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ACC 10000/146/178

L.S.C. 1523

TELEPHONE

Feb. 1945 - Jan. 1946

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
LABOR SUB-COMMISSION

WHD/rww

LSC/523

TEL : Ext. 204 18 January 1948
REF : LSC/523/1002
SUBJECT: Mobilization of Italian Telecommunications
Personnel in Emergencies.
TO : Communications Sub-Commission

1. This is in reply to Communications Sub-Commission's memorandum T.24.126.CS of 17 January 1948.

2. I should be glad to have the view of Legal Sub-Commission on the validity of the statement at Para 7(c) of the enclosure to AFHQ memorandum G/811.5 of 10 December 1945, viz., that under the terms of the Armistice the Allies have the right to demand the services of Italian civilian employees as labor to maintain the essential requirements of the Forces of Occupation, and that this right of the Allies is an obligation of these Italian civilians. It would be useful if reference could be made to the specific clause of the Armistice terms which imposes this obligation upon individual Italian civilians. It is possible that there is an obligation upon the Italian Government to maintain essential requirements, but it may not follow that the Italian Government must discharge this obligation by the employment of particular civilians.

3. The circumstances envisaged in which an interruption of communications might occur include strike action on the part of Italian civilian labor. The proposal is that individual strikers should be compelled to resume work under the threat of punishment in accordance with Law No. 461 dated 24 May 1940. In other words, it is suggested that a law made by the Fascist Government should be invoked in order to break a strike. It should be noted that the telephone employees are not necessarily State employees but may be employees of the telephone companies.

4. The Minister of Posts and Communications has prepared a draft decree on which he requests the observations of the Allied Commission. It seems inadvisable to instigate or approve a decree establishing a corps of strike-breakers in the event of a trade dispute of workers who are not Government employees.

- 2 -

5. The situation would be different if this Decree proposed to set up a volunteer corps to maintain essential services instead of a corps compulsorily enrolled; but it is doubtful if the appropriate Italian trade union will permit their membership to volunteer for such a corps.

6. The above observations may be modified on evidence that the Armistice terms can be interpreted in the way suggested but on present consideration it appears that some other way must be sought of maintaining essential services either by the use of military personnel or by arriving at agreement between the Italian Government and the appropriate trade union as to the circumstances in which special services would be maintained although other services would be interrupted by a trade dispute.

W. H. Braine
W. H. BRAINE
Director
Labor Sub-Commission

cc: Legal Sub-Commission

C. G. I. L. *Chief Clerk / pa*
FEDERAZIONE ITALIANA DIPENDENTI AZIENDE TELECOMUNICAZIONI
(F. I. D. A. T.)

Sede Federale ROMA - Via Boncompagni N. 19

454/523

Telefono MF.rr

Prot. N. _____

AL LABOUR DIVISION

Roma, li 22 settembre 1945

R o m a

Le Compagnie Alleate, Cable & Wireless e R.C.A. hanno aderito a discutere con i rappresentanti della F.I.D.A.T. e col personale la questione del "Bonus".

Poichè la vostra ultima lettera a proposito di tale questione si esprimeva nel senso che il Labour Division avrebbe aderito a dirigere le discussioni, ci preghiamo informarvi che questa sera alle ore 17 avremmo fissato un meeting con gli interessati nei locali della Cable & Wireless in Via Leonida Bissolati.

Vi preghiamo quindi confermare la Vs. adesione.



IL SEGRETARIO DELLA F.I.D.A.T.
(Masi Ferruccio)

F. Masi

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HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
LABOUR SUB COMMISSION

SUBJECT: Italcable Workers

22 September 1945

Sig. SORANI, representative of workers of the ITALCABLE employed by Allied Forces, following a letter from Labour Sub-Commission, came to invite a member of this Sub-Commission to attend, and preside over, discussions which will take place between Allied Companies, Cable & Wireless and R.C.A., and representatives of the F.I.D.A.T. and personnel on the question of a bonus.

The requested bonus consists of a Liberation bonus and another indemnity as compensation for "distaccamento", detachment from chief unit.

Mr. Hird advised to state that owing to absence of Labour Sub-Commission personnel, meeting should proceed without presence of any member, I added that a report be furthered to Labour Sub-Commission and that we should be kept informed of decisions taken, as Sig. Sorani was very insistent on the subject of someone being present. A meeting was planned for today, but could have been postponed for a few days, but the question must be decided before 30th Sept.

Mr. Sachs was the person who wrote the letter, and who was expected to attend the meeting.

Alec

C. G. I. L.
FEDERAZIONE ITALIANA DIPENDENTI AZIENDE TELECOMUNICAZIONI
 (F. I. D. A. T.)

Sede Federale ROMA - Via Boncompagni N. 19

LSC/523

Telefono MF.rr HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
 Prot. N. 50 Apo 394
 Labour Sub COMMISSION

Roma, li 11 settembre 1945

R o m a

OGG: Indennità contingenza telefonica Liguria-

Prendiamo atto della Vostra LSC/523 del 3 settembre 1945 con la quale si comunica che il Commissario Regionale Ligure ha ratificato l'accordo salariale per i dipendenti della Telefonica Tirrena della Liguria.

Ringraziamo sentitamente, accogliete Sig. Direttore BRAIN i sensi della nostra cordiale stima insieme ai nostri sinceri saluti.



Dev. mo (Eusi Ferruccio)
 SEGRETARIO NAZIONALE F. I. D. A. T.

F. V. M.

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HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISS
APO 394
LABOUR SUB-COMMISSION

FP/ce

TEL : 489081 - 493 3 Sept. 1945.
REF : LSQ/523.
SUBJECT: Cost-of-Living Bonus for
Telephone workers in Liguria Region.
TO : Secretary Italiana
Federazione Dipendenti Aziende
Telecomunicazioni (F.I.D.A.T.)
Via Boncompagni, 19,
R o m e

1. With further reference to your letter (N° 38) of the 16th August 1945, we have been advised that the wage agreement referred to above has now been approved by the Regional Commissioner of the Liguria Region.

W. H. BRAINE
Director
Labour Sub-Commission

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
AFC 394
LABOUR SUB-COMMISSION

FP/cc

TEL : 489081 - 493

3 Sept. 1945.

REF : ISO/523.

OGGETTO: Indennità contingenza
Telefonica Liguria.

AL : Segretario
"Federazione Italiana Dipendenti
Aziende Telecomunicazioni",
(F.I.D.A.T.) - Via Boncompagni, 19,
R o m a

En ulteriore riferimento alla Vostra lettera (N° 38)
del 16 Agosto 1945, siamo stati avvertiti che il suddetto accordo
salariale è ora stato approvato dal Commissario Regionale della
Liguria.

W. H. BRAINE
Director
Labour Sub-Commission

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
LIGURIA REGION APO 394
LABOR DIVISION

LSC/816

LIG/LAB/101.15

29 August 1945.

SUBJECT : Indennità Contingenza and wage agreement
for telephone workers in Liguria Region.

TO : Labor Sub-Commission
H.Q. A.C. ROME.

1. Reference yours of 21 August; (LSC/523) same subject, please be advised that pursuant to conversations had with Mr. BRAINE, the A/M agreement has been approved, dated 29 August 1945. Mr. BRAINE has stated that it is according to policy to ratify agreements drawn up and approved in Rome.


U. ALESSANDRINI
Captain Infantry
Labor Officer.

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
LABOR SUB-COMMISSION

DGS/ab

REF: Lsc /583

30 August 1945

La Federazione Dipendenti Aziende Telecomunicazioni
Attn: Sig. Nesi Ferruccio
Via Roncopegni, 19
ROME

Dear Sirs:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of 28 August with reference to the employees of Italcable.

The contents of this letter have been noted with interest.

If all of the parties to the dispute described therein desire that this Sub-Commission or a representative thereof assist in the settlement of the questions, we should be very glad to cooperate.

Very truly yours,

DAVID C. SAMES
Deputy Director
Labor Sub-Commission

Egregio Sig. Nesi,

Si accusa la ricevuta della V. del 28 Agosto circa gli impiegati della Italcable, e si apprende con interesse quanto di s'è stato riferito.

Se tutte le parti contestanti alle quali si fa allusione desiderano che questa sott-commissione o un suo rappresentante assista nel regolare le questioni, saremo felici di offrire la nostra collaborazione.

con distinti saluti,

DAVID C. SAMES
Vice Direttore,
Sottocommissione del Lavoro

785021

FEDERAZIONE DIPENDENTI AZIENDI TELECOMUNICAZIONI

Via Nazionale, 19-Roma

Rome, August 28th, 1945

To Allied Commission
Labour Division
Rome

copy to Italoable - Rome.

Dear Sirs,

We are in receipt of the letter of the 15th inst., by Cable & Wireless Ltd. and R.G.A.O. as well as of the letter of the same date by P.H.O., by which we are informed that the two Companies do not mean to pay a mission allowance to the laborers attached to their own service by the Italoable Co. =

We beg to enclose herewith copy of the reply in order to clear the matter up.

In opposition to the remarks made by the two Allied organizations, the "F.I.D.A.T.N" beg to express their stand-point:

1. It is true that the employees were included in the Italoable payroll, drawing an advantage especially as far as their Pension Fund treatment is concerned.
2. The turn of forty-two hours per week, carried out by the Italoable employees, has been established by a regular agreement dated June 28th, 1945, but in force from the month of April 1945; copy of which please find enclosed.

Such an agreement was required not only for internal technical reasons, but even owing to the recognized necessity of alleviating a duty which was, of course, very heavy.

3. The additional food ration being allowed to the laborers is composed of 150 grams of paste and 200 grams of soup per week, namely of much less than the ration being allowed to the Italoable laborers, which is composed of 80 grams of paste and 20 grams of vegetables per day, besides seasonings.

4. We are not in a position to take up tariffs, but we beg to remark that the Italian handicraft is always more advantageous for the Allied organizations than their own employees, even should the former not be an objectively economical one.

This Federation beg to submit the decision on the matter to the fair discretion of the Labour Division; meanwhile, they are expressing the following opinion: On consideration of items 1 and 2 of this letter, an allowance, which we think it right to fix in reason of 50 lire per day worked, should be paid to the Italoable laborers attached to Cable & Wireless Ltd., R.G.A.O. and P.H.O. =

15c/523

are in receipt of the letter of the 15th inst., by Cable & Wireless Ltd. and R.C.A.C. as well as of the letter of the same date by P.R.O., by which we are informed that the two Companies do not mean to pay a mission allowance to the labourers attached to their own service by the Italcable Co. -

We beg to enclose herewith copy of the reply in order to clear the matter up.

In opposition to the remarks made by the two Allied organizations, the "P.I.D.A.M." beg to express their stand-point:

1. It is true that the employees were included in the Italcable payroll, drawing an advantage especially so far as their Pension Fund treatment is concerned.
2. The turn of forty-two hours per week, carried out by the Italcable employees, has been established by a regular agreement dated June 26th, 1945, but in force from the month of April 1945; copy of which please find enclosed.

Such an agreement was required not only for internal technical reasons, but even owing to the recognized necessity of alleviating a duty which was, of course, very heavy.

3. The additional feed ration being allowed to the labourers is composed of 150 grams of paste and 200 grams of soup per week, namely of much less than the ration being allowed to the Italcable labourers, which is composed of 80 grams of paste and 20 grams of vegetables per day, besides seasonings.

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This Federation beg to submit the decision on the matter to the fair discretion of the Labour Division; meanwhile, they are expressing the following opinion:
On consideration of items 1 and 2 of this letter, an allowance, which we think it right to fix in reason of 50 lire per day worked, should be paid to the Italcable labourers attached to Cable & Wireless Ltd., R.C.A.C. and P.R.O. -

Trusting that our request will be favourably examined, we remain, dear Sirs,
yours respectfully

LA FEDERAZIONE
DIPENDENTI AZIENDE TELECOMUNICAZIONI

IL SEGRETARIO

(Masi Ferruccio)

Ferruccio

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(Copy)

15 th August 1945

To
The Manager ITALCABLE
Copy to R.I.D.A.M. - Rome-

Dear Sir,

Reference you letter 8432 regarding the claims addressed to you by R.I.D.A.M. it is pointed out that the Communications Branch of R.R. Public Relations is a military organization, and as such is bound by military regulations concerning the employment of civil labour. Any decision regarding increases in pay must be referred by me to the civil labour authorities. The following comments are made in the light of this fact:

- 1) - Employment was given to Italcable employees by P.R.O. and P.V.D. at a time when the Italcable Company was not in a position to maintain operations. The employees concerned received at that time additional benefits which were not available to those not employed by Italcable, and eligible for all benefits granted by that company, it is not allowed that any compensation for detached service is either necessary or justifiable.
- 2) Regulations for the Employment of Italian Labour (A.P.M.Q.) state that the normal working week will be one of seven days of eight hours per day, overtime being compensable for Sundays. The Italcable employees who have been working in P.R. Communications Branch have been paid full overtime rates under Italcable regulations, not under military regulations, and it is conceded by the employees themselves that their present salaries are not unfair for the type of work they are doing. My own opinion is that they are exceedingly well-paid, and that there is no justification for any further demand upon the military authorities.
- 3) - Revision grade are issued to our employees. These entitle them to additional pay which is of much greater benefit to the families of these men than a soup allowance.
- 4) - There is no question of economy for this branch. The present demands for increases in pay have reached such a pitch that the question is being referred to the Chief Signal Officer, A.I.H.Q. for decision, and it is highly probable that the Italcable employees in this branch will be replaced within a few days by Allied Operators, effecting a considerable economy for the Allied and Italian governments. It is for the employees themselves to decide whether they will have gained in any way by being replaced, as every effort has been

when the Italcable Company was not in a position to maintain operations. The employees concerned received at that time additional benefits which were not available to those not employed by Italcable, and eligible for all benefits granted by that company, it is not allowed that any compensation for detached service is either necessary or justifiable.

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3) - Ration cards are issued to our employees. These entitle them to additional pasta which is of much greater benefit to the families of these men than a soup allowance.

4) - There is no question of economy for this branch. The present demands for increases in pay have reached such a pitch that the question is being referred to the Chief Signal Officer, A.P.H.Q. for decision, and it is highly probable that the Italcable employees in this branch will be replaced within a few days by Allied Operators, effecting a considerable economy for the Allied and Italian Governments. It is for the employees themselves to decide whether they will have gained in any way by being replaced, as every effort has been made by me to give them just treatment and consideration.

The views of the Chief Signal Officer, A.P.H.Q. will be made known to you in due course.

Yours faithfully

R. BALCHERIDGE Captain
Communications Officer.

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C&W Ref. Ital 90/45

H.Q. Public Relations

(Copy)

C.M.F

Il Commissario

Direttore Generale Italcable

15 th August 1945

Dear Sir,

We Have considered the contents of your letter No. 8432 of the 11th inst. and also the original request made to you by F.I.D.A.T.

It is with regret that we cannot agree that the points enumerated by F.I.D.A.T. constitute a case for discrimination between various employees of your Company.

To Take the points in order:-

1. By command of the Commanding General, RAAC, of 19 th September 1944, it is definitely stated that the return of Italcable employees to Italcable paysheets was intended to preserve the seniority and other benefits of the employee until such time as Italcable would resume operation of telegraphic channels.

So far from the employee being on "Mission" etc. to these Companies, he was returned to Italcable Paysheet for his own benefit only.

2. The question of a 42 or 48 hour duty week is not clear to us. We understand that the 48 hour week is the normal standard of your Company. The fact that you have accorded certain of your employees the benefit of a 42 hour week, for reasons of internal administration, does not, in itself, constitute a reason why these Companies should pursue an identical policy.

3. We agree that the employees working for us do not use the Society mess. But they do receive extra ration coupons, which is of greater benefit, as it allows of them sharing such benefit with their families. We do not agree that such is a disadvantage.

4. This point is without factual basis, as the ever-increasing labour

1754

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3. We agree that the employees working for us do not use the Society Mess. But they do receive extra ration coupons, which is of greater benefit, as it allows of them sharing such benefit with their families. We do not agree that such is a disadvantage.

4. This point is without factual basis, as the ever-increasing labour costs without proportionate increase in tariff rates show that the use of Italian employees is very far from economical.

We should be glad if you would forward our remarks to F.I.D.A.P., as disabilities of language might lead to faulty translation and misunderstanding.

Yours truly,

Manager,
Rome Branch,
Cable & Wireless, Ltd

MR. SMITH

European Manager

R.C.A.C.

Una firma

ACCORDO CIRCA L'ORARIO DI LAVORO PER IL PERSONALE ADDETTO ALL'UFFICIO CENTRALE DI ROMA DELLA SOCIETA' "ITALCABLE" ED ADIBITO A TURNI ROTATIVI CON SERVIZIO NOTTURNO.-

Addi 28 giugno 1945 in Roma ;
Tra la Confederazione Generale dell'Industria Italiana, rappresentata, per delega del Presidente, dall'Avv. Rosario Toscani,
e la Federazione Italiana Dipendenti Aziende Telecomunicazioni rappresentata dal Sig. B. Pierleoni e dal Sig. Ferruccio Masi

si è convenuto quanto segue :

- 1°) Premo atto che per il personale della Società "Italcable" addetto all'Ufficio Centrale di Roma e che deve compiere l'orario di lavoro mediante turni rotativi comprendenti il servizio notturno, l'orario di lavoro è stato fissato nella settimana con lo svolgimento e la durata per ciascun turno dalle ore 13 alle 19, dalle 7 alle 13 e dalle 19 alle 7, da effettuarsi in tre giorni consecutivi con un riposo di almeno 30 ore prima e dopo il servizio notturno e per un totale di 42 ore settimanali, e precisamente secondo il progetto seguente :

Lunedì	dalle	ore	13	alle	19
Martedì	"	"	7	"	13
Mercoledì	}				
Giovedì					
Venerdì	"	"	19	"	7
Sabato	"	"	13	"	19
Domenica	"	"	7	"	13
Lunedì	}				
	"	"	19	"	7

si riconosce che tale orario risponde a necessità tecniche del lavoro e contempera con tali necessità l'interesse del personale esibito ai turni rotativi.

- 2°) Le variazioni della distribuzione oraria suddetta saranno disposte mantenendo ferme le condizioni del riposo di 30 ore e del limite massimo di 42 ore settimanali.
- 3°) Con i turni suddetti si intende soddisfatto l'obbligo di riposo settimanale previsto dalla legge e dal Contratto di lavoro vigente, ed in tal senso le parti sono concordi nel richiedere il benestare del Ministero del lavoro.

Letto, approvato e sottoscritto.

p. la C.G.I.L.
F.to Toscani

p. la F.I.D.A.T.
F.to Ferruccio Masi
F.to Bruno Pierleoni

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
LABOUR SUB-COMMISSION

FP/ce

TEL : 489081 - 493

21 August 1945

REF : LSC/523

SUBJECT: Cost-of-Living Bonus for
Telephone Workers in Liguria Region.

TO : Regional Commissioner, Liguria Region.

1. Attached is a copy of a letter which has been received from the "Federazione Italiana Dipendenti Aziende Telecomunicazioni" of 16th August, together with a copy of an agreement between the Federation and the Telephone Company "Tirrena" (FETI).

2. It is desired to know whether or not this agreement has been submitted for your approval, and if so, the date from which such approval was accorded.

W. H. BRAINE
Director
Labour Sub-Commission

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
LABOUR SUB-COMMISSION

R/c

TEL : 489081 - 493

21 Agosto 1945.

REF : LSC/523.

OGGETTO: Indennità di Contingenza
Telefonica Liguria.AL : Segretario "Federazione Italiana
Dipendenti Aziende Telecomunicazioni",
(F.I.D.A.T.) - Via Boncompagni, 19,
R o m e

1. Ci preghiamo accusarVi ricevuta della Vostra lettera
N° 38 del 16 Agosto con acclusa copia dell'accordo stipulato
fra la Vostra Federazione e la Società Telefonica "Tirrena"
(TEFI).

2. La copia dell'accordo è stata rispedita al Commissario
Regionale della Liguria e la questione se detto accordo è stato
approvato per tutta la Regione della Liguria è stata sollevata.

3. Non appena avremo accertato la precisa posizione,
Vi faremo ulteriori comunicazioni.

W. H. BRAINE
Director
Labour Sub-Commission.

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
LABOUR SUB-COMMISSION

FP/ce

TEL : 489081 - 493 21 August 1945.
REF : LSC/523.
SUBJECT: Cost-of Living Bonus for Telephone
Workers in Liguria Region.
TO : The Secretary "Federazione Italiana
Dipendenti Aziende Telecomunicazioni"
(F.I.D.A.T.) - Via Boncompagni, 19,
R o m e

1. It is desired to acknowledge receipt of your letter
N° 38 of 16th August forwarding a copy of the agreement between
your Federation and the Telephone Company "Tirrena" (TEFI).

2. The copy of the agreement has been forwarded to the
Regional Commissioner of the Liguria Region and the question
as to whether the agreement has been approved throughout the
Liguria Region has been raised.

3. As soon as the precise position has been ascertained,
a further communication will be addressed to you.

W. H. BRAINE
Director
Labour Sub-Commission

C O P Y

- C. G. I. L. - FEDERAZIONE ITALIANA DIPENDENTI AZIENDE
TELECOMUNICAZIONI (F.I.D.A.T.)

Sede Federale: ROMA - Via Boncompagni N.19.
- - - - -

Prot.N.38

Rome, 16th August 1945

To: LABOUR SUB COMMISSION of
the ALLIED COMMISSION
R o m e

SUBJECT: Cost-of-Living Bonns for
Telephone Workers in Liguria Region.

On May 18th, 45 our Federation signed a national agreement with the Telephone Company "Tirrena" (TETI) on behalf of all depending employees and temporarily limited to the personnel working south of the economic and sanitary line dividing southern from northern Italy.

As this restriction has now been lifted, the workers have requested the extension of the agreement to the Liguria region, and the Telephone Company has accepted the request. But the Allied military Authorities have not yet approved the agreement and TETI personnel is worried for that delay which greatly endangers them, considering the continuous rising level of the cost of living.

The needs of the workers are very great indeed, and therefore we ask you to examine their request and take a quick decision on the matter.

Yours,

FEDERATION OF THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS
WORKERS

- The Secretary -

sgd. MASSI FERRUCCIO - PIERREONI BRUNO)

C O P YC. G. I. L.

Federazione Italiana Dipendenti Aziende Telecomunicazioni
(F.I.D.A.T.)

Sede Federale ROMA - Via Boncompagni N.19.

Prot. N° 38.

Roma, li 16 agosto 1945

SOTTO COMMISSIONE PER IL LAVORO
DELLA COMMISSIONE ALLEATA
R o m a

Oggetto: Indennità di Contingenza
Telefonica Liguria-

Questa Federazione in data 18 maggio 1945 stipulò un accordo nazionale con la Telefonica Tirrena per tutto il personale dipendente e limitato temporaneamente a quello residente a sud del cordone economico-sanitario.

Con l'abolizione di detto vincolo il personale ha chiesto l'estensione dell'accordo in parola alla Liguria e la Società Telefonica Tirrena ha aderito alla richiesta.

Senonchè le autorità militari Alleate ancora non ratificano l'accordo, per cui il personale della TETI è giustamente preoccupato di questo ritardo che lo danneggia enormemente, dato il continuo costo crescente della vita.

I bisogni di detti lavoratori sono enormi, per cui preghiamo codesta Sotto Commissione affinchè voglia esaminare benevolmente la richiesta dei nostri organizzati e disporre in merito con cortese sollecitudine.

FEDERAZIONE DIPENDENTI AZIENDE TELECOMUNICAZIONI

= LA SEGRETERIA =

(fto. MASI FERRUCCIO - PIERLEONI BRUNO)

FEDERAZIONE ITALIANA DIPENDENTI AZIENDE TELECOMUNICAZIONI

C. G. I. L.

(F. I. D. A. T.)

Sede Federale ROMA - Via Boncompagni N. 19

Telefono

Prot. N. 38

To: LAVOR SUB COMMISSION OF ROMA. 11th August 1945

the

ALLIED COMMISSION

R O M E

Subject: COST-OF-LIVING BONDS FOR
TELEPHONE WORKERS IN
LIGURIA REGION.

On May 18th, 45 our Federation signed a national agreement with the Telephone Company "Tirrena" (TETI) on behalf of all depending employees and temporarily limited to the personnel working south of the economic and sanitary line dividing southern from northern Italy.

As this restriction has now been lifted, the workers have requested the extension of the agreement to the Liguria region, and the Telephone Company has accepted the request. But the Allied military Authorities have not yet approved the agreement and TETI personnel is worried for that delay which greatly endangers them, considering the continuous rising level of the cost of living.

The needs of the workers are very great indeed, and therefore we ask you to examine their request and take a quick decision on the matter.

Yours,

FEDERATION OF THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS WORKERS

= The Secretary =

(LAST TELECOMMUNICATIONS REGION)

Federazione Italiana

Subject: COST-OF-LIVING BONUS FOR
TELEPHONE WORKERS IN
LIGURIA REGION.

On May 18th, 45 our Federation signed a national agreement with the Telephone Company "Ticrena" (TETI) on behalf of all depending employees and temporarily limited to the personnel working south of the economic and sanitary line dividing southern from northern Italy.

As this restriction has now been lifted, the workers have requested the extension of the agreement to the Liguria region, and the Telephone Company has accepted the request. But the Allied Military Authorities have not yet approved the agreement and TETI personnel is worried for that delay which greatly endangers them, considering the continuous rising level of the cost of living.

The needs of the workers are very great indeed, and therefore we ask you to examine their request and take a quick decision on the matter.

Yours,

FEDERATION OF THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS WORKERS
= The Secretary =

(LARI PERRUCCIO-RISTELEONI BRUNO)

Peruccio Bruno

293

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FEDERAZIONE ITALIANA DIPENDENTI AZIENDE TELECOMUNICAZIONI

C. G. I. L.

(F. I. D. A. T.)

Sede Federale ROMA - Via Boncompagni N. 19

Telefono

Prot. N. 38

Roma, li 10 agosto 1945

SOTTO COMMISSIONE PER IL LAVORO
DELLA COMMISSIONE ALLEATA

R o m a

oggetto: Indennità di Contingenza
Telefonica Liguria-

Questa Federazione in data 18 maggio 1945 stipulò un accordo nazionale con la Telefonica Tirrena per tutto il personale dipendente e limitato temporaneamente a quello residente a Sud del cordone economico-sanitario.

Con l'abolizione di detto vincolo il personale ha chiesto l'estensione dell'accordo in parola alla Liguria e la Società Telefonica Tirrena ha aderito alla richiesta.

Senonchè le autorità militari Alleate ancora non ratificano l'accordo, per cui il personale della TETI è giustamente preoccupato di questo ritardo che lo danneggia enormemente, dato il continuo costo crescente della vita.

I bisogni di detti lavoratori sono enormi, per cui preghiamo codesta Sotto Commissione affinché voglia esaminare benevolmente le richieste dei nostri organizzati e disporre in merito con cortese solidarietà.

FEDERAZIONE DIPENDENTI AZIENDE TELECOMUNICAZIONI

=LA SEGRETERIA=

(Mesi Ferruccio-Pierleoni Bruno)

Conceduto - Richiesta

Questa Federazione in data 18 maggio 1945 stipulò un accordo nazionale con la Telefonica Tirrena per tutto il personale dipendente e limitato temporaneamente a quello residente a Sud del corso economico-sensitario.

Con l'abolizione di detto vincolo il personale ha chiesto l'estensione dell'accordo in parola alla Liguria e la Società Telefonica Tirrena ha aderito alla richiesta.

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FEDERAZIONE DIPENDENTI AZIENDE TELECOMUNICAZIONI

-LA SEGRETERIA-

(Maei Marruccio-Pierleoni Bruno)

Comunicazione - Pirelli

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HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
LABOUR SUB-COMMISSION

FF/co

TEL : 489081 - 493

21 Agosto 1945.

REF : LSC/523.

OGGETTO : Indennità di Contingenza
Telefonica Liguria.

AL : Segretario "Federazione Italiana
Dipendenti Aziende Telecomunicazioni",
(F.I.D.A.T.) - Via Boncompagni, 19.
R O A S

1. Ci preghiamo accusarVi ricevuta della Vostra lettera
N° 38 del 16 Agosto con acclusa copia dell'accordo stipulato
fra la Vostra Federazione e la Società Telefonica "Tirrena"
(TETI).

2. La copia dell'accordo è stata rispedita al Commissario
Regionale della Liguria e la questione se detto accordo è stato
approvato per tutta la Regione della Liguria è stata sollevata.

3. Non appena avremo accertato la precisa posizione,
Vi faremo ulteriori comunicazioni.

W. H. BRAINE
Director
Labour Sub-Commission.

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
LABOR SUB-COMMISSION

File
TMS/PAW

REF: LSC/523

2 August 1945

MEMORANDUM

1. On Thursday, 2 August 1945, Mr. W.H. Braine attended a meeting between R.C.A. (Mr. T.D. Neala, European Manager; Mr. J.E. Stack, Assistant Manager), O. & W. (Mr. Smith, Manager Rome), Italcable (Engineer G. Martinato) and Federazione Italiana Dipendenti Aziende Telecomunicazioni, accredited representatives of Italcable workers attached to the Allied communication companies.
2. Mr. Braine asked all parties if they attended voluntarily to which the reply was in the affirmative. He said that he was prepared to give an opinion on questions referred to him. After discussion and explanations, Mr. Braine said that in his opinion the general wage agreement of 15 May absorbed the voluntary and spontaneous Allied bonus which had hitherto been recognized as an act of grace by the Allied companies with regard to a number of Italcable employees detached for service with them. Accordingly, in future payments involving the new agreement of 15 May the Allied bonus should not be added.
3. Mr. Braine further said that since Italcable had, in their letter of 27 May, sought the consent of the Allied companies to the payment of new rates, Italcable put the whole question of wage payments into suspense and should have awaited the reply from the companies before making other than the hitherto recognized payments. Nevertheless, the company had made payments including the continuance of the former Allied bonus without awaiting ~~the~~ the companies' reply. That reply, which was given immediately and reached the company within a few days of its request, clearly withdrew authority for the continued payment of the Allied bonus. In Mr. Braine's opinion, therefore, Italcable could not look to the Allied companies for reimbursement of the payments which they had made without authority.
4. The question of recovery from the workers of alleged over-payments rests between the workers and their employer, namely, Italcable. If his opinion was sought on this question, Mr. Braine

would say that in present day conditions among the working classes in Italy it would cause extreme hardship to require the workers to refund sums which had been received by them in good faith, and in his opinion the workers should not be required to refund such sums.

5. The workers' representatives alleged that the conditions of service with the Allied companies were more arduous than for Italoabbe. The representatives of the Allied companies stated that, in their opinion, the conditions of service were not more arduous, that they were under the impression that they were more attractive and that in so far as R.O.A. is concerned the men had been kept on a 7-day basis so that they might enjoy the benefit of the overtime payment. It was R.O.A.'s belief that this was the desire of the Italian Staff.

6. Mr. Braine said that the question of special bonus on account of service with the Allies was one which should be negotiated by the interested parties in the normal way and that it was not a question to be decided at today's meeting. It was made clear that until new arrangements, if any, were made the Allied bonus would not be paid in the future. The representatives of the Allied companies said that they were prepared to examine reasonable requests supported by evidence for compensation for arduous service, and that if they were convinced they would be prepared to recognize such service.

W. H. Braine

12c/523

TO FIDAT

ITALCABLE SYNDICAL COMMITTEE

AND FOR INFORMATION :

LABOUR SUB-COMMISSION

LA MANAGER DELLA CABLE AND WIRELESS

AL MANAGER DELLA R.C.A.

ALLA COMMISSIONE INTERNA DELLA ITALCABLE

AL COMMISSARIO DELLA ITALCABLE

AS ALREADY VOTED BY THE ORDER OF THE DAY OF 17
JULY 1945 WORKERS ATTACHED TO C.W. AND R.C.A. CONSIDERING
THEMSELVES HAMPERED IN THEIR RIGHTS AND NOT DULY ASSISTED
BY THE ITALCABLE SYNDICAL COMMITTEE OWING TO THE FACT THEY
ARE BEING DEPRIVED OF THE BONUS AS WELL AS HAVING ARREARS
DEDUCTED IN SUCH A CRITICAL MOMENT.

DECLARE

THAT THEY WILL STRIKE FROM 20 HOURS OF 29 JULY 1945
UNTIL THE QUESTION WILL BE SOLVED WITH A BETTER SENSE OF
JUSTICE.

THE ITALIAN PERSONNEL
OF ITALCABLE

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
LABOR SUB-COMMISSION
APO 394

DGS/sb

REF : *650/522*

30 July 1945

SUBJECT: Ital Cable

MEMO TO FILES

1. On Sunday, 29 July, I was informed by Colonel Scudder that a written strike threat had been received from the employees of Ital Cable engaged in work for RCA and Cable and Wireless. They threaten to go out 2000 hours 29 July.
2. A meeting was held in the INA Building attended by Colonel Scudder, myself, representatives of Ital Cable, RCA, Cable and Wireless, two employees representing the group who made the strike threat and the union representative.
3. The strike threat had been made without the knowledge of the union representative but by a group of employees working for CW and RCA who acted independently.
4. It appeared that although the question as to the bonus was still pending and scheduled for discussion on Thursday, 2 August, Ital Cable, nevertheless, went ahead and deducted one-fourth of the bonus from the full pay check of the 27th and 28th.
5. The employee representatives were told that under no circumstances could there be any interruption in military communication. They agreed to this.
6. It was further arranged that a meeting would be held in my office at 10:30 Monday for the purpose of discussing the question of whether or not this deduction should have been made pending the dispute of the general bonus question.
7. It was understood that this meeting would be held on the two conditions: 1) that no strike take place, and 2) that there would be one committee with authority to represent the employees and that this committee designate a spokesman.

DAVID C. SACHS

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 804
LABOR SUB-COMMISSION

LSE/523

KH/rw

TEL : Ext. 416

30 July 1945

MEMORANDUM

Subject: Italcable Employees Working for RCA and C & W.

1. On 23 July information was received from Communications Sub-Commission that Italcable workers attached to RCA and C & W intended to strike as from 2000 hours 29 July (copy of strike notice attached). Arrangements were made through Communications Sub-Commission and RCA and C & W for a meeting in Mr. Sachs' office at 10:30 a.m. on 30 July 45. In the meantime strike action would be deferred. (Mr. Sachs' report attached.)

2. The meeting was held and the following were present: RCA and C & W representatives; Communications Sub-Commission; Italcable management; Italcable employees; Mr. Sachs, Mr. Proctor and Mr. Bird.

3. From questioning of the interested parties it was clear that RCA and C & W employ Italcable as agents and any contract for service as between worker and employer lies with Italcable and its employees. When Italcable originally undertook to act as agents, RCA and C & W agreed to pay a caropane bonus over and above the wage rates then in force (this bonus comparable with Allied Forces ~~Scale~~). From time to time wage increases were negotiated between Italcable and its employees, and these increases included caropane. Upon being notified to RCA and C & W, both companies agreed that any such increases could be the subject of legitimate claim for refund from them by Italcable. In February 1945 negotiations for comprehensive changes in wage rates were started and were completed on 15 May 45, the agreement being approved by the Ministry of Posts and Tele-Communications on 19 May. This agreement covered minimum wages, war allowances, cost-of-living, emergency allowances and equalizing allowances, to apply to all Italcable's workers, and did not in any way refer to the 1500 lire a month caropane bonus that had been paid as an extra item to the 80 or so workers ~~who~~ engaged on RCA and C & W work. The agreement was made retroactive to 15 February.

4. Italcable informed RCA and C & W of the terms of the agreement and there was no question that the two companies would accept as appropriate for refund any wages costs that conformed to the agreement. The two companies, however, wrote to Italcable on 25 May stating that as the new wage agreement covered cost-of-living, the Allied bonus of 1500 lire per month would be withdrawn as from 1st May, and that for the period 15 February to 1 May

- 2 -

wages costs would only be refunded on the basis of either the new increased wage or the old wage plus the Allied bonus, whichever was the higher, but not both. Although there had apparently been no worker-employer negotiation leading up to the original granting of the bonus, it is reasonable to hold that such bonus had become firmly established by long usage as part of conditions of employment, and that any suggestion of removal of the bonus should have been submitted through negotiating machinery.

5. On 2 June Italcable informed RCA and C & W that as their pay sheets had already been made out at the time they received the letter notifying suspension of the bonus, they had, in fact, paid such bonus for the month of May; they promised to adjust their accounts with RCA and C & W for the month of June.

6. Representatives of RCA and C & W then visited Labor Sub-Commission and as a result of the visit they wrote to Italcable on 19 July stating that the question of bonus had been referred to the Labor Sub-Commission who agreed, "to our claim that the Allied bonus be withdrawn in accordance with our letters of 25 May and of 8 June".

7. On receipt of this letter Italcable made arrangements to withdraw from their employees one-quarter of the alleged overpayment of bonus for the period 18 February to 31 May (monthly payment of the bonus had not been made since 31 May), and as far as can be ascertained Italcable did not enter into any discussions with their workers as to the procedure for deduction of arrears but merely decided upon an arbitrary division of the total amount into four equal portions, the first of which was deducted on 28 July.

8. The dispute falls under two heads:

(a) Whether payment of the 1500 lire monthly bonus shall continue and be a legitimate claim by Italcable against RCA and C & W;

There is some indication that the workers would be prepared to accept suspension of bonus as from 1 May. Suspension from this date will, however, involve adjustment of the amount that was paid by Italcable to its workers in respect of bonus for May (after they have received notification from RCA and C & W that the bonus was to be discontinued). It seems that it will be unreasonable to seek refund from the work people, and that the onus for overpayment rests with Italcable, who must accept responsibility on this understanding, and to avoid friction in

- 3 -

relationship, it would be helpful if RCA and C & W offered ex gratia payment.

(b) Whether arrears or bonus from 18 February to 1 May shall be recovered from the work people.

The workers are under the impression that both questions are in process of negotiation under the aegis of Labor Sub-Commission; they were so informed by Italcable and they, therefore, expect some form of arbitration or decision.

9. Mr. Sachs advised all parties of the need for clarifying the position and of preserving good relationship and mutual trust. On the advice of Mr. Sachs Italcable agreed to pay the workers (on 31 July) an amount representing the quarter of the bonus overpayment that they had withheld from the last pay packet. This would not prejudice subsequent negotiations. The workers expressed satisfaction with this preliminary, and all parties agreed to meet in Labor Sub-Commission at 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, 2 August. The workers agreed that their representatives at Thursday's meeting should include men who are specifically concerned, i.e., representatives from those of Italcable's workers who are actually employed on RCA and C & W work.

KENNETH HIRD
Labor Sub-Commission

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
LABOR SUB-COMMISSION

LSC/523

DCS/rmw

MEMORANDUM TO MR. BRAINE

25 June 1945

Subject: Threatened strike at SET, Naples.

1. On 20 June Col. Pennycuik, Provincial Commissioner of Naples Commune, called reference above subject. He reported that there had been considerable unrest among the employees of SET which is the telephone company. A number of strikes had already taken place South of Naples and the employees at Naples threatened to go out.

2. The cause of the dispute centers around the activities of one Pellegrini, formerly head of the company. Pellegrini has been epurated but there is an appeal pending. An employees' committee charged that notwithstanding the epuration Pellegrini nevertheless is participating in the management of the company affairs, is working closely with the present manager and other directors, and makes full use of the company car. In addition he appears to be consulted by PBS in an expert capacity.

3. Col. Pennycuik succeeded in averting immediate strike action and a report of the conference with the committee is attached. He wanted an officer from Labor Sub-Commission to come down immediately for the purpose of making an investigation. Since we had no one available to send down, and since Communications Sub-Commission was in the same position, I requested Civil Affairs Section to send Major E. L. Palmieri to investigate and report. His report is hereto attached.

4. The entire picture is obfuscated by the long and tortuous background of the so-called affair Pellegrini. There is a very sharp conflict of opinion among persons of high authority in the Allied Governments as to whether or not Pellegrini is a Fascist. Civil Affairs Section here holds very strong views that he is not, and never has been a Fascist. They feel sure that the epuration proceedings were not based upon any respectable evidence and that the conviction will be reversed on appeal. On the other hand, there are some very strong anti-Pellegrini forces both within and without the telephone company.

5. Both Col. Pennycuik and Major Palmieri agree that the situation is a very hot one and that a serious strike is imminent unless some action is taken. It is difficult, however, to determine what this action should be. Since Naples Commune is AMG, the responsibility is ours.

6. It seems to me that as long as the epuration conviction is outstanding, Pellegrini should stay away from the company and engage in no conduct which might lead to comment on the part of the employees. Other than this there is the serious question of the

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- 2 -

extent to which employees should expect concessions on a question involving the management of the company. In this connection Civil Affairs Section have criticised Col. Pennycuick's conciliatory position on the question. On the other hand, if the feeling among the employees is sufficiently strong and an effective and prolonged strike can be pulled off it may be necessary to recommend some changes in the managerial setup.

D.C.S.
DAVID C. SACHS
Deputy Director

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HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

APO 394

CIVIL AFFAIRS SECTION

REF DE/3.7/CA

TO : Mr. SACHS - Labor S/C

SUBJECT : Threatened strike at S.E.T.
(telephone Company) at Naples.

154/523

- 1 I return herewith the letter addressed to the Labor Sub-Commission by Col. Pennycuik under date of 20 June 1945, and the attached reports dated 19 June 1945.
- 2 The immediate cause of the trouble has been removed by the dismissal of one Smeriglio, an employee of S.E.T.. The workers who threatened to strike did so because they objected to Smeriglio's activities in trying to create support for Pellegrini. The S.E.T. Company has saved face by basing the dismissal on other grounds. The fact remains, however, that there exists a well organized and highly vocal group of workers who want to remove Pellegrini, and, if possible, all the directors of S.E.T. who were there during the fascist regime. How strong and how representative this group is I am unable to say. I had some contact with them about 8 months ago when they made it plain that they were determined to get Pellegrini ousted by the Epuration Commission.
- 3 Pellegrini's epuration proceeding is still sub-judice. He has appealed to the Central Commission against a judgement of dismissal. My own opinion is that the proceedings were improperly and unfairly conducted and that there is a strong possibility of his securing a reversal.
- 4 If the Pellegrini epuration proceeding terminates with his ouster from S.E.T., presumably the agitation will end. If Pellegrini should win his appeal, it is likely that there will be a strike or, at least, a threat to strike. It is not a happy position for us to be in because the epuration laws have been passed with our knowledge and consent and have been very largely implemented in AMG territory.
- 5 I have the impression from my talk with Col. Pennycuik (see paragraph 6 of his letter of 20 June 1945) that he is ready to remove any or all of the higher-ups in the S.E.T. Company in order to avoid trouble. This poses a problem which should be considered very carefully. My opinion is that a firm stand should be taken with these workers and that it must be made clear to them that the quasi-judicial bodies administering epuration must be respected in the same sense as the Courts are.
- 6 In conclusion, it seems desirable to have a policy agreed upon in the event of trouble over a decision favorable to Pellegrini. In this connection, it might be useful to make an accurate appraisal of the character and strength of

determined to get Pellegrini ousted by the Eputation Commission.

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- 6 In conclusion, it seems desirable to have a policy agreed upon in the event of trouble over a decision favorable to Pellegrini. In this connection, it might be useful to make an accurate appraisal of the character and strength of the workers' organization involved. *"The Workers' Union, a Labor Union."*

23 June 1945
CA Section

E. L. Palmieri
E.L. PALMIERI
Major

(22)

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
NAPLES COMBINE
APO. 394.

LABOR 9/c
LSG/523

20 June, 1945.

C/1050.

SUBJECT : Strike of Telephone Operators.

TO : HQ. A. C.
(Labour Sub-Commission). ✓

1. On the 18th of June my attention was called to a strike of Telephone operators of the Società Esercizi Telefonici already in being in Sicily and South West Italy and threatened for Naples. I had received no previous warning of trouble, but arranged for a meeting with the workers Committee and Major Helmick, P.D.S. Signal officer, for the next morning and for a meeting with Signor Pistolesse, the Director of S.E.E. on the afternoon of the 19th.
2. The position as I found it on the 19th of June was as follows:
 - (a) - No strike in Naples and an assurance given to me that there would be no strike.
 - (b) - A strike already started in Sicily and South Italy.
3. Sicily is outside my area of responsibility and I have only liaison responsibility for South West Italy. It seemed, however, impossible to separate Naples telephones entirely from other parts of Italy, there was obviously discontent, with danger of the strike spreading, and Naples appeared to be the centre from which strike action was being organized, so I decided I must go on with the meetings to see what could be done. Copies of the proceedings are attached.
4. The result of the day's proceedings was that the Labour Commission agreed to use their influence to call the strike off everywhere, and halt further action while I promised to ask for a Labour representative to come to Naples from HQ. Allied Commission to go into causes of unrest, impartially.

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Briefly the points brought out in the discussions were:

- (a) - Distrust by labour of the former Fascist governing body of the S.E.T., which has been headed by one, Ing. Count Pellegrini, and ~~is~~ now headed in Naples, by a former associate of Pellegrini, namely Ing. Pistolessi. This is the underlying root cause of the discontent. The Labour representatives admitted quite openly that they themselves had adhered to the Fascist party out of necessity, but maintained that Count Pellegrini was an unconvertable fascist of a different type. They asserted that this opinion was borne out by the fact that he was suspended by the Egaration Committee. Pellegrini is still considered to be a sinister and powerful figure in the life of the Company, and he is said to make his influence felt as part of the black spectre of fascism through the present S.E.T. Naples head, his friend and collaborator of 20 years standing, Ing. Pistolessi.

It is possible that Ing. Pistolessi may be technically satisfactory but there was enough evidence to show that there are grounds for considering that the intention to do away with a fascist director has been carried out in a manner which ~~is~~ half hearted and the man's technical assets may be swamped by the bad feeling so engendered.

- (b) - The immediate cause belli, that brought about the strike outside Naples is due to disapproval of the activities of a workman named Smeriglio, who used a period of unpaid leave (a normal procedure) to attempt to put out pro-Pellegrini, hence pro-fascist, propaganda. Curiously enough, Major Helmick, the P.B.S. Signal Officer, was not aware of this being the cause of the strike, because Ing. Pistolessi had not kept him fully in touch with proceedings. Ing. Pistolessi seems to have lost sight of the importance of this case saying it was included with other 23 grievances put forward. We heard little of the 23 other grievances but Ing. Pistolessi now proposes to dismiss Smeriglio, not because the workers ask for this action, but because he (Smeriglio) has committed a technical error by selling telephone goods in competition with S.E.T. The dismissal of Smeriglio, under these circumstances, may take away the apparent cause of the strike, but will not affect the basic cause of distrust with the

management which is stated baldly as being: "dis trust with fascism".

6. In my opinion there is serious trouble being fermented in this organization which affects so much of the life of the Country and also affects military movements largely dependent on Civil telephones. It is trouble of a difficult type and it is essential that it should be quickly investigated and, if found necessary, that immediate steps should be taken to remove any departmental chiefs even if this may cause some temporary technical loss of efficiency. Unless action is taken and taken quickly, trouble is likely to spread and have repercussions elsewhere. I feel that the workers have shown good faith in calling off the strike outside Naples and the presence of a Labour representative of standing from HQ. A.C. to enquire into alleged grievances quite impartially in collaboration with an A.F.E.Q. Signal representative, prepared to implement decisions arrived at immediately, is an urgent necessity.

J. A. C. Pennington

J. A. C. PENNINGTON
Colonel
Commissioner.

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Copy to : Major Helmick, HQ Southern District F.B.I.
HQ. No. 3 District, C.M.F.

CONFERENCE WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE S.E.T.

TO DISCUSS GRIEVANCES AND A TELEPHONE

STRIKE ALREADY RENOWNED.

19 June, 1945.

Those present were;

Colonel PENNYCOTICK,
Lt. Col. Warren
Major Helmick

Commissioner A.M.G.
Deputy Commissioner A.M.G.
P.B.S. Signal Service.

Signor Colombo,

" Saldarini
" Castelli
" Sangogna
" Esposito
" Cinque

Signorina Pallavicino

S.E.T. Labour Commission.

Signor Bassi (Interpreter).

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1. The A.M.G. Commissioner opened the conference asking what grievances of the employees of the S.E.T. are. Signor Colombo was asked to be the spokesman for the employees.

2. Signor Colombo commenced by saying that so far as Naples was concerned, the employees of the S.E.T. at Naples are working quietly and that there is and will be no strike. On 15 May 1945, telephone representatives from Puglia, Calabria, Sicily and all the zones in which there were disturbances were called to a congress at Naples to study what the S.E.T. has done in the interest of the personnel, the public, and to discuss the actions of Count Pellegrini who had been relieved of his position by the Committee of Liberation at Rome, on the 15 March 1945.

1. The A.M.C. Commissioner opened the conference asking what grievances of the employees of the S.E.T. are. Signor Colombo was asked to be the spokesman for the employees.
2. Signor Colombo commenced by saying that so far as Naples was concerned, the employees of the S.E.T. at Naples are working quietly and that there is and will be no strike. On 15 May 1945, telephone representatives from Puglia, Calabria, Sicily and all the zones in which there were disturbances were called to a congress at Naples to study what the S.E.T. has done in the interest of the personnel, the public, and to discuss the actions of Count Pellegrini who had been relieved of his position by the Committee of Epuration at Rome, on the 15 March 1945.
3. Pellegrini acted like a "second Mussolini" towards the personnel and his acts of terrorism were resented. He was the managing director of S.E.T. and had large financial interests in the Company. It was pointed out to him that times had changed and that the personnel expected something better from him after the arrival of the Allies. But the first thing he did was to discharge certain of the employees in all sections, including two engineers who were afterwards re-employed.
4. The Sindecati called meetings of all the S.E.T. personnel and they were asked if they were satisfied with the management of Pellegrini. The personnel voted secretly on the question as to whether they had confidence in Pellegrini. The ballots were sealed and it was found that from 85% to 90% were against him. Following this everyone hoped that Pellegrini would be sent away from the S.E.T. but Pellegrini continued at his post, and continued at his old character.

of dictator, and personnel then tried to get rid of him by force.

5. At this point, Col. Poletti issued a decree removing the chiefs who were under the fascists, and Count Pellegrini was replaced by Capt. Pratt of P.B.S. in control of the S.E.T.

6. The case of Count Pellegrini was taken to the Committee on Epuration at Rome and he was shown to be a Fascist and put out of the S.E.T. Engineer Pistolesse was put in his place as Manager of the S.E.T. after Capt. Pratt had been transferred.

7. Although Pellegrini was no longer in office, it was alleged he tried to disorganize the personnel telling them that he would do the best for them and promised that if he was put back, he would continue to be interested in the company.

8. The question was asked, who put Ing. Pistolesse in his place. He was placed there by the Board of Directors of the S.E.T. with the consent of P.B.S. who considered him the only man who could fill the place, because of his technical qualifications. He was chosen from a list of several names submitted through G2 Section P.B.S.

9. The personnel were satisfied with him, but they understood that he would never be independent of his actions as he would always feel the presence of Count Pellegrini who was considered the man behind the scenes.

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10. The Commissioner asked if there was not something that could be done to satisfy the personnel? He was assured that there was no disturbance but that the dissatisfaction lay in the fact that Pistolesse is a friend of Pellegrini. The Commissioner said that this man may not be pleasing to the personnel, but if he is capable and adapted to the post they would have to accept him. He wanted to know, however, if there was anything specific

8. The question was asked, who put Ing. Pistolese in his place. He was placed there by the Board of Directors of the S.E.T. with the consent of P.B.S. who considered him the only man who could fill the place, because of his technical qualifications. He was chosen from a list of several names submitted through G2 Section F.B.S.
9. The personnel were satisfied with him but they understood that he would never be independent of his actions as he would always feel the presence of Count Pellegrini who was considered the man behind the scenes. 537
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11. The question was also asked by the A.M.G. Commissioner: "Pistolese is an engineer, but has he the ability to be a manager?" The Labour Commission expressed doubts as to his ability as engineer or manager and asked for his qualifications to be investigated.
12. Major Helmick stated that on all question of policy, Engineer Pistolese must check through him. Pistolese cannot do as he likes, he is under the control of Major Helmick.
13. It was then said that Count Pellegrini is always with Pistolese and Jorio (Capo del Personale of the S.E.T. A cousin, Avv. Amadeo Pistolese, defended Pellegrini at

Rome before the Committee on Epuration. Pellegrini is always at the home of Pistolese. Pellegrini uses the private car of the S.E.F. and the driver asked Pellegrini not to use the car so often because the workmen, seeing him drive Pellegrini would beat him. The use of the automobile was explained that the tyres were provided by P.B.S. and Pellegrini is working for Brig. Buchanan in Rome. Because Pellegrini is a friend of certain persons does not mean that these other persons should be discharged from their posts. Major Helmick said that he personally was a friend of Count Pellegrini and invited him to his quarters.

14.

Count Pellegrini was said to have been a friend of Ciano, Farinacci and many other figureheads of fascism; public opinion has always been against him because of the poor telephone service when he was manager and of the high charges made.

15.

The A.M.G. Commissioner then asked: "What is the immediate prospect? Is there going to be a strike or isn't there going to be a strike?" The reply was: "Here in Naples there is no strike, but outside of Naples there is now a strike in Sicily and South-West Italy, which had been called by local Labour Commissions after consultation with Labour in Rome."

16.

Speaking again of Pellegrini - The personnel asked for the Italian Government Easter bonus and they said that Count Pellegrini gave out that it was only given to them as a result of his personal efforts.

17.

Two Labourers, Smeriglio and Dino Guida, came from Calabria upon invitation of Count Pellegrini in order to make a propaganda tour for him. These activities created a very great dissatisfaction among the personnel of the S.E.F. Smeriglio had been given six months' leave of absence without pay. He has a business of his own in Reggio di Calabria, a store of electrical supplies as well as radios; this business has increased in such a

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It should be noted that it was agreed that Smeriglio had the right to voice his opinions about Count Pellegrini just as much as his critics. But it was clear that the way he had done this had caused great dissatisfaction among the employees.

18. The Confederation of Labour, Via Boncompagni No.19 Rome is the seat of the Labour Unions for Sicily, Calabria and the zones outside of Naples. There are labour unions in all important cities and these unions depend on each other to coordinate strikes.

19. Col. Warren raised the point that although the war was finished here, America and England still have a war to fight against Japan and they will consider it a most unfriendly act if the personnel of the S.E.T. persist in their idea of a strike and so interfere with that war effort.

20. The A.M.G. Commissioner said he would make a full report of the proceedings of this meeting to A.C. Hq. Rome immediately and would ask a representative of the Allied Commission to come down for a further conference with the representatives of the personnel of S.E.T. but asked for the strike to stop and for the negotiations to be in an atmosphere of disciplined freedom.

21. He also said that as he understood the position, there was the black spectre of Fascism behind Count Pellegrini and he was distrusted. The Labour Commission agreed that this was so, and when Count Pellegrini was seen going about with Allied officers in an official car it exacerbated the position, as he had been deprived of his position by the Evacuation Committee.

22. The A.M.G. Commissioner promised to try and get a Labour representative down from Rome to go into the questions raised and in the meantime asked the Labour

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22. The A.M.G. Commissioner promised to try and get a Labour representative down from Rome to go into the questions raised and in the meantime asked the Labour representatives to use their *influence* to call off the strike outside Naples, now in operation in Sicily, Puglia and South West Italy.

It was agreed:

- (a) - There would be no strike in Naples Commune
- (b) - The Labour representatives would make every endeavour to call off the telephone strike outside Naples.
- (c) - The Commissioner A.M.G. should refer the case at once to A.C. HQ. Rome.

INTERVIEW WITH ENGINEER PISTOLESE OF THE

SOCIETA' ESERCIZI TELEFONICI

WHICH FOLLOWED UP THE INTERVIEWS WITH THE LABOUR COMMISSION
OF THE SAME MORNING.

1700 hrs. 19 June 1945.

Those present were:

Colonel PENNYCUICK,	Commissioner A.M.C.
Lt. Col. WARREN	Deputy Commissioner
Major HENNICK	Signal Officer P.B.S.
Engineer Pistolese	Director of S.E.T.
Sig. Bassi,	Interpreter.

1. Ing. Pistolese was referred to the contention that the cause of the telephone strike was the retention in employment by the S.E.T. of the workmen Smeriglio. He agreed that the real cause of the strike was the activities of this workman who is chief of a gang of workmen in Reggio Calabria. In February 1945, Smeriglio asked for one month's leave, without pay and this was arranged. Then he asked for three months more, this was granted and taken him up to the end of June. He wanted this leave so that he could travel on account of his own business and replenish his electrical supplies, at the same time doing some propaganda for Count Pellegrini, late director of the S.E.T.
2. The Committees of the Labour Parties were very much displeased with the activities of Smeriglio and it was requested that he be dismissed from the S.E.T.. Ing. Pistolese said he could not take action until he had reason for this dismissal. In the meantime, he told the Labour Party that he would inform the President of the S.E.T. of this request. Fifteen days ago he had sent a letter to the President of the S.E.T., Sig. Protto, who was in Florence, and the letter never reached him. Sig. Protto left on 13 June for Milan.

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3. About sixteen to eighteen days ago was the first time that Smeriglio was discussed when the Labour Committee was presented with 24 requests, and the request for his dismissal was one of the requests. That was the first time that the S.E.T. knew about the intervention of the Labour Committee, and he (Ing. Pistolesse) sent the Capo del Personale Signor Iorio to Reggio to enquire into the activities of Smeriglio.
4. Smeriglio then went to Rome and bought 18 to 20 telephone apparatus from a manufacturing plant there, for the S.E.T. This is against the regulations of the S.E.T. which prohibits all employees to undertake any kind of business which may in any way be in competition with the Company. As a result Ing. Pistolesse said he proposed to dismiss Smeriglio on account of his activities in competition with the Company, but was awaiting a reply from Major Helmick to whom he

had now referred the case.

5.

The COMMISSIONER for A.M.G. asked whether the dismissal of Smeriglio had been decided and Ing. Pistolesi replied that the final decision has not yet been taken.

The Commissioner A.M.G. then asked: "Why didn't you tell Major Helmick at once of this Smeriglio trouble?" weeks ago, because Major Helmick was apparently unaware of the real cause of the strike?"

Ing. Pistolesi replied that he wanted to wait for a final decision by the President of the S.E.T. as to the action to be taken. Naples was satisfied and they thought the outside personnel was satisfied, but instead they were not.

The COMMISSIONER then asked: "Didn't you know 18 days ago that that was one of the big points for the calling of the strike?"

Ing. Pistolesi replied: "I did not."

6.

A week or so later the Secretary of the Labour Union in Naples called a meeting and the question of the dismissal of Smeriglio discussed. The question of Smeriglio was put up to the President. A copy of the final agreement was sent to all the outside sections of the S.E.T. in order that everybody would know of it.

7.

The COMMISSIONER A.M.G. then said: "This morning we were told by the Committee that the reason behind all this trouble is that they think the influence of Count Pellegrini is still very strong in the Company, even if he was dismissed by the Committee of Expiration. Do you agree?"

Ing. Pistolesi: "Absolutely no. For 5 months Pellegrini has had nothing to do with the affairs of the SET. He has made an appeal to Higher Commission and pending the final decision of the Higher Commission on Expiration he has been dismissed as Manager of the S.E.T. But the Board of Directors has not taken his name from the list of the Board of Directors so that although he is still a member of the Board of Directors, he is practically out of the S.E.T."

The COMMISSIONER: "He was Secretary about 18 days ago."

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The COMMISSIONER: "He was seen going about in an automobile of the S.E.T., said to be your automobile."

Ing. Pistolesi: "That was about 3 months ago and for the last three months he has not done so. He has been in Naples several times for a few days and although he is a member of the Board of Directors, he does not get the use of the car."

8. The COMMISSIONER: "Count Pellegrini was dismissed by the Committee on Epuration, in March, only three months ago, so that the periods you have given don't quite agree."

Ing. Pistolesi insisted that Count Pellegrini does not now use the car.

The COMMISSIONER then said: "They also say that you, Ing. Pistolesi, are a very good friend of Count

Pellegrini. Is that so?"

Ing. Pistolese replied that for 20 years he had been the Assistant General Manager under Count Pellegrini, naturally they were near friends. No one, however, had any influence on him (Pistolese).

8. The COMMISSIONER A.M.G. said he had telephoned to Rome asking the Labour Sub-Commission there to send someone down to Naples to go into the whole question unfortunately Mr. Braine was away on tour but Mr. Sachs to whom the Commissioner spoke would try and help.

9. Major HELMICK then asked if the Committee present this morning had followed up their agreement that they would try to end the strike in Sicily.

Ing. Pistolese replied referring to a telegram he had sent asking for the strike to be stopped.

The telegram roughly translated, read:

"Our President says that no letter has been received by him at his house in Florence up to the 13th. Please state precisely request. We authorize one representative each Commission our employees come to Naples for examination your request. In the meantime have request for Minister of Communication to stop agitation".

The answer from Bari arrived about 1000 hrs 19 June 1945:

"Sorry we can't agree your request. Please be content with the President of the Personnel meeting. For the Zone of Catania".

The COMMISSIONER pointed out that this was not an answer to Major Helmick but dealt with action taken before the meeting on the morning of the 19th with the Labour representatives. He asked if Ing. Pistolese knew whether the Labour Commission had taken action to ~~stop~~ (the 19th).

Ing. Pistolese said he had called up Catania in the afternoon. The local Committee put a call through to Palermo asking them to stop the agitation. Palermo asked about the Smeriglio action and the proposal to discharge him. Ing. Pistolese asked them to call him back in the evening after he had seen the President so that he could give an answer.

10. Major HELMICK asked Ing. Pistolese why Smeriglio was to be discharged and the answer given was that the legal technical mistake made by Smeriglio was to be the cause of the discharge because as a result of the purchase of the telephone apparatus by Smeriglio he could be legally discharged.

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 894
LABOR SUB-COMMISSION

DCS/TW

20 June 1945

TEL : Ext. 416

REF : LSC/523/809

SUBJECT: Strike of telephone employees, Naples.

TO : Brig. General Upjohn
Vice President
Civil Affairs Section
(Attention: Major Palmieri)

1. Col. Pennycuik, Provincial Commissioner of Naples Communes, reported yesterday, via telephone, the existence of considerable unrest among employees of SET, the telephone company at Naples. A number of strikes have already taken place south of Naples, and a strike was threatened among the employees of the company at Naples. This strike was averted by the intercession of Col. Pennycuik, who is of the opinion that the employees have a justifiable grievance.

2. The cause of the disturbance centers around the activities of one Pellegrini, formerly head of the company. Pellegrini has been removed from office by epuration, but it seems that there is an appeal pending. According to the employees, Pellegrini is nevertheless taking an active part in the affairs of the company. He is frequently seen in the company of the manager and other directors, and makes free use of the company cars. In addition he has been consulted by PBS Officer, Major Koenig.

3. According to Col. Pennycuik, a serious work stoppage is an immediate prospect as a consequence.

4. It is suggested that an immediate investigation be undertaken as to:

- (a) The facts concerning Pellegrini's participation in the affairs of the company notwithstanding epuration, and
- (b) The reason why Pellegrini's activities should lead the employees to take such an interest in the matter.

5. Neither Labor Sub-Commission nor Communications Sub-Commission have officers available to conduct this investigation. Moreover the Pellegrini case, it would appear, has a long background and someone familiar with it should undertake the job.

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6. It is suggested, therefore, that someone from Civil Affairs Section, particularly Major Palmieri if available, be requested to conduct the investigation referred to and make recommendations.

DAVID C. SACHS
Deputy Director
Labor Sub-Commission

cc: Economic Section
Communications Sub-Commission

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HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 334
LABOR SET COMMISSION

~~SECRET~~ FILE

DCS/nc

REF : LSC/305/523

2 February 1945

SUBJECT: T.A.T.I. Threatened Strike

TO : Mr. Braine

1. Captain Holston and the undersigned went to the office of the above-mentioned Company at 1500 hours on 1 February for the purpose of attending a meeting between the employees and management in order to avert a threatened strike. Before the meeting convened, we were greeted by a Lt. Col. Reeves (A), signal officer in charge of military communications. Col. Reeves wanted to know what we were doing there. When we explained, he stated in a curt manner that there would be no meeting because he had not called any, and that he was simply interested in whether or not there would be a strike. He explained our interest in the matter and the necessity of professional handling of labour disputes in order to avoid public unrest, quite apart from the military urgency. Col. Reeves was not particularly impressed at first and both Captain Holston and myself immediately recognized the dangers in proceeding in the manner suggested by the Col. I suggested to Col. Reeves that he would get a more reliable answer to his question after the meeting was held if the employee representatives were satisfied that something would be done for any of their demands which were equitable. Col. Reeves ultimately acceded to this proposal and decided to wait until the end of the meeting.

2. The meeting convened at approximately 1630 hours. There were present for the Company the Commissario and another representative of the management, and for the employees 10 members of an Internal Commission. In addition there were present Capt. Fogel, Captain Holston and myself.

3. The meeting was conducted by Capt. Fogel. He explained the difficulties under which all persons and workers in Italy were obliged to live, on account of the war. He further went into the inflationary aspects of wage problems generally, which appear to be understood by the employee representatives. He further stated that their problem was tied up with the problems of other public service workers in Rome, including Gas and Electricity, and that it was his proposal to work out some plan which would affect them all.

4. Employee representatives stressed the lack of food and clothing and the difficulties of meeting the cost of living on the basis of their salaries. It was further pointed out that during the period of military operations the telephone employees were obliged to stay on their jobs to the very end, while other employees were permitted to go home. The Anzio invasion was cited as an example. Another grievance had to do with one Di Pino, former Commissario of the Company, and still a member of the Direzione. It was alleged that Di Pino made a contribution of one million lire to the Unione Proletaria, a new organi-

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nization charged with being Fascist in character. An employee representative said that the workers suspected that this money came from the Company's treasury, and felt that if money was available for this purpose, it could be used to a better advantage for salary increases. Employees further stated that during the Fascist Regime, their wages were always comparatively lower, and that since there had always been considerable friction between employees and the management, one employee representative stated that they had been waiting for the results of the CGIL Congress with respect to a sliding scale to keep pace with the increase in cost of living, but they had decided not to wait any further and to ask for a straight increase of 2000 lire a month for each employee.

5. A question arose as to the authority of this group representing employees. It appears that an Internal Commission of 43 had been elected, of whom there 10 constituted a Committee to deal with the management. On the previous day they had agreed with the management upon an advance of 1000 lire but the employees were dissatisfied with this result and threatened to strike. After the end of the meeting, a small group of employees came in and insisted that they should participate in the proceedings. In addition, there appears to be a syndicate of Union Committee quite apart from the Internal Commission. The group present purported to represent all workers of the Company, even including those in Florence, which is now in 5 Army territory. Captain Holsten suggested that an election be conducted to determine representation, and that those elected should have full authority to make commitments.

6. The main matter to be disposed of was the question of an immediate advance in anticipation of future adjustments. It was agreed that each employee would receive an advance of 1500 lire for the month of January and that any wage increases would be retroactive to January 1, 1945.

7. Captain Holsten talked to the employees about the necessity of continued operation of communications in the interests of the prosecution of the war. The employees readily acceded to this thought and gave us a very firm assurance that there would be no interruption whatever of military communications and further, that in all probability there would be no work stoppage at all. The meeting was conducted in an orderly and restrained manner and the employee representatives were quite reasonable in the manner in which they presented their problems. Considerable credit is due to Dott. Fogli for his handling of the situation. At the close of the meeting we reported to Col. Reeves on the question of strike possibilities.

8. The meeting wound up at approximately 1730 hours; on the first floor we met with a noisy crowd of approximately 500 employees blocking all egress. Dott. Fogli addressed them at length, explaining what the situation was. The assembly appeared to be satisfied with the explanation and dispersed in an orderly manner.

9. Lt. Barber, Signal Officer attached to the Company, told me that the military lines were separate and distinct from the civilian lines, although there were points where they tied in. He suggested that some effort should be made to obtain the heavy workers ration for employees of the Company, particularly those engaged in military communications. Under outstanding AFHQ Directive, the definition of "Heavy Worker" turns on Italian law, under Italian law very few tele-

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phone employees are so defined. I suggested that he ask his superior to submit a recommendation either through his own channels or through A.G. if an modification were desired.

10. The meeting did not get down to the discussion of the precise wage situation of the Company. I have been informed by Captain Holsten that the employees have already received all of the wage increases authorized by law. In addition to this, the Company is paying a Carovita of 50 lire a day in lieu of 35 lire as required by the Decree. It is noted, however, that this Company has never had the wage adjustment which was extended last winter in Naples to Public Utility employees there. At that time, we were still trying to enforce the so-called "70% increase" as a wage ceiling. The pressure from Public Utility employees became too great, however, and a wage adjustment was authorized. This adjustment was made on a basis of allowing increases up to a point of 5 lire less than the existing Armed Forces wage scale. I have already arranged to give Dott. Fogli a copy of the agreement negotiated for the E.T.T. (Telephone) Company at Naples.

If the adjustment worked out for Public Utility Companies in Rome is within the formula worked out in Naples, no problem would arise from the point of view of wage stabilization. If this cannot be done, on the other hand some new wage stabilization programs will have to be agreed upon.

11. With reference to para 1 of your Memorandum of 1 February, I did not have the opportunity to interview the management representatives. According to Captain Holsten who did speak with them, the present Comissario is quite sympathetic, and no difficulty is anticipated on the management side of the fence. Some question was raised on the effect that this wage negotiation would have on the other employees of the Company in other parts of Italy, and also of the difficulty in arranging for a meeting of the Directors, most of whom are in Florence. It is suggested that the matter be handled as agreed upon by the Provincial Labour Office with the assistance of Captain Holsten. Captain Holsten will keep us informed of developments. He will be available to assist in making any studies for working out a formula. We already have in our files the wages payable as of May 31, 1944, just before the liberation of Rome.

12. With reference to para 2 of your Memorandum of 1 February, the members of the Internal Commission purport to represent all categories of employees, but see para above as to questions of representation. The information concerning the history of wage increases of this Company will be available to the Provincial Labour Office and we can obtain it from that office.

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David C. Sachs,
Wages and Hours Section,
Labour Sub-Commission

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