


430 FOOD - MISCELLANEOUS

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File No. 430 FOOD - MISCELLANEOUS

No.	FROM	DATE	TO	SYNOPSIS
1	JCS	6 Dec. 46	SWNCC	Exchange of memos re: Food Situation in Austria.

SECRET

HWK:bj

5 December 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF STATE

subject: Food situation in Austria

The enclosed message is forwarded to the Secretary of State at the request of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

For the State-War-Navy Coordinating Committee

J. H. HILLMAN  
Chairman

Enclosure  
Copy No. 104,  
12-13-44

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*Food Misc -*

HWK:bjh

*(new file)  
Signed  
324 [unclear]*

SWN-4944  
8 December 1946

*430*

*Food Misc.*

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF STATE:

Subject: Food Situation in Austria

The enclosed message is forwarded to the Secretary of State at the request of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

For the State-War-Navy Coordinating Committee:

J. H. HILLDRING,  
Chairman

Enclosure  
Copy No. 134,  
CW-18-77

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From: CG USFA Vienna Austria sgd Clark cite PASOT

To: War Department for Joint Chiefs of Chief pass to  
State Department

Nr: P 6311

30 November 1946

At its meeting on 29 November 1946 the Allied Council for Austria considered and rejected appeals lodged by the Austrian Ministry of Justice on behalf of two Austrian judges who had been members of Nazi organizations during the German occupation; note a statement by the chairman on the progress of the Austrian denazification law in the quadripartite legal directorate; and approved action taken by the executive committee since the last Allied Council meeting, including extension of authority to the Austrian Government to issue diplomatic and transit visas to certain categories of individuals, approval of a number of non-constitutional laws, and recommendations to the Austrian Government as to the steps that should be taken to decrease the Federal Budget during the remainder of the present fiscal year and for the fiscal year 1947.

At the beginning of the meeting the political representative of the Republic of Chile, Señor Martin Figueroa, was presented to the council.

The most important question under consideration at this meeting was that of the food situation in Austria. Because of the fact that the solution to this problem had not been resolved in the several formal quadripartite meetings held on the subject, it was decided to adjourn the council meeting and hold an informal meeting of the four Allied Commanders in Chief. At this informal session, I presented a resolution calling for the establishment of an advisory food board, consisting of representatives of each of the occupying powers, UNRRA and the Austrian Government. This board, in cooperation with the Federal Food Ministry, would prepare the monthly food plan which would be submitted to the Allied Council for approval prior to the period covered thereby; insure proper utilization of indigenous food in accordance with the food plan; and recommend to the Allied Council any changes in the Austrian ration between now and the next harvest. My resolution also called for agreements that all indigenous and all imported food will be pooled and made available for use throughout all of Austria on a monthly basis and that each allied occupying power will allow the Austrian Government to move food stocks without restrictions, all in accordance with the approved monthly food plans.

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As pointed out in previous messages from, Soviet interference with the free movement of food products by the Austrian Government has been the greatest obstacle to the successful carrying out of a satisfactory food program. On the other hand, the Soviets excuse this action on their part on the grounds that their zone is being discriminated against in the matter of food imports from other zones, which is not correct. My resolution was designed to settle these controversial questions once and for all. The British and French High Commissioners generally agreed to my proposals. The Soviet acting high commissioner, after considerable argument, agreed that the council should meet at an extraordinary session on 3 December in an effort to settle food question. I hope that the pressure which I have been applying on the Soviets may induce them to get in line with the other occupying powers and may result in a general improvement in the food situation, both currently and in the post-UNRRA period.

It is therefore essential that my military pipeline be filled up as planned by the War Department and also that the 80000 tons of wheat purchased with War Department funds by UNRRA for the Austrian account be redirected into my control. I have already recommended this last measure. Only by having a large reserve can I force the Soviets into sharing the burden of feeding Vienna. I feel that I can do this, even if I have to barter directly with the Soviets, and thus avert a serious situation in Vienna and avoid the terrific embarrassment which will come to both the United States and the Austrian Government if we cannot continue to feed the population. In this connection see my P 6307.

End.

Note this message relayed to State Dept.

NOTE: P 6307 is CM IN 5266 (30 Nov)

CM IN 77 ( 1 Dec 46 )

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THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

SECRET

SM-7166  
3 December 1946

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY, STATE-WAR-NAVY  
COORDINATING COMMITTEE:

Subject: Food situation in Austria.

Enclosure: CM-IN-77 (1 Dec 46) Copy No. 124.

The enclosed message from the Commanding  
General, U.S. Forces of Occupation, Austria, is for-  
warded for transmittal to the State Department.

*W. G. Lalor*  
W. G. LALOR,  
Captain, U.S. Navy,  
Deputy Secretary.

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THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

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SM-7189  
6 December 1946

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY, STATE-WAR-NAVY  
COORDINATING COMMITTEE:

Subject: Food Situation in Austria.

Enclosure: CM-IN-921 (6 Dec 46) Copy No. 83.

The enclosed message from the Commanding General, U.S. Forces in Austria, Vienna, Austria, is forwarded for transmittal to the State Department.

*W. G. Lalor*

W. G. LALOR,  
Captain, U.S. Navy,  
Deputy Secretary.

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STATE WAR & NAVY COORDINATING COMMITTEE

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THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

**SECRET**

SM-7189

6 December 1946

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY, STATE-WAR-NAVY  
COORDINATING COMMITTEE:

Subject: Food Situation in Austria.

Enclosure: CM-IN-921 (6 Dec 46) Copy No. 83.

The enclosed message from the Commanding General, U.S. Forces in Austria, Vienna, Austria, is forwarded for transmittal to the State Department.

SIGNED

W. G. LALOR,  
Captain, U.S. Navy,  
Deputy Secretary.

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HWK:bjh

SWH-4988  
9 December 1946

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF STATE:

Subject: Food Situation in Austria.

The enclosed message from the Commanding General, U. S. Forces in Austria, Vienna, Austria, is forwarded to the State Department at the request of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

For the State-War-Navy Coordinating Committee:

J. H. HILDRING,  
ChairmanEnclosure  
OW-IN-921 (6 Dec 46),  
Copy No. 83

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From: COMGENUSFA, Vienna, Austria from Clark cite PASGS  
To: War Department for JCS pass to State Department

Nr: A-6342

5 December 1946

At extra ordinary session of the Allied Council 3rd December, following facts were discussed:

1. Occupation costs, and
2. Austrian food supply.

Allied Council agreed on occupation costs for current quarter ending 31st December and for first quarter 1947. For current quarter agreed on 25% of Austrian civil budget (187,500,000 schillings) with Soviets receiving 112,500,000 and each other element receiving 250,000,000 schillings. Larger proportion given to Soviet element because of contemplated redeployment substantial Soviet Forces in near future. Far be it from me to interfere with the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Austria. For first quarter 1947 occupation costs to be 15% of Austrian budget (131,3,000,000 schillings) with Soviet element receiving 40,000,000 and each other element receiving 30,4,000,000. In connection with discussions in Allied Council this subject see my message A-6340.

The food situation in Austria has been critical for some time as reported in several messages sent during the past month. Most of the time consumed in the extra ordinary meeting was devoted to a full discussion of this subject.

It has been my desire from the outset to treat Austria as a unit, particularly with reference to food. With UNRRA injected into the picture, with only partial means of providing the present 1550 calorie ration scale and with the only other resource being indigenous food, it is essential that all commanders permit the Austrian Government complete freedom in moving indigenous supplies from one zone to another in order to carry out food plans drawn up by the government in conjunction with UNRRA. The Soviets in the Allied Council have repeatedly gone on record in agreeing to allow the Austrians to move indigenous supplies other than oil and food-stuffs on land which the Soviets have requisitioned or claimed to be Soviet property under Potsdam. This they agreed to as late as the 20th of October 1946. However for the past month the Soviets have imposed increasing restrictions on the movement of indigenous food out of their zone, even though the food to be moved had been set up in the Austrian government food plan.

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Prior to the regular meeting of the Allied Council on 29th November and the extra ordinary meeting on 3rd December, I had several conferences with the other commanders on the subject of the food situation. The Soviet Commander admitted to me that he could not permit the Austrian government to move indigenous food products out of the Soviet Zone without restriction. He stated that there was starvation in the Soviet Zone last winter and he could not permit this to happen again because of diversion of indigenous food to other zones. He realizes that UNRRA is going out of the picture and that he can no longer look to that source for additional supplies to his zone. On the other hand, he admitted that the Soviet Union was importing no food into Austria and that because of food shortages in the Soviet Union no imports from that source would be forthcoming in the future. The British and French commanders are greatly concerned over the situation because they have no assurance as yet from their governments that they can import any food when UNRRA aid expires. Both the British and French Zones have very limited indigenous food supplies. These two zones face the most critical condition if Soviet restrictions continue to be applied and the British and French are unable to import from outside sources.

At the extra ordinary meeting on 3rd December this subject was thoroughly aired. The Soviets submitted a resolution which embodied many of my proposals made at the regular Allied Council meeting on 29th November but contained a provision to censure the Austrian government for raising the ration from 1200 calories to 1550 calories. The Soviets held out strongly for censuring the Austrian government. British, American and French elements were as strong in their opposition to such a proposal as it was obvious that the Soviets wanted to censure the government only for political reasons. The other point of difference in the Soviet resolution was not reconciled and further discussion of the whole matter was deferred until the next regular meeting of the Allied Council on 13th December. It was agreed however that for the next ration period, 9th December to 3rd January, each commander would allow the Austrian government to move indigenous food supplies freely without interference by Occupational Forces. It remains to be seen how effectively the Soviets will carry out their part of this agreement. The situation after 3rd January remains to be settled.

In the discussion which took place at the extra ordinary meeting, it became quite clear to me that the Soviets intend to use food as a political weapon in Austria. The Russian blockade of food shipments has led to serious local accumulations and only the mild weather has prevented serious losses from frost and exposure. In some districts the storage houses are completely filled and peasants arriving at collection points with grain and potatoes

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have been sent home with their produce unloaded and undelivered. This practice must inevitably result in waste and loss of indigenous food. The local Soviet anti communist press continually denounce the chancellor for raising the ration and they are quick to publish articles stressing the lack of food in certain areas because of government distribution inefficiency. So far the Soviets have not interfered with any movements of UNRRA supplies.

At the extra ordinary meeting I took a strong stand against Soviet practice and pointed out to the Soviet commander the violation of his many agreements, including the UNRRA agreement, and that reluctantly I was prepared to undertake zonal feeding unless the Soviets came into line on a reasonable policy for feeding Austria. The Soviet commander knows that I will obtain imports through my military pipe line and that I will be prepared to meet any threat he might put up to bring about starvation, particularly in Vienna. I am certain that this fact was the principle reason that he agreed to allow the movement of indigenous food for the next ration period.

This is an indication that the threat of using my food has produced some results in the solution of the critical food problem in Austria. This has been impossible as long as we were dependent entirely on UNRRA for imports. It is therefore obvious that under present conditions in Austria best results cannot be obtained by using an international organization for providing relief. There must be indications in the press that certain nations and influences are making efforts to retain UNRRA or some other international organization after January 1st, financed primarily by the United States, but without power to protect the interests of the United States Government. I am most emphatically opposed to such an organization having any future operations in Austria. I feel that the best interests of the United States in Austria can be protected by placing full control of food and other supplies purchased with American funds in the hands of the United States Commissioner rather than under the control of any international organization. By having complete control of food and other relief supplies furnished by United States funds I can insure their best use in the Austrian economy and use these resources to force the other powers to contribute a greater share toward the reconstruction of the country. I urge my government to support this view.

End

Note: P 6340 is CM-IN-768 (5 Dec)

CM-IN-921 (6 Dec 46)

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