

ACC 146/PWU

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(VOL. I)

22

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(VOL. I)

MONTHLY REPORTS
MAR. - NOV. 1944

06621

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785019

AC/14-6/PWU

*Confidential
not to be
distributed*

MONTHLY REPORTS

*Spent 21 March 44
Closed 16 Nov. 44*

PCC

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422

VOL. I
70A

06631

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785019

Class 1-16 Nov 44
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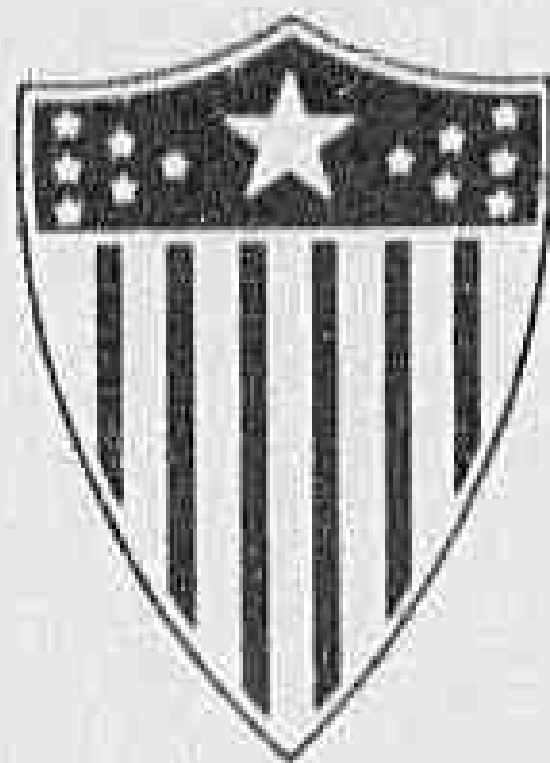
VOL I
70A

10000 / 150 / 438

THIS FOLDER
MAR - NOV
CATALOGUE

I 46

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE
WASHINGTON



DEPARTMENTAL RECORDS BRANCH, A.G.O.

ACC
—

422

Tel: 489051 Extn. 320

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APC 394
Public Works and Utilities Sub-Commission

11/2/PWC

16 Nov 44

SUBJECT: MONTHLY REPORTS.

TO : REGIONAL COMMISSIONERS.
(ATT. REGIONAL ENGINEER)

} All Regions
Expt. de la région

1. This office is obliged to furnish - H.Q. A.C. with the above report by a precise date in the first half of each month. Regional Engineers were asked some time ago to let us have their monthly reports not later than the 3rd of each month. This date is still not being observed. In November some reports came in as late as the 10th and 12th.

2. This places an unfair strain, and it cannot be continued any longer. This is more particularly the case since the reports now contain certain detailed information which must be seen first by the Chief of Electrical Division or the Chief of Public Works Division, and then be later dealt with on more general lines.

3. You are again asked, therefore, to make it your personal business that the report is sent off from your office on or before the last day of the month, i.e., direct to this Sub-Commission in a special envelope. It is absolutely essential from now onwards that information should be here by the 3rd of each month at latest.

FOR THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER.

6419

La
I.A. JENNY,
Lt-Colonel, C.E.,
Director.

C.C. ECONOMIC SECTION.

Tel. 489081

GER/ce

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

ACC/146/PWU

14 Oct. 44

SUBJECT: Monthly Report.

TO : All Regional Engineers.

1. Referring to this Office letter No. 146, dated 19th Sept., it is satisfactory to note that the September Reports were received here in good time.

2. At the same time both the form and substance of a number of the reports is distinctly unsatisfactory. A system is growing up under which this Headquarters is receiving masses of detail reports in original, submitted by various Sections of the Regional Engineer's office. The majority of these ought not to go any further than the Regional Engineer's own office. This Headquarters should not be burdened with them.

To take an example, from one Region alone a bundle of documents for September has been received running ^{to} about 44 pages. This implies a task at this HQ., on the part of the Director or Deputy Director personally, to discover things of any real importance among the great mass of petty detail.

3. Will Regional Engineers very kindly see that their reports in future are compiled by themselves and not by subordinate officers. It is for the Regional Engineer, and for him alone, to decide what is worth putting in the Monthly Report. The practice of sending very voluminous supplements prepared by other people, with a very sketchy outline only by the Regional Engineer himself, should cease forthwith.

4. In some cases Regional Engineers are sending to this office, with their Monthly Reports, perfectly useless information (to us) about telephones, telegraphs and other things. Common sense would seem to suggest the uselessness of this kind of thing.

G.E. RHODES,
Lieut-Colonel, R.E.
Acting Director.

P.T.O.

OVER

5. Any detailed statistics about Electric power, Roads, Bridges, etc. or other tabular statements so asked for by Lt.Col. Thompson or Lt.Col. Lapper should, of course, be sent, but not mixed up with the body of the report. They must be separate and with clear headings,

e.g. Appendix A (.....)
 " B (.....)
 " C (.....) and so on.

6.17

The body of the report may refer to them, as necessary.

Ref. 489081

GER/oe

174

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

ACC/146/PWU.

5 Oct. 44

SUBJECT: Monthly Reports of Sub-Commission.
TO : ECONOMIC SECTION (attn. Col. Denmore)

1. I return herewith, in original, the note by Brigadier Lush, Chairman of the Manpower Committee; also your ~~memo~~ slip dated 2nd Oct. regarding the same.
2. The note will be brought to the notice of the Director of the Sub-Commission (Lt. Col. Jenny) when he returns from America.
3. In the meantime, the following observations are offered:
 - (a) The first, or general, part of the August Report covers only 15 pages, and two of these (pages 6 and 7) are taken up merely by lists of officers, their duties, and location. It has been the practice for many months to furnish these lists.
 - (b) Pages 16 to 55 of the Report cover work done in the active Regions, 11 in number, an average for each Region of only between 3 and 4 pages. Each Regional Engineer has a considerable degree of individual responsibility, and no monthly report furnished by the Sub-Commission would be complete without information covering their extensive activities. As submitted, in fact, the August Report contains condensed summaries only.
 - (c) The pages of Appendices dealt fully with the electrical situation in Central and Southern Italy, and were the result of several months' investigation by the Electrical Division of the Sub-Commission. Their inclusion in the August Report was wholly exceptional, and similar appendices will not again be necessary. It was only in August and September that the very critical situation concerning electricity became fully known. These appendices comprised certain basic information that has been taken to America by Lt. Cols. Jenny and Lapper, & it is of special importance.

4. As to the two queries raised by Brigadier Lush, the first one concerns necessity. This Sub-Commission has been asked repeatedly for specialised information in recent months, e.g. by Missions and Deputations from Washington, London, Cairo and other places, also U.N.E.R.A., and other Agencies. Almost every question asked by these people had already been covered in the Monthly Reports as from October 1943. There has been a great saving of time, both to this Sub-Commission and to these investigating agencies by merely handing to them a complete file of these Monthly Reports; each ~~was~~ complete in itself. They have gone through them and taken extracts, of particular points in which they were interested.

By making the Reports fairly complete they have also been found useful for frequent reference within the Sub-Commission itself. They have served a much wider purpose, in fact, than they were originally intended to serve.

As to better employment of the staff "on practical work", it is to be remembered that even in August the personnel of the Sub-Commission totalled 62. Reports submitted by Regional Engineers are in the nature of "teamwork", and it is not supposed that any individual officer, in charge of a particular branch in the Regions, has had to spend more than an hour or two a month on the average, in furnishing his particular information. The major part of the duty has for many months fallen on the undersigned, i.e. in preparing the first part of each Monthly Report, generally running only to a limited number of pages, and for the rest summarising the Regional Reports. However, in view of the comments made, ^{all} Regional Reports will be further condensed, to the maximum extent possible. (There is no likelihood of any further Electrical Division appendices.)

5. As covering the July and August Reports, each was accompanied by a short summary of between 500 and 1000 words only, giving the absolutely outstanding points.

Encl.

Note (in original) undated
and slip d/d 2 Oct.

G.R.
G.E. RHODES,
Lieut-Colonel, R.E.,
Acting Director.

6415

Tel: 489084

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

GRR/128

AGC/146/P40

19 Sept. 1944

SUBJECT: Monthly Reports.

TO : HQ. All Regions.
Att. Regional Engineers.

1. Submission of the above was specially asked for, (actually delivered at this H.Q.) by the 3rd. of each month. In July this was done, or at any rate by the 5th.

2. In August reports were received up to the 10th and then only after sending several telegrams.

3. In Sept. few reports were even in by the 5th, two came on the 10th and 12th respectively, and one came on the 15th.

4. H.Q. A.C.C. expect our whole consolidated report to be in by the latter date. It usually takes about a week to compile, and hence this month (September) the submission is most seriously delayed.

5. No more excuses can be accepted. All Regional Engineers please note this. These reports are due on the 3rd of each month, here in Rome, and at the very latest they may be allowed a 48 hour margin i.e. up to the 5th.

6. In future, a late submission will be recorded (unfavourably) against the officer responsible.

GRR.
G. R. HRODGE
Lieut-Colonel, R.E.
Deputy Director.

6414

Tel. 489081
Ext. 120

190
LW/oo

FILE

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 194
Public Works and Utilities Sub-Commission

Seen

30 Nov. 44.

142/PW.

SUBJECT: Special Report for December.

TO : Regional Commissioner,
(att: Regional Engineer) (All Regions)

1. In making our report regarding the activities of the Public Works and Utilities Sub-Commission for the month of December 1944, I desire to present a supplement to that report, giving a brief picture of the overall accomplishments of the year. In that connection it is my desire to state for each Region the position held by each Engineer Officer and a brief outline showing the functions performed by these engineers with a little personal comment by the Regional Engineer. The above should not be more than one paragraph for each Engineer Officer and should preferably not be more than 8 or 10 lines.

2. In Regions where considerable changes have been made, the Regional Engineer should state positions held for more than three months by officers within their Region and give a statement as to what their functions were.

3. The main purpose of the above request is to give credit to the man who did the actual detail work. Histories will be written of the accomplishments of A.C. But these histories usually are written by some one long after the war is over and then the reports, made by those who were on the scene to close the doors, are usually used giving all credit to the man who supervised the sweeping up and no credit is given to those who built the structure. It is hoped that in this way we may in a small measure give credit where credit is due, hoping that, when a history is written, these pages will be reviewed and the data given therein be used.

4. In summing up your outline I shall also like to have a brief statement from you in appreciation of the efforts

Highways, Bridges and Public Works.

In August 83 new contracts put in hand for roads and bridges, and 33 others for miscellaneous projects. Expenditure was 127 million lire, and 59 million on miscellaneous works. Total expenditure (January to end of August) was nearly 700 million lire.

Transport vehicles loaned by Armies and in use in Southern Region (Military highways and bridges only) were 172, but due to poor condition never more than 50% were available at any one time. No serious difficulties encountered with labour. New system inaugurated under which bulk P.O.L. coupons available to Regional Engineers, for contractors on Military works projects. (Hope to eliminate confusion and shortages of past months.)

On 31st August 230 bridges were either completed or under construction. Problem constantly increasing in magnitude, as Armies move northwards.

6412

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On 31st August 230 bridges were either completed or under construction. Problem constantly increasing in magnitude, as Armies move northwards.

6412

of those who served under you.

5. May I count upon receiving this information somewhere around the middle of December, so that we may be given a full opportunity of assembling this data into proper and uniform presentation as our annual contribution.


L. R. JERRY,
Lt-Colonel, C.E.,
Director.

c.c. to: Col. Rhodes,
Col. Lepper,
Col. Thompson.

6411

REPORT - AUGUST 1944: (SHORT SUMMARY)PUBLIC WORKS AND UTILITIES SUB-COMMISSION

Time was spent in August in preparing, on special orders, a report stating why the Sub-Commission had not accomplished more, indicating obstacles to progress, and what had been done to surmount them. In amplification, reports were also got from 10 Regional Engineers, listing actual experiences over about a year. Vehicles for transport of structural materials, always lacking from the earliest days, so continue to the present time.

Relations with the Minister of Public Works are satisfactory. Frequent conferences are held.

The one Public Works officer in Sardinia is being withdrawn as an experiment, with transfer of responsibility to Italian agency. If successful, the same procedure may be followed in Sicily, or elsewhere in South-Italy. Schemes costing up to 500,000 lire need no longer be submitted by Italians to Regional Engineers for approval, unless controlled materials are involved.

Reports from Region IV show 27 towns with between 25% and 100% houses uninhabitable. Of these 14% are uninhabitable to the extent of more than 50%. A small scheme was approved for re-housing at Cassino. Italian Government propose to set up by Decree a special Body to deal with housing (matter still under discussion and negotiation).

Concerning eruption of Vesuvius (March 1944) a project of over 200 million lire was approved in August; remedial measures to minimize dangers of landslides in the autumn.

Other matters negotiated with Minister covered:-

- Organisation of Genio Civile.
- do. Cantoniari Gange.
- Contractors with Fascist records.
- Excessive cost of works (certain areas).
- Defascism (work of special Commission

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4. Reports from Region IV show 27 towns with between 25% and 100% houses uninhabitable. Of these 14% are uninhabitable to the extent of more than 50%. A small scheme was approved for re-housing at Cassino. Italian Government propose to set up by Decree a special Body to deal with housing (matter still under discussion and negotiation).
5. Concerning eruption of Vesuvius (March 1944) a project of over 200 million lire was approved in August; remedial measures to minimize dangers of landslides in the autumn.
6. Other matters negotiated with Minister covered:-
 - Organisation of Genio Civile.
 - do. Cantieri gangs.
 - Contractors with Fascist records.
 - Excessive cost of works (certain areas).
 - Defacement (Work of special Commission appointed).
 - "Bonifica" works.
 - Financing of projects.
 - Raising sunken ships in ports.
 - Establishment of pool of Italian Engineers including electrical specialists, ready to move northwards at short notice.
 - Careless preparation of projects, and inaccurate estimates, submitted by Genio Civile.

7. Officer strength of Sub-Commission as on 31st of August was 19 at HQ. and 43 in the field (Regional Engineers and their staffs). Deficiency 12, since total establishment should be 74.

8. Estimates of war damage to public works and buildings in Italy, recently put at over 2700 million Dollars, may have been conservative.

Fund of 600 million lire set up last February (repairs to Military highways and bridges) was raised to 1,000 million lire.

Miscellaneous.

Considerable information was furnished in August to U.N.R.R.A. Position as to ownership of materials on bombed properties is being investigated. If used in the general interest, they would assist greatly in executing adjacent first-aid repairs, without involving transport.

Responsibility for raising sunken ships in ports still under discussion, i.e. Allied Navies, Italian Ministry of Marine, or this Sub-Commission (of A.C.C.)

Electrical.

Of large hydro-electrical stations 50% totally destroyed and beyond repair. Dissolution of Central Electricity Board in July trebled the work of Electrical Division of the Sub-Commission. Importation of 60,000 KW. generating plant might save up to 90,000 tons of shipping per month, and reduce un-employment if factories can be re-started. Electrical situation at present is "desperate".

Remarks.

Mine-clearance problems extremely serious. Reconstruction of public works hindered. Physical reconstruction and rehabilitation may be delayed for years, unless systematic mine-clearance is undertaken.

Bonifica works in Pontine Marshes started in August, to cost about 48 million lire. Problems far greater than these are likely in the Po Valley and north thereof, where cities and whole tracts of country may be flooded.

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Minister of Public Works pressed very strongly (under instructions Administrative Section) to expedite work of his Commission, dealing with "Defascism".

Applications from Gas, Water and Electricity companies continued to be received, seeking to increase charges to consumers.

C O P Y

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

GER/ceb

Regional Engineers.

12 Jun 44.

Monthly Reports.

1. These are extremely important, and time spent on them is reflected in the knowledge of the Sub-Commission's activities that are passed on to the highest levels. No one will know what is being done unless we ourselves take the trouble to record it. This is not to mean that each and every detail is to be included. They must express FACTS.
2. What is wanted is a concise, clear, and above all well-balanced statement covering all salient points and major activities. Not omitting some mention of routine matters, which may be of equal importance.
3. As an example, covering the Sub-Commission as a whole, a copy of the May 1944 report is attached. There are similar ones dating from Nov. 1943, which are available in the office.

General Outline (Suggestions only).

1. General Remarks. Policy, Directives etc.
Organisational changes (if any) e.g.
Regional, Military, or on Italian side.
Duties and responsibilities; changes (if any)
Emphasis, by examples (as in para. 1. May
Report; for whole Sub-Commission).
2. Staff and Personnel.
Any changes; Movements.
3. Inspection tours.

6408

4. Military Highways.

Priorities, any changes,)
 General progress)
 Mileages (heavy repairs))
 Mileages (ordinary ") or
 Bridges in hand) other
 " under design) matters.
 New contracts, roads or bridges)
 Total at end of month, and values.)
 Information of expenditure.)

5. Other Highways. Similarly.6. Public Works. Buildings and miscellaneous (including Anti-Malaria control).7. Electricity. A special para. covering activities in some detail; e.g. thermal and H.E. stations, generating capacity, consumption etc. Repairs, Rationing, Figures or graphs.8. Industries and Factories. Relationship to (7).9. Public Utilities. Waterworks.
Main drainage.
Gas supplies.
Tramways.
Electricity - under 7 above.)10. Materials.11. Transport.12. Fuels. Position.13. Misc. Works.14. Any special remarks or recommendations arising out of the above.

6107

G.E. RHODES,
 Lieut.Colonel, R.E.
 Deputy Director.

HEADQUARTERS REGION VII U-338

ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

Public Works & Utilities Sub-Section

A.P.O. 394

Date: 1, June 1944

SUBJECT: Monthly Report on Public Works and Utilities.

TO: Director, Public Works and Utilities Sub-Commission,
Hq. A.C.C. A.P.O. 394

1. The undersigned reported at Catanzaro on May 22, 1944. In accordance with the directors suggestion and upon direction of the regional commissioner, one week was spent Captain Brownlee on military highways for the purpose of instructions in the manner of handling public utility projects and contracts.

2. During the remaining three days progress was somewhat hampered by the removal of Inspector Fusco from the department of Calabria prior to the arrival of his replacement, who has not arrived as yet. Following is a resume of the work:

3. Electrical Rationing: Commissions for the central and rationing of electrical consumption have been appointed in the provinces of Cosenza and Catanzaro. None has been appointed in Reggio Calabria. Minutes of the meeting of the Catanzaro commission was received and a publicity campaign initiated.

A poster has been devised containing the essentials of the decree and is being billed in the communes utilizing electricity. This same notice was also published in the daily paper.

As yet only 150 applications have been received for the removal of electricity. None of the power users have been cut off. Figures for the consumption of electricity for the period of May have been requested but are not as yet available. Following is the consumption of electricity by the R.C. Calabria for the first four months of the year:

Month	Kwhr produced by small local hydro-electric plants	Kwhr purchased from S.M.S. (60 KV system)	Total
January	2,671,287	1,783,486	4,454,773
February	2,348,826	1,834,648	4,183,474

direction of the regional commissioner, one week was spent Captain Brewster on military highways for the purpose of instructions in the manner of handling public utility projects and contracts.

2. During the remaining three days progress was somewhat hampered by the removal of Inspector Funes from the department of Calabria prior to the arrival of his replacement, who has not arrived as yet. Following is a resume of the work:

3. Electrical Rationing: Commissions for the control and rationing of electrical consumption have been appointed in the provinces of Cosenza and Catanzaro. None has been appointed in Reggio Calabria. Minutes of the meeting of the Catanzaro commission was reviewed and a publicity campaign initiated.

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Month	Kwhr produced by small local hydroelectric plants	Kwhr purchased from S.S.S. (60 KV System)	Total
January	2,671,283	1,783,486	4,454,769
February	2,348,886	1,854,648	4,203,534
March	2,702,843	1,774,424	4,477,267
April	2,386,142	1,214,644	3,600,986

4. Projects: This office has received numerous projects from the provinces of Catanzaro. These are now being reviewed and investigated for possible screening. No approval has been given or any projects as yet.

HEADQUARTERS

2010 1944

A. C. C.

WILLIAM CHAMBERLIN

Major, P.A.

Public Works Officer



MINISTERO

DEI

LAVORI PUBBLICI

AL LT. COL. L. A. JENNY

Director Sub - Commission

Public Works and Utilities

A.C.C.

NAPOLI

Prot. N.

22224

Dir.

Allegati N.

Risposta al foglio del

Dir.

Sec.

N.

OGGETTO

Per Sua conoscenza, Le rimetto copia della relazione che ho presentato a S.E. il Presidente del Consiglio dei Ministri sull'attività svolta da questo Ministero nel trimestre marzo - maggio 1944.

IL MINISTRO

(A. Tarchiani)

A. Tarchiani

6405

File

Allegati N. _____

Ritornella al foglio del _____

Dir. _____

Sez. _____

N. _____

OGGETTO

Per Sua conoscenza, Le rimetto copia della relazione che ho presentato a S.E. il Presidente del Consiglio dei Ministri sull'attività svolta da questo Ministero nel trimestre marzo - maggio 1944.

IL MINISTRO

(A. Tarchiani)

A. Tarchiani

6:05

File

A. Tarchiani
Report
file
10/16

M/G

MINISTRY FOR PUBLIC WORKS.

Salerno, 27 May 1944.

To
Lt. Col. L.A. JENNY
Director Sub-Commission
Public Works & Utilities
A. C.C.
NAPLES.

Italian Report
March
April
May

For your knowledge, I enclose copy of the report I have sent to His Excellency, the President of the Council of Ministers, on the activity carried out by this Ministry during the three months from March to May 1944.

THE MINISTER
(A. Tarchiani)

Col. Rhodes
Expper
Thompson

Please note & file

A pretty good general report. Page 6/c

6404

Second explanatory report
to H.E. the PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS
on the activity carried on by the Ministry for Public Works
in the territory restored to the Italian Administration in
the three months from March to May 1944.

In the previous detailed report a short summary was given of the activity carried on by the Ministry for Public Works during the first three ^{months} of its ~~office~~ ^{operation}.

In said report, mention was made of the organization set-up for the Central Administration, as well as for the peripheral Services, and for the Technical ones, in conjunction with the Allied Military Government.

Particular remark was made to the development of the works and to the investigations ordered with a view to hasten the resumption of work on the part of the building industries.

Mention was also made of the various initiatives taken by the Ministry in order to ensure the better functioning of the services and give more impulse to works, always, of course, within the limits allowed for by the availability of funds and material.

In the successive period, continuing this activity, the Ministry for Public Works, although facing difficulties of various nature, has still more intensified its work, giving impulse to the execution of works and by adopting a series of measures meant, above all, to improve the working conditions.

Of the activity carried on in both fields, the most important particulars and therefore those better worth mentioning, are mentioned as follows:

A - VARIOUS WORKS.

1) The Technical ^{Administrative and accounting} work has been really remarkable as done by the Offices of the Central Administration for the continuation of current works and for the contracting of new works. Quite a number of plans have been examined and approved, for the execution of public works of various nature, and particularly for the repair of damages caused by war actions to roads, bridges, buildings, aqueducts, Hydraulic works and maritime works: Several have been the plans referring to the removal from State, provincial and Communal roads of lapillo which fell in large quantity during the eruption of the Vesuvius last March. For some of these works fuller details will be given later on; it is enough to state, at this stage, in a general way that Lire 57.855.585 have been appropriated and partially credited for the maintenance of harbours; Lire 450.000 for the maintenance

-2-

of public buildings: L.780.000 for maritime works; L.374.592 for hydraulic works; L.902.719 for building works; L.1.120.015, for works connected with floods and landslips; L.21.000.000 for road works; L.31.977.537 for roads of military interest.

As will be seen, it was a considerable ^{quantity} bulk of works which, while keeping expenditures within the extreme limits, it was possible to carry out partially, while the remaining part is being accomplished as and when material is available, and results obtained are no doubt satisfactory.

By adopting strict rules of savings, the Ministry has confined contracts to strictly necessary works; particularly for the repair of war damage, the principle has been adopted of restricting the action to the removal of debris, demolition of dangerous walls and supporting works for propping up ^{streets} buildings, to the repair of public buildings to make them available to the respective offices and also of a few private buildings, chiefly with a view to house the many refugees and war damaged people or to make it possible to use them as offices or to make them fit for the housing, by means of little interventions, of negligible financial importance.

2. As regards road conditions, mention is to be made in the first place of roads of a military interest, for which, by R.D.L. 2nd. March 1944 No.72, the special expenditure of Lire 600 millions has been authorised for the execution of urgent trimming and repair works.

However, contrary to the agreements made on the question, Art.1 of said Decree makes mention of state roads only, whereas the State intervention had been agreed upon for all the roads and therefore, for the provincial, communal, secondary and collective roads as well.

Therefore, the Ministry for Finance - General Accounting of the State - was urged to issue a decree amending the above R.D.L. in the ^{way} mentioned. Said legal measure is urgent, as it is necessary to issue decrees for the financing of works of a military interest on provincial and communal roads.

With a view to make possible the prompt payment of works to be accomplished in the various Departments and Sections of the AA.SS., the same Ministry for Finance - General Accounting of the State - was requested to make arrangements for the opening of credit for the amount of 73 million Lire, which, together with the 27 millions already credited to said Departments and Sections of AA.SS. make up a first instalment of 100 millions on the 600 million expenditure authorised by R.D.L. 2nd. March 1944 No.72.

On the initiative of the Salerno Sections of AA.SS. ⁶⁴⁰² the performance of the following works has been authorised:

- a) On the SS.88 of the Two Principalities, urgent reconstruction works of three small bridges damaged by war action, at milestones 3+585 - 4+012 - 4+180 - for the amount of L.780.000.

-3-

a) the SS.19 of Calabria along the Battipaglia-Posso Pennarone route, repair work of the traveling surface and shoulders, damaged by war operations, for the amount of Lire 845.000.

c) On the ^{Lower} Tyrrhenian State Route 18, along the stretch Salerno-Paestum Sapri - repair works of the traveling surface and various shoulders, damaged by war operations, for the amount of Lire 3.783.000.

d) On the S.S. 91 - Valle del Sele along the Varco Appennino-Epitaffio di Eboli section, repair works of the traveling surface and shoulders, damaged by war operations for the amount of Lire 1.020.000.

e) Repair works of war damage along the provincial road N.711 from Bagnoli to Pozzuoli for the amount of Lire 3.400.000.

f) Works for the reconstruction of a single arch bridge on the Tenza streamlet on the state road No.31 of the Sele valley for the amount of Lire 393.960.

g) Repair works of the provincial road No.720 from Capua to Arnone, for the amount of Lire 12.508.000.

h) Repair works of the provincial road No.721 from Santa Maria to the State road No.7 bis, for the amount of Lire 5.190.577.

In all Lire 31.977.537.

For these works, on average of 540 workers per day have been employed and 282 barrels of Tar, supplied by the Allied Authorities and Mc.560 of pebbles supplied by local quarries.

Re-paving works for State road No.88 have also been assigned for the route Salerno-Montoro for the amount of Lire 5.157.370.

At the same time, reconstructions works have been continued for the various bridges destroyed by war operations.

The "Rosso" bridge near Omignano rebuilt in two arcades has been opened to traffic, for the amount of Lire 1.050.829.10.

At the same time the reconstruction of 4 more bridges has been continued, among which, ~~it~~ being very important, ^{the} the Campostrino viaduct. The reconstructions works of these 4 constructions are estimated at Lire 4.848.150 in all.

On the initiative of the same Section, plans have been drawn up for the re-paving of Road No.18 between Salerno and Paestum for a total amount of L.15.861.000 and for the reconstruction of 7 bridges for the total amount of L.7.207.400.

Estimates are in addition under consideration and for immediate financing referring to works on roads of military interest in the Catanzaro Compartment and in the Potenza and Salerno Sections for the total amount of Lire 8.685.856.

For road condition of non-military interest, steps have been taken and are being taken for the completion of matters relative to works.

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contracted for in past years, both as regards the liquidation of the contracts and for expropriations occurred in connection with said works.

3) Particular mention is to be made of the eruption of ~~the~~ Vesuvius which took place during the third decade of March, both for the exceptionality of the phenomenon, and for the consequences which have arisen, and for which the action of the Ministry has been remarkable. The Vesuvius volcano, which after the 1906 eruption had gone through a period of calmness, interrupted only by short and limited periods of unrest, resumed its activity on the second half of March, thus giving rise to the first phase from 18 to 22nd. March, during which magma was belched forth with consequent lava streams; on the second phase which lasted from the 22nd. to the 31st. March, large quantities of lapilli were issued, as well as ash, sand and bombs thrown by gigantic "pine" which according to which way the wind blew, fell on the countryside and towns all around it, and even lying a considerable way off.

During the first phase Lava streams have taken place, all of which originating from the central crater, no new eruptive mouths having occurred, as in 1906, on the sides of the mountain.

The second phase of the eruption, as already said, has been characterized by the issue of a very large quantity of lapilli and ash mixed with sand and bombs.

At first, the material belched forth fell on the higher part of the volcano, thus causing considerable accumulations all around the cone, for a thickness which in the highest place is calculated at over 100 metres. Subsequently, a strong North-East wind (maestrale) having blown, it has pushed the "pine" against the South and South-west wall of the crater, producing a strong erosion of the crater border on the Southern side and spreading in a South-East direction - that is to say towards Terzigno, Poggioreale, S. Marzano, Nocera, Salerno and many other places - an enormous quantity of lapilli, which reached the maximum thickness of 60 centimetres in the territories of Terzigno and Poggioreale, in the province of Naples.

Evidently, the strong wind has been a favorable factor, carrying the ash far away, and scattering it on a large area; The fire lava has followed, as was natural, the largest depressions in the countryside and whenever these, on the southern side, are less deep, the lava has widened, occupying a very large extension on an imposing front. Thus, toward S. Sebastiano the lava, at first hemmed in in the Vettrana ditch, widened southwards running all the way for about 500 metres between the centres of S. Sebastiano and Massa di Somma.

A summary mention having been made as to the importance of the phenomenon and of the harmful consequences arising out of it, it must be added that with prompt action and although with inadequate means, the Ministry has intervened, adopting the necessary measures for the restoration of road condition, by removing lapilli from blocked roads. The volume of lapilli removed and taken away is calculated to run

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into a few hundred of thousands of No.
it is now necessary to take care of the settlement of the water drainage and of the cleaning of the breeding-places and of basins with a view to collect and ~~flow~~^{drain} out the maximum quantity of water in case of rain.

In the province of Naples the sum of Lire 120.000.000 has been estimated for the necessary interventions. The Allied Military Command will directly arrange the relative financing.

In the province of Salerno, the sum of Lire 140.000.000 has been estimated for the removal of lapilli from the streets of the Principal Town, as well as from the State, provincial and Communal Roads pertaining to the places of Cava dei Tirreni, Nocera, Pagani, Scafati, Angri, S. Marzano, Eboli, Pontecagnano, S. Severino Rota, ecc. For the sole streets pertaining to Salerno, the expenditure for the removal of lapilli has been of about L. 2.200.000.

The work has been divided in 4 lots, apportioned out to 4 different contractors, capable and disposing of the necessary equipment, which have worked jointly, by the help of mechanized transport facilities supplied by the Allies.

At present, the clearing is under way of the high part of the city, where, as is known, there are very narrow lanes, which hinder the movement of trucks, consequently delaying the removal of lapilli. Therefore, the work cannot go on with more speed, also because the trucks supplied by the Allies are no ^{longer} ~~more~~ available and it is not possible to employ on a larger scale horse-drawn carts, as similar works are under way in other ^{affected} ~~communes~~ hit and the public dumping grounds, which formerly were close to the town, are now a long way off. At any rate, every effort will be made to hasten the removal. For the relative financing, agreements have been taken with the Ministry for Finance and the Sub-Commission for Public Works of the A.C.C. and before long a R. Decree will be issued to authorize the necessary expenditure.

B - VARIOUS INITIATIVES.

1. During the recent visit to Sicily, with Lt. Col. Jenny, Head of the Sub-Commission for Public Works of the A.C.C. and with the High Commissioner, taking into consideration the urgent necessity for the rebirth of the island and the present condition of industries affecting constructions;

Definite instructions have been given by me to the Purveyor of Public Works and to the Chiefs of Offices of this Ministry, for the intensification of the reconstruction works and the drawing up of an organic program for the reconstruction and improvement of said industries with a view to increase their productive capacity, which is an essential element to make possible the gradual development of the important works to be accomplished.

2. In conformity with instructions received and with agreements reached with the Sub-Commission for Public Works of A.C.C., peripheral offices have been asked to give news on the harbours' installations

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In order to ascertain the conditions they are in and the future needs. Further instructions have been given for the ascertaining of stocks of iron material frozen in the various provinces.

3. There has been the continuation of the collection of data for the approximate determination of damage caused by war operations, in the Communes situated in the peninsular liberated territory, placed under the Italian Administration and in the provinces in the territory still included in the jurisdiction of the Allied Government, and namely Avellino, Benevento, Napoli. Investigations for Sicily and Sardinia are under way. Data thus far collected have given the following results: destroyed urban buildings: 3861 with 67.166 rooms; Seriously damaged: 34.610 with 335.405 rooms.

In addition there are 165 State buildings used as Public Offices, destroyed with 2174 rooms; 566 seriously damaged with 9157 rooms and 3235 slightly damaged with 27894 rooms.

It has not yet been possible to secure for industrial factories sufficient data for a definite estimate.

However, following investigation made so far, it appears that 44 factories have been destroyed; 64 seriously damaged and 88 slightly damaged.

Similar investigations have been started and are under way regarding the number of road disruptions and repair already done in order to eliminate them, and regarding damaged or destroyed bridges, and in general on all that refers to the importance of the Road patrimony both of the State and of the Provinces and Communes.

It being necessary, also in connection with the development to be given for the repair of the above damages, to ascertain the quantity of material needed for them, the necessary investigations are now being made.

4. Following many reports pointing out the precarious conditions the contracting firms are in as a result of the freezing of the credits of said firms covering works done prior to 8th. September 1943, this Ministry has carefully considered the situation and, holding it to be really worrying and that its continuation would be seriously detrimental to the firms and to the State itself, has pointed out to the Presidency of the Council and to the other Ministers concerned the opportunity of adopting measures meant to allow the release of said credits. To this purpose, it has proposed that said release be effected by paying the amounts due to firms into blocked current accounts, with Banks chosen by the firms themselves, and subsequent release of the credit at the rate of 10% per month. In this way it would also be averted the flooding of the market with a large mass of banknotes in one time, which would create unfavorable effects on the market itself, while the firms would have the possibility of obtaining financial support from Banks on the basis of the credit of amounts due.

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The execution of an organic program has been started for the recovery of ships and dredging ~~machines~~^{boats}, sunk in harbors of liberated Italy, Sicily and Sardinia.

At Cagliari the Dredger "Sassari" belonging to the Administration of Public Works ~~has~~ been already refloated, and the tug-boat "Viareggio" was also refloated at S. Antioco.

Other operations in said port as well as in other ports of Calabria are under way aiming at the recovery of still sunk ~~xxxxx~~ or stranded craft.

The refloating of pontoon "Anteo" is considered to be imminent.

6. Measures have been taken to increase the capacity of transportation facilities for building material and debris, by applying to the Military Authorities of Sardinia for trucks but they have not made their decisions ~~known~~^{thus} far, also the A.C.C. has been applied too and it has already granted 200 trucks of which 80 for the Puglia ~~xxxxxx~~ Calabria, Lucania regions as well as for the province of Salerno.
7. Measures are being taken, in accord with the A.M.G. of Naples, for the requisitioning of motor-vehicles needed by the depending offices of Ministry for Public Works in order to make easy the planning, management and inspection of the works in the various provinces.
8. The concession has been obtained from America ~~work~~^{working} through A.C.C. - of a considerable quantity of machinery and implements for road settlement. It is expected for an early date the arrival of a 4000 ton steamer.
9. A list of machinery to be imported from America is going to be prepared and it will be obtained at the end of the war, for harbor installations, for building works, tunnels, roads etc.
10. Arrangements have been made in order to obtain a good settlement and upkeep of State and provincial roads - of a military character and an agreement has been made with Ministry for Finance for the prompt advance of funds for the payment.
11. Agreements have been taken with the A.C.C. and the Ministry for Public Works to regulate the drawing up of plans and for the supply of material availability of which is difficult.
12. The liberation of Engineers and Surveyors of the ~~Civil~~^{Civil} Engineering, prisoners of war, has been applied for in order to increase the staff of the depending offices and make it ~~filter~~^{fit} to deal with the ever increasing exigencies.
13. Following report from A.C.C. the Navy Office has been interested in order to take care of the refloating of many ~~pontoons~~^{motor}, some of which ^{are} of German origin, now lying waste on the Thyrrhenean coasts.

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with a view to use for other purposes the machinery and non-destroyed parts of said craft.

C. LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY.

1- The opportunity of Legislative measures has been pointed out to the Presidency of the Council, allowing for derogations to the laws in effect, whereby the prices of goods, public services, rents and building constructions have been frozen.

As regards in particular public services rates for the distribution of water, gas and electricity, for which it is absolutely necessary and urgent to make arrangements for the authorization of increases, a draft of R.Decree has been prepared whereby said increases are authorized in relation to and confined to the importance of the conditions of the Concerns managing said services.

2. Another draft of R.D. has been prepared in order to rest in the State ownership of abandoned and unused material, implements, machinery, scraps which will be found in public ~~xxxx~~ and private areas in order to meet mostly the exigencies of the Ministry for Public Works.

The Offices of Civil Engineering, appointed for the purpose, must take care of collecting material which may be of interest for constructions and namely material originating from clearance, demolition collapse, war actions, bursts etc. not claimed by their owners and which were left unguarded by them, as bricks and tiles, stone piles, binders, fixtures, timber, metallic material etc. These latter material, duly selected, will be passed on to the Iron-Works for re-manufacturing with a view to allow for its being exploited in the best and quickest way.

3. The issue of a R.D. has been promoted whereby the amount of appropriated for the accomplishment of urgent works has been increased to Lire 200.000, following the art.70 of the Regulation dated 25 May 1895 No.350. In this way, the Chief Engineers of the Civil Engineering will have a greater possibility of intervention in the cases when any delay would become dangerous and therefore the immediate accomplishment of the works becomes necessary.

4. Another draft of R.Decree has been prepared for the amendment of some penal provisions as per R.Decree dated 8th. Dec. 1933 No. 1740, whereby ~~xxxxxxx~~ the Testo Unico of regulations for the safeguarding of roads and circulation was approved. Under the provision, heavier penalties are proposed and they are considered as being combined in relation to the offenses to which they refer, also the amendment of other provisions connected with said penalties is proposed.

5. A draft of another provision is going to be completed for the dismissal of all militiamen of the dissolved Militia Road, who were considered as being qualified for admission in the Royal Carabinieri.

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Corps following art.12 of R.D.L. 16.12.1943 No.16/B.

As a result of the work done in this second period, a new stage has been reached on the way to reconstruction.

No doubt there is still a long and difficult way to go but there will be no halts; Nothing will be neglected with a view to attain the established goal, compatible with the means available and chiefly with the help of the A.M.G. All the problems will be carefully examined in order to find the most convenient solution; every possibility will be exploited to the utmost in order to face in the best possible way the manifold exigencies of these very hard times.

The action of the Ministry will be therefore continued and prosecuted faster and faster in order to restore harbors, roads, bridges, buildings, aqueducts, at least partially, to their original efficiency.

In the territory restored to the direct Italian Administration ^{gradual} the will in this way be started the healing of the wounds inflicted by the war.

THE MINISTER FOR PUBLIC WORKS.
sgd. A. Turchiani

Salerno 26.5.1944

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

9 May. 1944.

1. Summary of Activities during April 1944.

During the month of April there was acceleration in the work of the Sub-Commission in all its branches. Additional personnel were assigned, and certain rearrangements and re-postings of officers were made. For reasons already advanced the engineering staff is still substantially below, in numbers, what it must be at no distant date.

Increased efforts have been made at various conferences with the Minister of Public Works and his Director-General to induce in them a greater measure of activity and initiative. They have been too prone, in recent months, to present to this Sub-Commission numerous requests on details and on minor matters that could, and should, have been handled themselves. A particular example of this is the requisitioning of transport required, both for personnel and materials, without which it remains impossible adequately to carry out the tasks which we have given them.

During the month, Sig. De Caro was replaced in the Italian Cabinet by Sig. Tarsitani and there is every hope that the new Minister will instill into his Department a greater degree of drive and initiative than his predecessor was able to do.

Para. 2 of this report gives a list of the Officer personnel and their locations in different parts of South Italy. Working in parallel with these officers, at the various places, there is a corresponding Engineer officer of the Italian Govt.; in general, this system of cooperation and collaboration is working well. Delays in getting communications to and from these officers in the field, have militated against efficiency but it is hoped that this condition may be improved in the future. In particular, communications difficulties have prevented the Italian Public Works Department from keeping us informed, except after a time-lag of in some cases many weeks, of what was happening in various localities.

An attempt was made to set up a regular system of statistics, data and other records concerning road and bridge conditions, works completed and in hand, contracts let, actual expenditures incurred, and so on, such as would normally be maintained in England or America. It has had to be abandoned, in part, since the physical difficulties of communications, coupled with shortage of experienced Italian personnel, makes the maintenance of up to date and accurate records almost an impossibility. The best possible is being done in the matter, having regard to the adverse circumstances. In Para. 1 of the March report it was indicated that the organizational problems to be faced by the Italians (in their Public Works Department) would take a considerable time to solve, and it might be three or even six months before there was any substantial improvement to report. This still remains true.

MONTHLY ROLL OF OFFICERS AS AT 30 APRIL 1944.

Lt. Col. D. A. Jemay, C. R. 0-515627 (A) Director, Sub-Commission.
 Lt. Col. G. R. Rhoads, R. R. 15571 (B) Deputy Director, Sub-Commission.

Electrical and Admin. Division.

Lt. Col. W. R. Lapper, C. L. 394312 (B) Chief, El. & Admin. Div.
 Capt. L. W. Laughlin, D. R. 0-524392 (A) Asst. to Chief El. & Admin. Div.
 Major E. J. Dwyer, C. R. 0-325041 (A) Elct. & Admin. Div. Loaned P.D.
 Major W. H. Kerton, Inf. 0-399699 (A) Elct. & Admin. Div.
 Capt. A. H. Prosser, R. R. 161074 (B) Admin. Officer.
 Capt. R. A. Ryan, R. R. 0-520275 (A) T/D Region III.
 Capt. R. E. Rogers, C. R. 0-413158 (A) Inventory Officer.
 Lt. J. W. D. Butcher, S. James. 265220 (B) T/D Mail.
 2d Lt. P. A. Stralla, Ord. 0-1550106 (A) Elct. & Admin. Div.

Public Works Division.

Lt. Col. J. F. Babson, C. R. P. 0-510316 (A) Chief, Public Works Div.
 Capt. J. G. Rively, Inf. 0-317309 (A) Asst. to Chief, Public Works Div.
 Major W. A. Hitchcock, C. R. 0-305910 (A) Public Works Division.
 Major H. W. Hyland, S. R. 0-325877 (A) T/D Potomac.
 Major W. Knight, Recd. Regt. 141159 (D) T/D Mail.
 Capt. W. R. Gamble, C. L. 263595 (B) Public Works Division.
 Capt. W. P. Weaver, C. R. 0-338955 (A) T/D Potomac.

Highway Reconstruction, Army Zone.

Lt. Col. V. C. Thompson, R. C. R. (B) Chief, Highway Recon. Army Zone.
 Lt. R. W. Shepherd, R. R. 0-469399 (A) Asst. to Chief, Highway Rec.
 Major A. C. Farley, R. C. O. C. (B) T/D Poggio.
 Capt. R. J. Palden, S. R. 0-251776 (A) T/D Caserta.
 Capt. J. Lambie, C. L. 291809 (B) T/D Lucera.
 Capt. R. G. A. Saul, C. L. 301128 (B) T/D Caserta.
 Capt. R. H. Walker, R. A. S. O. 115809 (A) T/D Lucera.
 Lt. J. R. Gentry, C. R. P. 0-221542 (A) T/D Castellammare.

Remarks.

- (a) Capt. R. H. Walker was assigned to this Sub-Commission on 7 April.
 (b) 1st Lt. F. E. Browlee was assigned to Region VII on 29 April.
 (c) Capt. R. H. Gamble since assigned to Region I on 2 May.
 (d) Lt. J. W. D. Butcher since assigned to Region II on 5 May.
 (e) 2d Lt. P. A. Stralla since assigned to Region III on 5 May.
 (f) Major W. F. Chamberlain reported here from 5th Army and is attached for duty from 5 May with this Sub-Commission pending assignment to Region VII.
 (g) Lt. Col. J. E. Broth reported to this H. R. from 5th Army and is attached for duty, pending publication in Orders after which he will be assigned to Region IV.
 (h) March Report para. 2 (c) showed the estimated figures of Officers and BN/CH (total requirements).

3. Conferences. During the month there were some conferences of major importance, attended by the Director of the Sub-Commission and senior officers:

- (a) At Castellammare with Chief Engineer No. 3 District (Military Highway problems). Details settled and, in addition, this Sub-Commission to be responsible for operating quarries, cement and other plants, as well as control of certain material dumps.
- (b) Allied Forces Local Resources Board, re labour problems (Electrical Utilities), control of electric power companies, and personnel Central Electrical Board. Position of A.C.C. in some of these matters was not clearly established.
- (c) At HQ., A.A.I., with Deputy Director of Works. Re personnel questions, and lists of heavy engineering equipment (structural and highways) to be indented for from U.S.A. (2 conferences).
- (d) With Director-General (Italian) Public Works re electricity rationing Decree which, when published, had had changes incorporated in it by the Italian authorities. A fresh and amended decree requested.
- (e) With Minister of Public Works (Sig. De Caro) concerning posting of a new official to be the head of the Italian Public Works Service in Sicily, with offices at Palermo; proposed visit to Sicily in company with Minister; methods of "screening" projects by Genio Civile before they are sent on to this Sub-Commission, and regarding supplies of critical and controlled materials. Also regarding survey of production plants, e.g. cement, lime, brick, asphalt, stone quarries etc; issue of new Decree concerning electricity rates to be charged by Utility companies; equipment for "Cantonieri" workmen engaged on road maintenance; importance of Italian authorities themselves requisitioning trucks and cars, forcibly stressed; since without these they cannot operate effectively, and up to now had depended far too much on A.C.C. in these matters.
- (f) With Minister's representative, arising out of Ministerial crisis.
- (g) With Minister and with Deputy Director-General on procedure, financing of projects through banks, prompter payment of contractors' bills etc.
- (h) On 25 Apr. following air raid night before, discussion on lists of damages and statement that about 100 bombs had been dropped. Preliminary arrangements made with Director-General to take over ~~over~~ about 3500 to 4000 tons of heavy equipment when it arrives from U.S.A. Arrangements made for weekly meetings in future, with relevant statistics of expenditure, lists of projects proposed, contracts let, and other matters. Director-General informed that Italian Engineering staff were not (in certain areas) sufficiently active, and not displaying proper initiative. Contended (by Director-General) that these men receive salaries and travel allowances so inadequate in amount that their work "cannot be expected to be of a high standard". (Lists in detail of salaries and allowances to be supplied, and matter may be taken up later with labour ~~6899~~ Commission).

4. Highways Reconstruction. Referring to para 4 (a) of the March report, (relieving Armies of detailed responsibility for accounting, and payments to workmen employed on roads and bridges) this has made some progress, but it will not be possible to put it into effect for a time. The carrying out of the proposal is dependent, inter alia, on the Italian authorities themselves being much more active than they have been up to the present in requisitioning privately owned vehicles. (In this connection refer to Para. 3 (e) above). In general, the transport position remains as last reported, with the exception that towards the end of the month, promise was made of 250 trucks by A.A.I., for use over a limited period. The problem will not be satisfactorily solved until more energetic action is taken by the Italians themselves, coupled with the arrival of the expected plant, and transport vehicles, from the U.S.A.

In the South Italy zone about 200 miles of highways are being reconstructed, resurfaced, or are undergoing special repairs under 11 sets of contracts. Eight firms of contractors are engaged on the rebuilding of 14 bridges. Additionally, two contractors were handling 65 miles in the Bari district, and two others 45 miles in the district of Catanzaro. Work was started on the important Sele River bridge, south of Salerno on Route 18.

Maintenance and repair gangs of the Cantonieri are giving improved results, and in some areas their strength has been materially increased in order to cope with special repair works that had been too long deferred. Supplies of bitumen are still considerably below requirements, and transport difficulties (mainly trucks) present recurring problems. Lt. Col. Laboon made inspection trips to Salerno, Bari and other places during the month, and also to Sicily, including Palermo and Catania. In the P.B.S. and Army zones (Nos. 2 and 3 Military Districts) there are more workmen engaged than in any previously reported period. Between Naples and Caserta, for example, there are now four firms at work, this being a road carrying unusually heavy traffic. With the exception of a little over a mile, this road is now in good condition compared to what it was 2 or 3 months ago. On the Naples - Avellino, and Naples - Benevento roads, these being high on the priority lists (as set out by A.A.I.) progress was fairly good, and labor forces will be increased as repair materials become more freely available. A stone quarry is being operated for the Ponte Salero - Ariano road, but will not produce its full quota until more transport is available. Two contractors are engaged on Route 7 in the 5th Army area, and contracts were let for 5 bridges during the month. By arrangement with A.M.G. 8th Army, this Sub-Commission has withdrawn temporarily from work in that area, for specific reasons.

The principal project in No. 2 District is the Ortanova - Bovino bypass, forming an important connecting link south of Foggia, and to be completed by 15 July. Another work, involving similar extensive reconstruction, is the road between Canosa and Cerignola, to be finished by the end of June. Good progress has been made in stone-crushing, and within No. 2 District both contractors and Cantonieri are now independent of the Army for this material. Trucks to the number of 25 have been provided, and 25 more were provided early in May. Bitumen requirements are about 2500 tons.

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In the S.I. Italy zone contracts let up to 30 April amounted to L.49,891,000, and in the P.A.S. and Army Zones L.141,624,000. To the former about L.10,000,000, in addition, will represent extra materials and transport.

5. Region VI (Sardinia). Lt. Col. G.E. Rhodes, R.E., (Deputy Director) paid a 3-day visit to Sardinia during the month, having conferences with the Regional Commissioner and also with the Public Works officers whose headquarters are at Cagliari. There were also useful discussions with the Head of the Sardinia Public Works Department, Sig. Buttini. A brief summary of the position in the Island is as follows:-

- (a) The City of Cagliari, with a normal population of over 100,000, was very heavily damaged by bombing. Present population is estimated to be about 50,000. The clearing of debris, demolition of dangerous buildings, restoration of public services and similar matters present serious problems. They are being tackled energetically.
- (b) Elsewhere, war damage is almost non-existent.
- (c) Highways and bridges throughout the Island are in good condition, and Sig. Buttini has this branch of his duties well in hand. There are shortages of bitumen and asphalt for continued maintenance of the main roads that have this surfacing, e.g. Cagliari to Sassari, and one or two others.
- (d) The Genio Civile have lists of sunken ships in the various harbors, and are making a more detailed survey.
- (e) The position at Cagliari, with its extensive destruction, involves problems of re-development and town-planning which were discussed with the Regional Commissioner, who had been asked to agree to early rebuilding. The Genio Civile have since been asked by us to prepare special survey plans of war damage to the city, in the same way as they have recently done in the case of Naples. This is a first and most necessary step towards any replanning.
- (f) The water-supply position at Cagliari is being carefully watched (as to quality) in conjunction with the Public Health Officers, since full treatment processes are not now operative.
There are a few water-supply problems elsewhere, notably at La Maddalena in the north of the island; the Allied Naval Authorities are particularly interested in this.
- (g) Gas-works at Cagliari and Sassari can be put into operation as soon as imported coal is assured, since they cannot operate on the Sardinian product. Electricity supplies are normal everywhere, mainly hydro-electric.
- (h) The principal cement works in the Island near Cagliari, are capable of about 5,000 tons a month, output. Inspection disclosed that the works have plant and spares sufficient for the next 5 or 6 months. (The Island can be considered to be self-contained as regards this material.)
- (i) It was stated that Italian troops in the Island number possibly 200,000. If numbers of these could be brought to the mainland, with a nucleus of Engineers and technical personnel, they would be of great value as a labour force. The matter was discussed with the Regional Commissioner, and has also since been taken up here with the new Minister of Public Works.

6. Electrical Division. The work of the Electrical Division has been constantly expanding since last December. It is desirable, at the present juncture, to devote more space to its activities than has been possible in recent reports.

Both for military and civilian needs, the industrial life of Italy depends largely on the maintenance of adequate electricity supplies. This is natural in a country so lacking in coal and oil resources, but with mountains, lakes and rivers, rendering possible extensive schemes of hydro-electric development. In order to conserve water-storage resources as long as possible throughout the summer, to reduce coal consumption at the thermal power-stations, and to have regard to probable heavy demands for electricity in Rome and north thereof (coupled with almost certain extensive destruction of power-sources by the enemy) it has been necessary to put in force the rationing of current to a marked degree all over the South of Italy. Allocation of the available quantity has had to be organized on a strict system of priorities. To this end, officers with specialized experience have been detailed to Regions II and III respectively, and the closest collaboration of all Regional Officers has been invoked. Further, a senior officer, Lt. Col. J. E. Breth, who joined this Sub-Commission from the 5th Army in April, has now been assigned to Region IV after experience in these problems, both at this Headquarters and with Region III. Looking no further ahead than to Rome City, for the moment, there will be electrical supply and distribution problems of great magnitude. Major W. F. Chamberlain, assigned as Public Works officer in Region VII, is also at the moment obtaining special experience on the same lines as Lt. Col. Breth, before taking up his duties.

Control and rationing has proved to be far more complex than was anticipated, since there were few records available of the classes of individual users and their actual demands. The task of tabulating and classifying all power-users is now in the main completed, and a large measure of control is now in force. Energy available is being concentrated on essential services, and essential factories. To reduce the peak loads, many factories have been changed from day to night working. Rest days (other than Sundays) were assigned to certain areas and extensively advertised, through the newspapers. (A check recently made in the Bari area over a 4-week period showed a 75% observance of the assigned days). In these matters very close contact has been maintained with the Armies, with the Chief Engineers of Districts 2 and 3, P.B.S. H.Q., the Electricity Companies, and with others.

Lt. Col. W. H. Lapper is the A.C.C. representative on the Central Electrical Board. At meetings of the Board questions of the rehabilitation of power plants and high-voltage transmission systems were discussed, and decisions taken. Amongst other tasks, to this Sub-Commission was allocated that of moving a large hydro-electric turbine plant with its ancillary equipment, from a power-station near Palermo, Sicily, to Naples. This is to be re-installed at the Matera No. 2 Hydro-Station in South Italy. The operative order was not received in April, but a good deal of exploratory work was done and preliminary negotiations completed (The order was actually received by A.C.C. on 3 May and the dismantling and transfer work is beginning immediately,

a Sicily; Lt. Col. Lapper, with a small staff, has proceeded there already). The Central Electrical Board also took policy decisions concerning allotment of electrical energy, and on numerous other matters.

The Italian Government Decree concerning electricity rationing came into force on 5 April 1944, calling on all civilian users of current to conform to a definite scheme. Regional Public Works officers, together with some from this Sub-Commission, are actively engaged, with the various Electricity Companies, in enforcing the Decree.

An intensive campaign through newspapers, industrial associations and Company Managements is still being pursued.

Claims from electricity companies concerning higher rates of charges to consumers are expected to be settled during May. In all, ten companies have applied for such increases. To keep down inflation, it is intended that basic rates shall remain unaltered, and only out-of-pocket expenses will be allowed in arriving at the appropriate surcharges. Increases allowed are likely to be considerably less than those envisaged in the various applications. Arrangements are in hand with the Italian Government for the issue of an amending Decree, to alter the law as it stands at the moment.

Apart from the Central Electricity Board, Lt. Col. Lapper is also the A.C.C. representative on the Allied Local Resources (Italian) Board (Electrical Committee). Several meetings were attended and allocations of electrical energy were agreed, applicable to different areas.

It is desired to emphasize that, having regard to the above, three additional officers with electrical experience are required for assignment to Region IV, in relation to the situation that may arise when Rome is occupied. Further, three officers are required at H.Q. Sub-Commission for overall planning work, visits of inspection, and to give occasional assistance in the Regions.

Strict control over available electricity supplies must continue for some time, and it would be detrimental to withdraw any of the field officers engaged, for the time being.

In connection with the reconstruction of a power transmission line northwards to Rome, involving the employment of approximately three to 400 civilian workmen and commencing at a point north of the River Garigliano, arrangements were practically completed during the month. (This matter was referred to in the March report in Paras. 2 (d) and 3 (f).)

Planning has been coordinated with P.R.S. and with 5th Army, also the Food, Labor, and Land Forces Sub-Commission, and with the Railway Administration.

Finally, as was mentioned in the March report of this Sub-Commission, the Decree concerning electricity rationing (as issued in the Gazzetta Ufficiale) was not in strict accordance with that outlined by this Sub-Commission, and a second (Amending Decree) is now under discussion with

the appropriate Italian authorities.

7. Ministerial Changes. During the month, the Minister of Public Works in the Italian Cabinet, Sig. De Caro, was replaced by Sig. Tarchiani. Cordial, and mutually beneficial contacts had been established with Sig. De Caro during the preceding months. A recent conference with the new Minister indicates that there is every prospect of these being continued.

8. Regional Summaries. Regional Public Works officers' reports have been received except from Region II, where, up to now, there has been no such staff. The following are summaries of what, in some cases, are lengthy reports:-

(a) Region I reports that during April there was concentration, through Italian agencies, on the roads and bridges program set out by the Chief Engineer, No. 1 District (Army). In various towns the work of clearing up debris and the demolition of dangerous buildings continued extensively, with street repairs in steady progress. Maritime works in the ports of Palermo, Messina and Catania were in hand, together with repairs to certain lighthouses. There is a shortage of Portland cement, in part due to the absence of proper controls at the cement factories themselves. The High Commissioner for Sicily having apparently been given considerable powers of sanction regarding Public Works projects, our Regional officer used his best endeavors to ensure that only works of immediate necessity should be started. Tours of inspection throughout the Island were carried out. At Messina the cleaning and clearing of the city had made extremely good progress.

Generally, works are proceeding normally and the Italian authorities are cooperating effectively. Under the heading of Utilities, the U. S. Navy has given assistance in carrying out repairs to boiler plants at the Palermo Power Station. If firebricks could be obtained from Sardinia it was hoped by the middle of July to have a 7500 kw unit at the power station in operation. The Catania Power Station was awaiting certain spare parts, requisitioned early in February last. A transmission line near Catania was completed, and certain transformers were prepared and tested. Sub-stations and low tension distribution lines were undergoing continuous repairs. Sulphur mines that had been flooded were to have a continuous service of electricity until the water was pumped out. Electricity supplies are being increased to the mines, in order to reach the output of sulphur required by Allied demands. A hydro-electric plant near Catania was overhauled and new bearings fitted. At another hydro-electric station urgent tunnel repairs are required, and these will be carried out, in a series of short periods of several hours each, over possibly 3 months. Arrangements made for another hydro-electric station, some distance away, to carry the load during those hours.

(b) Region III reports that under the heading of electricity more than half the applications for continued supplies were rejected, being unessential to the war effort. In the areas Torre Annunziata, Castellana Grotte and Salerno, the local supply Company was instructed to discontinue service to over 1300 small consumers. This, and other similar activities, are necessary in order to provide adequate supplies of current to two large steel mills, to be started

shortly in the district. Supplies are being given for irrigation and drainage, pumping, sulphur mines, certain tramway systems, and to a number of hemp mills.

Both the Genio Civile and the Municipio are working together in the clearance etc. of Naples and its suburbs, removing debris, cleaning sewers and culverts, and repairing bridges. Working for the Genio Civile there were 24 American vehicles. In March, the average number of loads transported per day was only four, but in April this was raised to eight. Suitable dumping sites for the debris were selected, so as to reduce haulage distances. In spite of this, it cannot be said that work on the streets and damaged buildings of Naples is progressing satisfactorily. Further pressure is being exerted. Street and other repairs are being held up because of lack of materials such as cement, bricks, timber, asphalt and other items. (The Regional Engineer complains seriously about the requisitioning, and retention, of structural materials by the Allied Armies or Navies.) With the advent of the seasonal season, a special effort has been made in the cleaning of public sewers, and swampy lands are being filled in with earth or building debris in order to reduce to a minimum the breeding of mosquitoes. Improvement is reported in the condition of the streets, since garbage is now being dealt with in a systematic manner; metal containers have been provided throughout the city, on a large scale.

A new water main from Naples to Poggioreale will be completed by the end of May, which will enable better supplies to be afforded to Poggioreale. Repairs to a water main from the Poggioreale reservoir to the town of that name were in hand, where bombing had damaged it under a railway line. As to gas supplies in Naples, an auxiliary pipe line was laid and supplies given to an additional part of the city. Retorts at the main works have been repaired, and a steady service during limited hours can now be guaranteed. Another gas-repair project has used up over 2,000 metres of cast-iron pipe, about 8" diameter.

(c) The Engineering Staff of Region IV, with the exception of Col. Edwards, continue to give technical assistance to other organizations, notably A.M.C., 5th Army. Lt. Col. Findlay was loaned temporarily to Region III. Studies were made of likely problems in the Pontine Marshes.

(d) In Region V the water supply of Caspoggio Town was further improved by procuring additional piping and fittings, and machinery at the pumping station was repaired. Water is now normally available 14 hours out of 24. A source of supply was protected against pollution. In Poggia Town, by 7 April, conditions about which complaints were previously made had been largely remedied. Flood-water and foul-water services had been repaired, refuse collection was in operation, and also street repairs and those over bomb-craters. Under electricity, power stations on the Biferno River were surveyed and the Regional Engineer has furnished a considerable mass of electrical data and statistics, with maps, that will later be of use to the Sub-Commission. Both Poggia and the Caspoggio Provinces are taking adequate measures to enforce electricity rationing. A survey was made of the railway line between Ternoli and Caspoggio (this is being passed to the Transportation Sub-Commission).

(f) As to Region VI, Sardinia, an outline of the position there has already been given in para. 5 above.

9. Debits against the Italian Government. During the month notifications were received from P.B.S. HQ. concerning bills totalling over 1,000,000 dollars. From the Deputy Director of Works, A.A.I., similar debits have been received amounting to over £31,000 (pounds sterling). These amounts represent costs of engineering services between October 1943 and March 1944 on roads, streets, sewers, water supplies, etc. The Finance Sub-Commission was notified; their reply is that such work, with any permanent value, may have to be considered later as part of a wider financial settlement. The position is being further investigated.

10. Malaria Control. On receiving the Directive (R.C. and M.C. Section No. 231/35/CA, dated 25 April) contact was made immediately with the Malaria Control Branch (Col. Russell).

Following this, a conference was arranged (and took place early in May) at which the Malaria Control Branch was represented, the Agricultural Sub-Commission, six Italian officials interested in malaria control (doctors and engineers) together with representatives of this Sub-Commission. An outline program was decided on, calculated to achieve results with the minimum of over-lapping. The Italian agency concerned with this work is the "Consorzio Bonifica", which works in conjunction with the Genio Civile (Italian Public Works Department). Engineering problems of some importance are likely to arise, e.g. control of water levels, clearance of water courses and streams, and re-equipment of damaged pumping stations which were damaged, and which normally raise the water (by a few feet) on the coast at various points, with discharge direct to the sea.

11. Structural and Highways Equipment. Lists were prepared, in considerable detail, of the engineering plant and equipment urgently required in the south of Italy for the carrying out of the roads and bridges program, together with other projects of all kinds, so that the Italian Public Works Department may be reasonably well-equipped to face the tasks that lie ahead. The total weight of this equipment may be between 3500 and 4000 tons. Towards the end of the month, Lt.-Col. Koenig left this Headquarters taking the relevant documents with him, and it was understood that they would, at an early date, be in the hands of the authorities in Algiers and Washington. (The value of this plant will, it is assumed be debited against the Italian Government since they will eventually take it over for operation; it is hoped that some of it may arrive within 2 or 3 months from now.)

Similarly, preliminary work has been done on lists of supplies and materials that may be required during the first half of 1945.

12. Miscellaneous Matters.

(a) Surveys of the state of engineering equipment at various ports is being undertaken, in conjunction with the Genio Civile, and during the month under reference additional information was obtained concerning sunken ships in various ports. An officer of the Sub-Commission accompanied one of the Italian experts on a visit to ports in the south. Information was also got concerning this matter in Sardinia ports. Contact was made with the Shipping Sub-Commission who, in turn, will refer the matter to the R.N. or U.S.N. Salvage experts. Such information as this Sub-Commission has obtained will be available to them, together with certain plans.

(b) The eruption of Vesuvius in March caused widespread difficulties in surrounding towns and villages. The Ministry of Public Works have sent us estimates amounting to 140 million lire for the removal of ashes and volcanic material from roads and streets and from the roofs of buildings. There is also a second estimate of 230 million lire, 130 of this being for the re-opening of roads and water courses, and repairs to buildings. The balance of 100 million lire is for the construction of retaining walls in ravines and narrow valleys on the slopes of the Mountain, so designed as to break up and render harmless the expected avalanches of mud that may come down from the new cone in the autumn, when the rainy season commences. The proposals are being examined, to ensure that they are the minimum consistent with the needs of the case, and that there will be no large demand on controlled and critical structural materials such as cement, etc.

(c) A special communication was received from Downing Street and from the Foreign Office (London) concerning conditions at the English Church in Naples, which had suffered certain bomb damage. The matter was fully investigated; repairs had been actually completed within recent weeks, and figures of expenditure were furnished. The report indicated the amounts that, in the opinion of this Sub-Commission, ought properly to be debited against the Italian Government.

(d) Special reports were obtained concerning conditions at a railway bridge on a small narrow-gauge line in Calabria, for the information of Transportation Sub-Commission.

(e) Work was substantially completed on the Volturno Building, and that on the Oriente Building is expected to be finished by the end of May.

(f) Technical advice was given to the H.Q. Commandant on accommodation problems and structures; investigation is now being made with a view to providing about 4,000 sq. feet of new warehouse accommodation in the dock area, Naples (by repairs, or the construction of a new building); and the Shipping Sub-Commission have put forward a proposal for an expenditure of 306,000 lire for the rebuilding of certain workshops in the Port.

G. E. R. Ladd

Lt Col P.E.

10 May 44.

6384

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
Public Works and Utilities Sub-Commission
APO 994

GER/ecb

14 April 44.

ACC/146/PWU

Subject: February Reports:-

(a) Conditions at Foggia, & (b) Positions in Region I,
Region V.

To : Economic Section.

Your Reference - No. ES/43 of 31 Mar. 44.

1. As to (a) above, a report has now been received from the Regional Engineer there, indicating that by the 7th April conditions had greatly improved. Refuse collection contracts were in operation, and also for street repairs and reconstruction over craters. The storm-water sewers had been repaired, and also the foul water sewers with the exception of some house-connections.
2. As to (b), the position in Sicily from the Public Works standpoint was investigated in March by Lt.-Col. Rhodes, R.E., and arising out of the facts disclosed action was at once taken to have the (Italian) Head of the Public Works Dept., Genio Civile, replaced by a more competent official. The question of the powers of the new (Italian) High Commissioner in respect of P.W. sanctions etc., was also taken up with the Minister. These, and other matters, will probably be reviewed by the Director when he visits Sicily within the next few days, and it is possible that the Minister (Sig. De Caro) may accompany him.
3. The other matters referred to in your letter were fully dealt with in our February and March reports.

GER.
G.E. RHODES,
Lieut.-Colonel, R.E.,
Deputy Director.

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TO : P.W. Sub-Commission A.C.C. (Att. Lt. —
 Colonel G.E. Rhodes).
 FROM : H.Q. Region 5 A.M.G.
 SUBJECT: Conditions at Foggia City.
 REF. : R5/517/8
 DATE : 7 April 1944

1. Due to lack of equipment by A.M.G. and civilian agencies, repair of sanitary sewers and storm drains in Foggia City have been handled by U.S Air Force engineers.

2. Conflicting controls and the fact that this was a lower priority project for the engineers, made the progress of the work somewhat slow but steps taken at about the time that Region 5 took over the area clarified the situation and speeded up the operation.

3. The storm drainage situation has been practically cleaned up at this writing.

4. The sanitary sewers have been repaired except for some house connections.

5. A contract has been let for the collection of garbage and is in operation.

6. A contract has been let for street repairs and repavement over these craters.

7. This situation is being closely followed and results are beginning to show.

For Regional Commissioner

C.A. Latimer
 C.A. LATIMER
 Major, C.E.
 Regional Engineer.

CAL/RA.

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HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
HIGHWAY DIVISION ARMY AREA

VSE/PH

7 April 1944.

Maj. A.G. Ferley
P.W.A.U Sub-Commission AGC.
Lucera.

The following is a quotation from a report submitted
to Col. Adams of A.C.C.

QUOTE.

Region V

Para. 4 Foggia City - Filthy conditions of streets
mainly due to inadequate and defective sewerage system.
Flies have already appeared though typhus and malaria reports
as yet. UNQUOTE 30

I am instructed by the Director of P.W. & U. Sub-Commission
to ask for your comments on the above statement and whether
remedial measures (of engineering character) are possible.

V.S. THOMPSON
Lt. Col. R.C.E.
Chief Highways Div. Army Area.

6381

Report of Conference with
Minister of Public Works and
Marshal Badoglio. 21 March, 1944.

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In view of the fact that the Italian Government had failed to pass a Decree in connection with Electricity Rationing in Southern Italy by 15th March, as promised, steps were taken immediately to find out the reason for this delay. We learned that, although all Ministries had ample time to make comments, the Ministry of Industry and Commerce had raised objections at the Cabinet Meeting at which this Decree was to be passed to certain phases which we had approved, thus delaying our progress. As a result a meeting was arranged with the Minister of Public Works on 21 March, 1944 for the purpose of definitely settling this problem and obtaining prompt action.

The Minister of Public Works advised us then that Marshal Badoglio had expressed a desire on several occasions to meet me, and that he now wished to see me in connection with this Decree. I, therefore, accompanied the Minister to see Marshal Badoglio. I explained the situation to him and the need for urgent action and that we could not hold this up any longer. I explained also that we had consented to such changes in our original draft, previously submitted by them to us, as we could and that to make the changes now proposed would weaken our position and that we could not agree to the new proposals.

It was then agreed to pass the Decree as then prepared in revised form, that action would be taken at the Cabinet Meeting to be held on the 23 March and that I would have 100 copies in my possession on the morning of 24 March. However, due to transportation difficulties because of the Vesuvius eruption, the 100 copies were delivered on the morning of 25 March, 1944.

When the Decree was received it was discovered that one paragraph had been eliminated at the Cabinet Meeting. However, as this was a paragraph which they themselves had requested be included and to which we had no objection, we had no particular interest in the elimination.

At this writing, 27 March, we are still waiting for advice that the Decree has been signed by the King to make it official. I have issued instructions in the meantime to distribute copies to our officials throughout Region II to make all necessary preparations accordingly.

L.A. JERRY,
Lt. Col., C.E.
Director.

C.C. to V.P. Economic Section.

