

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

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DRAGO, SENATOR AURELIO
AUG. 1943

TOP.

6 ANH/gds 26 Aug To G-2 Section 7th Army HQ
> Minute from Major Pirie

6885

MINUTE.

On 30th August, Lieut. Carnock of Naval Intelligence arrived from Messina, requesting permission to remove Senator Drago to Algiers for questioning, he stated that this was at request of C. in C. Mediterranean.

7th Army (Major Carter) G-2 had no objection, provided 15 Army Group and AITST concurred. C.C.A.C. spoke to Major General Richardson on telephone and obtained his permission.

On 31st August, Lieut. Carnock called at Nursing Home to collect Senator Drago, but found him confined to bed, having been semi-masculated (one testicle removed the previous day), and that therefore he could not undertake any journey for at least 10 days.

No further action contemplated meanwhile.

[Handwritten signature]
Mjor.

plA
4829^{31/8}
67

SECRET

ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
Palermo Province

ANH/gds

6 324148

26 August 1943

MEMORANDUM:

TO : G-2 Section, Seventh Army Headquarters

1. The Vice-Prefect informs that Senator Aurelio Drago, an intimate associate of Mussolini and high ranking Fascist Party official, has returned to his villa at Castellaccia, but is at present under medical observation at the Clinica Orestano, Via Pietro d'Asaro, Palermo.
2. Among his various activities he was Commissioner of Economic Housing (Case Popolari) and sequestrator of the property of a U. S. citizen, James Borab, at present interned in Pracchia (Tuscany).
3. He is reputed to be most able, quick-witted and crafty.
4. He claims to have returned to Palermo from Rome within the last four days.
5. The above is in connection with "Denunzie e Premi", but the Vice-Prefect requests that any reward to which he might be entitled should be given to charity.

*Spoke 15
Poletti 8/29*

Charles Poletti
CHARLES POLETTI
Lt. Colonel, AUS
Senior Civil Affairs Officer

etg

*Putini
Drago's file 4828*

Q. 3/8

SECRET

File *1926*
5

HEADQUARTERS SEVENTH ARMY - OFFICIAL BUSINESS

OUTGOING MESSAGE

Office of Origin AMGOT WILLOT Date 30 August 1945

Classification SECRET Precedence: ROUTINE
(Restricted-Confidential-Secret) (Deferred-Routine-Priority-Urgent)

TO: 15 Army Group

NO QUESTION ALLOWING PRISON COMMUNICATE WITH MAINLAND. PAREN FROM AMGOT SEVENTH ARMY TO FIFTEENTH ARMY GROUP CITE AMGOT 179 PAREN. REFERENCE YOUR 5102A OF 27/8 CITE 1/239. HE REMAINS IN MESSINE HOME UNDER OBSERVATION. G-2 CONTACTED.

PA
30/8
ES
4827

Content and classification authenticated by:

Time signed: _____

Copy to: G-2, 7th Army - Major Carter

C O P Y.

4

271520B.

5102A

RAD

SECRET OPERATIONAL PRIORITY.

TO: CG 7TH ARMY.

WHETHER FURTHER INTERROGATION LIKELY TO BE USEFUL. TAKE NO RPT NO STEPS
TO MAKE CONTACT WITH MAINLAND THROUGH DRAGO. MSG BEGINS: YOUR UNNUMBERED
2262010B. INFORM G-2 7TH ARMY COL KOCH WHO WILL DECIDE ←
(MAIN 15 ARMY GROUP TO OCAO 7TH ARMY AMCOB CITE 1/23. THIS IS A PARAPHRASE
REF OUR 164 DIG 271000B CITE YOUR SVC 272.9) TTE SIGNED: 2715150B.

3/S
G-2 (ACTION)

4826

This gentleman was sent to me by the Cardinal with a request that I should see him and take no action, if any action was called for, for his having come to Sicily from Italy after the occupation. I undertook to see him as I thought he might have some information.

The Cardinal's Secretary, Monsignore di Cutaro showed me a letter which Drago's daughter had written to the Cardinal. The letter was of a somewhat hysterical nature, complaining of the fact that her car had been taken away and that the family interests had suffered considerable damage by reason of action taken by the Municipal authorities at Lercara in the matter of an electric light plant and grid in which the Drago family was interested. I am taking this up separately.

Drago's movements are as recorded on telegram No. to C.C.S. he stated that his reason for going to Rome was twofold. He had heard that his son, a pilot, had been wounded during the bombing of an airfield near Rome. This turned out not to be the case. His second reason for going to Rome was to try and obtain some financial assistance or compensation from the Italian Government in respect of his house at Palermo which had been bombed. He alleged acquaintance with my father and a passing acquaintance with myself in 1920/21. I told Senator Drago that he had jeopardised his safety by entering occupied territory from the mainland without permission, he professed to be shocked at my attitude and asserted his friendship to the allies. He stated that he had opposed Italy entering the war and had done everything that was possible. I pointed out to him that he was nevertheless a Senator of an enemy government and had some official communication with the Ministry of Communications (Postes and Telegraphs, even if in an honorary capacity). I told Senator Drago that he must remain in Palermo in the nursing home where he is now awaiting operations for hernia and prostatitis and that when he leaves the hospital he must remain in touch with the authorities. I am afraid that I frightened Drago considerably, and he became somewhat hysterical but in the course of doing so produced information contained in the attached telegram, as well as certain other remarks of passing interest.

He stated that while in Rome a rumour had been circulated that Hitler had committed suicide, which had given great joy in particular to certain German civilians who had toured the town in two lorries with demonstration of exuberance. These civilians had promptly been arrested, and, it was rumoured, shot.

He speaks in passionate terms of the behaviour of German troops in Calabria where they had stripped the country clean.

Drago said that at about the beginning of August a meeting had taken place between Garibaldi, another Italian Minister, Ribbentrop and Von Kettel at Treviso. It was supposed in Senate circles that this had indicated an attempt by the Italian Government to get out of the war, without success. He said the Government had a stronghold in Italy but repudiated with Italy.

his son, a pilot, had been wounded during the bombing of an airfield near Rome. This turned out not to be the case. His second reason for going to Rome was to try and obtain some financial assistance or compensation from the Italian Government in respect of his house at Palermo which had been bombed. He alleged acquaintance with my father and a passing acquaintance with myself in 1920/21. I told Senator Drago that he had jeopardised his safety by entering occupied territory from the mainland without permission, he professed to be shocked at my attitude and asserted his friendship to the allies. He stated that he had opposed Italy entering the war and had done everything that was possible. I pointed out to him that he was nevertheless a Senator of an enemy government and had some official communication with the Ministry of Communications (Postes and Telegraphs, even if in an honorary capacity). I told Senator Drago that he must remain in Palermo in the nursing home where he is now awaiting operations for hernia and prostatitis and that when he leaves the hospital he must remain in touch with the authorities. I am afraid that I frightened Drago considerably, and he became somewhat hysterical but in the course of doing so produced information contained in the attached telegram, as well as certain other remarks of passing interest.

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Drago said that at about the beginning of August a meeting had taken place between Guariglia, another Italian Minister, Hilbentroy and Von Koitel at Treviso. It was supposed in Senate circles that this had indicated an attempt by the Italian Government to get out of the war, without success. He said the Government had a stranglehold on Italy but repudiated with indignation the idea that the Italian Government allowed Germans to administer the machinery of government.

The Senator offered his services in any way in which they could be used to assist in getting Italy out of the war, but had no concrete suggestions to make in this respect, except only to serve as intermediary, to write to his friends in the Senate to describe the things which he had witnessed in Calabria.

I undertook to look into the Lercara electric position, but held out no hope to him that his daughter would receive back her automobile, which he said was being used mainly for joyriding by an agent of Public Security.

4825

*Have piece copy. 2 enclosed
 Certain in his letter to the
 regard. A.A. D. 2578*

27th August, 1941.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

Cluiea Crestano.

Sen. Drago Barabio.

Il Cardinale Lavitrano

2

Arcoivescovo di Palermo

Rec. M. G. ○

Stimo doverlo sotto
parere alle benevole occupazioni
di V. E. l'acclusa lettera ripro-
vabile ricevuta dalla figlia
la del Senatore Aurelio Grop.
Se l'Espresso V. E. di quanto come

Dare il colloquio richiesto, mi
appuntarsi ad avvertire il
vostro. In caso negativo, prego
di tenere le a rimandare indietro
le lettere considerandola come
non presentata.

Con più deferente omaggio

U. G. G.

Quindi

+ Luigi Carlo Cavallotti
Poliziano e Palato Ordine dell'Opera
di Pace degli Albanesi.

FILPOT.

FROM: AMGOT FILPOT.

TO: FILPOT.

1

MOST SECRET (.) FOR C.G.S. FROM C.C.A.O. (.) ITALIAN SENATOR NAMED DRAGO LEFT ROME 15/8 ARRIVED MESSINA VIA CANTILLO BY ROWING BOAT 19/8 (.) NOW IN NURSING HOME HERE AWAITING OPERATION (.) HE HAD LEFT PALERMO FOR ROME 16/7 (.) I HAVE GIVEN DIRECTIONS HE IS NOT REPEAT NOT TO BE ARRESTED ON GROUNDS ANTI-FASCIST AND PRO-ALLY ANTECEDENTS (.) BUT AM KEEPING HIM PALERMO UNDER ORDERS TO REPORT REGULARLY TILL FURTHER NOTICE (.) HE IS TOO OLD TO ESCAPE AND HIS WIFE AND DAUGHTER ARE HERE (.) HE IS PRODUCING INFORMATION (.) TWO (.) STATES BY 16/8 NO RAILWAY WORKING WEST COAST 48% BELOW AMANTEA (.) ALL ROADS RAILWAYS VERY SERIOUSLY DAMAGED (.) REPORTS MASS WITHDRAWAL GERMAN TROOPS FOR TEN DAYS PRIOR TO 18/6 BY WHICH DATE VERY FEW LEFT CALABRIA (.) REPORTS ITALIAN TROOP COMMANDS IN CHARGE BUT WITH NO TROOPS (.) ITALIAN TROOPS EITHER WITHDRAWN OR DISPERSED (.) STATES GERMAN TROOPS WITHDRAWING WITH WHOLESALE LOOTING AND DESTRUCTION (.) STATES BELIEVES FEW GERMAN TROOPS NOW SOUTH OF SALERNO (.) STATES OPINION IN SENATE AND OFFICIAL CIRCLES ROME IS THAT GERMAN INDEED HOLD LINE FO (.) NOW OCCUPYING GARDA ADIGE TOWNS AND VENETIA IN FORCE (.) THREE (.) STAGES NO REPEAT NO GERMAN CONTROLS IN INDUSTRIES OR IN RAILWAYS (.) FOUR (.) OFFERS ANY ASSISTANCE (.) TOLD KEEP QUIET (.) DO YOU WANT MORE INFORMATION (.) OWING OLD FAMILY FRIENDSHIP MY FATHER CAN PROBABLY GET MORE (.)

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MOST SECRET

IMMEDIATE.

(sgt) RENWELL.

MOST SECRET
2 copies

Fi' pol.

Undiate

For CGS pan Ceato o Italian

Senator named DRAGO left

Rome 15/8 arrived Messina ⁴⁸²³

Via CANTILLO by rowing boat

19/8 o Now in nursing home here

awaiting operation o Has wife and He ^{her}

Left family ~~was~~ Palermo ~~is~~ ^{is}

left for Rome 16/7 o Then five

directions ^{his} / not repeat with the

arrested on grounds anti fascist

and pro Alcy antecedents o But

am keeping him Palermo under

orders request to report regularly

till further notice o He is too old

to escape and his wife and daughter

are here o He is producing information o

2. States by 16/8 no railway

Via CANTIELLO by rowing boat
19/8 @ Now in nursing home here
awaiting operation @ Has wife and 4 kids

Left family ~~ear~~ Palermo via state
left for Rome 16/7 @ Then five
directions / not repeat with the

arrested on grounds anti fascist
and pro ally antecedents @ But
am keeping him Palermo under
orders report to report regularly
like further info @ He is too old
to escape and his wife and daughter
are here @ He is producing information @

2. States by 16/8 no railway
working west coast below AMANTEA @
All roads railways very seriously damaged @
Repatriation withdrawal German
troops for ten days prior to 18/6
which ^{date} very few left Calabria @
Repatriation Italian troops commands in
charge but with no troops @ Italian

Troops either withdrawn or dispersed.
States female troops withdrawing
with female troops and deriding
States of believers for female
sons of SALEVARO States ^{Opinion} in
Senate and official circles ^{from 4/5/67} Germans
intend hold line PO ^{Nov 1967} GARDIA
ADIGE trans e and VENETIA in
force.

3. States no report no female
control in Munich or in
Railways.

4. For offers any armistice. Told
keep quiet. Do you want more
information. Any old family friends.
My father can probably get more.

to Lt Kruger
RORO

[2 0 1 4]

