

ACC 10000/146/466

091.43261

REPORTS REGION I (SICILY)

Ap. - Dec. 1944

LABOR SUB-SECTION
A.C.C.

Routing Slip

	Initials	Date
Colonel SMITH		
Major BABCOCK		
Major SCIOLUNA		
Capt. DORF		
Capt. TOPLESS		
Capt. SOLENBERGER		
Mr. CROSETTO		
Mr. SACHS		
Mr. DI FEDE		
Mr. CERRITO		
Chief Clerk		

409

ALLIED COMMISSION
SICILIA REGION HEADQUARTERS
APO 394

File 43261

CPH/gg

File RLA/319.1

1 December 1944

SUBJECT: November Monthly Report - Labour Division
TO : Regional Commissioner, Sicilia Region
H.Q. Allied Commission
(Attention, Labour Sub-Commission)

1. STAFF CHANGES.

Nil.

2. LABOR RELATIONS.

Labour relations during the past month have shown a marked improvement over October and no serious strikes have occurred. This is due mainly to the high cost of living indemnity and increase in family allowances granted to all employees by the Government. The disparity between wages and cost of living has been temporarily reduced, but with the cost of essential commodities rising daily and the short supply of food and consumer goods, it is apparent that the inequity between the two factors will soon be even more evident than in the past.

These increases have been favourably received by employees and generally speaking employers are complying with the terms of the Royal Decree. However, it has been reported that in a few instances employees have been discharged by employers who refuse to pay the increase and one case of violence has occurred in Catania as a result of this action. The matter is being investigated and a report is awaited.

A strike was threatened by the employees of the National Bank of Italy for a payment of a daily subsistence allowance similar to that which is alleged to be paid in Rome. The local director is at present in Rome for discussion of the matter.

3. WAGES.

The revised Sicily Wage Scale for employees of the Allied Forces has now been made retrospective to 1 October 1944 in order to come into line with the mainland.

As a result of the Italian Government's recent an-

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3. WAGES.

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As a result of the Italian Government's recent announcement to pay a "Carovita" indemnity and increases in family allowances, AFHQ have authorized certain increases for employees of the Armed Forces. These will take effect from 15 November and will place Armed Force wages in a preferred position to those paid by the civilian firms.

It has been found necessary to review the Stevadores' Contract as applicable to Sicily. Revised contracts have been prepared by this Division in conjunction with MWT showing an upward revision of the tonnage rates. These have been forwarded to AFHQ (It) B. for confirmation.

./.

4. SOCIAL INSURANCE

Once again the question of Social Insurance and Benefits for employees of the Allied Forces has been the subject of much discussion at R.H. and U.S. Naval Establishments. The general feeling amongst the workers is that nothing is being done for their welfare.

5. MISCELLANEOUS

During the month the Regional Labour Officer paid a visit to H.Q. at Rome. Much useful information on labour problems in Sicily was obtained.

C.F. Mason

C.F. MASON
Lt. R.A.
Regional Labour Officer.

2804

Copy to:
Director, Labour Sub-Commission.

43261

ALLIED COMMISSION
SICILIA REGION HEADQUARTERS
APO 394

OTL/ga

File RLA/319.1

1 November 1944

SUBJECT: October Monthly Report - Labour Division
TO : Regional Commissioner, Sicilia Region
- H.Q. Allied Commission
(Attention, Labour Sub-Commission)

1. STAFF CHANGES.

Nil.

2. LABOUR RELATIONS, LAWS and REGULATIONS.

(a) Labour relations during the month have been a little more difficult than in the past. Continued press releases with reference to a proposed indemnity of Dear Living and increases in family allowances have caused prices of essential foodstuffs to rise. This has naturally resulted in discontent amongst workers and it has only been with the greatest amount of difficulty that serious labour unrest has been avoided.

State employees have been granted a Lire 1000 advance in anticipation whilst parastel and public institutions were authorized to pay a similar amount if they so desired. No such concession was granted to private firms. However, it is understood that the decree authorizing payment of the above mentioned increases, retroactive from 16 August, will be promulgated within a day or so.

It is anticipated that prices will rise even higher when the decree is published and this Division can only reiterate what is so widely known, that control of prices and not increased wages will assist the economic situation.

(b) A strike occurred in the Port of Palermo, but work was resumed after about four hours. The workers' demands, which were reasonable, were granted and no further trouble is anticipated.

(c) On 19 October - the day of the Palermo riot - several business houses and public services were drawn into the

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(b) A strike occurred in the Port of Palermo, but work was resumed after about four hours. The workers' demands, which were reasonable, were granted and no further trouble is anticipated.

(c) On 19 October - the day of the Palermo riot - several business houses and public services were drawn into the proceedings by the mob. These disturbances did not constitute a strike and normal work was resumed on the following day.

(d) The Undersecretary of State for Industry Commerce and Labour, Mariano Costa, addressed representatives of the Regional and Provincial Labour Offices and other interested persons in Palermo on 25 October. He spoke briefly on the problems of Sicily and the plans that were being made to assist the island in the labour field.

-2-

(c) The Russian Labour Delegates arrived in Sicily on 24 October and visited Messina, Catania, Agrigento and Palermo. Meetings were held with the Camera del Lavoro and the party left Sicily for Sardinia on 28 October.

3. Wages, Hours and Labour Conditions.

During the month this Division has prepared a revised schedule of wages for the employees of the Allied Forces in Sicily. The proposals have been accepted by the Labour and Wages Control Committee and the new rates will come into effect as and from 1 November.

4. Social Insurance.

Social Insurance and benefits for employees of the Allied Forces have again been the subject of interest at RN and U.S. naval establishments. It is understood that the decrees authorising the payment of these benefits will be published at an early date.

5. Miscellaneous.

During the month visits have been paid to Sicilian Region by Capt. Dorfe, Mr. Cerrito and Mr. Di Fede of the Labour Sub-Commission. Valuable assistance and information was given on several urgent problems.

[Signature]
O.F. MASON
Lt. R.A.
Regional Labour Officer.

1697

1 November.

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Lt. R.A.

Regional Labour Officer.

609

Copy to:
Director, Labour Sub-Commission.

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
LABOR SUB-COMMISSION

File
43261
CS/fg

1 November, 1944

SUBJECT: Palermo Riot of 18 October 1944

TO : Col. J.R. Smith, Acting Director

1. This report is made independently of other reports which may be submitted by other members of the party sent to Palermo, Sicily, on 21 Oct 44, for the purpose of investigating the causes of the riot allegedly provoked by labor unrest.
2. The sources of information contained herein are the result of many personal contacts made with citizens of Palermo. These contacts were unofficial and included members of the police, the Allied Forces, bank employees, municipal employees, political party leaders and provincial labor office personnel.
3. The main cause of the riot seems to be of an economic character, rather than political. Good judgment on the part of the civil authorities could have easily avoided the tragic denouement.
4. The crowd, composed mostly of bank and municipal employees, had met at Piazza Castelnuovo and moved across town, on Via Maqueda, for the purpose of presenting its grievances to the High Commissioner for Sicily, Mr. Aldisio, who was not in Palermo at the time.

The body was interested in the solution of following problems:

- a. Increase in the ration of bread to 300 or 400 grams.
 - b. Energetic control of prices.
 - c. Elimination of black market speculation.
 - d. Better pay.
5. On its course to the Prefettura building, the body was swelled by a large number of minors, ranging from 12 years to 16 years of age, a motley crowd of tattered, tough youngsters, whose main activity consisted in petty thefts, pimping, cigarette selling, etc. These boys, undisciplined and unruly, constituted themselves a noisy vanguard of the procession. Arriving at the Prefettura, armed with sticks gathered on the way

the boys saw an excellent chance of turning the affair into a profitable venture. As the crowd milled about, shouting for bread and better government, some of them broke into a few shops and proceeded to lay their hands on the merchandise.

6. Harried officials, unable to cope with the situation, sent out a call for help, and units of the Italian Army, "Sabaude" Division, were dispatched to the scene. They arrived in a highly agitated condition, and were greeted with shouts of derision, especially by the youngsters, who baited the soldiers and threw a few missiles, one of which was construed to be a "bomb".

7. The larger part of the crowd was still more or less orderly, if vociferous. Some cries of "Down with the Government", "Long live a Separated Sicily" and "Long live Communism" were individual expressions by some of the people, and in no sense whatsoever did they constitute an organized effort by any group.

8. The lieutenant in charge of the soldiers did not give any order to fire upon the populace. This act seems most logically the result of a nervous soldiers who had been hit by a stone thrown by one of the unruly younger element. It was, however, the spark for the general firing which followed. Some soldiers admitted they heard no direct order, but assumed said order had been given.

9. Many of the people hurt during the panic were victims of the rush to get out of the way. They were trampled and suffered wounds of varying degree at the hands of the fleeing crowd, rather than from the weapons of the Armed Forces.

10. The large amount of minors on the casualty lists attests to the number of youngsters who had no business being on the spot except for the opportunity of picking pockets, breaking into shops and generally engaging in deviltry.

11. Life in the city has apparently returned to normal. The main streets are lighted at night, and soldiers patrol all key points. It is my impression, however, that this is but the prelude to worse disorders and disaffection of the people toward authority. The ordinary civilian is in a moody frame of mind. He feels Sicily is being discriminated against and neglected. He has no faith in the present government. Dilatory action on the part of the authorities at all levels is playing into the hands of the separatists and the communists, both of whom are making capital of the political ammunition being presented to them, practically on a silver platter.

12. Prompt, intelligent action may minimize the present situation. Otherwise, the Palermo riot may be the precursor of a series of disorders which may seriously affect the present government and seriously embarrass the Allied war effort.

C.P.S.

S/Sgt. Charles P. Soprisci, AUS
Labor Sub-Commission

LABOR SUB-COMMISSION
A.C.C.
Routing Slip

e	Initials	Date
Colonel BAIN		
Colonel SMITH	<i>SM</i>	
Major BABCOCK		
Major ALBRIGHT	<i>Rmer</i>	
Major SCICLUNA	<i>ES</i>	
Capt. DORF		
Capt. TOPLISS	<i>J.</i>	
Capt. GIANMARCO	<i>MS</i>	
Capt. SOLENBERGER		
Mr. CROSETTO		
Mr. SACHS		
Mr. DI FEDE		
Mr. CERRITO		
Chief Clerk		

SECRET

ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
SICILY REGION HEADQUARTERS
APO. 394

FILE NO : RPS/CL4.1. DATE: 25th October 1944.
SUBJECT : Report of Incident in Palermo, 19 October, 1944.
TO : Headquarters Allied Control Commission.

(1) In continuation of this Headquarters' letter RC/000.5 of 21st October, 1944, there is submitted herewith more detailed report of the facts immediately preceding, during and following the incident of 19 October at Palermo based on information received from the Italian Authorities.

EVENTS PRECEDING INCIDENT.

(2) On October 16, three days prior to the incident, public employees went on strike. The strike continued on October 17th and 18th. The employees were asking for an increase of pay. On October 18th they were given certain promises and on October 19th returned to work. During these 3 days the employees had on at least 2 occasions, gathered in front of the Municipio, but on these occasions there were no disorders and the demonstrations were under proper police surveillance.

EVENTS OF OCTOBER 19TH.

(3) About 8,30 a number of private employees went on strike to obtain the same concessions promised to the public employees. This was not a general strike and accurate information on the number and identification of the strikers is not known. The strikers entered various stores and banks asking the employees working there to join the strike. The strikers were joined by a number of persons of low class who took advantage of the situation.

A number of stores were raided in principal sections of the city, but the crowd was not particularly violent. A great many boys and young men could be seen in the crowd who gave the impression of being "mischievous makers".

The police (Agents of Public Security and Carabinieri) were present and by persuasive measures endeavored to prevent violence.

Labor P/C
43261
1848

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A number of stores were raided in principal sections of the city, but the crowd was not particularly violent. A great many boys and young men could be seen in the crowd who gave the impression of being "mischief makers".

The police (Agents of Public Security and Carabinieri) were present and by persuasive measures endeavored to prevent violence.

The confusion continued during the morning and at about 1130 hrs. a crowd began to gather in front of the Prefettura which is also the Headquarters of the High Commissioner for Sicily.

The High Commissioner was away in Rome at the time and the Prefect was on a visit to Trapani Province.

Considering the number of people participating and the number of police (Agenti Pubblica Sicurezza and Carabinieri) employed, the Prefettura called for assistance.

SECRET

30 OCT 1944

A. G. C.

of Italian troops. The call was made by the "Capo di Gabinetto" of the Questura to the XII Corps Hq. The request was referred to Hq. AOSTA Division Palermo from which it was referred to the 139th Regt. Lieut. LO SARDO Calogero with 36 men, some of whom were armed with rifles and others with rifles and hand-grenades, was detailed. The Lieutenant reported to the "Capo di Gabinetto" at the Questura with the 36 men in trucks and received instructions to proceed to the Prefettura. The precise instructions given are not available.

The troops immediately proceeded in their trucks to the Prefettura and stopped in front of the building at about 1215 hrs. The facts at this point are not fully established. The crowd at this time is estimated to have numbered about 1200. The entrance to the Prefettura abuts onto a main street which at this point is about 12 yards wide.

In general, it is reported that when the trucks halted a hand-grenade was thrown from the crowd wounding 11 soldiers and immediately thereafter, allegedly without orders from the Commander, the troops returned the fire with 7 hand-grenades and about 40 rounds of rifle fire. The crowd immediately disbanded. The casualties, at first reported to be 14 dead and 20 injured, are now fixed at 26 dead and 156 injured.

EVENTS FOLLOWING INCIDENT.

(4) Troops were withdrawn during the afternoon of the 19th.

Following the incident there was considerable confusion and excitement in the city. The report that the troops fired on the crowd without provocation was widely circulated. Police activities continued in the city that day and no other serious demonstrations were reported.

(5) On the 20th the feeling against the Italian troops continued. The Italian, British and American Commands had restricted liberty. Police patrols were intensified. Public funerals for the victims were not held. Two minor incidents occurred during the day, but were satisfactorily dealt with.

(6) On the 21st and 22nd the excitement diminished. Although some youths attempted to start demonstrations on the 21st no serious disorders occurred.

On the 23rd public order was almost normal, but intensified police patrols were continued.

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On the 23rd public order was almost normal, but intensified police patrols were continued.

(7) On the 20th leaflets referring to the incident were distributed on streets. The leaflets were anonymous, but definitely of a Separatist nature and were reported to have come from Separatist Headquarters; and appeared to be an overt attempt to exploit the incident.

On the 21st the Separatist Headquarters in Palermo was raided by the police and 3 persons were arrested on the street for the distribution of unauthorized leaflets;

SECRET

about 6 were arrested inside the building and have since been released. The Separatist Headquarters was closed and placed under guard pending judicial investigations into the documents, etc. found there.

(8) As of the 24th, there was no evidence of disorder as the result of this incident. But the unsettled state of affairs with respect to economic and social conditions may give rise to other incidents not connected with this one.

(9) The official inquiry is being conducted by the Italian Government and the results of this inquiry will be forwarded if and when they become known.

(10) Based on the information at my disposal, my views are as follows:-

✓ (a) It seems extremely doubtful as to whether matters had approached a stage at which it was necessary to call in the aid of the troops.

(b) Troops employed in aid of the civil forces should not be armed with hand-grenades. If hand-grenades must be available, it is considered they should be in possession only of the Officers, or Senior NCO's present. This matter has been raised in a separate communication and arrangements have been made by the local military authorities forbidding the carrying of hand-grenades on such occasions.

✓ (c) In accordance with accepted practice as I know it, the troops should have halted some distance from the crowd and alighted from their vehicles and then moved under proper control to the crowd in accordance with the prevailing situation.

✓ (d) In my opinion if the troops had not been called out, or if, when called out, they had been equipped and had acted as under (b) and (c) above this serious and most unfortunate occurrence might never have occurred. 1.87

M. Carr
M. CARR,

Brigadier,
Regional Commissioner.

Copies to:

P.S. Sub-Commission

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M. Carr
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Brigadier,
Regional Commissioner.

Copies to:

✓
P.S. Sub-Commission
Labor Sub-Commission.
Area Commander, 70 Sub Area.

SECRET

RESTRICTED

Labour File
FOR INFORMATION ONLY

HQ ACC FOR LUSH ROMA, PUBLIC SAFETY AND LABOR SUB COMMISSIONS

W51/22

ACC SICILIA REGION (GARR)

RMO 329

Oct 21/44

RETIRE

.43261

HEADQUARTERS

22 OCT 1944

A. E. S.

RESTRICTED. Sitrep 1600 hours PALERMO 21 October some unrest during day but situation under control some demonstration satisfactorily dealt Separatist Headquarters raided 10 persons arrested illegal printed material STATED TV have been confiscated and Headquarters now under police guard.

ACC DIST

Action : Public Safety S/C (2)

Info : C. e. S. (2)

C.A. Sec

Econ Sec

Labor S/C

A/CC

File

4081

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

LABOUR

43261
502

ACC ROME FOR LUSH P SAFETY AND LABOR HQ RPTD FOR INFO TO 00 70 SUB
78/25

CATANIA

ACC SICILIA REGION (CARR)

OCT 241715A

FOR INFORMATION ONLY

ROUTINE

CITE RPS 59

RESTRICTED. 8 Special Sitrep. Situation PALERMO calm total casual-
ties from incident of 19 Oct according latest information from Italian
authorities. 25 dead 156 injured. This is last daily Sitrep on PALERMO
situation any new developments will be reported.

Diet

Action - P Safety (2)
Info - A/CC
C & S
Labour
Econ Sec
Ca Sec
File

RECEIVED
25 OCT 1944
A.C.C.

76
3

4082

OCT 251330A

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

76
LABOUR

43261

8924

HQ ACC HOME FOR DISM AND PUBLIC SAFETY LABOUR SUB COMMISSION INFO HQ 70 SUB AREA
CATANIA 50/24

ACC MEDULLA REGION (CARR)

NEWS

IMMEDIATE

OCT 23/1945

CITE: RPS 58

FOR INFORMATION ONLY

RESTRICTED. Special sitrep number 7. Situation PALERMO today quiet and almost normal though area still strongly patrolled

ACCDIST

ACTION : PUB SAFETY (2)

INFO : C O S
A/CC
LABOUR
ECOM
CA SEC
FILE

4182

RESTRICTED

HEADQUARTERS
21 OCT 1944
A. C. C.

OCTOBER 24/1945

RESTRICTED

43261

file Labour

8917

HQ ACC ROME FOR PUBLIC SAFETY LUCH LABOUR SUBCOMMISSION COMMANDING OFFICER 70
SUB AREA CATANIA

39/24

ACC SIGILIA 1251-21

RPM 57

IMMEDIATE

OCT 22/NFT

FOR INFORMATION ONLY

RESTRICTED. Night special sitrep. Situation PALERMO 1600 hours calm

ACC DIST

ACTION : P SAFETY (2)

INFO : C o S

A/CC

ECON SEC

CA SEC

LABOUR ✓

FILE



408

RESTRICTED

OCTOBER 24/1100

RESTRICTED

43261
Labour
8925
76

ACC ROME FOR LUSH

ACC SICILIA REGION (CARR)

ROUTINE

OCT 22



THIS INFORMATION IS
FOR THE INFORMATION ONLY

RESTRICTED. Fifth special sitrep R.I.E.R.M.D 1100 hours 22nd. Situation quiet on
bed G H strike of public workers occurred at CORMONA but strikers returned 21st
without incident

4080

ACC DIST
ACTION P SAFETY (2)
INFO CoS
A/CG
ECOM SEC
C A SEC
LABOUR
FILE

RESTRICTED

OCT 24

LABOUR S.C.

ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
SICILIA REGION HEADQUARTERS
APO 394

43261 1138

FILE:RC/000.5

21 Oct 1944

SUBJECT: Civil disturbances in Palermo

TO : E.C. A.C.C. ROME

COPY TO: Public Safety Sub-Commission
Labour Sub-Commission

HEADQUARTERS

22 OCT 1944

A. C. C.

1. With reference to the serious incident which occurred at Palermo city on the morning of 19 OCT, the following interim report is forwarded based on information at present available to this Headquarters.

2. During early part of week there were sporadic strikes and demonstrations against high cost of living, low rate of wages and unfulfilled expectations regarding cost of living, some of which has been discussed in the press. On the morning of 19 OCT some strikers endeavored to call out on strike other elements. There was some raining of food shops and many youths and boys joined the demonstrators. About mid-day crowd collected outside the Prefettura which is in a main street but the street at this point is narrow. Present information is that an official at Prefettura then called for assistance of Italian military to protect the Prefettura building which request was met by dispatch of one officer and 30 men to the Prefettura.

On arrival at the Prefettura, it is alleged that two hand grenades were thrown by the mob and that they exploded under the trucks conveying the troops, wounding 3 soldiers. The troops replied with hand grenades and some rifle fire. The high casualty rate appears to have been due to the use of hand grenades in a confined area which was crowded. No other point in Palermo city was any major force used and casualties elsewhere in the city have been very small and of a minor nature.

posters and leaflets, believed to be of separatist origin, of a definitely inflammatory nature have since been appearing in the city. One line of this propaganda is that the troops employed belonged to the Sananda Division, thus giving the impression that the separatists are behind the employment of troops against Sicilian liberation.

3. The High Commissioner has arrived back in Sicily and I have discussed all aspects of the situation with him and I have supported his proposal that Headquarters of the Separatist be called to obtain, if possible, information regarding the situation in Sicily.

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2. During early part of week there were sporadic strikes and demonstrations against high cost of living, low rate of wages and unfulfilled expectations regarding cost of living which has been discussed in the press. On the morning of 19 OCT some strikers endeavored to call out on strike other elements. There was some raining of food shops and many youths and boys joined the demonstrators. About mid-day crowd collected outside the Prefettura which is in a main street but the street at this point is narrow. Present information is that an official at Prefettura then called for assistance of Italian military to protect the Prefettura building which request was met by dispatch of one officer and 36 men to the Prefettura.

On arrival at the Prefettura, it is alleged that two hand grenades were thrown by the mob and that they exploded under the trucks conveying the troops, wounding 9 soldiers. The troops replied with hand grenades and some rifle fire. The high casualty rate appears to have been due to the use of hand grenades in a confined area which was crowded. If no other point in Palermo city was any major force used and casualties elsewhere in the city have been very small and of a minor nature.

Posters and leaflets, believed to be of separatist origin, of a definitely inflammatory nature have since been appearing in the city. One line of this propaganda is that the troops employed belonged to the Submarine Division, thus giving the impression that the Monarchists are behind the employment of troops against Sicilian liberties.

3. The High Commissioner has arrived back in CIGRIM and I have discussed all aspects of the situation with him and I have supported his proposal that Headquarters of the separatist movement in Palermo should be raided to obtain, if possible, evidence as to the printing and distribution of illegal posters and pamphlets.

Two inquiries into the incidents of 19 OCT are taking place. One of these is a judicial inquiry and the second is being carried out by representatives of the local authorities and of the local Committee of Liberation. Findings are expected in about two days time.

A full and detailed report will be rendered as early as possible.

M. C. Ryan

Brigadier

Regional Commissioner

LABOR SUB-COMMISSION
A.C.C.
Routing Slip

From	To
Colonel BAIN	<i>Ho</i>
Colonel SMITH	
Major BABCOCK	
Major ALBRIGHT	<i>Run</i>
Major SCICLUNA	
Capt. DORF	
Capt. TOPLESS	
Capt. GIANMARCO	
Capt. SOLENBERGER	
Mr. CROSETTO	
Mr. SACHS	
Mr. DI FEDE	
Mr. CERRITO	
Chief Clerk	

REMARKS:

4078

ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
Sicily Region Headquarters
ATO 394

Labrum

CPH/CS

43267

File RLA/319.1

2 October 1944

SUBJECT: Monthly Report - Labour Division
TO : Regional Commissioner - Region I



1. Personnel.

No change.

2. Visit of Trades Union Delegates.

The outstanding feature of the month was the visit to the island of British and American Labour leaders. The party arrived at Palermo on the 9th and proceeded to Catania on the 12th, returning to Rome on the 14th.

Meetings with trades union representatives were held in Palermo and Catania and the Chairman of the Delegation expressed satisfaction with the amount of information that was obtained. Visits were also made to one or two industries.

The Delegation were guests of the Regional Commissioner at a dinner held at the Region I Officers Mess.

3. Labour Unrest.

(a) A strike occurred during the month at the British owned asphalt mines at Ragusa. From preliminary reports it appeared that political forces were behind the stoppage and it is felt that unless prompt action is taken further trouble can be expected. The Regional Labour Office was requested to carry out an investigation and a full report is awaited within the next day or so. Future action will be decided upon receipt of this report.

(b) From the end of August onwards various articles have appeared in the press relative to a proposal by the Ministry of Labour to pay an additional indemnity to Italian workers. These releases have caused considerable agitation amongst workers, particularly with those who are in the employ of the Allied Forces. The matter was taken up with

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(b) From the end of August onwards various articles have appeared in the press relative to a proposal by the Ministry of Labour to pay an additional indemnity to Italian workers. These releases have caused considerable agitation amongst workers, particularly with those who are in the employ of the Allied Forces. The matter was taken up with the Director Labour Sub-Commission who expressed his displeasure at the disclosure and who also addressed a letter to the Italian Government pointing out the undesirability of the publishing of statements of this nature. On the 23 September a further article appeared stating that the Allied Control Commission had given its approval to the proposals, with the result that several groups are already demanding the increases. It is difficult to see how industrial peace can be maintained so long as the press continues to publish such matter.

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4. Allied Forces.

The Allied Force Local Resources (Sicilian) Board now ceases to function and a directive laying down the procedure for the establishing of wage rates for the Allied Forces in Sicily is awaited.



O.P. MASON
Lt. R.A.
Regional Labour Officer.

456

O.P. MASON
Lt. R.A.
Regional Labour Officer.

4076

Copy to:
Director, Labour Sub-Commission A.C.C.

LABOR SUB-COMMISSION
A.C.C.
Routing Slip

From

To

Colonel BAIN

Colonel SMITH

X Major BARCOCK X

Major ABBEIGHT

Capt. DORF

Capt. SCICLUNA

Capt. ADAMS

Capt. TOPLISS

Capt. WILLIAMS

Lt. GIAMMARCO

Lt. SOLENBERGER

Chief Clerk

REMARKS :

Mr. Sachs - *WLS*

ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
Sicily Region Headquarters
APO 394

OPM/SS

File HLA/319.1

1 September 1944

SUBJECT: Monthly Report - Labor Division
TO : Regional Commissioner - Region I

1. Personnel.

Mt. C.F. Mason in hospital for short period.

2. Labour Unrest.

(a) A strike occurred at the beginning of the month at the Isara group of sulphur mines Caltanissetta. As stated in the July monthly report the miners were impatient because no approval had been given to the wage agreement and the strike was aimed at forcing the issue. Mt. Mason in company with Professor Sorde visited the mines and after a short talk with the workers, work was resumed.

(b) A strike lasting about two hours was called by the employees of the General Electric Society. The demands made were most unreasonable and upon being told so the men resumed work. No further trouble is anticipated.

(c) Referring to para 3 (d) of the July Report, the Labour and Wages Control Committee appointed a Sub-Committee to investigate the question of raising the wage of Unskilled Labour. The Committee's report (Appendix A) was submitted to the Allied Force Local Resources (Sicily) Board and accepted in full.

3. Wage Agreements.

Wage adjustment agreements in respect of Sulphur Workers and the Società Anonima Siciliana Trasporti have been approved by the Italian Government in conjunction with the Labor Sub-Commission.

4. Social Benefits for Allied Force Employees.

There is considerable agitation at the N.O.B. Palermo and R.F. Dockyard Messina for social benefits to be

4075

1. Personnel.

Lt. C.F. Mason in hospital for short period.

2. Labour Unrest.

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(c) Referring to para 3 (a) of the July Report, the Labour and Wage Control Committee appointed a Sub-Committee to investigate the question of raising the wages of Unskilled Labour. The Committee's report (Appendix A) was submitted to the Allied Force Local Resources (Sicily) Board and accepted in full.

3. Wage Agreements.

Wage adjustment agreements in respect of Sulphur Workers and the Societa Anonima Siciliana Transporti have been approved by the Italian Government in conjunction with the Labor Sub-Commission.

4. Social Benefits for Allied Force Employees.

There is considerable agitation at the N.O.B. Palermo and R.N. Dockyard Messina for social benefits to be extended to civilians in the employ of the Allied Forces. A letter has been addressed to the Labor Sub-Commission on the subject.

5. Labour Office.

Avv. T. La Loggia (Regional Director of Labor) will be leaving Sicily shortly for temporary duty at Rome. Avv. Ghersa (General Secretary) will be acting director during his absence.

C.F. MASON
Lt. C.F.
Regional Labor Officer.

Copy to:
Director, Labor Sub-Commission A.O.C.

APPENDIX "A" TO MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING OF THE
ALLIED FORCE LOCAL RESOURCES (SICILIAN) BOARD

12 AUGUST 1944

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ALLIED FORCE

LOCAL RESOURCES (SICILIAN) BOARD
c/o AGC Sicily Region HQ.
C.M.F.
COPY NO.....

MINUTES OF MEETING OF SUB COMMITTEE OF LABOUR AND WAGES
CONTROL COMMITTEE.

HELD AT 8, VIA HARI, PALERMO, 1010 HOURS, 9 AUGUST 1944

PRESENT:

Major P.C. HARRIS
Lt. Comdr. A.A. CHAPPEL
Lt. L. CAMARERA
Lt. C.F. MASON
Mr. R.B. STOKER

Chairman
B.A.C. Messina
U.S. M.O.B.
Reg. Labor. Off. AGC
D.K.W.F.R.

1. Purpose of Sub Committee:

At the eleventh meeting of the Labor and Wages Control Committee held on 9 August 1944, it was decided that in view of the increase in the cost of living and the fact that many workers were forced to deal with the black market by reason of the small ration at the present time certain wage rates were in need of revision. To this end a Sub Committee was appointed to investigate the matter and submit recommendations to the ALLIED FORCE LOCAL RESOURCES (SICILIAN) BOARD at its next meeting on Saturday 12 August 1944.

2. Recommendations:

The Sub Committee discussed the matter at length and made the following recommendations.

(a) Unskilled Labour

(1) That the present rate for Unskilled Male Labour be increased to 50/60 per 8 hours day.

(2) That the present rate of Lire 40 for Unskilled Female Labour remains unaltered.

(3) That un Unskilled Labour Ganger receives Lire 10 per day above the Unskilled Labour Rate and an Unskilled Labour Foreman an additional Lire 10 per day above the Ganger.

(b) Semi Skilled Labour

PRESENT:

Major P.G. HARRIS
Lt. Comdr. A.A. CHAPPEL
Lt. L. CAMARRA
Lt. C.F. MASON
Ex. R.B. STOKER

Chairman
B.A.O. MESSINA
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D.H.W.F.R.

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(3) That an Unskilled Labour Ganger receives Lire 10 per day above the Unskilled Labour Rate and an Unskilled Labour Foreman an additional Lire 10 per day above the Ganger.

(b) Semi Skilled Labour

(1) Consequent upon the above, that the present rate for Semi Skilled Labour be increased to 60/70 per 8 hours day.

(c) Classified Labour

(1) That a classified Labour Foreman be paid an additional Lire 20 per day above the rate laid down for the particular classification.

(2) That the Grade of Chief Foreman be abolished and that any person falling within that category be paid under the appropriate Occupational Classification.

P.G. HARRIS
P.G.
Chairman

SEEN	
Col. Ben	
Col. Smith	
Major. Brown	
Capt	
Capt. Schum	
File	ELA/119.1

ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
Sicily Region Headquarters
APO 394

114002
43241
2 July 1944

SUBJECT: Monthly Report - Labor Division
TO : Regional Commissioner - Region I

1. Personnel changes -

Lt. J.H. Moffitt (A) transferred to HQ, A.C.C. for reassignment.
Lt. G.F. Mason (B) transferred to Labor Division from Economic and Supply Division.

2. Wage Disputes.

(a) An agreement between the employers and employees of the General Electric Society was completed and submitted to the Ministry of Labour and A.C.C. Labour Sub-Commission. This agreement has been approved.

(b) A strike occurred at the ABCD Mines Ragusa on the 1st June. The workers had partially returned on the 2nd June and there was complete reinstatement by the 7 June. A meeting was held in the High Commissioner's Office on the 13 June at which it appeared the "Ragusa prima" of the grievance was the high cost of living. The High Commissioner, without stating any definite figure, informed the men that the ration of bread was to be increased in the near future and requested them to wait a few days for the official announcement. This was well received. The company also agreed to pay a sum of money into its cooperative store in order that the workers could buy the necessities of life at reduced cost. The sum involved was about 20 Lire per man per day.

(c) Disatisfaction was caused by an order emanating from the Finance Ministry ordering the cessation of payment of the Indemnity of Bombardamento. By prompt action on the part of the High Commissioner a strike by state employees was averted. This Division has forwarded details to the Labour Sub-Commission for further investigation.

(d) A strike occurred at the Trabonella Sulphur Mines Caltanissetta on the 22 June. The larger proportion of men had returned by the 24 June.

Mr. J.B. Neveloff (A) transferred to HQ, A.C.C. for reassignment.
 Lt. C.F. Mason (B) transferred to Labor Division from Economic and Supply Division.

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(d) A strike occurred at the Trabonella Sulphur Mines Caltanissetta on the 22 June. The larger proportion of men had returned by the 24 June and normal work was resumed on the 29 June. Negotiations opened on the 28 June and it is anticipated that an early agreement will be reached.

3. Labour Offices.

(a) Trapani. The Provincial Director has been appointed Secretary to the Under Secretary for Industry Commerce and Labour.

(b) Enns. The Provincial Director has been recalled to the Italian Army.
 The Regional Director is keeping a watchful eye over these two offices pending the new appointments.

19/6/47

2-
(c) Agrigento. An adverse report has been received on the Provincial Director. Investigations are in process and a full report will be submitted in due course.

C. F. MASON
C. F. MASON
Lt. R.A.
Regional Labor Officer.

Copy to:
Lebour Sub-Commission A.C.C.

Let Smith - M
2 May 1964
Bill is certainly
delivered, the line
4071

ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
Sicily Region Headquarters

4328
APO 394

File RLA/319.1

6 June 1944

SUBJECT: Monthly Report - Labor Division

TO : Regional Commissioner.

1. Personnel changes -

D.A. Duncan, Major, transferred Economic and Supply Division.

2. Wage Disputes

(a) Reports of meetings with employees of General Electric and State Railways are attached.

(b) Labor disputes in the port of Messina was settled when the provisions of the standard contract were explained to all interested parties.

(c) A strike occurred in a sulphur mine near Caltanissetta. This dispute was settled on a temporary basis. There remains a very imperative need for a general wage adjustment in wages for the sulphur industry. A complete wage study is being obtained. A supplemental food ration has been approved for these workers and is being implemented.

(d) An agreement between the employers and employees of S.G.E. is in the process of being completed in accordance with suggestion of Major Babcock.

3. Visits were made to following provinces and cities.

- 4079
1. Messina (one)
 2. Catania (two)
 3. Trapani (one)
 4. Enna (one)

4. Visitors.

(a) Major J.O. Babcock - ACC Labor Sub-Commission.

Major Babcock gave great assistance in many pressing problems.

(b) Signor Gentile, President Confederation of Labor -

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Major Babcock gave great assistance in many pressing problems.

(b) Signor Gentile, President Confederation of Labor - Naples. He assisted in reorganization of Camera di Lavoro - Nicola Cipolla - of No 12 Via Fiume was elected the new secretary.

5. Assistance was given AFLR Board (Sicily) in preparation and publication of a dictionary of job descriptions for Armed Service Employees. Copy attached.

6. The new Palermo Colloccamento Office was opened and is in operation.

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-2-

7. Pressing problems.

- (a) Early ratification of wage agreements for Public Utility Employees.
- (b) Early wage adjustment for state Railways workers.
- (c) Wage adjustment in Mining Industry
- (d) Establishment of Social Benefit Program for employees of Armed Services.

John H. Moffitt
JOHN H. MOFFITT
1st Lt.
Labor Officer.

6307

ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
SICILY REGION HEADQUARTERS
APO 394

2 May 1944.

At the request of the Provincial Labor Office a meeting was arranged and held at 8 Via Bari, at 1500 hours on April 29th. The representatives of the workers of the Society General Electric, the Filobus and Street Railway Workers had requested the Provincial Labor Office to arrange this meeting.

PRESENT:

CARDELLA GAETANO	G.E.
LUCIDO DAVID	Filobus
PIAZZA GUIDO	Filobus
GIANNICI ARTURO	G.E.
LIPARI GIUSEPPE	G.E.
PICCIONE GIOVANNI	G.E.

1st Lt. JOHN H. MOFFITT, Regional Labor Officer
Rag. BARTOLOMEO ROMANO, General Secretary Provincial Labor Office.

Lt. Moffitt: Whom do these men represent?

Spokesman: These are the representatives of the Society General Electric, Filobus Lines and Street Railway Lines, constituting one group.

Lt. Moffitt: Are all these organizations owned by the same owner?

Spokesman: Yes. They asked to have this meeting to submit their needs. Two of these gentlemen are representatives of the League of the Chamber of Workers.

Lt. Moffitt: Are they also employed by one of these companies?

Spokesman: Yes.

Lt. Moffitt: What do they want?

Spokesman: On Dec. 5th a meeting was held with Col. Poletti with reference to bread ration and canned Army rations. Col. Poletti had said that it was impossible to continue giving the increased rations but that he would have to place the employees of this company on the same basis as other companies. The main reason for this meeting is to inquire into the chances of having their salaries reviewed. Avv. LaLoggia had studied their wage scales but had lost so much time in taking action that the workers became impatient and began to complain, therefore a new committee was re-elected to express their needs.

Lt. Moffitt: Are these the new representatives?

PIAZZA GUIDO Pilobus
 GIANNINI ARTURO G.E.
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 PICCIONE GIOVANNI G.E.

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Lt. Moffitt: Are these the new representatives?

Spokesman: Yes, these are the new representatives of the second committee. After the new committee was elected they asked the Director of Labor to re-examine all wage scales to see what their needs were. Negotiations started March 7th with the Provincial Labor Office. First negotiations were concluded with an advance of 2000 lire on salaries, which were to be advanced in the future. The first 1000 lire was advanced in March and the second 1000 lire in early April.

Lt. Moffitt: Was this a gift or was it to be paid back?

Spokesman: To be repaid from future advances. Besides the 1st and 2nd advances there was a 3rd advance of 1000 lire made during the latter part of April with which to purchase

shoes.

Moffitt: Then they received 1000 lire in March, 1000 lire in early April and 1000 lire in late April, making a total of 3000 lire?

Spokesman: Yes. Now the workers, although they have received this 2000 lire advance, are still not satisfied, as they want an increase in wages. They have become impatient and wanted to carry on negotiations with the G.E., but were told by the G.E. that nothing could be done. Therefore, they decided to take the matter up with your office directly as they felt they were wasting their time with the Labor Office or the G.E. It seems the G.E. is using as an excuse that they cannot do anything unless orders come from the Provincial Labor Office and the Allied Command. That is their reason for dealing directly with you. They have tried many times to deal with the G.E., but have been unsuccessful and are still waiting for a reply, and to show you that they are trying to keep the workers quiet they have come directly to you.

Sig. Romano,
Sec. Prov.
Labor Office:

The Prov. Labor Office has been working on the new wage scale and so far is in accordance with what they are demanding. Of course this is only one side. We have been waiting for a representative of the Employer to discuss the employer's side before making a report to you.

Lt. Moffitt:

I would like to say this: the only reason we are concerning ourselves with this matter is that the G.E. does have certain military values. Also the matter of wage increase is still a matter of final approval by AOC; Hdqtrs.

Spokesman:

They say it is not a question of wage increase; but a matter of putting wages on the same level as other utility companies.

Lt. Moffitt:

It is still a matter of wage increase and is a matter for Naples. I am telling them actual facts. It is not a matter to argue. The Provincial and Regional Labour Offices have tried to collect figures in order that we might get a decision from Hdqtrs. So far we have been unable to get sufficient data apparently because the company does not want to give them to us.

Spokesman:

They don't feel many figures have to be collected to make a decision, because on December 5 Col. Poletti agreed to put them on the same level as other companies such as the Azienda Gas.

Lt. Moffitt:

I don't believe Col. Poletti made such an agreement, I was at the Dec. 5 meeting. There are a couple things I would like to bring to their attention. They should carry on all

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I don't believe Col. Poletti made such an agreement, I was at the Dec. 5 meeting. There are a couple things I would like to bring to their attention. They should carry on all transactions that they have through the Prov. Labour Office, if they can't come to some agreement with the company. Before anything can be done we must have certain facts among these are wages paid by the G.E. Filobus and trolley lines. I agree the wages are low; but we cannot do anything until the someone produces the necessary figures and facts.

Spokesman:

In case they cannot reach an agreement with the G.E. is there any objection from you to their deal with the Labor Office.

Lt. Moffitt:

There cannot be any increase in wages without the approval of A.C.C. Hqters. This 3000 lire advance is illegal and we are considering taking legal action against the company for making such advances.

Spokesman:

They made this agreement through the Provincial Labour Office;

Moffitt: I can't help it, the company will still be held liable. The Provincial Labour Office knows there can be no increase in wages without the approval of A.C.C. Magtara.

Spokesman: That is the reason why they came here to ask your permission. If they could make a private agreement with the company and then submit it to you.

Lt. Moffitt: If they will get the data, we have asked for, we will see that a just settlement is made.

Spokesman: The Prov. Labour Office prepared some figures; but now the Labour office is still waiting for figures from the company.

Lt. Moffitt: What we want is: the amount of pay each category is receiving at the present time. We also want to know what they are paying workers of comparable skills at the Azienda Gen. If we get such facts we will have all we need.

Spokesman: Being that the workers of the C.E. have not got the same job they must make allowances.

Lt. Moffitt: If they will give us the figures we will take care of the matter. We have been waiting since last December for these figures.

Spokesman: On Monday you will have all the figures you need.

Lt. Moffitt: On Monday there will be an Officer here from Naples and I believe he can assist in arriving at an early decision. I would like to stress one point - Under no circumstances will we permit a cessation of work at the C.E. plant. A work stoppage will be regarded as an act of sabotage.

Spokesman: They will try to stop any strike.

Lt. Moffitt: Where is Dr. Tricomi? It would be a good idea if he were present.

Spokesman: If you don't order him to come here he will not come. In March when arrangements were made for the advancement of the 3000 lire it was Col. Thomas who invited Dr. Tricomi to come from Messina. Col. Thomas sent a message for Dr. Tricomi to attend.

Lt. Moffitt: What does he do in Messina?

Spokesman: He lives with his family in Messina.

Lt. Moffitt: Where is his main Office?

Spokesman: In Palermo, but as he is the head of the Board of Administration he travels all over Sicily.

Lt. Moffitt: I would like you to know that I feel that your wages appear to be below standards now. If you will not, the data over

406

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Spokesman: In Palermo, but as he is the head of the Board of Administration he travels all over Sicily.

Lt. Moffitt: I would like you to know that I feel that your wages appear to be below standards ~~and~~. If you will get the data over to us by Monday I will see that some action is taken.

Spokesman: They ask you to do all you can in your power as soon as possible as everything depends on the outcome of this meeting.

Lt. Moffitt: We have not delayed anything, it is just because we have not had the material to work with.

Spokesman: They would like to point out that the Prov. Labour Office has been in charge of this matter since March 9.

Lt. Moffitt: I do not think that the Prov. Labour Office should be blamed in any way. It is the society which appears to be at fault. I think the Prov. Labour Office has been helpful and has tried to help you. I am anxious to get the matter straightened

out as it has been a trouble some problem since last October.

Spokesman:

The 1st of May is the "Day of Workers" and they are asking if there is a chance of receiving a ration of pasta and if possible to buy some extra meat rations.

Lt. Moffitt:

I consulted Col. Hancock on this matter and he said there was no pasta available. In the near future there is going to be an announcement of a new ration. I don't know what it will be, but I feel it will be better. That is about all I can say at the present time.

Spokesman:

Two of the large bakeries have enough supply of pasta for distribution. If it could be distributed it would be a good gift for the 1st of May.

Lt. Moffitt:

Pasta may be available in the local bakery's, but it has been allocated for future rationing. We are sorry; but an increase for May first is impossible.

Spokesman:

The drivers (chauffeurs) and checkers (conductors) on the Pilotes are inter-changeable. Each must and does do the job of the other. These men never knew from day to day whether they will drive or check. However certain ones are listed as "checkers" and others as "drivers". Those listed as "drivers" receive the supplemental 100 grams of bread daily but the "checkers" do not.

Lt. Moffitt:

If this statement can be proved and the names of these people are submitted for extra rations by the company, they will be granted supplementary rations. Thank you for coming here. Advise your co-workers not to leave their work. Provide us with the information we have requested and you will receive fair treatment.

MEETING CLOSED.

Approved
Lt. Lt.
Super officer

6.1.5

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MEETING CLOSED.

Snapped
1st Lt
Snapper officer

4.0.5

ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
Sicily Region Headquarters
APO 394

May 5, 1944

Workers representatives of GES called on the Labor Division and presented the attached statement. They announced that they were meeting with the workers on Saturday May 6 - and they believed the workers would strike. They were told that this would be regarded as sabotage and would not be tolerated. They were asked to return on the 6th of May at 10 am.

An attempt was made to reach Col. Bain by phone without success. At 8,15 on May 6 - Col Hancock held a meeting - present Lt. Col. Bollick, Major Crowther, Major Duncan, Lt. Moffitt, Avv. La Loggia; Avv. La Loggia explained what was being done in Naples with regard to wage adjustments for the Electrical workers. It was suggested that Director Tricomi be reprimanded for not receiving the workers. This to be done in the presence of the workers representatives. Col Hancock and Col Bollick rejected this suggestion.

Col. Bain was reached by phone and he explained that before wage adjustment could be made in Sicily an Italian Government decree was needed. He said he would see both General Mason MacFarlane and the Italian Minister of Labor on Monday and advise that such a decree be issued. Col. Hancock agreed to conduct the meeting scheduled for 10 am.

Present - G.E.S. Meeting Headquarters,
10 am - May 6, 1944

Col. A.N. Hancock
Lt. Col. Bollick
Major D.A. Duncan
1st Lt. J.H. Moffitt
Ing. Alfonso Modica
Cardella Gaetano
Lipari Giuseppe

Col. Hancock outlined the history of the Company since occupation. He also told of our present attempt thru Headquarters to obtain the necessary Italian Government decree to effect a wage adjustment on the basis used in Naples. Namely 5 Lire less than A.P. wage rate. He further stated any stoppage of work would be regarded as sabotage. He pointed out in some detail that troops at the front neither ate well or went on strike. He warned the workers that action would be taken against any striker. He said that Gen. Heiderman had plans drawn to occupy and operate the company's

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The representatives of management pointed out the poor financial status of the Society. Col. Hancock pointed out the time involved and the difficulty in making public utility rate adjustment.

ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
SICILY REGION HEADQUARTERS
APO 394

MINUTES OF MEETING OF REPRESENTATIVES OF

SICILIAN RAILWAYS HELD AT PALAZZO FERROVIE,

PALERMO 1600 HOURS 11 MAY 1944.

PRESENT:

Lt.Col. O.H.LINDBERG, Trans.Sub-Commission,ACC.,
Rep. at HQ. Region I.

Lt. MOFFITT, Labour Div.,ACC.

Ing.Dr. FLORENA, Italian State Railways.

Lt.Col. Francesco GIORDANO, Italian Trans.Delegation.
Capt. Giovanni ALONZO)

Representatives of Railroad Workers.

Lt.Moffitt: Why was this meeting called?

Spokesman: This conference was called because due to the extremely high prices we are unable to buy enough to eat and we are also unable to buy necessary clothing. When the war started the price of everything was frozen but now the prices of the necessities of life have been greatly increased, but the wages have not been increased.

Lt.Moffitt: Were the prices legally increased? .

Spokesman: No. Every merchant sets the price to suit himself. Perhaps today a certain item will 600 lire; tomorrow it may be 800 or 1000 lire.

Lt.Moffitt: Tell them that at the last meeting they promised to give me specific information to assist in the control or clearing up the black market situation. Other than a little vague information concerning 4 names they have given me no further information.

Spokesman: We went to the High Commissioner giving him some names of people who were selling on the black market. Addresses were also given, but he did not do anything about it.

Lt.Moffitt: The understanding was that they would give me the information. So far they have given me 4 names and we can't do anything with just vague information.

Spokesman: It is not necessary to know the names. If you would just

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Spokesman: It is not necessary to know the names. If you would just walk down the street you would see that the price of everything is extremely high.

Lt. Moffitt: They were going to give me specific information. If they want to give the information to High Commissioner Musotto, let him get the raise for them.

Spokesman: We do not ask for an increase in wages. We only ask that the people on the black market be arrested and that the prices be controlled so we want have to pay these high prices. If this is not done we don't know how we are going to live. We do not trust the High Commissioner, the Sindaco, and government officials.

Lt. Moffitt: The last time we met I think I made it clear that if they would submit to me definite information which would lead to actually getting the people involved in the black market I would be pleased to take the necessary action. Now they say they have taken information to Puerto. I have not heard a thing from them since the last meeting. If they have come here just to blow off steam I am not at all interested.

Spokesman: We will all get together in groups and try to get more definite information. There is a lot of wheat hidden away throughout the Island and if some American soldiers and guards could be organized to go and take the wheat from the people who are holding it, it would be of great help in feeding the people who are not getting enough to eat. There is enough wheat on the Island for all the people of Sicily.

Lt. Moffitt: That is a matter for Lt. Col. Snook. Arrangements will be made for a meeting with him here at 10.30 Tuesday Morning, May 16th.

Spokesman: At the last meeting we talked about the increase in rations which included meat and vegetable stew, dried vegetables and soup. The prices of these items are also too high and the people are unable to buy them. We don't think they are the prices set by the Americans.

Lt. Moffitt: I will look into these prices before the next meeting.

Spokesman: We do not trust the High Commissioner and other government officials, and if nothing is done to adjust the prices of rations we will take other steps to straighten the situation out as it is absolutely impossible to live this way.

Lt. Moffitt: If there is nothing further we will discuss ways of getting this hidden wheat at the meeting Tuesday.

Spokesman: We would like to suggest another thing and that is to post guards and policemen at the railroad stations and when the people get off the trains with their produce to sell on the black market, take it away from them and at least give it to the poor people who cannot afford anything.

Lt. Moffitt: That is something else for Col. Snook to take up at the meeting next Tuesday.

MEETING CLOSED.

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MEETING CLOSED.

4062

ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
Sicily Region Headquarters
APO 394

File RLA/319.1

4 May 1944

SUBJECT: Labour Division - Report on Tour

TO : Region I - A.C.C. C.M.P.

In accordance with Region I S.O. 77 dated 22 April 1944, the Eastern side of the Island was visited by Major Duncan during week - ended 1st May.

Messina:

1. The Provincial Labour Office are using a Card Index Register of workers which appears to be working efficiently but is yet incomplete, particularly in regard to employed persons owing to the fact that employers have not supplied the relative information.
2. With the exception of the Card Index Room the Office accommodation is very over - crowded and would be better situated on the ground floor. Adjacent accommodation is the hands of the Town Mayor and it was suggested that he be contacted through the Provincial Commissioner (Major Ramsey) with a view to re-allocation.
3. The General Secretary (Fortunato Lacchesi) stated that on account of Railway Travel difficulties a car was required for visiting out - lying parts of the Province.
4. Concern was expressed regarding the re-placement of the clothing of the staff, when existing garments become worn - out, owing to excessive prices.
5. Upon inquiry it was found that Italian Contractors were paying Lire 50 per day to Labourers (Manovali) and Lire 90 per day to Masons (Muratori) such men receiving "Family Allowances" in addition. As the rates are the same as those paid to direct employees of the Allied Forces where, up to the present, Family Allowances are not paid, some discontent ensues. Similar circumstances no doubt exist in other categories of workers.

4324
C.C.M.
1119
L. Duncan

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6. The Provincial Labour Director (Prof. Salvatore Pugliesi) according to the Provincial Commissioner and the Prefect, a most unsatisfactory individual and the former expressed the view that his appointment was only due to a mistake in a letter written by the P.C. to Headquarters Region I on 15th February 1944 No 826. It was urged by the P.C. and Prefect that a Sig. Attilio Salvatori be appointed in his stead. It transpired that Pugliesi was about to tender his resignation on the grounds that he wished to devote full time to his activities at the local University. The R.C. suggested that it would be more satisfactory if he had more direct control

*X Since resigned**11 May 1944*

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over the Provincial Labour Office which at present was inclined to take orders direct from Palermo. The same condition would appear to exist in relation to Public Health and Public Assistance.

Siracusa:

1. Owing to absence on duty it was not possible to contact the Provincial Commissioner (Major Giles) but the executive officer (Capt. Thorne Smith) reported that he was in close touch with the Provincial Labour Director (Dr. Domenico Notaro).

2. A system of Registration is used at the Provincial Labour Office but, owing to a shortage of Cards, a somewhat cumbersome method is employed. However, the Director appears to have the correct ideas and works in close co-operation with the D.A.D.L. A supply of Cards is swarted from Palermo when the co-ordination of Employment and extra Rations for heavy-workers would be facilitated. Meanwhile different systems for the provision of extra rations are used by the Labour Office and the D.A.D.L. (Capt. Cullen); that employed by the former would lend itself more readily to abuse but it is unlikely that such abuse exists in any large degree owing to the grip that the Labour Office has on the situation.

Catania:

1. The Provincial Labour Office requires cards on the Palermo system.
2. The Director stated that the workers were agitating for an increase in the Family Allowances. When it was pointed out that those employed direct by the Allied Forces received no Family Allowances at all he alleged that workers only sought such direct employment when there was nothing else offering. In further discussion, however, it was admitted that direct employment was not of such a "driving" nature and certain perquisites such as cigarettes and food were sometimes available to direct employees.
3. The office of the A.D.L. (civil) expressed the opinion that direct employees were on balance as well off as those receiving family allowances owing to the fact that the former made no insurance contributions.
4. In view of anticipated alterations in the Labor Laws affecting insurances and other matters it was generally felt in this and the other Provinces that no concrete proposals should be made at present.

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General:

1. The anticipated introduction of new Labour Laws is awaited by all concerned when the alterations and modifications incorporated therein may remove various grievances.

2. The introduction of a uniform system and relative stationery throughout the Region should be expedited.

3. Laws supporting the introduction of a uniform system should be enacted and a means introduced whereby such Laws can be enforced.

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4. The uniform wage scale prepared by the Labour Division of this Region should be adhered to but recommendations of responsible Staff Officers of the A.C.C. for extra emoluments for exceptional services should be supported.

5. As the availability of food for the workers at an economic price is more important than his actual wages it is urged that the responsible body pays particular attention to any transition period between the cessation of imported and home-produced supplies, when opportunities for further exploitation by the Black Market may occur.

6. The working classes of the Region are "living on their own fat" so far as clothing and other necessities are concerned. Considerable difficulties are anticipated when the time comes for essential renewals to be made which are outside the scope of the family budget

D. A. LUNGMAN

D. A. LUNGMAN
Major, R.A.S.C.
Region I - A.C.C.
Labour Division.

Copy to:
Director, Labour Sub-Commission
H.Q. A.C.C. C.M.F.

ISLAND LIAISON COMMITTEE
EIGHTH MEETING

HELD AT REGION I HQ., ACC
1000 hours 5 May 1944

AGENDA:

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting
2. Matters Arising
3. Next Meeting
4. Other Business

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

a. ACC Region I Hq.

1. Major J. Chayton, E & S Div., Vice Chairman
2. Lt. Col. C.P. Bolick, TCUPW Div.
3. Major D.A. Duncan, Labor Division
4. F.C.V. Hayward, E & S Div., Secretary

b. ACC Transportation Sub-Commission.

Lt. Col. C.H. Lindberg, ACC Rep. at Region I, HQ.

c. No. 1 District

Lt. Col. R.A. Curties.

d. C.I.C.

Rene R. Francuzzi, Special Agent in charge.

In the absence of Col. Hancock the chair was taken by Major Chayton, Vice Chairman at 1000 hours.

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting:

The minutes of the previous meeting were taken as read and confirmed.

2. Matters Arising

- a. In connection with the sale of scrap vehicles and Lt. Col. Bolick reported that a letter on this subject had

Food 1928
SAC
PWTU
Transport
SAC
SAC
SAC

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In the absence of Col. Hancock the chair was taken by Major Chayton, Vice Chairman at 1000 hours.

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting:

The minutes of the previous meeting were taken as read and confirmed.

2. Matters Arising

a. In connection with the sale of scrap vehicles and parts Lt. Col. Bolick reported that a letter on this subject had been sent to No. 1 District and IBS.

IBS are now collaborating with ACC in this matter but no reply has been received from No. 1 District.

Lt. Col. Curties stated that he would enquire into the matter and a reply would shortly be sent.

3. Other Business:

- 1 -

11/11/41

- 2 -

The chairman stated that there appeared little use of the Island Liaison Committee continuing to meet as the Allied Forces Local Resources (Sicily) Board had assumed most of its original functions. Any other questions could be dealt with by correspondence.

It was agreed that the Island Liaison Committee be terminated.

F.C.V. Hayward
F.C.V. HAYWARD
Lieutenant,
Secretary.

DISTRIBUTION:

A.G. A.C.C.
I.B.S. - 6 Copies
A.C.C. HQ - 6 Copies
No. 1 District - 6 Copies
Chairman Island Liaison Committee
C.I.C. Mediterranean
Senior Naval Officer, Eastern Sicily, Augusta
Flag Officer, Sicily
Senior Officer, N.O.B. Palermo
Lt. Dudley, Legal Officer, N.C.B. Palermo
Allied Forces Local Resources (Sicily) Board
Heads of Divisions in Region I HQ. A.C.C.
Spares - 10

HELD AT 1000 HOURS
7 April 1944

AGENDA:

1. Minutes of previous meeting.
2. Minutes of previous meeting.
3. Report on financial matters.
4. Check list of merchandise.
5. Sale of excess vehicles to civilians.
6. Requisitioning by Italian forces in Sicily.
7. Minutes of previous meeting.
8. Other business.

OFFICIAL ATTENDANCE:

A. ACCORDION I.E.

1. Major J. C. C. Division, Vice Chairman
2. Lt. Col. C. C. C. Division, TOUR Division
3. Major T. C. C. Division, Finance Division
4. Major D. C. C. Division, Labour Division
5. Lt. J. C. C. Division, Labour Division
6. Lt. J. C. C. Division, Secretary

B. NO. 1 DISTRICT:

1. Lt. Col. J. C. C. could

In the absence of Lt. Col. Hancock the chair was taken by Maj. Chapman, Vice Chairman at 1000 hours.

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting.

The minutes of the previous meeting were taken as read and confirmed.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting.

3. In connection with the question of salaries paid to Civil Engineers Lt. Col. C. C. C. could report that No. 1 District were against the sale of cars for that purpose for health reasons. At the request of the chairman Lt. Col. C. C. C. provided that used biscuit tins would be salvaged in future and made available for conversion into containers for essential oils.

4. In connection with the sale of salvaged cars to the food packing industry Lt. Col. C. C. C. could report that No. 1 District were against the sale of cars for that purpose for health reasons. At the request of the chairman Lt. Col. C. C. C. provided that used biscuit tins would be salvaged in future and made available for conversion into containers for essential oils.

5. On the subject of the question for conversion of government property, Major C. C. C. could report that No. 1 District were against the sale of cars for that purpose for health reasons. At the request of the chairman Lt. Col. C. C. C. provided that used biscuit tins would be salvaged in future and made available for conversion into containers for essential oils.

Copies to: *the*
Labour *for*
Food *JW*
S & C
Finance
PW & 21

LAB

OFFICIAL ATTENDANCE:

A. ACC. DIVISION I.

1. Major J. G. Gorton, 2nd Division, Vice Chairman
2. Lt. Col. G. J. Gorton, T.O.P. Division
3. Major T. J. Gorton, Finance Division
4. Major D. A. Duncanson, Labour Division
5. Lt. J. J. Gorton, Labour Division
6. Lt. J. G. Gorton, Secretary

B. NO. 1 DIVISION:

1. Lt. Col. J. P. Gould

At the absence of Lt. Col. Gorton the chair was taken by Maj. Gorton.
Vice Chairman at 1900 hours.

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

2. Letters arising.

a. In connection with the question of salaries paid to Civil Engineers Lt. Col. Gould reported that he had suggested the schedule of labour rates to Col. L. J. Gorton and at a meeting a reply.

b. In connection with the sale of salvaged cars to the food rationing authority Lt. Col. Gould reported that No. 1 District were against the sale of cars for that reason for health reasons. At the request of the chairman Lt. Col. Gould promised that used biscuits this would be salvaged to future and made available for conversion into containers for essential oils.

c. At the meeting of the committee for government purchases, Major Gorton read a letter dated 15 March 1944 from ACC, Finance, Sub-division, Finance Section, to the effect that Italian State and local taxes will not be applied to purchases made by the Allied Forces and that general instructions are in course of preparation in I.C.C., ACC. Major Gorton also quoted from a confidential report on this subject dated 10 February 1944 by Mr. Henry Gorton, Vice President, Economic Section, ACC addressed to I.C.C., ACC. A further letter dated 16 March 1944 from Mr. H. H. H. (Mr. H. H.) was read and this stated that the Commission will not be paid and that the Commission will be paid by the Government. It was decided that all bills passed to him for payment.

d. Major Gorton undertook to obtain a ruling from ACC, Finance Section, on the question of export duties and other customs fees on goods exported to other countries by or through ACC and not covered by the latter already mentioned.

e. On the question of dealing with requests from the mainland it was decided that those arriving in Eastern Sicily would be dealt with by Mr. L. J. Gorton up to the time of departure to command while ACC would deal with those arriving in the island area.

30

of F.O.I. to them from Army Block. The Secretary reported that ACC could not fix a date for Sicily. It was the intention gradually to decrease the number of officers on the island and consequently the number of vehicles. Owing to the fact that the only military camp of F.O.I. on the western side was in Palermo, it was found more economical for ACC vehicles to draw from CIP installations.

f. It was reported that the civilian telephone service was not in operation and the military authorities had agreed to the recommencement of this service.

The Chairman stated that a number of comments had been found to have an unsatisfactory record in their dealings with ACC, but this had not proved that the reverse was also the case. It was agreed that a black list of such remarks should be tabulated and circulated.

4. Sale of Scrap Vehicles to Civilians.

Lt. Col. Gould reported that No. 1 District had sold some scrap vehicles to civilians but buyers were being refused licenses to circulate.

Lt. Col. Bolick replied that this was because it seemed in ways to obtain spare parts for captured enemy vehicles and put them into running condition. If they were permitted to obtain licenses for ex-enemy vehicles they would thus be able to operate vehicles which they should have abandoned.

Lt. Col. Bolick stated that he would communicate with No. 1 Dist. and suggest that their enemy vehicles to be sold to ACC as transport.

5. Prohibition by Italian Forces in Sicily.

Lt. Col. Gould reported that the CIP installation at Enna was decided for use by the Italian Army and he desired the views of ACC before they joined by AFHQ I.T.S.C. to distribute civilian petroleum. The installation used were for the most part American or British owned and the proposed action would be equivalent to a requisition of Allied property. It would also seriously interfere with the working of CIP who in addition to distributing civilian FOL were to be added eventually to handle Army FOL as well.

6. Next Meeting.

The next meeting of the Island Liaison Committee will be held at 1000 hours Friday 5 May 1944.

7. Other Business.

There was no other business and the meeting terminated at 1130 hours.

4. Sale of Scrap Vehicles to Civilians.

Lt. Col. Bolick reported that No. 1 District had sold some scrap vehicles to civilians but buyers were being refused a license to circulate.

Lt. Col. Bolick replied that this was because it seemed up ways for civilians to obtain spare parts for captured enemy vehicles and put them into running condition. If they were permitted to obtain licenses for scrap vehicles they would thus be able to operate vehicles which they should have abandoned.

Lt. Col. Bolick stated that he would communicate with No. 1 District. He would like their scrap vehicles to be sold to ACC as transport. Administration has a very difficult problem.

5. Regulation by Italian Forces in Sicily.

Lt. Bol. could report that the CIP installation at Enna was decided for use by the Italian Army and he desired the views of ACC before they decided to requisition it. The Chairman replied that as CIP was an organization owned by ACC, it was to distribute civilian petroleum. The installations used were for the most part American or British owned and the proposed action would be equivalent to requisitioning Allied property. It would also seriously interfere with the working of CIP who in addition to distributing civilian POL were involved in actually to handle Army POL as well.

6. Next Meeting.

The next meeting of the Island Liaison Committee will be held at 1000 hours Friday 5 May 1944.

7. Other Business.

There was no other business and the meeting terminated at 1150 hours.

DISSEMINATION:

A.G. 4.C.C.

TBS - 6 copies

ACC HQ - 6 copies

No. 1 District - 6 copies

Chairman Island Liaison Committee

WIC, Mediterranean

The Senior Naval Officer, Port in Sicily, Augusta

Flt Officer, Sicily

Comd. Trawlers, HQ, Italy

Lt. Col. Bolick, Local Liaison

F.C.V. LUTHER
Lieutenant,
Secretary

○
Allied Forces Local Liaison (SIC) HQ,
Headquarters of Div. 17, Italy

7/13/44 4329

11

Moffitt

Dear Colonel:

This security address will. I suppose someone's catch up with you. I asked Col Hancock to call you several days ago as I have difficulties here seem to be about to break in. The Longshore situation especially complicated and Messing seems to be the last spot at the moment.

In this means while they (here) are trying to give me their problem chief, Lt Charles Clark, as an assistant. Clark is a nice guy but he and I would not work out too well so I am trying to stall the matter.

I understand that Johnsons are suffering and that reason is in including my name in their recommendations. I do not believe that they can do this properly as I believe it will have to come from you or Col Smith. (which I hope it will)

Please tell Col Smith that Mrs Moffitt is going to call on Olga Rogers shortly. Also Olga

and Johnsons call to Mrs Barr

Swatdars ago or Satons different the
 feel seem to be about to throw me -
 The Longshore Situation especially
 complicated and Messina seems to be
 the last spot at the moment.

In this mean while their (Saglen
 here) are trying to give me their problem
 chief, Lt Charles Clark, as an assistant.
 Clark is a nice guy but he and I
 would not work out too well so I
 am trying to stall the matter.

I understand that problems
 are arising and that Reagan
 is including my name in their
 recommendations. I do not believe
 that they can do this properly as
 I believe it will take to come from
 you or Gal Smith. (which I hope it will
 please tell Col Smith that

Mrs. Duggan is going to call on
 Olga Aggers shortly. Also Olga
 Agger Leonardo's off to Mrs. Bann
 day air.

Col. Gordon Smith asks about
 you when I see him, every couple
 of weeks. The Italian authorities
 are being pretty sloppy about

(1)

The legal aspects of raising the
Ladon officers - I believe they will
break down soon & pay them -

They still have not gotten the
new employment offices open -
The new forms (your team child)
C-1 & C-2 are in use locally -

We are getting all the Army
placements now - There are
Green determined to give away all
of our old ones -

Dick, seems to be
running a hot line - He
gave me very good to the
Ground Culture Office - Hope you'll
come down to poor old Sicily

Shortly - As I believe you say "I
take a very dim view" of a Gidel
Army giving any here, this includes
our old Gravall & ager - They are
more or less throwing a monkey
wrench into the local labor price
situation - I believe however they
are now more or less under control -
Mostly less -

Best of everything

They still have not gotten the new employment office open. The new books (your train child) C-1 + C-2 are in use locally.

We are getting all the Army Placemats now. The Placemats were determined to give away all of our old ones in order.

I think seems to be running a bit thin. More. Give away very best to the crowd at the office. Hope you'll come down to poor old Sicily shortly.

As I believe you say "I take a very dim view" of a Greek Army. Giving now here, this includes our old Orkney & Rager. They are more or less throwing a monkey wrench into the local labor price situation. I believe however they are now more or less under control. Mostly less.

Best of everything,
John

W.H. J.H. Mappin
05501525

