

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

ACC

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

696

ITAL GOV'T, PIETRO CARUSO'S TRIAL
SEPT., OCT. 1944

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

9/11 B/CA

ITALIAN GOVERNMENT.

~~Processed~~
FIRTH CARLOS
IRIAH.

To Date

HQ ACC. APO 394
344
24 Sep. 1130
851

24 Sep.
①
To Chief Commissioner

I refer you to para 6 on p. 6A, translation of Sforzas answer thereto on 9@; my subsequent instructions to P.R.B. (after conversation with you) on 13a & P.R.B.'s reply at 14a & its enclosure at 14b.

This should show that Sforzas twisting the situation round again.

Personally I think this earlier reply should not go unanswered & that it should be called upon for an explanation. But will you let me leave your views please.

S.P.B.

②

To VP-Admin. Sec.

D (Encum, as per our conversation
25 Sept of yesterday)

open for an explanation. Let's wait you let me

have your view please.

② SPB

To VP-Admin. Sec.

25 Sept 2044 1800 Call P. Mack briefed before giving
evidence at the enquiry as per our briefing
Office. SPB

See also file 17a-10a. SPB

20 Oct 44 To Ad. White Ref. Arresting Trial
Phase 9 - phase 10 and where it is the field
+ inform Reg. Region 4 + P.S. Subcom as soon
as possible. SPB

PS: We have no info
+ info no. 1

9/11/44 V



Ministero dell'Interno
GABINETTO DI S.E. IL MINISTRO

Prot. N. 6641 Allegati

28 Settembre 1944
Roma
- 1 OCT. 1944

21a
la COMMISSIONE
ALLEATA DI CONTROLLO
- Sezione Amministrativa -
ROMA

Suppl. al f. del
D. N.
OGGETTO: ~~Omicidio~~ Omicidio del Dr. CARRETTA DONATO - Inchiesta.

Nel segnare ricevuta della lettera del 21 settembre, si trasmettono i nominativi dei componenti la Commissione d'inchiesta circa la morte del Dr. CARRETTA:

S.E.Gr.Uff. Dr. EMANUELE PIGA - Presidente

S.E.Gr.Uff. Dr. CARLO ROSATI - V. Capo della Polizia

CRISPINO AGOSTINUCCI - Generale dell'Arma dei CC.RR. nella riserva

Dr. NICOLA VESSELLA - Consigliere dell'Amministrazione Civile dell'Interno

Dr. GINEVRINO CELENTANO - Segretario.

Questo Ministero si fa riserva di trasmettere tutte le altre notizie richieste, non appena

./.

5792
16/2

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

ne sarà in possesso.

IL MINISTRO

[Handwritten signature]

Gai.

5073

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

The High Commissioner for Sanctions against Fascism

TR. LATION

9/11/51

28 Sept 44.

206

Dear Gen. Upjohn

Ira answer to your letter of 26th. I wish to tell you that I understand your feelings concerning the letter I signed for Mr. Reyer. But in reality it was written after my personnel & myself had had various requests for the possibility of ample cinematographic documentations.

This will make it clear to you as from my letter of the 1st how I should have appeared anxious for initiatives which I really considered (as was afterwards proved tragically useful in my letter of the 20th) could only have a documentary value.

I regret that a misunderstanding should have been possible.

The only trial that has a fixed date in Argentina: 9th October.

Yours sincerely,

Forza.

5791

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

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

204

Roma, 28 settembre 1944

Caro Gen. Upjohn,

in risposta alla Sua del 26 desidero dirLe che comprendo il Suo sentimento in vista della lettera che firmai per Mr. Reyner. Ma in realtà essa fu scritta dopo che da varie parti io e il mio personale eravamo stati sollecitati per ampie possibilità di documentazioni cinematografiche.

Questo Le renderà chiaro come dalla mia lettera del 4 io apparissi desideroso di iniziative che invece nel mio pensiero (come poi é apparso tragicamente utile secondo la mia lettera del 20) potevano avere un valore esclusivamente documentario. ///

Mi rincresce che un equivoco sia stato possibile.

Il solo processo che ha una data fissata é quello Azzolini: 9 ottobre.

Suo sinceramente



///

Al Generale UPJOHN
Administrative Section
Headquarters A.C.C.

= ROMA =

5790

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

C O P Y

19/3
Allied Control Commission
Administrative Section
APO 394

26 Sep 44

DE/4.3/AS

Dear Count Sforza,

Thank you for your letter of the 20 Sep, stating amongst other things that permission to film the Caruso trial was given following urgent pressure by Allied officers.

In view however of your letter to Mr. Reynier of P.W.B. dated 4 Sep yourself suggesting that trials of Fascists are very suitable material for films you may care to modify or withdraw your statement in your letter of the 20th.

May I also ask you to let me have a reply to my letter dated 19 Sep asking for a list of fascists who are going to be tried together with the dates and places of trial.

Believe me, your Excellency,
yours truly,

H E Count Carlo SFORZA
Alto Commissario per le Sanzioni
contro il Fascismo
Palazzo del Viminale
R O M A

Ext. 525
GRU/mt

5789

SECRET

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
REGION IV
APO. 394

To V.P. P. P. P.

Regional Public Safety HQ.

27th September, 1944.

SUBJECT: Death of Donato CARRETTA on 18th September, 1944.

TO : Brig. Upjohn, V.P. Administrative Section, ACC.HQ.
(through Col. Charles Poletti, Regional Commissioner)

In reply to Brig. Upjohn's letter of 21st Sept. 1944, I am not able to give any direct eye-witness account of the assault on Donato CARRETTA, as at no time on 18th Sept. 1944, did I see him alive inside or outside the Palace of Justice.

(1) Facts regarding Donato CARRETTA

- 1) He was Director of Prisons when the Allies entered Rome on 5th June, 1944.
- 2) From time to time I received favourable reports from Capt. Freeman (A) AMG. Supt. of Prisons as to the efficiency of Donato Carretta as Director of Regina Coeli Prison.
- 3) In view of his Fascist background, however, I saw Carretta myself on 4th July, 1944, in my office when he filled up a "scheda personale" for the second time.
- 4) I then submitted his case to Col. Poletti who decided that, no matter how efficient Carretta might be at his job, he should be removed as soon as a suitable substitute could be found. As a result I ordered the removal of Donato Carretta from his post as Prison Governor on 14th July, 1944. He did not hold any official office in Rome after that date, under AMG.

(2) Arrest of Ceruso

1) At 6.00 a.m. on 15th June 1944, two or three "partisans"

(1)

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(2)

Arrest of Caruso

- 1) At 8 p.m. on 15th June, 1944, two or three "partisans" came to my office and said that the ex-Questore of Rome, Pietro Caruso was lying wounded, under an assumed name, at Bagno Regno, 40 km. north of Viterbo in a small hospital. I was told he was being guarded by patriots, and that unless he was brought back soon they would take the law into their own hands. I instructed Maj. Battersby at the Questura to send for him at once, and this was done.
- 2) Meanwhile, however, F.S.S. were curious about Caruso who was thought to be a spy, but later with help of AMG. Eighth Army he was released to me, and sent back to Rome on 22nd June, 1944, and I passed him over to the Questore for safe custody and enquiry into his case.

18(b)

3) Caruso's loot was recovered most intact, and also passed over to the Questura.

4) I was never notified officially about the impending trial of Caruso on 18th Sept. 1944. In fact, I only heard of it through the Press.

5) On the evening of 17th Sept. 1944, I tried to contact Maj. Battersbey about whether the Police arrangements were all completed but he was not in. My Secretary spoke to some one in the Questura and it was ascertained that all necessary police arrangements had been made, and that the Vice Questore was handling the police side, as the Questore himself was a witness in the case.

6) I was informed that not less than 400 odd police would be on duty in and around the Court apart from reserves. In my opinion these numbers of police appeared to be adequate to deal with the situation in the ordinary way.

7) I knew nothing, of course, about any of the legal arrangements for the trial.

8) During the evening of 17th Sept. 1944, I mentioned Caruso's trial to Col. Poletti, and we agreed to go together to the hearing of 18th Sept. 1944.

(3) Incidents on 18th Sept. 1944.

1) While in my office at via Lucullo 6, waiting for Col. Poletti, at 9.5 a.m. 18th Sept. 1944, R.A.A.O. (G-3) telephoned to tell me that there was trouble at the Palace of Justice, and I left immediately for the Court, arriving about 9.10 a.m. 18th Sept. 1944.

2) In my car I quickly ran round the whole of the outside of the court first; there were large crowds making their way into the Palace of Justice from the various gates, but there was no disorder.

3) Outside one wing, I saw about 20 mounted police standing by. Around the outside of the Palace of Justice there would be perhaps 100 CC.RR. and Metropolitan at the various gates.

4) I then entered without delay and pressed through the crowds of people in the corridors and stairs leading to

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4) I then entered without delay and pressed through the crowds of people in the corridors and stairs leading to the courtroom. Hundreds of civilians were pushing their way towards the Court.

5) About 9.15 a.m. with great difficulty I entered the courtroom, which was full to capacity and very overcrowded. I would estimate that from 400 to 500 people were there. Both balconies were also crammed with civilians and there was, also a number on the ledges and standing on tables.

6) A certain section of the crowd was definitely hostile

I could hear many shout "A morte Caruso". About 2-0 were surging towards the art leading to the rear of the court. Amongst them were a number of widows who were shouting and yelling and a few had completely lost control of themselves, shouting similarly against Caruso.

7) A number of CC.RR. and Metropolitan were mixed up with the crowd, which was out of control.

8) Somebody told me the Court was trying to commence proceedings but I realised at once that this would prove fatal. Therefore I at once went to the rear of the Court and advised the President and the Judges that it would be most unwise to make any attempt to start proceedings, and I recommended that they immediately postpone the hearing, inform the crowd and that we would try to disperse them. This was agreed upon and no time was lost in announcing immediately, through Lt. Atkinson (A) that the Court had adjourned and that the trial would continue on another day. An appeal was made to the crowd to go away quietly, and for witnesses to remain behind.

9) The Questore was present and rendered good service throughout.

10) We then got busy with the Metropolitan and CC.RR. but experienced great difficulty in clearing the Court and the balconies.

11) At the same time I checked up on protective measures to ensure safety of Caruso and Occhetto.

12) After clearing the court we tried to get the crowds down the stairs and out of the passages. It was not until later that I heard about the lynching of Carretta. As soon as I heard of it I advised the Questore to place patrols quickly along the riverside, so that police could recover the body instead of the infuriated mob.

13) After being satisfied that order was re-established in and around the Court, I went to Regina Coeli prison about 12.50 p.m. and there saw the dead body of Carretta inside the prison entrance. I was present at 1.10 p.m. Sept. 18th, 1944, when Carretta was certified dead by the prison doctor, in the presence of the Procuratore. Death due to fractured skull and multiple face and body injuries.

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(4)

Opinion as to the outbreak of disorder.

1) If I were asked to give a considered opinion about the circumstances of the whole unfortunate affair I would summarise the position briefly:

- a) I am told that other courts in the Palace of Justice were allowed to function on that day. This being so it was difficult for the police to attempt to restrict or even discriminate the entry of the public.

1881

Far too many invitations were extended to the public. Here again it was difficult for the police to admit some and prohibit others who had some interest in the case.

c) The courtroom itself was unsuitable. There should have been no balconies, whereas there were two large balconies above the courtroom, which in a case arousing such public interest was only inviting trouble.

d) There were no secure doors to shut off the courtroom. (I have a photograph to produce which only shows dividing curtains, which were tied together in the centre and people could freely enter and emerge at will). This in itself made it quite impossible for a quiet and orderly trial to take place with crowds outside, no matter how well behaved.

e) As far as I can gather the inside court arrangements for the trial were nothing to do with the police and therefore it is quite unfair to throw any blame on them for the conditions that prevailed inside the courtroom. It was very unfortunate that so many widows and friends of the Ardeatine Caves victims were present. Feelings were so high and the mob seemed determined to get at Caruso. That is why I confined myself to the courtroom, the judges and the protection of the prisoners.

f) It seems ~~to~~ strange to say so of such a beautiful, spacious building, but the Palace of Justice was really an unsuitable place to hear this trial owing to the immensity of the corridors, squares, balconies, which lend themselves to large crowds moving in and out. With regard to the police arrangements outside, it is unfortunate that perhaps there were too few police to deal with the crowds mauling Carretta. It must be remembered that any possible demonstration against Caruso would be inside the building so it is understandable why the greater number of police was inside the building.

(5) Conclusion.

1) It seems to me the whole affair resulted from an unhappy chain of circumstances and that blame cannot be

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(5) Conclusion.

1) It seems to me the whole affair resulted from an unhappy chain of circumstances and that blame cannot be apportioned to any one individual or section. Perhaps the police did not act firmly enough at the beginning but on the other hand too many people were permitted to enter the court. It is my considered view that the responsibility for the whole regrettable affair cannot be thrown upon the police nor can it be said that there were insufficient numbers of police on duty.

J.R. Pollock
J.R. POLLOCK
Lt. Colonel
Chief, Public Safety
REGION IV

5783

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

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
A.P.O. 394

17(a)

9/11. B/A.S.

To:- Lazio Region
(for attention Lt.Col.Pollock).

28th September, 1944.

SUBJECT:- Court of Inquiry on incidents 18th September '44.

Attached is a copy of a letter received from the President of this Commission of Inquiry in reply to my 9.28/A.S. on the 27th September, of which a copy was furnished to you.

Will Col.Pollock please make himself available to the Commission at the time, date and place indicated.

YMB.


R.R. GRIFFS Col. GSO
for V.F. Admin Section.

5784

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COMMISSION OF INQUIRY

for the incidents which occurred in the Palazzo di Giustizia on 18 September 1944

File No. 1004

from the Palazzo di Giustizia

28 September 1944

Colonel R.R. Cripps
For V.P. Admin Section
Hq. A.C.C.

ROME

In reply to letter 9/II B/A.S. of the 27th of this month will you kindly inform Colonel Pollock that this Commission shall be glad to hear his statements Saturday, the 30th of this month, at 9:30 in the Palazzo di Giustizia.

The secretary of the Commission will wait to receive Colonel Pollock at the entrance of the Palazzo di Giustizia facing Piazza Cavour and will accompany him to the Commission's chamber.

The President of the Commission of Inquiry
/s

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1,430

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

Private for you also
11 P.P. - Am I mean
for the letter of the 4th
I'll look for some
MINISTRO SEGRETO
Day a man
che la Tach.
ff.

17c
COMMISSIONE D'INCHIESTA

in merito ai fatti verificatisi nel Palazzo di Giustizia il 18/9/1944

Prot. No 1004-

dal Palazzo di Giustizia il 28/9/1944

Sig. Colonnello R.R. CRIPPS.
For V.P. Admin Section
H.O. A.C.C.

R O M A

In risposta alla lettera n.9/II B/A.S. del 27 corrente si prega comunicare al Sig. Colonnello Pollock che questa Commissione sarà lieta di ascoltare le sue dichiarazioni sabato 30 corrente alle ore 9,30 nel Palazzo di Giustizia.

Il segretario della Commissione si troverà a ricevere il Colonnello Pollock all'ingresso del Palazzo di Giustizia dalla parte di Piazza Cavour, e lo accompagnerà nella sala della Commissione.-

IL PRESIDENTE
DELLA COMMISSIONE D'INCHIESTA

Pign

5782

In risposta alla lettera n.9/II B/A.S. del 27 corrente si pre-
ga comunicare al Sig.Colonnello Pollock che questa Commissione sarà
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IL PRESIDENTE
DELLA COMMISSIONE D'INCHIESTA

Fig

5782

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

1 4 3 2

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

Commission meets in Palace^{17(a)}
of Justice ~~in the~~^{each} morning
from 9 - 13 ~~each after~~
in the office of H.E.
Arana, Palace of Justice
& in the afternoon
in Ministry of Interior at
Vismarale from 18 to 20.
the office of H.E. Rosati,
the Vice Chief of the Police.

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

PARTITO FASCISTA REPUBBLICANO

Federazione Fascista dell' Urbe

Il C. g. _____

desidera conferire con _____

Motivo : _____

Roma, _____ 194... XXII

FIRMA

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

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394

162

9/11 B/A.B.

Tel: 525

PRESIDENT

TO: Court of Inquiry - Palazzo di Giustizia

27th Sept., '44

SUBJECT: - Disturbances 18th Sept., '44 - Palazzo di Giustizia

1. Reference your 1004 dated 25th Sept., Lt.Col. Pollock of ~~Lasie~~ ~~Region (Section IV)~~ will be available to give evidence on any date and at any time that you require him after Friday 29th.
2. Will you please kindly advise this office of the exact time and date you desire his presence together with the location at which the Court is being held so that arrangements can be made for Lt.Col. Pollock's attendance.

Gre

R.E. GRIPPS. Colonel.
for V.P. Admin. Section **5781**
R.E. A.C.C.

Copy to LAMIO (SECTION IV) for attention Lt.Col. Pollock. (cleared on telephone direct with Lt.Col. Pollock this day - Col. Gripps/Lt.Col. Pollock).
YB.

1 4 3 07
Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

15
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
INTER OFFICE MEMO

From: Office of the Acting Chief Commissioner

SUBJECT: Colonel Pollock's Evidence Before
Court of Enquiry

TO: Administrative Section

FILE No. A/CC 250

26 September 1944

The attached letter is passed to you for action.

1 Incl: Ltr fr President of the
Court of Inquiry, ref: W. 1004

Page 1
J.A. Quayle 5780
J. A. QUAYLE
Major, R.A.
Chief Staff Officer

Page 11

H. H. WOOD

W. H. WOOD
1150

1 4 3 7

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

TRANSLATION

186) 378 26/9-1030
OFF

COURT OF INQUIRY

(about the facts which happened in the Palazzo di Giustizia on 18/8/1944)

N. 1964

Palazzo di Giustizia, 25/9/1944

To: Captain Stone

U.F.N.

Acting Chief Commissioner A.C.C.

R o m e

This Court needs to hear Colonel Pollock's account of the events which took place on Sept. 19th in the Palazzo di Giustizia.

Will you kindly inform Colonel Pollock of the request of this Court, and let us know on what day and at what time the Colonel would like to give his evidence.

Yours very truly,

THE PRESIDENT
OF THE COURT OF INQUIRY

/s/

Trans. E.O.

577

1750

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 735016

4678

ROMA, 20 Settembre 1944

MODULARIO
L - A - 1582

Mod. 801

DIVISIONE AFF. GEN. E RISERVATI

Ministero dell'InternoA MANO**DISPACCIO TELEGRAFICO**

ON. SIG. CAPITANO STONE U.F.N. ACTING
 Commissioner A.C.C. ex Ministero Corporazioni
 R O M A

Procedendosi inchiesta responsabilità disordi-
 ni et eccidio Palazzo Giustizia 18 corrente,
 prego comunicarmi se Sig. Colonnello Pollok
 gradirebbe esprimere sua opinione come
 ufficiale alleato più elevato in grado presente
 ai fatti.

IL MINISTRO

F.to BONOMI

Rough translation:

We are proceeding with an inquiry
 on the responsibility for the disorders and
 occurrences which took place at Palace of Justice
 18th this month. Please communicate to me if

Ord. 337 - 20-5-42-22 - Roma, Tip. Mantellate (c. 55.000)

Col. Pollok would give me, as Senior Allied officer
 witnessing the occurrences, his opinion. //

1 4 3 9
Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

PRB/R29

23 Sep 44.

SUBJECT : CARRETTA INCIDENT - PUBLICITY

TO : Brigadier G.R. Upjohn, V.P. Admin. Section.

The answer to your note of September 22 is, I think, contained in Count Sforza's letter to Mr. Rayner of September 4 (Para 3), of which I attach a copy.

lf/vehb

Lionel Fielden
LIONEL FIELDEN
Major

Public Relations Director.

(COPY)

L'ALTO COMMISSARIO PER LE SANZIONI CONTRO IL
FASCISMO

PALAZZO DEL VIMINALE - ROMA

ROMA, September 4, 1944.

Dear Mr. Rayner:

We are aware of some lack of patience and consequent depression on the part of the Italian public, on the subject of epuration, trial of Fascist criminals and similar matters.

You will easily appreciate, although we are doing our utmost, and being, of course, a more silent machine than that which we have replaced, that it is desirable that the Public are informed of the very real progress that is being made. In this regard I would much appreciate your consideration of the possibility of releasing information on these subjects through the many propaganda mediae under your command.

In particular, I consider that the trials against the Fascists, now in operation, are very suitable material for documentary or newsreel films.

I will be grateful to have your views on this subject, and will make material available, if agreed, to your organisation.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) Sforza.

577c

John Rayner, Esq;
D.P.W.O. PWB
Italian Theater Headquarters
Roma.

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

CONFIDENTIAL

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
ATO 394

SUBJECT:- CARUSO INCIDENT

Tel: 525

TO:- Public Relations Branch.

22nd Sept., '44.

1. I have asked Count Sforza who was responsible for giving orders for the installation of loudspeakers, searchlights, cinematographs and other apparatus for the original hearing of the Caruso case in the Court of Cassation.
2. He has replied in these terms "regarding the last question concerning permission to film, it was reluctantly given following urgent pressure by Allied officers who told us it was an absolute necessity for public opinion in the United States and England".
3. The Chief Commissioner and I doubt the bona fides of this answer, but he has asked me to make through you an investigation to see whether in fact any Allied Officers exercised the alleged pressure. Presumably such officers would be found amongst the staff of P.W.B., but you may know of other possible sources of pressure.

577

G.R. UPJOHN. Brigadier
V.P. Admin. Section.

YMS.

224.

19 September 1944

Trend of copy filed by correspondents

From a perusal of the various accounts it would seem that it was not an organized attempt by any one class or political party. Tremendous interest had been aroused in the trial and a great deal of impatience shown at what was thought to be unnecessary delay in bringing Caruso to trial. This impatience had manifested itself several weeks ago when Rosario Bentivegna, a young Communist, had been brought to trial before an AMG court, charged with the killing of a Finance Guard on the day the Allies entered Rome. At that time the Leftist press had compared his quick trial with the slower proceedings against Caruso. There is some reason to believe that many of the crowd were intent on taking the law into their own hands. But the unorganized manner in which the crowd were permitted to get into the inner courtyard and finally into the courtroom, plus the timidity of the Carabinieri, plus the highly emotional state in which some of the widows and relatives of the victims of the Ardeatine massacres came to the trial, precipitated matters, and the mob became uncontrollable.

Carretta, the former Director of the Regina Coeli prison, who was killed by the mob, was sitting among the witnesses when he was recognised by two of the widows. Their hysterical cries provided the flame which started the conflagration. There is general agreement that the Carabinieri - with the exception of one Lieutenant - were not up to their job, and were either cowed or indifferent. MATTHEWS (New York Times) claims to have been the only correspondent outside the Court who actually witnessed the whole grim scene from the time Carretta was dragged from the courtroom. Most of the other stories are variations on his theme. He is a reliable and

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MATTHEWS (New York Times) : The crowds were there very early and it was obvious passions were high. Shortly before 9.30 the crowd broke through the inadequate and timid police cordons and pressed to the entrance of the Courts in the main courtyard. The large hall on the first floor was already packed with spectators and newspapermen with authorised passes. Just as the judge was about to enter, the mob rioted and broke in. Lieut. Col. Pollock, Chief of A.M.G. police had arranged for Caruso and Occhetto to be kept in the cellars, and this delay alone saved their lives. The crowd broke down the wooden partitions, smashed furniture and surged towards the judges and correspondents. By now there was no semblance of order. Everybody, including the Carabinieri, sought shelter. Some jumped out of windows into the courtyard. The mob thought Caruso was in the anteroom and Pollock let them think so. In vain

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he and Mario Berlinguer, Assistant High Commissioner for the punishment of Fascists harangued the crowd and tried to calm them. Caruso, who was lying on a stretcher, heard the mob and went pale. After half an hour's pleading by Pollock, who later told me "he had never in his long police career in England seen such an ugly mob as this", some calm was achieved. Pollock announced the postponement of the trial and the crowd might have dispersed then if two women had not discovered Carretta among the witnesses. He was grabbed by some young men, hit violently, and in a few minutes his face was streaming with blood. He was dragged downstairs and from then on NY Times correspondent was, by chance, alone among correspondents who became a horrified witness of everything that happened.

The notice by Pollock that the trial was being postponed did not cause the mob as a whole to disperse. I hung around the entrance and suddenly heard shouting inside the court. Inside a few Carabinieri were trying without force and without opposing the mob to usher out a short, stocky man, with thick lips and fuzzy hair, and his face literally covered with blood. Near the entrance, while his back was turned, a young man jumped on him with his feet, knocking him down, while others began kicking him. I turned to the Carabinieri and asked why he did not try to stop this. He shrugged his shoulders. Someone grabbed a cane from an old man and began viciously beating Carretta over the head with the curved handle. The Carabinieri were standing around in dozens, not more than a few yards from each other. Carretta tried desperately to get away from the blows and ran down to the end of the courtyard, where he was trapped. This went on for at least 10 minutes, until the only Italian who showed any decency and courage this morning, Carabinieri Lieut. Bergomaneri - managed to exert enough authority to get a few other police to help him rush the badly hurt, but still conscious Fascist, outside and into a cab that was standing in front of the Palace of Justice. He might have been saved then but none had the courage to drive the car away. The mob kept pressing round it with men reaching in to hit Carretta as well as they could. Bergomaneri then called upon a dozen Finance Guards on horseback to clear the

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girl with black hair and sunglasses, dressed well in white summer outfit, and looking like a student, had been one of the ringleaders, and she kept kicking Carretta. The two officers made one more effort to get the car away. They picked him up and carried him to where a British truck stood and asked the driver to take them and Carretta. The Tommies refused and drove the truck away. The Carabinieri officers put their burden down hopelessly, and then began the last horrid act. Someone shouted "Throw him in the Tiber!" The limp body was dragged across the street to the Ponte Umberto; then was lifted and heaved into the water 30 feet below. The shock of the cold water apparently revived the fascist, and as it was near the bank he managed to climb to the side and hung half in and half out of the water just below the bridge. That was not enough. Some men got a row boat to where he was and pushed him back into the water. For a time he struggled back to the bank; they hit him with oars and pushed him back. Hundreds then thousands crowded the Ponte Umberto embankment along both sides, and then the Ponte San Angelo next below, as Carretta floated downstream, his pitiful efforts to survive growing weaker. Many women were in that crowd. Many of the men as well as the women were middle-class petty bourgeoisie. This was not a mob of hoodlums. Some of course were horrified, ashamed, but they were few and one woman who hysterically protested had to be rushed away lest the crowd mob her. Many laughed, as did two men next to me who were gleeful when they realized that the unconscious Fascist was going to be thrown into the water. The N.Y. Times has seen many terrible sights in years of corresponding even amidst revolutions, but nothing so vicious or sickeningly brutal as this. Carretta mercifully died just about as his body floated under the Ponte Sant'Angelo. Still that was not enough. Vengeance had to be taken on his body. It was dragged out of the water and along the ground to the nearby Regina Coeli prison. There it was got inside the guard somehow and strung up from the bars of a window. By that time the crowd had swelled to an estimated 7,000 and the situation was clearly ugly, for they thought Caruso was inside. Inevitably thoughts of the Bastille arose in all observers' minds. But they were not a courageous mob. The prison police kept the doors closed

and pushed him back. Hundreds then thousands crowded the Ponte Umberto embankment along both sides, and then the Ponte San Angelo next below, as Carretta floated downstream, his pitiful efforts to survive growing weaker. Many women were in that crowd. Many of the men as well as the women were middle class petty bourgeoisies. This was not a mob of hooligans. Some of course were horrified, ashamed, but they were few and one woman who hysterically protested had to be rushed away lest the crowd mob her. Many laughed, as did two men next to me who were gleeful when they realised that the unconscious Fascist was going to be thrown into the water. The N.Y. Times has seen many terrible sights in years of corresponding even amidst revolutions, but nothing so vicious or sickeningly brutal as this. Carretta mercifully died just about as his body floated under the Ponte Sant'Angelo. Still that was not enough. Vengeance had to be taken on his body. It was dragged out of the water and along the ground to the nearby Regio Coeli prison. There it was got inside the guard somehow and strung up from the bars of a window. By that time the crowd had swelled to an estimated 7,000 and the situation was clearly ugly, for they thought Coruso was inside. Inevitably thoughts of the Bastille arose in all observers' minds. But they were not a courageous mob. The prison police kept the doors closed and soon managed to cut down Carretta's body and cart it off. Then the mob was easily dispersed without more bloodshed.

The N.Y. Times went immediately to Sforza. He had not heard anything more than the first stage of the rioting, and was greatly shocked when I described what I had seen. He immediately telephoned the Director General of Police Ferrari, a former High Magistrate chosen for his impeccable character, but who had no police experience. Ferrari at first denied the news, which he himself had not heard, but later checked and reported back to Sforza. "This is inadmissible and must never happen again" Sforza said. "This is like lynching of negroes and we want none of that in Italy. Make immediate investigation and punish severely all those responsible, including the Carabinieri who were derelict in their duty." Sforza then told me that the Government would assert its authority and hold the trial commencing to-morrow morning at 9. Having been the only American correspondent to witness it I went to Polsetti where I found him in conference with

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Pollock and other Allied police officials. To them I described what I had seen and what was still happening, since at that time the mob was still round the Regina Coeli Prison. The full seriousness of the situation was realised by all. There was nothing political about this, and no question of class, for some had already tried to blame the lower classes of Trastevere and Testaccio, districts which are the poor quarters of Rome. It was just a Roman mob. The mob went clearly determined to take justice into its own hands and lynch Caruso.

What is likely to happen in the North where mobs are more accustomed to violence? Retired and passion has shouldered against Caruso and Occhetto for a long time. The Bonomi Government was to-day unable to demonstrate legalised justice and many, including important foreigners to whom I spoke wonder whether Italy will ever be capable of doing so. The lawless fury of to-day bodes ill for the future. Barring satiation of mob fury, or revulsion and shame, it is not going to be possible to keep order and go on with the trial of Caruso and others.

HAMMOND (Kemsley Press): Gives a brief account of events and comments "How Carlyle would have delighted to watch this scene and got it down in his resounding prose."

BRIA (AP): Lieut. John Atkinson, tall, slim Allied Military Government officer from 3447, South Wakefield, Arlington, Va., and formerly of Los Angeles, Cal., stood on a table before a seething court room mob and told them in Italian that the trial could not be held. "The Allies sympathise with your feelings against Caruso and will see justice is done." But justice cannot be done with masses. "Go tranquilly to your homes and an announcement will be made in the newspapers later as to when the trial will be held" Atkinson said. Correspondent then gives brief details of what took place.

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BRIA (AP) in a later despatch: Poletti announced that he and Capt. Stone, Acting Chief Commissioner, would confer with Bonomi this afternoon on measures to be taken to ensure an orderly trial. Poletti said all eye witnesses' reports agreed that the Carabinieri were unable to maintain order in the court room or outside. He also criticised the disorganised procedure of letting everyone into the court room without apparently making any seating arrangements in advance.

PACKARD (UP): This correspondent sent a series of staccato despatches in which some of the facts were a little jumbled. "A mob of 7,000 tortured and killed Carretta." "Blood maddened Romans." "Carabinieri indifferent." Pollock and Italian speaking Lieutenant called on them to go home. His words greeted with hisses and jeers. Mob wanted to execute justice. As a result of today's affair case will probably be behind barred doors. 100 American and British M.P.'s and Italian troops, some with sub-machine guns, were rushed to the prison.

INGRAHAM ("Time") who was present in court.

"After Carretta had been taken from the court room a number of fist fights started inside, and at one point a threatened Carabinieri standing beside me tugged frantically at his holstered pistol. With a vision of being caught in the crossfire I shouted at him in my faultless Italian "Niente! Niente! For Christ's sake put that thing away." His action frightened the one who threatened him and the threatener drifted away.

LUCAS ("Daily Express"): "Italian police elegantly useless as usual with their black and white uniforms, black riding boots and assortment of lethal weapons, just completely lost control of the crowd. The forward surge carried all before it - chairs, police, widows and their weeds, tables, movie cameras and press. Court officials hurriedly disappeared behind the judge's throne and locked the door behind them. Fortunately a British Colonel and an American Second Lieutenant arrived. The Colonel was Pollock and the Lieutenant was Atkinson. Law and order was restored. Alone while the whole Italian police covered or stood helplessly by these two calmed the tempest and finally cleared the court room. By 11 o'clock Italian officials had timidly emerged from their hiding places and the opera bouffe police were energetically going through the motions of locking the stable door after the horse had gone. It was not really brutality but something deeper and a fear that the present Government is not tackling a thorough purge of Fascists from the administration. This morning the Nazi controlled radio fanned the smouldering flames by broadcasting that the Curuso trial was just a put up job for appearance sake, and that he would never be executed.

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

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9/11/8/ps
Dear General Upjohn,

I have received your letter of to-day. You will probably already know the names of the components of the Investigation Committee on the death of Carretta, anyhow here is the list.

Thank you for the questions to which you call our attention. They are the same as those we have decided to put before the Committee, although under a different form, more grouped together or more spread out.

Regarding the last question concerning permission to film, it was reluctantly given following urgent pressure by Allied officers, who told us it was an absolute necessity for public opinion in the United States and England. Actually I am personally very glad it should have happened because I have already asked the competent Allied organisations to keep one of the most accurate films and to show it to the investigation Committee and to technical employers both to clear up certain episodes and to arrest and punish those guilty of the crime, this was the only way of identifying them.

Yours sincerely,

9/11/8/ps
INVESTIGATION COMMISSION

A Commission has been named to investigate and rapidly confer about the incidents at the Palace of Justice on 18th instant and above all about the death of Dr. Carretta.

It is composed as follows:-

Emanuele Figa: Section President of the Court of Appeal of Rome President.
Carlo Rosati, Prefect. Member.
Crispino Agostinucci. Lt.General in reserve of Carabinieri. Member.

Yours sincerely,

9/11 B/AS

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

Roma, 20 settembre 1944

Caro Gen. Upjohn,

Ho la Vostra lettera di oggi. Saprete forse già i nomi del Comitato di inchiesta per la morte di Carretta; ecco in ogni modo qui unita la lista.

Grazie per i quesiti su cui attirate la nostra attenzione. Essi sono, sia pure in altra forma, più raggruppati o più diffusi, quelli stessi che abbiamo deciso di formulare al Comitato.

Quanto all'ultimo quesito circa il permesso per cinematografare, esso fu dato riluttantemente in seguito ad urgenti premure di Ufficiali Alleati che ci rappresentarono la cosa come una necessità assoluta per l'opinione pubblica agli Stati Uniti e in Inghilterra. Il fatto è però che io personalmente sono molto contento che ciò sia accaduto perché ho già chiesto agli Enti Alleati competenti di conservare qui uno dei films più accurati e di farlo girare davanti al Comitato d'inchiesta ed a funzionari tecnici sia per chiarire certi episodi, sia per arrestare e punire i colpevoli del delitto; era questo il solo modo di identificarli.

Vostro sinceramente



Al Generale G.R. UPJOHN
Administrative Section
Allied Control Commission
= ROMA =

5776

LA COMMISSIONE D'INCHIESTA

E' stata nominata una Commissione incaricata di investigare e riferire rapidamente circa gli incidenti al Palazzo di Giustizia del 18 corr. e sopra tutto circa la morte del Dott. Carretta.

Essa é composta come segue:

- Emanuele PIGA, Presidente di Sezione alla Corte di Appello di Roma - PRESIDENTE -
- Carlo ROSATI, Prefetto - MEMBRO -
- Crispino AGOSTINUCCI, Tenente Generale dell'Arma dei Carabinieri nella riserva - MEMBRO -

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

9/11/81 ✓

Dear

Benoni has asked the Chief Commissioner to let Lt. Col. Pollock give evidence at the Inquiry over the Garotta incident, and he has agreed to do so provided the evidence is given in private.

I have asked the Prime Minister to give me at least 24 hours notice as to when Pollock will be required, and the A.C.C. wants me to brief Pollock before giving evidence.

Would you be kind enough therefore to ask Pollock to draft a statement of his evidence and contact me so that we can discuss it together before he gives evidence.

Yours truly,

[Signature]
C.R. UNJOHN, Brigadier.
V.P. Administration Section.

Col. C. Poletti,
R.C. Region IV

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HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED OFFICIAL COMMISSION
APO 394
ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION

20 Sep 44

Your Excellency,

I understand that you are appointing a Court or Committee of Inquiry into the death of Caretta.

While the Allied Control Commission are interested in all aspects of the Inquiry and would like to see a copy of its terms of reference and the following questions in particular seen to them pertinent and you will no doubt be good enough to direct the attention of the Committee answering these amongst other queries.

1. Who was responsible for making the police and general arrangements at the Palace of Justice and the Prison.
2. Were the arrangements adequate? Specifically: -
 - a. What were the number of officers, NCO's and police on duty inside and outside the Court and duties of officers in charge including the Mounted CC.RR.
 - b. What were the number of police on reserve?
 - c. What was the method of calling out reserves?
 - d. What steps were taken to control the number of persons admitted to the Palace of Justice?
 - e. Were tickets issued and if so by whom and in what number and to what class or classes of person? Who was responsible for issuing invitations to the relative of the Arrestate Caves Atrocity and how many were present?
 - f. What steps were taken for the protection of the accused?
 - g. What steps were taken to control the number of persons admitted to the Court Room? Who checked the tickets?
 - h. What steps were taken for the accommodation and protection of witnesses and when the court was suspended what further steps were taken for their protection.
3. Who were the Officers on the scene responsible for putting into effect the arrangements?

What orders were given from time to time?

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3. Who were the Officers on the scene responsible for putting into effect the arrangements?

4.

What orders were given from time to time?

- i. To control the crowd inside the Palace of Justice?
- ii. To disperse the crowd outside the Palace of Justice?
- iii. To restore order once trouble developed?
- iv. To protect Caretta?
- v. To arrest disorderly persons?

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5. Who was responsible for choosing the Court of Cassation which is not adapted for criminal trials.

6. Who was responsible for giving order for the installation of loud speakers, searchlights, cinematograph and other apparatus of a kind unusual in a judicial hearing.

You may rest assured that we shall be only too glad to give you all assistance in the proceedings by production of any Officers to give evidence in private or others who saw any part of the proceedings if you care to call on us to do so.

Finally I shall be glad if you will let us have a list of the proposed members of the Committee as soon as possible.

His Excellency, The Count SPINOLA
20, Via di Villia Ricotti,

1336

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394
ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION

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 - d) What steps were taken to control the number of persons admitted to the Palace of Justice?
 - e) Were tickets issued and if so by whom and in what number and to what class or classes of person? Who was responsible for issuing invitations to the relative of the Argentine Caves atrocity and how many were present?
 - f) What steps were taken for the protection of the accused?
 - g) What steps were taken to control the number of persons admitted to the Court Room? Who checked the tickets?
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4. What orders were given from time to time?
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 - iv) To protect Carriers?
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Finally, I shall be glad if you will let us have a list of the proposed members of the Committee as soon as possible.

His Excellency Ivanoe Bonomi,
President of the Council of Ministers,
Italian Government, Rome.

Believe me your Excellency,
Yours truly,

(Sgd) Umberto C.R. Brigadier
V.P. Administrative Section.

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

SECRET

FOR ACTION TO ACC TARANTO, ACC SALERNO, ACC CATANZARO, ACC BARI, ACC FOGGIA FOR
INFORMATION TO HQ ACC FOR PUBLIC SAFETY SC

HQ SOUTHERN REGION ACC

SR/231

SEP 192045A

SECRET

ROUTINE

14/20

C80 14/20
20 SEP 1944

FOR INFORMATION ONLY

(THIS IS A PARAPHRASE BY CRYPTO PENBASE, CITE SERVICE NUMBER 993)

NOTIFY THIS HEADQUARTERS AS TO ANY INFORMATION RECEIVED OF POSSIBLE LOCAL
DISTURBANCES THAT WERE CAUSED BY THE SLAYING OF THE FASCIST PRISON GOVERNOR IN
ROME. QUESTURE AND CORR IN IMPORTANT COMMUNES SHOULD BE GIVEN INSTRUCTIONS TO
TEND ALL SUCH INFORMATION AT ONCE.



Action: Pub. ^{ACC DIST} Supply ②
Info: A/EE

Adm Sec -
P.A. Br.
File ②
Float

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SECRET

SEP 200830A

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
REGION IV
APO. 394

Regional Public Safety HQ.

19th Sept. 1944.

TRIAL OF CARUSO - 20th Sept. 1944.

1) Place of trial : Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei, Via della Lungara No. 10.

2) Only one entrance : Lungotevere Tarnesina gates, through Accademia d'Italia.

3) Portion of Via Lungara will be cordoned off and closed to traffic.

4) Case will commence promptly at 8 a.m. and hearing will continue throughout the day and evening. It is hoped to finish the hearing in one day, and the Court will sit 20 hours if necessary (Col. Follock arranging about electric light and emergency lighting if necessary).

5) President of the Court : M.E. Maroni - 9 judges will sit and 5 other reserve judges to remain in attendance.

6) Separate room for witnesses available. 24 witnesses to be produced - they will be taken direct from their rooms with police passes in 5 cars to be found by AMG police (Col. Follock has this in hand) *prisoner* *guard*

7) Separate room at opposite end of the courtroom for prisoner.

8) In event of any ugly situation he can be withdrawn immediately into separate ante room - door locked and barricaded and shut off entirely from the court.

9) All persons having business in the case will have special police card issued by nestore.

10) Only 50 members of the pub will be admitted, who will be chosen

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- 5) President of the Court : M.E. Maroni - 9 judges will sit and 3 other reserves judges to remain in attendance.
- 6) Separate room for witnesses available. 24 witnesses to be produced - they will be taken direct from their rooms with police passes in 3 cars to be found by AMG police (Col. Follock has this in hand) *prison guards*
- 7) Separate room at opposite end of the courtroom for prisoner.
- 8) In event of any ugly situation he can be withdrawn immediately into separate ante room - door locked and barricaded and shut off entirely from the court.
- 9) All persons having business in the case will have special police card issued by nestore.
- 10) Only 50 members of the pub will be admitted, who will be chosen through Italian Govt. by leaders of the parties. Members of the public subject to search on entry.
- 11) All unnecessary doors in the building closed and locked.
- 12) Italian Press limited and issued with special police pass by nestore.
- 13) Allied Press - 25 reservations made by special tickets which will be handed to Col. Poletti for distribution through P.R.O.
- 14) Three or four special reservations for senior allied officers if necessary.

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15) Italian Govt. have asked through President of the Court to refrain from filming the case unless the Allies feel that this should be done, in which case they have no objection, but they prefer it not to be done.

16) The President suggests only 3 or not more than 5 cameramen to handle a few shots only.

17) No radio.

18) No relatives of victims. Prisoner is not on trial for murder of victims but for high treason against the State.

19) Only a few Allied officers will be present:
Maj. Coxhead on duty below, at foot of stairs.

It is recommended that only those Allied officers with real business be admitted.

20) Chief of Public Safety will be with Questore on duty in Courtroom. There will be police control room outside: Tel. 55236. Downstairs telephone in courtyard No. 51929.

21) A.M.G. Police: One officer in Court
" with Camuso
" at foot of stairs (Maj. Coxhead)
" patrolling outside

22) Regina Coeli only 500 yds. away and prisoner will be brought from prison to place of trial early tomorrow morning - 20th Sept. before dawn.

23) Civil police arrangements:

Not yet completed but:

200 for cordons outside
100 patrolling back of building and grounds
50 in gardens opposite
100 mounted outside
50 in corridors
50 in vicinity of prisoner and his detention room
100 reserves.

Reserves at Questura. Tel. 481663.

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Pollock going over these arrangements with Questore later tonight. They will all be in position by 7 a.m. 20th Sept. 1944.

24) Military:

- a) Col. Dodgeon G-3 R.A.C. Liaison officer for Rome Command will be in close touch with Pollock throughout.
- b) No military will be in evidence anywhere near the court unless grave emergency arises when matter will be reported to Col. Colletti R.C.

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c) Col. Dodgeon is arranging for military police reserves at Regina Coeli prison and others at 5th Canadian Hospital (parachute troop 100), plus some military police if necessary.

25) All the above arrangements have the approval of the President of the Court of Appeal, Justice and Officer in charge of C.C.R.R.



J.R. POLLOCK
Lt. Col.
Chief, Public Safety
REGION IV.

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J. R. POLLOCK
Lt. Col.
Chief, Public Safety
REGION IV.

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HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED MILITARY GOV. - ITALY
REGION IV
APO 394

9/11

File 27

Regional Public Safety HQ.
18th Sept. 1944.

SUBJECT: Disorder at Palazzo di Giustizia - 18th Sept. 1944 -
Caruso Trial.

TO : Col. C. Polatti, Regional Commissioner.
Copy to Capt. Stone, Acting Chief Commissioner
General Brown, Rome Commander.

FACTS BRIEFLY.

1. The trial of Pietro CARUSO (45) ex-Chief of Police, Rome, was due to commence at 8:30 a.m. 18th September, 1944, at the Palazzo di Giustizia.
2. Considerable publicity had been given to the case and special police arrangements had been made.
3. Considerable public disorder occurred inside the Court. At 9:30 a.m. I advised the President of the Court to adjourn the case in the interest of public order.

4. Whilst order was being restored inside the Court, an important witness of the case, Dr. Donato CARRETTA, ex-Governor of Regina Coeli prison, who had been removed from office by AMG. police some weeks ago was seized by an infuriated mob outside the building. The mob inflicted severe violence on Dr. Carretta; he was thrown over the wall into the Tiber River, then retrieved from the river and taken by the crowd to Regina Coeli prison, where he was hung, strung up by the feet, until cut down, when he was certified dead from fractured skull and multiple injuries.

DETAILS AS FOLLOWS:

Brief history of Caruso:

5. Age 45, born at Naples, formerly a Consul of the Fascist Portuaria Militia at Trieste. Appointed Chief of Police for Rome on 1st Feb. 1944, being regarded as the best man "entirely faithful to the Fascist Republic."
6. As soon as he took up office he became ruthless, gathered around him a number of close collaborators, most of whom fled before our arrival in Rome on 4th/5th June, 1944. Caruso's work found favour and praise from Fascist Government - he was personally congratulated by Mussolini who termed him "my faithful Masters."

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6. As soon as he took up office he became ruthless, gathered around him a number of close collaborators, most of whom fled before our arrival in Rome on 4th/5th June, 1944. Caruso's work found favour and praise from Fascist Government - he was personally congratulated by Mussolini who termed him "my faithful questore."

7. On 24th March, 1944, Caruso submitted the names of 50 persons to the German Command. These persons were shot and only last week their bodies were recovered from the Ardeatine Caves.

8. Caruso fled north with retreating Germans on the eve of our entry into Rome, and took with him a large quantity of valuables, including questura property, e.g. Gold bars (obviously jewellery melted down) rings, watches, gold and silver jewellery, pearl ear-rings, a large number of bonds and over half a million lire in notes - total value worth at least eight or nine million liras.

9. By a trick of fate his car was extensively damaged by mine or bombing and he sustained a fractured leg and was taken to a nearby hospital with his valuables under an assumed name.

10. On 14th June, 1944, I received information from the partisan group that he was lying at Regio, being guarded by Patrio. I sent for him. He was brought back under police escort and for several weeks has been kept in Regina Coeli prison infirmary recovering from serious leg injuries. Practically the whole of the loot was recovered intact, and I passed this over with all papers in the case to the Questore. The official document signed by Caruso setting out the names of victims to be passed over to the Germans was also confiscated and handed over to the Italian authorities. In prison Caruso admitted to me that he signed that document.

BRIEF HISTORY OF CASENTIA: Killed by the mob on 18th September, 1944.

11. About 45 years of age, with Fascist background. Was prison governor on our arrival in Rome. There were mixed opinions about him but Col. Poletti ordered me to remove him on 15th July, 1944 and this was done. He was not arrested but simply removed from his post. He had been called by the prosecution as a witness at the trial of Caruso.

POLICE ARRANGEMENTS FOR TRIAL - 18th September, 1944.

12. Owing to the strong public feeling against Caruso, the following police arrangements were made:

Felice Giustini Interior - 105 P.S. officers and men
100 CC.M.

205

Exterior - 103 P.S. officers and men
and CC.M.
10 P.S. mounted
10 CC.M.

123

Regina Coeli

22 P.S. officers and men
with machine guns &
hand grenades
4 motorcycles
2 laries

22

Police reserves ready for alarm
at other places

200

TOTAL 550

The Questore Barnabini was in charge of the Police arrangements.

DISORDERLY SCENE THE PALAZZO DI GIUSTINIA

13. Unfortunately most of the entrances to the Palazzo di Giustini were open to the public, and it is estimated that 5000 to 6000 at least swarmed into the build-

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Palazzo Giustizia:	Interior -	105 P.S. officers and men	205
		100 CC.RR.	
	Exterior -	103 P.S. officers and men and CC.RR.	
		10 P.S. mounted	123
		10 CC.RR.	
Regina Coeli	-	22 P.S. officers and men with machine guns & hand grenades	
		4 motorcycles	22
		2 lorries	
Police reserves ready for alarm at other places			200
		TOTAL	550

The Questore Morazzini was in charge of the Police arrangements.

DISORDER INSIDE THE PALAZZO DI GIUSTIZIA

13. Unfortunately most of the entrances to the Palazzo di Giustizia were open to the public, and it is estimated that 5000 to 6000 at least swarmed into the building between 8:30 and 9:00 a.m. -- they were in the corridors, upstairs, downstairs - in fact all over the building.

14. At 9:30 a.m. I received a message from Rome Command about the disorder and I at once went to the Court where the trial was to take place. The place was in a complete uproar and it was packed with screaming and yelling civilians, witnesses, court officials, and relatives of Ardeatine Caves victims. The two balconies above were crowded, and I estimate there were 500 to 700 people at least cramming into this fairly small courtroom. Between 40 to 50 police were present but were completely powerless and had no control over the public.

15. I conferred with Col. Dodgeon and we agreed that to introduce military would only make matters worse.

16. I ensured that there was an adequate guard on the person of Caruso and he was kept safe in another part of the building under strong guard.

- 3 -

17. I suggested the President of the Court that it would be unwise from a public point of view to attempt to open the case, and I made an announcement to the public present that the case would be postponed. With considerable difficulty I established some sort of order in the court and removed all the public except essential witnesses. There were then several thousand civilians swarming the corridors outside and it took over an hour to clear them out of the building.

DISORDER OUTSIDE THE PALAZZO DI GIUSTIZIA

18. Whilst I was handling the inside situation, and preventing the mob from smashing down doors and getting at Varuso, there was trouble outside the building.

19. Carretta who as said above, was a witness, was seized by a mob of at least 100 strong, who used considerable violence on the unfortunate man. He was dragged and kicked unconscious, thrown down the stairs and placed in a taxi cab outside. The driver, however, refused to take him away.

20. Carretta was dragged from the cab, again subjected to violence, dragged across the road and thrown into the Tiber River. It is said that some person with an oar kept on striking the body in the water. Carretta was apparently dragged out of the river and taken by some means to Regina Coeli prison where he was hung up by the feet, tied with rope. He was quickly cut down however, and the body taken inside the prison entrance. I arrived at the prison at 12:30 p.m. and was present with the Procuratore when the body was examined by Doctor Alfredo Monaco, Prison surgeon, who pronounced life extinct, death being caused by fracture of skull and multiple head and body injuries. The body was removed later to the mortuary at Varano Cemetery, San Lorenzo, where I arranged an adequate CC.BR. Guard.

21. Military police remained on reserve at the prison - were not called in but held in reserve to safeguard the security wing of the prison where over 200 security prisoners are held by G-2 of S.A.C.

SUGGESTIONS FOR NEXT HEARING.

22. At 4:00 p.m. 18th September, 1944, I submitted a separate list containing suggestions for general arrangements at the resumed trial which should not take place tomorrow. In accordance with orders I will personally supervise the arrangement with Major Coxhead.

CONCLUSION

23. The whole trouble was not insufficient policing, but bad organization. The courtroom was too large and the whole large building was thrown open to the public, which simply invited trouble. The police lacked leadership and instructions in their duties. These matters will be rectified at the next hearing.

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SECTION IV.

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9/11

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394
ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION

File

1A

20 Sep 44

SUBJECT : Pietro Caruso's Trial.

TO : Public Safety

Grijalva

Enclosed please find a letter to the Prime Minister and some photographs taken during the lynching of Carotta. Would you please forward these to the Public Safety Officer of Region IV.

G.R. UERJOHN, Brig.
V.P. Admin Section

Ext 525
GRU/jwf

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