

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

ACC 176/SU/PWU

10000/150/489

10000/150/489

HOUSING
JAN., FEB. 1945

Q14d/15/2h1

HOUSING

DEAD TO DEAL WITH

-ent|Date|Initials|Da

No.	Agent	Date	Initials	Date	No.
1

10000 150 / 489

THIS FOLDER

CONTAINS PAPERS

FROM JAN - 45

TO FEB - 45

CATALOGUE.

10000 150

196/51/PWU

subject

陳之龍

100

10

Tel. 270.

MEMORANDUM.

DS/ce

2

21 Feb. 45

REFERENCE: 176/PWU.
TO : Chief, Public Works Division.
FROM : Housing.
SUBJECT : Trip Report/Sicily/February 5 to February 18, 1945.

1. The purpose of this trip was to secure an overall view of war-damaged housing in Sicily and to ascertain if possible, the reaction of officials toward the new Housing Repair Decrees.
2. On arrival at Palermo, Regional Engineer Major Boyd, R.E., offered every co-operation, but warned that it was almost impossible to tour much of the Island because of
 - (a) the existence of numerous bands of brigands who were holding up and robbing civilian and Military personnel indiscriminately.
 - (b) Neither automobile, driver, nor interpreter could be furnished me.
 - (c) There were no Allied personnel, billets, nor messes available, except at a few coastal points.
3. I checked above item (a) with the A.C. Executive Officer Lt.Col. Snook and other Allied Officers and with Genio Civile officials, and all were unanimous in declaring it unsafe to attempt extensive travel; many cases of automobile and train hold-ups and one of kidnapping were reported to me.
4. Nevertheless, by use of Italian passenger trains, special Military trains, Major Boyd's auto and Genio Civile autos, I succeeded in visiting the following Communes:-

Palermo,
Marsala,
Trapani,
Termini Imerese,
Messina,
Milazzo,
Francavilla,

Taormina,
Catania,
Paternò,
Adriano,
Bronte,
Randazzo,

3166

These contain a large proportion of the damage done on the Island. Major Boyd was kind enough to accompany me as guide and interpreter for about ten days.

5. In all the foregoing places one or more of the following officials were interviewed - Sindaco, Municipal Engineer, Genio Civile officials: the damaged buildings were also inspected. The Genio Civile Provveditore for Sicily and the Capos of the Provinces of Trapani, Palermo, Messina and Catania were interviewed.
6. All officials encountered had received the two Decrees and the January 25th circular covering the "senza tetto" Housing program and seemed reasonably familiar with these documents, and in many places committees were in course of formation; in Taormina the Committee had already been organized and had its work of establishing priorities of projects under way.
In general, everyone interviewed was enthusiastic about this matter with the exception of the Provveditore who raised many objections that did not appear to be based on sound reasoning or fact.
7. Particularly because of the mild climate of Sicily there seems to exist very little drive toward quick work for the "senza tetto" and it is my opinion that work will lag in this Island, unless special effort is made by the Ministry to inspire the Genio Civile officials there, and particularly the Provveditors, toward rapid action.
8. Transport and particularly tires for Genio Civile officials seem lacking in many provinces and a personal trip to Milazzo in the Messina Capo's car proved this conclusively (to the tune of eleven breakdowns) in what should have been a one hour trip which actually took four hours. As a matter of fact, this trip would have been finished on foot, except for the Capo's success in borrowing two new tires and tubes in the middle of the trip from the director of a cement plant.
9. Observation of State roads, both by riding over same and by observing same from train windows, showed them to be in poor condition and with practically nobody doing any up-keep work thereon. Major Boyd told me that the roads were

deteriorating rapidly due to lack of proper attention on the part of the Genio Civile engineer charged with same. It appears that the roads were in better shape a few months ago and that, unless drastic measures are taken, the deterioration will be progressive.

10. Personal observation and questioning of Allied Officers reveals that practically no military convoys are using the island roads.

David Solomon

DAVID SOLOMON

Housing - P.W.Div.

P.W. & U. S/C.

Director

Para 10 cancels out para 9.

I have given all Boyd's road projects to be dismissed.

The lack of "drive" is probably not Sicily!

M 22/✓

Tel. 489081 Ext. 270

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

DS/ram

176/PWU

25 January 1945

Subject: Proposed Trip to Sicily

To : Chief Public Works Division

*Director**Approved day 26/1**File*

1. I suggest that it would be advantageous to our Housing work if at this time while the Regional Engineer is still in Sicily, I make a tour of various parts of that Province.

2. The reports of war damage to housing show that the Provinces of Messina, Palermo and Trapani suffered approximately 7,000 to 10,000 lire per capita damage as against an over-all average for 30 Provinces reported to date of under 4,000 lire. The reported damage in the other six Sicily provinces appears negligible (except for Enna which shows about 2,000 lire per capita.)

3. For administrative purposes, particularly at later dates when reports of progress of rehousing work are coming in, it would be advisable to know (from first hand inspection) just what the present conditions in the three Provinces mentioned are like. The total damage in Messina, Palermo and Trapani Provinces is approximately fifteen to twenty billion lire.

4. I propose an itinerary as follows:

- (a) Leave headquarters January 30 or February 1 and fly to Palermo.
- (b) Two-day tour of Trapani Province.
- (c) Two days in Palermo Province.
- (d) Two days in Messina Province.
- (e) Return by air to headquarters.
- (f) Entire trip to cover approximately ten days inclusive of travel time.

David Solomon
DAVID SOLOMON
Housing - P. W. Division
3163

*I am applying for
travel orders. M. 26/1*

