

(C.C.M.C. /M(47) 8.)

(iv) Relaxation of Restrictions on Social Relations with Germans

1202
GOC-in-C BAOR stated that the time had come to consider the relaxation of the regulations which prevented social contacts between officers and members of the German public. At present, other ranks were allowed facilities for meeting Germans which were not available to officers, and he considered that, two and a half years after the end of the War, this state of affairs required re-consideration.

FOCBNG and AOC-in-C BAFO stated that they were not in favour of further relaxations at the present time.

DCOS (Exec) reminded Service Commanders that Officers from the Educational Adviser's Staff were now attached to the staffs of the Service Commanders, and that the duties of these officers were to promote the furtherance of relations between members of the Services and the German public

After further discussion, during which the desirability of facilitating visits to Germany of relatives of the Occupying Forces and COG was discussed, the Chairman pointed out, that we were going through a changing phase in the Occupation. On the destructive side, final decisions had now been taken regarding disarmament, and Denazification was almost complete. The constructive side would now necessarily take precedence, and if this was to succeed, increased contacts with the Germans were imperative, in order that they should learn to understand and appreciate our democratic ideas. He was therefore in sympathy with the views of the Army Commander.

(184) THE CHAIRMAN

- (d) requested GOC-in-C BAOR to formulate definite proposals for the relaxation of the existing prohibitive regulations, and for the furtherance of social relations between officers and members of the German public;
- (e) directed the DCAO to reconsider the possibility of permitting visits of relatives to members of COG where accommodation facilities existed.