

NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL DEPUTIES
SUPPLEANTS DU CONSEIL DE L'ATLANTIQUE NORD

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WORKING GROUP ON THE NORTH ATLANTIC COMMUNITY

ITALIAN SURPLUS MANPOWER AND
POTENTIAL MIGRATION

Note by the Secretary

The attached statement on the above subject has been prepared by the NATO Central Statistical Office from available sources, but it has not yet been reviewed by the Italian Delegation.

(Signed) A.H. BRADFORD.

13, Belgrave Square,
London, S.W.1.

Surplus manpower has been a serious problem in Italy now for over 50 years, owing to the rapidly increasing population and the lack of natural and industrial resources. From about 1880 to the 1930's, the problem was mainly solved by emigration to other countries, but already before the war and notably since 1946, the numbers migrating have been relatively small. While no single or simple reason can be given for this decline, the restrictions imposed on immigration by other countries may have been one of the major difficulties. Although in all NAT countries except Belgium there has been since the war full employment, or over-employment, the memory of the pre-war slumps and widespread unemployment has remained fresh in the minds both of workers and Trade Unions, and some countries have refused to admit Italian workers even to industries which would have profited greatly by a larger labour force.

The re-armament of Western Europe is now making ever-increasing demands on European and American industry. In some NAT countries workers may have to be diverted from producing goods for home consumption to producing armaments, thus threatening the standard of living. Under these circumstances it is obviously important that the available manpower should be used to the best possible advantage, and if necessary redistributed according to the countries and industries where it is most needed. The following note is an attempt to estimate very roughly the number of Italians that are available for employment elsewhere and the possible countries by which they could be absorbed.

The TCC Report states that every year there is a surplus of 500,000 persons available for emigration to other countries. This seems high considering that the average total number of persons reaching the 15-year age group is only about 800,000 per annum, or 4% of the active population. The numbers emigrating since the end of the war, though difficult to estimate accurately, have only apparently been about 200,000 a year.

On the other hand there appears to have been a core of about 1.9 million unemployed in Italy for the last three years. This figure actually includes a number of workers that are in fact employed but are trying to change their jobs, together with several other categories of persons that would not presumably be able to emigrate. The remaining number, however, might be considered as available for employment in other countries where labour was needed and this figure has been assumed to show the order of magnitude of the surplus Italian labour force. The figure is arrived at as follows:

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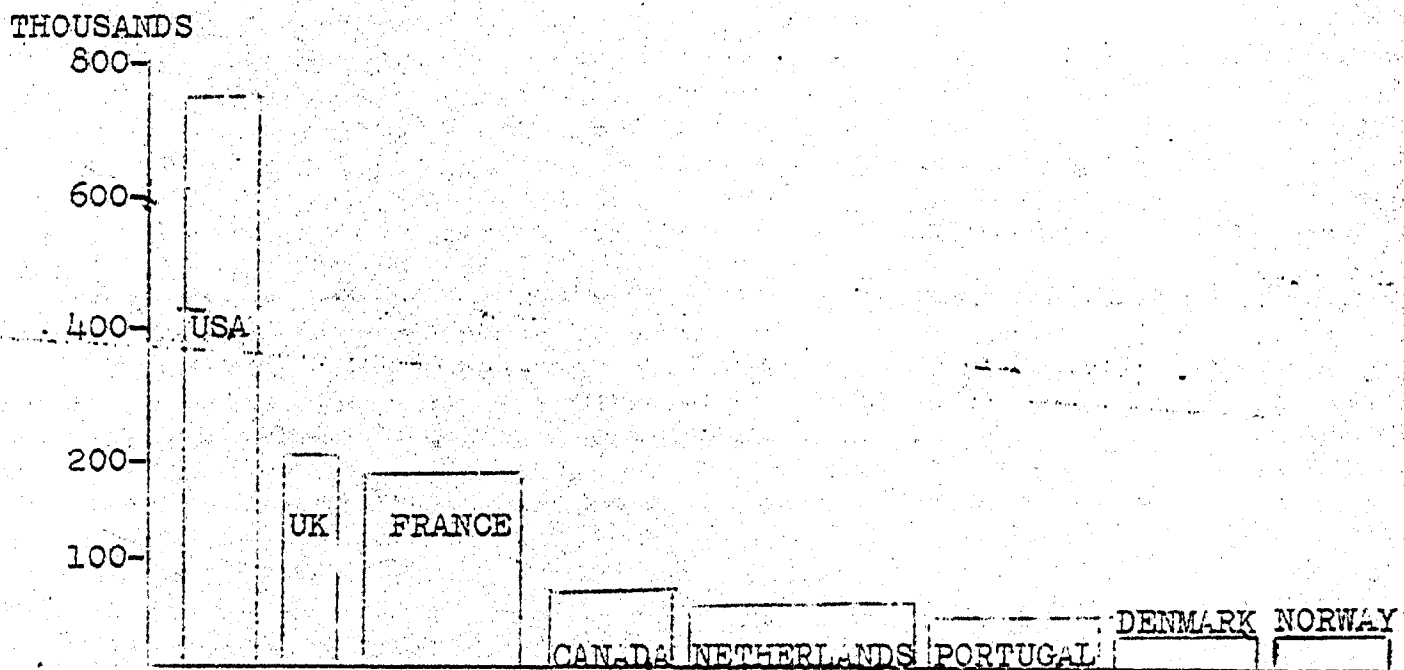
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Total unemployed at latest available date:		1,884,200
<u>Less</u>		
Housewives in search of first job	131,800	
Pensioners in search of occupation	28,700	
Employed persons in search of other occupations	47,300	
Girls under 21 years in search of first jobs	<u>155,600</u>	<u>363,400</u>
Unemployed available for employment in other countries:		<u><u>1,520,800</u></u>

Thus the remaining figure of 1.5 million equals the numbers estimated by the TCC to be available for emigration over the three-year period 1951-54. The problem of their absorption by other countries would of course be highly complicated, depending on the economic and political conditions within each country, the rate of expansion of industry, the level of economic activity etc. The following tables and charts, therefore, are merely hypothetical estimates showing what would be the distribution if these workers were absorbed:

- (a) by NATO countries in proportion to their active population less the unemployed, and
- (b) by all countries in proportion to their intake in 1948 of Italian migrants.

HYPOTHETICAL DISTRIBUTION OF SURPLUS ITALIAN MANPOWER
AMONG NATO COUNTRIES
IN PROPORTION TO THEIR ACTIVE POPULATION
(EXCLUDING BELGIUM)



COUNTRY OF DESTINATION	ALLOCATION
USA	774,065
UK	280,275
FRANCE	269,934
CANADA	63,416
NETHERLANDS	47,904
PORTUGAL	41,973
DENMARK	24,636
NORWAY	18,553
	<u>1,520,756</u>

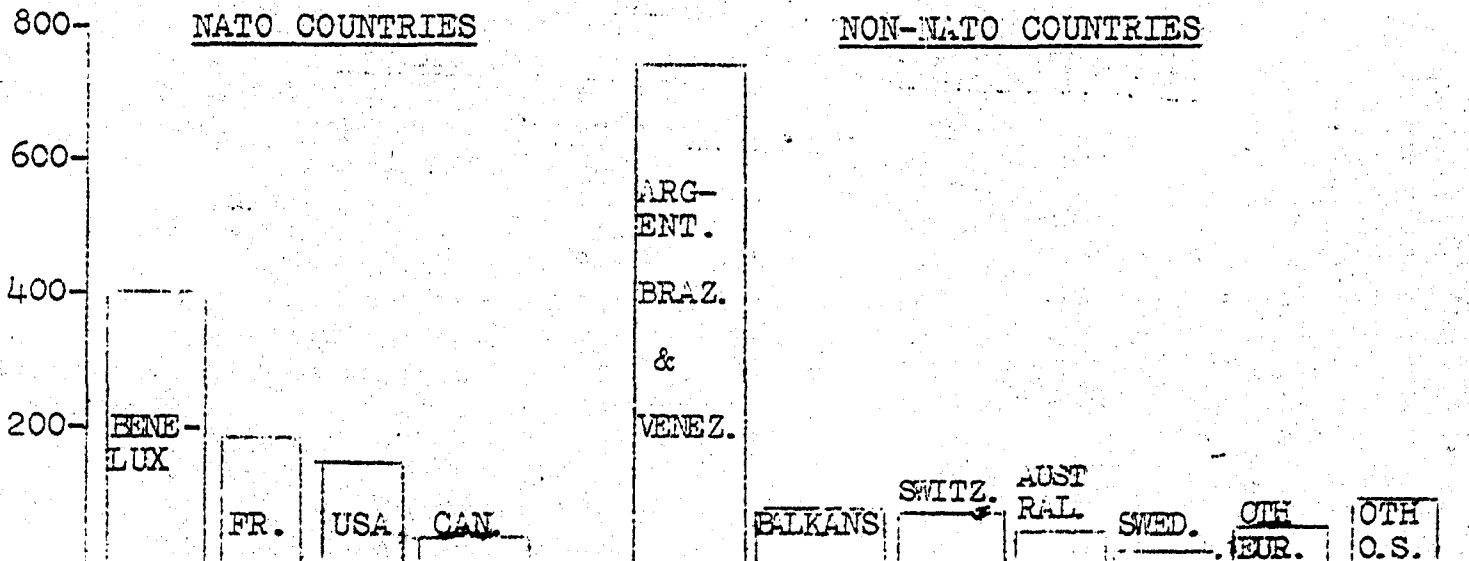
HYPOTHETICAL DISTRIBUTION OF SURPLUS ITALIAN MANPOWER

AMONG ALL COUNTRIES

IN PROPORTION TO THEIR INTAKE OF ITALIAN MIGRANTS IN 1948

HOURSANDS

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COUNTRY OF DESTINATION

ALLOCATION

NATO COUNTRIES

BELGIUM, LUXEMBOURG AND NETHERLANDS	}	382,166
FRANCE		
USA		85,770
CANADA		23,420

NON-NATO COUNTRIES

ARGENTINE, BRAZIL AND VENEZUELA	}	709,585
BALKANS		
SWITZERLAND		31,175
AUSTRALIA		15,664
SWEDEN		7,756
OTHER EUROPEAN		23,420
OTHER OVERSEAS		62,351

1,520,756