

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

ACC

10000/109/1896

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND

No.

785017

10000/109/1896

DISTURBANCES, ROME
SEPT. 1944

785017

W.D.
AGS/14613/PS.

24th September, 1944.

28 SEP Recd
NIR CWS

My dear Prime Minister:

I have to acknowledge receipt of your letter N.5379 dated 19th September.

The question of providing a regiment of Italian troops in Rome will be considered but in view of the limited ceiling laid down for the Italian Army and the necessity of organising combat units for operational purposes and internal security divisions in other parts of the country, I can assure you that the provision of troops for Rome will only be permitted if it is considered absolutely necessary to maintain law and order.

The preservation of law and order is the primary duty of the CC.RR, CC.PP and other police agencies. Only if they are likely to fail can the presence of troops be deemed necessary. While in the opinion of my advisers your request is not unreasonable, they consider that a great improvement is essential in the loyalty, initiative, energy and sense of public duty of the CC.RR, CC.PP and other police agencies, and that we must be assured of far greater effort to instil these qualities into the forces of law and order: this is an immediate and permanent necessity.

My witnesses have informed me that the unhappy incidents on Monday were due not to any lack of numbers of CC.RR but to extremely bad organisation connected with the arrangements for the trial itself, and to complete lack of organisation, initiative and fortitude displayed by the CC.RR, CC.PP and other police agencies themselves. In conference with General Orlando, General Aymanig and H.E. Ferrari, Brigadier Upjohn urged upon them the necessity of instilling greater enthusiasm, energy and spirit de corps among the various forces. Much can and must be done by commanding officers to instil the qualities of leadership into their subordinates, to teach them to regain their pride and their authority. Expansion of the Fascist elements and of others whose conduct has been lacking, must be carried out more rapidly and with greater vigour. The confidence of the public in the various forces must be re-established by sympathetic investigation into complaints and immediate action to remove those complaints.

There should be no delay in taking steps to effect these remedies and I beg you in the interests of law and order in Italy to use your personal influence with General Orlando, General Aymanig and H.E. Ferrari to see that this is done.

785017

Moreover, I think that much could be done to increase the morale of your police forces if you yourself and your colleagues in the Government would influence the press in their present campaign against the police, persuading them to adopt a new note of encouragement by pointing out the very good work done by them rather than criticising and discouraging the forces.

I do not under estimate, my dear Prime Minister, the difficulties which face your Government and your police forces; I am fully aware of the distressing shortage of boots and clothing, and the difficulties under which the police forces are working, and I assure you that I am doing all that is possible to assist you. In particular I hope it may be possible to increase the ration of the G.C.F.M. and the police agencies and to bring over from North Africa more G.C.F.M.

For operational reasons it has been necessary to remove one battalion of troops from Sicily but I hope that they will be replaced without delay by a battalion or battalions from Sardinia. I shall be in a position to give you more information on this subject in a few days.

/s/ HENRY S. BAKER
Captain, USAR
Acting Chief Commissioner

His Excellency Ivanoe Bonomi,
President of the Council of Ministers,
Italian Government,
R O M A.

2297

Copy to enb ✓

despatched by
S/Gen to me
26/9

Declass

SECRET

14810 56310
10
23 SEP Recd

AFHQ

HQ ACC

S-340

22 SEPT

SECRET

PRIORITY

ACTING CHIEF COMM.

88 29/9

SECRET PD FURTHER MY SUGAR THREE THREE EIGHT PAREN TO AFHQ
FOR SACMED CMA UNITED STATES POLITICAL ADVISOR AND BRITISH
RESIDENT MINISTER FROM HQ ACC FROM STONE PERSONAL PAREN CARUSO
TRIAL CONCLUDED TWENTY FIRST PD CONVICTED CMA SENTENCED TO
DEATH CMA APPEAL DENIED CMA EXECUTED TODAY ONE FOUR ONE ZERO
HOURS PD OCCHIETTO CMA HIS ASSISTANT CMA CONVICTED CMA SENTENCED
TO THIRTY YEARS IMPRISONMENT PD NO UNTOWARD INCIDENTS

AUTHENTICATED:

ELLERY W. STONE
Captain, USNR
Acting Chief Commissioner

DISTRIBUTION

Sir Noel Charles
Hon. Alexander Kirk
Political Section
CA Branch
Exec Commissioner
Public Safety
Security Branch
CG, RAAC

88 23/9

1/1

SECRET

785017

SECRET

AFHQ

HQ ACC

S-340

22 SEPT

23 SEP Recd

SECRET

PRIORITY

ACTING CHIEF COMM.

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 Political Section
 CA Branch
 Exec Commissioner
 Public Safety
 Security Branch
 CG, RAAC

ACTING CHIEF COMML.

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Sir Noel Charles
Hon. Alexander Kirk
Political Section
CA Branch
Exec Commissioner
Public Safety
Security Branch
CG, RAAC

SECRET

785017

810

A.M.G. POLICE MESSAGE

Time 8:20 pm hours 21st Sept. 1944

From: Lt. Col. POLLOCK (At CARUSO Trial) 2 SEP Recd

To:

Col Fink A.C.

MESSAGE:

Caruso Trial finished 8:15 pm

Result: 1) CARUSO

sentenced to DEATH

2) OCHETTO to 30

years imprisonment

All quiet No

disorder - no demonstration

General Situation:

Quiet Pollock

A.C. has

seen Col. Fink

J.R. POLLOCK
Lt. ColonelThru Capt. J.I. B. Lally to Major
@ 20:40 hrs. 21 Sept 44.

11A

785017

SECRET

SIC
8

AFHQ

Hq ACC

B-338

21 SEPT

SECRET

PRIORITY

ACTING CHIEF COMD.

21 SEP Recd

YOUR FOX TWO SEVEN THREE SEVEN NINE FURTHER BY SUGAR THREE THREE FIVE PARUN TO
AFHQ FOR SACRED ONE UNITED STATES POLITICAL ADVISOR AND BRITISH RESIDENT MINISTER
FROM ACC FROM STONE PERSONAL PARUN CARVED TRIAL ADJOURNED LATE YESTERDAY AND HAS
RESUMED THIS MORNING PD ALL WITNESSES HEARD PD ARGUMENTS OF PROSECUTION AND
DEFENSE WILL BE MADE TODAY AND IT IS EXPECTED THAT TRIAL WILL BE CONCLUDED TODAY
PD THERE WERE NO UNFOWARD INCIDENTS YESTERDAY OF ANY KIND EITHER WITHIN OR OUTSIDE
THE COURT

AUTHENTICATED.

ELMERY W. STONE
Captain, USNR
Acting Chief Commissioner

DISTRIBUTION:

Sir Noel Charles
Hon. Alexander Kirk
Political Section
Exec Commissioner
CA Branch
Security Branch
Public Safety S/C
General Brown, RAC

A 295

Hq ACC	Sec'y Gen.
DISPATCHED	
Date-Time	21 SEP 1944
Via	1115
Initials	241

2295

Mullis

11A

SECRET

785017

SECRET

810

P.A. Br

5705 1

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

HQ SOUTHERN REGION ACC

SR/231

SEP 1920A5A

SECRET

ROUTINE

14/20

20/9

20 SEP Recd

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

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

FOR INFORMATION ONLY



Action: Pub. Supply ②

Info: AICE

Adm Sec

P.A. Br. —

File ②

Flora

2294

SECRET

785017

TOP SECRET

Executive Comm

AFHQ

HQ ACC

S-335

18 SEPT

TOP SECRET

PRIORITY

ACTING CHIEF COMM.

THIS MORNING AT TRIAL OF PIETRO CARUSO CMA FORMER FASCIST CHIEF OF POLICE OF
ROME CMA PUBLIC BROKE INTO COURTROOM CMA CLAMOURING FOR THE LYNCHING OF DEFENDANT
PD BECAUSE OF DISORDER JUDGES HAD NOT BEEN SEATED AND DEFENDANT HAD NOT BEEN
BROUGHT INTO COURT BUT CROWD ATTACKED DONATO CARRETTA CMA FORMER DIRECTOR OF
REGINA COELI PRISON CMA DRAGGED HIM FROM COURTROOM CMA BEAT HIM INTO INSSENSIBILITY
AND THREW HIM INTO TIBER PD DISCOVERING THAT HE WAS STILL ALIVE CMA MEMBERS OF
THE CROWD BEAT HIS BODY WITH OARS TILL HE WAS DEAD PD LATER HIS BODY WAS TAKEN
TO THE JAIL HE HAD FORMERLY DIRECTED UNDER GERMAN OCCUPATION CMA WHERE IT WAS
TIED FOR A SHORT TIME TO A WINDOW GRATING PD PARA PAREN TO AFHQ FOR SACRED CMA
UNITED STATES POLITICAL ADVISOR AND BRITISH RESIDENT MINISTER FROM ACC FROM
STONE PERSONAL PAREN DISORDERS AROSE THROUGH LACK OF PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES
TAKEN BY THE TRIAL COURT AND TO INEPTITUDE OF THE POLICE AND CARABINIERI PD
ENOUGH POLICE WERE ON HAND TO HAVE PROTECTED HIM BUT AS IN THE CASE OF PAST
DISTURBANCES AT TARANTO CMA THEY LACKED LEADERSHIP CMA ALTHOUGH INDIVIDUAL
CARABINIERI MADE EFFORTS TO DEFEND HIM PD PARA BECAUSE OF PRESENCE OF ALLIED
PRISONERS IN REGINA COELI JAIL CMA RAAC MILITARY POLICE CUT DOWN CARRETTAS
BODY AND DISPERSED CROWD WITHOUT DIFFICULTY PD PARA I CONFERRED WITH DONOMI
AND SPORZA THIS AFTERNOON CMA ACCOMPANIED BY REGIONAL COMMISSIONER POLETTI PD 2293
SPORZA IS IN CHARGE OF TRIALS PD I WARNED THEM OF THE NECESSITY OF PREVENTING
RECURENCES ON RESUMPTION OF TRIAL WHICH CMA ON MY ADVICE CMA WILL BE POSTPONED
TO WEDNESDAY CMA PERMITTING PREPARATIONS TO BE MADE TOMORROW FOR LIMITING
ATTENDANCE IN COURTROOM AND ADEQUATE POLICE MEASURES PD THE GOVERNMENT

TOP SECRET

11/19/5

TOP SECRET

CABLE TO AFHQ, NO. S-339, 18 SEPT 44, continued:

WILL ISSUE STATEMENT DEPLORING SHAMEFUL INCIDENT AND STATING THAT POLICE AND CARABINIERI OFFICERS RESPONSIBLE HAVE BEEN SUSPENDED PENDING INVESTIGATION PD I WARNED BONOMI THAT IF CIVIL DISORDERS BROKE OUT AGAIN IN ROME CMA IT MIGHT BE NECESSARY TO CALL OUT ALLIED TROOPS AND HE WOULD REALIZE THE SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES THAT WOULD ENTAIL PD PARA WE HAVE SUGGESTED TO ITALIAN GOVERNMENT SPECIFIC PRECAUTIONS TO BE TAKEN BY THEM WHICH WILL BE CHECKED BY REGION FOUR OFFICERS PD PARA IF GOVERNMENT IS CLEARLY UNABLE TO PRESERVE ORDER AND I DEEM IT NECESSARY TO ASK RAAC TO CALL OUT ALLIED TROOPS TO DEAL WITH EXCESSES CMA I PROPOSE UNDER SUCH CONDITIONS TO REESTABLISH COINCIDENT THEREWITH ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT WITHIN THE ROME GOVERNATE PD PARA THE SERIOUSNESS OF TODAY'S OCCURRENCES AND THEIR IMPLICATIONS IS FULLY APPRECIATED BY BONOMI AND SPORZA AND I AM HOPEFUL THAT THEY WILL MEASURE UP TO THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES

AUTHENTICATED:

ELLERY W. STONE
Captain, USNR
Acting Chief Commissioner

DISTRIBUTION:

Sir Noel Charles
Hon. Alexander Kirk
Political Section, ACC
Exec Commissioner
CA Branch
Security Branch
Public Safety S/C
General Brown, RAAC

54 261

Hq ACC Sec'y Gen.
DISPATCHED
Date Issued 18 Sept 2000
Via _____
Initials _____

Sig
BKK.

TOP SECRET

Exec. Comm. 3-
 [Signature]
 HEADQUARTERS
 UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT
 REGION IV
 AFO. 394



Regional Public Safety HQ.

18th Sept. 1944.

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

TO : Col. C. Poletti, Regional Commissioner.
 copy to Capt. Stone, Acting Chief Commissioner
 General Brown, Home Commander.

FACTS BRIEFLY.

1. The trial of Pietro Caruso (45) ex-Chief of Police, Rome, was due to commence at 8.30 a.m. 18th Sept. 1944, at the Palazzo di Giustizia.
2. Considerable publicity had been given to the case and special police arrangements had been made.
3. Considerable public disorder occurred inside the Court. At 9.30 a.m. I advised the President of the Court to adjourn the case in the interest of public order.
4. Whilst order was being restored inside the Court, and important witnesses of the case, Dr. Donato Cattaneo, ex-Governor of Regina Coeli prison, who had been removed from office by the police some weeks ago was seized by an infuriated mob outside the building. The mob inflicted severe violence on Dr. Cattaneo; he was thrown over the wall into the River Tiber, then retrieved from the river and taken by the crowd to Regina Coeli prison, where he was hung, strung up by the feet, until out down, when he was certified dead from fractured skull and multiple injuries.

DETAILS AS FOLLOWS:

Brief history of Caruso:

5. Age 45, born at Naples, formerly a Consul of the Fascist Portuaria Militia at Trieste. Appointed Chief of Police for Rome on 1st Feb. 1944, being regarded as the best man entirely faithful to the Fascist Republic.
6. As soon as he took up office he became ruthless, gathered around him a number of close collaborators, most of whom

2232

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to : Col. C. Poletti, Regional Commissioner.
copy to Capt. Stone, Acting Chief Commissioner
General Brown, Rome Commander.

FACTS SUMMARY:

1. The trial of Pietro CARUSO (45) ex-Chief of Police, Rome, was due to commence at 8.30 a.m. 18th Sept. 1944, at the Palazzo di Giustizia.
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DETAILS AS FOLLOWS:

Brief history of Caruso:

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6. As soon as he took up office he became ruthless, gathered around him a number of close collaborators, most of whom

2282

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- 2 -

3 /
 fled before our arrival in Rome on 4th/5th June, 1944. Caruso's work found favour and praise from Fascist Government - he was personally congratulated by Mussolini who termed him "my faithful warrior".

7. On 24th Nov. 1944, Caruso submitted the names of 50 persons to the German Command. These persons were shot and only 1st week their bodies were recovered from the Ardeatine Caves.

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

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

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

BRIEF HISTORY OF CARUSO; killed by the mob on 18th Sept. 1944.

11. About 43 years of age, with Fascist background. As prison governor on our arrival in Rome. There were mixed opinions about him but Col. Zoletti ordered me to remove him on 15th July, 1944 and this was done. He was not arrested but simply removed from his post. He had been called by the prosecution as a witness at the trial of Caruso. 2291

POLICE ARRANGEMENTS FOR TRIAL - 18th Sept. 1944.

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

Palazzo Giustizia: Interior - 105 P.M. officers and men 205
 100 CC.M.

Exterior - 100 P.M. officers and men and CC.M.

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POLICE ARRANGEMENTS FOR TRIAL - 10th Sept. 1944.

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

Palazzo Giustiniani: Interior - 105 P.S. officers and men 205
100 CC.MR.

Exterior - 105 P.S. officers and men and CC.MR.

10 P.S. mounted

10 CC.MR.

Regina Coeli

22 P.S. officers and men with machine guns & hand grenades

4 motorcycles

2 lorries

22

22

- 3 -

Police reserves ready for alarm
at other places

200

TOTAL 550

The nestore Mo/ravini was in charge of the Police
arrangements.

DISORDER INSIDE THE PALAZZO DI GIUSTIZIA

13. Unfortunately most of the entrances to the Palazzo di Giustizia were open to the public, and it is estimated that 5000 to 6000 at least entered into the building between 8.30 and 9 a.m. - they were in the corridors, upstairs, downstairs - in fact all over the building.

14. At 9.5 a.m. I received a message from Rome Command about the disorder and I at once went to the Court where the trial was to take place. The place was in a complete uproar and it was packed with screaming and yelling civilians, witnesses, court officials, and relatives of Argentine Gueves victims. The two balconies above were crowded, and I estimate there were 600 to 700 people at least craning into this fairly small courtroom. Between 40 to 50 police were present but were completely powerless and had no control over the public.

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

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

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

2293

DISORDER OUTSIDE THE PALAZZO DI GIUSTIZIA

18. Philat + was handling the inside situation, and the preventing the mob from smashing down doors and getting at Caruso, there was trouble outside the building.

The restore McFerrini was in charge of the Police arrangements.

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DISORDER OUTSIDE THE PALAZZO DI GIUSTIZIA

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

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

-4-

20. Carretta was dragged from the cab, again subjected to violence, dragged across the road and thrown into the Tiber river. It is said that some person with an car kept on striking the body in the water. Carretta was apparently dragged out of the river and taken by some means to Regina Coeli prison where he was hung up by the feet, tied with rope. He was quickly cut down however, and the body taken inside the prison entrance. I arrived at the prison at 12.50 p.m. and was present with the Procuratore when the body was examined by Doctor Alfredo Monaco, Prison surgeon, who pronounced lift extinct, death being caused by fracture of skull and multiple head and body injuries. The body was removed later to the mortuary at Verano Cemetery, San Lorenzo, where I arranged an adequate G.O.R.R. Guard.

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

SUGGESTIONS FOR NEXT HEARING

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

CONCLUSION

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

J.R. Pollock
J.R. POLLOCK

Lt. Colonel
Chief, Public Safety
REGION IV.

2283

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