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POLITICAL MEETING, BARI
(NO DATE?)
FEB. 1944

120 To: Lt Col. R. G. B. Spicer - Interio Sub-Com. 3.2.44 58/1

From: Major John McSweeney Liaison Officer

Subjects: A) Report on Political Meeting in Bari. ✓
(B) Taranto Labor Disturbance

(C) Appointment of official at Castel Fiorentino.
(D) Meeting in Nicola Ciriaco of FasAMP.
(E) On arrival at Bari immediately reported by

✓ Capt de Masci's office for any communications which might be there and to notify him when I could be found at all times. Reported at the room assigned to S.E. Rade in the Prefecture. Found West. Gallucci - S.E. Rade's secretary, arranged for admittance to the meeting then called to pay my respects to Dr. Giuseppe Li Voti - Prefetto di Bari and had a long talk with him relative to his problems.

Friday 25.4.44 - appeared early at the Prefetto's 1468 office - I found a closely woven curtain of reds and police around the "Teatro Piccolo" where the political meeting was to be held. Went to Capt. D. Masci's office and then found orders from M.P. that recalled officers or men were to attend this meeting. P.W.B. had superseded them and they were to give the only report. I felt that I must just wait for any developments and to keep in touch with S.E. Rade. Regret that I could not have first hand information. In the evening

(1) APPOINTMENT of official at Castel Firetano.

(2) Meeting with Nicolò Cimino of FASAMP.

(A) On arrival at Bari immediately reported to

Capt de Mari's office for any communication which might be there and to notify him when I could be found at all times. Reported at the room assigned to S. S. Ricci in the Prefecture. Found Don. Gallucci - S. S. Carabinieri - arranged for admittance to the military then called to pay my respects to Dr. Giuseppe Li Voti - Prefetto de Bari and had a long talk with him relative to his problems.

Friday 25. Jan - appeared early at the Prefetto's 1468 office - I found a closely woven curtain of orders and policy around the "Fratelli Ricini" where the political meeting was to be held. Went to Capt. D. Mari's office and there found orders from G. H. F. that recalled officers or men were to attend that meeting. P. W. B. had representations and they were to give the only report. I felt that I must

just wait for any developments and to keep in touch with S. S. Ricci. I regret that I could gain no first hand information. In the evening I walked around to see if any disturbances arose from the meeting but found none. The only report I could get was that which was made public. I felt that I had accomplished very little.

✓ B. Laboring men in the animal and ship building yards at Taranto struck for higher wages or it would be better to say for food. Dott Innocenti went on, I could obtain no transportation. When I learned that Lt. Benjamin Zeigler was there I went and would get a full report. I had a long talk with Dott. Innocenti; who was thus, I wanted to get his reactions and to report them to Lt. Col. Spicer. It appears that Profetto Soprano had come thru with some prejudices against him. His official acts in Naples had not been approved by the people of Taranto. This fact together with the shortage of food caused these laboring men to move against the Profetto. Dott Innocenti reported that the military and police forces failed to take proper action. Dott Innocenti feels that in some instances there is a general misunderstanding when a Profetto of a larger city is sent to a smaller community. In the affair Profetto Soprano was rather seriously hurt. (Dott Innocenti reported that the conduct of Lt. Zeigler was remarkable. It is my pleasure and duty to transmit to Lt. Col. Spicer the estimate that Dott. Innocenti had placed upon the conduct of Lt. Benj. Zeigler on this occasion. Lt. Zeigler spoke frankly but firmly to these people; presented a fine picture of conditions and at all times had his foot in

Innocenti, who was there. Wanted to get his reactions and to report them to Lt. Col. Spier. It appears that Profetto Soprano had come there with some prejudices against him. His official acts in Naples had not been approved by the people of Taranto. This fact together with the shoddy of food caused this laboring man to move against the Profetto. Don Innocenti reported that the military and police forces failed to take proper action. Don Innocenti feels that in some instances there is a general resentment when a Profetto of a larger city is sent to a smaller community. In the affair Profetto Soprano was rather seriously hurt. Don Innocenti reported that the conduct of Lt. Zeigler was remarkable. It is my pleasure and duty to transmit to Lt. Col. Spier the estimate that Don Innocenti had placed upon the conduct of Lt. Zeigler on this occasion. Lt. Zeigler spoke frankly but firmly to these people, presented a firm picture of conditions and at all times had his part in this serious affair well in hand. According to Don Innocenti, Lt. Zeigler acted promptly and intelligently and effectively. Don Innocenti was chiefly concerned by the laxity of the law enforcing group. No formal report was given by him nor did he say what could be done.

