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Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

ACC

10000/105/527

CA, INTE
ACHILLE
SEPT. 194

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785016

10000/105/527

CA, INTERNMENT OF CIVILIANS,
ACHILLE LAURO
SEPT. 1944 - MAY 1945

P.S.

Please send copy of 7a & the book to your
reviewing officer at Padula for his consideration
and such action as he may think appropriate.

7by.

gpm

2.

V.P. C.A. Section.

Our reviewing officer has now left Padula, but I have ascertained that the Commandant of the Camp, and G.2 (C.I.) AFHQ - who will now review the case in due course - have copies. The book is retained in Security Division with other Lauro case papers.

11.5.45.


J. W. Chapman
Colonel; Director,
Public Safety S.C.

Wtd.
gpm

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GIOACCHINO LAURO
Via dei Mille, 40
NAPOLI

Rome 4th May 1945

CC 1125
MAY 5 RECD

2161 3-1345 A SEC

7A

To the Supreme Commander of the Allied Forces in Italy
General Sir Harold Alexander

CASERTA

To the Chief of the Allied Police in Italy

CASERTA

To the President of the Allied Commission in Italy
Admiral Ellery Stone

ROME

My father, Achille Lauro, shipowner in Naples, is, by your order, in the Internment Camp in Padula from 16 months.

The Italian High Commissary for the punishment of the fascist crimes, after a severe investigation about the politic and industrial life of my father, has found no charge to impute him such to justify his detention (letter of H.E. the Count Sforza dated 1st sept 1944, of which I gave copies to the C.I.C. and F.S.S. in Naples).

2A

In february last I collected in the enclosed pamphlet, that I have now translated and submit to you, the elements that prove the full innocence of my father. I did present such pamphlet also to the Command of the Internment Camp in Padula, to the C.I.C. and the F.S.S. in Naples begging them to fully investigate on all what I have written and if found correct to make justice to my father.

From a conversation that I have had during this week at the C.I.C. in Naples I understand that the requested investigation has been carried out and I no doubt that I was found to be truthful. If it is so, I heartily beg of you to order the liberation

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- 2 -

of my father as soon as possible.

I don't know which of your Offices has to examine and decide this practice, but by instinct I feel that I must apply to your goodselves in order to obtain justice for my father.

I understand that the war finished you will one day open the gate of the Camp to all those you have kept only for a suspicion. But I beg to ask to your spirit of justice to release my father individually in order to give to his deliverance a meaning of rehabilitation.

If he is innocent I don't think to ask too much.

My father needs a sign of your recognition in order to start again his constructive activity without a moral diminishment in face of his Country.

With obsequiousness,

respectfully,

G. Gioacchino Lauro
Gioacchino Lauro

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HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394
CIVIL AFFAIRS SECTION

6a

6/2.1/CA ✓

9 Oct 44

Avv. Prof. Ugo FORTI
Corso Vitt. Emanuele, 121
ROMA

LAURO ACHILLE

I have to inform you that the case of the above has again been reviewed and that it has been decided that he cannot be released nor is his condition of health such as to constitute any danger.

S.H. WHITE Lt Col.
for V.P. CA Sec.

5260

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SJH/nb

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
PUBLIC SAFETY SUB COMMISSION
SECURITY DIVISION
A.P.O. 394

(5A)

VP
7 OCT 1944

Ref : SE/140 LAURO

5 October 1944

Subject : Internee - Lauro Achille

To : Vice President, Civil Affairs Section

1. The attached copy correspondence in respect of
the a/n interned at 371 P.W. Camp is forwarded for information.

John W. Chapman
John W. CHAPMAN,
Colonel, J.A.G.D.,
Director Public Safety,
Sub Commission

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(213)

129
ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff G - 2
APO 512 U.S. ARMY

58

AAI 1456/8

29 September 1944

Subject / LAURO Achille

To : Security Branch
Allied control Commission

1. Reference telephone conversation of 28th inst.
(Capt. Murray - Capt. Ellis).

2. This Headquarters has carefully considered 371 PW
Camp Reviewing Officer's report on LAURO Achille, a copy of
which is understood to be in your possession.

3. It has been decided that the condition of his health
is not such as to justify his release, and that his status
as an internee for the duration should remain unchanged.

For the Assistant Chief of Staff G-2

s/ per S.S. HILL-DILLON
t/ " S.S. HILL-DILLON
Colonel G.S.
G-2 (CI) Section.

Copy to :

G-2 Section
P.B.S.
Commandant
371 PW Camp,
C.M.F.

5258

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CONFIDENTIAL

SUBJECT: LAURO Achille. Civilian Internee

25. 9. 44.

To Commandant :

1. The case of the a/n Civilian Internee has been reviewed by me the request of Security Branch, Allied Control Commission and the following is my observations and recommendation:-

LAURO Achille, born Sorrento, 19 June 1887. Married with three children. Two male and one female. Interned on 27 Dec 23, by C.I.C. P.B.S. Occupation:- Shipowner.

This man's Fascist record on paper does not appear very strong but it is important. Joined the party in 1933. President of Dopolavoro Naples Area. Member of Corporation for Sea and Air Transport. Member of Federation of Shipowners. Consigliere Nazionale from 1939 to 1943.

He was a good strong friend of CIANO, whom he admired for his intelligence. In 1918 CIANO stood by LAURO in a dispute with VISSOLINI's advisors respecting the shipment of a boatload of armaments to CHINA. At a conference in Rome it was suggested to LAURO that in collaboration with the Japanese that after the Chinese Government had paid for the arms, the ship should be sunk in the vicinity of Hong Kong or taken to a Japanese port. LAURO refused to be a party of this plot, stating that world confidence would be destroyed in Italian Shipping circles if this was done. He claims CIANO supported his view and the plan was dropped. He states the British Government were informed of this affair. With respect to the use of his Villa at POSILLIPO by Frau GOERING, he claims the Villa was empty at the time and as it was just the placed desired by the Goering's he was approached by the Prefetto of Naples, Umberto ALBINI, who organised the whole affair. He admit he subsequently received the Certificate and Order of the German Eagle 2nd class from the German Consul. He denies ever having RIBBENTROP as his guest, ever having been introduced to him, but I don't believe him.

In his favour it must be stated that prior to Italy's entry into the war he was pro-British, some of his shipping was placed at the disposition of the British Ministry of Shipping, through the agency of G. GIBSON GRAHAM. (Formerly Director of GALBRAITH, Pembroke and Co. Ltd. the Company that backed LAURO financially on many occasions.) This transaction proved very satisfactory for LAURO, as much as L. 50,000. Sterling being paid for a single shipment of Phosphate. He had another strong British contact man Walter WILLIAMS, manager of his chartering Department (Now with the Ministry of War Transport Naples) in this Department is also Joacchino LAURO (son) both are in my opinion suitable placed with to watch LAURO's interests and that of the financing agency. LAURO has a very high opinion of Walter WILLIAMS, whom he states has been a faithful servant of the concern in spite of being a heavy drinker. He would have transferred shares to him but the Italian Government prohibited this. He also claims that when Italian shipping was detained in neutral Ports he transferred it to British control presumably to Galbraith, Pembroke Ltd. (Gibson Graham). Recommendation:- LAURO in my opinion a very astute financier, he made a two way Insurance. 1. If Germany or Italy won the war his position in the shipping world would have been assured, most of his shipping was assisting their war effort. 2. If the Allies won his fortune could be salvaged by Galbraith, Pembroke and Co. Ltd. This in my opinion is now in progress. If he is released at this juncture of the war, I feel Allied prestige will suffer a blow. He has been interned nine

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Recommendation:- LAURO in in my opinion a very astute financier, he made a two way Insurance. 1. If Germany or Italy won the war his position in the shipping world would have been assured, most of his shipping was assisting their war effort. 2. If the Allies won his fortune could be salvaged by Galbraith, Pembroke and Co. Ltd. This in my opinion is now in progress. If he is released at this juncture of the war, I feel Allied prestige will suffer a blow. He has been interned nine months. He operated in the highest spheres of Fascism, to say the least.

The claim for release on medical grounds cannot in my opinion be substantiated. LAURO is very alert mentally, he spent two hours in this office without the sign of the slightest strain for fatigue. The Camp Medical officer has certified as follows:-

"In general however I do find his physical condition has materially deteriorated during his eight months internment in this Camp, while his physical ailments have contributed in some degree, I consider that his mental state in mainly responsible.

Considering all, therefore I do consider that his health

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is suffering from his internment, but I do not consider that Hospitalisation is necessary".

Signed. DAO' Sullivan Capt, RAMC
Camp Medical Office

2. I recommend that he be interned for the DURATION of hostilities in Italy.

(F.G. Geach) Capt.
Reviewing Officer A.C.C. Security Branch
Attached 371 P.W. Camp. C.M.F.

25th Sep. 1944

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HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394
ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION

HA

6/21/AS.
6/21/AS

23 Sep 44.

SUBJECT : Mr. Achille LAURO.

TO : Dr. G.A. Bell, Shipping Room 37, 5th Floor Annex.

Reference you memo dated 23rd Sept 44.

At the request of Dr. LAURO's son we have asked for a further report from the authorities at 371 F.O.W. Camp. When this report has been seen and a decision reached you will be informed.

~~A~~
J.C. HARVEY, Jun. Cdr.
P.A. to VP Admin Section

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

785016

TO : Brigadier Gerald R. Upjohn, K.C.
Vice-President, Administrative Section.

DATE: 23rd September, 1944.

Subject: MR. ACHILLE LAURO

(3A)

I have been requested by Mr. J. Gibson Graham to hand to you the attached copy of a letter from Count Sforza to Avv. Prof. Torti, which the latter has certified as a copy of the original in his possession. I understand from Mr. Lauro's son, Giacchino, that he has asked you if his father can be released from detention.

If this is arranged, perhaps I could be informed so that I could pass word on to Mr. Graham.

G.A. Bell

G.A. Bell

Room 37, 5th Floor Annexe.

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(2A)

Sir. The Shipowner Achille Saurio is under proceedings as per Art 8 of the Lieutenant General's Regulations dated of 2 July 14, 19189.

No restriction of his personal liberty however, has been placed on him.

His liberation from the Concentration Camp of Rodas, depends on the Allied authorities to whom the lawyers in defense of Saurio can apply.

Yours etc.

AVV. PROF. UGO FORTI
CORSO VITT. EMANUELE, 121
NAPOLI (181)

TELEFONO 41-105

L'ALTO COMMISSARIO PER LE SANZIONI CONTRO IL FASCISMO
PALAZZO DEL VIMINALE-ROMA

Roma, 11^o settembre 1944

AVV. Prof. UGO FORTI
Corso Vittorio Emanuele, 121

- N A P O L I

Signor Professore,

L'armatore Achille Lauro è sottoposto a procedimento a sensi dell'art. 8 del decreto legislativo luogotenenziale 2 luglio 1944, n° 159.

Nei suoi confronti tuttavia non è stato emesso alcun provvedimento restrittivo della libertà personale.

La sua liberazione dal campo di concentramento di Padula è di competenza dell'Autorità Alleata alla quale il Collegio di difesa del Lauro potrà rivolgersi.

Suo devot.mo

Fto. Sforza

Copia conforme all'originale che è in mio possesso.

(AVV. PROF. UGO FORTI)

[Handwritten signature]

RECEIVED
FBI
SEP 11 1944
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

L'ALTO COMMISSARIO PER LE SANZIONI CONTRO IL FASCISMO
PALAZZO DEL VINCINALE-ROMA

Roma, li 1° settembre 1944

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Corso Vittorio Emanuele, 121

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Suo devot.mo

Eto. Sforza

Copia conforme all'originale che è in mio possesso.

(AVV. PROF. UGO FORTI)

Ugo Forti

RECEIVED
(12) 1944
100-11 000-1723

1300

MEMORIAL FOR GENERAL UPJOHN OF A.C.C.

16 SEP. 1944

In reference with the interview they had with you on September 13th 1944, in the morning, the defenders of Achille Lauro, the shipowner of Naples, consider advisable to state the following points:

1) The High Commissioner for the sanctions against Fascism, through the letter, of which we quitted you a copy, has certified he does not issue a warrant of arrest against Mr. Lauro. The Italian Authority licence has no concern in the detention of Mr. Lauro.

2) Since November 9th 1943 Mr. Lauro has been in a internment camp by order of the Allied Authority. As far as we know, he has been suspected to have had friendly connections with some German personalities for in his villa, in Naples, (Posillipo) in the autumn of 1942, Mrs. Goering was a guest, who came to Naples for being attended as a patient at Agnano's Thermal Baths.

Mr. Lauro is innocent. Any suspicion must be cleared in front of these exact facts:

a) It was not Mr. Lauro, but the Prefetto of Naples, Mr. Albini, as a deputy of the Italian Government, who received and gave hospitality to Mrs. Goering. The villa was empty, also of furnitures, and the Prefetto required it to Mr. Lauro, who had never occupied it and had his domicile in another villa in Naples, 71 Crispi Street (where a Hospital of the American Navy is at present). If Mr. Lauro had not given it, the Prefetto would have requisitioned it.

Since then up to now his villa at Posillipo has been always occupied by the several following Prefetti (Mr. Albini, Mr. Vaccaro, Mr. Soprano); and when on October 1st 1943 the Allied entered Naples, they found the Prefetto Soprano inside there. It is, for its park and port, perhaps the most beautiful villa of Posillipo. That explains why the Prefetto choosed it. It was not Mr. Lauro, but the Prefetto, who furnished it, and the Treasurership of the Royal Prefettura that paid the corresponding expenses.

b) Mrs. Goering found the villa delicious and alluded the Prefetto her wish to purchase it. Mr. Lauro, who did not want to sell it to Mrs. Goering, in order to prevent any pressure by the Government, immediately wrote a letter to the Italian Foreign Office, notifying his will not to sell it. In the archives of that Office, one should find Mr. Lauro's letter.

c) Mrs. Goering had Mr. Lauro asked what rent she should pay. Mr. Lauro replied: nothing. The lady then wanted to know

6/3 B/

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c) Mrs. Goering had Mr. Lauro asked what rent she should pay. Mr. Lauro replied: nothing. The lady then wanted to know and thank him. Mr. Lauro went two or three times to the villa.

2.-

the Marshall too, coming to Naples to relieve his wife, wanted to thank Mr. Lauro. After husband and wife had left, there was an exchange of obliging telegrams between the lady and Mr. Lauro. The rough copy of a Lauro's telegram, drawn by a secretary of his, was found on the Lauro's writing-desk in his office by the Allied Police on November 9th 1943, when long since everybody knew Allied Police was inquiring;

That is all. It is that happens in every country of the world.

d) Mr. Lauro is an anti-german, and not by words. Neither before, nor after the visit of Mrs. Goering to Naples, Mr. Lauro ever was in Germany. Duly once he went to Hamburg in 1932 to come to a commercial agreement with the "Deutsche Orient Line" for the Danube line, and he was together with Mr. Walter Williams, a British subject, who was nearly 10 years his Director of the traffic with foreign countries, a daily witness of his activity and feelings. This gentleman is at present in Naples as a deputy of the Ministry of War Transport. One can question him upon the activity and feelings of Mr. Lauro.

e) Neither before nor after the visit of Mrs. Goering, Mr. Lauro had connections with any German in Italy or abroad. He never was at the German Consulate either in Naples or elsewhere, never at the German Embassy. During the many searches made by the Allied Police in his offices and houses, nobody found any proof that let no think to any connection with the Germans.

f) During the war Mr. Lauro was the only Italian shipowner who withstanding all the pressures of the fascist Government, did not freight to the Germans any of his steamers. In fact the steamer "Edera" of about 9000 tons dead weight owned by Mr. Lauro that took refuge in the Spanish port of El Ferrol, was decidedly refused to the Germans by him. The other eight Italian steamers that were on the same conditions in the North Spain ports during the first months of 1942 were given to the Germans. If necessary we can say their names. In the first days of the occupation of Rome. Lieutenant Lloyd of the American Navy, seized all the documents concerning the steamers freighted to the Germans at the Shipowners' Federation (Rome: 7, Sabini Street). The "Edera", on the contrary was found by the Allied at El Ferrol and it is at present sailing for their account. Living the steamer at El Ferrol Mr. Lauro lost voluntary over an 1.000.000 liras freight; and this is the clearest proof of his feelings.

g) Mr. Lauro has been working more than twenty years chiefly with the anglo-saxon world. A great many of his steamers

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g) Mr. Lauro has been working more than twenty years⁵⁰⁰ chiefly with the anglo-saxon world. A great many of his steamers were acquired in England and America (Canada). The centre of

3.-

his sea-business (freights) was in London by the Calbraith & Pembroke firm (Billiter Square, 7), belonging to Mr. Gibson Graham, who is now in Naples too, as a Representative for the Mediterranean of the Ministry of War Transport (Naples: 9 Chiostro Street). Mr. Graham also is a trustworthily witness of the activity and feelings of Mr. Lauro.

h) We are right in thinking that the author of the infamous calumny of the connections of Mr. Lauro with the Germans, has been Mr. Paolo Scarfoglio, a journalist. He acted, directly and indirectly, through some little scrupulous informers, among whom there must have been Mr. Jean Bournique, a relation of Him. We are right in thinking so, for we read a relation of this Mr. Scarfoglio to Colonel Poletti in Naples, in which he refers the same calumny.

Now Mr. Scarfoglio is interested in injuring Mr. Lauro and consequently he is not trustworthily. In 1928 he together with his brothers, sold his newspaper firm "Il Mattino" to a financial group for 23.000.000 liras. In December of 1942 Mr. Lauro acquired a half of shares of this firm, the Bank of Naples. Mr. Scarfoglio has to day planned a judgment against Mr. Lauro, to have this firm back, but he has no money to pay it. He has tried to disgrace Mr. Lauro hoping he should to his claim. The judgment is on front of the Court of Justice of Naples.

Mr. Scarfoglio is not trustworthily, also because he is the most disgraced journalist in Italy. He belongs to a family, that during the other war was notoriously in the Germans' pay: we can show you the documents. His father, Edward, in his book "The five meals-people" libelled the British people. He, Paul, wrote on the "Mattino" the most spiteful articles against the British policy: and then on the "Corriere di Napoli" in 1942 articles defamatory against the United States. He was among the most ardent supporters of fascism and collaborators of Mussolini, who even presented him with a photograph of him with a dedication. We have all the photographic copies of his articles and we can show you them.

Everybody is asking: why was he not arrested?

i) Besides all Mr. Lauro is ill. And in the internment camp not withstanding the good will of the Command and the doctors he cannot receive all the cures necessary. It is to be considered that Mr. Lauro is about 60 years old and his weakened health will very likely not resist to a longer detention.

We hope the A.C.C. or will liberate this innocent ~~er~~, at least, while inquiring again, it will let him enter a Healthly house or a Hospital under vigilance.

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b) We are right in thinking that the author of the infamous calumny of the connections of Mr. Lauro with the Germans, has been Mr. Paolo Scarfoglio, a journalist. He acted, directly and indirectly, through some little scrupulous informers, among whom there must have been Mr. Jean Sournique, a relation of him. We are right in thinking so, for we read a relation of this Mr. Scarfoglio to Colonel Foletti in Naples, in which he refers the same calumny.

Now Mr. Scarfoglio is interested in injuring Mr. Lauro and consequently he is not trustworthily. In 1928 he together with his brothers, sold his newspaper firm "Il Mattino" to a financial group for 23.000.000 liras. In December of 1942 Mr. Lauro acquired a half of shares of this firm by the Bank of Naples. Mr. Scarfoglio has to day planned a judgment against Mr. Lauro, to have this firm back, but he has no money to pay it. He has tried to disgrace Mr. Lauro hoping he should to his claim. The judgment is on front of the Court of Justice of Naples.

Mr. Scarfoglio is not trustworthily, also because he is the most disgraced journalist in Italy. He belongs to a family, that during the other war was notoriously in the Germans' pay: we can show you the documents. His father, Edward, in his book "The five meals-people" libelled the British people. He, Paul, wrote on the "Mattino" the most spiteful articles against the British policy: and then on the "Corriere di Napoli" in 1942 articles defamatory against the United States. He was among the most ardent supporters of fascism and collaborators of Mus solini, who even presented him with a photograph of him with a dedication. We have all the photographic copies of his articles and we can show you them.

Everybody is asking: why was he not arrested?

i) Besides all Mr. Lauro is ill. And in the internment camp not withstanding the good will of the Command and the doctors he cannot receive all the cures necessary. It is to be considered that Mr. Lauro is about 60 years old and his weakend health will very likely not resist to a longer detention.

We hope the A.C.C. or will liberate this innocent ^{man} or, at least, while inquiring again, it will let him enter a Healthly house or a Hospital under vigilance.

A lawyer of the defenders' College.

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