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

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GERMAN

Nov. 1943

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

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GERMAN OCCUPIED
NOV. 1943 - SEPT. 1944

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
INFORMATION DIVISION
A.P.O. 394

2192 / INFO (4-A)
12 September 1944

SUBJECT: Extract Interrogations by SIM/CSDIC.

TO : Political Section.

1. Attached herewith is an extract from a
report received by CSDIC - CMP

J. V. Galt
John V. GALT
Major, M.I.
Director

5400

C. POLITICAL1. Government

- a) Special Tribunals have been set up in TURIN, MILAN, ROVIGO, VENICE, VERONA and PARMA to enquire into the conduct of members of the Fascist Party who supported the BADOGLIO Government after the fall of MUSSOLINI on 25 July 43.

b) Republican State Emblem and Seal (Document)

The following is the text of Decree No 15 issued by MUSSOLINI under date 23 Jan 44:

"I. The State Emblem shall consist of a Samite shield with the three national colours in pale, surmounted by an eagle, the white bearing the Republican Fasces. (See Appendix A, Sketch No 1).

II. The State Seal shall have impressed upon it the Republican Fasces with the legend:

"Repubblica Sociale Italiana"

(See Appendix A, Sketch No 2)

III. The Seals of the State Administrative Offices shall be replicas of the State Seal, with the name of the respective office in a circle round them."

c) Republican Foreign Office (25 May 44 - Source 256)

The Foreign Office was in a house in Piazzetta SEREGO at Lake GARDA.

2. Propaganda and Morale

MILAN (May 44 - Source 201)

Allied broadcasts were listened to by all classes of the population, in their homes or sometimes even in public resorts on the outskirts of the city. Reception was generally bad, especially on medium wavelenghts, owing to jamming by Republican stations. Radio ALGIERS could be heard easily, but Radio BARI was very difficult to hear. The public believed the news put out by the Allies, Source thinks that attempts should be made to improve the medium wave transmissions, as the majority of people have NOT got sets capable of receiving on short wave. Allied propaganda leaflets were distributed clandestinely all over the city and in the country districts, especially among the working classes. Leaflets describing crimes committed in ITALY by Germans and Republicans made a great impression.

Government after the fall of MUSSOLINI on 25 July 43.

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The majority of workmen in MILAN were in a state of constant ferment and the local authorities were worried about the situation. The attitude of the working classes both to the Germans and to the Fascist authorities was openly hostile. They worked merely in order to get food. The working classes seemed to be tending towards a form of moderate Socialism and the Communists, although they were doing intensive propaganda, were NOT meeting with much success.

To: MGS, AFHQFascist orders to Rome Minister

S/and

In reply refer to:
021.412

16 December 1943

MEMORANDUM TO: Military Government Section, Allied Force Headquarters

FROM: Political Section, Allied Control Commission

There is attached as of possible interest a copy of a memo from the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs relating to a circular of the Fascist Republican Government, which deals with measures to be taken against officials who have remained loyal to the Italian Government. The measure of publicity to be given such documents has been discussed with appropriate officials of the Bari unit of the Psychological Warfare Branch, A.P.W., who agree that it would be advisable to publicize the existence of this circular through the action of Allied Radio stations.

For the Deputy President, Allied Control Commission

Political Section

2 Encls.

Encl. 1 - Memo No. 515

Encl. 2 - Memo to Rome Minister

cc: Office of the American Ambassador
Office of the British Resident Minister

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(copy)

MINISTERO DEGLI AFFARI ESTERI

Brindisi, December 13, 1943

No. 545

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
(Political Section)

Allied sources have frequently warned Italians to take note of the atrocities perpetrated by Nazi and Fascist military or civilian authorities in order that the culprits may in due course be brought to justice.

In this connection it appears timely to forward to the A.C.C. the enclosed copy of a circular of October 14th that the self-styled Fascist Government in Rome have sent to all Ministries.

The circular deals with the measures that will be taken against all officials that have remained loyal to the Royal Government. As it will be noted, even the families of the "offenders" are not exempt from said measures.

What makes them even more objectionable is the fact that the Fascists do not hesitate in giving the Nazi authorities of occupation a free hand in the matter.

This Ministry does not deem it advisable that the circular should be publicized through the Allied radio stations because such publicity might induce the Nazi and the Fascists to apply the circular in the most drastic way. It is however only too proper that the competent Allied authorities should be informed thereof for further reference.

(initialed) E.P.

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(copy)

Presidency of the Council of Ministers

N. 25393/2597-1.10/1.1.2

RMS Det. 1.10, 1943

To all Ministries RGE

Inform Chiefs of various services and subordinate offices that, besides sanctions foreseen by present laws for mobilized civilians, the following measures shall be taken against all who, notwithstanding orders, shall abscond before or at the moment of the departure (of the Government from Rome):

- 1) immediate arrest;
- 2) dismissal from office and employment without right to pension;
- 3) notification of their name to the German police for their seizure after the departure of Government or reprisal measures against their families and property in case of persistent absence of the deserters.

Finally having noted that various officials, ordered to leave with the Government, have alleged ill health or have even entered clinics or hospitals it will be necessary the Ministries or their respective superiors should request them to undergo a medical visit by an absolutely trustworthy doctor.

The Undersecretary of State

(signed Barraco)

C. POLITICAL

1. Government

a) GERMANY (Jun 44 - Sources 176 & 177)

The provinces of BOZEMAN, TRENTO and VERONA have been amalgamated and given the name of "TRENTHINE OPERATIONAL AREA." The political, administrative and military authorities are all German. German ration cards have been issued to the population and the quantities of rationed foods are the same as in Germany. Republican Party colling-up notices have NOT been posted up in this area, but in Feb 44 notices issued by the German authorities called up all classes from 1894 to 1926, except men employed in essential war industries. About 17 Feb, all men born in 1920 and 1921 and the first half of 1926 were called to the colours.

The only public functionaries who have NOT collaborated in any way with the Germans and who still enjoy the respect of the public, are the judicial functionaries and the police. The latter were recently the subject of an enquiry on account of the negligence shown in rounding-up operations.

c) Republican Fascist Party (Jun 44 - Source 147)

EAST of the River TIGLIARNO, people realize clearly that the Republican Government has NO authority and that the Germans control everything. Some time ago there was talk of all Italian who had settled there since 1919 begin sent away, but this did NOT materialize. The Republican Party is ineffectual, because the Germans want it to be so. It can only try to win the sympathies of the public by concentrating on welfare activities.

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

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
INFORMATION DIVISION
A.P.C. 394

WS
2192 INIC 14-A
21 August 1944

SUBJECT : Extract CSDIC - CMF

TO : Political Section.

1. Attached herewith is an extract from a re-
port received by CSDIC - CMF

for
[Signature]
John V. HINCH
Major, M.I.
Director

5394

SECRET

July 17, 1944.

SECRET

The following information on conditions in northern Italy comprises the observations made by an Italian trade unionist upon his return from a recent trip to Italy on a Swedish passport. The information is contained in a report dated June 1944, which was made available to the American Legation at Stockholm.

(1) "Pro-Alps zone of operations" have been established by the Germans in the Belluno, Bolzano and Trento provinces, while the Adriatic provinces of Treviso, Udine and Trieste are known as the German provinces of the Adriatic. Administration is exclusively German in both areas and only German or Slovene language newspapers appear therein. Street names in Bolzano are in German and the Italian language there has disappeared. In the administration of northern Italy the neo-fascists have little to say.

(2) A number of clandestine Italian newspapers appear in Milan but not in Bologna, although circulated there are newspapers printed elsewhere. "La Nuova Italia" and "La Libertas" are among the underground newspapers in Milan.

(3) Neo-fascist groups are to be found in Tuscan, Venetian, and Friulian; they are divided into three categories: so-called Badoglio are comprising largely military people faithful to the Government and to the Royal House; a rabble of losers not interested in politics; and communists. Though Communists and Badoglio men do not always collaborate, they do not fight each other at least.

(4) In northern Italy communist propaganda is very active and, according to this observer, a majority of the people have communist tendencies. Communism is much feared by the middle class group. Students and entire population of Bologna are completely anti-fascist and communist cells exist among the students of Bologna University. The majority of the population in North Italy is reputed to be loyal to the Royal House, but not pleased with Umberto and unfavorable to the King because of his toleration of Mussolini. Due to war weariness, the population in general is apathetic politically, but political sense

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upon his return from a recent trip to Italy on a Swedish passport. The information is contained in a report dated June 1944, which was sent by the American legation at Stockholm:

- (1) "The type of operations have been established by the Germans in the Molise, Basilicata and Abruzzo provinces, while the Abruzzo provinces of Velle, Frosinone and Latina are now in the German provinces of the Adriatic." Authorities are exclusively German in both areas and only German or German language newspapers appear therein. Street names in Frosinone are in German and the Italian language there has disappeared. In the administration of north can Italy the neo-fascists have little to say.
- (2) "A number of clandestine Italian newspapers appear in Milan but not in Bologna. Although circulated there, these newspapers are printed elsewhere. The Nuova Italia and La Libertà are among the underground newspapers in Milan.
- (3) Many partisan groups are to be found in northern Italy; they are divided into three categories: so-called Badoglio was complaining largely military people faithful to the Government and to the Royal House; a middle class group. Students and entire population of Bologna are completely anti-fascist and communist cells exist among the students of Bologna University. The majority of the population in North Italy is reported to be loyal to the Royal House, but not pleased with Umberto and unfavorable to the King because of his toleration of Mussolini. Due to war conditions, the population in General is apathetic politically, but political sentiments are stymied and after the war the possibility of civil war will be rife as the internal situation will be chaotic.
- (4) In northern Italy communist propaganda is very active and, according to this observer, a majority of the people have communist tendencies. Communism is much feared by the middle class group. Students and entire population of Bologna are completely anti-fascist and communist cells exist among the students of Bologna University. The majority of the population in North Italy is reported to be loyal to the Royal House, but not pleased with Umberto and unfavorable to the King because of his toleration of Mussolini. Due to war conditions, the population in General is apathetic politically, but political sentiments are stymied and after the war the possibility of civil war will be rife as the internal situation will be chaotic.
- (5) Although disposed to be pro-ally, the population of North Italy complains of Allied bombing and asks that targets chosen by our air forces be confined strictly to objectives of a military character. Complaint has been reduced by more accurate bombing recently in North Italy. 6000 deaths were caused by the

the heaviest air raid on Bologna on September 23, 1943.

(6) North Italy generally listens in to the BBC at 7:30 a.m. especially. Radio sets are still permitted full operation in most large towns. Talks by "Cambridge", generally thought to be C.M., Florence, are sporadically broadcast by the BBC. Colonel Stevens and Umberto Calosso in "Italia libera" broadcast are the most popular. "La Voce di Londra" transmission at 4:430 p.m., not listened to much because at that hour most people are working.

British transmissions are preferred to American by North Italians because Americans often talk about the war in the Pacific which the Italians are not interested in.

Moscow radio is listened to by few.

(7) This source provides the following military information:

A. Bologna to Verona railway line intact although trains leave from suburban station of Borgo Pendigolo and not from Bologna's central station which was destroyed by bombs.

B. Railway bridge at Castella across Po undamaged, but it has no anti-aircraft protection, smoke screens being its only protection.

C. Railway line to Trento beyond Verona is undamaged. There is much damage by bombs further on, but the Germans have temporarily repaired this and trains proceed but at reduced speed.

D. Although Bologna itself is to a large extent destroyed, the Ducati factories there producing radio sets for the German Air Force have not been bombed.

E. Trains for civilians to the South go as far as Rimini near Milano, where the "Officine Meccaniche Regionali" mechanical works have been entirely destroyed by heavy bombing.

F. The Germans have strongly fortified the Ponte Invernatura and Putz passes in the Masen-Aemilian Apennines.

G. From Bologna to Florence, on the old Forsetto-Pistoia line, there are between two and three train

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most are the next most popular. La Voce di Londra is transmitted at 4:30 p.m., not listened to much because at that hour most people are working.

British transmissions are preferred to American by North Italians because Americans often talk about the war in the Pacific which the Italians are not interested in.

Source radio is listened to by few.

(2) This source provides the following military information:

A. Bologna to Verona railway line intact although trains leave from suburban station of Borgo Panigale and not from Bologna's central station which was destroyed by bombs.

B. Railway bridge at Ostigile across Po undamaged, but it has no anti-aircraft protection, smoke screens being its only protection.

C. Railway line to Trento beyond Verona is undamaged. There is much damage by bombs further on, but the Germans have temporarily repaired this and trains proceed but at reduced speed.

D. Although Bologna itself is to a large extent destroyed, the Lucetti factories there producing radio sets for the German Air Force have not been bombed.

E. Trains for civilians to the South go as far as Rimini near Milano, where the "Officina Meccaniche Regiarne" mechanical works have been entirely destroyed by heavy bombing.

F. The Germans have strongly fortified the Ponte Invenzature and Pute passes in the Masen-Mellon Apennines. 5362

G. From Bologna to Florence, on the old Ferrare-Fivole line, there are between two and three trains running daily. Motor transport is used chiefly by German troops. Prato, Sesto and Castello Fiorentino stations, as well as all the locomotives here, a total of 140, have been destroyed.

H. Sovigo intact but Ferrare greatly damaged by bombing. Padua land hit and Mestre even more so. Near Milan Lombardy has been badly hit as has Milan itself. Because of the great precision in bombing, the civil population of Milan is less fearful thereof. There is

no

-3-

no more anti-aircraft artillery in the city itself.

People confident that Venice, which is intact, will not be bombed, and many Italian and German diplomats have taken refuge there.

1. In North Italy traffic is from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m.; from midnight to 5 a.m. in Venice.

2. Automobile and railway bridges over the Venetian lagoon are undamaged.

3. Due to the fact that they have no explosives larger than hand grenades, partisans' sabotage of railways is ineffective. Setting spikes in roads has resulted in some sabotage to motor vehicles.

For United States Political Adviser

G. F. Reinhardt

Copies to:

Chief of Staff, AFHQ.
Deputy Chief of Staff, AFHQ.
Asst. Chief of Staff, G-2, AFHQ.
Asst. Chief of Staff, G-3, AFHQ.
British Resident Minister.
Psychological Warfare Branch
Ambassador Kirk, Naples.
✓ Political Section, ACG, Rome.

5331

UNITED STATES MEMBER
ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR ITALY

March 7, 1944

MEMORANDUM TO: Political Section,
Allied Control Commission,
Naples.

SUBJECT: Anti-German elements in North Italy.

The American Minister in Bern reports that according to reliable information from Milan, anti-German elements there have recently organized in a very compact unit with a Central Committee for all German-occupied Italian territory. The adherents of all five anti-Fascist groups and armed bands are reportedly controlled by this Committee.

"Although some Badoglio adherents are said to be included in the organized movement, informant reports that these circles express a preponderant aversion to the Badoglio Government. Nevertheless they unanimously approve in full Allied policy in Southern Italy in the belief that it safeguards Italian interests both at present and for the future much better than would be the case if certain tendencies of Italian factions there should be permitted to prevail.


G. F. Reinhardt
Acting United States Member

Copies to:
MGS
G-2
Office of the British
Resident Minister.

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Letter

4 Feb 44

U.S. Govt. to Ital Govt.

General Pirzio Biroli and General
Caviglia did not join the Fascist Republican
Army.

FILED: 5 05-Caviglia

365.016

AN ACCOUNT OF THE VERONA TRIAL AS RELEASED
IN SPAIN BY THE FASCIST-CONTROLLED STEFANI
AGENCY

VERONA, 11.- Yesterday before the Special Extraordinary Court, sitting in Castelveccchio at Verona, the trial was concluded of 19 members of the Grand Fascist Council, charged with the crimes of treason and aid to the enemy--articles 110 and 241 of the Penal Code, 51 of the Military Penal Code of War, with reference to Article 1, letter a, 4 and 7, of the Decree of November 11, 1943, published in the "Gazzetta Ufficiale" of November 18--for having carried out, at various meetings and particularly on the occasion of the vote taken in the Grand Fascist Council on July 25, 1943 in Rome, a joint move betraying the Idea, attacking the independence of the State, and for having caused as much damage to the resistance of the Country as to the operations of the Armed Forces, through action most appropriately tending toward any rapid peace, thus lending aid to the enemy. The trial began on the morning of January 8, 1944. The Special Extraordinary Court was presided over by His Excellency Aldo Vecchini, the following being judges: Celso Riva, Renzo Montagna, Domenico Rustica, Giovanni Orizzo, Vito Casanuova, Enrico Vassalini, Otello Gaddi. Andrea Fortunato, lawyer, acted as State's Attorney, and Tommaso Leccadito as Secretary. Behind the ample rostrum the black Roman imperial standard was stretched out on the wall, in its center, on a white field, the Republican Fasces. To the right was the box where the accused would appear. In front of the tribunal were the attorneys for the defense (colegio de la defensa). On the left, the press table. On the other side of a barrier set up from one side to the other in the center of the room, sat the public. At 9 a.m. on January 8 the trial began, with the entrance of the accused persons. Representatives of the Italian and foreign press attend the hearing, and the public is composed of professional men, white-collar workers, and laborers, and is circumspect, serene and fully conscious of the historic importance of the trial which is about to begin. At 9:15 the Extraordinary Tribunal, whose members wear the Black Shirt, enter the hall. The Secretary reads the names of the 19 accused persons: De Bono, Ciano, Cianetti, Pareschi, Marinelli, Gottardi, Bottai, Bastianini, Albini, Rossoni, De Stefani, Vignardi, Bazella, Federzoni, Acerbo, Grandi, Alfieri, De Vecchi, De Marsico. Of these, the following are present: Ciano, Cianetti, De Bono, Pareschi, Marinelli, and Gottardi. The rest, some of whom had already taken refuge abroad during the Badoglio period and others who took advantage of the almost complete disorganization of police services from the 8th to the end of

crimes of treason and aid to the enemy--articles 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000.

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the stand first. He declares at the beginning that he received on a certain day in July 1943 (he doesn't exactly remember whether it was the 19th, 20th or 21st) the invitation from Scorza who called him to a meeting of the Secretariat of the Party in Littorio Palace, where Teruzzi, Bottai, Albini, De Cicco or de Marsico (he doesn't remember exactly which of the two), and Farinacci met together. Farinacci spoke first on the military situation and particularly on anti-fascism. On the latter subject they all spoke a little. The discussion continued for a long time and it was agreed to talk with the Duce in order to receive from him a directive and advice concerning propaganda to be carried out among the masses. And, in effect, the group did speak with the Duce. The situation was examined in all its aspects. The accused continues recalling how, on the next day, there was brought to him in order that he might sign it, an Order of the Day from Grandi. De Bono states parenthetically that he doesn't understand Orders of the Day, that he has never been a politician. The Order of the Day held only two aspects for him: the call to harmony, and the return of military powers into the hands of the King. De Bono then passes to the session of the Grand Fascist Council which began at 5 p.m. July 25, 1943 with the Duce setting forth the military and internal situation of the Country. Immediately afterwards, Grandi presented his Order of the Day and explained it with great eloquence, insisting on the restoration of the constitution. The Duce answered this by stating -always according to the defendant-: "The Order of the Day of Grandi's presents a dilemma: either the King, whom I have served for 20 years and who a few days ago renewed his esteem for me, reconfirms his confidence in me and I know what I must do, or he takes my post away from me and things could change." Immediately, in response to a question of the President, the accused denies having had direct or indirect contacts with the Royal House. Answering questions of the President, De Bono states that the dilemma was posed by the Duce before 11:30 p.m., when the session was suspended for a few minutes; afterwards discussion took place. De Bono is followed by Pareschi, who states he arrived at the Palazzo Venezia a quarter-hour before the beginning of the session. In the anteroom Grandi approached him and spoke to him of the movement and assured him that the Party Secretary also knew of it. Commenting on the statements of the Duce, the accused observes that the demonstration of the passiveness of the military commands didn't surprise him in the least. He himself had had frequent proofs thereof in the course of his ministerial activities. After Mussolini, De Bono and De Vecchi spoke, both on the military situation, and following them, Grandi presented his Order of the Day. Immediately following this, Ciano spoke, followed by Farinacci and then someone else. The accused says, moreover, that Mussolini brought into relief the inopportuneness of the

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Following

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Following Pareschi, Cianetti speaks, after having requested and obtained permission to speak from the defendants' box. Cianetti, after having refused any accusation and after affirming he had always been and is a Fascist, expounds fully his activity as syndical director; afterwards, he dwelt on the period when he lived as a combatant in Albania (a period in which he could state absolutely that the General Staff and the higher army official betrayed the Country), and on events in Pantelleria, Sicily and Augusta, all directed toward demonstrating the premeditated and systematic treason of the General Staff. The accused speaks successively of the internal situation, recalling having gone together with Acerza to see the Duce, and he emphasizes that in the conversation which they had with him, one of the fundamental things dealt with was that the Grand Fascist Council be convoked, a propos of which Cianetti observes that when on the morning of July 24 the Secretary of Grandi advised him that the President of the Chamber of Deputies invited him to a conference, he didn't think it concerned a meeting of the Grand Council. Grandi, on the other hand, presented him with the Order of the Day which he had prepared. The accused confessed to having been favorably impressed by the reading thereof, because it spoke of the need of making the organs of the revolution function, of defending the integrity of the country, of inviting the King to take over the command of the Armed Forces. Cianetti further confesses and deplores that his enthusiasm for the first part of the order made him forget the second to the point of not noticing the snare it contained. In summary, however, the second part appeared to him at most a simple and innocent peroration. Cianetti declares, however, that he asked Grandi what he meant by indicating Article 5 of the Statute and Grandi answered that it dealt with a matter of no importance. "That," says Cianetti, "is an unpardonable naivety of mine." In conclusion, Cianetti states that he said to Grandi that that Order of the Day of his was very good. To this point, the accused, who doesn't spare sarcasm for the monarchy, says that in the invitation to the King contained in the Order of the Day, he saw nothing more than the possibility of relieving the Duce of some of his responsibilities and, on the other hand, to give responsibility to the monarchy, dragging it out of hiding. Cianetti, speaking of the session of the Grand Council, thus defines his moral position in the face of the Order of the Day. He mentions the speeches of Grandi, Ciano, Farinacci, Bottai and others, and quotes the words of the Duce: "This Order, that of Grandi, (the accused states he has a good memory) poses two types of problems: either the King accepts and certain problems, among them my personal one, are presented; or the King does not accept and other problems are presented." Cianetti attributes to Grandi all responsibility, but adds: "It is certain that if I had felt he was a traitor, not only would I not have subscribed

directed toward demonstrating the premeditated and systematic treason of the General Staff. The accused speaks successfully of the internal situation, recalling having gone together with Scorza to see the Duce, and he emphasizes that in the conversation which they had with him, one of the fundamental things dealt with was that the Grand Fascist Council be convoked, a propos of which Cianetti observes that when on the morning of July 24 the Secretary of Grandi advised him that the President of the Chamber of Deputies invited him to a conference, he didn't think it concerned a meeting of the Grand Council. Grandi, on the other hand, presented him with the Order of the Day which he had prepared. The accused confessed to having been favorably impressed by the reading thereof, because it spoke of the need of making the organs of the revolution function, of defending the integrity of the country, of inviting the King to take over the command of the Armed Forces. Cianetti further confesses and deplores that his enthusiasm for the first part of the order made him forget the second to the point of not noticing the snare it contained. In summary, however, the second part appeared to him at most a simple and innocent peroration. Cianetti declares, however, that he asked Grandi what he meant by indicating Article 5 of the Statute and Grandi answered that it dealt with a matter of no importance. "That," says Cianetti, "is an unpardonable naivety of mine." In conclusion, Cianetti states that he said to Grandi that that Order of the Day of his was very good. To this point, the accused, who doesn't spare sarcasm for the monarchy, says that in the invitation to the King contained in the Order of the Day, he saw nothing more than the possibility of relieving the Duce of some of his responsibilities and, on the other hand, to give responsibility to the monarchy, dragging it out of hiding. Cianetti, speaking of the session of the Grand Council, thus defines his moral position in the face of the Order of the Day. He mentions the speeches of Grandi, Ciano, Farinacci, Bottai and others, and quotes the words of the Duce: "This Order, that of Grandi, (the accused states he has a good memory) poses two types of problems: either the King accepts and certain problems, among them my personal one, are presented; or the King does not accept and other problems are presented." Cianetti attributes to Grandi all responsibility, but adds: "It is certain that if I had felt he was a traitor, not only would I not have subscribed to the Order of the Day, but I would have done that very night whatever could have been done." Cianetti speaks then of the speech which he delivered in the Grand Council and recalls having made certain criticisms of the press and the General Staff. On the request of the President, he speaks of the letter sent to the Duce two hours after the session, a letter written because he then began to reflect on the trap contained in the second part of the Order of the Day and in order to lighten his conscience, he wrote to the Duce telling him that he should consider his vote as not cast,

and

and recognizing the grave error committed and putting at his disposition his post of minister. The accused concluded his deposition affirming that if he has erred he is disposed to pay, even heavily, but he swears that every act of his has been dictated by his faith and enthusiasm for Fascism and the Duce, in which he believed, believes and will always believe. The session is interrupted at 2:30 p.m. to be renewed at 2:45. The reading of the memorandum of Cottaardi is begun, which denies the accusations made against him. He calls on his past as a soldier who has always fled militant politics and states that he had gone to the session of the Grand Council without yet knowing the other components of it and without at any time speaking during the session. His impression is that the discussion tended towards recognizing the principal points for the continuation of the war. He voted favorably for the Order of the Day, feeling it freed the Duce of the grave responsibility of command of the Armed Forces. Cottaardi declares he was impressed by the fact that the Grand Council should have been convoked without the newspapers having announced it. Since he had never participated in sessions of the Grand Council, he believed it desirable to request advice of Vignardi and Cianetti in order that they instruct him as to the proper comportment. The President now reads the questioning of Marinelli, in which the accused protests against the charge against him. He declares that in the first part of the session of the Grand Council he spoke solely of the military situation, but that he did not participate in the discussion, limiting himself to following attentively everything the Duce expounded. When the Duce invited the Party Secretary to take a vote on the Order of the Day by roll-call, he voted favorably with the full conviction that nothing serious would arise therefrom against Fascism. He states he saw no member of the Grand Council before the session, nor heard the dilemma set forth by the Duce. Following this the Ciano report is read, in which he states: "It is absolutely absurd to think that we, members of the Grand Council should wish to bring about the ruin of the Duce, thus bringing about our downfall. Once more I repeat that I have never thought, not even faintly, that the Order of the Day could mean a coup d'etat. I can also have committed an error, but never treason which would contrast with all my activity as a soldier, a Fascist and a man." Ciano also states he left the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on February 8, to take over the post of Ambassador near the Holy See. Only on July 22 did he know that the Grand Council would be convoked on the following Saturday. He declares he went on Friday afternoon to Bottai's house, where Grandi also was. The President continues the reading of the Ciano report, in which the latter states that, if he could have thought of the possibility of what happened after the session, he would not have voted in favor of the Order of the Day in a different manner. Ciano adds

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affirmative.

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affirmative. As to the dilemma set forth by the Duce, he answers that he did not consider it a true and proper dilemma. The interrogation of the accused being terminated, the President goes on to the witnesses. He reads the report of Count Suardo, ex-President of the Senate. With reference to the session, Suardo states that the Duce, at a certain point in the discussion, brought out clearly that Grandi's Order of the Day posed a dilemma: either the King accepts or does not accept: if he accepts, and therefore I must leave the supreme command, then my personal question arises. The witness then speaks of the various drafts of the Grandi Order of the Day. In one the Chief of Government was invited to request that the King assume command of the Armed Forces. In another, the invitation to the King was made by the Government in general. Neither corresponds to the Stefani text. At this point, Ciano interrupts, saying that the Stefani communique was edited by Acquarone, Minister of the Royal Household, while Grandi requested its publication. The witness notes that he adhered to any proposition which was not refused by the Duce. Suardo says, finally, that he had the impression, especially from the speeches of Grandi and Bottai, that something was being plotted against the Duce and against the Regime. For that reason he withdrew his support. The Court suspends the session at 5:20 p.m. in order to renew it at 6, calling as witness Carlo Scorza, ex-Secretary of the Party, whose deposition was read, in which the fact stands out that the Duce said in the Grand Council discussion: "If this Order of the Day (of Grandi) goes further than the military problem, then it is necessary to state clearly where its goal lies and what that goal is." The witness adds that he had the impression that there was in the Grand Council a tendency toward peace. Scorza confirms the fact that he wrote two letters to the Duce in order that he abandon the military ministries. A defense attorney asks Scorza if he had received the same impression as Suardo as to the organization of a conspiracy. Scorza says he had, indeed, had this impression, and moreover, he had the sensation that something not strictly orthodox was being prepared with respect to the Duce through the Order of the Day. In answer to questions of the President as to whether Grandi refused to go to Bologna to make a propaganda speech, Scorza says that is true. General Galbiati, ex-Chief of the Military General Staff, is then called up. The witness declares that during the first part of the discussion the war-peace surrender-resistance dilemma was posed. For Galbiati, also, the majority was oriented towards a solution of the conflict. The President then calls as witness Ettore Prattati, ex-President of the Fascist Confederation of Farmers, and he reads some portions of his deposition. He states that the Order of the Day was not convincing to him; on the contrary, he spoke in order to uphold the need of

does not accept: if he accepts, and therefore I must leave the supreme command, then my personal question arises. The witness then speaks of the various drafts of the Grandi Order of the Day. In one the Chief of Government was invited to request that the King assume command of the Armed Forces. In another, the invitation to the King was made by the Government in General. Neither corresponds to the Stefani text. At this point, Ciano interrupts, saying that the Stefani communiqué was edited by Acquarone, Minister of the Royal Household, while Grandi requested its publication. The witness notes that he adhered to any proposition which was not refused by the Duce. Guardo says, finally, that he had the impression, especially from the speeches of Grandi and Dottai, that something was being plotted against the Duce and against the Regime. For that reason he withdrew his support. The Court suspends the session at 5:20 p.m. in order to renew it at 6, calling as witness Carlo Scorza, ex-Secretary of the Party, whose deposition was read, in which the fact stands out that the Duce said in the Grand Council discussion: "If this Order of the Day (of Grandi) goes further than the military problem, then it is necessary to state clearly where its goal lies and what that goal is." The witness adds that he had the impression that there was in the Grand Council a tendency toward peace. Scorza confirms the fact that he wrote two letters to the Duce in order that he abandon the military ministries. A defense attorney asks Scorza if he had received the same impression as Guardo as to the organization of a conspiracy. Scorza says he had, indeed, had this impression, and moreover, he had the sensation that something not strictly orthodox was being prepared with respect to the Duce through the Order of the Day. In answer to questions of the President as to whether Grandi refused to go to Bologna to make a propaganda speech, Scorza says that is true. General Galbiati, ex-Chief of the Military General Staff, is then called up. The witness declares that during the first part of the discussion the war-peace surrender-resistance dilemma was posed. For Galbiati, also, the majority was oriented towards a solution of the conflict. The President then calls as witness Ettore Prattati, ex-President of the Fascist Confederation of Farmers, and he reads some portions of his deposition. He states that the Order of the Day was not convincing to him; on the contrary, he spoke in order to uphold the need of resisting and continuing the war, because if we should give in, the curse of our sons and grandsons would have fallen on us. Prattati also stated that the Duce, placing the Order of the Day to a roll-call vote, made it clearly understood that in case of approval, he would be obliged to leave to the others not only the military but also the political command. The President reads the declarations of Ministers Biggini and Buffarini and that of the Minister of State, Farinacci, which confirm the imposition of Mussolini's dilemma

before

before the voting. Then there is read a memorandum of Marshal Ugo Cavallero which throws light on the precedents of the coup d'etat of July 25 and the developments of the Grand Council meeting. The memorandum says that since November of 1942 the possibility was considered of a substitution for Mussolini in order to be able to present to the Sovereign a situation of the nation which would permit the naming of a new Government. Various meetings were held among the high military officials and it appeared that the person most indicated for the succession was Marshal Badoglio. Although he left in December his post as Chief of the General Staff, the memorandum continues, Cavallero had not ceased to concern himself with such a situation and, in his opinion, a condition favorable for the change of Government arose at the time of the fall of Tunis. He spoke of such an intention with the Orderly of the Prince of Piemonte, who assured him that the expression of his thoughts had reached high circles. On the fall of Sicily the thoughts of Cavallero took a more concrete form. The King should have revoked the delegation of powers to the Duce for conducting the war and in this way the military powers would be returned to the Sovereign. The rest would come about in orderly steps. The new Government would be entrusted to Badoglio. Cavallero adds that in the meantime he had conducted active propaganda for such a project with various persons of the magistrature and the Senate, and that a great businessman, Luigi Burgo, had declared himself disposed to place at the disposition of this initiative, more than a hundred million. Cavallero also had conferences with General Ambrosio and Marshal Badoglio, and in order not to give the movement the character of a military insurrection, it was decided to attain its goal constitutionally, that is, through the Grand Fascist Council. The President then reads other documents, among which is a letter from Badoglio to Mussolini in which the ex-Marshal informs the Duce that what was done, i.e. his imprisonment, had been done in order to guarantee his personal security. Another letter was sent by Badoglio to the German Ambassador--the letter was reproduced in time by the "Corriere della Sera"--in which, under date of July 29, he begged the latter to transmit to the Fuehrer his regrets that he could not comply with the desire expressed by the Fuehrer with regard to the person of Mussolini. The State's Attorney, Fortunato, then speaks, and begins to bring out the fact that it is the duty of the Tribunal to hand down a verdict capable of reestablishing the morale broken by the vote of the Grand Fascist Council, which resulted in the fall of the Regime which incarnated the Mussolinian Idea. This Idea, in order to triumph, had, from 1919 to 1921, to destroy democratic and liberal ideas, and in order to attain this last object, many men died but the Idea triumphed. In 1922 it was the compromise with the monarchy which brought about artificial effects and obliged Fascism to

the naming of a new Government. Various meetings were held among the high military officials and it appeared that the person most indicated for the succession was Marshal Badoglio. Although he left in December his post as Chief of the General Staff, the memorandum continues, Cavallero had not ceased to concern himself with such a situation and, in his opinion, a condition favorable for the change of Government arose at the time of the fall of Tunis. He spoke of such an intention with the Orderly of the Prince of Piemonte, who assured him that the expression of his thoughts had reached high circles. On the fall of Sicily the thoughts of Cavallero took a more concrete form. The King should have revoked the delegation of powers to the Duce for conducting the war and in this way the military powers would be returned to the Sovereign. The rest would come about in orderly steps. The new Government would be entrusted to Badoglio. Cavallero adds that in the meantime he had conducted active propaganda for such a project with various persons of the magistrature and the Senate, and that a great businessman, Luigi Burzio, had declared himself disposed to place at the disposition of this initiative, more than a hundred million. Cavallero also had conferences with General Ambrosio and Marshal Badoglio, and in order not to give the movement the character of a military insurrection, it was decided to attain its goal constitutionally, that is, through the Grand Fascist Council. The President then reads other documents, among which is a letter from Badoglio to Mussolini in which the ex-Marshal informs the Duce that what was done, i.e. his imprisonment, had been done in order to guarantee his personal security. Another letter was sent by Badoglio to the German Ambassador--the letter was reproduced in time by the "Corriere della Sera"--in which, under date of July 29, he begged the latter to transmit to the Fuehrer his regrets that he could not comply with the desire expressed by the Fuehrer with regard to the person of Mussolini. The State's Attorney, Fortunato, then speaks, and begins to bring out the fact that it is the duty of the Tribunal to hand down a verdict capable of reestablishing the morale broken by the vote of the Grand Fascist Council, which resulted in the fall of the Regime which incarnated the Mussolinian Idea. This Idea, in order to triumph, had, from 1919 to 1921, to destroy democratic and liberal ideas, and in order to attain this last object, many men died but the Idea triumphed. In 1922 it was the compromise with the monarchy which brought about artificial pacts and obliged Fascism to drag along the dead weight of the House of Savoy, which has a political tradition which consists in absorbing revolutionary movements until they present no excessive risks. Thus the unstable throne of the House of Savoy is supported by the Revolution and the latter may continue developing until it clashes with dynastic interests. When the military defeats which were provoked by the continuous sabotage of the General Staff clearly placed the crown in danger, then there began the

destructive

-7-

destructive activity of the monarchy, of whose conspiracy Cavallero is the clear manifestation. Cavallero immediately designated Badoglio, the man of the monarchy, as appears in this memorandum, who, the speaker notes, is the traitor--not the masses, who are the betrayed. The conspiracy is outlined with the idea of the Duce's succession. There is lacking in Ambrosio the physical valor necessary for a military insurrection, and serenity. They think of approaching the hierarchies of Fascism. This political process is based on logical deductions and inductions. Not all the most responsible parties are on the bench of the accused. There are lacking, among others, Grandi, Bottai, Albini, Federzoni. These thought cowardly of saving their political and economic situation and some of them also thought of creating a new political situation for themselves under the new regime. The criminal plan culminated in Grandi's Order of the Day. On one hand there was the political conspiracy and on the other the Cavallero-Badoglio conspiracy in combination with the monarchy. To that project there is given a constitutional form which has to end in a political uprising. The situation was grave: in order to animate the people it was planned to gather various speakers in Rome and in other places, and with that view the meeting of the Grand Council was secured from the Duce (it seems that Bottai declared: "We have secured a meeting of the Grand Council and Grandi is trying to collect signatures. I think it is the first time there has been presented in the Grand Council an Order of the Day prepared outside in order to impose on the voters the will of those who present it). On the presentation of the Order of the Day, the Duce understands what they wish--peace at any price in a conflict such as this. Prior to the voting, someone requests the meeting be adjourned, but the chiefs oppose this move because they fear a change of attitude. It is recalled that the personal question was presented by the Duce. If the Monarchy accepts the Order of the Day, says the Duce, I am obliged to go and if it does not accept... take the consequences. The voting continues. It is undeniable that the voters--ministers and chiefs with developed mentalities--were conscious of what they did and of the inevitable consequences. They gave to the Sovereign all juridical and political possibilities in order to bring about the downfall of the Regime. Is there any doubt as to their responsibility? The State's Attorney is obliged to appeal to the law setting up the Tribunal, with reference to the total responsibility of all the 19 members of the Grand Council: "For them there is nothing more than the death penalty, in the form which the Law establishes for such crimes. I assume all responsibility. But you are men, in addition to being judges, and therefore, taking into account the trial instructions, see if there exists the possibility of finding attenuating circumstances for any of them." Directing himself then to the accused, he exclaims: "Thus I have thrown your heads to the History of Italy. I would also throw my own, in order

the hierarchies of fascism. This political process is based on logical deductions and inductions. Not all the most responsible parties are on the bench of the accused. There are lacking, among others, Grandi, Bottai, Albini, Federzoni. These thought cowardly of saving their political and economic situation and some of them also thought of creating a new political situation for themselves under the new regime. The criminal plan culminated in Grandi's Order of the Day. On one hand there was the political conspiracy and on the other the Cavallero-Badoglio conspiracy in combination with the monarchy. To that project there is given a constitutional form which has to end in a political uprising. The situation was grave: in order to animate the people it was planned to gather various speakers in Rome and in other places, and with that view the meetings of the Grand Council was secured from the Duce (it seems that Bottai declared: "We have secured a meeting of the Grand Council and Grandi is trying to collect signatures. I think it is the first time there has been presented in the Grand Council an Order of the Day prepared outside in order to impose on the voters the will of those who present it!"). On the presentation of the Order of the Day, the Duce understands what they wish--peace at any price in a conflict such as this. Prior to the voting, someone requests the meeting be adjourned, but the chiefs oppose this move because they fear a change of attitude. It is recalled that the personal question was presented by the Duce. If the Monarchy accepts the Order of the Day, says the Duce, I am obliged to go and if it does not accept... take the consequences. The voting continues. It is undeniable that the voters--ministers and chiefs with developed mentalities--were conscious of what they did and of the inevitable consequences. They gave to the Sovereign all juridical and political possibilities in order to bring about the downfall of the Regime. Is there any doubt as to their responsibility? The State's Attorney is obliged to appeal to the law setting up the Tribunal, with reference to the total responsibility of all the 19 members of the Grand Council: "For them there is nothing more than the death penalty, in the form which the Law establishes for such crimes. I assume all responsibility. But you are men, in addition to being judges, and therefore, taking into account the trial instructions, see if there exists the possibility of finding attenuating circumstances for any of them." Directing himself then to the accused, he exclaims: "Thus I have thrown your heads to the History of Italy. I would also throw my own, in order that Italy live." Later there followed the defenses of the lawyers of each of the accused, which took up two sessions. Once these are ended, the President asks the accused if they have anything to add to the words of their defenders. They respond in the negative. The Special Extraordinary Court then withdraws for deliberations. It is 9:30 a.m. on Monday, January 10. After four hours of deliberation, the Court again enters the hall. The public, standing, listens in profound silence while the President reads the sentence.

Rigid

Rigid and on foot, understandably anxious, are the defendants. Here is the sentence read by the President: The Special Extraordinary Court, having read the accusations against the defendants De Bono, Ciano, Pareschi, Marinelli, Gottardi, Bottai, Bastianini, Albini, Rossoni, De Stefani, Vignardi, Balolla, Federzoni, Acerbo, Grandi, Alfieri, De Vecchi, and De Marsico, after examination of Articles 4 and 7 of the Decree of November 11, 1943, with relation to Article 241 of the Ordinary Penal Code, in addition to Articles 19 and 21 of the same Code and Articles 474, 477, 483, 484, 488 of the Penal Procedure Code, declares: These accused persons are guilty of the crime of which they are accused, according to the statements of Articles a) of the cited decree, and 241 of the Penal Code, considering the crime referred to in Article 51 of the Military Penal Code of War included therein, and in consequence thereof condemns: De Bono, Ciano, Pareschi, Marinelli, Gottardi, Bottai, Bastianini, Alfieri, Rossoni, De Stefani, Vignardi, Balolla, Federzoni, Acerbo, Grandi, Alfieri, De Vecchi, De Marsico to the penalty of death with its legal consequences. In view of Article 62, No. 6 of the Penal Code, it condemns Cianetti Tullio, because of attenuating circumstances, to the penalty of 30 years of imprisonment, with the public dishabilitations as stated in Articles 28 and 29 of the Penal Code. It condemns all the accused to the payment of judicial costs.

(Bulletin No. 75 of January 12, 1944).

1021

Magistrato's telegram No. 122, April 25, from the Italian
Legation at Bern for the Italian Ministry of Foreign
Affairs.

The neo-Fascist authorities were forced to renounce
projects blocking Swiss properties and credits in circumstances
northern and central Italy, I am informed, following the Swiss
Government's own intervention. An official communique announced
settlement of the question today. The result is that financial
means controlled by neo-Fascists in Italy can again be utilized
by Swiss citizens.

345.03/1944

3 May 1944

5381

1022

(Paraphrase of Telegram No. 48 from the Italian Legation
at Bern for the Italian Foreign Office.)

"Swiss interests are considerable in Central and
Northern Italy. Republican Fascist Government measures
against properties and bank accounts belonging to citizens
of neutral European countries has made especially in
Switzerland a strong impression. To the Swiss Government
I have declared that this arbitrary measure adopted by
illegal authorities is contrary to the policy always
followed towards Switzerland by the Royal Government
of Italy."

385.03/394

10 MAR 1941

SPEDITO

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UNITED STATES MEMBER
ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR ITALY

March 6, 1944.

MEMORANDUM TO: Political Section,
Allied Control Commission,
Naples.

SUBJECT: Telegrams from Italian Legation, Bern.

There are attached for transmission to the Italian Foreign Office copies in paraphrase of an unnumbered telegram and telegrams numbers 48, 50 and 51 from the Italian Minister at Bern, Magistrati, to the Italian Foreign Office.



G. F. Reinhardt
Acting United States Member

Enclosures:

1. Unnumbered telegram.
2. Telegrams Nos. 48, 50
and 51.

Copies to:

MGS
G-2
Office of the British
Resident Minister.

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Magistrati's telegram No. 167, May 28, from the Italian Legation at Berne to the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

For discussions with competent Swiss authorities of measures taken in German occupied Italy blocking Swiss capital and of past Swiss bank loans to Italy, two neo-Fascist officials of "Istituto de Cambi" were in Switzerland for a brief visit recently. I am informed that on the second question delay has been granted for loans contracts. As concerns the first question, it appears that blocking of Swiss property in Italy will be rescinded shortly. It does not appear that any further attempts have been made to establish a new clearing, and the very few commercial exchanges between Switzerland and north Italy continued to occur under a system of barter. This situation will be followed very closely by this Legation.

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R. MINISTERO DEGLI AFFARI ESTERI

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Telegramma in PARTENZA

Nº coll: 253

Oggetto: Misura Governo r publicano riguardo proprieta' cittadini
Data: paesi neutrali
March 16, 1944
Tramite: C.A.C.

Diretto a: ITALIAN LEGATION BERNE

Testo: (originale)

Nº

53 - March 16 (.) Your telegram N.48 (.) approve (.)
Confirm to Swiss Government that we consider measures adopted
by self-styled Fascist authorities against Swiss interests in
Italy as arbitrary and illegal (.)

Prunas

(Traduzione)

Vostro 48 (.) Approva (.) Confermato questo Governo
che consideriamo arbitraria e illegale misure adottate da
sufficienti autorità fasciste nei confronti interessi svizzeri
in Italia (.)

Prunas

Consegnato a: C.A.C.

il: 16 marzo

53.3

1944
VIA AEREA

1026

Message 46

1 Mar 44

Berne to Frunag:

Resignation of Swiss Minister at
Rome now in Zurich. Mr. Desalis is Swiss
Ch D'AFF in Rome.

FILED: 394/385.03

385.03/504

(From "Time", March 13, 1944)

ITALY

What's the Matter?

Three of southern Italy's antiroyalist parties proposed to call a ten-minute strike in Naples last week. Object: to protest once more against the British-U.S. alliance with dilapidated little King Vittorio Emanuele III and Marshal Pietro Badoglio. Specifically, Italian anti-Fascists felt that Winston Churchill had let them down again in his recent declaration of Allied policy. Said Count Carlo Sforza: "In London they seem so busy mistrusting anti-Fascism that they forget...thousands of Fascists...eager to stab Britain and the U.S.A. in the back."

There was no strike. Explained an anti-Fascist spokesman, the republican Action Party's Prince Caracciolo: "We had to give in to precise orders from General (Sir Henry Maitland) Wilson."

Nobody was happy. Allied control authorities felt that troublesome Italians had again put their internal politics ahead of a very troublesome war. Those Italians who cared at all felt that the Allies had once again demonstrated a complete contempt for everything the war was supposed to be about.

Amateurs at Work.

Field Security officers in Italy move into newly occupied towns along with, or only a few steps behind, the front-line combat troops. The security men make a quick check on the townspeople, find out who were the Fascist leaders and send them back to the lines at the tail end of batches of German prisoners. It doesn't take much detective work to uncover the town scoundrels. No overpowering display of authority is needed to get rid of them.

Yet the U.S. and British Governments, acting in concert, have failed to do the same thing with Fascists of higher rank. One reason for this failure--and for most of the specific mistakes in Italy--is that amateurs at European problems are attempting to deal with chaotic and revolutionary situations. A more basic reason is that Allied officials in Italy have no firmly laid-down and well-understood policy to guide them.

The Italians have heard Allied political advisers and generals make speeches about liberation, promise food for the civilian population, but the Italians have a certain Latin practicality. They are aware of the lack of ships to bring promised food. They are aware that Allied troops are liberating Italy only from the Germans--and are not doing that very rapidly. The politically conscious, democratically minded minority in southern Italy is aware by now that "expediency" is as much an excuse as a policy.

Militarily, Italy is an available place in which to fight Germans. Politically, Italy is a place where Britain and the U.S. have lost a great opportunity to build up European good will, to prove that the Allies really do know what they want, and that they know how to get it.

The Weary Ones.

Mussolini's abdication caught Allied political advisers with their brief cases down. There was no plan, either political or military, to turn such a development to account. Hasty conferences followed with some of the Kings and the Marshal's emissaries. The armistice was signed, but its announcement was withheld to coincide with a proposed airborne invasion of Rome and the beachhead landing at Salerno. The Germans moved quickly. They prevented the air-borne venture by disarming vastly superior numbers of Italians to whom the Allies had looked for help, then concentrated everything available at Salerno.

The Allies held Salerno, but they also had on their hands the King and Marshal Badoglio. The Italian fleet came over. Militarily, the Allies gained some advantage by having Italian troops help out as dock workers, as railway and bridge guards. But the Allied command miscalculated when it expected the Italian armies--beaten, demoralized and wanting only to go home to their families--to be useful as combat troops. They, like the people of Italy, wanted only peace and food.

"The Small One".

To Italian democrats, King Vittorio Emanuele is still a rankling symbol of the Mussolini regime. Once il piccolo (the small one) was a sentimental nickname for the king. Now it is a bitter epithet. His son, Umberto, has won the title lo stupido nazionale. Even such democratic political leaders as Benedetto Croce and Count Carlo Sforza were willing to join a new Government if the King were kicked out and a regency established for the "little prince," the seven-year-old Prince of Naples. But the King was kept on.

When Italian anti-Fascists assembled in Bari on Jan. 28 to demand his abdication, the left-over Fascists and opportunists still in office in Apulia tried to stop the meeting by decreeing that visitors to Bari must have special health permits to enter the city. The meeting, held nevertheless, received its answer a few days later; the Allies turned over new and additional parts of liberated Italy, including Sardinia and Sicily, to the control of the Emanuele-Badoglio Government.

Burden of the Past.

In the final analysis, it is up to the Italians to put their house in order. That is a job which they may not be able to do alone. One of the great misfortunes of Italian anti-Fascists in the south is that they have been unable to bring help from German-occupied northern Italy, where political groups are stronger and the national fiber is tougher.

Behind the Italians are centuries of overbreeding, underfeeding, superstition, illiteracy and ignorance. More recently they have been cuckolded by 20 years of Fascism. Their food supplies are low. Typhus and a half-dozen other diseases follow in the wake of the Allied armies. And as the advance goes forward, more Italian cities are left in ruins, more civilians are killed, more are made homeless, more problems of rehabilitation pile up.

Many of the U.S. and British control officers are well-meaning; locally, some of them are good at their immediate jobs. But Italy needs more such officers who know and have a feeling for her people and her language. She needs, above all, a clearly stated Allied policy which will give the capable and articulate minority of Italians a real basis for faith in Britain, the U.S. and postwar Italy.

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ALLIED MILITARY MISSION
APO 512

/art

7 November 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR: His Excellency, Marshal Badoglio.

I have the honor to transmit to Your Excellency the following message from the Italian Ambassador at Madrid dated 30 October:

"Number 1222. Very reliable source gives following information on situation in Italy.

Population is depressed and there is strong Anti-German feeling. Many shops in Rome closed and several looted by Germans. Food tickets insufficient. Graziani and Mazzolini and several others seem only to have accepted posts under strong pressure.

Ministry for Foreign Affairs reduced to 40 picked officials transferred to Brescia. Representatives of tripartite countries in Venice. Neutral diplomats invited to move to northern Italy; those remaining in Rome deprived of diplomatic privilege. Spanish diplomats left Rome for Madrid by special train leaving two consuls behind. Swedish Minister awaits in Rome return of Royal Government. Code facilities denied to all foreign diplomats.

Many trains of German troops and material coming from France to Italy and from northern Italy to the south.

In the event of Allied landing near Ostia, which appears to be expected, Germans would probably blow up water, gas, and electric plants in Rome leaving only those power stations which supply industries to the north of the city."

For the Chief of Mission:

MAXWELL D. TAYLOR
Brigadier General, USA

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