

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785017

ACC

10000/109/1668

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785017

10000/109/1668

TARANTO DISTURBANCES
FEB. - OCT. 1944

TRANSLATIONS

TO MINISTRY OF INTERIOR - WIRE NO. 10245

FROM MARTINA FRANCA, 2 AUGUST 1944, 1100 hrs, RECEIVED 3 AUG.,
0400 hrs.

No. 402.

Today, August 1st, 1500 hrs, one platoon of about 50 French Degaulist sailors commanded by three officers and armed with sub-machine guns arrived on trucks in the square of Martina Franca. Platoon commander went home of chief of local communist Party, Prof. Carucci, and obliged him to lead him to homes of seven main town Authorities, Sindaco (Mayor), public safety Commissar, Priest, Carabinieri Commander, etc., all of which should have been taken and shot down tomorrow as reprisal for killing of French sailor reported with note 74/183 of 29 July.

Prof. Carucci accompanied platoon to Carabinieri barracks which, in the meanwhile, had taken defence precautions. On request to open door of barracks and deliver the Section Commander for above said reprisal purposes, CWO Campolmi refused, inviting the French to keep quiet and to wait. Whereupon a French officer replied with several pistol shots, and immediately ordered to open fire against the barracks and to knock down the door. The Carabinieri reacted with hand grenades and succeeded in repulsing the attackers, who fled first to the public gardens, and then drove off on their trucks towards Taranto, taking with them three of their own men seriously wounded. On Italian side five casualties, of which only one seriously wounded among civilians who had helped in defending barracks. Military division directly informed took safety measures in order to meet possible return of Degaulist reinforcements, and detached patrols to defend Carabinieri barracks and military HQs.

It looks likely that accidents should occur again. Allied Police, warned by telephone, has already arrived.

Sgd Raffaele CAMPOLMI, CWO,
RR.CC. Section Commander

TRANSLATION

WIRE NO. 10244 - COPY

FROM TARANTO, 2 AGUST, 2130 HRS, ARRIVED 3 AUGUST, 0400 HRS.

TO: WAR MINISTRY - ROME

NAVY MINISTRY - ROME

MINISTRY OF INTERIOR - ROME

No. 90/22. Serious accidents which have taken place in the past days at Taranto and in Taranto province between French troops and Italian sailors and civilians have roused feelings which forecast more serious troubles.

In the afternoon of yesterday French armed troops unit under command of three officers went to Martina Franca (Taranto), aiming to take hostages, following killing of a French sailor; they assailed Royal Carabinieri barracks, and were thrown back by Carabinieri and civilians. Five Italians and three French were wounded.

Other facts of violence have taken place in the Commune of Crispiano (Taranto); Italian and Allied Authorities, upon warning, have taken safety measures in order to avoid that such aggressions should be repeated.

Carabinieri posts in Martina Franca and Crispiano have been reinforced.

Urgent measures are requested from responsible Authorities to prevent further troubles.

CARDACI, Maj., Royal Carabinieri

1884

TRANSLATION

COPY OF WIRE NO. 10243

FROM TARANTO 2 AUG. 1944, RECEIVED 3 AUG. 0300 HRS

TO MINISTRY OF INTERIOR - PUBLIC SAFETY DEPARTMENT - ROME

No. 02220

Reference dispatch dated 21 July 1944, I inform you that on the 21, the 22 and the 23 of last month also in Martina Franca several accidents have occurred, caused by French soldiers and ended with the killing of a French soldier by an unknown Italian marine. Last Sunday 30 July, more serious accidents between French and military have occurred in Taranto, along the crowded seawalk. Two civilians who were passing by or looking on were killed and four others seriously injured. Four Italian soldiers were wounded. French casualties are not known.

We have been informed that other troubles caused by French soldiers have also occurred in the surrounding country and in the village named Statte, where several people were stopped, searched, insulted, slapped and eventually robbed by the French.

On the 30th, some Carabinieri, who were passing in a lorry near the French camp at Martina Franca were insulted and slapped.

On the night of the 15th, several farmers were compelled to defend themselves from Moroccan troops, who wanted to force their way into a farm near Bellavista. Italian sailors intervened from a station nearby, and several shots were fired on both sides. Some people were injured. Yesterday afternoon 40 French soldiers led by 3 officers called at the Carabinieri barracks in Martina Franca, to carry out reprisals for the killing of French soldiers on 21 July. Shots were fired and hand grenades thrown. 5 French and Italians were wounded. After the intervention of the Allied Police, the French drove off, threatening to come back in greater strength.

In agreement with the Allies, necessary precautions have been taken. ON ALLIED REQUEST, ITALIAN MILITARY AUTHORITIES HAVE ORDERED OUR CARABINIERI AND POLICEMEN PATROLS TO CIRCULATE UNARMED. Also civilians have been prohibited from carrying weapons of any kind in Taranto. I shall keep you informed.

Sgd PREFECT FESTA

785017

ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
INTER OFFICE MEMO

*B. Please prepare
reply in consultation
with legal
21 OCT. 1944*

From: Office of Chief of Staff

SUBJECT: Taranto Disturbances.

FILE No. 3618/COS

TO: Civil Affairs Section.

20 October 1944

Attached Civil Affairs Branch file 359/CA, subject as above, is forwarded for retention together with letter JN/SM from office of the French Representative, this Headquarters, dated 19 Oct 44, for appropriate action please.

*1 Delegation/14030/PS
2 letter to Southern Region for
Paris on 30th*

1 Galtier 1882
Chief Staff Officer,
To the Chief of Staff.

785017

~~36-100~~ 103
HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE FRENCH REPRESENTATIVE
APO 394

ROME, October 19th 1944
JN/SM

19 OCT Recd

to : CHIEF of STAFF , A.C.C. H.Q.
subject : Disturbances at TARANTO

- 1°/ On July 31th 1944, some disturbances occurred in TARANTO in between French and Italian sailors. The Italians were armed, the French were not. As a result, two French sailors were killed and, at least, ten wounded.
- 2°/ To enquiries made by the French Admiral in Command, Admiral MORGAN answered that the Italian sailors would be tried by an Allied Military Court.
- 3°/ The Minister of the French Navy Department has shown deep interest in this case and instructed the French Representative in A.C.C. to find out what sentence had been imposed on these sailors.
- 4°/ In a note dated October 7th, Commodore PALMER informed this office that the Italian sailors who took part in the disturbances of Taranto were tried and sentenced to one month's imprisonment. " This, under Italian law, is " the maximum punishment for ' using firearms in a public " place ', which was the only charge which could be framed " against the offenders. It was not found possible to " place the blame of the death of the French sailors on " any particular individuals".
- 5°/ At the Vice-Presidents' meeting of October 13th, the Assistant to French Representative stated that General de SEVIN felt that the above sentence would certainly cause a very unfavorable impression in Paris.
- 6°/ It would therefore be deeply appreciated if all possible information concerning the disturbances of Taranto and

.../...

..... the trial could be sent to this office in view
of being able to give further information to higher French
Authorities if the case should arise./.

For X. de SEVIN, General A.C.
French Representative

Jean de Roue
L5

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HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
R.C. AND M.C. SECTION
APO 394

102

Ref: 359/102/OA

6 September 1944.

SUBJECT: Disarming of CC.RR.

TO : Admin. Section (for Public Safety Sub-Commission)

1. We refer to our letter of 25 August 44. Ref: 359/100/OA to Regional Commissioner Southern Region.

2. Attached is an answer to that enquiry, a letter dated 3 Sept. 44. Ref: R/1011 from the Regional Commissioner, Southern Region.

3. It would appear that the problem has now been solved.

4. However, so that we may have complete information it is requested that Public Safety Sub-Commission make an enquiry of G.O.O., CC.RR., Rome as the Regional Commissioner, Southern Region suggests.

1 47th on 400/10030/2/PS to ECR.

2 Reply 1200 on 4Ath

3 50th to RPSO S

4 52th reply ECR all armed.

W.G.S. Dollard
Major

for NORMAN H. FISKE,
Colonel.
Deputy Executive Commissioner.

1880

INCL: 1

785017

359 & C.A.B. 101

HEADQUARTERS
SOUTHERN REGION, ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394, U. S. ARMY

R/1011

3 September 1944

5 SEP 1944

SUBJECT: Disarming of CCRR.

TO: Headquarters, Allied Control Commission, APO 394.
(Attention: R.C. & M.G. Section).

1. Reference your letter 359/100/CA of 25 August 1944.
2. I understand that the Taranto CCRR were authorized to perform duties with arms on or before 15 August 1944 and that the Taranto incidents may now be deemed to be closed. I can add nothing to the Region 2 report of 3 August 1944.
3. I have no knowledge of any other case of the disarming of Carabinieri in this region and do not believe it has occurred - but I am making inquiries through CCRR channels. Possibly an inquiry from GOC, CCRR, Rome might bring the light instances which have been reported direct.

CET/jh

Ch. J. J.
C. E. TEMPERLEY,
Colonel,
Regional Commissioner.



see 102

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100

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
R.C. AND M.G. SECTION
APO 394

Ref/359/100/CA

25 August 1944

SUBJECT: Disarming of G.C.R.R.

TO : Regional Commissioner, Southern Region.

1. Attached are (a) a copy of a letter dated 3 August 1944 Ref/PS/22 from the Regional Public Safety Officer Region II; (b) a letter dated 14 August 1944 Ref/702/105/CA from the Executive Commissioner to No. 3 District. 96-97
2. The Administrative Section A.C.C. has requested R.C. and M.G. Section for information about occurrences in which Carabinieri have been disarmed.
3. They have suggested that if charges against the conduct of the G.C.R.R. are made the court of enquiry with possibly a U.S. or British Officer sitting on it should be convened to investigate any charges. 95
4. The attached letter from the Executive Commissioner to No. 3 District makes clear the wish of A.C.C. to have Carabinieri reported as police officers.
5. Before it is determined whether the matter should be represented to A.A.I. it is requested that you furnish R.C. and M.G. Section as soon as possible with a full up to date report on any disarming of G.C.R.R. in your region.

W.G.S. Doherty 1876
per
NORMAN E. FISKE.
Colonel
Deputy Executive Commissioner.

Copy to: Admin. Section,
Public Safety.

INCL: copy of letter 702/95/CA
copy of letter PS/22

785017

CONFIDENTIAL

99

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
R.C. AND M.C. SECTION
APO 394

Ref/359/99/CA

19 August 1944.

SUBJECT: Disturbance by French Troops.

TO : Regional Commissioner, Region II, A.C.C.

1. This is to acknowledge your letter of 6 August 1944 Ref/18/1 on the subject of disturbances caused largely by French troops.

702/105 2. Our latest action was taken by the Executive Commissioner who wrote a letter on 14 August 1944 to No. 3 District requesting them to support the Carabinieri, and to keep troops in order.

3. The question in general of the behaviour of French troops has been referred to higher authority and we have been informed that the French Command is as desirous as we are to prevent such conditions.

702/100 4. A report through A.C.C. Headquarters to the C in C, AFM, dated 11 August 1944 brought us a series of documents from the Commanding General C.E.F. describing the relationship between the Corps and the local population.

5. This documentary report gives examples of severe punishments by the Corps of proved offenders.

6. With the transferring of the main bodies of French troops to other theatres, even local infractions should not occur.

W.A.S. DOLLAR
for
NORMAN E. FISKE
Colonel 1874
Deputy Executive Commissioner.

3592
98
CONFIDENTIAL

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
REGION II

Ref : AS/1/

6 August 1944

Subject: Disturbances by French Troops.

15 AUG 1944

To : R.C. & M.G. SECTION, HQTS. A.C.C. (Colonel FISKE).

1. Herewith is a picture of the situation concerning disturbances caused very largely by French troops.

2. Of course it will get worse unless Troop Commanders from top down do not take immediate corrective action. They and no one else can stop it.

3. It can readily be seen the serious, deleterious effect such action on the part of any portion of the Allied Command is producing on grain campaign and the general reestablishment of Italian administrative authority.

4. I therefore strongly recommend that this matter be brought immediately to the attention of the Allied High Command.

John T. Bellars
JOHN T. BELLARS
Colonel, Infantry
Regional Commissioner

B/ my letter to Gen. Lamm

AS/14/16 95

top letter in

attached 1873

AS/14/18

see 99

CONFIDENTIAL

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
REGION 2

Ref: PS/ 22 /

3 August 1944

SUBJECT: - Disturbances - French Naval and Military Personnel.

TO : - Chief, Public Safety Sub-Commission, A.C.C. APO 394.

Recently in Taranto and Brindisi Provinces, there have been numerous serious disturbances involving French soldiers or sailors on one side and Italian sailors and soldiers and civilians on the other side.

On 24 July, 1944 a copy of a CC.RR. report concerning a disturbance at Taranto between French Colonial troops and Italian sailors and civilians was forwarded to you. This incident occurred on the evening of 20 July and resulted in the following casualties:

Killed	1 Italian civilian.
Wounded	3 Italian civilians.
	11 Italian sailors

French casualties are unknown.

Taranto was placed "out of bounds" to French troops.

On Sunday July 31, 1944, at Taranto, drunken French sailors are alleged to have assaulted Italian children who were annoying them. This action led to a fight between Italian sailors and French sailors. An Italian Navy patrol appeared on the scene, and after firing a murning volley in the air, fired into the group of French sailors:

The casualties were:

Killed 5 French sailors.

Ten Italian sailors, members of the ^{patrol} patrol, are being held under arrest by Italian Naval Authorities.

In accordance with instructions from the Area Commander, Italian patrols including CC.RR., are performing duty without firearms.

This report was received orally during a visit to the P.C., Taranto on 2 August 1944.

It has not yet been confirmed by a written report.

On 22 July, 1944 at Martina Franca, Taranto Province, a French soldier was killed by an Italian sailor. This is alleged to have been caused by an attempt on the part of the French soldier to kiss an Italian girl.

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CC.RR. report that on 1 August, 50 armed French under command of three officers arrived in Martina Franca and demanded that the following be produced and turned over to them, who (according to the CC.RR.) were to be shot the next morning as reprisals for the killing of the French mariner: Major, Public Security Commissioner, Parish Priest, Commander of CC.RR., etc. The CC.RR. refused to comply. The Carabinieri claim that the French fired a volley at the Caserma, to which they replied with bombs, and that the French then dispersed.

I saw 23 bullet holes on the cater and inner walls of the Caserma and adjoining residence. Two bullets entered the second floor (1st floor, Italian) window of the Caserma and two entered a window of the adjoining residence.

Confidential
...

- 2 -

9b
An ACC officer who happened to arrive in town during the disturbance, stated that there was spasmodic firing for at least thirty minutes.

Casualties were as follows:

Killed	none
Seriously wounded	1 Italian Civilian
	3 French mariners
Slightly wounded	2 Italian Civilians
	1 Italian soldier.

Numerous reports of less importance alleging misconduct in Taranto Province on the part of French troops have been received. Also there are reports of disturbances by British and Polish troops, including the killing of an Italian at Taranto on 24 July, 1944 by a South African soldier.

Reports have been received of eleven incidents at Brindisi, between 24 - 28 July, inclusive, of disturbances between French soldiers and Italian sailors or civilians. These incidents include an attempt to enter a private house in search of wine and women, consuming wine at wineshops and threatening with weapons when pay is asked, forcibly carrying an Italian away in a truck, altercations with Italian sailors and civilians, robbery, disarming Questura agents, etc. In every case except one, daggers, firearms or hand grenades were either displayed threateningly or used. Casualties reported for all eleven incidents were as follows:

	25 July	Hurt
		5 Italian sailors
		1 Italian soldier
		2 civilians
28 July,	Killed	2 civilians
	Wounded	7 Italian Military
		2 Civilians.

Brindisi has been placed out of bounds to French troops.

It must be borne in mind that these reports come from Italian sources, but "where there is so much smoke, there must be some fire".

The Control of Allied Military Personnel is essentially the responsibility of the Military Commanders. The commander of the 52 Area is aware of the situation and, I am informed by P.C. Taranto, taking appropriate action, including investigation of the incidents and steps to insure punishment of offenders, regardless of nationality.

The A.P.M., 52 Area, informed me that on the morning of 2 August he found armed Italian soldiers, acting under orders, blocking and guarding the entrance to Martina Franca.

785017

Province on the part of French troops have been received. Also there are reports of disturbances by British and Polish troops, including the killing of an Italian at Taranto on 24 July, 1944 by a South African soldier.

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The A.P.M., 52 Area, informed me that on the morning of 2 August he found armed Italian soldiers, acting under orders, blocking and guarding the entrance to Martina Franca.

They were withdrawn upon his orders.

Lloyd E. Kelly
LLOYD E. KELLY
Lt. Col. Inf.

Regional Public Safety Officer

Copies to:

D.P.M. 2 District
Regional Commissioner, Reg. II

Original

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
R.C. & M.G. SECTION
APO 394

14th August 1944

Ref/702 /CA.

SUBJECT : Conduct of French Troops.

TO : No. 3 District.

1. I forward a report dated the 5th of August 1944 together with the two enclosures referred to in paragraph 4 of the report which have been received at this HQ from the Regional Commissioner, Region III (Campania). I know that you will do your best to keep these difficult troops in order and I should be most grateful for your assistance in dealing with the two specific instances quoted in the report.

2. The position of the Carabinieri must be up-held if they are to function efficiently as police, and every action such as this which passes unchecked must undermine their authority.

M.S. LUSH
Brigadier,
Executive Commissioner.

Copy to: Admin, Section.

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DISTWO

ADD RE

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14 AUG 44

CONFIDENTIAL

PRIORITY

Civil Affairs Branch

SUBJECT DISTURBANCES TARANTO AND INCIDENT AT MARINA FRANCA PAPER TO
DIRECTOR FOR ACTION TO BE TAKEN ADD RE PAPER FORWARD EARLIEST FULL REPORT
ON DISTURBANCES AND OTHERS LEADING UP TO EXAMINING OF CIRCUMSTANCES.

1869

Public Safety Sub-Commission

L. T. MONTAGNE
1st DE. AND
ADJUTANT

Ref: 159/CA
1/60 3001

11th August 1944

SUBJECT: Behaviour of French Troops - TARANTO.

13 AUG Recd

To : Chief of Italian General Staff.

1. On receipt of your letter P.M. 135,11 dated 5th August, I caused enquiries to be made regarding the disturbances in TARANTO and BRINDISI Provinces. Preliminary reports show that a number of serious disturbances involving French soldiers and sailors on one side and Italian soldiers, sailors and civilians on the other side, did take place and that casualties were inflicted on both sides.

2. It was also reported that the Area Commander, in order to avoid further casualties, gave orders that the CG.MR should perform their duties without arms. Although in principle I agree with you that the CG.MR should not be deprived of their arms, I think we must leave the decision in these cases to the Military Commander on the spot and I have no doubt that he consulted representatives of the Allied Control Commission before giving this order.

3. I expect shortly to have a full report from the Regional Commissioner of the area concerned and I have little doubt that by now the arms have been restored to the CG.MR.

4. I understand that BRINDISI has been placed out of bounds to French troops.

1868

54807

Hq ACC - Sec'y Gen.
DISPATCHED
Date Time <u>13 Aug 11.15</u>
Via <u>175</u>
Units <u>APA</u>

HARRY W. STONE
Captain, USNR
Acting Chief Commissioner

Copy to: Adm Sec (Attn. Public Safety Sub-Com).

ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
INTER OFFICE MEMO

From: Office of the Acting Chief Commissioner

SUBJECT: Behavior of French Troops - Taranto

FILE No. A/CC 014.13

TO: Brigadier M. S. Lush

9 August 1944

Attached is translation of letter N. 104521/AV of 5 August from Marshall Messe together with copies of Italian telegrams Nos. 10243, 10244, and 10245.

You will recall copies of these telegrams were handed to you in order that the matter be called to the attention of AAI, District and Sub-Area.

Will you please inform me what action was taken by the Commission in order that I can make reply to Marshal Messe.

WJ
Stone.

1867

4 Incls-
as in para 1. above.

250.1

785017

TRANSLATION

n.104521/AV

P. M. 135, 11

August 5th 1944

COMANDO SUPREMO

Chief of Staff

HQ ACC. APO 394

440 Sec'y Gen.

Rec'd 7 Aug. 1944

By OKR

Dear Captain Stone,

The Minister of the Interior has delivered to me the enclosed copies of certain telegrams about incidents which took place recently in the province of Taranto between French troops, carabinieri, and the civilian population.

I take the liberty to draw your attention on the gravity of such facts and on the consequences which might follow, and especially on the order given by the Allied Authorities that our police troops should go unarmed even when on duty.

I will be most grateful to you, dear Captain, if you will kindly go into the matter and let me know the decisions taken by the Allied Authorities.

Thanking you, I remain,

Yours sincerely,

/s/ IL Maresciallo D'Italia
CAPO DI STATO MAGGIORE GENERALE

(Giovanni Messe)

/s/ G. Messe

Captain Ellery S. Stone

Acting Chief Commissioner of the

Allied Control Commission

APO 394

1866

Trans. / E.C.

TRANSLATION

CDPY OF TELEGRAM n. 10243

FROM TARANTO 2.8.1944 hours 12,30 arrived at 4 on the 3rd.

n. 02220

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR GENERAL DIRECTION SECURITY - ROME

Following my signal p.n. of 21st last I communicate that day 21, 22 and 23 also Martina Franca, there were several incidents caused by French soldiers ending murder French soldier by unknown Italian sailor. Last Sunday July 30th in Taranto as indicated in letter 31 last, on Lungomare crowded with civilians took place other serious incidents between French and Italian soldiers, consequence of which two dead, 4 seriously wounded among passing civilians and spectators, and 4 wounded among Italian soldiers. Losses French soldiers unknown. Informations about incidents caused by French soldiers in neighbouring country and village Statte where several people have been stopped, searched, insulted, beaten and plundered by the said, have also reached us. Day 30 carabinieri passing truck near French camp via Martina Franca were insulted and beaten. Night of 15th of this month, village of Bellavista, several peasants had to defend themselves from Moroccan soldiers who wanted to penetrate by force into farm house. Intervention of Italian sailors neighbouring battery, exchanged shots some wounded. Yesterday afternoon, 40 French soldiers led by 5 officers came barracks carabinieri Martina Franca menacing reprisal for death French soldiers which took place on 21st last month. Exchange of shots and bombs 5 Italian and French wounded. The said soldiers left because of intervention Allied Police threatening to return in greater number. In agreement with Allies necessary measures of precaution have been taken. On request Allies, Italian military authority have decided our rounds, carabinieri and police should go unarmed, and have also forbidden civilians to go about with any arms whatever in town. Will send further news,

PREFECT FESTA

1865

COPY TELEGRAM N. 10214

FROM TARANTO 2.8.1944 hours 21,30 arrived hours 4 of 3rd

WAR DEPARTMENT ROME

NAVY DEPARTMENT ROME

INTERIOR DEPARTMENT ROME

N. 90/22 - serious incidents happened days ago Taranto and province between French troops, sailors and Italian civilians created state of spirits owing to which great confusion can be foreseen.

Yesterday afternoon, party French troops armed, led 3 officers went Marina Franco (Taranto) to take hostages after French sailor dying there attacked by French G.C.R. its components and civilians then reacted driving wounded Italians and 3 French.

Other episode of violence happened municipality Crispiano (Taranto). Italian and Allied authorities warned in time ordered measures of safety should the assault be repeated.

Post Marina Franco and Crispiano reinforced.

Urgent need measures competent commands agreeing to avoid new violence.

MAJOR TR.CO. GARDASI

1864

88

TRANSLATION

COPY

Telegram n. 10216

EXTERIOR DEPARTMENT
CABINET

From Martins France E.C. 1944, hours 11 arrived hours 4 of the 3rd.

INTERIOR DEPARTMENT - ROME
(sub, ps)

n. 102

Hours 13 yo-day august 1st, platoon about 50 French degaulliste sailors, armed with submachine guns led by 3 officers arrived in trucks at piazza Martins France. Their commander went place hedge head local communist section prof. Carucci and obliged him to come down and guide them to the houses of the seven greatest authorities of the place: studio, commissioner, p.s., priest, commander G. R. etc.. who were to be shot the next morning in reprisal of the death of French sailor mentioned telegram 74/183 of 29/7 last. Prof. Carucci went with the platoon to the G. R. barracks which was by then ready for the defense to request to open the door and hand over commander section in reprisal ~~of the death of French sailor~~ answered negatively advising calm and delay. French officer directed some pistol shots at him and gave order to open the fire against barracks which door they tried to throw in. Carabinieri reacted energetically with hand grenades managing to disband the assaulters who fled first in the public gardens, then towards terrace with their own cars, taking with them 3 badly wounded; on the Italian side 5 wounded one only seriously among the civilians who helped to defend the barracks. Military division immediately informed took measures of safety to face any return in greater number of the degaullistes and detached reinforcements to protect G. R. barracks and military seats such incidents likely to happen again. Allied police warned in time by telephone already arrived

Maresciallo Maggiore comandante CAMPORE

1863

Trans /E/e

359
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87

Subject: Disturbances between French Military Personnel
and Italian Civilians and Military Personnel at
Taranto

Rome Aug. 1st 1944

4 AUG Recd

We are calling this Commission's attention ^{to} the
enclosed telegram from the Prefect of Taranto, concerning
a disturbance which took place between French Military
Personnel and Italian Civilian and Military Personnel

We beg this Commission to consider the advisability
of promoting from the competent Allied Military Commands
measures which will prevent such grievous ⁱⁿ accidents
to occur again, and we enclose a copy of the telegram
by which we gave orders to the Prefect of said province.

The Minister

BONOMI

See 93

1862

TELEGRAM

TO THE PREFECT-TARANTO

Rome Aug. 1 1944

REFERRING TO REPORT SENT YOUR EXCELLENCY OF SERIOUS INCIDENT
OCCURRED BETWEEN FRENCH MILITARY PERSONNEL AND ITALIAN
CIVILIANS AND MILITARY PERSONNEL IN THIS TOWN YOUR EXCELLENCY
IS CALLED TO CONSIDER ADVISABILITY PROPOSING ALLIED COMMANDS
ADOPTION EFFICIENT PREVENTIVE MEASURES STOP RECOMMEND YOUR
EXCELLENCY BE WATCHFUL AND TIMELY TAKE ANY MEASURE APT AVOID
NEW DISTURBANCES STOP AM WAITING FOR FURTHER NEWS INFORMATION

MINISTER BONCINI

1861

391
Taranto 31.7 1944

Urgent

TO MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR ROME

TO MINISTER OF WAR ROME

85
Yesterday at 19,30 in Taranto on the Lungomare some French mariners insulted and ^{mis-} ~~ill~~ treated an Italian mariner. A first ^{fight} ~~quarrel~~ ^{en} ~~issued~~ which developed into a larger ^{proportions} ~~uproar~~ as a large number of French mariners intervened. A patrol composed of an Italian sergeant and two infantrymen passing by fired some blank cartridges with their rifles, in order to disperse the fighters. Whereas the French assailed the infantrymen and disarmed them; but two carabinieri and an English Military man who had come to give assistance, succeeded in taking back one of the rifles and in making the other unserviceable. A second ^{riot} ~~uproar~~ took place at the same ^{time} ~~moment~~ ^{ent} in the same street between French and Italian mariners and had serious results owing to the throwing of a grenade by a mariner whose nationality has not been ^{ascertained} ~~certified~~. In the same street a third wrangle took place between French and Italian mariners with the interference even of Civilians. There were several gun shots. As the grenade exploded the English and the Italian Military Police arrived on the spot and were obliged to fire a ^{volley} ~~volley~~ of machine guns, thus reestablishing order. It has not been possible to ^{verify} ~~certify~~ the number of French victims and wounded. Among the Italian Military personnel four were wounded, while among the Civilians there were two dead and four wounded. Their ^{following} ~~data~~ ^{given} are following:

Alberton Ruggero of Giuseppe aged 24 second lieutenant RCT Grecale sergeant RT prevete Paolo of Edoardo, class 1921 sergeant CPS Alessi Giuseppe class 1920 signal man ^{Servid} ~~1860~~ Domenico class 1922. Civilian dead ^{of} ~~or~~ wounded: Desio Giuseppe of Samuele aged 20, dead, Silvestri Angelo of Sergio aged 18, dead, Sorrentino Antonio of Catello aged 20 wounded (progn-

osis kept in (abeyance), Quatta Francesco of the late Raffaele aged 15, wounded, Gigantesco Francesco of the late Cosimo aged 36 wounded, Mainini Benedetto of the late Giovanni aged 58, ^{information} wounded. Complete ~~signalation~~ to the Allied Police. Ministry of Interior and Ministry of War and Ministry of the Navy informed.

Capitano Compagnia Interna Carab. Lupis

CA BR.

1 agosto

1944

8096

Ministero dell'Interno

= Gabinetto =

Divisione
Post. N. 2259 Allegato

Alla COMMISSIONE ALLEATA DI

CONTACOLLO

L O M A

3 AUG Reed

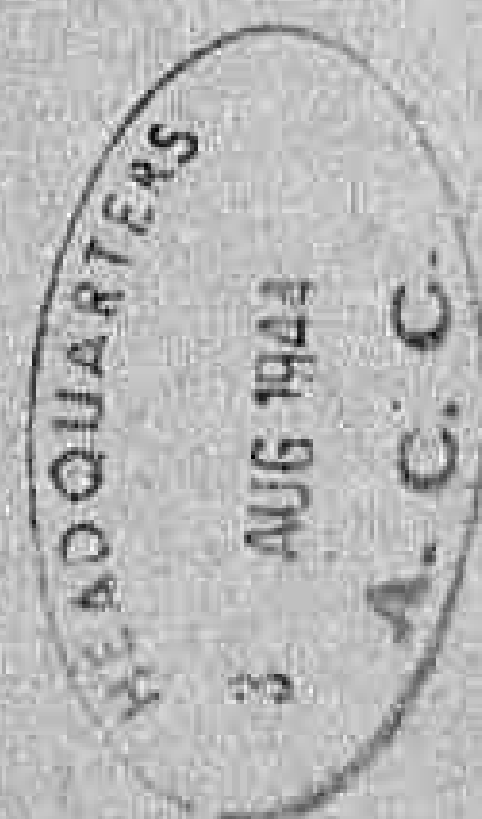
OGGETTO Taranto-Conflitto tra militari francesi e militari

e civili italiani. *French military & civilian
between Taranto
civilian, military &*

Si richiama la particolare attenzione di codesta Commissione sull'unito telegramma del Prefetto di Taranto, relativo a un conflitto verificatosi tra militari francesi e civili e militari italiani.

Nel pregare codesta Commissione di voler esaminare l'opportunità di promuovere da parte dei comandi Comandi Militari Alleati i provvedimenti atti ad evitare il ripetersi di un sì grave incidente, si trasmette copia del telegramma con il quale sono state inviate istruzioni al Prefetto di quella provincia.

IL MINISTERO



W. J. J. J.
1858

Cam/

MODULARIO
I - h - 1590

82
Mod. 897

MINISTERO DELL' INTERNO

OGGETTO

N. _____
TELEGRAMMA

In partenza

indirizzato a

PREFETTO = TALANTO

Roma, li 1 agosto 1944 ore _____

Spedito da

(Testo) RIFERIMENTO SEGNALAZIONE FATTA DA V.E. CIRCA GRAVI IN-
CIDENTI VERIFICATISI FRA MILITARI FRANCESI ET CIVILI ET MILITARI
ITALIANI IN CODESTO CAROLUOGO V.E. EST INVITATA CONSIDERARE OPPOR-
TUNITA' PROPORRE COMANDO ALLEATO ADOZIONE EFFICACI MISURE PREVEN-
TIVE ALT. RACCOMANDASI AT. V.E. ATTENTA VIGILANZA ET IMPIEGO TEMPE-
STIVO OGNI CAUTELA ATTA EVITARE NUOVI CONFLITTI ALT. ATTENDONSI
ULTERIORI NOTIZIE. = MINISTRO BONOMI

DI STATO

D'ORDINE

1857

C o p i a

Mda. 842

81

Ministero dell'Interno

GABINETTO

Telegramma N. 10176

UFFICIO DEL TELEGAFO E DELLA CIFRA

Taranto 31.7.1944 ore 20,30 cop. ore 13 del 1°/8

U r g e n t e

MINISTERO INTERNO = ROMA

MINISTERO GUERRA = ROMA

-Cab. Ps. Pza-

38/146.

Ore 19,30 di ieri in Taranto sulla via Lungomare alcuni marinai francesi insultarono e malmenarono un marinaio italiano. Ne seguiva un primo-tafferuglio che assunse vaste proporzioni per l'intervento di altro numeroso gruppo di marinai francesi. Una ronda composta da un sergente e due fanti italiani che trovavasi a passare sparò in aria alcuni colpi di moschetto allo scopo di disperdere i contendenti. I francesi però aggredirono i fanti disarmandoli ma due carabinieri ed un militare inglese accorsi in aiuto riuscirono a riprendere un moschetto ed a rendere inutilizzabile l'altro.- Altro tafferuglio si verificò nello stesso momento sulla stessa via tra marinai francesi ed italiani con gravi conseguenze per il lancio di una bomba a mano da parte di marinaio la cui nazionalità non si è potuta accertare. Ancora sulla stessa via si accese un'altra rissa sempre tra marinai francesi e marinai italiani con partecipazione anche di civili. Furono sparati vari colpi di rivoltella. Contemporaneamente allo scoppia della bomba a mano giunse la polizia militare

Taranto 31.7.1944 ore 20,30 cop. ore 13 del 1°/8

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1856

/./

Mod. 8-22

- 2 -

Ministero dell'Interno

GABINETTO

UFFICIO DEL TELEGAFO E DELLA CIFRA

Telegramma N.

si è accertato il numero delle vittime e dei feriti francesi. Fra i militari italiani vi sono stati quattro feriti mentre tra i civili si lamentano due morti e quattro feriti dei quali seguono le generalità: Alberton Ruggiero di Giuseppe anni 24 sottotenente RGT Grecale sergente RT Prevete Paolo di Edoardo classe 1921 sergente CPS Alessi Giuseppe classe 1920 segnalatore Servidio Domenico classe 1922. Civili rimasti uccisi o feriti: Desio Giuseppe di Samuele anni 20 deceduto Silvestri Angelo di Sergio anni 18 deceduto Sorrentino Antonio di Catello anni 20 ferito prognosi riservata Quatta Francesco fu Raffaele anni 15 ferito Gigantesco Francesco fu Cosimo anni 36 ferito Mainini Benedetto fu Giovanni anni 58 ferito. Segnalazione completa Polizia Alleata Ministero Interno et Guerra et Marina informati.

Capitano Compagnia Interna Carab. Lupis

2034

si bile accertare il numero delle vittime e dei feriti francesi. Fra i militari italiani vi sono stati quattro feriti mentre tra i civili si lamentano due morti e quattro feriti dei quali seguono le generalità Alberton Ruggiero di Giuseppe ann 24 sottotenente RCT Grecale sergente RT Prevete Paolo di Edoardo classe 1921 sergente CPS Alessi Giuseppe classe 1920 segnalatore Servidio Domenico classe 1922. Civili rimasti uccisi e feriti: Desio Giuseppe di Samuele ann 20 deceduto Silvestri Angelo di Sergio ann 18 deceduto Sorrentino Antonio di Catello ann 20 ferito prognosi riservata Quatta Francesco fu Raffaele ann 15 ferito Gigantesco Francesco fu Cosimo ann 36 ferito Mainini Benvenuto fu Giovanni ann 58 ferito. Segnalazione completa Polizia Alleata Ministero Interno et Guerra et Marina informati.

Capitano Compagnia Interna Carab. Lupis

2034

1855

HEADQUARTERS,
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION,
APO 394

Regional Control and Military Government Section.

28 June 1944

Ref: 258/4/41 (Done on Temp. J)

SUBJECT: Disturbance at TARAKO.

TO : Acting Chief Commissioner.

1. I should like to clarify the position regarding the telegram received from PUALI, TARAKO, relating to the unofficial strike at TARAKO.

2. The telegram was received by this Section and Economic Section on 24th June. On the same day a copy was sent to the Labour Sub-Commission from the Economic Section and an officer of this Section discussed the matter with the Economic Section who stated that representations were not expected.

3. The telegram was repeated to me in NAME by my Section in order to keep me informed. The telegram forwarded with the information that the Labour Sub-Commission were dealing with the matter in consultation with the Economic Section.

4. If you will read pages 1-5 of this file, I think you will agree that everything possible has been done to keep the Economic Section and the Labour Sub-Commission fully informed and that no action has been taken by this Section except that my Staff Officer here thought it fit to inform me personally in NAME.

1834

Brigadier,
Executive Commissioner.

TO : Acting Chief Commissioner.

1. I should like to clarify the position regarding the telegram received from RUMIL, ENZANO, relating to the unofficial strike at TARIQU.
2. The telegram was received by this Section and Economic Section on 21st June. On the same day a copy was sent to the Labour Sub-Commission from the Economic Section and an officer of this Section discussed the matter with the Economic Section who stated that representations were not expected.
3. The telegram was requested to me in 1954 by my Section in order to keep me informed. The telegram transmitted with the information that the Labour Sub-Commission were dealing with the matter in consultation with the Economic Section.
4. If you will read pages 1-3 of this file, I think you will agree that everything possible has been done to keep the Economic Section and the Labour Sub-Commission fully informed and that no action has been taken by this Section except that my Staff Officer here thought it fit to inform me personally in 1954.

REU/JC.

1854

Brigadier,
Executive Commissioner.

Copy to: Vice President,
Economic Section.

SECRET

18

6691

ACC MAIN (Civil Affairs Branch)

June 25, 1944

SECRET

Vapor 165 - Shipp

PRIORITY

ROME AREA COMMAND FOR ACC ROME

PERSONAL FOR BRIG LUSH PD PAREN TO ROME AREA COMMAND FOR ACC ROME FROM ACC MAIN PAREN
FOLLOWING FROM FOTALL PD QUOTE UNOFFICIAL STRIKE INVOLVING ONE THOUSAND MEN STARTED IN
DOCKYARD TODAY FOR MORE FOOD ^{OR} ~~WAGES~~ PD PAREN TWO PAREN MINISTRY HAS PROMISED
AN INCREASE IN WAGES OF ONE TWO TO ONE FIVE PERCENT ON ONE JULY PD PAREN THREE PAREN
TOSIS YARD ARE ON STRIKE FOR INCREASE OF THREE ZERO LIRE A DAY ALL ROUND PD PAREN
FOUR PAREN RAMIREZ NEW UNDER SHOWWEARY VICE ALBAGO IS COMING DOWN PD PAREN FIVE PAREN
IT IS HOPED THAT WORK WILL BE RESUMED TOMORROW TWO ONE JUNE PD PAREN SIX PAREN MOST
OF THESE MEN ARE RECEIVING CIVILIAN AID RATION FOR HEAVY WORKERS PD PAREN SEVEN PAREN
CHARLIE IN CHARLIE HED NAFIES PASS TO ADMIRAL MORGAN PD UNQUOTE PD LABOUR SUB COMMISSION
ARE DEALING ENERGETICALLY IN CONSULTATION ECONOMIC SECTION AND INSISTING NO REPEAT NO
INCREASE IN WAGES BE MADE

[Handwritten signature]

Encl. Sec. (Info).

SECRET

ROGER H. 1858
Capt AGD
Deputy Adjutant

1600
U. S. SECRET
Equals British SECRET

CA B1
3559 INCOMING

7336
/hrt

SECRET

IMPORTANT

TOTAL (1)

C IN C MED NAPLES (R) A.G.C.

I/T TYPE 3

JUN 201891B

JUN 291200B

via 94 Sub Area

Unofficial strike involving 1000 men started in dockyard today for more food or wages.

- (2) Ministry has promised an increase in wages of 12 to 15% on 1st July.
- (3) Test's yard are on strike for increase of 30 Lire a day all round.
- (4) Ramirez now Under Secretary Vice Albago is coming down.
- (5) It is hoped that work will be resumed tomorrow 21st June.
- (6) Most of these men are receiving civilian A ration for heavy work.
- (7) C in C Med Naples pass to Admiral Morgan.

DISTRIBUTION:

1 - File	
1 - Fleet	
1 - DCC	
1 - Navy (Adv Hq)	Info
1 - Labor	"
1 - Admin	"
1 - Adj Main	"
1 - CA B1 Main	"
1 - Food (Main)	"

Del 78

U. S. SECRET
Equals British SECRET

Executive Commissioner.

I have seen Econ Sec.

It was the old Ministry who authorised the increase in wages. It was not authorised by Labour S.C. and steps have been taken cancelling the Old Ministry's intimation. Repercussions are not expected as it has been known for sometime that no increase would be granted on such authority.

2nd June 44

P.R.

M.L.B.

pa 22/6

1971/7/16
CABOT

359

SECRET

21 JUN 1944

EC K sec 8-1/2

CIRC MED MAPLES (R) ACC

TOTAL

NONE

SECRET
IMPORTANT

JUNE 20/1944

*Let. by the...
being...
was made by...
...
...
...*

OFFICIAL STRIKE INVOLVING ONE THOUSAND MEN STARTED IN DOCKLAND TODAY FOR THE FID OR HOS.
2. MILITARY HAS PROMISED AN INCREASE IN WAGES OF TWELVE TO FIFTY PERCENT ON THE FIRST
JULY. 3. TOWNS YARD ARE ON STRIKE FOR INCREASE OF THIRTY LBS A DAY ALL ROUND. 4. RAILWRE
MEN UNDER EMERGENCY VMS ALMOO, IS COMING DOWN. 5. IT IS HOPE THAT ONE WILL BE REMOVED
TOMORROW 21ST JUNE. 6. MOST OF THESE MEN ARE RECEIVING CIVILIAN A RATION FOR HEAVY WORKERS.
7. C IN C MED MAPLES PASS TO ADMIRAL HIGMAN

INFO

NAVY SEC

SECY GEN

Def. Sec.

CABOT

Evans Sec

Adams Sec

File

Flood

21 JUN 1944
CABOT

Send copy to Laborn Sec. and Sec. to Ex. Comm.
1851/1

CONFIDENTIAL

359 JUN 1944

HEADQUARTERS

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

SECTION II

CAR 73
5-1243

18 JUN 1944

A.C.

Ref: AS/11/38.

SUBJECT: Alleged Fascist Attack on Italian Government.

TO : P.C. & M.S. Section, Headquarters, A.C.C., MAIN.

16 June 1944

1. Please see attached communication of the 16th June 1944, addressed to the Provincial Commissioner, Bari, by representatives of certain political parties which is passed to you for your information and such action as may be considered necessary.

2. Action taken by this Headquarters and Provincial Commissioner at Bari is as follows:-

A. Provincial Commissioner has:

- (1) Informed District 2, (S.S. 1(b) Major Mattei).
- (2) Instructed the representatives not to mention A.C.C. in this connection and has informed them that the matter will be reported to appropriate higher authorities - for appropriate action.
- (3) Further told the representatives to wait for instructions before giving any publicity or making any statement regarding this matter.
3. Provincial Commissioner, Bari, will report with these representatives to Prefect, Bari, immediately upon the latter's return from Salerno.
4. The undersigned visited Taranto this date and conferred with the Provincial Commissioner there and with Captain PIVELLA, R.M. C.S.C. ROMAN.

Neither were aware of any indication of an organized movement as all the attached. The Provincial Commissioner at Taranto will inform No. 58 Sub-Area

1859

1. Please see attached communication of the 16th June 1944, addressed to the Provincial Commissioner, Bari, by representatives of certain political parties which is passed to you for your information and such action as may be considered necessary.

2. Action taken by this Headquarters and Provincial Commissioner at Bari is as follows:-

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- (3) Further told the representatives to wait for instructions before giving any publicity or making any statement regarding this matter.

3. Provincial Commissioner, Bari, will report with these representatives to Prefect, Bari, immediately upon the latter's return from Salerno.

4. The undersigned visited Toronto this date and conferred with the Provincial Commissioner there and with Captain DUFFELL, R.N. C.S.C. F.M.I. Neither were aware of any indication of an organised movement as alleged in the attached. The Provincial Commissioner at Toronto will inform No. 52 Sub-Area Commander.

5. All are alive to this matter and will make quick inquiries. Any further developments will be reported.


JULIAN L. GALLAGHER
Colonel, Infantry
Regional Commissioner

CONFIDENTIAL COPY

Bari, 15th June 1944

Provincial Commissioner
of the Allied Control Commission

B a r i

Dear Sir,

The population is strongly upset by rumours of an alarming character, which intend to credit the overhanging violent removal of the Bonomi's government by means of a military and pro-fascist insurrection. It is noteworthy in this regard, that on the 12th inst. it had been announced by the involved military circles, that the Bonomi's government has resigned.

The Liberation Committees after very careful investigations have got to learn that in Taranto and Brindisi, written instigations are being made circulating among officers and crews of the navy, proceeding to from profascist circles and high officers, which are endeavouring to give rise to a movement with the declared purpose to overthrow the present democratic government; to suppress the Liberation Committees even if this plan should make it necessary to have recourse to arms; this would inevitably lead to a civil war and would in any case seriously imperil the war effort against the common enemy: the Germans.

We are entitled to think that the movement has been organised by high officers of the navy. On his side the monarchy endeavours to credit the conviction, which seems to be originating from England, that in the case of the downfall of the monarchy the navy would be dissolved or either would mutiny. This is untrue as it is known that officers are not of one mind in this regard and that the crews are quite indifferent about the future of the monarchy when not hostiles.

The Liberation Committee is taking the necessary steps in order to appease the population; we consider nevertheless that the intervention of the Allied Control Commission constitutes at the present moment a matter of necessity, and we would be very pleased to know whether and in which way you propose to deal with this matter, to the effect that we shall be able to convey it to the knowledge of the public opinion.

We thank you, and beg to remain, Dear Sir,

1849

Faithfully Yours

The population is strongly upset by rumours of an alarming character, which intend to credit the overhanging violent removal of the Bonomi's government by means of a military and pro-fascist insurrection. It is noteworthy in this regard, that on the 12th inst. it had been announced by the involved military circles, that the Bonomi's government has resigned.

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We thank you, and beg to remain, Dear Sir,

Very faithfully Yours

1849

(Sgd) :-

Mario Beretta — Partita Liberale Italiano
Enriquo Caricoulet — Partita Socialista
Antemio Di Donato — Partita Comunista
Natale Hojacacco — ~~Defensa d'Italia~~ *Democrazia Cristiana*
Vincenzo Calace — Partito d' ~~Azione~~ *Libero*

CONFIDENTIAL

20 MAY Recd

Security Recd MAY 1944

U-8058

73

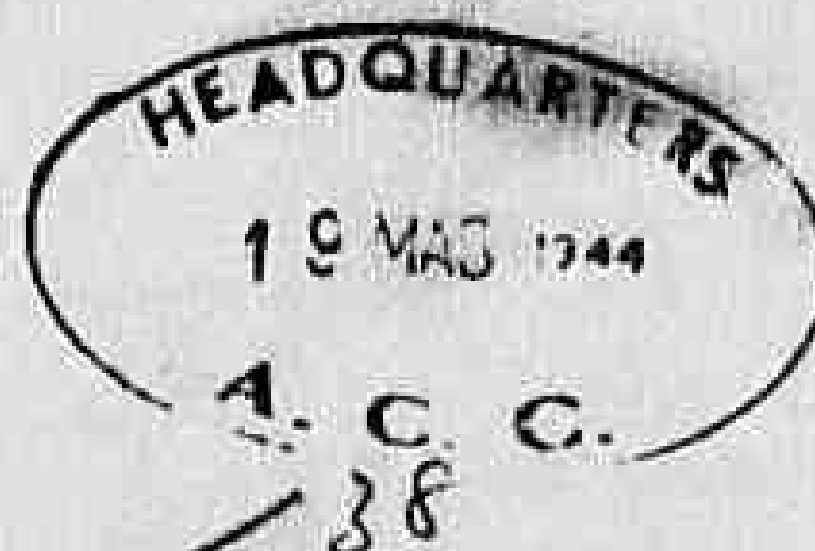
REAR HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394
Administrative Section

14760/3/PS.

18 MAY 44.

SUBJECT : Security Arrests in Taranto.

TO : RC & MG Section.



Can you now reply to my letter of the 13th Feb 44. (copy attached for easy reference).

Spec

*See the Langley's
Again 24.5 info letter
coming out asking us to
ignore above comment
MA.*

Stan Gate
STAN GATE,
VP Adm Sec.

1848

19 MAY Recd

72
HQ ACC, APO
15 MAR 0920
LMS

Pc

Salerno, 9 March, 1944

Dear General MacFarlane,

In thanking you for the courteous information which you forwarded to me concerning the arrest of the Questore, Comm. Mendola, I must insist upon the fact that I deem it necessary that the Italian Government be not left uninformed with regard to matters of this kind for the reasons which I had occasion already to point out to you in my previous letter of February 3.

As for the imputations against Mendola, allow me, dear General, to remark that the "lack of collaboration" with which this official is now charged, was never noticed before by the Allied Authorities of Taranto, by the Prefect, nor by the Central Government.

On the other hand, the accusation which would make Mendola appear to be "a potential danger to safety" is a very serious one; but the accusation itself does not lend itself to any concrete evaluation before the facts of the case have been communicated to me.

In addition, you referred to me that the same Mendola had failed to promote the arrest and the trial against persons charged with serious crimes; but in reality this accusation refers to certain theft cases mostly of a minor nature, for which it was not deemed advisable to arrest the accused in view of the unavailability of local jails placed, for some time now, at the disposal of the Allied Authorities. However, these cases were regularly denounced to the appropriate judge according to Italian Penal Law who has the function of ordering the apprehension of the persons to be tried and to dispose of their release by granting them, in certain cases, temporary freedom while awaiting trial.

Furthermore, in this respect, I am in position to state that the Prefect as well as the Questore of Taranto deemed it advisable to recommend to the appropriate Royal Prosecutor, the most severe penalties for such crimes.

Finally, it appears to me that Comm. Mendola can be absolved of every responsibility for the known incidents at Taranto.

Brig. Gen. Lusk

Please repeat 1847

hank

-2-

On the other hand, I believe that I can state without any hesitation that if during those days, the work of the Questore in charge of services for public order had not been weakened, it would have been possible for the police forces to undertake a stronger preventive and repressive action to avoid the regretful results.

Considering all this, I could take it upon myself to effect the transfer of the above mentioned Comm. Mendola to a locality other than Taranto; but I would have to use him in other offices in view of the fact that he is a permanent official who cannot be dismissed except in cases indicated by law.

I beg you, therefore, dear General, to interest the Commander in Chief in this matter to whom, through your kindness, I extend my thanks.

Very cordial greeting,

/s/ Badoglio

Lieutenant General
N. M. MacFarlane
Chief of the Allied Control Commission



IL CAPO DEL GOVERNO

HQ AGG, APO 394
Sec'y G
Rec'd 18 May 1944
ByHQ AGG, APO 394
1715-13 May
70

Salerno, 9 marzo 1944

Caro Generale Mac Farlane,

Nel ringraziarla delle cortesi notizie che ha voluto darmi sull'arresto del Questore di Taranto Comm. Mendola, devo innanzi tutto insistere sulla opportunità che ad operazioni di tal genere non resti estraneo il Governo Italiano per le ragioni che già ho avuto occasione di farle presenti nella mia precedente nota del 3 febbraio scorso.

Quanto agli addebiti mossi al Mendola, mi consenta, caro Generale, di osservare che la "mancanza di collaborazione" di cui si fa ora carico al detto funzionario, non era stata mai rilevata dalle Autorità Alleate di Taranto nè presso il Prefetto, nè presso il Governo Centrale.

E', invece, molto grave l'accusa che farebbe apparire il Mendola come "un pericolo potenziale per la sicurezza"; ma l'accusa stessa non si presta ad una



IL CAPO DEL GOVERNO

./.

concreta valutazione prima che mi siano comunicati i relativi elementi di fatto.

Ella mi riferisce, inoltre, che lo stesso Wendo la avrebbe omesso di promuovere l'arresto e il processo a carico di persone incolpate di gravi reati; ma in realtà l'addebito si riferisce ad alcuni casi di furto, per lo più di lieve entità, per i quali non si ritenne di arrestare i prevenuti data l'indisponibilità delle carceri locali rimaste, per un certo tempo, a disposizione delle Autorità Alleate. Peraltro, tali casi vennero regolarmente denunciati al magistrato competente secondo la legge penale italiana, al quale spetta di ordinare la cattura dei giudicabili e di disporre la scarcerazione anche mediante la concessione, in determinate ipotesi, della libertà provvisoria in attesa di giudizio.

A questo riguardo sono anzi in grado di precisare che tanto il Prefetto come il Questore di Taranto ritennero opportuno di raccomandare al Procuratore del Re compe

./.

1844



IL CAPO DEL GOVERNO

68

./.

tente la più severa persecuzione giudiziaria di tali reati.

Mi sembra, infine, di poter escludere ogni responsabilità del Comm. Mendola per i noti incidenti di Taranto.

Per contro credo di poter senz'altro affermare che se proprio in quei giorni non fosse mancata, a causa dell'inopinato arresto, l'opera del Questore, cui spetta la direzione dei servizi di ordine pubblico, si sarebbe potuto esplicitare da parte delle forze di polizia una più energica azione preventiva e repressiva al fine di evitare gli eccessi lamentati.

Ciò premesso, potrei senz'altro assumere l'impegno di trasferire in sede diversa da Taranto il predetto Comm. Mendola; ma non potrei non utilizzare l'opera sua in altri uffici, trattandosi di un funzionario di ruolo che non può essere licenziato se non nei casi pre

./.

1843



IL CAPO DEL GOVERNO

./.

visti dalla legge.

La prego, pertanto, caro Generale, di voler
in tal senso interessare il Comandante in Capo, cui
fin da ora esprimo, pel Suo cortese tramite, i miei
ringraziamenti.

Cordiali saluti.

Barlaschi

Lieut Generale

N.M. MAC FARLANE

Capo della Commissione Alleata di Controllo

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
R.C. & M.G. SECTION
APO 394

4 April 1944

MEMORANDUM:

TO : Lt. Col. Shipp.

TORONTO LABOR DISTURBANCE FILE 357/CA

On 2 February 1944, rioting was reported in Toronto, the Prefecture as broken into by the mob, the Prefect escaped but later was caught and badly handled. The mob consisted of the workmen and their families of the Franco Tosi works later joined by the Naval Arsenal workers. Following is a digest of the File.

Col Fiske.

This is a summary of the file made by Capt. Peyton. You may find it useful but I think you should have the whole file with you when you go to Reg II.

yes.

meanwhile Col ~~Marshall~~ ^{Fiske} should read this file.

18:11 ^{7/4} ~~left without seeing~~
18:11 pa.
8/24/4

65

Capt. E. W. ~~Smith~~ U.S.A.

1. Preliminary report of Lt. Col. ~~T. Farley Smith~~ dated 4 Feb. 1944, on Rioting at ~~Toscani~~ (Ref. File Page 1); general causes:

- a) Low bread ration of 150 grams a day.
- b) Weak local governmental authority.

Particular causes:

- a) Large labor population.
- b) Poor local administration, especially as to food distribution.

Recommendations:

- a) Change of local authorities.
- b) Reorganize food distribution system,
- c) If possible increase ration, including pasta ration.
- d) Supply additional transport for civilian supplies.

2. Note to General MacFarlane, dated 3 Feb. (Ref. File Page 7). Disturbance appears made by political agitators as sympathy strike to assist Franco Tosi workers to obtain an increase in pasta ration.

3. Report of Capt. Hawkins, ACO L.O. (Ref. File Page 6) Causes of strike:

- 1. Franco Tosi workers not receiving pasta ration of 300 grams a day.
- 2. Political unrest result of Bari Congress.
- 3. Desire to see "old gang" go.

Recommendations:

- 1. The disturbance was one of a political nature. The interested parties attempting to bring both the present Italian Government and Allied authorities into disfavor with the people.
- 2. There should be a more strict control of Italian politics.

4. Brigadier Lush recommended to General MacFarlane, Feb. 6: (Ref. File Page 19). In consideration of a pledge from organized and unorganized labor that there would be no more strikes, men absences from work, etc., for the war's duration, the Italian Government would establish an arbitration board comprising: (1) one representative from government, (2) one representative from labor, and (3) one representative of employees (or three of each to avoid a tie vote). Subjects to be dealt with:

- a) Wages
- b) Food rationing
- c) Administration of the Black Market.

"A" and "B" subject to ACO final determination, and ACO to have control of imports, and ACO desire to control inflation. The Italian Government should pledge itself to remove corrupt or incompetent officials. ACO might agree to an "observer" to sit with Board, but not vote. This would prevent Italian government from making a compromise deal with labor and dumping the matter back into the lap of ACO.

5. ~~Final~~ Report of Lt. Col. T. Farley Smith, dated 9 February. (Ref. File page 31): Statement of contributing to strike and riot of 2 Feb.

- 1. Large industrial population susceptible to agitation.
- 2. Shortage of food.
- 3. Inability of people to understand meaning of "Freedom".
- 4. Unpopularity and lack of respect for present Italian Government.
- 5. Loss of prestige by Italian police and armed forces.
- 6. Too many fascists still in office.

1870

-2-

64

Recommended :

- (1) Greater attempt to improve prestige of Italian police forces.
- (2) Every assistance to Italian Government to replace Fascists with other competent officials, and
- (3) To find some middle way by which the Italian Government will get the maximum of prestige and at the same time assure the people that A.C.C. is behind it.

6. Final Report of L.O. of A.C.C. dated 10 Feb (Ref File Page 37), on this date Admiral Fioravanza filling dual position of Military Commander and Acting Prefect. Workers charge town being run by Fascists and Admiral asks workers Syndicate to appoint a committee to cooperate with authorities in removing Fascists Officials, which offer is declined. This implies refusal to cooperate with Badoglio Government. It appears the disturbances are a "political game", and it is considered the National Committee of Liberation are behind the labor disturbances. The food distribution remains poor.

7. Report of P.C. of Toronto dated 16 March (Ref File page 51): On 15 March a small strike was staged by stevedores at a small Toronto port. It was not organized. No connection with other worker disturbances. On same date Admiral Correale, Admiral Naval head and delegation of workers called on the P.C. to unofficially make expression of the workers grievances. They made the following points :

- (1) had not been able to buy soap for six months,
- (2) their work was vital to the war effort but they received no extra food,
- (3) we had come as liberators but brought no food with us,
- (4) they all would soon be in their graves unless food was provided,
- (5) they could not buy sufficient vegetables,
- (6) if no food provided for their families they would strike,
- (7) it was for their families they wanted food,
- (8) they wanted a pasta ration.

8. Report of R.C. of Region II, dated 19 March (Ref. File page 53): Attended meeting on 17 March of delegation Tosi shipyards with Prefect. Delegation first suggested desire to be materialized in order to receive military rations similar to arsenal workers, but undecided about this except as to rations. Prefect advised them of his cooperation, that he had communicated with the Italian Government, and had received assurances of cooperation. Prefect had secured authority to deal with neighboring provinces and to secure an additional supply of beans. Also had made arrangements with navy to secure additional supplies of fish. Later R.C. agreed with Regional Supply Officer for the issuance of 100 grams of dried peas per person per month, at a price of L. 30 per K., and an issue of 250 grams of dehydrated soup per person per month, at a price of L. 5 per K. It is the opinion of R.C. that agitation for food will continue for another month until local garden produce become available in large quantities, and will continue after that, to a lesser extent. There is no certainty as to whether or not the agitation is spontaneous or inspired. It is certain, however, people regard AOC as the real authority in the province, and would prefer to deal with the P.C. than the Prefect.

1839

63

9. Resolution of Commissione di Faffra addressed to ACC and local authorities, dated 14 March (Ref. File page 57): Advises they considered the food situation of all workers of Contrere Tosi. Further states:

1. Workers compelled to go to work without bread or other food,
2. There is no possibility to buy food because:
 - a. Market is lacking, or because
 - b. Wages are not sufficient to buy food on the Black Market.

It requests ACC and local authorities to,

1. Grant a substantial increase of soup provisions to be issued their firm mess, similar to that received by workers in the marine arsenal.
2. Ask ACC to allocate to the civilian population a supply of food stuffs, such as long previously promised, but up to that date not issued.

10. Memorandum of Contrere Navale Franco Tosi, addressed to ACC and local authorities dated 14 March (Ref. File page 55) states:

1. Workers as well as civilian population have not received regular distribution of soup provisions for the past several months, excluding two allotments of flour of 300 grams and 500 grams.
2. This situation repeatedly called to the attention of the civil authorities, but it has grown worse. Now receive soup and dehydrated vegetables and fresh vegetables which does not appease their hunger, where two months past and before, received soup composed of pasta, dry vegetables, potatoes and fresh vegetables.
3. Workers, generally compelled to go to work without bread, which is the only ration food they receive, but its amount of 200 grams, is insufficient.
4. Have applied several times to local authorities to take matter up with ACC, but no results achieved, except for slight benefits during time Admiral Fioravango was acting Prefect.
5. Employees now receive one distribution of fish, one distribution of meat and one of charcoal a week, which is not sufficient. Complaint: Officers and Petty officers of Italian Navy, while not fighting still receive soup, including pasta, dry vegetables and dehydrated vegetables - which is not done for the workers.
6. Salary of workers does not permit food purchases on the Black Market. Threat. This conditions can no longer continue without serious incidents.

11. Report of P.C. of Toronto on the above, dated 30 March (Ref. File page 61).

1. The managing director of Tosi was a well known fascist, and
2. The ration should be equalized, When a worker speaks of soup, he thinks of pasta and a mass of food substance rather than a fluid.

12. Memorandum by Director of Labor Sub-Commission dated 2 April (Ref. File page 60): The variation in rations now existing between Italian Army and Navy personnel and civilians employees emphasizes the need for a uniform ration applicable to all workers (outside of control area) whether civilian or military.

FRANK L. PEYTON
Captain.

1838

359
31 MAR Recd
HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
REGION II

B-1 5662
U-25717

Ref. L/1/20

27 Mar 44

Subj. Demands by Workers of Franco-Tosi Co. - Taranto.

To: Executive Commissioner, R.C. and M.G. Section
ACC Headquarters, Naples.

1. The attached copy of a report from the Provincial Commissioner of Taranto concerning the demands of the workmen in the Franco-Tosi shipyards at Taranto is forwarded for your information. It supplements the information contained in our L/1/16 of Mar 22nd.

59. G.H. McCaffrey
G.H. McCaffrey
Lt. Col., Inf.
R.C.

GHM/pjh

Copy to Labor Sub-Commission



Cor. Fiske with take
up on visit to Regu
on 7/4 El 574

Bv. with file 574
El 314

Cor. Shupri.
To see. 26
make 4416 sent
with 151837
file. 2. 3/4

COPY

SUBJECT:-

Demands by Franco Tosi
Workers.

Regional Commissioner,
HQ, Region 2,
Allied Control Commission

Allied Control Commission
Palazzo del Governo
TARANTO
T/ACC/13

20 March 44. 61

With reference to the copies of the demands and data provided by workmens committees at the Franco Tosi Shipyards, and forwarded under separate cover yesterday. It is regretted that this report did not arrive with the reports in question, but pressure of work prevented this.

1. Order of the Day.

1st. This is a matter which I have represented twice to HQ, ACC when at Brindisi. Tosi and Buffauluto Powder workers feel that they are not so well off as the Arsenal workers, who are under direct control of the Italian Navy. The managing director of Tosi was a well known Fascist. The subject of the midday meal has been thrashed out at length, and is in reality one for either the Naval Sub-Commission or the Allied Navies here. It is quite obviously a farce to give a good ration to people like railway workers, and so on, under the terms of the No 2 District Order, and deny it to Shipyard workers such as Tosi because it is a private firm, and is not covered by the order in question. The work in the Arsenal mixes Treely Arsenal, Tosi and Buffauluto workers yet some can get a good meal at lunchtime, and others not. POTALLI has taken the matter up, and it should be settled soon.

2nd. No promise has ever emanated from this office, but I cannot be sure about declarations made in the press from time to time by senior officers. In this respect I would draw your attention to the article in the mezzogiorno of Bari of March 7th, made by the head of the Food Sub Commission, in which it is stated that "bread queues are no longer to be seen in liberated Italy".

I can testify that they still exist in Taranto, and publicity of this sort is most harmful to a provincial office which is dealing with people in the flesh and not merely on paper.

2. Memorandum. By soup provisions, pasta, rice and so on are meant-the statement about these issues is quite correct. All the people in this Province feel the same about the dehydrated soup. Soup to them is a thick almost solid mixture, with lumps of pasta or vegetable in it. The Alimentazione tell me that they doubt if the 250 gr. ration will be bought up in full. I agree that 200 gr; of bread is probably insufficient, but beggars cant be choosers. The political implication of the next sentence is particularly interesting, as during the worthy Admirals short interregnum, absolute chaos prevailed. As an interested party, he is in a position to offer benefits since he holds the only means of transport in the province.

Memorandum cont/

The final few sentences contain such a number of contradictions and so much muddled thought that it is impossible to analyse them. The finale, of course, comes back to the old story of their continual desire to have more pasta. The question of militarizing the workers was thrashed out at the meeting and needs no comment. Finally, I agree entirely with the Tosi workers that it is indeed a contradiction of aims to see many thousands of Italian sailors roaming the streets of Taranto doing nothing, while they are working hard and not receiving anything like the military ration of the sailors.

RMPH/RMPH

Provincial Commissioner

781

60

Lt Col Shipp.

Before taking action on Brig's minute at 54 perhaps he should see 55-59.

30/3.

Col Smith. Director Labor S.C.

Please see pp 50-60 on this file. The action referred to by me on p 54 in my minute would only be to ask you for your advice.

May the file please be returned with any comments you wish to make.

Lt Col Shipp 10/5/44

30/3.

Lt Col. Shipp.

The variation in rations furnished by the Royal Navy, army and civilian employees emphasizes the dire need for uniform rationing applicable to every worker (outside of combat area), whether hired directly by the Army and/or Navy, or not.

7835
James H. Smith
Lt. Col. Q.M.C.

2.4.1944.

2

27 MAR 1944 359
HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
REGION II
U- 5121
59
88
17/4
CAB

Ref. L/1/16

22 Mar 44

Subj. Labor Unrest in Taranto

To: Executive Commissioner, R.C. and M.G. Section
ACC Headquarters, Naples.

1. There are forwarded to you attached, copies of statements submitted by the workers of the Franco Tosi shipyard to the Prefect of Taranto at a conference on 17 March.

G.H. McCaffrey
G.H. McCaffrey
Lt. Col., Inf.
R.C.

GHM/pjh

See p 61
86 5/4

1834

COPY

38
A. S. EC. L'AMIRAGLIO FICAVANZA
AL COMANDO MILITARE DI CONTROLLO ALLEATO
A S.E. IL PREFETTO DI TARANTO

La Commissione di Fabbrica degli Operai ed Impiegati del Cantiere Navale "FRANCO TOSI" di Taranto riunitesi addì 14/3/1944 esaminata la critica situazione alimentare in cui versa la Maestranza tutta del Cantiere stesso, constatato che essa è costretta recarsi al lavoro priva di pane o di qualsiasi altro alimento, chè le manca la possibilità di acquisto sia per la mancanza di generi dal mercato; sia perchè non percepisce un adeguato salario o stipendio che consenta di potersi approvvigionare dal mercato nero, interpretando il pensiero dei rappresentati, votava il seguente

ORDINE DEL GIORNO

1) - Chiedere alle Autorità locali ed alle Autorità Militari Alleate, in riconoscimento delle misere condizioni in cui da mesi versa la Maestranza tutta, di voler accogliere i suoi desideri, concedendo un aumento sostanziale di generi da minestra al loro Refettorio Aziendale per metterlo nelle condizioni di distribuire una minestra uguale a quella che i compagni di lavoro appartenenti al R. Arsenale M.K. di Taranto ritirano dalla loro mensa Aziendale.

2) - Fidando nella tante volte dichiarata amicizia delle Nazioni Unite per il popolo italiano, chiedono al Comando Militare Alleato di Controllo che venga destinata alla popolazione civile, di cui le loro famiglie fanno parte un'assegnazione di generi alimentari che da mesi è stata promessa ma che ancora non hanno ricevuto.

LA COMMISSIONE OPERAI ED IMPIEGATI

MAGGI	Francesco	f.to	.....
PIZZOLLA	Nicola	f.to	.....
PIGNATELLI	Luigi	f.to	.....
CALABRESE	Francesco	f.to	.....
SARACINO	Giuseppe	f.to	.....
FEOLA	Armando	f.to	.....
RIZZI	Francesco	f.to	.....
NARDO'	Tommaso	f.to	.....
BANDITELLI	Angelo	servizio	arsenale
RIZZO	Antonio	f.to	.....
ANDREUCCI	Aldo	servizio	arsenale
MINEO	Ottorino	f.to	
FALLONE	Giacinto	servizio	arsenale
RUSSO	Ciro	"	"

1833

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...non percepisce un adeguato salario o stipendio che consenta di
...potersi approvvigionare dal mercato nero, interpretando il pensiero dei
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LA COMMISSIONE OPERAI ED IMPIEGATI

MAGGI	Francesco	f.to	
PIZZOLLA	Nicola	f.to	
PIGNATELLI	Luigi	f.to	.....
CALABRESE	Francesco	f.to	.....
SEBACINO	Giuseppe	f.to	.....
FEOLA	Armando	f.to	.....
RIZZI	Francesco	f.to	.....
NARDO'	Tommaso	f.to	.....
BANDITELLI	Angelo	servizio arsenale	
RIZZO	Antonio	f.to	.....
ANDREUCCI	Aldo	servizio arsenale	
MINEO	Ottorino	f.to	.....
FALLONE	Giacinto	servizio arsenale	
RUSSO	Ciro	"	
DE GIORGIO	Angelo	f.to	.....

1833

Cantiere Tosi, 15 marzo 1944. -

C O P Y

TO: H.E. Admiral Fioravanzo
TO: H.E. The Prefect
TO: Allied Control Commission

The "Commissione di Fabbrica" of the workers and clerks of Cantiere TOSI, Taranto, assembled on March 14th 1944.

They examined the critical food situation of all the workers of the Cantiere; ascertained that the latter are compelled to go to work without bread or other food; that they have no possibility of buying food either because the market is lacking in it or because wages and salaries are not sufficient to allow workers to buy provisions at the black market, and interpreting the thought of the people represented by them, passed the following.

ORDER OF THE DAY

1st) To ask the local authorities and the Allied Military Authorities, to acknowledge the very poor conditions in which all the workers have been for several months running and to grant their wishes authorizing a substantial increase of soups provisions to be issued to their "Rettorio Aziendale" (Firm Mess), so that they may receive a hot soup like that which their work fellows receive in the Royal Maritime Arsenal from their Mess.

2nd) Counting on the friendship of the Allied Nations to the Italian people, which has been so frequently spoken of, they ask the Allied Control Commission to allocate to the civilian population, in which their families are comprised, a supply of foodstuffs which was promised long ago but up to date has not yet been issued.

THE COMMISSION OF WORKERS AND CLERKS.

MAGGI Francesco
PIZZOLLA Nicola
PIGNATELLI Luigi
CALABRESE Francesco
SARACINO Giuseppe
FEOLA Armando
RIZZI Francesco
NARDI Tommaso
RADIUTELLI Angelo

1832

ORDER OF THE DAY

1st) To ask the local authorities and the Allied Military Authorities, to acknowledge the very poor conditions in which all the workers have been for several months running and to grant their wishes authorizing a substantial increase of soups provisions to be issued to their "Refettorio Aziendale" (Firm Mess), so that they may receive a hot soup like that which their work fellows receive in the Royal Maritime Arsenal from their Mess.

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THE COMMISSION OF WORKERS AND CLERKS.

MAGGI	Francesco
PIZZOLLA	Nicola
PIGNATELLI	Luigi
CALABRESI	Francesco
SARACINO	Giuseppe
FEOLA	Armando
RIZZI	Francesco
MARDO	Tommaso
BADITELLI	Angelo
RIZZO	Antonio
ANDREUCCI	Aldo
MINEO	Ottorino
FALLONE	Giacinto
RUSSO	Ciro
DE GIORGIO	Angelo

1832

CANTIERE FRANCO TOSI March 15th 1944

RECEIVED BY THE COMMISSION OF WORKERS AND CLERKS

MEMORIALE DELLE ABSTRAZIONI DEL CANTIERE NAVALE FRANCO TOSI TARANTO
ALLE AUTORITA' LOCALI E ALLE AUTORITA' MILITARI ALLEATE DI CONTROLLO.

~~~~~

Gli operai ed impiegati del cantiere Navale Franco Tosi Taranto, come gran parte della popolazione civile, da mesi e mesi non ricevono un'assegnazione regolare di generi da minestra, a meno che come tale si volesse considerare quella saltuaria assegnazione di 300 o 500 grammi di farina che dal Settembre dello scorso anno è stata concessa solo due volte.

Questo doloroso stato di cose ripetutamente prospettato alle autorità civili non ha potuto trovare finora la sua equa risoluzione; anzi man mano si è aggravata perchè, mentre prima i dipendenti del suddetto Cantiere ricevevano quotidianamente al mezzogiorno una refezione calda composta di pasta, legumi, patate e verdura, da circa 2 mesi si è ridotta a una miscela liquida di zuppa secca inglese, pochi legumi e verdura, che non solleva per nulla la loro affamata situazione. Si tenga presente che quasi tutti i giorni i dipendenti sono costretti a presentarsi al lavoro privi di pane, perchè questo è l'unico genere tessurato che ricevono nella misura insufficiente di grammi 200.

Per questa ragione, svariata volte tutti i dipendenti della Società Anonima si sono rivolti a mezzo della loro Commissione di Fabbrica alle Autorità locali; le quali promisero tutto il loro interessamento sia presso il Governo che presso le Autorità Alleate di Controllo; ma a nulla si è addivenuto ad eccezione di qualche minima concessione fatta dall'Eccellenza l'Ammiraglio Fioravanzo nel suo periodo di Reggenza della Prefettura di Taranto. Infatti è a lui che si deve se gli addetti ai cantieri Tosi hanno avuto l'assegnazione una volta la settimana di pesce pescato dalla R. Marina, una unica distribuzione di carne, una sola assegnazione di carbone a prezzo di costo, che comunque non risolve nulla, perchè per vivere occorre mangiare non una sola volta alla settimana. Con tutto ciò lo, Stabilimento ha continuato a lavorare lo stesso e produrre e a riparare navi e materiale vario per gli Alleati e per lo Stato; ma inopia della sorte, mentre Ufficiali e Sottoufficiali anche se non combattenti possono avere per poche centinaia di lire ogni mese una lista di generi alimentari che tutti conoscono e gradirebbero avere perchè soggetti ai medesimi bisogni, mentre questo beneficio viene esteso ora agli impiegati del R. Arsenale M.M. di Taranto e a quelli di Buffoluto; mentre gli operai dei suddetti stabilimenti militari ricevono una refezione calda che continua ad essere composta di pasta, legumi, zuppa secca inglese, oppure altri minestroni sostanziosi, per la Società Tosi, nonostante lo interessamento della Direzione stessa, nulla è stato fatto. Eppure per maneggiare le stesse mazze, lime, pistole e macchine pneumatiche dalla mattina alla sera, occorre la forza, mentre non provvedendo alla somministrazione di una sostanziale alimentazione si raggiunge l'effetto opposto

getto Cantiere ricevevano quotidianamente al mezzogiorno una refezione calda composta di pasta, legumi, patate e verdura, da circa 2 mesi si è ridotta a una miscela liquida di zuppa secca inglese, pochi legumi e verdura, che non solleva per nulla la loro affamata situazione. Si tenga presente che quasi tutti i giorni i dipendenti sono costretti a presentarsi al lavoro privi di pane, perchè questo è l'unico genere tesserato che ricevono nella misura insufficiente di grammi 200.

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E' perciò che le maestranze tutte del Cantiere Tosi, facendo appello alla amicizia delle Nazioni Unite verso il popolo Italiana, fidando nell'accoglimento dei loro desiderata presentati con l'ordine del giorno in data 15/3/1944 e tutte le autorità locali e a quelle Alleate di Controllo, sperano di poter ricevere finalmente quello che da lungo tempo chiedono.

DAL CANTIERE NAVALE TOSI addì 15 marzo 1944

LE COMMISSIONI DI FABBRICA  
OPERAI E IMPIEGATI.

Memorandum of the Workers belonging to "Cantiere Navale Franco Tosi", Taranto, for the local Authorities and for the Allied Control Commission.

SS

The workers and clerks of "Cantiere Navale Franco Tosi", Taranto, as well as the majority of the civilian population have not received regular distributions of soup provisions for several months running, excluding two occasional allotments of 300 and 500 grammes of flour made since sept. 1943. This serious condition repeatedly represented to the civilian Authorities has not found, up to date, an equitable solution; nay, it has gradually got worse. In fact, while once the employees of the above mentioned Cantieri used to receive regularly a midday hot soup made up of pasta, dry vegetables, potatoes and fresh vegetables, it is now about two months since they began receiving a liquid mixture made up of dehydrated soup, some dry vegetables and fresh vegetables, which does not appease their hunger. It is brought to notice that nearly all days the employees are compelled to go to work without bread: this is the only rationed food that they receive, but its amount - 200 grammes - is insufficient.

For this reason, the employees of the Company have applied several times, through their "Commissione di Fabbrica" to the local Authorities, who have promised to take up the matter with the Allied Control Commission. But no results have been reached, excepting a few slight benefits granted by H.E. Admiral Fioravanzo during the period when he was Prefect Regent here.

Through his agency the employees of Cantiere Tosi are now receiving once a week fish which is being fished by navy craft; besides they have been allocated one distribution of meat and one distribution of charcoal at cost price. But matters are at present as they were before, since in order to live it is not enough to eat once a week.

In spite of that the workers have kept on working producing and repairing ships and various material for the Allies and for the State.

But, while Officers and Petty Officers, even if they are not fighting may have for a few hundred lire per month an assortment of foodstuffs, which any body would like to get in order to meet his needs which are every body's needs; while this benefit is not now being extended to the clerks of the local Arsenal and to those working at Buffoluto; while the workers of the two above said military establishments are receiving a hot soup still made up of pasta, dry vegetables and dry drated soup, or of other nourishing ingredients, nothing has been done for Tosi workers, notwithstanding the interest taken by their managers.

Yet strength is necessary for handling hammers, files and similar tools from morning till night, whereas not providing for a substantial feeding a total exhaustion is inevitable. Therefore, while only a minority of the a/w population has received, even on a very small scale, a monthly food improvement, the remaining part has been left in the saddest abandonment.

Considering that Tosi employees receive salaries and wages which do not allow them to through the black market, a conclusion is drawn that a similar state of affairs cannot last longer without causing serious incidents. For this reason, all the employees of Cantieri Tosi, appealing to the friendship of the Allied Nations to the Italian people and trusting in

vegetables and fresh vegetables, which does not appease their hunger. It is brought to notice that nearly all days the employees are compelled to go to work without bread: this is the only rationed food that they receive, but its amount - 200 grammes - is insufficient. -

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CANTIERI TOSI, March 15th 1944/

The commission di fabbrica for workers and clerks.

547

I

Lt Col Shupp.

Pl. see 3.6. I cannot see that any action  
is required but Brig. should see.

23/3.

II

Col Fiske.

Ref above, the report is not entirely  
satisfactory but I agree no action seems necessary at  
present. You might care to take up when you  
visit Region II next.

24/3.

III

Brighurst

28 Mar

to Sec - IV  
Labour Sub Com

? Pass to Admin Sec

29/3/44

359 22 MAR Recd C.A.B.

HEADQUARTERS  
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION  
REGION II

Ref. 4-1-13

19 Mar 44

Subj. Labor Unrest in Taranto.

To: Executive Commissioner, R.C. and M.G. Section,  
ACC Headquarters, Naples.

1. I am attaching a report from the Provincial Commissioner of Taranto Province, concerning labor unrest in that province, and the events which took place on March 15th and 16th.

2. On the 17th of March, I went to Taranto to get first hand information on the situation. Upon arrival, I found that the P.C. had made arrangements with Admiral Fiorovanzo for a delegation from the Tosi shipyards to confer with the Prefect. Instead, the Admiral attempted to bring the delegation into the Provincial Commissioner's office. Upon our insistence, the conference was held in the Prefect's office. The speakers attempted to address their remarks to me, but I insisted that they address the Prefect.

3. In substance, the spokesmen said that they were doing essential military work (which is true) and that, as "Allies", they felt they were entitled to better treatment, and that furthermore, they could not continue to do their work on the rations they were receiving. They wanted to be treated in the same manner as the employees of the Royal Arsenal, who have apparently been "militarized" to the extent that they receive military rations. In response to a direct question, the spokesmen developed a difference of opinion as to whether they wanted to be militarized if it meant more than receiving additional rations.

4. The Prefect informed the delegation that he was aware of and sympathetic with the question of their hardships; that he had communicated with the Italian Government and received their assurances of cooperation and authority to deal directly with the Prefects of neighboring provinces for the purpose of securing additional supplies of fava (beans); that he had made arrangements with the Navy to obtain an additional supply of fish, and that he would continue to do all in his power to obtain additional food.

5. One of the spokesmen attempted to give additional weight

ACC Headquarters, Naples.

3-14

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5. One of the spokesmen attempted to give additional weight to their demands by making the statement that Taranto was the only important dockyard now operating in the Mediterranean. When I asked him if he knew what was being done in the Naples dockyards and the Palermo dockyards, he became confused and was suppressed by his own companions.

6. I thereupon pointed out that ACC had been kept informed by the Provincial Commissioner as to conditions in Taranto, that we sympathized with them in their hardships and were doing all we could to relieve them. I pointed out that there was a fierce war in progress, that their hardships were as nothing compared with those being suffered by the men in the Allied Armies in the combat areas, and that of course, our prime obligation was to win the war as quickly as

-2-

52

possible. I stated that we could not perform miracles in the way of finding additional food supplies, but as evidence of the fact that we were doing what we could to relieve their condition, and of the difficulties involved, I pointed out that the increase in bread ration which they received in February was the result of plans laid and action taken by Allied authorities several months previously; that food had to be brought to Italy from the ends of the earth, not merely from Egypt, as some of them seem to believe.

7. I concluded by stating that we had to consider the matter of additional food supplies from the standpoint of the whole population of liberated Italy. We could not favor one section as against another. I stated that I would consult with the Regional Supply Officer, and do anything which was possible.

8. The delegation then withdrew without apparently being well pleased. I did not hear any mention made of a strike.

9. Subsequently, I talked with the Regional Supply Officer over the telephone and we agreed to authorize the issue of 100 grams of dried peas per person per month at a price of 30 lire per kilo, and an issue of 250 grams per person per month of dehydrated soup at a price of 5 lire per kilo.

10. I thereupon informed the Prefect to authorize the issue of peas immediately, and of the soup after two or three days.

11. Before the delegation departed, I thanked them for presenting their grievances in an orderly and democratic manner, and assured them that the ACC representatives would always be ready to discuss grievances in that manner.

12. I am convinced that agitation for additional food rations will continue vigorously for another month at least until the local garden products become available in larger quantities, and that it will continue after that at a lesser rate. I am not clear as to whether this agitation is spontaneous or inspired by outside sources. It was clear, however, that these people still regard ACC as the real authority in the province, and would prefer to deal with the Provincial Commissioner, rather than with the Prefect.

G. H. M. McCaffrey  
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Lt. Col., Inf.

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*G. H. McCaffrey*  
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Lt. Col., Inf.  
R.C.

GHM/pjh

SUBJECT:- Events in Taranto  
Regional Commissioner,  
HQ, Region 2,  
Allied Control Commission.

1479  
Allied Control Commission,  
Palazzo del Governo,  
TARANTO.

T/ACC/13

16 Mar 44.

The following report is rendered on the events in Taranto of 15 March & 16 March. It is stressed that this report is more in the form of a prologue, as it is feared that further events may be more decisive.

1. In order to remove any confusion it is necessary to start by pointing out that there was a strike in Taranto on the morning of 15 March, but this was on the part of stevedores working in the small commercial port of Taranto, who are not organised, and are recruited through Army Labour sources. They have no connection with the Arsenal, Franco Tosi or Buffaluto Powder Factory workers.

These men, about 150 in number, struck because of a wage dispute with the Army Labour office, and the matter has been passed to No 2 Dist., for settlement, in the meantime the men are back at work. A full Questura and army report is held in this office, and the matter can be considered as purely an army matter, apart from showing the general attitude and pleasant disposition of the local Tarantini.

2. On 15 March at 0930 hrs, Admiral Correale, the Italian Naval Head of the Taranto Arsenal telephoned to me to ask if he could come to see me with the representatives of his workmen. I replied that my office was always open to anyone, i.e. on one occasion I had the Duke of Aosta meet the chief of the Communist party, in my office, since they were both there, but that the Prefect was in charge of the government of the province. The admiral stressed that this was merely an unofficial visit to let his workmen air their views on the alimentary situation. I informed the prefect of the visit, and sent him a copy of a letter I subsequently wrote to the admiral. At 1000 hrs the deputation arrived. Several members spoke, and made the following points, although some contradicted the statements of others:-

- (1) They had not been able to buy soap for 6 months.
- (2) The work they were engaged upon was vital to our war effort, yet they were receiving no additional food.
- (3) We had come as liberators yet had not brought sufficient food with us.
- (4) They would all soon be in the grave unless more food could be provided.
- (5) They could not buy sufficient vegetables.

The following however were the more important points,

- (6) If more food for their families was not provided they would strike.

(7) It was for their families that they wanted food.

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- (6) If more food for their families was not provided **828** would strike.

(7) It was for their families that they wanted food.

(8) They wanted a pasta ration.

I replied to these points as follows, either speaking in my sketchy Italian or translating through the Admiral or Lt. Molfetto who I had requested to be present throughout the interview.

(1) It had been asked for, and the position was fully realised, however, supplies of caustic soda were not available for the moment, everything possible was being done.

(2) They were doing a fine job both for the United Nations & their own country. They must understand that supplies were destined for all their countrymen equally. An increase in Taranto Province would only lead to demands elsewhere.

(3) There was a war on. Guns, munitions and so on must have preference for the moment. Every kilogram of flour brought to Italy meant less for families in the US and UK.

2.

- 30
- (4) The people of Malta had been in fairly worse circumstances. Everything possible was being done.
- (5) This was a matter of transport which was being settled. I pointed out that they were the only province receiving a double ration of olive oil. Their ration had improved a great deal since November 1943.
- (6) That I was not in a position to say more than that the Allied authorities would take a most serious view of any interruption of the war effort.
- (7) I pointed out that they personally eat at a mess in the Arsenal which a good many workmen were not able to do. I was not able to make promises about an increase in rations, since this was a subject I was not competent to discuss, and was dealt with regionally. I was aware of the situation of their families and everything possible was being done.
- (8) I realised that this was the main object of their visit to me. Because the ration had been increased in February, it did not mean that it could be increased every month. They must understand that a reserve of flour had to be made, and that pasta for a few days would not compensate for no bread for several days after. Finally that for me to guarantee them a pasta ration was as logical as for them to guarantee me that every ship carrying flour would arrive on time and unharmed by enemy submarines.

General discussion then opened, and they left after the admiral had made a short and touching speech about allied help, the common cause and so on. The representatives were in the main well dressed and I should say were clerks at the Arsenal. They did not look hungry. They appeared satisfied with the replies given to them, but queried whether their comrades would do likewise.

The admiral requested a visit to Brig. Goodwin, the Area Commander, but I pointed out that the General was a busy man and it was not his department.

On 16 March Admiral Fiorovanzo asked me to receive a deputation from the Franco Tosi works, and as this now appeared to be going too far I requested the Prefect to receive this deputation in his office, and I should be present. I phoned to your staff captain at Matera to report the matter, especially as the prefect now expected trouble. The Franco Tosi deputation have also asked to see Brig. Goodwin.

RMPH/RMPH

Provincial Commissioner.

RMPH  
1825

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RMPH/RMPH

*RMPH*  
*RMPH*  
*1825*  
Provincial Commissioner.

SECRET

359  
file

492  
PATMA 223

PATMA (Executive Commission)

17 March 1944

SECRET

Vapor 5-10050-1 inch

PRECEDENCE

DESTROY

YOUR ORDER CASE BLANK THREE ONE SEVEN ED PAPER TO DESTROY FOR AGE REASON TWO FROM  
PATMA SIGNED MACFARLANE MATCH ED ON NO MESSAGE NO ACCOUNT WILL FAMILIES OF DOCK  
WORKERS RECEIVE EXTRA RATION AND MIDWAY MEAL ED STRIKE MUST BE PROVIDED BY OTHER  
MEANS

CAB ✓  
for file.

copy to. Gen Sec  
to note action taken

1824

L. T. MONTAG, Jr.  
2/14. ASD.  
ADJUTANT.

SECRET

FROM AGC REGION 2  
TO RATTIA FOR LEGG  
ON 48 HT  
RT/317



DOCK AND ARSENAL WORKERS TARANTO WHO ALREADY RECEIVING EXTRA RATION AND MIDAY  
MEAL AT MEETING TODAY THREATENED STRIKE UNLESS THEIR WIVES AND FAMILIES ARE GIVEN EXTRA  
RATION. IN MY OPINION THIS GRANT WOULD BE MOST SERIOUS AND CAUSE IMMEDIATE REPERCUSSIONS  
THROUGHOUT SOUTHERN ITALY BUT NOIC SAYS WORK MUST CONTINUE. PLEASE INSTRUCT US AND  
ADVISE NOIC FIRM FLAMBO

TIME SENT 16/1709A

RECE MI 4 16/1709

Orig. Lush  
to see

This is policy  
not food -

ACC DIST

ACTION ECON SEC (3)  
INFO DEP CC  
CA RE  
FILE  
FLOAT

1823

7

359 8 MAR Recd P.A.Br. 4887  
S.1320 with 13300  
**ACTION COPY**  
NAVAL MESSAGE (Revised October, 1935)

C.IN C.MED (Algiers and Naples). From: TOTALT.  
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION.

MOST SECRET.



7 copies

A sit down strike for 15 minutes in Taranto dockyard and Test yard was arranged for 1000 to-day Saturday as a protest against Prime Minister's alleged recent statement in House of Commons that he supported Badoglio government because they had arranged armistice and got rid of Fascists and is the only workable government at present. It was claimed that this is not true. There is some doubt as to whether strike took place or work was proceeding normally. If it did, it was half hearted and without incident.

T.O.D. 04 1637. Mar.

T.O.R. 2370/4/2.

T/P. Cypher "X" 4. 135 Cms.

Dist. Log # 4. SHM to Allied Control Commission via PLAMBO.

ACC. Hist  
(Action) CA BV  
(Info) Secretary Gen  
Dep CC  
Pol Sec  
J. L.

1822

1905 hrs  
MAR  
**ACTION COPY**

HEADQUARTERS,  
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION,  
APO 394

46

Regional Control and Military Government Section.

Ref: 359/Hb/CA.

20th February 1944.

Subject: Questore of Taranto.

To : His Excellency Marshal Badoglio.

My Dear Marshal,

I have made enquiries into the matter of the arrest of the Questore of Taranto as requested in your letter of 3rd February, 1944.

I am informed that the Questore was removed from his appointment and interned because he failed to co-operate with the Allied military authorities and because his attitude was such that he was deemed to be a potential danger to security. In spite of frequent requests he failed to effect the arrest and bring to trial a very considerable number of persons charged with serious security offences. In the opinion of the Allied military authorities his failures probably contributed to the unrest in Taranto.

The Commander-in-Chief is, however, prepared to release this official from internment on condition that he is given no official appointment in the Italian Government and that he does not return to the Province of Taranto.

If I can have your assurance that this condition will be carried out and if you will inform me where you intend to send him, I will arrange for his release to be carried out.

WILLIAM HANCOCK 1820  
Lieutenant General,  
Chief Commissioner.

P/A

Ref: 359/44/CA.

19th February 1944. 45

Subject: Arrest of Questore of Taranto.

To : Chief Commissioner.

1. I have been in communication with HQ. A.C.M.F. on the question of the Questore of Taranto and asked that he be released from internment.

2. I received a categorical refusal from the R.C.S(I)., HQ. A.C.M.F. but in conversation with him this morning he has agreed to release him from internment on condition that he is not reinstated in any area where Allied military interests are affected and that the method of his release from internment is tactfully carried out.

3. I submit a draft reply to Badoglio.

M. J. LASH,  
Brigadier,  
Executive Commissioner

1819

MSL/JG.

Ref. CC/G/66.

CONFIDENTIAL

359

44

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION  
Office of the Deputy President  
APO 394

FNM/rj

17th. February, 1944.

MEMORANDUM:

TO: Brigadier Lush,  
Vice-President,  
Regional Control & Military Government Section.

*I have some very  
incomplete information  
on this already.*

1. Badoglio last night complained that he had as yet received no information as to why the Questore at Taranto, and in another case Captain Russo and others at Bari, had been arrested.
2. I understand both arrests were made by the F.S.P..
3. I told Badoglio I would find out and let him know.
4. Would you please make the necessary enquiries.

*Wm S. H*

NOEL MASON MACFARLANE  
Lieutenant-General **1818**  
Chief Commissioner.

11.30 Capt HAWKIN

A.C.C. Liaison Officer  
will see you and produce  
any further information  
which you may require P.M. 19/2

U. S. SECRET  
Equals British SECRET  
HEADQUARTERS ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION  
APO 394

EWS/afe

43

4 February 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR: General MacFarlane

Further to my memorandum of yesterday concerning the arrest of the Questore of Taranto.

I have received today the attached letter from District 2.

The "continuous bad reports", so far as I am able to make out, relate to the question of failing to secure convictions in the case of most of the police arrests, referred to in the third paragraph of my letter of yesterday.

The OC, 52 Area states that he did not ask for the arrest of the Questore and the attached letter from District 2 states only that his removal was requested.

It seems to me that the question is thus limited to the application of the "overriding power" as applied in the case of high officials.

Meanwhile the Government awaits our reply as to the reason for the Questore's arrest. If the attached letter is disclosed as representing the cause for his arrest, we may certainly expect the Government's demand for his release.

I recommend that District 2 be requested to release the Questore from arrest on the understanding that he will not be reinstated.

ELLERY W. STONE  
Captain USNR  
Acting Chief of Staff

1 Incl:  
Ltr, Hq 2 Distr  
2022/10 G. 3 Feb 44

U. S. SECRET  
Equals British SECRET

1817

COPY

U. S. SECRET  
Equals British SECRET

359

42

SUBJECT : Arrest of Questore of Taranto

SECRET

Hq 2 District CMF  
-2022/10 G

3 Feb 44

ACC

Copy to 52 Area

1. Continuous bad reports have been received by this Hq concerning the Questore of TARANTO. General DOWLER gave instructions for his arrest and internment. The arrest was to be postponed pending the arrival of 410 FSS in the area.
2. Normally civilian arrests are made in co-operation with the BADCOLIO Government or its representatives but overriding powers remain in Allied hands if the military situation requires.
3. A request was received on 31 Jan by this Hq from OC 52 Area for the immediate removal of the Questore. In consequence the overriding power was exercised and FSS instructed to proceed with a representative of OCPR to the immediate execution of the arrest as ordered by GOC No 2 District.
4. This Hq had no information that it was proposed to supersede the Questore.

TOS 0830 A  
JHC

Major-General  
Commanding 2 District

1816

U. S. SECRET  
Equals British SECRET

**SUBJECT: Arrest of Questore of TARANTO**

Headquarters  
Allied Central Mediterranean Force

**RR CONFIDENTIAL - US CONFIDENTIAL**

**ACME/1455/2/G(Ib)**

TO: Executive Commissioner,  
A.C.C.

14 February 1944

Reference your letter on the above subject, 8/34/CA dated 12 Feb 44, which Major-General Robertson has passed to B.G.S.I. for action.

1. The following information on this case has been supplied by G.S.I., 2 District.

(a) The Questore of TARANTO was removed from his appointment and interned because he failed to co-operate and his attitude was such that he was deemed a potential danger to our security.

(b) In spite of frequent requests, he failed to bring to trial a very considerable number of persons charged with serious security offences. This failure has probably contributed to the unrest and poor security situation in TARANTO.

(c) The Area Commander concerned insisted on his removal from the appointment of Questore. Major-General Dowler, late G.O.C. 2 District, considered the case and instructed that he should be interned. Major-General Mares, present G.O.C. 2 District, has approved his internment. The A.C.C. agreed to his removal. General Piccolo, Commander of the Carabinieri, considered his internment fully justified.

2. In the light of the above facts, and in view of the unfortunate consequences of the release of the Questore of CAMPOBASSO at the request of Marshal BADOGLIO, (ref our ACME/1456/12/G(Ib) dated 9 Feb 44, addressed to A.C.C.), it is considered undesirable that the Questore of TARANTO should be released.

3. It is suggested that HQ 2 District be asked by A.C.C. to forward a full report of the case, from which it will no doubt be concluded that the arrest and internment of this official was fully justified.

Brigadier,  
B.G.S.(I),  
A.C.M.F.

Copy to:

Major-General Sir Brian Robertson Bart

Reference your letter on the above subject, 8/34/CA dated 12 Feb 44, which Major-General Robertson has passed to B.G.S.I. for action.

1. The following information on this case has been supplied by G.S.I.,  
2 District.

(a) The Questore of TARANTO was removed from his appointment and interned because he failed to co-operate and his attitude was such that he was deemed a potential danger to our security.

(b) In spite of frequent requests, he failed to bring to trial a very considerable number of persons charged with serious security offences. This failure has probably contributed to the unrest and poor security situation in TARANTO.

(c) The Area Commander concerned insisted on his removal from the appointment of Questore. Major-General Dowler, late G.O.C. 2 District, considered the case and instructed that he should be interned. Major-General Hares, present G.O.C. 2 District, has approved his internment. The A.C.C. agreed to his removal. General Piccolo, Commander of the Carabinieri, considered his internment fully justified.

2. In the light of the above facts, and in view of the unfortunate consequences of the release of the Questore of CAMPOBASSO at the request of Marshal RADICHIO, (ref our ACW/1458/12/9(Ib) dated 9 Feb 44, addressed to A.C.C.), it is considered undesirable that the Questore of TARANTO should be released.

3. It is suggested that HQ 2 District be asked by A.C.C. to forward a full report of the case, from which it will no doubt be concluded that the arrest and internment of this official was fully justified.

*15. Dis 1815*

Brigadier,  
B.G.S.(I),  
A.C.M.F.

Copy to: Major-General Sir Brian Robertson Bart  
D.C.A.O. AFHQ Adv Adm Ech.  
HQ 2 District.

HEADQUARTERS,  
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION,  
C. M. F.  
\*\*\*\*\*

*4th*  
*late copy*

Ref: B/34/CA.

12th February 1944.

Subject: Arrest of Quastore of Taranto.

Major-General Sir Brian Robertson, Dnt,  
Deputy Chief Administrative Officer,  
A.F.M.C. Advance Adm. Echelon.

On 1st February the Quastore of Taranto was arrested by Field Security Police on the grounds that he was non-cooperative. The Prime Minister has represented to the Chief Commissioner that this action has caused considerable dismay and from the records submitted to the Chief Commissioner there seems to be little reason for his arrest.

It would be in the interests of operations and the good name of the Italian Government if this official could be released and I should be glad if instructions could be given to this effect. I have addressed H.Q., A.C.M.F. under separate cover on the subject of arrests of Italian officials in King's Italy.

*314*

MIL/PC.

M. S. LUSH,  
Brigadier,  
Executive Commissioner.

*see 60*

1814

359  
REAR HEADQUARTERS  
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION  
APO 394

Administrative Section

13 Feb 44

SUBJECT : Security Arrests in TARANTO

TO : RC & MG Section

1. Signore REALI, Ministry of the Interior asks if he may be informed of the charges against one MENDOLA, Questore of TARANTO, who was arrested some 10 days ago in that port by FSS personnel.

2. He also inquires about the disposal of ten employees of the Arsenal at TARANTO who were arrested by the British military authorities toward the end of 1943.

*Stansgate*

STANSGATE,  
Vice President, Administrative Section,  
Allied Control Commission.

*Copy to. Public Safety.*

*see 40*

1813

*see 73*

SUBJECT: - Taranto Labour Situation.

15 FEB Recd

CAB 32

TO: Brig. Lus  
HQ., Allied Control Commission.

FROM: Regional Liaison Officer,  
Allied Control Commission, (Apulia).

10 Feb 44

1. Having no news yet of the transfer of these provinces to Region II, I am reporting to you directly on this matter.

2. Attached is a copy of my memorandum of 7 Feb. 44 to Captain Stone, for ready reference. There have since been further developments.

3. Admiral Fioravanzo has caused the gist of General Macfarlane's telegram to Marshal Badoglio (of 6 Feb. 44?) to be widely disseminated, among employers and workers alike. You will appreciate the possibility that this information, with its promise that strikes at Taranto will be followed by the imposition of Allied Military Government, may have diametrically the opposite effect of that intended.

4. After seeking A.C.C.'s assent to para (a) (the matter was referred to Captain Stone), Admiral Fioravanzo has today published the attached proclamation. This, in effect, withdraws his previous proclamation (dated 2 Feb., posted 3 Feb., imposing certain restrictions on civilians in the province) and restores the position of affairs to what ~~was~~ prior to the disturbance of 2 Feb. In the absence of a new Prefect, the Admiral continues to fill the double role of Italian Military Comd. and Acting Prefect.

5. In order to meet the charge that the town was still being run by a lot of Fascists, Admiral Fioravanzo asked the Workers Syndicate (on 6 or 7 Feb.) to nominate a committee to cooperate with the authorities towards determining and replacing the Fascists complained of. This the workers leaders refused to do, which appears most significant, as implying their refusal to cooperate with the Badoglio Government.

6. Rumours of a sit-down strike are again current. The strike would be for larger rations and higher wages. Admiral Fioravanzo says that Saturday, 12 Feb., is spoken of.

7. He is now taking steps to warn individually each of the provincial committees of the National Committee of Liberation, (list attached), that they will be held responsible if agitation

1812

developments.

3. Admiral Fioravanzo has caused the gist of General Macfarlane's telegram to Marshal Badoglio (of 6 Feb. 44?) to be widely disseminated, among employers and workers alike. You will appreciate the possibility that this information, with its promise that strikes at Taranto will be followed by the imposition of Allied Military Government, may have diametrically the opposite effect of that intended.

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**1812**

7. He is now taking steps to warn individually each of the provincial committee of the National Committee of Liberation, (list attached), that they will be held responsible if agitation among the workers leads to a strike. If they will not cooperate with the Government, at least - this is Admiral Fioravanzo's attitude - they should not take an active part in raising trouble.

8. You will note how the whole question appears to be taking the form of an episode in the political game. Admiral Fioravanzo, having failed to get the workers leaders to 'play', clearly considers the National Committee of Liberation to be the men behind the scenes.

9. For the rest, the new Questore is awaited. The increase in the bread ration has gone into effect (so that, with it, and with improved hot midday meal, the dock-workers are better off than for many months) and the Admiral is showing considerable energy in

dealing with matters pertaining to the Alimentazione.

10. The lack of civilian supply transport means a major hindrance to food distribution. Twenty trucks have been asked for.

*EB Name* *WCA*  
Regional Liaison Officer.  
A.C.C. (Apulia).

Copy to:- Lt. Col. McCaffrey, R.C.A.O., Region II.  
Capt. H.M.P. Hawkin, Liaison Officer,  
A.C.C. (Taranto).

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1111

26  
7 February 1944.

SUBJECT: Memorandum on Taranto situation.

TO : Captain Ellery W. Stone, Acting Chief of Staff, ACC.  
FROM : Lt-Col. E. B. Mayne, Regional Liason Officer, ACC (Apulia).

1. Recent events in Taranto are, I consider, straws in the wind.

2. On the one hand, there is an important body of workers in the dockyards and associated plants. The workers are organised and there is every indication that political influences are active in their leadership.

3. On the other hand is the local Italian Naval Command, who have taken charge of the situation. Their intention, as far as we know it, is to handle matters with firmness, while attempting to remove abuses and improve local conditions. Admiral Fioravanzo however by his handling of recent events, has not given grounds for confidence. Against this, I am informed that the Italian Ministry of Marine under S. E. de Courten is remaining at Taranto.

4. I consider that it is quite on the cards that the labor leaders will bring about a trial of strength. What occurs in Taranto will then be a kind of test case for similar developments elsewhere.

5. Questions of high policy are likely to arise without warning:

a) In the event of serious trouble, the Italian Naval Commander may seek the military assistance of the Area Commander. This, in effect, is what has already occurred twice.

b) Allied support, short of military intervention, may be sought, e.g. in a proclamation, in a public statement, or at a meeting.

c) Questions involving the alteration of wages or rations, which require coordination for all of liberated Italy, can be foreseen.

6. With reference to c), I recommend that a member of the Sub-Commission should be sent to Taranto immediately, in order to make himself familiar with conditions of labor and the problems involved. This can be done without his appearing to interfere in the situation.

7. In view of the uncertain situation, I propose to post myself to Taranto from tomorrow. My office will be in the ACC Liason Office, Prefettura. Tel. Taranto 3455. Signed. E. B. Mayne.

785017

SUBJECT: National Committee  
of Liberation.

Regional Liason Officer,  
(Lt.Col E.B.Mayne)  
A.C.C.

<sup>559</sup> Allied Control Commission,  
Palazzo del Governo,  
Taranto.

T/ACC/13

10 Feb 44

Reference your enquiry on this subject.

The following have been nominated by their party to  
be representatives on the National Committee of Liberation,  
Taranto Branch.:-

1. Avv.CARAMIA, Agilulfo (Hon.Pres) - Liberal.
2. Prof.DRAGO Ciro (Exec.Pres) - Without Party.
3. Dott.DELLI PONTI Pasquale - Liberal.
4. Sig.VOCCOLI, Edoardo - Communist.
5. Dott.PIERRI Michele - Christian Democratic.
6. Cap.SOLARI Raoul - Socialist.
7. Sig.SANDULLI Ferdinando - Party of Action,  
Republican.

Supplementary Members.

1. Avv.PAPPACENA Nicola - Liberal.
2. Sig.RENZULLI Amadeo - Communist.
3. Avv.RIZZO Ettore - Christian Democratic.
4. Dott.D'ELIA Carlo - Party of Action, Republican.

It is not known how far the members represent popular  
opinion in this province. Avv.CARAMIA is mayor of Taranto  
and a man of some means. Sig.VOCCOLI & Sig.RENZULLI were  
two of the three workmens representatives interviewed by  
Brig.Goodwin on Feb 4. With two exceptions, all these men  
are known to me, and I can vouch that they form a pretty  
good section of every type of society in Taranto.

*Brig Goodwin*  
Liason Officer.

1810



# R. PREFETTURA - Taranto

Ristabilito l'ordine pubblico e confidando che nessun malintenzionato vorrà più oltre rendere inevitabile l'adozione di misure di rigore eccezionali al fine di reprimere disordini;

convinto che la ~~popolazione~~ popolazione della Provincia anela al risanamento delle infinite piaghe che la lacerano, e che nessuno vorrà consentire o provocare nuovi lutti e

## REVOCO

nella qualità di Comandante Militare Marittimo l'ordinanza emanata il 2 Febbraio 1944 con disposizioni eccezionali in essa contenute per proteggere la pubblica incolumità e per assicurare con l'autorità della legge, l'ordinata risoluzione di problemi gravissimi e urgenti.

Pertanto si intende restituita alla normalità esistente a tutto il 1° Febbraio u. s. tutta l'attività trattata in detta ordinanza.

## ORDINO

1.) - Le Forze Armate, le Forze di Polizia e i Corpi Armati Ausiliari (Vigili del Fuoco, Vigili Urbani, Guardie Giurate), agli ordini dei rispettivi Enti e Comandi, rimangono alle mie dirette dipendenze nella mia qualità di Comandante Militare Marittimo, per la tutela della legge e il mantenimento dell'ordine pubblico.

2.) - Tutte le armi e munizioni legittimamente in possesso a civili e consegnate, in virtù della disposizione di cui al n. 5 della citata ordinanza, saranno restituite ai possessori.

Il Comandante Militare Marittimo ~~comunque colti in flagranza~~



# PREFETTURA - Taranto

Ristabilito l'ordine pubblico e confidando che nessun malintenzionato vorrà più oltre rendere inattuabile l'adozione di misure di rigore eccezionali al fine di reprimere disordini;

convinto che la ~~popolazione~~ popolazione della Provincia anela al risanamento delle molte piaghe che la lacerano, e che nessuno vorrà consentire o provocare nuovi lutti e disagi;

## REVOCO

nella qualità di Comandante Militare Marittimo l'ordinanza emanata il 2 Febbraio 1944 e le disposizioni eccezionali in essa contenute per proteggere la pubblica incolumità e per assicurare, nell'autorità della legge, l'ordinata risoluzione di problemi gravissimi e urgenti.

Pertanto si intende restituita alla normalità esistente a tutto il 1° Febbraio u. s. tutta la materia trattata in detta ordinanza.

## ORDINO

1.) - Le Forze Armate, le Forze di Polizia e i Corpi Armati Ausillari (Vigili del Fuoco, Vigili del Fiume, Guardie Giurate), agli ordini dei rispettivi Enti e Comandi, rimangono alle mie dirette dipendenze nella mia qualità di Comandante Militare Marittimo, per la tutela della legge e il mantenimento dell'ordine pubblico.

2.) - Tutte le armi e munizioni legittimamente in possesso a civili e consegnate, in virtù della disposizione di cui al n. 5 della citata ordinanza, saranno restituite ai possessori.

3.) - I cittadini comunque colti in flagranza di atti

Pertanto si Intende restituita alla normalità esistente a tutto il territorio di competenza della Prefettura di Taranto, trattata in detta ordinanza.

## ORDINO

1.) - Le Forze Armate, le Forze di Polizia e i Corpi Armati Ausiliari (Vigili del Fuoco, Vigili Urbani, Guardie Giurate), agli ordini dei rispettivi Enti e Comandi, rimangono alle mie disposizioni nella mia qualità di Comandante Militare Marittimo, per la tutela della legge e il mantenimento dell'ordine pubblico.

2.) - Tutte le armi e munizioni legittimamente in possesso a civili e consegnate, sono in mia disposizione di cui al n. 5 della citata ordinanza, saranno restituite ai possessori.

3.) - Saranno denunciati al Tribunale Militare i cittadini comunque colti in flagranza di violenza contro la pubblica incolumità e contro tutti coloro che hanno l'obbligo di

## DICHIARO

a) - Tutti i cittadini sappiano che le Autorità Alleate esigono che nessun disordine o danno nocumento alla vita del paese; intendono che non siano portati intralci, ma bensì serietà e impegno alla causa della liberazione del suolo italiano.

b) - L'opera mia non si arresterà davanti alle molteplici difficoltà, nel compito che mi sono impegnato, sia come Reggente la Prefettura, sia come Comandante Militare Marittimo.

## SPERO

di non dover usare la forza in difesa del pacifico procedere dell'opera di riordinamento e di risanamento della vita pubblica e privata che mi sono proposto;

di aver la volonterosa collaborazione di tutte le coscienze oneste della Provincia.

Taranto, 10 febbraio 1944.

IL REGGENTE LA PREFETTURA  
AMMIRAGLIO DI DIVISIONE  
GIUSEPPE FIORAVANTI

ertanto si intende restituita alla normalità esistente a tutto il 1° febbraio di quest'anno.  
attata in detta ordinanza.

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Guardie Giurate), agli ordini dei rispettivi Enti e Comandi, rimangono alle mie dirette dipen-  
nella mia qualità di Comandante Militare Marittimo, per la tutela della legge e il manteni-  
dell'ordine pubblico.

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zione di cui al n. 5 della citata ordinanza, saranno restituite ai possessori.

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enza contro la pubblica incolumità e contro tutti coloro che hanno l'obbligo di tutelarla.

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amento della vita pubblica e privata che mi sono proposto;  
aver la volonterosa collaborazione di tutte le coscienze oneste della Provincia Jonica.

Taranto, 10 febbraio 1944.

IL REGGENTE LA PREFETTURA  
AMMIRAGLIO DI DIVISIONE  
GIUSEPPE FIORAVANZO

Ref: 15/30/GA.

12th February 1944.

**Subject:** Taranto Disturbances.

**To :** Vice President, Administrative Section.

1. I forward a report on the Taranto disturbances compiled by Lieut. Colonel Purley Smith of the Civil Affairs Branch of this Section.

2. I refer in particular to his recommendations made in para.4. It has been the custom to use CAPO's in a general rather than in a police capacity. This has been due chiefly to scarcity of personnel. Now that the Italian Government have taken over I think that these police officers should be used more in their special work and I will so direct Regional Commissioners.

3. The paucity of competent administrative officials is a very serious problem for the Italian Government and I suggest to you the possibility of setting up a short course on administration or perhaps forming a school for administrators, to which reputable young men could be admitted. Thus, the junior posts in the administrative services at any rate could be filled in the future. The school, of course, would have to be under Italian control with Allied supervision.

4. I am in the process of issuing a directive with regard to para.4(c) and am taking up the matter of arrests of Italian officials with H.C., A.C.M.F.

M. S. LUSH,  
Brigadier,  
Executive Commissioner.

1808

DEL/ST.

HEADQUARTERS,  
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION,  
APO 394.

\*\*\*\*\*

9th February 1944.

Subject: Taranto Disturbances.

To : Chief Commissioner.

Report on Taranto disturbances by Lt.Col.Farley Smith, whom I sent to investigate, is submitted. I will send copies to Lord Stansgate and the Political directors. I do not think we need send any further report to A.F.H.Q. but will mention the incident in our monthly report.

I will take up the question of employment of C.A.P.O's (4(a)) with Lord Stansgate and the Regional Commissioners.

M.S.L.

M. S. LUSH,  
Brigadier,  
Executive Commissioner.

Brig Lush

Agreed. 1807

Head Qu.

Wm 4/24

Didach

REPORT

TARANTO DISTURBANCES

Executive Commissioner,

The following is the brief report on recent events at TARANTO for which you asked.

1. The reports which you have already seen give an accurate account of events. In no case did they amount to more than demonstrations which would not have called for outside interference had the Italian authorities been anything near efficient. I agree with the statement made in the reports that the demonstrators were organised for political motives. Food shortage is an ever present and sure method of raising a demonstration under existing conditions and will probably be used again.

2. Capt. Hawking (L.O. Taranto), Lt.Col. Moyne (C.I.O.) and Capt. Stone were at all times in full touch with the situation, in complete harmony with the Sub-Area Commander and in contact with the Italian authorities.

3. As I see it, the factors contributing to these demonstrations are as follows:-

- (a) Large industrial population particularly susceptible to agitation.
- (b) Lack of food as compared to normal times.
- (c) Lack of appreciation by average working man in S. Italy that times are by no means normal.
- (d) Inability of the people to understand what "Freedom" means after being without it for so long.
- (e) Unpopularity of and lack of respect for the present Italian Government.
- (f) Uncertainty by the Italian Government as to how far the people should be given "Freedom".
- (g) Loss of prestige by the Italian police and armed forces.
- (h) Too many Fascists still in office.
- (i) A combination of the above factors causing doubt and indecision amongst the subordinate Italian officials who, in general, are either distrusted by the people as being tainted with fascism or are second class men not trained for their positions.

1806

4. In order to improve the position I would recommend the following in addition to the recommendations made by Capt. Stone :-

- (a) Greater attention to improving the prestige of the Italian police forces by the use of more CAPO's in their real job.
- (b) Every assistance to

method of raising a demonstration under existing conditions and will probably be used again.

2. Capt. Hawking (L.O. Taranto), Lt.Col. Moyne (C.L.O.) and Capt. Stone were at all times in full touch with the situation, in complete harmony with the Sub-Area Commander and in contact with the Italian authorities.
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  - (d) Inability of the people to understand what "freedom" means after being without it for so long.
  - (e) Unpopularity of and lack of respect for the present Italian Government.
  - (f) Uncertainty by the Italian Government as to how far the people should be given "freedom".
  - (g) Loss of prestige by the Italian police and armed forces.
  - (h) Too many Fascists still in office.
  - (i) A combination of the above factors causing doubt and indecision amongst the subordinate Italian officials who, in general, are either distrusted by the people as being tainted with fascism or are second class men not trained for their positions.

1806

4. In order to improve the position I would recommend the following in addition to the recommendations made by Capt. Stone :-

- (a) Greater attention to improving the prestige of the Italian police forces by the use of more CAPO's in their real job.
- (b) Every assistance to Italian Government in search for competent men able to replace Fascist officials.
- (c) Every effort to do all that can be done through the Italian Government, thus bolstering up its prestige. The arrest of the Taranto Questore is a good example of how not to do things.

I realise that the above recommendations are not new, in fact they are part of ACC policy - all that can be done is to keep them even more in view.

Lastly to find some middle way by which the Italian Government will get the maximum of prestige and yet the people will

ensure that /always

always said that AOC is behind it. The people respect Allied Military Government and we are in the happy, if wrong, position of gaining credit for all the good and having our failures blamed on the Fascist personnel whom the people still see, or think they see, in office. Measures taken to see that the war effort is not impaired will, I believe, always be respected by the peoples leaders. This puts us in a very strong position and I think that insofar as Italy is a co-belligerent, the Italian war effort could be linked to ours by propaganda. I do not believe that the people think of it as being one effort at present.

9th FEB 44

*S. P. P. P. P.*

LT. COLONEL.

15  
4-28  
11. Feb. 1944.

Subject: Taranto Disturbances

Memorandum to: Vice-President, Administration Section.  
Vice-President, Economic Section.

The attached copy of Lieut. Colonel Parley  
Smith's report on the recent disturbances at Taranto  
is forwarded for your information.

*Signed*  
I. E. CARR,  
Captain,  
P.A. to Brig. Gen.

1804

359 file  
24  
HEADQUARTERS,  
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION  
APO 374  
\*\*\*\*\*

26th February 1944

Subject: Toronto Disturbances.

To : Chief Commissioner.

Report on Toronto Disturbances by Lt. Col. Farley Smith, whom I sent to investigate, is submitted. I will send copies to Lord Stanagate and the Political Directorate. I do not think we need send any further report to A.F.H.Q. but will mention the incident in our monthly report.

I will take up the question of employment of C.A.F.O's (4(e)) with Lord Stanagate and the Regional Commissioners.

M. S. LUSH,  
Brigadier,  
Executive Commissioner.

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15 87  
1 8 FEB Recd  
22

HEADQUARTERS  
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION  
APO 394

6 February 1944

TO: Chief Commissioner

Deputy Chief Commissioner has made the following suggestion for dealing with Taranto and other labor situations in the interests of insuring orderly L O C :-

In consideration of a pledge from labor union and unorganized workers that there will be no strikes, mass absences, etc., for duration of war, the Government would agree to establish an arbitration board composed as follows:

- 1 representative from Government
- 1 representative from Labor
- 1 representative from Employers
- ( or 3 from each to avoid tie vote)

Subjects to be dealt with by the Board:-

- (a) Wages
- (b) Food Rationing
- (c) Elimination of black market

In the last analysis topics (a) and (b) and only the final settlement by us — under our actual control of imports and our desire at least to control inflation, but that need not stop the Board making findings on these subjects.

As to topic (c) the Government should request labor suggestions for, and cooperation, in eliminating the black market. The Government must pledge itself to remove any corrupt or incompetent officials whom labor can prove are assisting black market operations.

Because of our interests in points (a) and (b), we might consider having an observer on the Board without vote. The advantage to us of this would be to discourage the Government from making settlement with the workers by acceding to wage and food demands we might finally have to veto. In other words we might want to sit in without official voice or vote to keep from having the first two points dumped in the last analysis in our laps.

1802  
M/S

Copy on: Sabour file  
206

May. Gen. Lenti.

Chief Exec. Comm. memo.

21

Grillo called on Dir. of Sec. Salerno at 2300. Feb. 6

He referred to the Chief Commissioner's instructions  
as to the threatened strike at Taranto.

He reported that he could not establish contact with Reale  
but had reported the Chief Commissioner's remarks  
to Jung and Philipson and asked them to take  
the necessary steps.

Grillo also spoke to Lenti but again could not  
reach Reale. He therefore reported what the  
Chief Commissioner had said to Pagliani the  
vice-chief of staff to the War Minister of War asking  
him to convey the message to the Minister of  
War and to Marshal Badoglio.

S/Ensign

V.P. Adm. Section

7. Feb. 1944

W/2/7/44

RM 10/2

1801

20  
✓

Chun Commission

Deputy CC warns you of possible strike at Toronto  
dockyard tomorrow. This conflicts with Lt Col Farley Smith's report  
that all is quiet!  
Reade & Badoglio discuss it this evening

I suggest that a warning be telephoned to them  
now to the effect that if they cannot control the situation  
tomorrow & prevent the strike you will have to consider  
imposing A.M.G. on Toronto province at once.

TBS/6/2/44

19

FOR: General Mason MacFarlane  
Brigadier M. S. Lush

Memorandum of Telephone Message from Captain Stone, Brindisi, 1555 6 Feb. 44

Admiral McGregor reports that there is to be a sit-down strike in the ship yards at Taranto tomorrow, 7 February. The strike is ostensibly for an increase in the food ration, although such an increase has already been announced to go into effect tomorrow. Further demands are for higher wages and elimination of the black market. The strike is, however, believed action intended to embarrass the Government in connection with the turn over. The Commander-in-Chief of the Navy, Duca d'Aosta, asked McGregor if he would consider asking AFHQ to issue a statement that such action would be contrary to the war effort. McGregor declined and informed him that the matter was the responsibility of the Italian authorities. McGregor understands that the Duca d'Aosta is meeting with Marshal Badoglio at 1700 this evening. Stone does not know whether Reale is in Taranto or not.

Stone understands, however, that District 2 arrested the Questore at Taranto on 1 February. He has written 2 letters to General MacFarlane on the subject - one of which should now have been received, but not the other. While releasing the Questore at this time would not help the immediate situation, it is politically unfortunate that the man was arrested at this particular time. Col. Monfort is familiar with the case. There was very little to warrant the arrest of the man.

There will be no further developments until tomorrow, but there is likelihood of further disturbances later in the week. Stone would like to know if he should stay there or come up on Tuesday as planned.

*Jim*

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

EWS/hjp

APO 394

3 February 1944

MEMORANDUM:

NOTES ON TARANTO DEMONSTRATION  
FEBRUARY 2, 1944

General Causes

1. Low level of family rations--150 grams of bread per person per day.
2. General decline in governmental authority following collapse of Fascism and lack of strong local command--partly due to uncertainty as to how far Allies will support the putting down of political demonstrations.

Particular Causes

3. Large industrial population of Taranto due to dock yards, by nature unruly and susceptible to agitation.
4. Poor local administration, with particular reference to food distribution services. (Col. Monfort knows details of this.)

Events Shown

In spite of the generally peaceful nature of the crowds and the presence of numerous Carabinieri and Italian troops, no effective steps were taken to handle the crowds. Conspicuous lack of command.

Recommendations

By Italians

1. Inquiry into the lack of command, and its immediate rectification.
2. Appointment of the best Questore available.
3. Appointment of the best Prefect available.
4. Effective reorganization of the food distribution services. ACC supply officers to assist.

By Allies

1. See whether rations can be improved. Notably, a regular <sup>17,98</sup>

17

small, pasta ration.

2. The immediate supply of some transport for civilian supplies --say, 20 trucks. Taranto Province is particularly short of transport for distributing supplies and bringing local supplies to the town. \*

Since dictating above, I have learned from Naples that an immediate increase in the bread ration to 200 grams is being considered. In my opinion, if this increase can be made, together with the establishment of a regular pasta ration, say, 40 or 50 grams per day (existing ration cards authorize 70 grams per day), it should be made effective before the transfer of Regions I and II to the Government. First, on humanitarian grounds, and second, if withheld until the Government takes over, the opposition is likely to charge that the Allies are "window dressing" the Government.

*Ellery W. Stone*  
ELLERY W. STONE  
Captain, USNR  
Acting Chief of Staff

\*These could be loaned by Ital. Army for the time being.

1797

HEADQUARTERS  
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION  
APO 394

2 February 1944

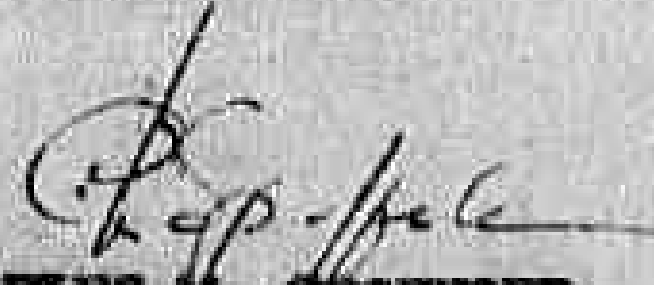
SUBJECT: Lt. Col. T. Farley Smith

TO : Orders

1. You are directed to proceed to Taranto to investigate the recent acts of violence and disturbances which have been reported to this headquarters. You will, if convenient, proceed by way of Brindisi to establish contact ~~there~~ and learn whatever details are available there.

2. In Taranto you will contact A.C.C. officers and such other officials as you may determine in order to obtain full information on the cause and extent of the disturbances and any measures, immediate or otherwise, which it may be necessary to employ. You will make inquiries as to the reason for the failure of this headquarters to be advised other than through Italian Government channels of the incidents in question.

By command of Lieut. General MacFARLANE:

  
CHARLES M. SPOFFORD  
Colonel, G.S.C.  
Deputy Executive Commissioner  
R.C. and M.C. Section

Form 12-50  
0523330A

N-803

15 TWX

2542

Signal Corps, United States Army  
OPERATIONAL  
Telegram

**RESTRICTED**

**PRIORITY**

Received at

PENINSULAR BASE SECTION  
SIGNAL MESSAGE CENTER

*J. R. M. & Co.*

6 FEB 1944

19

RESTRICTED

OPERATIONAL PRIORITY

**ACTION COPY**

TO (ACTION) : FARGO, FATIMA REAR DISTWO REGION TWO

(INFORMATION): NONE

FROM : HQ AMG REGION TWO

DATE TIME SIGNED: 05NFT

DATE TIME REC'D.: 0523330A

REFERENCE NR. : NONE

CITE : NONE

HEADQUARTERS  
6 FEB 1944  
AMG.

*Replied*

FOR SPOFFORD FROM SMITH, SITUATION TARANTO SATURDAY  
MORNING NORMAL. NO NEED FOR EMERGENCY MEASURES. STRONGLY RECOMMEND  
REGION TWO STAND DOWN. YOUR 688 REFERS. MAYNE AND FATIMA REAR  
HAVE ALWAYS BEEN IN COMPLETE CONTROL SITUATION. REGIONS TWO  
AND DISTWO INFORMED.

**ACTION COPY**

*Action - AMG HQ  
Dinfo - Secy  
- C. G.*

*Acc Dist.*

*(Action) RC & MG Sec  
(Info) Admin Sec.*

1795

**ACTION COPY**

OPERATIONAL PRIORITY

TO (ACTION) : FARGO, FATIMA REAR DISTWO REGION TWO

(INFORMATION): NONE

FROM : HQ AMG REGION TWO

DATE TIME SIGNED: 05NFT

DATE TIME REC'D.: 052330A

REFERENCE NR.: NONE

CITE : NONE

HEADQUARTERS  
6 FEB 1944  
AMG

*Reck*

FOR SPOFFORD FROM SMITH, SITUATION TARANTO SATURDAY  
MORNING NORMAL. NO NEED FOR EMERGENCY MEASURES. STRONGLY RECOMMEND  
REGION TWO STAND DOWN. YOUR 688 REFERS. WAYNE AND FATIMA REAR  
HAVE ALWAYS BEEN IN COMPLETE CONTROL SITUATION. REGIONS TWO  
AND DISTWO INFORMED.

**ACTION COPY**

*Action - AMG HQ  
Info - Secy  
- C, G,*

*Acc Dir:*

*(Action) RC + MG Sec  
(Info) Admin Sec.*

1795

CRYPTO *Sherratt*

FORM #18-A

RESTRICTED *12815*

051916A

N-763

ADIO

2546

**SECRET**

SECRET PRIORITY TELEGRAM

RECEIVED AT

PBS SIGNAL MESSAGE CENTER

5 FEB 1944

SECRET

PRIORITY

CG PBS FOR FARGO PERSONAL FOR MACFARLANE COPY  
TO SPOFFORD

NONE

FATIMA HEAR FROM STONE SIGNED MACFARLANE

051150A

051916A

2273

NONE



**FBI INFORMATION ONLY**

CONFIRMING TELEPHONE REPORTS OF YESTERDAY TO GUTERBOCK  
AND YOUR PA, THE FUNERAL PARADE AT TARANTO YESTERDAY 4 FEBRUARY  
PASSED OFF WITHOUT INCIDENT. FUNERAL WAS FOR 1 WORKER WHO DIED  
AS RESULT OF FALL INTO DITCH. SEE PARAGRAPH 2 CAPTAIN HAWKINS  
REPORT SENT YOU BY COURIER FEBRUARY 3.

PBS DISTR:

ACTION AMG HQ  
INFO SECY  
CG

ACC DISTR:

(INFO) PA TO CG  
" CHIEF ASSISTANT  
" RC & MJ SEC  
" ADM SEC

**SECRET**

1794

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785017

Brig. Gen.

Please go  
into this -  
mon fort is  
probably in  
the picture -  
and then  
discuss with  
me.

Wm<sup>19</sup><sub>2</sub> SP

15  
FEB Recd

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION  
APO 394

EWS/hjp

3 February 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR: General MacFarlane

Re the attached concerning the arrest of the Questore of Taranto.

The Marshal made an error as to the date of the arrest which occurred on the 1st and not on the day of the disturbance.

Monfort is familiar with the case of the Questore. District II and the Area Commander have accused him of releasing prisoners with only light sentences, if any. The Questore is not responsible for convictions and sentences. The former Procurator was lax in this respect and was removed. \*

I have discussed this with both Brigadier Goodwin, the Area Commander, and Colonel Sisley of District II. Each claims that the other authority is responsible for the arrest. The report from District II as to the reasons for the arrest has not been received but from what I can learn from Colonel Mayne, the Questore should have been removed from office but not arrested.

The Security Police, as in the Donati case in Naples, claim that "obstructionism" is sufficient cause for arrest on the ground that security is endangered. Colonel Spofford is familiar with their practice in such cases.

My own opinion is that a directive should be issued by Hq ACMF distinguishing between those cases which, while obstructionist, do not actually endanger security.

I have not acknowledged the attached because of the policy involved. I will send you District II's report on MENDOLA as soon as it has been received.

*Action*  
*Wright*

*Wright Stone*  
ELLEN W. STONE  
Captain, USNR  
Acting Chief of Staff

1 Incl:  
Ltr fr Marshal Badoglio  
3 Feb 1944

Spoke Col. Rilla who states that there has been death  
in the big case. 1793  
Submitted by B. L. Stone

\*I have just been informed that he has not yet been replaced, although the Under-Secy of Justice recently undertook to relieve him.

TRANSLATION

P.M. 01, 3 February 1944

THE CHIEF OF GOVERNMENT

Dear General MacFarlane,

I have been informed that yesterday morning Comm. Dr. Alfredo MENDOLA, Questore of Taranto, was arrested by order of Allied Authorities, without any advance notice or other communication having been given to Italian Authorities.

I will not conceal, dear General, my surprise in regard to this matter, all the more because these unaccustomed procedures tend to become habitual. Only a few days ago, the arrest of an Italian General occurred under similar circumstances.

Such arrests, performed by the Allies in territory which has never been considered as one of occupation, and which is, on the contrary, directly administered by the Royal Government, could only find an explanation in the case of flagrant crime: the case of Taranto is not of this character, since, up to the present moment, I have not even been told of what charges are being made against Dr. Mendola.

Whereas the prestige of the Royal Government thus becomes compromised beyond all hope, be it in relation to the population under its rule, as in regard to dependent officials, one can foresee that chaotic situations, not easily controllable, may be the result.

Neither can one but remark that those officials involved in measures of the kind, especially if—as in the case of Taranto—the person happens to be Chief of the Provincial Police, they lose irrevocably all authority and control over the population, even though they may later on be released of any charge because their innocence has been proven.

Therefore, I beg of you, dear General, to please make it possible for me to know the motives which impelled the Allied Authorities to arrest the Comm. Mendola, in addition to the charges made against him.

I also send you an earnest plea to arrange that, in the future and under similar circumstances, the Allied Authorities under your control may act together with Italian Authorities, which, as you know, are always ready to comply with the just demands of the Allies.

Please accept, dear General, the expression of my highest regard.

THE CHIEF OF GOVERNMENT

/s/ Badoglio

To Lt. General Mason MacFarlane  
Chief of Allied Control Commission  
Brindisi

1792

Sgt Serial - Transl.  
/hjp



IL CAPO DEL GOVERNO

P.M. ISI -3 febbraio 1944

Caro Generale Mac Farlane,

mi viene riferito che ieri mattina, per ordine di Autorità Alleate, è stato proceduto all'arresto del Comm. Dr. Alfredo MENDOLA, Questore di Taranto, senza che ne venisse dato alcun preavviso o altra comunicazione alle Autorità italiane.

Non Le nascondo, caro Generale, la mia sorpresa al riguardo, tanto più che queste inconsuete procedure tendono a diventare abituali dato che rimonta solo a pochi giorni fa l'arresto di un Generale italiano, avvenuto in analoghe circostanze.

Siffatti arresti, operati dagli Alleati in territorio che non è mai stato considerato di occupazione e che è, per contro, amministrato direttamente dal R. Governo, potrebbe trovare spiegazione soltanto se avvenissero in flagranza di reato: non è questo il caso di Taranto, giacché finora non mi è stato dato neppure di conoscere quali colpe si imputino al Dr. Mendola.

Poiché il prestigio del R. Governo viene in tal modo irrimediabilmente compromesso sia in cospetto delle popolazioni amministrate sia verso i dipendenti funzionari è da prevedere che possano determinarsi situazioni caotiche non facilmente domabili.



IL CAPO DEL GOVERNO

./.

Né può essere taciuto che i funzionari colpiti da misura del genere, specialmente se -come nel caso di Taranto - si tratti del Capo della Polizia Provinciale, perdono irrevocabilmente qualsiasi autorità ed ascendente sulle popolazioni, anche se in prosieguo siano prosciolti da ogni accusa per accertata innocenza.

La prego pertanto, caro Generale, di voler esaminare la possibilità di comunicarmi i motivi che hanno indotto le Autorità Alleate a procedere allo arresto del Comm. Mendola, nonché gli addebiti eventualmente emersi a suo carico.

Le rivolgo inoltre viva preghiera di voler disporre che, per l'avvenire, le Autorità Alleate da Lei dipendenti vogliano agire, in casi analoghi, di intesa con le Autorità italiane le quali, com'Ella sa, sono sempre pronte ad aderire alle giuste richieste degli Alleati.

Voglia frattanto gradire, caro Generale, l'espressione della mia alta considerazione.

IL CAPO DEL GOVERNO

Al Sig. Lieut General

MACON MAC FARLANE

Capo della Commissione Alleata di Controllo

Albergo Internazionale- BRINDISI-

*Barley*  
1790

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785017

Bmz. Lock

RC. +veg.

Hum 5-24

3 February 1944 2

To: General MacFarland

The attached report was prepared by Captain Hawkins, the ACC Liaison Officer at Taranto. The penciled notation in the last paragraph clarifies his meaning.

In elaboration orally of par. 5, Capt Hawkins informs me that a number of the "workmen" admitted that they had received their pasta ration. In fact, very little headway was made at the meeting until their leader arrived who turned out to be the Secretary of the Communist Party. Capt Hawkins insists that the entire disturbance was engineered by political leaders to coincide with the strike of the Franco Tosi workers over the delay in receiving their pasta ration.

In any case, it would appear that so long as the food ration continues to be meager, it will not be difficult for agitators to stir up trouble, particularly amongst urban workers.

*EWS*  
E.W.S.

1 Incl:  
Report from Capt Hawkins

*W. S. 2*

(Authorities - n. Questura report, eye-witness accounts from members of this office, personal observation and conversation with those concerned)

1. CAUSES. The workmen, and their families of the FRANCO TOSI works had not received their pasta ration of 300 grammes and decided to strike. They were later followed by the Naval Arsenal workers. Political unrest has resulted, Bari Congress, and a desire to see the "old gang" go. General anxiety at the cost of living, increased prices, hoarding and particularly the black market. It is considered that the chief cause was a political one, and not hunger (most of the inhabitants of Taranto received their 300 grammes of pasta on 1 Feb. 44) - a feeling that after 4 months of Allied occupation political chicanery still continued, and no millenium had appeared.

2. EVENTS. Workers of FRANCO TOSI yard left work at 7.30, crossed the Mare Piccolo by the regular ferries, marched to the Prefecture and broke in there (many used the lifts in building). Crowd reached the Prefettura at 0810 hrs. The Prefect was attacked, but managed to escape. Major of Carabinieri who helped him was manhandled. From 0900 to 1100 hrs., the Prefect was effectively hidden. On losing the Prefect the workmen went to his kitchen (the Prefect lives in the Palazzo del Governo) and smashed it up. Wine was thrown out of the windows but no evidence of rationed goods in large quantities were found. Carabinieri and soldiers then cleared the buildings of the Prefecture of the crowd, but they remained in the two courtyards, hooting and demanding resignation of the Prefect as a Fascist. By 1000 hrs the crowd had grown considerably but large reinforcements of soldiers had arrived. We must now return to the Naval Arsenal. After coming to work, these workmen decided to strike in sympathy with the FRANCO TOSI workers. On orders from Admiral FIORAVANZO the Arsenal gates were shut. During this time some 20 workmen fell down a deep ditch when some railings broke, several were severely injured. The few Carabinieri inside were having a hard time, and the military guard, composed of Poles asked permission to open fire. This was refused, but in view of the ugly situation, the gates were opened at 0900 hrs. These workmen then marched to swell the crowd at the Prefecture. At 1030 hrs. someone raised the cry to march to the Amassi warehouses which are situated in old Taranto. The swing bridge was, of course, promptly opened. The leaders of the crowd followed by a large number of others proceeded to the Navy Building and demanded audience of Admiral FIORAVANZO. Meanwhile, L489 approximately 1100 hrs. the Prefect was discovered to be in a house in the Via Anfiteatro and despite some hundred soldiers and a good many Carabinieri the crowd attempted to reach him. On two occasions

inhabitants of Taranto received their 300 grammes of pasta on Feb. 44) - a feeling that after 4 months of Allied occupation political chicanery still continued, and no millenium had appeared.

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3. ACTION TAKEN. Warned at 1830 hrs. of a possible strike in the dockyard Admiral FIORAVANZO was informed at 1900 hrs. The Prefect knew of this matter. This took place on 1. Feb. 44.

No serious attempt seems to have been made to prevent the entrance into the Prefecture of the FRANCO TOSI workers at 0810 hrs. There was at no time anyone controlling the police and military. Italian military officers, including a general, stood and talked to the crowd. The soldiers were so heavily weighted down with blankets, mess kit and so on, that they could hardly stand up, let alone take any active part. Machine guns were placed in the courtyard of the Prefecture, all facing inwards, and towards each other. Soldiers and Carabinieri individually worked well, but there was no central control, and the crowd always had the situation well in hand. The whole business was mismanaged from beginning to end.

4. ALLIED ACTION. Area Commander and FOTA were informed of the disturbance at 0825 hrs. Permission to sound the air raid alarm was wisely refused by the Area Commander, and after a company of British infantry had taken over the guard of the swing bridge, it was reopened, to traffic. Admiral FIOROVANZO gave authority for the sounding of the air raid alarm and also shutting of the bridge, without consulting British authorities. Dock clearance was hindered for over two hours. Two Sherman tanks were driven about in the neighbourhood of the Prefecture. CMP's were stationed on the outskirts of the crowd to prevent Allied personnel becoming involved. At no time was there any feeling against Allied personnel, and I and my officers passed freely through the crowd. As an instance of the ease with which the whole disturbance might have been controlled - at one stage, some irresponsible characters, accompanied by a small crowd, and numbering some 80 people wished to overturn a tramcar. One Military Policeman, who speaks no Italian, dispersed this crowd in five minutes.

5. RESULTS. At approx. 1030 hrs. I was present in Admiral FIOROVANZO's office, when a deputation of the workmen arrived. Sig. INNOCENTI, Capo di Gabinetto to the Prime Minister was also there. It had obviously been previously arranged - some ten minutes before I entered the room, that Admiral FIOROVANZO should take over the Civil Administration of the Province, and he told the deputation of this decision. A long political speech was made by the Secretary of the Communist Party in this Province, again a well prepared speech. When a general discussion was started, purely on politics, I left the meeting. It was confirmed that the original casus belli, the pasta ration which had not been issued to the FRANCO TOSI workers, was due to inefficiency, not on the part of the local administration, who had made the issue to the FRANCO TOSI co-operative, but by the co-operative itself.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS. I am convinced that this disturbance was a political one rather than a hunger riot. The 300 grammes pasta ration had been made available to the public on 1 Feb. 44. The present arrangement of a naval prefect has satisfied all concerned, but it is obvious that it cannot be permanent. Administration

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1788

6. RECOMMENDATIONS. I am convinced that this disturbance was a political one rather than a hunger riot. The 300 grammes pasta ration had been made available to the public on 1 Feb. 44. The present arrangement of a naval prefect has satisfied all concerned, but it is obvious that it cannot be permanent. Administration cannot be divorced from politics, and the Prefect was merely a scapegoat. I consider he did his best with a bad job and I know he worked hard. Although I am only concerned with administration, there is no doubt of the different political lines in this province:-

(a) The parties of the left are out to try and bring the present government into disfavour, and more particularly with the Allied authorities.

(b) The parties of the right are at great pains to show that this disturbance was purely a hunger riot, and that the situation is in hand.

That a riot of this nature was able to take place in a traditionally naval and royalist province is a good indication of the feeling.

It is evident that a much stricter control of Italian politics is needed, as otherwise they will, as evidenced in Taranto, stand in the way of the war effort.

The majority of the people here have no idea that a war is going on further north - and many do not understand that they have been defeated. Taranto has been spared most of the horrors of war, and the feeling of egotism - looking after one self - is too deeply ingrained to be lost in 4 months.

I recommend (a) that the civil administration in this province should be informed in no uncertain terms that the war effort must come first:- (b) that considerable publicity should be given to the fact that a war is going on:- (c) and that disturbances of this nature are hindering the war effort. (d) that immediate steps be taken, regionally, to control hoarding and the black market, which are the sounding boards for the parties of the left. (e) that definite instructions are given to all Italian officials that graft and speculation will be considered as very serious offences, and, if possible, sent to an Italian military court. (f) that as we have not come here either as missionaries or providential societies, it is up to the Italians to put their administration in order, and to find their own salvation.

Feb. 3.44.

by The Badoglio  
Government

Rowland  
Kaye

Capt.  
Liaison Officer, Taranto.

Disturb 15 (file)

Chief Commissioner

Taranto Rd.

1. Telegram sent to RCTO Region II warning him that AMB may have to be imposed in Taranto Province & to make plans & earmark personnel accordingly ready for immediate move.
2. Lt Col Farley Smith (my late Chief of Staff) leaves for Taranto forthwith to find out why you were not warned ~~informed~~ before & informed after the event, to investigate generally and deliver the necessary report if necessary. We may have to increase or change staff there.

TVS/2/2/44

CAB/  
SM/3/1/44

OK  
Handwritten  
3/2/44

Bla 7/1/44  
1786 1/2

15 ~~309~~  
4 Feb Recd

FARGO 688

SECRET

FARGO

SECRET

PRIORITY

2 February 1944

10050 Spofford for  
Lash ✓

DISTWO FATIMA FORWARD (INFO)

MINISTER OF INTERIOR REPORTS RIOTING IN TARANTO / PD FERGUSON  
PARAN FARGO PARAN TO DISTWO FOR AMB REGION TWO REPEATED FATIMA FORWARD FOR  
INFORMATION PD OZTE FARGO SIX EIGHT EIGHT PD / AM SENDING OFFICERS INVESTIGATE  
CIRCUMSTANCES PD IF RIOTING CONTINUES MAY BE NECESSARY PLACE TARANTO PROVINCE  
UNDER ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT PD YOU SHOULD MAKE IMMEDIATE PLANS TO SEND  
NECESSARY PROVINCIAL STAFF THERE IF SO ORDERED BY THIS HEADQUARTERS PD  
PERSONNEL TO BE FURNISHED FROM REGION TWO PD ACKNOWLEDGE EARLIEST

1785

L. P. NICKEL  
Lt. Col., AGO  
Adjutant General

SECRET

GENERAL CAUSES:

1. Low level of family ration - 150 grs. of bread per person per day.
2. The general decline in the governmental authority, following collapse of Fascism and lack of strong local command - partly due to uncertainty as to how far Allies will support the putting down of political demonstrations.

PARTICULAR CAUSES:

3. Large industrial population of Taranto due to dock yards. By nature unruly and susceptible to political agitation.
4. Poor local administration, with particular reference to food distribution organizations. (Col. Monfort knows details.)

REMARKS:

In spite of the generally peaceful nature of the crowds and the presence of units of Carabinieri and Italian troops, no effective steps were taken to handle the crowds. Conspicuous lack of command.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

By Italians

1. Inquire into the lack of command and its immediate rectification.
2. Appointment of the best Questori available.
3. Appointment of the best Prefect available.
4. Effective reorganization of the food distribution services. ACC Supply Officers to assist.

By Allies:

1. See whether ration can be improved immediately. Notably, a regular, if small, pasta ration.

15  
3 FEB Red Brigades hush. 1

RESULTS OF PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION

strations.

#### PARTICULAR CAUSES:

3. Large industrial population of Taranto due to dock yards. By nature unruly and susceptible to political agitation.
4. Poor local administration, with particular reference to food distribution organisations. (Col. Monfort knows details.)

#### REMARKS:

In spite of the generally peaceful nature of the crowds and the presence of units of Carabinieri and Italian troops, no effective steps were taken to handle the crowds. Conspicuous lack of command.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS:

##### For Italians

1. Inquire into the lack of command and its immediate rectification.
2. Appointment of the best Questori available.
3. Appointment of the best Prefect available.
4. Effective reorganisation of the food distribution services. AGO

Supply Officers to assist.

##### For Allies:

1. See whether ration can be improved immediately. Notably, a regular, if small, pasta ration.
2. The immediate supply of some transport for civilian supplies - say 20 trucks. Taranto Province is particularly short of transport for distributing supplies and for bringing local supplies to the town.

NOTE: Since dictating above have learned of recommendation to increase bread ration. In my opinion, this should be made effective before transfer in order to avoid any criticism by opposition that increase was held back by Allies to support Government upon taking over.

To: General MacFarlane

Recd. over phone 0740 from Capt. Stone

E. W. S.

Capt Stone

Wylr

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