerity upon their activities. In the early stages of the propaganda campaign, said Alemanni, the communist apostles insist that inscription in the party is not enough to merit the name of communist. Until the neophytes are willing to sacrifice time and take trouble, until they mark their spiritual adhesion by some form of continuous action, they cannot be communists. Until they have reached this stage they are mere sympathizers not 'attivisti' of the party. Thus the early formation of the new party members consists of a strong personal attachment to a leader and a spirit of dedication which results in action. From this early formation the party undoubtedly draws its strong discipline and spirit of self-sacrifice. There follows a period of serious study of party politics and political tactics.

One point of great importance stressed by Alemanni is that all the party organizers are now paid quite a good salary. They are made to overcome any scruples as to this, and it is found in fact that the paid organizer who can devote his whole time to the job secures much better results than the spare-time volunteer who can only serve intermittently. In this respect the Communist party once again takes the lead over the other parties.

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Alemanni did not hide his admiration for the devotion, self-abnegation and seriousness of the party leaders whom he had met. Not being a communist himself, he deplored the fact that these good qualities would inevitably lead up to another dictatorship, for he felt that in Italy communism necessarily spells dictatorship. He was of the opinion, however, that the communists represented the most living political force in Italy to-day. Other parties like the Christian Democrat might gather many votes through the force of habit or tradition, but none had the dynamism of the Communist party.

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3. Meeting of Christian Democrats.

Christian Democrats held an all-province (Florence) meeting on February 11th. Opening the meeting the President of the Provisional Committee of Management of the Party proposed a collection in aid of the patriots in memory of Doctor Mattei (one of the leading members of the party), who died on February 10th. After the election of Avv. Piccioni to the chair the meeting discussed various matters concerning press, propaganda and relations between the central and provincial committees. A letter from the C.T.L.N. was read in which the various political parties were invited to submit nominations for local committees and in which it was suggested that local committees should appoint six members to give specific help to the CC.RR in suppressing the Black Market. The work of the Tuscan Delegation at the recent Naples Congress of the C.G.I.L. was unanimously approved. The meeting took note of the appointment of Signor Martini, President of the Provisional Committee of Management, to the post of Ambassador to Brazil. Signor Martini, who was congratulated on his appointment, then spoke on the two main problems of the moment: the one negative, namely reconstruction of the ruins and the redressing of injustice within the framework of epuration; the other positive which consisted in the re-modelling of society through the transition from the capitalistic economy of yesterday to the labour economy of tomorrow.

The new members of the Committee of the Christian Democrats held their first meeting immediately afterwards and elected Renato Branzi as Provincial Secretary of the Party and Gastone Cima as Vice-Secretary. Avv. Francesco Berti and Avv. Attilio Piccioni were re-appointed as representatives of the Party on the C.T.L.N.

4. Attitude of the Leghorn C.L.N. towards the Volunteer Campaign.

After a meeting held on February 3rd the Leghorn C.L.N. decided against the opening of a Recruiting Centre for volunteers under the auspices of the Committee. The reason given was that the C.L.N. was reluctant to assume responsibility for such a step and preferred to leave the initiative to the individual parties. During the discussion the Communists and the Christian Democrats favoured the organising of a C.L.N. Recruiting Centre but were opposed chiefly by the parties ad-

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people's will and not a creation of government. Notwithstanding this negative attitude the three parties in question declared that they would not raise objections to the enrolment of members as volunteers but that they would abstain from encouraging enrolment or imposing it on their adherents.

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ECONOMIC

5. The Plight of the State Employee.

The following letter was received by the Florentine newspaper La Nazione del Popolo from a State employee in Pistoia and was published on 8th February 1945. Because of its matter-of-fact tone and lack of exaggeration, it has been thought worth while to reproduce it in this report.

"...In order to make two ends meet I won a civil service examination. The State ensured me a minimum for leading a modest but decorous life and I took an oath to be a scrupulous functionary. Thus for many years I maintained a balance between all my duties. My employer has never been generous but by a careful use of my remuneration, without seeking luxury or entertainments and with a strict sense of economy I managed on 1st January 1940 to balance my budget.

"The war came upon me with four children all under 10 years of age, holding the highest position obtainable in my category, with my wife's dowry of 50,000 lire deposited in the bank and with a monthly salary of 2,000 lire. At the outbreak of hostilities like all State employees I realized that the war meant not only the end of economic tranquillity but also the end of moral and political sufferings.

"Italy had fallen very low on account of a regime which was the negation of state organization. I, like many of my kind, desired the defeat of the Nazi-Fascists and worked also to gain this end. In these years of torment I have endured enormous sacrifices and indescribable risks. My tenor of life and that of my family has been reduced to the lowest conceivable level, while all my reserves, including my wife's dowry, have been engulfed by the high price of purchasing essential goods. For months we have not eaten meat, eggs or milk. For years we have not bought clothes, while we have had to use the wool from our mattresses to patch up what we had. I had two changes of suits and some spare shirts and I gave these to two English officers in October 1943 to help them reach the Allied lines. I lost an overcoat and a number of other things in the bombings. In fact I am on the verge of ruin. I have to add that the ration of bread, oil and salt etc. is insufficient. Meat, for those who want it, costs 350 lire the kilo; soap 260 lire the kilo; salt 300; oil 500. Today, in January 1945, while my salary has barely doubled, the cost of life is at least twenty

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"My moral and material resources have reached the limits of their resistance. I have done my duty. The State, by failing to furnish me with the indispensible means of existence for my family and myself has failed to do its part. Hence the terms of my engagement are broken. In order to get along till to-day I have obliged all my family to live under privations because I hoped the new government would occupy itself with the problems of the state employees. From all what appears in the newspapers it seems that the new government is thinking of other trifles...and therefore, there only remains to draw the conclusions.

"For myself and for each one of my family I need the following items: daily bread ration 350 grammes; daily pasta or rice ration 100 grammes; daily milk ration 100 grammes; daily wine ration 200 grammes; two eggs per week; weekly meat ration 150 grammes; monthly oil ration 500 grammes; monthly sugar ration 500 grammes; monthly charcoal 6 kilos; monthly jam ration 500 grammes. Also two suits per annum; one overcoat every four years; two pairs of shoes per annum; two shirts and two pairs of pants per annum; 4 kilos of soap; socks, stockings, handkerchiefs, darning wool, cotton and needles for mending.

"Besides these above-mentioned consumer goods which are indispensable to any man who has to work and produce, the State should guarantee for me and for each member of my family:-

(1) Health insurance (doctor, medicines, etc.)

(2) State education for my children (exemption from scholastic taxes, free text books, etc.)

(3) A minimum of pay in money or coupons to enable me to draw on State depots or co-operatives or directly from the producers those consumer goods which are useful to a family.

"Until the State as compensation for my work is able to assure me the rations in kind of the goods above referred, it can have no right to expect from me the scrupulous observance of the rules which appertain to the status of a civil servant and of all the other State legislative dispositions which have only one effect, that of transforming my home into a centre of tuberculer infection and my office into a hotbed of corruption and speculation.

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"As from today, with the deepest regret, I shall have to adapt myself to make some sort of compromise with my conscience and to live by shifts which may be harmful to my dignity as a professional man and an employee, as I must at all costs avoid the remorse of condemning to a slow death of sacrifices and privations those creatures to whom it is a sacrosanct duty to nourish and to educate. As from to-day I shall no longer

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be a scrupulous functionary, loyal to all juridical and bureaucratic regulations.

"Will the Bonomi government, or one of its ministers, more or less a defender of the working masses, consider the problem of the employees of the State in its real terms? Does the Government realize that the solution of this problem is a condition precedent to the moral, technical and administrative reform of the Italian bureaucracy? Without carrying out this reform it is perfectly useless to try to govern when the honest custodians and executors of the law are not in a condition to make it respected."

6. Symptoms of inflation in Leghorn.

There have been repercussions in Leghorn of speeches recently made by Government spokesmen regarding the financial situation of the country. These speeches have been mostly distorted to indicate a decision by the Government to devalue the lire. Considerable alarm has been caused which has been reflected in the chase for Anglo-Saxon currency. The blue dollar, of which there seems to be a considerable quantity in circulation, is quoted at 130 Lire. The notes come from American troops disembarking at Leghorn and by the ships' crews who come ashore and buy practically everything to which they take a fancy.

7. More about Tuscan Agriculture. (Data supplied by the Regional Agricultural Inspectorate).

Olive oil surrendered to the Pools up to now amounts to 20,524 quintals contributed by the various provinces as follows:-

Arezzo	2,127	Lucca	1,357
Firenze	4,380	Pisa	2,000
Grossetto	3,960	Siena	2,728
Livorno	2,380	Pistoia	1,592

Although the largest contributor in absolute figures, Florence is, relative to the target figures, at the bottom of the list. This is chiefly due to the fact that the oil presses at present in operation are driven by electric power, the distribution of which is at a reduced pressure and subject to continual interruptions.

500 quintals of seed beans have been distributed up to now throughout Tuscany; a further quantity of beans, amounting to

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500 quintals of seed beans have been distributed up to now throughout Tuscany; a further quantity of beans, amounting to 2,600 quintals, has arrived from America together with 8,000 quintals of seed potatoes. These latter will be distributed to provinces immediately behind the line - Florence, Pistoia, Perugia and Lucca. Considerable quantities of copper sulphate for spraying the vines have also been sent from Sicily and Avellino for distribution in Tuscany and it is hoped to receive by March a good part of the 80,000 quintals of this mineral which has been earmarked for Italy by the Allies.

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PROPAGANDA

8. Publications.

The number of copies of VICTORY sold recently has greatly diminished. In December 5,940 were sold, while in January the number was 1,740. The reason for this drop is that no new numbers have arrived and sales were restricted to issues with which the public was already familiar.

The monthly IL MESE is selling well and sales of the collection of the first six months of this publication entitled SEI MESI are considered excellent. N° 7 of IL MESE is still in demand having been sold out no less than three times.

The public has received very favourably all publications and the Centro di Documentazione *is always very much frequented. There is always a crowd in front of the map of Europe which shows the Allied advances.

There have been many requests for such English publications as LA PROVA DEL FUOCO, GUERRA NELLE FABBRICHE and EDUCAZIONE ALLA MORTE, which were sold out soon after they arrived. Some English and American newspapers would be very popular as well as scientific publications in English and translations of the latest American and English literature.

For some days past the Centro di Documentazione has been furnishing to the schools specially mounted photographs of an instructive character illustrating various aspects of life in U.S.A. (*in Florence)

9. Florentine Reactions to the British Film "In which we Serve".

This has been one of the most successful propaganda films and has made an excellent impression on Florentines both on account of its excellent technical qualities and its splendid photography, especially of exteriors. Indeed the entire work constituted something completely original in its kind. The film, although impermeated with the abiding and tragic actuality of the war, was able to manifest in certain parts the most delicate sentiment which profoundly touched the audiences.

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One objection was that the film was almost more the story of the ship's captain than of the ship, in view of the somewhat egocentric performance of Noel Coward; and another was that the general impact of the film was such as to make the final commentary unnecessary, especially as no country knows better than Italy what an effort has been made by the British fleet and what a contribution to the victory of the United Nations this effort has been.

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GENERAL

10. Visit to the Casa del Soldato: 11.2.45.

About two months ago there was started at N° 17 Via della Vigna Nuova in the premises of a former club the Casa del Soldato or Italian Soldiers' Recreation Centre. The initiative was a private one to begin with, and the place is still run by three or four ladies of the top layer of Florentine society, but funds are now received from the State.

The Casa del Soldato is open to all Italian soldiers and partisans stationed in or near Florence or here on leave. There is a large ballroom with bar attached, a billiard room and two or three sitting-rooms. The place is open from about 4.30-8.30 in the evenings, and on Sundays and Thursdays there is dancing. When visited by a P.W.B. officer on a Sunday evening there was a lively dance going on in the ballroom decorated with mural paintings and gay with paper streamers. Couples were as thick on the floor as in a West End of London nightclub. The atmosphere of the place was very friendly and good-natured. There seemed plenty of good humour but no drunkeness. The girls are said to be relations and friends rather than prostitutes. There seemed to be a fair variety of drinks at the bar and in addition sandwiches and cakes were being served at a reasonable price. In the adjoining billiard-room a small group of men was absorbed in a strange game which was being played with no less than six balls but without cues.

One of the lady helpers informed the P.W.B. officer that the place was always well-attended, especially on dance-nights. On this occasion there must have been 300 to 400 people there. One of those present was General Nannei who commands one of the Italian supply divisions. He spoke in a friendly way to a number of soldiers and partisans. He told the P.W.B. officer that there was a large billet for soldiers of the Italian Army on leave in Florence and a hotel for officers. There were other recreation centres in various towns such as Leghorn, Prato and Borgo San Lorenzo, and these catered for the soldiers in their vicinity. As regards entertainment he

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One of the most interesting features of the Casa del Soldato was the sight of soldiers and partisans rubbing shoulders in a spirit of friendship. From all accounts their relations with each other were not so good to begin with, but are daily becoming better.

11. The Public Assistance Board of Florence.

The Public Assistance Board for the Commune of Florence prides itself on its ancient origin, as it is a direct continuation of the Congregation of Charity, which was founded in the year 1700 by Grand Duke Cosimo III. Today it functions

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on a far vaster scale, on account of the widespread poverty caused by the war.

The Public Assistance Board for the Commune of Florence (Ente Comunale Assistenza - "E.C.A.") has two aims: assisting the poor in general and relieving distress caused by the war.

For this purpose the territory of the Commune of Florence has been divided into 22 zones, in each of which a section of the Public Assistance Board has been started. This enables the Board to give widespread assistance to needy people. It does not oblige the individual to go a long distance to receive aid and facilitates immediate contacts with the Board which are often sympathetic, personal and of great advantage to the beneficiaries. Each section has a Committee of five members, two of whom are chosen by the Town Council, one by His Excellency the Cardinal Archbishop, one by the Command of the CC.RR, while the fifth is the visiting doctor for the District.

The so-called Economic Kitchens undertake daily distribution to four refectories or other chosen localities of about 5,500 hot soups, and also cater for the needs of the various institutions of the Public Assistance Board, such as the Public Dormitory and the refreshment centre for women and children.

More than 6,000 war refugee families which have drifted to Florence and more than 6,500 families belonging to Florence, 43,000 mouths in all, are in receipt of relief. Refugees from abroad, people who have been deprived of their livelihood through enemy action, families of internees and prisoners of war and numerous other distressed persons must be added to this figure, giving a grand total of approximately 70,000.

From last September to the end of December total relief amounted to over 34 million lire.

Interview with Dr. Luigi Rondino, Director of E.C.A.

Dr. Rondino has been doing public assistance work for 33 years, first in the Congregazione di Carità del Comune di Firenze - the public assistance committee of the Commune - and then in the organization which succeeded it - the Ente Comunale

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As regards the workmen, they, according to Dr. Rondino, were earning moderately well. The difficulty of finding servants and ordinary labour in Florence was acute at the present

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time and this was an indication that there was no great distress among the working class. The reasons for this scarcity of available labour was that in the present state of general uneasiness people were unwilling to take fixed employment at a low wage when quick money could be earned without trouble on the Black Market.

There were also many work-people who were engaged in a comparatively honest form of marketing activity - that of going into the country on a bicycle or in a cart and returning into town with foodstuffs to be sold at a profit.

However, Dr. Rondino asserted that he found there was not much will among the population to do solid work; the tendency was to make money by easy, if illegal, means.

In general, he said, although judged by normal standards there was a good deal of hardship and mal-nutrition, there were no cases of people actually dying of hunger. The situation in Florence would, however, be greatly eased if the refugees who had greatly swollen the population of the town could be returned to their homes.

12. The Refugee Centre at Via della Scala, Florence.

An Italian P.W.B. collaborator writes the following account of a visit to the Refugee Centre in Via della Scala in Florence.

"There are about 2,850 persons at the Refugee Centre at the moment, divided into the following categories:-

(a) Bombed-out Florentines

(b) Refugees from the battle area

(c) Refugees from the South who owing to war conditions find themselves north of their homes.

(d) A small percentage of foreigners

(e) Ex-partisans from Southern Italy who wish to

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(e) Ex-partisans from Southern Italy who wish to return to their homes.

Besides being housed the refugees are given food, money and clothing allowances.

1°. Money allowance.

This is provided by the Ente Comunale di Assistenza and is distributed as follows:-

Head of the family.....L.16 a day
Other members.....L.6 " "

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2°. Food allowance.

The daily food allowance consists of:-

Bread..... 300 grammes
Sweetened milk..... 1/5 of a litre
Soup..... 2 litres

Once a week in place of the double ration of soup, meat and vegetables are provided and once a fortnight corned beef.

Now and again there is a special distribution of soap and sugar (the last one took place on February 5th and consisted of 500 grammes of sugar and 200 grammes of soap).

All foodstuffs are provided by A.M.G.

In addition the bombed-out Florentines receive from the E.C.A. food coupons which they are allowed to exchange at certain shops and rationed goods direct from the food distributing centres.

3°. Clothing allowance.

The Centre is provided by the British Red Cross with a dressmaker and 19 assistants (with 19 sewing machines) who make clothes for the refugees. Clothes, provided by various organizations, are also distributed.

Registration Office.

Refugees on arrival are registered and given a numbered card which authorizes them to draw rations and are disinfected with D.D.T. They are interrogated by members of the Allied (C.I.C.) and Italian (S.I.M.) police.

Dormitories.

There are four large dormitories besides a few smaller ones. Each refugee is given three blankets, a paillasse, and almost all of them have camp beds. The bombed-out Florentines have the best rooms furnished with their salvaged belongings.

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The Kitchens.

Cooking is done on petrol gas. There is an acute shortage of cutlery etc. and the refugees are obliged to supply what they can.

Schools.

There is an elementary school divided into two classes, one open the morning from 9-12 and the other the afternoon from 2-7. There are two teachers and each class has about 40 pupils

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Kindergarten and creches.

Babies under six years of age are looked after by three sisters and three nurses in the creche or the kindergarten, from 8 till 4 in the afternoon. Again, according to their age, they receive a special ration of semoline, rice, egg powder, potatoes, sugar. The British Red Cross, which has representatives in the Centre, distributes chocolate, dried figs and sweets.

First Aid: Infirmary

Three doctors, five Red Cross workers and three assistants work in the Centre.

The First Aid Post is under the direct supervision of a doctor. Here injections etc. are administered. All the medical supplies, as also beds, are provided by the Allied Commission.

In the Infirmary there are 50 beds. The mattresses, blankets and sheets are supplied by A.M.G., and the nightgowns for men and women by the British Red Cross.

The patients, particularly the maternity cases receive special food. Those who are on a milk diet receive:-

Milk.....1 Litre
Sugar.....15 Grammes
Biscuits

There is also an isolation ward.

The percentage of illnesses is very low, the only serious outbreak being 10 cases of diptheria since last August (when the Centre opened). Cases of scabies are more numerous.

Laundry.

A laundry using modern appliances has been opened within the last few days.

Cinema-Theatre.

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Cinema-Theatre.

Symphony concerts and many plays have been produced in the little cinema-theatre by the refugees, directed by a technician. One film only has been shown but, beginning this week, two or three films weekly will be supplied by P.W.B.

Barber's Shop.

This is still under construction but will be finished next week. Three hairdressers and three barbers will give free service to the refugees.

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Rest room and bar.

A rest room, where the refugees can meet, read, talk etc. is provided with a radio and a small bar. The first weekly number of the Centre's paper entitled Il Profugo has just been published.

Baths: Disinfection and De-lousing.

Three times a week the refugees have the right to a bath.

On leaving the Centre all clothing etc. issued to the Refugees are withdrawn and deloused and disinfected.

Church.

The Chapel of the Centre is administered by a Chaplain who also deals with all funerals (the coffins are made by the carpenters at the Centre). He has also organized a band of Boy Scouts (Giovani Esploratori).

General Services.

(a) Labour

The various jobs in the Centre are for the most part done by the refugees themselves who are engaged by a Section of the Civil Labour Office. They receive identical treatment as other workers in their category and sometimes are employed on outside work.

(b) Postal facilities

A small postal service has been set up which covers liberated territory south of the Arno. The Allied authorities have an office to deal with requests for information regarding relations etc. in other liberated territory

(c) Control of Refugees.

Guard duties and control of refugees are carried out by [illegible] Carabinieri commanded by a Warrant Officer and a N.C.O.

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(d) Repatriation

Refugees from the south are sent to the camp at Castiglione Fiorentino by military transport and from there by rail to their homes.

An Internal Commission has been set up in order to assist the Allied and Italian authorities in the management of the Centre.

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13. Illicit Dealings in Allied Goods in Leghorn (The following note is by an Italian collaborator who obtained the information from casual sources).

Leghorn is at present considered to be the chief centre for illicit dealings in Allied commodities. Life, however, is somewhat precarious for operators in this field owing to the increase in the number of police. House-to-house searches are the order of the day and brutal treatment is often meted out to persons caught redhanded, who are quite often beaten unmercifully, their stocks confiscated and they themselves brought before the Allied courts. The reports sent to the courts often understate the quantity of goods confiscated, especially if they happen to be cigarettes, the difference having been appropriated by the police. This suits the smugglers as the sentence they receive is usually fixed according to the quantity of goods confiscated. It often happens that Allied provisions are put into illicit circulation with the connivance of Allied troops, especially American negroes, who have been known to sell whole truck-loads and then notify the police so that the goods could be recovered.

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ERRATA

Summary, para 5.

For "Olieri del Popolo" read "Oleari del Popolo".

Page 2, para 2, sub-para 4:

Giuseppe Rossi is a member of the C.T.L.N., although he seldom attends meetings.

Page 11:

The name of the Director of the E.C.A. is Rondoni not Rondino.

CONFIDENTIAL I N°. 6

APPENDIX

CONDITIONS IN THE ISLAND OF ELBA.

The following report on conditions in the Island of Elba was made by an Italian collaborator of P.W.B. It refers particularly to conditions in Portoferraio, the main centre of the island. When reference is made to the whole island, it will be so expressly stated. The report is based on Italian sources of information only and in particular on the personal observation of the writer as well as interviews with the following:- the Prefect of Leghorn, the Mayor of Portoferraio and the Secretary of the Commune, the head of the Ufficio Tecnico of Portoferraio, municipal assessors, doctors and carabinieri of Portoferraio; representatives of the parties and the C.L.N. of the same place and various people of all classes.

I. General Information.

The island of Elba depends on the province of Leghorn. Administratively it is divided into eight communes: Portoferraio, Rio Elba, Rio Alta, Marciano Marina, Marciano Alta, Longone, Capolivieri, Campo. All told it has a population of about 35,000 inhabitants. The commune of Portoferraio numbers 13,000 to 14,000.

Before Fascism the island constituted a sub-prefecture. This was considered a very good thing in view of the distance of the island from the centre of the province. Actually the need for a restoration to that state is more than ever noticeable as communications have become so slow and difficult. It seems that the matter has already been studied at Leghorn and the Prefect is not unfavourable to the idea. At present various detached sections of the provincial offices- SIPRAL, civil engineering etc- have been set up in the island.

II. POLITICAL INFORMATION

The Sindaco.

The Mayor of Portoferraio is Dr. Alessandro Bellini, surgeon ex-president of the C.L.N. nominated by A.M.G. to replace Avv. Mario Colivicchi. Even elements of the left who were least pleased by the substitution recognize in Dr. Bellini a man of great intregrity. They remember, however, that he fought in the Spanish war, not, it must be said, as a volunteer and in any case no-one can accuse him of Fascism. He is criticized for being

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Before Fascism the island constituted a sub-prefecture. This was considered a very good thing in view of the distance of the island from the centre of the province. Actually the need for a restoration to that state is more than ever noticeable as communications have become so slow and difficult. It seems that the matter has already been studied at Leghorn and the Prefect is not unfavourable to the idea. At present various detached sections of the provincial offices- GENIO CIVILE, civil engineering etc- have been set up in the island.

II. POLITICAL INFORMATION

The Sindaco.

The Mayor of Portoferraio is Dr. Alessandro Bellini, surgeon ex-president of the C.L.N. nominated by A.M.G. to replace Avv. Mario Colivicchi. Even elements of the left who were least pleased by the substitution recognize in Dr. Bellini a man of great intregrity. They remember, however, that he fought in the Spanish war, not, it must be said, as a volunteer and in any case no-one can accuse him of Fascism. He is criticized for being too much absorbed in his profession, whence it is not possible for him to dedicate himself entirely to the administration of the Commune. The population, moreover, make of him a scapegoat for the miserable food situation of the island.

The Giunta Comunale, the C.L.N.

The C.L.N. was constituted in Portoferraio not long before the Liberation. There are Communist, Socialist, Christien Democrat and Liberal representatives. It immediately took contact with the Allied authorities and named as Mayor Avv. Mario Colivicchi, one of the foremost political personalities of the island. The mayor Colivicchi drew from the Committee (which remained under the presidency of Dr. Bellini) the members of the Giunta Comunale. This was composed of a large number of people (about 14) who represented, in some cases, very extreme tendencies which were looked at askance by A.M.G. in Portoferraio. At a certain time

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A.M.G. relieved the Mayor of his position and named Dr. Bellini, a man of right wing views in his place. The new mayor named in accordance with a prefectorial decree a new Giunta Comunale after dissolving the previous one. The new Giunta, which is now in office, has no political colour; it is simply a group of technicians composed of six members. This has naturally not been very pleasing to political circles in Portoferraio who ask that the four parties of the town should be represented on the Giunta. The decision has been referred to the Prefect for a fresh decree. The President of the Committee of Liberation at present is Signor Martini, a communist who is both moderate and tactful. He himself recognized that there were in the old Giunta extreme elements which gave little assurance of effective collaboration.

The Political Parties.

There are no other parties in Portoferraio apart from Communists, Socialists, Christian Democrats and Liberals. The Committee of National Liberation believes that these parties are able to represent with complete sincerity all the most disparate tendencies. It sees no need for the Party of Action in which no coherence of views is recognized. The number of inscribed members of the party is very small. According to the Mayor they amount to

Communists	170
Demo-Christians	170
Liberals	70
Socialists	30

The reason for these low figures according to the Mayor is to be found in the fact that there are in the locality 5,000 families of prosperous peasants who are not in the least interested in politics. The party representatives maintain on the other hand that at the back of them, quite apart from the number of those officially inscribed, there is the whole population of the island united and solid on all trade-union questions.

Union with France.

For two years there has been talk in the island of union with France. It is clear that the idea is not too displeasing to the masses, firstly, because of the novelty of the thing and secondly, because the island feels itself very much abandoned by the Italian Government. The left-wing elements would not dislike union with what they consider the greatest potential bolshevik power of the west. When the French landings took place, these opinions became more concrete. Meanwhile, however, a change has taken place in public opinion owing to the un-heard-of violence and oppression carried out by the coloured troops (Algerians, Moroccans and Senegalese). People were so disgusted with the behaviour of the French troops that real liberation was regarded [illegible]

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The Monarchy.

Various writings on the walls of Portoferraio concern the Monarchy as the supporter of Fascism. On the whole the masses do not identify themselves with the various republican tendencies. They are disinterested in the general politics of the nation being too absorbed in the sorry state of their own affairs.

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The Government Crisis.

The last government crisis was not fully understood, among other things because of lack of details; the island often remains for whole weeks completely without news. However, the ties which bind the Communists and Socialists together are considered to be very strong and it is considered locally a good thing for the parties to merge.

Votes for Women.

The Communists and Socialists do not regard with favour the concession of votes to women. They consider that such a concession would mean the triumph of Christian-Democrats since the votes of the women will mean the vote of the clergy.

Epuration.

The Commune received the circular and the regulations regarding epuration of local administrations. There were in the neighbourhood various squadristi, sciarpa littorio, antemarcia etc. who were suspended from office; but most of these people fled before the Liberation. The Mayor has, however, asked the Prefect to be allowed to retain, temporarily in office some of the less ardent fascists for whom substitutes cannot be found (such as the Head of the Technical office of the Commune) and to this the Prefect has agreed.

III. ECONOMIC INFORMATION.

The Problems of Labour.

The workers of the island number about 4,000 of which half are in the Commune of Portoferraio. Of these not more than 300 are inscribed in the trades-unions.

The Problem of ILVA

The whole future of the island of Elba is to-day gravely compromised and this is the great problem which has to be resolved. There exists at Portoferraio an ILVA foundry which worked the iron extracted from the local mines. This foundry is the most ancient of its type in Italy having been begun in 1900 and having started production a few years later. For about 40 years it has represented the sole source of wealth of the island, which is extremely poor in all kinds of husbandry. Two thousand workmen were employed there counting those who worked in the iron mines at Rio Marina. Connected with ILVA was a cement works which produced a form of cement as a by-product of the ore.

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German and Allied bombardments have reduced the entire industrial plant to the worst possible condition and it would need an enormous expenditure to reactivate the works. The technical experts have shown that the restoration of the blast furnaces of the cement works could be achieved in a relatively short time, but the kernel of the problem is that the directors of ILVA are not disposed to employ the necessary funds at Portoferraio. The reason for this is that for years the Elban industry produced a deficit and it was only kept up by the Fascist Government for political and social reasons. For some time they have been waiting in Elba for the visit of the Commissioner Extraordinary for ILVA in the liberated region, who after an investigation will have to decide whether it is opportune to re-open the works at Portoferraio or definitely to close them. All this has put the population of the island into

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a state of great alarm which is voiced by a number of the local paper called ELBA, dedicated completely to the question of the blast furnaces. It points out that if the industry is not set to work again the lot of 35,000 persons, the whole population of the island, would be gravely affected. Everyone directly or indirectly depended on the industry. There is not in the island any small industry or trade which is not somehow connected with ILVA. There was no family which did not derive some benefit therefrom. If ILVA were not to reopen tens of thousands of people would have to emigrate or face the blackest misery, and emigration for those of an island mentality, tightly bound to their own soil, is the most tragic prospect which can be imagined.

All the island authorities are giving themselves great pains in the hope of influencing the decision of the Commissioner Extraordinary. There have been resolutions upon resolutions, all of the most supplicatory kind. The C.L.N. in an Order of the Day points out the indigent state of the Elban population and requests that ILVA should start work again. The local Federated Chamber of Labour addressed a message to the Commissioner stating that the resuscitation of the works at Portoferraio is the only hope for a return to normal life throughout the island. The Mayor of Porto-Ferraio has declared through the press that all the workshops of the island are prepared for the most arduous work and for the hardest sacrifices if only ILVA is reopened. Meanwhile, by means of a popular subscription the four political parties of Portoferraio have collected the funds to send their representatives to Rome in order to plead the common cause. In Rome the four representatives and a further one from the Camera Confederale del Lavoro had a number of talks with the executives of their parties and with the Commissioner Extraordinary of ILVA. Nenni and Togliatti pledged themselves to do their utmost to get the foundry going again and meanwhile have sent messages to the Elban workers counselling calm. The Commissioner, however, is believed to be under the impression that the Allies do not desire to reactivate heavy industry in Italy and in consequence he has promised to start up the cement works only, showing himself somewhat averse to the re-opening of the blast furnaces.

Hitherto things have remained in suspense, but the local authorities are convinced that the attitude of the working masses which is now merely suppliant will change as soon as they realize that there is no hope of a peaceful solution of the question. It is certain that unless ILVA is restarted there will be strikes and tumults and even resolutions asking for annexation by France.

At the present time in Portoferraio there are about 1,000 unemployed out of 13,000 inhabitants. They are allocated to various jobs which they take on by weekly or fortnightly shifts-repair of the Palazzo Municipale, the hospital etc. About 110 persons are working fortnightly shifts on the blast furnaces to repair the plant

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Workers wages are kept very low - they start at 50 lire per day and go up to 100. the average is about 80. It is, however, true that the price of the few rationed goods is kept lower than normal. Up to January 31st the price of the bread and flour was 3 lire the kilo instead of the political price of 5 lire the kilo which is in force throughout liberated Italy. Obviously such wages are insufficient even for the lowest standard fo life and this leads the mass of workers to indulge in all manner of trafficking.

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The Food Situation.

The food situation represents another serious problem of the island and particularly of Portoferraio which is the largest urban centre. Production in the island is extremely scanty. The grain produced round Portoferraio is insufficient to yield 500 people's rations for a year. The situation of the other seven communes of the island is about the same. Thus most of the grain has to be imported from beyond the province of Leghorn which itself has a small production.

The one rich product of the island is wine of which a good quality (aleatico) is obtainable. In normal times the island's harvest yielded 70-80,000 quintals while the maximum consumption did not exceed 20,000. This year, owing to the lack of sulphate, production was markedly inferior at about 40,000 quintals. In any case there is still a considerable amount for export, which is carried out by permission of A.M.G. on the authorization of the Committee of Mayors of the island. This is necessary so as to fix the terms of exchange in order to get other supplies from richer provinces.

Olive oil production is almost negligible. At Portoferraio there is not much equipment for fishing. Portolongone is better off in this respect. Here the so-called blue fish (sardines, anchovies) are caught in considerable quantities. The proper fishing season begins in a months time. The major obstacle to fishing was the prohibition to going out at night; some time ago, however, the Allied authorities most opportunely began to grant individual permits for night fishing which has brought some measure of relief to the food situation. At the present time fish is sold on the Black Market at prices almost greater than those obtaining in Florence (over 200 lire the kilo).

In view of the poverty of the island the islanders are constrained to go periodically to the Mainland and to scour the countryside in search of flour and other goods. This is forbidden and the customs authorities search the boats which transport passengers and wares from Piombino to Elba. This measure only serves to increase prices. A kind of grey flour costs 160 lire and white flour more than 200 lire. A cigarette costs 8 lires or 160 lire for a packet of 20. All this produces great discontent. The population of the island hopes that the Allies or the Italian government will allievate its sad condition. It is a sorry spectacle to see the boys of the island picking up the grains of corn which fall at the unloading of the ships or begging a crust of bread from the few Allied or Italian seamen. It is thought among many people on the island that the authorities ought to introduce a system of sepcial rationing in view of these miserable conditions and augment the bread ration from 200 to 300 grammes per day. This would give great relief and contribute to keep calm the sorely tried population.

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IV. LOCAL PROBLEMS.

War Damages.

As to the number of houses damaged by the war the Technical Office of the Comma[illegible] furnishes the following figures for Portoferraio.

a) Houses completely destroyed - 305 families affected: 1925 persons.

b) Damaged houses - 449 families affected. 1672 persons.

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The Technical Office has started the work of minor repairs some time ago. The chief worry is lack of roofing materials. Up to now these repairs have been carried out with materials from houses irreparably damaged, the Commune having salvaged this and made it available to those who need it a reasonable price.

The problem of housing people in Portoferraio has been entrusted to the Commissariat of Housing. An ordinance of the Mayor, dated 21st September 1944 orders the requisitiong of unlet or unirhabited apartments for the use of the homeless. Following this order, the relevant office requisitions certain premises and at the same time assigns them to those people who, being homeless, have made an application for lodgings in the proper way. About 7200 persons have been housed in Portoferraio between town and country people. Premises have to be found for another 800 or so.

Drinking Water.

There are two acqueducts on the island, that of Monte Capanne and that of Val di Lazzera. Since the earliest bombardments the population has been without water. In May 1944 the whole area of Portoferraio was declared a prohibited zone closed to civilians for military reasons - and the problem ceased to exist. It had to be faced in full after the liberation, but by early September 1944 drinking water for the population of Portoferraio had already been assured.

Electricity

At the time of the liberation it was found that all the electrical lines in the city were damaged; the Power Station hit by bombs; the lines in the country, in a large measure, removed. From May 1944 on there had been pratically no electricity in Portoferraio. Immediately after the liberation steps were taken to recover electrical material to repair the lines and the Power Station. Electric current was restored about the same timenas water (end of August 1944) but a reduced current was available from July. To-day there is full measure of electricity even in private houses. The only limitation that might be imposed would be in order to reduce consumption of fuel, since the Power Station works on charcoal and coke. Before the war current was taken from the ILVA works: now the Commune of Portoferraio grants some of its electric power to ILVA.

Communications.

The island is crossed by roads, whether provincial, communal or of the kind called vicinali, which are country roads owned in common (consorziali) or by estates (padronali). In the town there are certain asphalted stretches; the others are metalled. Bombings reduce the roads to a disastrous state. Immediately after the liberation the Ufficio Tecnico of the Commune took on gangs of workmen who began at once to repair the pot-holes. In the other Communes there was less damage, though some was sustained round about [illegible]. To-day generally

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The Port.

The port at Portoferraio is completely broken up, the Germans

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having blown up the dockyards with mines. There is also extensive damage at Campo di Marina where the landings took place. So far repairs have not been carried out and maritime traffic is only possible for ships of low tonnage (50-60 tons).

The ferry service between Piombino and Portoferraio is carried on by means of small sailing vessels which often have a combustion engine.

V. PUBLIC WELFARE.

The Public Hospital.

At Portoferraio there is a Communal hospital which at one time was well equipped and extended its activities throughout the island. It was much damaged in the first German bombardment of Portoferraio in September 1943 and had to be transferred twice to other localities. Now it has been repaired by the Commune at the cost of about half a million lire. Professor Antonio Spinelli of Florence directs it. The hospital at the present time lacks almost everything to make it run properly. The articles most urgently required are: Surgeons smocks; 50 pairs of surgical rubber gloves; 25 pairs of surgival cloth gloves; 12 surgical knives; 1000 metal stitches; 6 anatomical and 6 surgical pincers; 50 litres of pure alcohol; packets of absorbent gauze; 100 kilos of absorbent cotton-wool. The X-ray equipment is awaiting repair by a technician who should arrive from Florence. There are no plates for taking X-ray photographs. The medicinals most urgently required are anti-scabies ointment and soap for laundry and operating theatre. Bedding is also needed. The ambulance of the Commune of Portoferraio was destroyed in the bombardment.

Health Conditions.

There is a violent epidemic of scabies on the island which the doctors attribute to the complete lack of soap. About 30% of the population is affected by this or more than 10,000 cases. Anti-scabies ointment is altogether lacking.

Activities of the Public Assistance Authority.

The Ente Comunale di Assistenza is very active. It has had enormous contributions from A.M.G. to the extent of 600,000 lire a month, from the month of September to the month of December, since when the contributions have ceased and Portoferraio has turned for help to Leghorn. Public assistance is carried on by means of daily grants as follows:-

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a) 4 lire per day to the ordinary poor.

b) 4 lire per day to the refugees and victims of political persecution.

c) 4 lire per day as an advance of unemployment benefit which those who will eventually receive this benefit undertake to repay to the Public Assistance Authority.

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VI. PROPAGANDA.

Propaganda Media.

The only newspaper at present is called ELBA and it is only published from time to time when the paper ration permits. It is a journal of information authorized by P.W.B. and is edited by

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Dr. Michele Villoni who is a liberal. The few numbers that have appeared are small sheets moderately well produced which deal principally with local conditions. The circulation is small, only 2000 to 2500 copies. Other papers only reach the island rarely and are always very late . It was hoped that the Leghorn paper IL TIRRENO would be sent to Elba, but as yet it has not arrived there. The result is that the islanders are quite out of touch with political life especially since wireless broadcasts are not very clearly received. Some information posters are displayed in the island, coming from P.W.B. Florence. The reaction to these is very favourable .

There is only one cinema in Portoferraio which exhibits old American films. These appear, however, still to satisfy the population.

There is no propaganda shop in the island. The P.W.B. representative who made this report took with him to the island a small amount of propaganda literature from Florence which proved very popular, particularly in the Italo-American ABC.

Relations with the Allies.

There are few Allied troops on the island and their contacts with the population are very rare. After suffering great violence at the hands of the French colonial troops, the population finds Allied military government extremely agreeable.

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HQ A.C.
SECURITY DIVISION,
PUBLIC SAFETY SUB-COM

(4)

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

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

9th February, 1945

"D" Section

No. 5 INTELLIGENCE REPORT COVERING TUSCANY AND ADJOINING TERRITORY OF LIBERATED ITALY.

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Unit No. 14.

9th February, 1945

"D" Section

No. 5 INTELLIGENCE REPORT COVERING TUSCANY AND ADJOINING TERRITORY OF LIBERATED ITALY.

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NOTE: Throughout this report passages marked with a line at the side are secret and are for information only.

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No. 5.

CONFIDENTIAL

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

9th February, 1945.

"D" Section

No. 5 INTELLIGENCE REPORT COVERING TUSCANY AND ADJOINING TERRITORY OF LIBERATED ITALY

SUMMARY

Disclosures linking this area with the Unione Proletaria affair have been made by an "emissary" of Salvarezza. Although somewhat in the nature of an anticlimax, they at least show that Salvarezza's pseudo-political activities were not mere moonshine.

The vicissitudes of the military campaign having virtually isolated Tuscany from the rest of liberated Italy, the views of one of the most promising politicians of this region cannot fail to arouse interest. The person in question, who is the President of the Tuscan Committee of National Liberation, possesses considerable political acumen and his sympathetic allusions to the Christian Democrats, coming as they do from a member of the Action Party, are significant.

The political situation in forward areas in the Adriatic sector is summarised in a report from PWB, 8th Army. The broad conclusion which emerges from these notes is that the political behaviour of the inhabitans of newly liberated areas more or less follows the usual pattern, viz, real unity among the parties in the very forward areas with attempted domination of the local Committees of Liberation by the communists; a mere semblance of unity in the rear of these districts; and pronounced apathy, at least among the general public, in the back areas.

Although the picture of the agricultural situation in Tuscany, as seen from a report just issued by the Regional [illegible] has nothing alarming about it,

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Although the picture of the agricultural situation in Tuscany, as seen from a report just issued by the Regional Agricultural Inspectorate, has nothing alarming about it, there is undoubtedly considerable room for improvement. The contract of mezzadria, for instance, which is the chief form of farm tenure in Tuscany, would seem to be in need of overhauling in the light of present circumstances. Re-population of the herds is another problem awaiting solution, although much has already been done to alleviate the situation; and, of course, there are the inevitable transport difficulties.

Other items of interest in this Report include a note regarding the employment of partisans on WD work; public reactions to the Russian advance; the situation of partisans in the Viareggio area; and the latest news from the Valdarno.

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POLITICAL

1. Conversation with Avv. Ragghianti, President of C.T.L.N. 29/1

In a long talk with P.W.B. officers the President of the Tuscan Committee of Liberation, who is a member of the Action Party, summarized his views of the political future of his country and its immediate needs. Ragghianti is a youthful looking man (his age is 36) of studious aspect. He talks forcibly, with great conviction and practical sense. One gets the impression of an acute mind, well filled with learning, yet not deprived of a realisation of urgent realities. Some references to political competitors and public figures, leaders of other parties, the Prefect of Florence, the Pope, showed him to possess a certain degree of intellectual tolerance.

The central theme of Ragghianti's political considerations, to which he kept returning repeatedly, was the need to create in Italy a balanced political situation which would assure the safeguarding of this country as a factor in the preservation of the Western man. Italy's part in post-war Europe was likely to be one of great importance since it was in this country that the Eastern currents of thought and practice, filtering through the Balkans, were met by a decisively Western civilization. There were, however, in Italy strong revolutionary forces which if they got the upper hand would inevitably link up with Russian communism. Throughout this conversation the President of the C.T.L.N. showed himself strongly anti-marxist and at the same time very much alive to the possibility of communism seizing power in Italy. Ragghianti regarded with suspicion the democratic profession of faith of certain communist leaders. He claimed most positively that many of these leaders were certainly men of revolutionary temperament and declared that in the north it would be found that

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occupation of Germany by the Western Allies, recalling the extraordinary difficulties which were met with after the last war by the occupying powers in keeping their troops abroad. He saw no likelihood of a strong democratic leadership in Germany but rather of a mass of embittered people who would fall in easily with communism. A struggle for power by the left in Germany and Spain, or elsewhere in Europe would inevitably produce a reflex action of the same kind in Italy. It would be at that crucial time that the political stability of the country would be really tested. If the structure of government were not in those days to rest on sure foundations it would inevitably be swept away.

Politically speaking, said Raggbianti, a structure of government that could withstand the stress would have to be founded on a strong left central party block and he specified the Christian democracy of the Catholic parties and the lay democracy of the Party of Action and the Socialists (whom he characterized as the 'lambs' of Italian politics). While talking of the Christian Democrat party he described the change which was taking place in the direction of the party with each fresh bound northwards of the Allied armies. In Naples, with Rodino at the head, the party had been decidedly conservative. In Rome under De Gasperi it was far less so. He predicted that with the liberation of the northern provinces, especially Lombardy and Veneto, which represented the most active Catholic regions in Italy, there would be a pronounced shift to the left. He spoke of Don Sturzo as a politician of great ability and of radical views, whom he would welcome, even though a priest, as President of an Italian Republic. While discussing the radical trend of the Christian Democrat party Raggbianti affirmed that during the last government crisis De Gasperi had shown a disposition at a certain moment to undertake the responsibility of forming the new government but had been counselled by the Pope not to do so. This in Raggbianti's estimation had been a very wise move on the part of the Pope who had by his intervention prevented the Christian Democrat party from taking power at a time when its policy would have been emphatically conservative. This has saved the party from being discredited in the future when the political atmosphere is likely to be far more radical.

The left central block which Raggbianti considered to be the only stabilising factor in Italian politics capable of weathering future storms, could not be formed or maintain its solidity of its own resources. The formation and hardening of [illegible] depended upon certain external conditions amongst

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The left central block which Ragghianti considered to be the only stabilising factor in Italian politics capable of weathering future storms, could not be formed or maintain its solidity of its own resources. The formation and hardening of such a structure depended upon certain external conditions amongst which the most important were the economic situation and the moral backing of the Allies. If in the next six months the Allied help Italy to get her labouring population back to work, if they eradicate the impression that the armistice with Italy is harder than the armistice with Bulgaria, Roumania and Hungary, then he saw no danger in the future, for the average Italian, if he has work, does not want revolution.

From these general political considerations Ragghianti passed on to a description of a practical initiative which he had taken so as to hasten the work of reconstruction in Italy. He pointed

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out that in the present state of communications and with the old systems of Italian bureaucracy it would take the central government an inordinately long time to start doing anything. In the different regions of Italy, however, a great deal could be accomplished by using local knowledge, initiative and resources. He pointed out that after the last war an autonomous body had been created with large powers to carry out a programme of reconstruction in the Veneto region (Ente Autonomo delle tre Venezie) where the great Italian battles of the Carso, Caporetto and Vittorio Veneto had devastated large areas. This body was charged with reorganizing local finance, public works and housing and in two years 1919-1921 achieved prodigious results. Based on this experience, Ragghianti would like to obtain the formation in Florence of an association composed of representatives of the local administration offices and technical experts which should have the same object on a more limited scale - the province of Florence would be enough to start with - as the Ente Autonomo delle Tre Venezie. He had approached General Hume with this project who had advised him first of all to consult the Italian government. He had been to Rome about 10 days ago and had consulted the various ministers who compose the inter-ministerial committee for reconstruction. Amongst these were Ruini and Gronchi. They had been enthusiastic about his idea and he was shortly returning to see General Hume about putting it into practice. In view of the large measure of help which such a scheme would have to derive from the Allies, Ragghianti felt that some Allied representation on the proposed association was essential.

He emphasized the importance in these times of complete uncertainty of giving, in however limited a fashion, some assurance to the people of regular employment, of a plan for regular work. To the vast majority of his fellow-countrymen who were groping their way into an obscure future, some fixed light, even if it be faint, would give immeasurable hope and the greatest stimulus to progress.

2. Political Situation in Forward Areas.

A report received from P.W.B. 8th Army gives a summary of political conditions in forward zones. For the purposes of the report areas are divided into:

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(1) Forward Areas e.g. Ravenna, Faenza.
(2) Recently liberated Areas, e.g. Forli.

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(3) Back Areas, e.g. Rimini, Pesaro

(1) FORWARD AREAS

Popular Reactions.

In the first days after liberation the people in the forward areas expect, in addition to their newly won freedom, immediate and total relief and comfort. Their desire to be considered as allies is apparent.

Political Situation.

In the forward areas political parties are usually more or

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less united in an uneasy alliance. While preserving good relations with other parties the Communists take care to establish themselves solidly in the Committees of Liberation by including representatives of the Youth Front (Fronte della Gioventù), the Women's Front (Gruppi di Difesa delle Donne) and the League of Peasants (Lega dei Contadini), and by this stratagem they secure three extra votes.

The Province of Ravenna is not very active politically and apparent unity exists among the different parties. The attention of the population is more concerned with problems of reconstruction and programmes of relief.

The same situation exists in Faenza where the Christian Democrats are strong. Alfonsina, which is still under German control, is reported to be an important Communist centre.

(2) RECENTLY LIBERATED AREAS

Popular Reactions.

Some weeks after liberation there is growing discontent in evidence among the civil population.

This is due to the following reasons:-

(1) Disappointment at the lack of improvement in the economic situation.

(2) Requisitioning of houses and damage thereto by Allied troops.

(3) Disillusionment at Fascists remaining in official positions or otherwise evading arrest.

Political Situation.

Although a semblance of unity is preserved within the Committees of National Liberation the Communist part is gradually disassociating itself from the others and clandestine activities are resumed.

According to reliable information recruiting for the Communist party is sometimes carried out by doubtful methods.

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According to reliable information recruiting for the Communist party is sometimes carried out by doubtful methods. Pressure tantamount to blackmail is exerted on certain unstable elements in order to encourage them to enrol. Fascists, not too deeply compromised, are accepted in the party. Taking advantage of the growing discontent of the population the Communist party gains ground at this stage, while, in a number of cases, other political parties organize a united anti-Communist front.

Province of Forli.

This province is politically very active and Communism is strong. The party claims to have a total of 25,000 members in the province as opposed to a combined total for the other parties of 11,000. About 100 active members receive a monthly

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salary for their work and about 1,000 partisans take their orders from the party. Of this number perhaps only 100 are fanatically dedicated to the cause. Information from an anti-Communist source indicates that the party is holding in readiness 5,000 arms of various kinds. This figure is considered rather exaggerated. The anti-Communist front formed by the other parties supports partisans of the Corbari band who are armed and 120 strong. The province being traditionally anti-clerical, the Christian Democrat party is not very strong but it is gradually gaining ground in the countryside.

(3) BACK AREAS

Popular Reactions.

The main body of Allied troops has passed through these areas and life begins to return to normal. All the most urgent problems have been solved by A.M.G. The food situation may be easier because of improved communications and an illegal supplement of British Army rations. Sympathies tend to veer once again towards the Allies.

Political Situation.

The Communist party tends to lose ground for the following reasons:-

(1) Farmers getting better prices for products begin to distrust the promises made by the Communists.

(2) Counter activities of Christian Democrats through the priests.

(3) Fear of Fascism under another label.

(4) Comparison of partisans' behaviour with that of Fascist squadristi.

Province of Rimini.

About 20,000 inhabitants have returned to Rimini. The food situation is improved considerably. The population does show much interest in politics. Communists are about 1,000 strong and of that number about 100 are active members paid by the party. They have a certain quantity of arms in their possession. Christian Democrats who

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Province of Pesaro.

German destructions in and around Pesaro have made it necessary to import food from other provinces and lack of transport prevents this being done on a large scale. Light and water are still missing.

The political parties are small but all of them active.

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Communist	approximately	700
Christian Democrats	"	600
Action Party	"	250
Socialists	"	200

B. (1) RADIO

The only town to have electric current in the 8th Army area is Cesena. The only Allied Station transmitting from Italy to be heard regularly is 8th Army Radio which is found quite good.

B.B.C. is heard regularly for the news, but B.B.C. Italian commentators do not enjoy the same prestige as they did before the liberation of their audience.

(2) NEWSPAPERS

(a) Il Corriere Alleato is eagerly read everywhere, but, being apolitical, does not entirely satisfy the public's needs.

(b) The Communist party have an unofficial postal service with Rome and thus receive Unità regularly and distribute it in all big centres. The other parties complain bitterly about this and would like a regular supply of Rome newspapers of all parties to be officially authorized, or, better still, organized by P.W.B.

(c) Several issues of clandestine newspapers belonging to the Christian Democrat and Communist parties have been printed in Rimini, Forli and Pesaro.

3. Unione Proletaria in Florence.

The activities of this party in Florence have been almost negligible. Towards the end of September a young monarchist Count T. whose family comes from Udine, and who during the enemy occupation was condemned to death by the Germans at Cori for resistance to the German armed forces, was sent up to Florence by Salvarezza. He was given the position of Inspector for the Tuscan region, 10,000 lire in cash, a letter of introduction to the Prefect of Florence, another letter of introduction to 'The Captain Mr. Armstrong, (this letter signed by Salvarezza and beginning "Dear Captain - Y hope you remember of me at the terrible days of Regina Coeli") and the good wishes of the Secretary-General of the party, Salvarezza himself. With his credentials and his small capital the young man arrived in Flo-

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On November 5th a certain De Vicenzo Antonio arrived from Rome to investigate the progress made by the young Inspector for

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the Tuscan region. This emissary, however, showed far more interest in acquiring merchandise for the Black Market in Rome than he did in politics, and it was only when Count T. refused to collaborate in these business activities that De Vincenzo showed certain signs of animosity which later appeared in an adverse report on the work carried out by the party representative in Florence.

Since reading of the scandal which the words Unione Proletaria - Salvarezza - Il Gobbo - have provoked in the Roman newspapers, Count T. states that he is more than glad that his political activities were so curtailed. While at one time he felt that Salvarezza was a man of some importance, he now realizes that he was being led up the path of a very thorny garden.

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ECONOMIC

4. The Agricultural Situation in Tuscany. (Sources: Regional Agricultural Inspectorate; Florence Questura and the local C.G.I.L.)

Tuscany is nothing if not agricultural and the report just issued by the Regional Agricultural Inspectorate has consequently aroused considerable interest among all classes of the population. The salient points in this report are:-

(1) The provinces which have suffered most from the war are Pistoia, Pisa, Florence and Lucca. About 10,000 rural buildings have been damaged of which about 20% irrevocably.

(2) The area put out of cultivation as a result of the war covers more than 17,000 hectares (1 hectare equals 2½ acres) to which must be added about 25,000 hectares temporarily rendered useless by the recent floods.

(3) The damage caused by the floods amounts to 50 million lire.

According to the Inspectorate the chief problems to be solved before any substantial improvement in the agricultural situation can be expected are:-

(a) Re-population of the herds

(b) Road repairs

(c) Transport and supplies (fertilisers, farm equipment and driving fuel).

(d) Repairs to hydraulic installations

(e) Adjustment of farm prices and revision of mezzadria contracts.

The sowing has been done in adverse atmospheric conditions and this will entail considerable re-sowing. Sowing north of the Arno has been hampered by war operations. It is expected that the Spring sowings will follow the usual cultivation plans.

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70,000 quintals of fertiliser have been earmarked for Tuscany and of this quantity more than 22,000 quintals have already been distributed, although on account of the lack of transport the distribution has not been as equal as might have been desired.

The gathering-in of the olive oil production is unfavourably influenced by various factors such as lack of transport, lack of

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electric power to drive the oil presses and the natural cupidity of the producers. At present there are 3,000 presses in operation and although some are using improvised sources of power, most of them depend on the current from the mains. A hundred inspectors aided by agenti and CC.RR control the deliveries to the oil pools. A recent ministerial order has increased by 50% the quantity of oil which producers are allowed to retain for their own use, but it is too early to estimate the effect of this added inducement on deliveries. According to the C.G.I.L. another factor likely to militate against a successful oil harvest is constituted by the terms of the mezzadria contract. The oil is paid for by the pools at 60 lire a kilo gross, from which 5 or 6 lire is deducted for impurities and 5 or 6 for the cost of pressing. According to the mezzadria contract however, the cost of transport has to be borne by the colono and not jointly with the actual proprietor, thus the former receives only 26-28 lire a kilo for his half of the yield, while the fortunate proprietor receives his 46-48 lire intact. Efforts made by the C.G.I.L. to remove this anomaly have hitherto proved unavailing.

Another palpable injustice also deriving from the mezzadria contract concerns the live-stock. The owner of the land buys the beasts in the first place and the colono is debited with half the cost on which he is charged interest until he pays off the debt. He is entitled to be reimbursed in the event of his leaving the farm. The absurdity of this clause as applied to present circumstances is seen in the following example:- A pair of draft oxen which in ordinary times cost 3,000 lire is now worth anything up to 500,000 lire. While the colono still has his tenancy he has a half interest in them but if he leaves the farm he only receives what he has paid to the owner of the land. The colono also has the worst of the bargain when it becomes necessary to buy oxen at present rates, because not being a capitalist the owner of the land has perforce to put up the money, which means that the colono will probably remain his debtor for evermore.

5. Partisans employed by the W.D.

A British officer of the Civil Labour Unit working with 5th Army, supplies the following information about Partisans:-

4555

Since the creation of the Partisan Branch of AMG, there have been 3,556 Partisans accepted in the two 5th Army Centres of PESCIA and FLORENCE. These Partisans have been disposed of as under:-

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1,385 returned to their own homes
288 joined the army
300 evacuated to the South
239 still in the Centres
1,344 employed by the WD.

Considerable interest attaches to the large number for whom it has been possible to find WD employment, a number that is growing every week. A careful watch over these men will

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gives a very fair picture of how the great mass of Partisans we have still to meet will react when once we reach the areas of Northern Italy. It will be at this time that the unemployed Partisans will become a problem of considerable importance and no little danger.

The Centres provide little interest from a political point of view. The men are tired when they arrive and there is little facility for them to settle down before they are moved away. Politics in the Centres are forbidden and the men seldom remain long enough to develop any sort of local grouping. The local Communist parties do their best to instill them with propaganda but the atmosphere in the Centre is really against any great attention being paid to these advances. In the past these Centres have been a source of considerable disillusion to most Partisans but fortunately the bad conditions of food, clothing and accommodation are now a thing of the past.

Once the Partisans leave the Centres for WD employment the whole affair takes on a different aspect. They are sent away as far as possible in their own groups, that is to say in company with other Partisans with whom they have served for months or even a year or two. They have considerable loyalty to these groups and particularly to the leaders. They are from then on freed from all worries over food, clothing or accommodation and they have lots of spare time.

At present Partisans employed by the WD are located as under:-

MARRADI	750
LEGHORN	250
FIESOLE	150
Other units	194

The MARRADI detachment has now been together for nearly three months. The men are working on road maintenance and working well. Most of them have actually fought and killed Germans and though for the present they are content to have exchanged the gun for the spade, this is only temporary and most of them are anxious once again to enter the armed struggle. They are not unwilling to enter the Italian Army, but under their own terms. They want to keep together and retain their own leaders.

The [illegible] of the Detachment are ardent Communists. The

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At present Partisans employed by the WD are located as under:-

LAGRADI	750
LEGHORN	250
FIESOLE	150
Other units	194

The LAGRADI detachment has now been together for nearly three months. The men are working on road maintenance and working well. Most of them have actually fought and killed Germans and though for the present they are content to have exchanged the gun for the spade, this is only temporary and most of them are anxious once again to enter the armed struggle. They are not unwilling to enter the Italian army, but under their own terms. They want to keep together and retain their own leaders.

All members of the Detachment are ardent Communists. The leader NINO, (Ernesto VENZI) who spent some time as a political prisoner of the Fascists has complete control over them. He has twice called them out on strike and could if he wished break up the entire plan. He is in close touch with the Communist Party in Florence who supply him with propaganda, leaflets and pamphlets. These he uses to good advantage.

Apart from their work which has been consistently good, several acts of violence and a suspected murder of a Fascist have been blamed on the Partisans. When wood was scarce one

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day they took the benches from a Church, and finding how easy it was they also took the altar candles for their houses and the confessional box to cover a latrine seat. Several men have been locked up for theft and their release has been obtained to prevent the rest of the Detachment raiding the Carabinieri barracks in which their comrades were imprisoned. They are all in possession of far larger quantities of NAAFI goods etc. than their normal entitlement, while each house on the hills has acquired a large flock of poultry and live-stock that are very unlikely to have been purchased for cash or kind.

The men here have a clear plan for post-war reconstruction in which they hope to play a leading role by retaining their identity as a band of Partisans. It is for this reason that the idea of forming Partisan gangs appeals to them. In no other way could they keep together until the time is ripe for action. They seem to have no loyalty to Italy or the Allies. They have prepared lists of known Fascists whose trials will, from all accounts, have little pretence to any form of justice and on these lists the Carabinieri are well to the fore. A few weeks ago a known Fascist died mysteriously in the neighbourhood but it has not been possible to attach any blame to the Partisans. It is as yet unconfirmed whether they have supplies of arms and ammunition hidden in the hills, but there is a suspicion that this may be the case as several revolvers have been seen and it was in their area that they actually carried out their operations against the Germans. Here certain items of necessary equipment were dropped to them a year or two ago.

The British officer who is at present in command of these partisans of the MARRADI detachment is a first-rate man for the job. He gets on extremely well with the men and has in fact been awarded by them a certificate as an Honorary Partisan. He lives and has lived amongst them for nearly three months and knows them intimately. He states that for reasons which he cannot put into words, as they are only sensations, that he feels these Partisans will one day be fighting against us.

The detachment in LEGHORN has not been in operation long enough yet to give any considerable data. The most significant difference between the two lots is that the LEGHORN detachment is almost entirely devoid of any political feeling. The last lot of men to leave the centre to join this Detachment had each received a red scarf and a red handkerchief with a hammer and sickle embroidered on it in yellow. These outward signs of communism have little or no emotional backing and I have heard

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communistic background. If this political element can be eliminated we should be fairly safe in saying that given suitable food, clothing and living conditions, the Partisans of Italy, no matter what their numbers, will never be the same problem that their cousins in Greece have become.

Based on this, it is probably best that wherever Partisan units are formed, a leader be selected who is either of no political leanings, or one who is, say, a Christian Democrat and so a man who would not tolerate violence to gain the ends of the members of his band. A number of these more tolerant and level-headed people, suitably primed and released amongst the Partisan bands or made leaders could counteract the communist propaganda in a very useful manner and thereby save a considerable amount of bloodshed in the end.

6. The small firm in industry.

Firms like CIPRIANI and BACCANI (see under) abound in Italy. Considering that in reality these minor undertakings constitute the backbone of Italian industry, it is felt to be in order to include in this Report a short description illustrating the conditions prevailing in one of them.

The firm in question was established in 1921 by CIPRIANI and BACCANI, two foremen at the GALILEO works. By dint of hard work the two men built up the undertaking until at the peak of its productive activity it employed 400 workers. The chief lines of production are the manufacture of precision instruments for ships, sheet metal working, nickel and chrome plating, winding and repairing of electric motors and mechanical engineering in general. The firm has its own foundry.

The German demolition squads did a pretty thorough job and the damage to plant is estimated at about 70%. What machines could not be taken away were scientifically wrecked and the fact that the electro-plating department went unscathed was because the Germans were afraid to handle the electrolitics in the baths. The proprietors were far-sighted enough to remove what they could of the tools and machinery and hide them at various points. They could probably have saved more if they had not met with opposition from the workmen themselves who feared that the dismantling of the plant would leave them without work. Most of the hidden machinery has now been brought back and is to the credit Cipriani frankly admits that before

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The firm has only 40 workmen on its pay-roll at present and these are engaged in executing small orders for the Allies such as cowls for the tops of tents, the mounting of stretchers on skis and the plating of cutlery for the troops. When P.W.B. officers visited the works there were two members of the C.G.I.L. examining the damage done to the plant. They were satisfied that it was impossible to repair the heavy machines until the necessary parts could be obtained from abroad or from northern Italy and were thus able to pacify certain of the workmen who

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thought that Cipriani and Baccari were not doing their utmost to re-start production.

Financially the firm is not in a very healthy state; in point of fact it is highly illiquid, as is revealed by the latest Balance Sheet, which shows that of the 18 odd million lire constituting the assets of the firm, no less than 11½ million represents money due from the Italian Government.

7. Distribution of Olive Oil.

The SERRAL announces that beginning February 2nd a per capita distribution of olive oil amounting to 270 grammes will be made, representing the ration for January.

8. Black Market Prices.

Foodstuffs	Lire
White flour	110 the kilo
Maize	90 " "
Beans	100 " "
Olive oil	440 the litre
Fresh cheeses	450 the kilo
Dried "	650 " "
Butter	550 " "
Margarine	500 " "
Beef	500 " "
Pork	650 " "
Meat and vegetable (M & V)	160 tin of 453 grammes
Beef (corned)	400 the kilo
Salted meats (salami)	750-1,000 the kilo

Other prices	
Motorcar tyres	25,000 lire each
Woollen material	1,800 lire the metre
Men's leather shoes	5,000 lire the pair
Petrol	25 lire the litre
American cigarettes	85 lire packet of 20

A slight reduction is noticeable in the price of oil, butter, cheese and honey. Also tinned products which had been previously kept off the market are now re-appearing, naturally at prohibitive prices. 4553

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CONFIDENTIAL

No. 5.

PUBLIC OPINION

9. Reactions in Florence to the Russian advance on Berlin.

The general reaction among all classes to the spectacular Russian thrust towards Berlin is one of unstinted admiration mingled with the hope that it may soon bring about the end of the war. A Communist leader declared that amongst the people the desire for the war to end is the only consideration that counts. Any action which tends to bring about this longed-for conclusion is good. Among intellectuals and in the upper classes there is a certain apprehension as to the possible political consequences of this overwhelming success of Russian arms. Even among these classes, however, the first consideration is to bring about the end of the war. Everything else seems to be at the moment subordinated to this desire. While, therefore, these intellectuals do not wish to see any slackening of the Russian drive, they would greatly welcome an Allied offensive in the West to act as a counterpoise to Russian successes.

10. Rumours.

(1) It is rumoured in Florence that Victor Emanuel died a few days ago in the Royal Palace at Naples and that a Roman paper which reported the news was withdrawn from circulation shortly after publication.

(2) It is also stated that German troops are in the process of evacuating North Italy. Turin and Milan are already said to have been evacuated while the outer defences of Bologna have been diminished in strength. The troops taken from the Italian front are destined for the defence of the Oder.

(3) The reason why England and America have not launched an attack against Germany is said to be because they are conserving their resources for a show-down with Russia.

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11. Situation of Partisans and Refugees who enter Liberated Italy in the Viareggio area.

One of the most important factors in dealing with partisans who cross the lines is their treatment immediately after their arrival in liberated territory. Allied officers who are qualified to give an opinion in the matter consider that the good or bad treatment during this period is likely to produce a lasting impression in the attitude of the partisans towards the Allies. There was occasion to refer recently in these reports with satisfaction to the greatly improved conditions of the partisans in the reception centres at Florence and Pescia. Unfortunately the same satisfaction cannot be expressed with regard to the treatment of partisans and refugees from the Lunigiana area above Spezia, who come across to our lines.

A P.W.B. officer who made a special investigation of the reception accorded to these people gives the following account. On making contact with Allied patrols the partisans are disarmed and, according to Italian sources, are often at the same time relieved of any valuables they may possess such as watches or wallets. They are then conducted to Pietrasanta and are housed in a large room without furniture, heating or camp-beds. Some straw is provided on the stone floor. They remain here until transport is available to take them to Viareggio - usually a matter of about one day - in company with refugees and prisoners of war. At Viareggio the prisoners of war and deserters are separated from the rest and are taken to the P.W. cage for interrogation. The partisans and refugees are 'screened' by an Allied agency which divides them into two groups:-

(a) People who can give useful information or are suspect, and

(b) People who have no information and are not suspect.

Class (b) are sent straight to the Refugee Centre at Viareggio. Class (a) persons are detained on the premises of the screening agency in Viareggio for anything from 2-14 days. The P.W.B. officer who visited these premises describes the place where these people are kept as "a rather dark room with no lighting and no heating. There is not a single piece of furniture in the place and no bedding of any description. A

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Transit Camp in Pescia as soon as transport is available, which may be anything from 1-14 days. The refugees on the other hand are sent to their various destinations when the transport can be found. They have been known to spend up to a month in the centre.

It is felt by a number of Allied officers who have to deal with partisans that it would help the Allied cause if some sort of consideration were shown to those men who have often spent several months in the hills fighting Germans and Fascists and enduring great hardships and privations. The same consideration should also be shown to refugees who have come to seek shelter and protection behind our lines. It is no secret to those who are in touch with the situation in enemy occupied territory that the Germans are making the most of this rough treatment accorded by us to the partisans to discourage their comrades on the other side, and this propaganda has been all the more effective since news of this treatment has been carried back by some of the partisans themselves.

Some suggestions to improve the situation have been put forward by the P.W.B. officer who made the investigation.

(a) Posters should be displayed in the rooms where partisans are kept whether in Pietrasanta or Viareggio explaining why they are being detained and the causes of such hardships as they have to endure.

(b) Bedding of some kind should be provided for partisans who have to spend a number of nights in confinement. Straw and blankets would be a good beginning.

(c) Prisoners of war and deserters should be kept apart from partisans from the outset. The partisans bitterly resent being treated on the same footing as German prisoners of war or republican fascist deserters whom they hate and against whom they have been fighting for months.

(d) The interrogation of partisans and refugees should be carried out at all times in a civil manner. Patriots and civilians have complained that they have been

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(d) The interrogation of partisans and refugees should be carried out at all times in a civil manner. Patriots and civilians have complained that they have been shouted at, cursed and on rare occasions even cuffed and slapped in the face. Such incidents, however rare, do incalculable harm.

(e) Newspapers, propaganda literature etc. should be freely distributed in all Transit Camps for refugees and patriots. These people have come straight from enemy occupied territory and often this is their first chance to see things with our eyes and of beginning to realize what our problems are. The long hours and days which they have to spend in confinement waiting to be interrogated would be less tedious if some reading matter were made available.

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12. Press meeting.

The usual press meeting was held on February 5th in Palazzo Vecchio, attended by press representatives and officers of AMG. Among the problems discussed were the passage of cyclists over the Victory Bridge; the deplorable conditions of the roads in Florence owing to heavy military traffic; the necessity for increased traffic control; benefits for Italian workers employed by Allied organizations; the urgent need of medical supplies.

It was stated that the Commune was no longer responsible for road maintenance which had been handed over to private enterprise. An increase in the Police Force was expected shortly in order to deal with traffic control, but the necessity of Florentines to observe traffic rules (which they completely ignored at present) was stressed.

A large quantity of medical supplies from America have reached Florence within the last few days, and they are to be distributed by the E.F.D.I.M.E.A. In addition many Italian factories have started production, which should also help to alleviate the present critical position in regard to medicinals.

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APPENDIX

LATEST NEWS FROM THE VALDARNO

The district of Valdarno is of sufficient importance in the economy of Tuscany to warrant a brief mention of the conditions prevailing in the chief communes which compose it. Hereunder therefore are a few notes embodying information collected by a PWB collaborator during a recent visit to the district.

Bucine (Arezzo province).

Bucine comes under the control of A.M.G. at Montevarchi. It is situated in the Val d'Ambra, but economically is closely linked with the Val d'Arno. Owing to the destruction of the Florence-Arezzo railway it has become isolated and has lost much of its former importance.

The Mayor and the Giunta.

The Mayor of Bucine is Angiolo ERMINI of indeterminate political views. He was nominated by A.M.G. and is from Montevarchi. He is not very popular and is accused not only of being a Conservative and opposed to democratic reform but also of being incompetent. It is said that he was a member of the Fascist Party from 1925.

The Giunta is represented by members of the Communist, Socialist, Christian Democratic and Liberal parties.

The Committee of Liberation.

The Communists and Socialists are in the majority, while the Democrazia del Lavoro is not represented. The Committee's activities are limited owing to the control exercised by the Allied Government. The leanings of the people are towards Communism, which is also apparent among the peasants, while the local clergy disseminate the principles of Christian Democracy. On the whole the people are not interested in politics. 4550

War damage.

Bucine has suffered severe war damage having been in the front line for 18 days. Many houses have been destroyed and it is said that 70% of the cattle have been removed. In order

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The Communists and Socialists are in the majority, while the Democrazia del Lavoro is not represented. The Committee's activities are limited owing to the control exercised by the Allied Government. The leanings of the people are towards Communism, which is also apparent among the peasants, while the local clergy disseminate the principles of Christian Democracy. On the whole the people are not interested in politics. 4550

War damage.

Bucine has suffered severe war damage having been in the front line for 18 days. Many houses have been destroyed and it is said that 70% of the cattle have been removed. In order to repair the damage which this deficiency would have caused to the soil, the Prefect of Arezzo issued a decree ordering the obligatory loan of cattle. The stock is also being strengthened by cattle bought from the Val di Chiana, which produces a good strain.

Altogether, over 100 people have been shot in the Commune by the Germans. On the 29th June, 1944, 60 people were shot near

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S. Pancrazio by way of reprisals. Masked Fascists also took part in this butchery.

Conditions of the Roads.

The roads, both communal and provincial, are in a very bad state. About 12 bridges were blown up by mines. In Bucine commune efforts are being made to improve these conditions by building wooden bridges etc.

Food situation.

The population is able to procure food directly from the production areas. The regular distribution of foodstuffs however is rare. This has caused much ill feeling against the Mayor.

The commodity most in demand is salt, which is needed for the curing of bacon.

Unemployment.

Although Bucine is not actually part of the lignite basin of the Valdarno, 300 miners who originally worked there were thrown out of employment when the mines became inactive. They are now temporarily employed by the Allies on road work.

Electricity.

The commune does not receive electric power. The lighting problem in the houses is serious. Acetylene, which was formerly used in the country, is unprocurable, and petrol costs 60 lire a litre.

Relations with the Allies.

On the whole the people are disappointed as they had hoped for more effective aid from the Allies. Above all they had hoped for the repair of the railway on which Bucine largely depends for its livelihood.

S. GIOVANNI VALDARNO (Arezzo province).

General situation.

The main problem of this important commune is unemployment due to the inactivity of the mines. At the moment there are

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S. GIOVANNI VALDARNO (Arezzo province).

General situation.

The main problem of this important commune is unemployment due to the inactivity of the mines. At the moment there are 550 miners not following their usual employment and who are working temporarily for the Allies on road reconstruction etc. On the 20th January the Prefect of Arezzo convened a meeting of the managers of the various mining companies in the Valdarno (S. Minerarie Valdarno, Miniere Le Cerpinete, Miniere Poggio Avane, Miniere Caolini) in order to study the possibilities of starting up work. The only mine in operation at the present moment is S. Minerarie Valdarno, which employs 600-700 workers.

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The Mayor and Giunta.

The Mayor of S. Giovanni Valdarno is Professor Rolando Gregnoli, a young and intelligent communist. The Giunta has two representatives from each of the three leading parties in the area: Communist, Socialist and Christian Democrat.

The Committee of Liberation.

The Committee is very active. Up to the present A.M.G. has not interfered in its work as in other areas. The Communists are in the majority in the C.L.N. There have been no riots or other troubles as temporary measures have been taken to deal with the existing unemployment.

Food situation.

The situation is serious. Up to a short time ago pork was being freely sold at 350-400 lire the kilo, a price which however was beyond the means of many (the average wage for a worker is 150 lire a day). A decree issued by the Prefect ordered that for every pig killed a certain amount of fat had to be sent to the pools: as a result the local butchers suspended killing, and now nobody gets anything.

In December 270 grammes of oil was distributed per head and the distribution for January is now in course. A few days ago 90 grammes of salt per person were distributed, but owing to the urgent demand for this commodity the Commune requested and obtained transport from the Allies in order to fetch a supply from Volterra.

Electricity.

Electricity is at present only supplied to schools, hospitals, banks etc., and to those trades and services essential to Allied needs (e.g. barbers). There is not sufficient power for a regular supply for the mines. It is hoped however, to obtain a link-up with Terni shortly which will enable the mines to begin regular production.

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Road conditions.

The problem of the road conditions in the commune has been solved. Of the 5 bridges destroyed 3 have already been rebuilt by the commune and 2 with bridges for pedestrians. The main Arezzo-Florence road has been repaired by Allied detachments.

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Curfew.

Curfew hours have been extended from 7 to 10 to the great satisfaction of the population.

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Travel permits.

One of the chief complaints against the Allies is the permit question. In Arezzo province free circulation is prohibited and the population is limited to the 10 mile radius. This is a serious obstacle to normal trade as although Valdarno is administratively under Arezzo, it depends economically on the province of Florence.

Relations with the Allies.

Relations with the Allies are on the whole good. There is slight disappointment about the food situation which could be eased by the granting of travel permits.

INCISA VALDARNO (Florence province)

The Mayor, Giunta and Committee of Liberation.

The Mayor is Giulio Tocchini, Christian Democrat and ex-President of the C.L.N. Up to the 5th December the Committee of Liberation acted for the Giunta. It has now decided to become the Giunta and to elect another C.L.N. of which the President is Emilio MIGNATI, local chemist and socialist.

Political parties represented in the C.L.N. and the Giunta are Christian Democrats, Communists and Socialists.

The Mayor is active and is doing all he can to start-up local industry. He is an anti-communist which caused him to be disliked at first but his honest intentions and good will are now appreciated by the people.

Local industries.

Local industries consist chiefly of the manufacture of bricks and cement. The situation is as follows:-

The INCISA factory producing cement and bricks is intact and is in working condition employing, at the moment, 65 workers, which number it is hoped to raise to 120 shortly.

The ITALCEMENTI company was badly damaged but as the best part of the raw material was saved, the company has been able to start work with 115 workers. The DELL'OGNA Company, brick manufacturers, will start production in the Spring.

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Unemployment.

Road mending has alleviated the unemployment situation, about 100 workers having been engaged by the Allies for this purpose.

Food situation.

Despite transport difficulties the food problem is not serious. The population complains of the inertia of the Florence SEPRAL, on which the district depends for its supplies. Sufficient oil is already in the pools for distribution but as yet SEPRAL has taken no steps towards rationing this commodity.

Road conditions.

15 bridges have been destroyed and many roads are damaged. Only 3 bridges have been rebuilt.

Relations with the Allies.

They are good on the whole, except for slight disappointment about the food problem. The Mayor is pro-Allied.

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