

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

ACC

10000/109/1706

IMPRISONM
COMPLAINT
DEC. 1943 -

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

10000/109/1706

IMPRISONMENT OF ANTI-FASCISTS, MR. VYSHINSKY'S
COMPLAINT
DEC. 1943 - APR. 1944

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

Ref/398/22/CA

28 April 1944

SUBJECT: Freedom of Political Activities

TO : Chief Commissioner, ACC

1. On the 31st of January Mr. Vyshinsky raised a query about four Italians who were said to have been imprisoned in Sicily for anti-fascist political activities. It was taken up through the Chairman of the Advisory Council and forwarded to us by M.G.S. for investigation on the 4th of March.

E. An interim reply was sent to M.G.S. on the 22nd of March and a full report has since been received from Regional Commissioner, Sicily, which shows that the complaints are entirely without foundation.

3. A reply is submitted for your signature.

NORMAN E. FISKE
Colonel
Deputy Executive Commissioner

Hotel
 15/5
 12/5
 Hotel

HCAR Sharp
 back f see 21-22
 in his return
 B/4
 1/5
 B/4
 1/5

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
R.C. & H.C. Section
APO 394

27 April 1944.

Ref/398/21/Cla.

SUBJECT: Freedom of Political Activities.

TO : Military Government Section, A.F.H.Q.

1. I refer to your letter MES 000.1 of 4 March 1944 and to my letter to you No. 129/20/Cla of the 22nd March 1944, in the latter of which a full report was provided.

2. The facts of the case are as follows :

The advocates Sessa Cesare and Mr Diana Paolo were arrested at Raffadali in the Province of Agrigento on the 8th November following a demonstration in which some two thousand people were involved. The demonstration was directed against the Municipal authorities and against the provisions of the General Order issued by the Regional Commissioner, A.M.G. Region I (Sicily) relating to Amasid, and resulted in considerable damage to furniture and documents. The Municipals, tax offices and alimentation offices were invaded by the crowd. The C.A.O. and his orderly were manhandled and their jeep was damaged. A search of Diana's house revealed a store of weapons and ammunition, but some technicality prevented prefurnment of a specific charge.

3. Sessa Cesare and Diana Paolo, it will be seen therefore, were arrested for causing a disturbance and not as suggested for anti-Fascist activities. They were released on January 8th because it was not found possible to substantiate a charge against them of organising or taking part in the demonstration. It may be added that they have returned to Raffadali, where they have been allowed full freedom in the expression of their political views and the dissemination of propaganda.

3181

4. It has not been possible to trace Pardella or Di Gesu, unless the former is Pardella Giovanni, who was arrested for wrongful possession of Allied Military property on 17 November 1943 and released two days later, and the latter is Di Gesu Eduardo who on 18 February 1944 completed a sentence of 16 days imprisonment for petty theft imposed by the Italian Courts. It is possible that Pardella might be a mistake for Pardella Calogero, who was detained as being one of the leading gangsters in Favara, Province of Agrigento and a man with a long criminal record, but he does not appear to have any political background. This man is now held at the disposition of the Questura pending the application of measures of public security. If further information can be supplied regarding Pardella and Di Gesu, every effort will be made to trace their cases and to report on them.

5. Similar cases have sometimes arisen and any arrests which are made are always made in the interests of public order. Participants frequently bring out in their defence that they are anti-Fascists who are making demonstrations against

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5. Similar cases have sometimes arisen and any arrests which are made are always made in the interests of public order. Participants frequently bring out in their defence that they are anti-Fascists who are making demonstrations against Fascists. In all these cases the accused and their lawyers are told that the Allied Military Government will not tolerate riotous demonstrations or disturbances of public order and impose sentences on such as they are able to convict of taking a prominent part. Exaggerated, not to say groundless reports such as these waste the time of my officers who are concerned in the investigation of them and I should be grateful if steps could be taken in future to prevent such serious allegations being made by people in incomplete possession of the facts.

ref NMM

HOMEL MASON MCAFARLANE,
Lieut-General,
Chief Commissioner.

RESTRICTED

PATRIA 3757

file
378
204

PATRIA (Civil Affairs Branch)

24 April 1944

RESTRICTED

Vapor 165 - Ficks

ROUTINE

URGENT

YOUR LETTER RE: GEORGE SUGAR KING KING ONE OF FOUR MARCH TO PATRIA TO AREA. RE
RE FROM PATRIA PATRIA DETAILED INVESTIGATION REVEAL ALLEGATIONS CONCERNING TO FULL
REPORT FOLLOWS

3179

L. F. MURPHY, Jr.
R. A. AND
ADVISOR.

RESTRICTED

20
7
5th April 1944.

SUBJECT: Arrest of so-called Anti-Fascists.

TO : Colonel Fiske.

1. A complaint originating from Mr. Vyshinsky was forwarded to us on 4th March by AFHQ and we were asked to investigate the circumstances of the arrest of four Anti-Fascists (Folios ~~15-18~~ ⁵⁻⁸ refer).

2. An interim reply was received on 22nd March from Region I where these Anti-Fascists were stated to be and was forwarded by us to AFHQ. A full report has now been received (Folios ~~15-18~~ ⁵⁻⁸). Briefly, two of the four have been traced and were arrested for causing a disturbance. It proved impossible to substantiate a charge and they were released on 28th January. The other two men cannot be traced unless they were the same men who were imprisoned for cases of petty theft. Further particulars regarding the latter were asked for on 22nd March but have not yet come to hand.

3. If you agree I will draft a short reply to AFHQ summarising the facts and refuting the allegations. The Executive Commissioner has not seen the latest full report.

*yes. Draft reply
and we shall then
bring to attention
in Com. 2*

G.W.I. SHIPP
Lieut. Colonel.

3178

*Pl see 53 also. 86
file 129*

19

Leea Shupp

1. Reference the case of the 4 men U.S.S.R. Say were wrongfully imprisoned.
2. The case originates at ~~17~~ 5
3. at ~~16~~ 6 Brig. asks Rep. I for investigation.
4. at ~~17~~ 7 Rep. I makes interim reply.
5. at ~~18~~ 8 Brig. makes interim reply to ~~15~~ 5 (N.S.S.).
- ~~6. at ~~19~~ 9 is a copy of ~~16~~ 6 to ~~18~~ 8~~
6. at ~~14~~ 4 is a copy of ~~16~~ 6 (it's not's because there was a temporary jacket)
7. at ~~15~~ 5 is Rep. I's follow-up report.
15 10

81. 1/4

3177

26 MAR Recd 1298

2166

CA. Br. 18

ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
SICILY REGION HQ.

APC 394

File RLE 013.0531/HD

21 March 1944

SUBJECT: Freedom of Political Activities.

TO : Executive Commissioner R.C. & M.G. Section, A.C.C. HQ.

1. With further reference to your letter 129/18/CA dated 10th March and my interim reply dated 20th March, I now submit the following further report on this subject.

2. On the 8th of November 1943 a demonstration took place at Raffadali in the Province of Agrigento, in which some 2000 people were involved. The C.A.O. and his Enlisted man were disarmed, and the Municipio, tax office and Alimentation office were broken into, considerable damage being done to furniture and documents. The demonstration was directed against the Municipal authorities and against the provisions of General order No 13 which had recently been issued. A number of arrests were made, including two of the persons mentioned in para 1 of your letter, Sessa Cesare and Diana Paclo, who were removed to Palermo prison for further investigation.

3. With regard to the activities of these two men, I do not think I can do better than send you the enclosed report submitted by Major Walters, S.C.A.P.O. Agrigento at the time. After further discussion with Major Walters and in the absence of more satisfactory evidence to support a charge of "organizing" or "taking part in" the demonstration, it was decided not to bring Sessa and Diana before an Allied Military Court and they were accordingly released from prison on 8th January 1944. It may be added that both have returned to Raffadali, where they are again active in the expression of their political views and in the dissemination of propaganda.

3175

4. Several similar demonstrations have taken place from time to time in this Region, the procedure being almost identical in each case. Political agitators work on the local population with arguments derived from the food situation and direct their indignation against the Italian municipal authorities, who are invariably alleged to be "Fascists" and whose removal is demanded in favour of other persons more congenial to the agitators. Excitement rises and generally the crowd attacks the Municipio the Amasso or the Tax office, and unless prevented makes bonfire of furniture, ration cards or Tax registers. A number of arrests are later made by the car-

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3175

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5. When the participants are brought before an Allied Military Court is is always argued in their defence that they are "anti-Fascists" who were making a demonstration against "Fascists". The officers who have tried cases of this type, have told the accused and their lawyers, that the Allied Military Government would not tolerate demonstrations or disturbances of public order on any pretext and have imposed prison sentences on those persons who have been convicted of taking a prominent part, particularly where as at Geraci, Mistretta and Trabia loss of life and serious damage to property resulted.

47
6. Many other cases have occurred where persons charged before Military Courts have demanded leniency on the ground of their Anti-Fascist sympathies. Where such persons have been sent to prison, it has been because of the offenses they have committed and not because of their political views, which are often mentioned for the first time when they find themselves in Court. I am not aware of any instance of detention on the ground of political activity alone.

7. It has not been possible to trace Fardella or Di Gesu, unless the former is Fardella Giovanni, who was arrested for wrongful possession of Allied Military property on 17 November 1943 and released two days later, and the latter is Di Gesu Eduardo who on 18 February 1944 completed a sentence of 16 days imprisonment for petty theft imposed by the Italian Courts. It is possible that Fardella might be a mistake for Fardella Calogero, who was detained as being one of the leading gangsters in PAVARA, Province of Agrigento and a man with a long criminal record, but he does not appear to have any political background. Fardella is now held at the disposition of the Questura pending the application of measures of public security.

8. If further information can be supplied regarding Fardella and Di Gesu, every effort will be made to trace their cases and to report on them.

sf

1 Incl.

W. H. Hancock
A. N. HANCOCK,
Lt. Colonel,
Regional Commissioner.

3174

785017

erty theft imposed by the Italian Courts. It is possible that Pradella might be a mistake for Pradella Calogero, who was detained as being one of the leading gangsters in Pavana, Province of Agrigento and a man with a long criminal record, but he does not appear to have any political background. Pradella is now held at the disposition of the Questura pending the application of measures of public security.

8. If further information can be supplied regarding Pradella and Di Gesu, every effort will be made to trace their cases and to report on them.

sf

1 Incl.

W. H. Hancock
A. W. HANCOCK,
Lt. Colonel,
Regional Commissioner.

3174

785017

COPY

28 December 1943

46

SUBJECT: Diana Paolo--Detained for Proclamation Offences. (File No. 570/86/CRS RPS 383.6)

TO : RCAO, Sicily Region Hqs., Palermo. (for information of Chief, Public Safety Division, No. 1 Region.

1. With reference to letter dated 21 December, 1943, respecting the above, a letter in connection with this man and eight others was sent to RCAO for information of SLO on 15 December, 1943; The prisoners detailed therein were transferred to Palermo for detention, as dangers to law and order and thereby to Allied security, on 21 December 1943.

2. The circumstances of the arrest of Diana Paolo are as follow: On 8th November, 1943 a large number of persons in Raffadali held a demonstration against the Municipal authorities using the provisions of General Order No. 13 as the excuse. At about 8 AM, about 50 persons collected outside the residence Of Lt. Gorman (A) CAO, having informed the Carabinieri that they did not intend to obey General Order No. 13 and send grain to the ammasso, and requesting that that they be allowed to have wheat milled. Attempts were made to break up the group, which was increased by many other persons, all protesting about the same thing. The whole body went to the Municipio shouting "Out with all the Fascists of the Commune, out with all the crooks, no one must remain". Some people were trying to force their way into the Municipio; At this point Diana Paolo appeared, carried on the shoulders of his supporters, and asked the demonstrators to disperse, stating that he would endeavour to obtain their demands from the competent authority. While Diana was doing this, the crowd saw Avv. Sessa Cesare and asked him to speak. This he did from a balcony, also requesting the people to disperse in the same terms. The speeches, however, had the opposite result, for the crowd again went to the Municipio, one man beating a drum, and another carrying a red flag. This man, accompanied by Diana, Sessa and other, attempted to raise the flag on the balcony of the Municipio but was prevented by Lt. Gorman.

The red flag was passed from one man to another in the crowd, which at this time numbered 2000. People broke into the Municipio Tax-Collecting Office and Custom Duty Office, causing a good deal of damage to furniture and throwing books and papers into the square, where they were afterwards burned.

Lt. Gorman and an enlisted man with him were disarmed by the crowd, and the jeep was damaged.

3173

At a search of Diana's house after his arrest, a good deal of Communist literature was found, some hidden under flooring, showing that Diana was the main organiser of the party, also documents from which it was deduced that he was operating in the Black Market for shoes and tobacco.

Also found there were the following arms and ammunitions:
1 revolver, "Smith", and several bullets for same
about 50 revolver cartridges of various caliber
1 magazine for a German rifle
(These were found hidden under floor tiles)
5 magazine for Breda Machine Gun, Model 37--each with
20 cartridges (These were hidden in an angle underneath a
table top)
200 cartridges for Mod. 91 rifle (in a box inside a trunk
hidden under cover of bunches of twigs).
1 shot gun, 12 bore, and 4 cartridges.

Diana was in possession of a permit issued by Major Meader, a former CAO, which was intended for the shotgun, but was so loosely worded that in a Court of Law it could be construed to cover any amount of weapons.

It should be added here that all permits issued by Major Meader had been cancelled by Capt. Saunders, prior to 8th November, 1943, and owners of arms informed that they were to surrender them or apply for fresh permits. This Diana had not done.

4. Diana Paolo was not arrested because he was a Communist, but because he was one of the main organisers of the demonstration; he tried to quell the disturbance only when it was obvious to anyone that it had got out of hand. He has been the main agitator for removal of the Sindaco; but instead of trying to accomplish this by constitutional methods, endeavoured to carry out his intention by public outcry and disorder.

5. It is significant that,

(1) all the demonstrations in this province have been by so-called antifascist groups and (2) since the arrest and detention of the leaders no further trouble of this nature has arisen.

For the Senior Civil Affairs Officer:

3172

/s/ T.W.J. Walters
/t/ T.W.J. Walters
Major,
SCAO

COPY.

HEADQUARTERS,
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION,
AFO 394

Regional Control and Military Government Section.

Ref: 129/18/CA.

AT 18

10th March 1944.

Subject: Freedom of Political Activities.

To : Regional Commissioner, Region I.

1. The Advisory Council for Italy at the instigation of the representative of the U.S.S.R. has on two occasions brought to the notice of the Military Government Section at A.F.H.Q. allegations that anti-Fascists interned in Italy by the previous Italian Government have not been released and, secondly, that Italians have been interned by AMG authorities for anti-Fascist activities. Mr. Bogomolov has stated that the following anti-Fascists were imprisoned in the jail of the city of Palermo for political activity: a lawyer, Cesare SESSA, ▲ Mr. DIANA, a Mr. FARDELLA and Mr. DI JESU.

2. These allegations are serious and require immediate investigation and report. I should like you to know that I regard them as exaggerated, if not groundless, but I should be glad if you would investigate the circumstances of the four men named and give me an immediate telegraphic reply stating whether they are in fact in prison and for what reason.

3. You should further investigate allegations that other anti-Fascists are held in jail and in your reply give me all the evidence possible to refute the allegations made.

MSL/JC.

Brigadier,
Executive Commissioner.

3171

13-23 Refer.
1 to 13.

To: Major Sir Philip Lagunas.

Sassari

12 MAR 1944

I am sending herewith the letter from the Concentration
exactly as I received it. There was a second carbon copy
addressed to me which I have kept. I am sending the
letter by the hand of Captain Antisi in order to secure
speedy transit.

I have only two comments to make.

- (1) The credit for the "opportunity parole" on 13th & 14th January
belongs to Lt. Col. Boring Gable, Prisoner Commission for Sassari.
I was in Cagliari at that time.
- (2) I have continuously pressed General Pinna to hasten all this
and to get the papers cleared. I am continuing to push very hard.

ALLIED CONTINGENT COMMISSION APO 394
 MAR-1944
 1944

21
 X Mar 1944
 Date 13

Suspense _____

FROM	TO
Chief Commissioner	
Dep. Chief Commissioner	
Secy. Gen. to Chief Commissioner	
X Administrative Section	X
Economic Section	
RC & MG Section	
Civil Affairs Branch	
PW & Displaced Pers Sub Com	
Italian Refugees Branch	
Security Branch	
Information Branch	
Establishment Branch	
Ex Offrs	
G-1 (A)	
G-1 (B)	
G-4	
Hq Comdt (Main Hq)	
Hq Comdt (Rear Hq)	
Adjutant (Main Hq)	
Adjutant (Rear Hq)	
Archives & Library	
Pool of Interpreters	
Political Section	
Independent Sub-Commissions	
Navy	
Land Forces	
Air Forces	
Telecommunications & Posts	
War Material Disposal	
Public Relations Officer	
Liaison Section Hq A.C.M.F.	
X Executive Commission	X

FOR:

Signature

3169

Remarks/Recommendation
 Information

Approval/Disapproval

Appropriate Action

Investigation & Report

Disput Stansgate has seen and.

REMARKS:

Noted. Thank you.

Returned to you for filing in your
 Records

Drop

11/29/3

Brig. M.S. Ash

16 MAR 1944

1926
mg 12

Gen. SALODORNIK would like you to see this translation of a letter addressed to him, together with Brig. DUNLOP's comments.

I have replied to Brig. DUNLOP to show the letter from the CONCENTRAZIONE to Mr. REBER.

C.M. Maguire

Major, I.C.

Pass to Admin Section.

MS 15/3

3168

21 MAR Recd
129

1944
10

CONCENTRAZIONE ANTIFASCISTA
PROVINCIAL COMMITTEE OF SASSARI

TO: H.E. The General of the U.S.S.R.
H.E. General DUNLOP, President of the Allied Commission in Sardinia

The Committee of Liberation of the Province of Sassari is very grateful to your Excellencies for the prompt interest taken in putting an end to the persecutions against the Communist Party.

This Party is a part of the Committee of Liberation of Sardinia, where it proceeds in full accord with all other antifascist Parties, in absolute order and with perfect understanding of the decisive hour which faces the civilization of the world and of the duty of all to cooperate with the great heroic effort which the Armies of Soviet Russia, of England and of America are making to insure to Italy and all Nations a new era of justice, liberty, peace, and well-being for all social classes.

The Communist Party is recognized by the Government and many of its members have been designated by the Committee for responsibilities of great importance and are filling them, especially in the syndical organizations.

However, the Communist Party has been made the object of unjust persecution by the local governative authorities and especially by the Sassari Questura.

On November 25, 1943, a group of young communists had arranged for a private meeting in a place in Via Mannu at Sassari. The agents of the Questura broke into the place, searched the Youth, made a listing of their names, ~~XXXXXXXX~~, seized the papers and the keys of that meeting place. The Youth made complaint to the Allied Commission.

On January 13 and 14 spontaneous demonstrations of the People took place at Sassari, especially of women and children, caused by the known food restrictions; there were no serious incidents. H.E. General Dunlop addressed some suitable words to the demonstrators and also the municipal prefectial Commissioner made a speech, following which the demonstration broke up.

But the Questura took advantage of this occasion to place the responsibility for the demonstration on the Juvenile Communist Section and to take reprisals.

When quiet had already been restored, the Public Safety Commissioner Colonna with many police officers broke into the Party Office, and as only a few persons were there, he and the agents started singing the communist hymn "Red Banner", thus attracting passers-by and curious people, who were beaten and arrested.

It is noteworthy, that all the Parties of the Committee of Liberation, including the Communist, had disavowed and deplored, by a statement published in the Press, the demonstrations which there is reason to believe had been fomented by fascists and especially by spies of the OVRA (Fascist Public Safety Political Office), which still has an office at the Inspectorate of Public Safety.

In this way 38 persons were arrested, for the most part minors, some communists, others not belonging to any Party, as follows:

Berlinguer Enrico, Massala Giuseppe, Mura Francesco, Ledda Salvatore, ~~XXXXXXXX~~,
Achenza Paolo, Carta Antonio, Manca Antonio, Uella Fabio, Fiori Giuseppe, Pilo Raimondo,
Ricci Luigi, Cossu Giuseppe, Masia Antonio, Solinas Vincenzo, Secchi Stefano, Secchi
Salvatore, Chighino Antonio, Usai Mario, Casula Antonio, Simula Giovanni, Canu Costantino,
Benedettini Michelangelo, Puggioni Luigi, Ruiu Antonio Giuseppe, Congiustu Luigi, Sanna
Antonio Gavino, Mura Agostino, Cauli Antonio, Puggioni Francesco, Puggioni Antonio,
Pilo Luigi, Nurra Massimo, Sulas Gesuino, Auzzas Antonio, Fois Giovanni Luigi, Chighino
Pasquale.

Four others were denounced as fugitives from justice; others were illegally arrested without charges and detained for a month and a half, like Tanda Gavino, a student

9

16 years of age, who was released only after complaints in the Press. The Committee of Liberation protested to the Questore, conferred with the Prefect, presented memoranda of grievances to H.E. General Magli, and subsequently wrote to H.E. General Pinna and to H.E. the Attorney General of the King. The Press of the Island echoed these protests. The arrested men are charged with crimes absurd even from a legal point of view, such as armed insurrection against the Powers of the State, looting to gain control of the powers of the State, seditious propaganda and association, political defeatism, as if the Communist Party and communist propaganda were crimes as during the fascist era. This is explained by the fact that the Questore of Sassari was the Inspector General of Public Safety Comm. Fabris, who up to July 25 directed the services of the OVRA, the commissioner Doctor Savastano, formerly attached to the OVRA, and another commissioner was Doctor Colonna, with a fascist past and known to all the citizenship for his lack of scruples. At present the matter is in the hands of the Investigating Judge of the Court of Sassari.

The Committee of Liberation has confidence that the judicial authorities will be just; it asks for no privileges and no rescue; it would like merely that the investigation be carried out swiftly, with any consideration for the Questura, and it is confident that if the results will show that there were slanders, false and arbitrary, the guilty will be punished according to law. The speed which is asked for is justified by the very severe prison treatment dealt out to the arrested, one of whom (Mura Agostino) is already dead, others are ill. The young communists who are incarcerated show themselves courageous and confident. But, in view of the severe season, food restrictions, prison overcrowding, the sanitary conditions of the prison, they should be helped with food, blankets, books and a request for more cleanliness. Another episode against the Communist Party is the fact that the Prefect of Sassari has repeatedly sent letters to office and administration heads (for instance to the Education Supervisor) listing the names of communist employees and labourers, obviously so that they be especially carefully watched, while this has not been done not only with regard to members of other political parties, but also for fascists and squadristi.

The Committee for Liberation reaffirms that all the members of the Parties, which make up the Committee, and therefore also the communists, must be safeguarded from persecution.

True interpreter of the sentiments of Sardinia, and thankful to H.E. the representative of the heroic Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and H.E. General Dunlop for their interest, it begs to express to the valiant Armies of their free and great Nations the admiration of the People of Sardinia, which waits and hopes to be able to make its contribution of blood and impulse to the victory against Nazism and Fascism.

For the Committee for Liberation **3466**

/s/ Bruno Mura

Sassari, 10 March 1944.

785017

HEADQUARTERS,
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394

Regional Control and Military Government Section.

Ref: 129/29/CA.

22nd March 1944.

SUBJECT: Freedom of Political Activities.

TO : Military Government Section,
Allied Force Headquarters.

1. I refer to your MGS: 000.1 of 4. March. 1944 and as directed by the Chief Commissioner to state that the Regional Commissioner, Sicily, reports that BRUSA Cesare and DIANA Paolo were released from prison on 6. January. 1944. A full report on the reasons for their detention follows.

2. I should be grateful for any further information regarding Fardella and Di Jemi. The only persons of these names so far traced in the records of Palermo prison were held for petty theft and not for any political reason. They have both been released.

MGL/JC.

Brigadier,
Executive Commissioner.

B/U 3165

30/3

Noted
K

129³⁹⁸
21 MAR Recd

ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
SICILY REGION HQ.
APO 394

File: RLE 013.0531/HD

20 March 1944

SUBJECT: Freedom of Political Activities.

TO : Executive Commissioner R.C. & M.G. Section, A.C.C. HQ.

1. In reply to your letter 129/18/CA dated 10th March which reached me on 18th March, SESSA Cesare and DIANA Paolo were released from prison on 8 January 1944. A full report on the reasons for their detention follows.

2. Is any further information available regarding Fardella and Di Gesu? The only persons of these names so far traced in the records of Palermo prison have been released but both were held for petty theft and do not appear to be the men referred to.

3. Para. 3 of your letter will also be dealt with in my further report.

A. N. Hancock
A. N. HANCOCK, Lt. Col.
Lt. Colonel,
Regional Commissioner.

3164

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION,
APO 394.

Regional Control and Military Government Section.
+++++

Ref: 129/15/CA.

10th March 1944.

Subject: Freedom of Political Activities.

To : Regional Commissioner, Region I.

1. The Advisory Council for Italy at the instigation of the representative of the U.S.S.R., has on two occasions brought to the notice of the Military Government Section at A.P.H.C. allegations that anti-Fascists interned in Italy by the previous Italian Government have not been released and, secondly, that Italians have been interned by AMG authorities for anti-Fascist activities. Mr. Bogdanov has stated that the following anti-Fascists were imprisoned in the jail of the city of Palermo for political activities: a lawyer, Cesare SINISA, a Mr. DIANA, a Mr. FARMILLA and a Mr. DI JESU.

2. These allegations are serious and require immediate investigation and report. I should like you to know that I regard them as exaggerated, if not groundless, but I should be glad if you would investigate the circumstances of the four men named and give me an immediate telegraphic reply stating whether they are in fact in prison and for what reason.

3. You should further investigate allegations that other anti-Fascists are held in jail and in your reply give me all the evidence possible to refute the allegations made.

MSL/JG.

MSL
Brigadier,
Executive Commissioner.

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U. S. SECRET ³⁹⁸
Equals British MOST SECRET

Political Section 5

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
Military Government Section

TBJ/lml

S-391

4 March 1944

MGS: 000.1

SUBJECT: Freedom of Political Activities.

TO : HQ., A.C.C.

1. Herewith are the following: *4*

- a) Copy of letter of 31 January from Mr. Vyshinsky as President in Office of the Advisory Council for Italy.
- b) Copy of reply to (a) dated 6 February 1944.
- c) Copy of letter from Mr. Reinhardt of 1 March 1944.
- d) Copy of letter from Mr. Bogomolov referred to in (c).

2. Will you please investigate and submit a report here as soon as ever possible on the specific cases alleged. If any further evidence is received as referred to in the last paragraph of Mr. Reinhardt's letter, this will be sent to you immediately, but the report asked for in the previous sentence should not be delayed because further evidence may come to hand.

For the Acting Chief of Section:

T. B. Jackman

T. B. JACKMAN
Major

Encls:
as above

See 21
3162

U. S. SECRET
Equals British MOST SECRET

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31 January 1944

My dear General,

As the chairman in office of the Advisory Council for Italy I have the honour to inform you that the Advisory Council, having considered at its meeting January 24th the Instructions of the Allied Commander in Chief relative to the freedom of meetings, publications and other such forms of political activity in Italy, has decided to recommend to the Allied Commander in Chief, as to Sicily, to instruct the Allied Military Government in Addition to 3 of the abovementioned instructions, that all the anti-fashists who have been arrested on political motives, be immediately released and that henceforth anti-fashists should not be arrested for their political activity.

Please let me know of your orders in connection with the aforesaid.

Yours sincerely

/s/ Vyshinsky

General sir Henry Maitland Wilson
Commander in Chief of the Allied
Forces in the Mediterranean area
Allied Forces Headquarters
Algiers.

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ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
Military Government Section

6 February 1944

TO: His Excellency Andrei Vyshinsky,
President in Office,
Advisory Council for Italy.

Your Excellency:

I have the honor to reply to your letter of January 31st regarding political activities in Sicily. There seems to have been some misunderstanding in regard to the ordinance issued by AMG Regional Headquarters in Sicily on January 11th. The third paragraph to which you refer states that individuals who had been detained on political grounds were warned not to take part in any form of political activity which could lead to or tend to lead to disorder or disturbance of public peace.

This provision was purely intended to implement the instructions of the Combined Chiefs of Staff that no disorder would be tolerated on the part of political prisoners who had been freed.

From the very beginning of the Allied occupation, anti-Fascists who were imprisoned because of their past political activities against the Fascist Regime were released as soon as their cases could be investigated by AMG Offices according to the original political directive of the Combined Chiefs of Staff. There is no intention that any of these individuals should be arrested for any legitimate political activities in which they care to engage and we have no case on record where this has been done.

I regret that there has been a misunderstanding with regard to the intention and spirit of the Sicilian Ordinance and I hope that this statement of the facts will relieve the Council of any further apprehensions in this regard.

Kindly accept the expression of my esteem.

Very sincerely yours,

A. T. MAXWELL
Colonel
Acting Chief, MGS

3160

C O P Y

OFFICE OF
UNITED STATES MEMBER
ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR ITALY

Algiers, March 1, 1944.

Dear Colonel Maxwell:

I am enclosing the original and translation of a letter addressed to you by His Excellency Mr. Alexandre Bogomolov, Acting Soviet Member on the Advisory Council for Italy, which he requested that I forward you in my capacity as Chairman a tour de role of the Council.

The Ambassador's letter is with reference to a recent communication of the Council with respect to political activity in Sicily which was transmitted to the Commander-in-Chief by letter dated January 31, 1944, and to which you replied in a letter dated February 6.

The Council's recommendation on this subject was taken in principle and the Council did not have before it any evidence of specific cases. Ambassador Bogomolov's recent letter, however, makes reference by name to specific cases of individuals imprisoned in Sicily for anti-Fascist political activity. I know you will wish to institute investigation of these cases and let us have an early report. I am, further, accompanying my knowledge of the Ambassador's letter with the suggestion that he may wish to make available to you any specific evidence in his possession with respect to cases of this nature to facilitate the investigation to be made by the appropriate authorities.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ G. F. Reinhardt
G. F. Reinhardt,
Acting United States Member,

Enclosures:

As stated.

Colonel A. T. Maxwell,
Acting Chief,
Military Government Section,
Allied Force Headquarters.

3159

TRANSLATION

DEPUTY PLENIPOTENTIARY REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE U.S.S.R.
ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR ITALY

Algiers, February 26, 1944.

CONFIDENTIAL

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
MILITARY GOVERNMENT SECTION
COLONEL MAXWELL, ALGIERS

I have the honor to inform you that I have received your letter of February 6, 1944, addressed to His Excellency Mr. A. Y. Vyshinsky, with reference to political activity in Sicily. I consider that there has been no misunderstanding on the part of the Advisory Council with respect to the decree issued by the provincial staff of AMG in Sicily on January 11 of this year. The recommendation of the Council which was transmitted to the Commander-in-Chief by letter dated January 31, 1944, over the signature of the Chairman a tour de role of the Advisory Council for Italy, Mr. A. Y. Vyshinsky, was inspired by concrete cases known to us of arrests made by AMG authorities for anti-Fascist activity of persons whose names are known. So, for example, in Sicily, the following anti-fascists were imprisoned in the jail of the city of Palermo for their political activity: the lawyer Cesare SESSA, Mr. DIANA, Mr. FARDELLA and Mr. DI JESU. In addition, in different cities of Sicily a large number of anti-Fascists are held in prison.

I consider it my duty to inform you and I, in my capacity as Deputy Plenipotentiary Representative of the U.S.S.R. on the Advisory Council for Italy, insist on the implementation of the Council's recommendation on this matter, on the immediate release of the above-named persons and on the issue of instructions to the local officials of the Allied authorities to the effect that such arrests will not be permitted in the future.

Please accept, my dear Colonel, the assurances of my consideration.

(Signed): BOGOMOLOV

DEPUTY PLENIPOTENTIARY REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE U.S.S.R.
ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR ITALY

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