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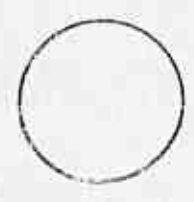
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MONTHLY STAFF CONFERENCE
APR. - AUG. 1944

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ON HIS MAJESTY'S SERVICE.

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CONFERENCE

(Lithography) 1897-1902 12/42

(REGIONAL COMMISSIONERS CONFERENCES)

AND
ACC MONTHLY REPORT.

Opened. 14. April. 1944
Closed. 19. August 1944

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Opened. 14. April 1944
Closed. 19. August 1944

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THIS FOLDER
CONTAINS PAPERS

FROM APR 44

TO AUG 44

CATALOGUE.

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Tel: 489081

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
Public Works and Utilities Sub-Commission
APO 394

AEP/bb

ACC/086/PWU .

19 Aug, 44

SUBJECT : Regional Commissioners' Conference.

TO : Economic Section.

1. Refce. your letter ES/23 dated 7 Aug, 44.
2. I enclose copy of speech to be delivered by the Director of this Sub-Commission at the above Conference.

L.A. JENNY,
Lt-Colonel, 6203
Director.

Regional Commissioners' Conference. Aug. 22nd 1944.

NOTES. Short speech
 Re P.W. and U. Sub-Commission.

A.C.C. (Activities)

1. General.

Since the early spring direct responsibility for Public Works administration has decreased markedly viz. in South Italy and the Islands through causes both political and military. But on balance the over - all work of this Sub-Commission has greatly increased. As the Armies advance their Engineer Units hand over tasks in progress to A.M.G. who, in turn, soon hand these over to us.

Such responsibilities are direct and detailed, as opposed to advisory and supervisory functions; the residues left in Southern and certain Central Regions.

2. Functions.

In the whole long list of functions of this S.C. the most important at present is electricity, which I shall refer to further in a moment. Amongst miscellaneous works-anti-malarial measures ("Bonifiche") loom large.

In north east Italy there will be problems of far greater scope and complexity than any experienced in the Pontine marshes.

3. Personnel.

Against a total "ceiling" of 74 this S.C. now has about 60 officers, of whom 75% are at work in the Regions.

All Engr. activities, except electrical planning, are now under the Regional Engineer. He is the Advisor of the Regional Commissioner, and the fullest use should be made of him. In some instances recently there has been failure to do this and matters have been referred to H.Q. A.C.C. that could have been settled better, and certainly more quickly, within the Region itself.

On the other hand some R.C.'s have apparently found members of the P.W. Staff to be so useful that they have protested strongly when the time came to transfer them to places where their services were more urgently

needed viz. the new Northern Regions.

Such action militates against solution of pressing "Personnel" problems, laid down in the form of positive orders by higher authority at A.C.C. (H.Q.). To cover a country the size of Italy with a mere 60 officers, and to guide and control an organization like the Genio Civile, is a formidable task.

Especially so when it is remembered that after being completely wrecked last year, that organization is even now only in a state of "early convalescence". Its personnel was gravely reduced, and plant and equipment and stocks of materials were wrecked by the Germans or taken north by them. The same applies to its principal firms of contractors.

Italian engineers are being engaged increasingly by this S.C., and we now have 23 at Hq. and in Regions I to IV.

They are being trained to take the place of some of our own officers at a later date, who may be transferred.

4. Electric Power.

The Central Electricity Board was recently dissolved and its functions taken over by this S.C.

Responsibility for planning and electrical rehabilitation thus devolves on us. In the last 4 weeks a rapid survey shows that about 94% of the power plants in Central Italy have been destroyed. Only a fractional percentage of this can be restored by temporary repairs or other expedients, even within 3 or 6 months.

Strict rationing schemes started last February are still in force and must be continued. Only by these means can Military and Service needs be met, and factories and plants under their control, be operated.

The Central Italy electrical position is, by comparison, disastrous.

In Northern Italy it may be even worse, if that is possible.

Italian industrial economy is "geared to electricity" and not to coal or oil.

Without it hardly a single factory can be restarted-. Unemployment may continue, or increase. Ships will be needed to bring goods that the country itself should be producing. It will remain poorer than ever. Rehabilitation of the wrecked power-stations by Italian agencies, therefore, under the direction of this S.C. and with material assistance

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such as only the U.S.A. and the U.K. can give, is at the moment by far the most urgent task confronting us.

[These facts having been communicated it is hoped that Regional Commissioners will, within their respective spheres, keep the matter well in mind..... by (a) compelling the civil population to save every possible "unit", whether for light or power, and (b) giving all administrative assistance to our officers, working in this particular field]

5. Travel (Inspections).

(Army Areas) Permission to make journeys into Army areas was cancelled on 13 August. Up to a week may now be taken to get necessary permission, and urgent inspections of damaged areas may be seriously delayed. This is especially true concerning electrical plant rehabilitation studies power-stations, water-supplies, and bridges.

6. War Damage.

(a) A recent estimate by us, approximate, and based on various premises coupled with accumulated experience to date, shows that in the first 12 months after the War Italy may have to spend nearly 3 Billion Dollars, of which nearly 1 Billion may be on imported plant, machinery, and structural materials.

This excludes the vast amount of work done in the last 9 months e.g. hundreds of bridges rebuilt (in many cases allowing portable "Bailey" bridges to be released and taken forward by the Armies), several thousand kilometers of highways under special or routine repairs (on Military priorities), buildings, waterworks, gasworks, and other engineering and utility services wholly or partly rehabilitated. Transmission lines re-linked to give mutual assistance, transformers repaired, and other temporary expedients adopted.

(b) July saw 41 new bridges started on main highways, in addition to several hundreds in hand. In all there were 238 separate contracts (increase 84 in July) totalling about 500 Million Lire in value.

(c) Within limitations, already mentioned, it is satisfactory to record that Italian collaboration and assistance has been notable. There has been, throughout, close contact with the

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Genio Civile and also with technical and administrative Heads of the many gas, water, and electricity Companies.

(d) With all this, it is not claimed that anything more than the early beginnings of a very big programme have been attempted. Transport for structural material has been a desperately serious matter, and still is.

Much the same applies to plant; e.g. concrete mixers, stone-crushers and a hundred other things; and to materials, cement, bitumen, timber, steel and the rest.

(e) These things are being slowly, but as quickly as possible, rectified.

That there is a paper 10

MONTHLY STAFF CONFERENCE

to be held on 12 April 1944

PHASES - PUBLIC WORKS AND UTILITIES SUB-COMMISSION

1. Military Highways.

Work is progressing, but we are greatly handicapped because of insufficient personnel and equipment. We have been asked to extend and accelerate our organization and steps have been taken to accomplish this.

2. Utility Rates.

A program of procedure was submitted and approved at a Special Economic Section meeting. This permits of periodic adjustments being made in the form of a surcharge without disturbing the old basic utility rate structure. A Decree is in preparation cancelling former decrees freeing these rates.

3. Electricity Rationing.

A decree was issued ordering the rationing of electricity. However, because of a delay in getting the Decree approved, rationing was actually undertaken by us before the Decree became effective.

4. Ports and Ships.

Studies are in progress in cooperation with the Ministries of Public Works and Merchant Marine, for raising sunken ships in various harbors so as to clear harbors and make use of the ships; also for the rehabilitation of shipyards capable of building small wooden vessels from 200 to 800 tons.

5. Inspections.

Officers of this Sub-Commission have visited Sicily and Sardinia and have studied P.M.S. conditions in these two regions. Some changes are being con-

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6. Plants Producing Construction Materials.

A.C.C. has just been asked to study the question of taking over and operating various plants producing critical construction materials.

7. Italians Handicapped.

Army and many A.C.C. regional and provincial units have requisitioned automobiles and trucks belonging to the Italian engineer forces. This practice must cease. We are planning to issue special permits to them, with the cooperation of the armed forces, freezing their equipment so they can function.

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