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ACC

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RIOTS &
(REGION 2
JULY-SEP

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RIOTS & DISTURBANCES AT LAUREANA DI BORELLE,
(REGION 7)(RUSSO)
JULY-SEPT. 1944

0967

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

785016

FILE CLOSED 15 September 1944

19

TRANSLATION No. 230

MINISTRY OF GRACE AND JUSTICE

File No. 72/32/452

SUBJECT: Disturbances in Laureana di Borrello and in S. Eufemia di

Aspromonte.

TO : A.C.O. - Legal Office, ROME

and for information

: The Liaison Office of the Cabinet of His Excellency the

Minister. SEAT

With reference to the aide-memoire of the Commission, presented on 17 August to this Ministry which answered it with the brief note above, the interested Italian judicial authority have communicated the following:

On 30 April of this year, 1944, in Laureana di Borrello, there having arisen a riot between socialist-communists on one side and democratic soldiers on the other, due to^a disagreement as to whether the national tricolour flag should also be hung over the balcony of the reconstructed "Chamber of Labor" (Camera del Lavoro), the socialist Mayor of the Comune, Avv. Antonio Russo, recalling the necessity for concord in the fight against the Germans, decided to comply with the request of the democratic soldiers and went up onto the balcony for that purpose. At that moment, amid threatening

ROME, 15 September, 1944

TO CLLO (Russo case)

QA

0969

With reference to the aide-memoire sent on 17 August to this Ministry which answered it with the brief note above, the interested Italian judicial authority have communicated the following:

On 30 April of this year, 1944, in Laureana di Corraio, there having arisen a riot between socialist-communists on one side and democratic soldiers on the other, due to ^{the} disagreement as to whether the national tricolor flag should also be hung over the balcony of the reconstructed "Chamber of Labor" (Camera del Lavoro), the socialist Mayor of the Comune, Avv. Antonio Russo, recalling the necessity for concord in the fight against the Germans, decided to comply with the request of the democratic soldiers and went up onto the balcony for that purpose. At that moment, amid threatening shouts at the Mayor's action, several revolver shots and the explosion of a hand-granade echoed, resulting in about twenty persons being more or less seriously wounded. It appears certain that the revolver shots were fired by a brigadiere of the R. Carabinieri on leave, named Oreste Ienna, wounding one, Francesco Pronesti who had slashed him several times in the right arm with a knife.

Pronesti, seriously wounded, died soon after.

As to the hand-granade, the versions do not agree, only a few attributing the throw to the above-mentioned Russo, while others affirm that he had not reached the top of the stairs inside, leading to the balcony.

- 2 -

Nevertheless, the Procurator of the Kingdom at Palmi sent a warrant for the arrest of Russo, causing serious discontent in the town, in view of which the General Procurator of Catanzaro thought it advisable to order his release; moreover, since he considered that avv. Russo has acted according to his functions as the head of the Comune, it was necessary to obtain the Sovereign's authorization before taking any measure against him.

The release calmed the population; however, if concrete evidence is found against the Mayor, the necessary authorization for proceedings will be requested immediately and, if granted, the arrest of the accused will be ordered.

This necessity, on the other hand, seems out of the question in regard to the murder attributed to the non-commissioned of the RR. CC, Iemma, as he acted in self-defense and therefore legitimately.

Regarding the incidents that occurred in S. Eufemia di Aspromonte on 10 July, we have only been able to learn, through telegraph communications, that gangs of seamps, led by Pinnaro Vincenzo and Leonelli Giaccachino, raided the communes of S. Eufemia and Sinopoli, terrorizing the populations with machine-guns and other fire-arms. As a result an adequate service of public safety was formed and following a skirmish 36 gang members were arrested, among whom was Pinnaro himself; great quantities of arms and munitions were seized.

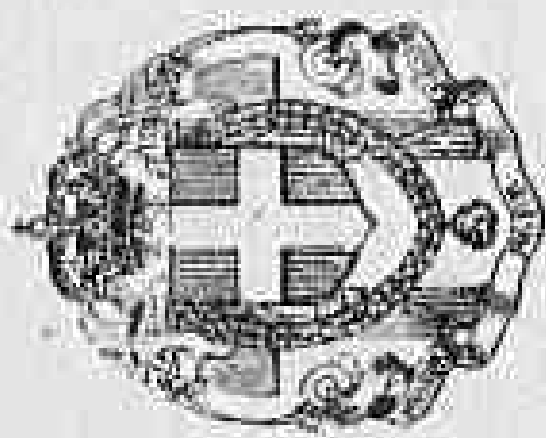
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We shall not fail to attend to the further execution of the relative proceedings, and shall communicate to the Commission other information on the matter which the judicial authorities will give.

By order of the Minister



Ministero di Grazia e Giustizia

DIREZIONE GENERALE DEGLI AFFARI PENALI

Ufficio

Prot.n. 7432/452

Riferim. a f. 25 agosto scorso nostro stesso numero.

Roma, 15 settembre 1944.

O G G E T T O :

Sommesse di Laureana di Borrello e di S. Eufemia di Aspromonte.

ALLA COMMISSIONE ALLEATA DI CONTROLLO
Ufficio Legale

R O M A

e per notizia

All'UFFICIO DI COLLEGAMENTO presso il
Gabinetto di S.E. il Ministro

S E D E

Con riferimento al "pro-memoria" di conesta Commissione, consegnato il 17 agosto scorso a questo Ministero che vi rispose provvisoriamente con la nota suindicata, le autorità giudiziarie italiane, interessate, hanno comunicato quanto segue:

Il 30 aprile c.a., in Laureana di Borrello, sorto tumulto fra socialisti-comunisti da una parte, e combattenti democratici dall'altra, a causa del dissenso sull'opportunità di esporre nella terrazza dei locali della ricostruita "Camera del lavoro", anche il tricolore nazionale, il Sindaco socialista del Comune, avv. RUSSO Antonio, appellandosi alla necessità della concordia nella lotta contro i Tedeschi, decise **16** aderire alla richiesta dei demo-combattenti e salì all'upo sulla terrazza.

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ALLA COMMISSIONE ALLEATA DI CONTROLLO
Ufficio Legale

e per notizia

ALL'UFFICIO DI COLLEGAMENTO presso il
Cabinetto di S.E. il Ministro

R O M A
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Il 30 aprile c.e., in Laureana di Borrello, sotto tumulto fra socialisti-comunisti da una parte, e combattenti democratici dell'altra, a causa del dissenso sull'opportunità di esporre nella terrazza dei locali della ricostituita "Camera del lavoro", anche il tricolore nazionale, il Sindaco socialista del Comune, avv. RUSSO Antonio, appellandosi alla necessità della concordia nella lotta contro i tedeschi, decise di aderire alla richiesta dei demo-combattenti e salì all'upo sulla terrazza. Nello stesso momento, fra grida ostili al gesto del Sindaco, rintorano vari colpi d'arma da fuoco e lo scoppio di una bomba a mano, con l'esito di ferite più o meno gravi in danno di una ventina di persone. Sembra accertato che i colpi di arma da fuoco (rivoltella) furono esplosi da un brigadiere dei R.R.CC. in licenze, tale IRENA Oreste, il quale colpì certo PRONESTI Francesco, del quale aveva ricevuto vari colpi di

coltello al braccio destro.

Il PRONESTI, ferito gravemente, poco dopo decedette. Le versioni, quanto alla bomba a mano, sono invece discordanti, attribuendone soltanto alcuni il lancio al predetto Sindeco AVV. RUSSO, mentre altri affermano che costui non aveva ancora finito di salire la scala interna che conduce alla terrazza. Ciò nonostante, il Procuratore del Regno di Palmi spedì ordine di cattura contro il RUSSO, destando seri malumori nel paese, in vista dei quali il Procuratore Generale del Regno di Catanzaro credette opportuno disporre la scarcerazione, anche perchè, ritenendo che l'AVV. RUSSO avesse in ogni caso agito nell'esercizio e a causa delle sue funzioni di capo del comune, era necessaria, per procedersi contro di lui, la preventiva autorizzazione Sovrana.

Il provvedimento di escarcerazione avrebbe contribuito a calmare l'agitazione popolare; con che tuttavia non è escluso che ove dall'esame degli atti risultassero elementi concreti di responsabilità a carico del Sindaco, sarebbe immediatamente chiesta da quell'ufficio la necessaria autorizzazione a procedere e, se questa fosse concessa, sarebbe disposta la cattura dell'indiziato.

Tale necessità, al contrario, sembra esclusa affatto relativamente all'omicidio attribuito al sottufficiale dei RR. CC. IEMMA, per avere egli agito al fine di respingere l'altrui violenza, e quindi di legittimamente.

Quanto ai fatti avvenuti a S. Eufemia di Aspromonte il 10 luglio successivo, si è potuto finora apprendere soltanto, attraverso in formazioni telegrafiche, che bande di malviventi capeggiate da tali PINNERO Viacezzo e LECNELLI Giocchino, avrebbero fatto incursione nei Comuni di S. Eufemia e di Sinopoli, terrorizzando quelle popolazio-

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Tale necessità, al contrario, sembra esclusa affatto relativamente all'omicidio attribuito al sottufficiale dei RR.CC. IENNA, per avere egli agito al fine di respingere l'altra violenza, e quindi legittimamente.

Quanto ai fatti avvenuti a S. Eufemia di Aspromonte il 10 luglio successivo, si è potuto finora apprendere soltanto, attraverso informazioni telegrafiche, che bande di malviventi capeggiate da tali PINNERO Vincenzo e LEONELLI Gioacchino, avrebbero fatto incursione nei Comuni di S. Eufemia e di Sinopoli, terrorizzando quelle popolazioni con mitragliatrici ed altre armi speciali, onde fu disposto un adeguato servizio di pubblica sicurezza, ed a seguito di un conflitto furono arrestati 36 componenti le bande, fra cui lo stesso capo PINNERO, e sequestrata ingente quantità di armi e munizioni.

Non si mancherà di vigilare sull'ulteriore espletamento delle procedure relative, e si fa riserva d'informare codesta Commissione delle altre notizie che l'autorità giudiziaria darà in merito.

Si ritiene
DEL MINISTRO

C. L. M.

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
LEGAL SUB-COMMISSION
APO 394.

(8A)
27 AUG 1944

26 August 1944.

MEMORANDUM.

ACC/4165/L.

SUBJECT : Case of RUSSO, Carlo - Riots.
TO : Acting Head, Adm Sec.

1. Yesterday at our conference with the Minister of Justice he told me that he had had a report concerning the arrest and release of RUSSO. The report indicates that there are as many witnesses who said that RUSSO did not throw the bomb as there are who said he did.

2. As indicated by the report of the recent RLO of Region 7, which was passed to you on our file on the 24th August, the matter was referred to the Procuratore del Regno, PALMI, for full and final investigation. The report which the Minister had received indicated the same thing.

3. On my request the Minister said he would send a telegram to the Procuratore del Regno, PALMI, requesting him to complete his report immediately and send it on. When I hear further concerning the situation I will let you know.

Noted. Thank you.

Richard H. Wilmer

RICHARD H. WILMER.
Colonel, CAC.

Acting Chief Legal Officer.

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27 AUG 1944

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Riots of Calabria (Russo) 91 Mod. 402 (7A)
MINISTERO DI GRAZIA E GIUSTIZIA
*Direzione Generale degli Affari Penali
 delle Grazie della Statistica e del Casellario*

Roma.

Per
 al N°

Esposta al N°

Al la Commissione Alleata di
 Controllo - Ufficio Legale -

R O M A

OGGETTO Incidenti a LAUREANA di
 BORRELLO.

Nell'incontro del 17 c.m. col Ten. Colonnello
 Harnaford ha chiesto notizie sugli incidenti veri-
 ficatisi a Laureana di Borrello in occasione della
 festa del lavoro, sull'arresto e sulla successiva
 scarcerazione del sindaco Francesco Russo, accusato
 di lancio di granata a mano, e sull'azione spiegata
 al riguardo da questo Ministero.

Poiché nessuna notizia al riguardo era finora
 pervenuta a questo Ministero, si sono chieste infor-
 mazioni telegrafiche al Procuratore Generale di Ca-
 tanzaro che ha risposto col seguente telegramma:

"""" - 3 - Catanzaro 11010 - 166 - 20 - 13 35,

Incidenti verificatisi Laureana Borrello sono
 stati riferiti prima telegrafo quindi con rapporto
 dettagliati 14 maggio scorso numero 4175 a seguito
 del quale codesto Superiore Ministero rispondeva
 con nota numero 27672 riservandosi facoltà di pro-
 vocare autorizzazione procedere contro Sindaco Av-
 vocato Russo mentre non concedeva, conforme parere
 questo ufficio, autorizzazione procedere contro bri-
 gadiere carabinieri Jemma Oreste colpevole omicidio
 commesso durante sommossa punto rapporto questo uf-
 ficio precisando particolari incidente spiegava mo-
 tivo scarcerazione Russo dovuta suo intervento nel-
 la qualità di Sindaco. -

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Rossi of Calabria (Russo) *Mod. 102* (7A)
MINISTERO DI GRAZIA E GIUSTIZIA
Direzione Generale degli Affari Penali
delle Grazie della Statistica e del Casellario

Roma.

Pro
d. N°
Espresso al f. N°
di

Al la Commissione Alleata di
 Controllo - Ufficio Legale -
 R. C. M. A.

Oggetto: Incidenti a LAUREANA di
 BORRELLO.

Nell'incontro del 17 c.m. col Ten. Colonnello Hanneford ha chiesto notizie sugli incidenti verificatisi a Laureana di Borrello in occasione della festa del lavoro, sull'arresto e sulla successiva scarcerazione del sindaco Francesco Russo, accusato di lancio di granata a mano, e sull'azione spiegata al riguardo da questo Ministero.

Poiché nessuna notizia al riguardo era finora pervenuta a questo Ministero, si sono chieste informazioni telegrafiche al Procuratore Generale di Catanzaro che ha risposto col seguente telegramma:

- 3 - Catanzaro 11010 - 166 - 20 - 13 35,

Incidenti verificatisi Laureana Borrello sono stati riferiti prima telegrafo quindi con rapporto dettagliati 14 maggio scorso numero 4175 a seguito del quale codesto Superiore Ministero rispondeva con nota numero 27672 riservandosi facoltà di provocare autorizzazione procedere contro Sindaco Avvocato Russo mentre non concedeva, conforme parere questo ufficio, autorizzazione procedere contro brigadiere carabinieri Jemma Creste colpevole omicidio commesso durante sommossa punto rapporto questo ufficio precisando particolari incidente spiegava motivi scarcerazione Russo dovuta suo intervento nella qualità di Sindaco. -

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***** segnalata Procuratore Generale Regno per cui occorreva autorizzazione procedere punto Detto Sindaco si addebitava lancio bombe che ferivano varie persone punto Sua responsabilità asserita diverse persone maggior parte rimaste ferite e smentita categoricamente numerosi testimoni punto 17 corrente ho richiesto telegraficamente processo Procuratore Regno Palmi che ove del caso trasmetterò Vostra Eccellenza con richiesta autorizzazione procedere contro Russo punto Richiederò provvedimento per sua carcerazione qualora risultino altri elementi sua responsabilità punto intanto ho disposto urgente invio copia Vostra Eccellenza rapporto dettagliato già trasmesso = Procuratore Generale f. *****

E' da ritenersi che i rapporti indicati nel telegramma ed inviati a Salerno giungeranno quanto prima a questo Ministero e porranno in grado di accertare come i fatti si siano svolti.

Sarà cura di questo Ministero sollecitare, del caso, la Procura Generale di Catanzaro per le ulteriori informazioni occorrenti, e dare comunicazioni a codesta Commissione delle notizie pervenute.

IL MINISTRO

fto
TORINO

HEADQUARTERS REGION VII

ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

File Ref: VII/L/702

Date: 18 Aug.44

SUBJECT: Regional Commissioner's Report from Region VII dated 11 Jul.

TO: CLO Legal Sub-commission Rome.

1. Attention is invited to par.2 your basic communication dated 29 July 44 received this HQ 9 Aug.44, ref.ACC/4165/L.
2. Investigation reflects that in connection with the S.Eufemia Aspromonte incident of 11 July 44 over 40 persons have been arrested and the 2 fugitive ringleaders have been apprehended; charges of murder are being prepared against them. The situation is quiet and no disorders have resulted from such arrests. On 16 Aug.44 both the Procuratore Generale and the Procuratore Militare state that the Police report has not yet been received by their offices. Procuratore Generale sent wire 16 Aug.to Procuratore del Regno Palmi requested that he expedite forwarding of this Police report. Both Procuratore Generale and Procuratore Militare assure this RLO that the offenders will be vigorously prosecuted. This RLO is of the opinion that the prosecution of these offenders can be adequately dealt with by the Italian Judicial Officials and that no AMG Court is necessary.
3. Procuratore Generale Cossù states that on being informed of the manner of arrest of Sindaco Russo of Laureana di Borello, his release was ordered because it was affected contrary to art.15 Codice Procedura Penale and art.22 and 51 Legge Provinciale e Comunale and because inquiry revealed that while a number of witnesses affirmed that the Sindaco threw the bomb, a greater number affirmed that he did not do so. Procuratore Generale requested a complete report from the Procuratore del Regno of Palmi including affidavits from all eye witnesses. The following day Procuratore Generale received a telephone call from the Ministry of Interior of Salerno saying the situation was impossible and Russo should not have been arrested and asking the Procuratore Generale what he was going to do about it. Procuratore Generale replied that he had ordered the release of the Sindaco pending inve-

stigation and report. Procuratore Generale informed the Minister of Interior that he was referring the matter to his own Superior the Minister of Justice for decision. On 14 May 44 Procuratore Generale forwarded report to Minister of Justice with request for orders. (See Exhibit 1 attached hereto). On 31 May 44 Procuratore Generale received reply from Minister Arangio Ruiz (see exhibit 2). On 31 May 44 Procuratore Generale wrote to Palmi requesting all information. (See exhibit 3). Procuratore Generale received partial reply from Palmi on 13 June 44. (See exhibit 4). After waiting for the record to be sent, Procuratore Generale wrote Palmi again, (See exhibit 5) requesting the matter be expedited. On 10 Aug. Procuratore Generale received reply from Procuratore del Regno of Palmi stating investigation had not been finished, (See exhibit 6). Since receipt of exhibit 6 Procuratore Generale has wired that the complete record be forwarded immediately to him in order that he may forward it to the new Minister of Justice for decision.

Donald C. Little

Donald C. Little
Major CMP AUS
RLO Region VII

(Inclosures 6)

1	SUB COMMISSION
2	
3	Chief Counsel
4	CJO
5	Section Section
6	CL RKS
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Exhibit 1. (63)

14 May 44

To the Minister of Justice.

From the CC.RR. report and the investigation of the Procuratore del Regno di Palmi, the following situation appears:

The socialist and communist section had invited Avv. Calarco from Reggio to make a speech for the celebration of the Festa del Lavoro in Laureana. On 30 April in the morning, Avv. Calarco started from Reggio. In the meanwhile the Sindaco Russo at the head of the organization went towards the Chamber of Labour on the balcony of which were the red flags. Unfortunately also the War Veterans and the Democrats, whose section is in front of the Chamber of Labour, also gathered in great number with their leaders Avv. Chindamo and Furci. At a certain point the Democrats requested the Italian flag to be put together with the red flag. In the first instance the Socialists and Communists refused and the ceremony started.

It happened that while the Sindaco was making a speech saying that every body should get together to throw the Germans away from Italian soil, from the crowd of the Democrats there came shouts and whistles. At the same time a crowd of Democrats were approaching the Chamber of Labour carrying the Italian flag but were stopped by the CC.RR. Seeing that the situation was becoming serious, the Sindaco together with Avv. Calarco, after having talked to Avv. Furci, decided to put also the Italian flag. But while they were coming back to the balcony, they heard some shots and an explosion. The shots had been fired by the Vice Brigadiere Iemma, wounding Pronesti Francesco, who died, and the bomb wounded about 20 persons.

At this point the statements vary, because whilst a group of people say the bomb has been thrown by the Sindaco Russo, others state that at the moment of the explosion the Sindaco was on the stairs leading to the balcony, - statement confirmed by Avv. Calarco who reported about it to the Prefect of Reggio.

Notwithstanding the difference of opinions, the Procuratore del Regno of Palmi, decided the arrest of the Sindaco Russo, causing a state of great confusion and agitation in the population, which decided me to issue order for the release of Russo, also in consideration of the fact, that, in his quality of Sindaco, it was necessary to have the authorization from the Ministry of Justice to ~~proceed~~ proceed by law against him. However peace returned to the Commune of Laureana, and, as the investigation will show, without considering the different parties and political opinions, if the responsibility of Russo will be proved, he will be again arrested.

It also should be proceeded against the Vice Brigadiere Iemma, who, as

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The shots had been fired by the Vice Brigadiere Iemma, wounding Pronesti

Francesco, who died, and the bomb wounded about 20 persons.

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Notwithstanding the difference of opinions, the Procuratore del Regno of Palmi, decided the arrest of the Sindaco Russo, causing a state of great confusion and agitation in the population, which decided me to issue order for the release of Russo, also in consideration of the fact, that, in his quality of Sindaco, it was necessary to have the authorization from the Ministry of Justice to ~~XXXXXX~~ proceed by law against him. However peace returned to the Commune of Laureana, and, as the investigation will show, without considering the different parties and political opinions, if the responsibility of Russo will be proved, he will be again arrested.

It also should be proceeded against the Vice Brigadiere Iemma, who, as said before, killed by firing several shots the above named Pronesti, who had wounded him with a knife. But, in consideration of the fact, that Iemma, although on leave, was trying to maintain public order and acted in self defence, this office is of the opinion that it should not be proceeded ~~11~~ against him.

At any rate your Excellency will see what measures to take, and this office remains in expectation of such orders.

Procuratore General Cossu.

Exhibit 2.

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Salerno 22 May 44

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To the Procuratore Generale Cossu.

In reference to your communication, it is made known that this Ministry will examine the expediency of whether to proceed against the Sindaco Russo or not, therefore further report is expected concerning the facts of 30 April 44 at Laureana di Borello to find out the responsibilities. In accordance with your advise, it is the opinion of this Ministry not to proceed against the Vice Brigadiere Iemma. It is up to you to decide whether this case should be investigated by this Sezione d'Istruttoria.

The Minister of Justice.
Arangio Ruiz.

Exhibit 3.

(6D)

31 May 44

To the Procuratore del Regno of Palmi.

Penal Proceeding against the Sindaco Russo and the Vice Brigadiere of CC.RR.Iemma Oreste.

By circumstantial report in 2 copies, please send me all the informations resulting from the investigation apt to determine the facts and the responsibilities of the case.

Procuratore General Cossu.

Palmi 9 June 44

To Procuratore General Catanzaro.

Subject: Penal procedure against Sindaco Russo.

At the approach of the Festa del Lavoro of 1 May 44, the Avv. Francesco Russo, Sindaco of Laureana di Borello wrote to several associations whether they wanted to take part in the Festa and whom they wanted to appoint as official speaker.

The Democrats and War Veterans answered that they would provide by themselves to celebrate this occasion.

On 30 April many Socialists gathered in the Chamber of Labour, and as it was said that some of them had hand grenades, the CC.RR. searched them but with no result. The Avv. Calarco was just about to arrive at Laureana di Borello, when he was warned that great disorders were taking place in Laureana, notwithstanding which he went on and found the place quite peaceful. To begin the celebration, the Sindaco Russo stepped on the balcony of the Chamber of Labour, but when he began his speech by saying that it was the duty of every Italian to contribute to send the Germans away from Italian soil, his voice was covered by shouts and whistles coming from the Democrats and War Veterans. Russo thought that perhaps his words had been misunderstood and repeated them but with the same result.

In the meanwhile somebody said they wanted also the Italian flag to be put up on the balcony, and the Avv. Russo and Calarco agreed between themselves and went down to speak about it to Avv. Furci. They were approaching him when there happened a great confusion caused by Pronesti Francesco who had wounded with a knife the Vice Brigadiere Iemma who was on leave, and who reacted by firing some shots at Pronesti which caused his death. Then Avv. Russo went back and a moment after there were heard explosions of 2 or 3 hand grenades.

That the hand grenades were thrown from the Chamber of Labour is an ascertained fact; it seems to be that Avv. Russo threw them according to the statements of Laudari Immacolato, Morabito Michele, Messo Biagio, Grillo Matteo, Car. Marletta Agostino, Barrese Giuseppe, Armenico Vincenzo and several others pointed out by the CC.RR., whilst Iemma Preste, Mar. Marando Antonio, Pettito Gregorio state that the accusation against the Sindaco Russo was made only after the event.

The Procuratore del Re Millioni.

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The Procuratore del Re Millioni.

Exhibit 5. (6F)

26 July 44

To Procuratore del Re of Pالمي.

I recommend you the utmost speed in the investigation of the case and I ask you to refer to me the actual state of the ~~case~~ same, together with the communication whether it is necessary to ~~proceed~~ ask for the authorization to proceed.

Procuratore Generale Cossu.

Exhibit 6. (69)

Palmi 5 August 44

To the Procuratore Generale Cossu.
Subject: Charge of competence of the Court of Assizes.

The case against the Sindaco Russo seems to have all necessary evidence and all proofs have been assumed, but notwithstanding this, the investigation does not seem to be finished. There will be necessary to make all kinds of medical estimates which will undoubtedly require much time.

With regard to the request of the authorization to proceed, it is my modest opinion that, since this Superior Office has disposed for, provisional liberty, for the reason that such authorization was needed, nothing could be done without it. (*such authorization*)

The Procuratore del Re Millioni.

(5A)

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
LIVELAND SUB-COMMISSION
APO 394

J. file
AOC/4165/L./rhp.
29 July 1944.

SUBJECT : Regional Commissioner's Report from Region VII dated 11 July 1944.
TO : Regional Legal Officer (THRU: Regional Commissioner), Region VII.

1. Reference letter from Regional Commissioner, Region VII dated 11 July 1944, RVII/90/1.

2. On 26 July 1944 I spoke with the Minister of Justice concerning the statements made in paras 9, 10, 14 and 15 of such report.

3. The Minister said he had not received any previous word on either of these affairs and that he would have immediate investigation made, adding that naturally he could not issue any orders without knowing himself what the situation was. However, he promised to make immediate investigation and take whatever action would be necessary.

4. I suggest that you check up in the course of the next ten days and see what, if anything, has been done about these incidents and let me know.

RICHARD H. WILSON,
Colonel, GAO,
Acting Chief Legal Officer.

4165

4A

SUBJECT: RO's Report Area Region VII, dated 14 Jul 64.

9/3/64.

1. Legal Sub-Commission.

2. Reference attached AGO/4165/1 dated 26 Jul 64.

3. The Executive Joint Commission has been informed of its contents.

4. Will you please communicate with EIC Region VII.

→

ADMIN SEC
26 Jul 64

LEGAL SUB COMMISSION
CIO
CIO
Region Section

P.R. Giff

P.R. GIFFS Col,
For A/Head Admin Sec.

3A

Tel Ext - 565.

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
LEGAL SUB-COMMISSION
APO 394

ACC/4165/L.

/rlp.
26 July 1944.

MEMORANDUM TO: Acting Head, Admin Sec.

1. With reference to paras. 9 and 10 of report from Region VII dated 11 July 1944, I have talked with the Minister of Justice today. I have also talked with him concerning the riots referred to in paras 14 and 15 of such report. The Minister said he had not received any previous word on either of these affairs and that he would have immediate investigation made, adding that naturally he could not issue any orders without knowing himself what the situation was. However, he promised to make immediate investigation and take whatever action would be necessary.

2. I assume that in as much as various sub-commissions were interested in various portions of the report, you will collect the information from these sub-commissions and communicate with Region VII. On the other hand, if it is desired that Legal Sub-Commission communicate with RLO, Region VII, I will be glad to have this done. The RLO, Region VII is expected to be here within the next couple of days.

3. I will send to you any further information in this regard received from the Minister of Justice.

Richard H. Wilmer
R. H. WILMER,
Colonel, GAC,
Acting Chief Legal Officer.

To. A.V.P.

Regin III Rept refers:

*I propose to inform Ex. Com. of the first para.
and tell A.P.C. to communicate if R.C.D. if you
agree.*

R.H. Wilmer

2A

1. In April during a demonstration at Laureana di Borrelle in honor of the Festa del Lavoro a dispute arose between the organizers of the Camera del Lavoro and the Combattenti (ex-soldiers). A vice-brigadier of the R.I.C. was stabbed and then shot his assailant. The sindaco, avv. Francesco Russo, interrupted his speech to throw a hand grenade among the people and wound 22 persons. Investigations show that the dispute was caused by the refusal of Russo to allow the Combattenti representative to put the Italian National flag with the Communist and Socialist flags on the balcony of the Camera del Lavoro building. Russo is a member of the Socialist Party.

Further investigations was undertaken by the Questura and the C.C.R.R. and full report sent in. Meanwhile Russo, who had been arrested, remained in jail in spite of influence brought to bear for his release. On 12 May however, the Procuratore del Re of Catanzaro acting, it is alleged, on instructions from higher Italian authority ordered him immediate release. No application was of has since been made to the Public Safety Office, which has not been advised officially of the release of Russo, who is now at liberty in Reggio without any sort of supervision.

more

2. That is one type of trouble, another and/or serious one is what occurred at Santa Supplesia, Spromonte where two well armed bands had been staging robberies. Dissension arose between them and a vendetta started which up to the 10th of July had led to the death of four banditti and six ordinary members of the General public. On that day the numerically stronger band entered Santa Supplesia armed with Breda guns, machine guns, one 37 Mill. gun, automatic rifles and hand grenades, terrorized the population and forcibly took over the Municipio, the Caserma of the C.C.R.R. and private houses at strategic points.

On the 11th a strong force of C.C.R.R. and Questura accompanied by two A.C.C. officers, succeeded in arresting 21 members of this band, two of whom were wounded. No other persons were injured. Machine guns and a considerable quantity of ammunition, hand grenades and automatic weapons were taken. Later in the day a further 18 members were arrested by the Questura; but two of the three leaders escaped and search is still being made for them. The Commune has now been freed from a state of siege and law and order restored, while an adequate

curatore del Re of Catanzaro acting, it is alleged, on instructions from higher Italian authority ordered him immediate release. No indication was of has since been made to the Public Safety Office, which has not been advised officially of the release of Russo, who is now at liberty in Reggio without any sort of supervision.

2. That is one type of trouble, another and/or serious one is what occurred at Santa suprema. Symptomatically where two well armed bands had been staging robberies. Dissension arose between them and a vendetta started which up to the 10th of July had led to the death of four banditti and six ordinary members of the general public. On that day the numerically stronger band entered Santa suprema armed with Breda guns, machine guns, one 37 Mill. gun, automatic rifles and hand grenades, terrorized the population and forcibly took over the Municipio, the Caserma of the CC.RR. and private houses at strategic points.

On the 11th a strong force of CC.RR. and Questure accompanied by two ACC officers, succeeded in arresting 21 members of this band, two of whom were wounded. No other persons were injured. Machine guns and a considerable quantity of ammunition, hand grenades and automatic weapons were taken. Later in the day a further 18 members were arrested by the Questura; but two of the three leaders escaped and search is still being made for them. The Commune has now been freed from a state of siege and law and order restored, while an adequate force of CC.RR. and Questure has been left behind to patrol the area.

Discussed with Vinty 26/1/44

CONFIDENTIAL

EXTRACT FROM LETTER FROM HQ REGION VII ACC, RW11/90/1
dated 11 July 1944

SIGNED BY LT COL G. G. FEASEY, REGIONAL COMMISSIONER

EXTRACT

* * *

9. An incident which occurred at the end of April is a good example of what is happening and of the difficulties experienced in any attempt to bring accused persons to trial when politics are involved. During a demonstration at Laureana di Borrelle in honor of the Festa del Lavoro a dispute arose between the organizers of the Camera del Lavoro and the Combattenti (ex-soldiers). A vice-brigadier of the CC.FR. was stabbed and then shot his assailant. The Sindaco, Avv. Francesco Russo, interrupted his speech to throw a hand grenade among the people and wound 22 persons. Investigations show that the dispute was caused by the refusal of Russo to allow the Combattenti representative to put the Italian National Flag with the Communist and Socialist Flags on the Balcony of the Camera del Lavoro building. Russo is a member of the Socialist Party.

10. Further investigation was undertaken by the Questura and the CC.FR. and full reports sent in. Meanwhile Russo, who had been arrested, remained in jail in spite of influence brought to bear for his release. On 12 May however, the Procuratore del Re of Catanzaro acting, it is alleged, on instructions from the Minister of the Interior ordered his immediate release. No application was or has since been made to the Public Safety Office, which has not been advised officially of the release of Russo, who is now at liberty in Reggio without any sort of supervision."

* * *

14. That is one type of trouble: another and more serious one is what occurred at Santa Euphemia Aspromonte where two well armed bands had been staging robberies. Dissension arose between them and a vendetta started, which up to the 10th of July had led to the death of four banditti and six ordinary members of the general public. On that day the numerically stronger band entered Santa Euphemia armed with Breda guns, machine guns, one .37 Mill. gun, automatic rifles and hand grenades, terrorized the population and forcibly took over the Municipio, the Caserma of the CC. FR. and private houses at strategic points.

15. On the 11th a strong force of CC. FR. and Questura accompanied by two ACC officers, succeeded in arresting 21 members of this band, two of whom were wounded. No other persons were injured. Machine guns and a considerable quantity of ammunition, hand grenades and automatic weapons were taken. Later in the day a further 18 members were arrested by the Questura; but two of the three leaders escaped and search is still being made for them. The commune has now been freed from a state of siege and law and order restored, while an adequate force of CC. FR. and Questura has been left behind.

the Minister of the Interior acting, it is alleged, on instructions from or has since been made to the Public Safety Office, which has not been advised officially of the release of Russo, who is now at liberty in Reggio without any sort of supervision."

* * *
 "14. That is one type of trouble: another and more serious one is what occurred at Santa Euphemia Aspromonte where two well armed bands had been staging robberies. Dissension arose between them and a vendetta started, which up to the 10th of July had led to the death of four banditti and six ordinary members of the general public. On that day the numerically stronger band entered Santa Euphemia armed with Breda guns, machine guns, one .37 Mill. gun, automatic rifles and hand grenades, terrorized the population and forcibly took over the Municipio, the Caserma of the CC. RR. and private houses at strategic points.

15. On the 11th a strong force of CC. RR. and Questure accompanied by two ACC officers, succeeded in arresting 21 members of this band, two of whom were wounded. No other persons were injured. Machine guns and a considerable quantity of ammunition, hand grenades and automatic weapons were taken. Later in the day a further 18 members were arrested by the Questure; but two of the three leaders escaped and search is still being made for them. The commune has now been freed from a state of siege and law and order restored, while an adequate force of CC. RR. and Questure has been left behind to patrol the area."

/rlp.

Adm Sec requires that:

*Legal will take up with M. J. J.
 and ask him to order continuation
 of presentation in order Russo's release.
 R.C. VII must be kept advised
 Legal will also see presentation para 15
 is inclusion*

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