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THE KILLING OF CARETTA
SEPT. 1944

PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH
 ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

PRB/R10

19 September 1944

Trend of copy filed by correspondents

The opening of the trial of the former Rome Chief of Police, Caruso, and the events which led to its postponement, form the chief topic for correspondents.

From a perusal of the various accounts it would seem that it was not an organized attempt by any one class or political party. Tremendous interest had been aroused in the trial and a great deal of impatience shown at what was thought to be unnecessary delay in bringing Caruso to trial. This impatience had manifested itself several weeks ago when Rosario Bentivegna, a young Communist, had been brought to trial before an AMG court, charged with the killing of a Finance Guard on the day the Allies entered Rome. At that time the Leftist press had compared his quick trial with the slower proceedings against Caruso. There is some reason to believe that many of the crowd were intent on taking the law into their own hands. But the unorganized manner in which the crowd were permitted to get into the inner courtyard and finally into the courtroom, plus the timidity of the Carabinieri, plus the highly emotional state in which some of the widows and relatives of the victims of the Ardennine massacres came to the trial, precipitated matters, and the mob became uncontrollable.

Carretta, the former Director of the Regina Coeli prison, who was killed by the mob, was sitting among the witnesses when he was recognized by two of the widows. Their hysterical cries provided the flame which started the conflagration. There is general agreement that the Carabinieri - with the exception of one Lieutenant - were not up to their job, and were either cowed or indifferent. MATTHEWS (New York Times) claims to have been the only correspondent outside the Court who actually witnessed the whole grim scene from the time Carretta was dragged from the courtroom. Most of the other stories are variations on his theme. He is a reliable and experienced correspondent with sound political judgment of a conservative type.

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MATTHEWS (New York Times) : The crowds were there very early and it was obvious passions were high. Shortly before 9.30 the crowd broke through the inadequate and timid police cordons and pressed to the entrance of the Court in the main courtyard. The large hall on the first floor was already packed with spectators and newspapermen with authorized passes. Just as the judge was about to enter, the mob rioted and broke in. Lieut. Col. Pollock, Chief of A.M.G. police had arranged for Caruso and Occhetto to be kept in the cellars, and this delay alone saved their lives. The crowd broke down the wooden partitions, smashed furniture and surged towards the judges and correspondents. By now there was no semblance of order. Everybody, including the Carabinieri, sought shelter. Some jumped out of windows into the courtyard. The mob thought Caruso was in the anteroom and Pollock let them think so. In vain

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he and Mario Berlinguer, Assistant High Commissioner for the punishment of Fascists harangued the crowd and tried to calm them. Caruso, who was lying on a stretcher, heard the mob and went pale. After half an hour's pleading by Pollock, who later told me "he had never in his long police career in England seen such an ugly mob as this", some calm was achieved. Pollock announced the postponement of the trial and the crowd might have dispersed then if two women had not discovered Carretta among the witnesses. He was grabbed by some young men, hit violently, and in a few minutes his face was streaming with blood. He was dragged downstairs and from then on NY Times correspondent was, by chance, alone among correspondents who became a horrified witness of everything that happened.

The notice by Pollock that the trial was being postponed did not cause the mob as a whole to disperse. I hung around the entrance and suddenly heard shouting inside the court. Inside a few Carabinieri were trying without force and without opposing the mob to usher out a short, stocky man, with thick lips and fuzzy hair, and his face literally covered with blood. Near the entrance, while his back was turned, a young man jumped on him with his feet, knocking him down, while others began kicking him. I turned to the Carabinieri and asked why he did not try to stop this. He shrugged his shoulders. Someone grabbed a cane from an old man and began viciously beating Carretta over the head with the curved handle. The Carabinieri were standing around in dozens, not more than a few yards from each other. Carretta tried desperately to get away from the blows and ran down to the end of the courtyard, where he was trapped. This went on for at least 10 minutes, until the only Italian who showed any decency and courage this morning, Carabinieri Lieut. Bergomagneri - managed to exert enough authority to get a few other police to help him rush the badly hurt, but still conscious Fascist, outside and into a cab that was standing in front of the Palace of Justice. He might have been saved then but none had the courage to drive the car away. The mob kept pressing round it with men reaching in to hit Carretta as well as they could. Bergomagneri then called upon a dozen Finance Guards on horseback to clear the crowd away from the car. They timidly pushed their horses up amid boos, and whistles from the mob, but only one of them drew his thin sword and hit a few men gently with the flat of it. The mob kept pushing in and finally someone opened the door of the cab and

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girl with black hair and sunglasses, dressed well in white summer outfit, and looking like a student, had been one of the ringleaders, and she kept kicking Corretta. The two officers made one more effort to get the car away. They picked him up and carried him to where a British truck stood and asked the driver to take them and Corretta. The Tommies refused and drove the truck away. The Carabinieri officers put their burden down hopelessly, and then began the last horrid act. Someone shouted "Throw him in the Tiber!" The lamp body was dragged across the street to the Ponte Umberto; then was lifted and hoisted into the water 30 feet below. The shock of the cold water apparently revived the Fascist, and as it was near the bank he managed to climb to the side and hung half in and half out of the water just below the bridge. That was not enough. Some men got a row boat to where he was and pushed him back into the water. For a time he struggled back to the bank; they hit him with oars and pushed him back. Hundreds then thousands crowded the Ponte Umberto embankment along both sides, and then the Ponte San Angelo next below, as Corretta floated downstream, his pitiful efforts to survive growing weaker. Many women were in that crowd. Many of the men as well as the women were middle class petty bourgeois. This was not a mob of hoodlums. Some of course were horrified, ashamed, but they were few and one woman who hysterically protested had to be runned away lest the crowd mob her. Many laughed, as did two men next to me who were gleeful when they realized that the unconscious Fascist was going to be thrown into the water. The N.Y. Times has seen many terrible sights in years of corresponding even amidst revolutions, but nothing so vicious or sickeningly brutal as this. Corretta mercifully died just about as his body floated under the Ponte Sant'Angelo. Still that was not enough. Vengeance had to be taken on his body. It was dragged out of the water and along the ground to the nearby Reggia Coeli prison. There it was got inside the guard somehow and strung up from the bars of a window. By that time the crowd had swelled to an estimated 7,000 and the situation was clearly ugly. For they thought Corretta was insane. Inevitably thoughts of the Bastille arose in all observers' minds. But they were not a courageous mob. The prison police kept the doors closed and soon managed to cut down Corretta's body and cart it off. Then the mob was easily dispersed without more bloodshed.

The N.Y. Times went immediately to Sforza. He had not heard anything more than the first stage of the rioting, and was greatly shocked. I described what I had seen. He immediately telephoned

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The N.Y. Times went immediately to Sforza. He had not heard anything more than the first stage of the rioting, and was greatly shocked when I described what I had seen. He immediately telephoned the Director General of Police Ferrari, a former High Magistrate chosen for his impeccable character, but who had no police experience. Ferrari at first denied the news, which he himself had not heard, but later checked and reported back to Sforza. "This is inadmissible and must never happen again" Sforza said. "This is like lynching of negroes and we want none of that in Italy. Make immediate investigation and punish severely all those responsible, including the Carabinieri who were derelict in their duty." Sforza then told me that the Government would assert its authority and hold the trial commencing tomorrow morning at 9. Having been the only American correspondent to witness it I went to Polotti where I found him in conference with

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Pollock and other Allied police officers. To them I described what I had seen and what was still happening, since at that time the mob was still round the Regina Coeli Prison. The full seriousness of the situation was realized by all. There was nothing political about this, and no question of class, for some had already tried to blame the lower classes of Trastevere and Testaccio, districts which are the poor quarters of Rome. It was just a Roman mob. The mob went clearly determined to take justice into its own hands and lynch Caruso.

What is likely to happen in the North where mobs are more accustomed to violence? Hatred and passion has smouldered against Caruso and Occhetto for a long time. The Roman Government was to-day unable to demonstrate legalised justice and many, including important foreigners to whom I spoke wonder whether Italy will ever be capable of doing so. The lawless fury of to-day bodes ill for the future. Barring extinction of mob fury, or revolution and shame, it is not going to be possible to keep order and go on with the trial of Caruso and others.

HAMMOND (Kensley Press): Gives a brief account of events and comments "How Carlyle would have delighted to watch this scene and set it down in his raseounding prose."

BRIA (AP): Lieut. John Atkinson, tall, slim Allied Military Government officer from 3447, South Wakefield, Arlington, Va., and formerly of Los Angeles, Cal., stood on a table before a seething court room mob and told them in Italian that the trial could not be held. "The Allies sympathize with your feelings against Caruso and will see justice is done." But justice cannot be done with masses. "Go tranquilly to your homes and an announcement will be made in the newspapers later as to when the trial will be held" Atkinson said. Correspondent then gives brief details of what took place.

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RELA (AP) in a later session: Poletti announced that he and Capt. Stone, Acting Chief Commissioner, would confer with Second this afternoon on measures to be taken to ensure an orderly trial. Poletti said all eye witnesses' reports agree that the Carabinieri were unable to maintain order in the court room or outside. He also criticised the disorganized procedure of letting everyone into

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PACKARD (UP): This correspondent sent a series of staccato despatches in which some of the facts were a little jumbled. "A mob of 7,000 tortured and killed Carretto." "Blood maddened Romans." "Carabinieri indifferent." Pollock and Italian spy King lieutenant called on them to go home. His words greeted with hisses and jeers. Mob wanted to execute justice. As a result of today's affair case will probably be behind barred doors. 100 American and British M.P.'s and Italian troops, some with sub-machine guns, were rushed to the prison.

INCRAMAK ("Tim") who was present in court.

"After Garretta had been taken from the court room a number of fist fights started inside, and at one point a threatened Carabinieri standing beside me tagged frantically at his holster and pistol. With a vision of being caught in the crossfire I shouted at him in my faultless Italian "Miente! Miente! For Christ's sake put that thing away." His action frightened the one who threatened him and the threatener drifted away.

INCAS ("Daily Express"): "Italian police elegantly useless as usual with their black and white uniforms, black riding boots and assortment of lethal weapons, just completely lost control of the crowd. The forward surge carried all before it - chairs, police, widows and their weeds, babies, movie cameras and press. Court officials hurriedly disappeared behind the judge's throne and locked the door behind them. Fortunately a British Colonel and an American Second Lieutenant arrived. The Colonel was Pollock and the Lieutenant was Atkinson. Law and order was restored. Alone while the whole Italian police cowered or stood helplessly by these two calmed the tumult and finally cleared the court room. By 11 o'clock Italian officials had timidly emerged from their hiding places and the opera bouffe police were energetically going through the motions of locking the stable door after the horse had gone. It was not really brutality but something deeper and a fear that the present Government is not tackling a thorough purge of Fascists from the administration. This morning the Nazi controlled radio fanned the smoldering flames by broadcasting that the Garuso trial was just a put up job for appearance sake, and that he would never be executed.

Public Safety Sub-Commission

Folio _____
for action information _____
DATE _____

D. D. 1

D. D. 2

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Public Safety Sub-Commission

Folio	for action information	
		DATE
D. R. 2		
B. R. 2		
cc. [unclear]		
22/9		
Prisons		22/9
Fire & C. D.		22/9
Regn & Licensing		22/9
Adm Officer		22/9

REMARKS

Office [unclear]
been [unclear] 7162
it [unclear]
placed in
file [unclear]

SECRET

ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION INCOMING MESSAGE

TO: FOR ACTION TO ACC TARANTO, ACC SALERNO, ACC CATANZARO, ACC BARI, ACC FOGGIA FOR
INFORMATION TO HQ ACC FOR PUBLIC SAFETY SC SIGNAL MESSAGE CENTER No: 14/20
FROM: HQ SOUTHERN REGION ACC CLASSIFICATION: SECRET
REFERENCE No: SR/231 PRECEDENCE: ROUTINE
DATE AND TIME OF ORIGIN: SEP 192045A OFFICE OF ORIGIN:

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

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

HEADQUARTERS

20 SEP 1944

A. C. C.

ACC DIST

No action
necessary

ACTION

DATE and Time of RECEIPT SEP 200830A

Distribution:

SECRET

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Willet

RECEIVED
FBI
SEP 17 1964
FBI
SEP 17 1964

Regional Public Safety N.

19th Sept. 1964.

RECEIVED - FBI - SEP 17 1964.

1) Place of trial: International Convention Center, Via delle Langhe No. 10.

2) Only one entrance: Emergency entrance, through automatic 4' lift.

3) Portion of the system will be covered off and closed to traffic.

4) Cases will commence promptly at 9 A.M. and hearing will continue throughout the day and evening. It is hoped to finish the hearing in one day, and the court will sit in 20 hours if necessary. Col. Police arrangements: electric light and emergency lighting if necessary.

5) President of the Court: M. M. Moroni - 9 judges will sit and 3 other reserve judges to remain in attendance.

6) Debate room for 4 rows of 10 chairs. 24 witnesses to be prepared - they will be taken directly from their rooms with police passes in 8 cases to be found by the police (Col. Police are this in hand).

7) Separate room for 40 seats and 100 for the courtroom for prisoners.

8) In event of any delay situation to be seen by witnesses immediately into separate time room - door locked and attended and shut off entirely from the court.

9) All persons having business in the case will have special police card issued by visitors.

10) Only 30 members of the public will be admitted, who will be chosen through Italian Govt. by members of the public. Members of the public subject to search on entry.

11) All unnecessary doors in the building closed and locked.

7487

(15) Italian Govt. have asked through President of the Court to reduce from 11,000 to 10,000 the number of the Italian soldiers. This would be done, in which case they have no objection, but they prefer it not to be done.

11. The President suggests only 3 or not more than 3 members to handle a too short only.

1.7) No radiation.

10) the values of volume, depression in test on trial for number of rotations only for each frequency against the time.

19) Only a few added entries will be reported
so, Contact on duty below, at foot of stairs.

It is recommended that only those alien workers in the real business be admitted.

20) List of telephone numbers will be with minutes on duty in envelopes. There will be police work of 100 on file: Tel. 55888. Reducing telephone in court 100. 51988.

[illegible]

221 Higgins feels only \$200,000, may and price will
be brought from 0-1000 to 1000 or trial early tomorrow
morning - 8th Sept. before 11th.

2014-2015

Not yet classified but:

[illegible]

Department of Medicine, Tel. 411066.

Pollock going over these assignments with mentors later
tonight. They will all be in position by 7:30 PM approx.
1944.

18) No radio.

19) No radio.

20) No relatives of victims. Prisoner is not on trial for murder of victims but for high treason against the state.

21) Only a few allied officers will be present; Maj. Cookhead on duty below, at foot of stairs.

It is recommended that only those allied officers with real business be admitted.

22) Chief of Public Safety will be with prisoner on duty in courtroom. There will be police control room outside; Tel. 45436. Undersire telephone in courtyard No. 41009.

23) 1st. Police: one officer in court
" with prisoner
" at foot of stairs (Maj. Cookhead)
" patrolling outside

24) Regime Veeli only 300 yds. away and prisoner will be brought from prison to place of trial early tomorrow morning - 8:00 a.m. before dawn.

25) Civil police arrangements:

Not yet completed but:

200 for cordons outside
100 patrolling back of building and grounds
50 in cordons outside
100 mounted outside
50 in courtyard
50 in vicinity of prisoner and his detention room
100 reserves.

Reserves at Quarters. Tel. 45488.

Pollock going over stage arrangements with Westcott later tonight. They will all be in position by 7 a.m. 25th Sept. 1964.

26) Military:

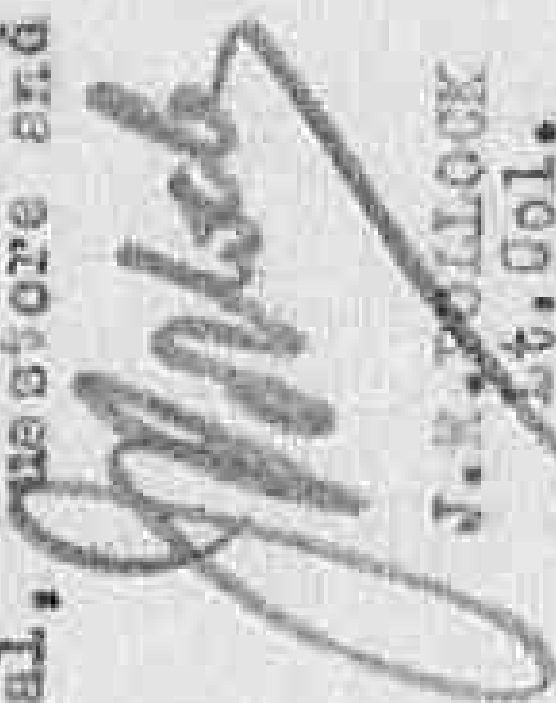
a) Col. Dodgeon C-3 S. L. L. claims officer for house command will be in close touch with Pollock throughout.
b) The military will be in evidence anywhere near the court unless grave emergency arises when order will be reverted to Col. Collett.

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- 3 -

c) Col. Dodgeon is arranging for military police reserves at Regina Coeli prison and others at 5th Canadian Hospital (parachute troop 100), plus some military police if necessary.

25) All the above arrangements have the approval of the President of the Court of Appeal, Justice and Officer in charge of CC.RR.



J. R. POLLOCK
Lt. Col.
Chief, Public Safety
REGION IV.

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
REGION IV
APO 394

Regional Public Safety HQ.

18th September, 1944.

SUBJECT: Suggested arrangements for CARUSO trial.
Place of trial etc.

1. It was suggested to hold the trial outside Rome, but I recommend that the trial continue to be held within the Palazzo di Giustizia, Rome.
2. There should be only one entrance and one exit open, all other gates and doors locked.
3. No other trials or courts to be held during Caruso's trial in any other part of the building.
4. A smaller courtroom with no balcony.
5. One entrance at the back for judges and Council and one exit only.
6. Witnesses and relatives not to remain in court as today but in an adjacent waiting room.
7. Witnesses in the case to be issued with a simple witnesses' admission ticket signed by the Procuratore's Department.
8. Only witnesses for that day's hearing should be summoned.
9. Special admission tickets for ^{Sid}connexi, press etc.
10. No admission to the court without a ticket.
11. Admission to public: Only a few members of the public should be admitted. Today there were 5000 or 6000 people attempting to storm the building. 150 to 200 and no more should be allowed, even less. They should only be allowed in by tickets which should be evenly distributed to the leaders of the political parties, and let them select their own public.
12. Public should be subject to search on entry into Court, and public not allowed to enter until preliminaries are commenced in the court.
13. Court corridors to be kept clear, and barricades erected where

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Prisoner Caruso.

14. To be kept under separate guard in adjacent room-- not to be brought into court until ready to commence case. Before he is brought in the President should announce to the Public present that if there is any hostile demonstration or disturbance, proceedings will be adjourned forthwith.

- 2 -

Caruso should and in a special dock near the it door to his waiting room. The front should be boarded up at an angle in a corner as high as his shoulders with no access to his stand from the court itself.

Police arrangements:

16. AMG. Three officers in court, 2 AMG. officers outside the court and two police officers outside the building -- 4 E/M at disposal public safety chief in Court.

Civil police:

20 P.S. agents in plain clothes inside the courtroom
30 " " " uniform " " "
10 CC.RR " " " " " " "

in corridors leading to the court room:

50 CC.RR in uniform
20 P.S. agents "

Near Caruso: 40 mixed police outside and inside his detention room--
2 CC.RR and 2 P.S. agents on either side.

These men will be especially instructed in the event of the slightest sign of trouble to withdraw Caruso and place again into detention room.

Outside entrance: 40 P.S. agents and CC.RR. mixed patrolling exits.

CC.RR. 100 CC.RR. 100 foot
100 mounted police

patrolling outside.

Court officials:

Far too many today. Every second individual in the courtroom claimed to be in some way connected with the case.

Procurators to limit essential counsel and court officials to minimum--
not one unnecessary official to be in the place. This is highly important.

Regina Coeli prison:

30 P.S. agents and CC.RR. on reserve inside entrance area

Reserve police:

Two separate police reserves and 100 men mixed CC.RR. and P.S. agents at two places in building (Palacio Cinquillo) held in reserve direct telephone communication with the Court.

Police officers in Charge: Questors of Rome, Chief of Public Safety and two Vice-questori in attendance.

I will personally see that all police receive adequate instructions from the Questors as to their individual post and individual duties.

Civil Police:
 20 P.S. agents in plain clothes inside the courtroom
 30 " " " uniform
 10 CC.RR

in corridors leading to the court room:

50 CC.RR in uniform
 20 P.S. agents "

Near Caruso: 40 mixed police outside and inside his detention room--
 2 CC.RR and 2 P.S. agents on either side.

These men will be especially instructed in the event of the slightest sign of trouble to withdraw Caruso and place again into detention room.

Outside entrance: 40 P.S. agents and CC.RR. mixed patrolling exits.

near entrance since 140 CC.RR on foot
 100 mounted police

patrolling outside.

Court officials:

Far too many today. Every second individual in ~~the~~ claimed to be in some way connected with the case.

Procurements to limit essential counsel and court officials to minimum-- not one unnecessary official to be in the place. This is highly important.

Regina Coeli prison:

30 P.S. agents and CC.RR on reserve inside entrance area

Reserve police:

Two separate police reserves and 100 men mixed CC.RR. and P.S. agents at two places in building (Palacio Giustiniani) held in reserve on direct telephone communication with the Court.

Police officers in Charge: Questore of Rome, Chief of Public Safety and two Vice-questori in attendance.

I will personally see that all police receive adequate instructions from the Questore as to their individual post and individual duties.

J.R. POLLOCK
 Lt. Col.
 Chief, Public Safety
 Region IV

7163

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
REGION IV
APO 394

42
Regional Public Safety HQ.
18th Sept. 1944.

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

TO : Col. G. Poletti, Regional Commissioner.
Copy to Capt. Stone, Acting Chief Commissioner
General Brown, Rome Commander.

FACTS BRIEFLY.

1. The trial of Pietro CARUSO (45) ex-Chief of Police, Rome, was due to commence at 8:30 a.m. 18th September, 1944, at the Palazzo di Giustizia.

2. Considerable publicity had been given to the case and special police arrangements had been made.

3. Considerable public disorder occurred inside the Court. At 9:30 a.m. I advised the President of the Court to adjourn the case in the interest of public order.

4. Whilst order was being restored inside the Court, an important witness of the case, Sr. DONATO CARRETTA, ex-Governor of Regina Coeli prison, who had been removed from office by AMG, police some weeks ago was seized by an infuriated mob outside the building. The mob inflicted severe violence on Sr. Carretta; he was thrown over the wall into the Tiber River, then retrieved from the river and taken by the crowd to Regina Coeli prison, where he was hung, strung up by the feet, until cut down, when he was certified dead from fractured skull and multiple injuries.

DETAILS AS FOLLOWS:

Brief history of Caruso:

5. Age 45. Born at Naples, formerly a Consul of the Fascist Portunaria Militia at Trieste. Appointed Chief of Police for Rome on 1st Feb. 1944, being regarded as the best man "entirely faithful to the Fascist Republic."

6. As soon as he took up office he became ruthless, gathered around him a number of close collaborators, most of whom fled before our arrival in Rome on 4th/5th June, 1944. Caruso's work found favour and praise from Fascist Government - he was personally congratulated by Mussolini who termed him "my faithful quaters."

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

8. Caruso fled north with retreating Germans on the eve of our entry into Rome, with him a quantity of valuables, including currency, property, etc.

20 : Col. G. Poletti, Regional Commissioner.
Copy to Capt. Stone, Acting Chief Commissioner
General Brown, Rome Commander.

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7. On 4th March, 1944, Caruso submitted the names of 50 persons to the German Command. These persons were shot and only last week their bodies were recovered from the Ardestine Caves.
8. Caruso fled north with retreating Germans on the eve of our entry into Rome, and took with him a large quantity of valuables, including Quastore property, e.g. gold bars (obviously jewellery melted down) rings, watches, gold and silver jewellery, pearl ear-rings, a large number of bonds and over half a million lire in notes - total value worth at least eight or nine million liras. 7162
9. By a trick of fate his car was extensively damaged by mine or bombing and he sustained a fractured leg and was taken to a nearby hospital with his valuables under an assumed name.

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

BRIEF HISTORY OF CARUSO: Killed by the mob on 18th September, 1944.

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

POLICE ARRANGEMENTS FOR TRIAL - 18th September, 1944.

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

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

Exterior - 103 P.S. officers and men
and CC.RR.
10 P.S. mounted
10 CC.RR. " 123

Regina Coeli - 22 P.S. officers and men
with machine guns &
hand grenades
4 motorcycles
2 lorries 22

Police reserves ready for alarm
at other places 201
TOTAL 530

The Questore Morazzini was in charge of the Police arrangements.

DISORDER INSIDE THE PALAZZO DI GIUSTIZIA

13. Unfortunately most of the entrances to the Palazzo di Giustiniani were open to the public, and it is estimated that 5000 to 6000 at least swarmed into the building between 8:30 and 9:00 a.m. -- they were in the corridors, upstairs, downstairs -- in fact all over the building.

14. At 9:00 a.m. I received a message from Rome Command about the disorder and I at once went to the Court where the trial was to take place. The place was in a complete uproar and it was packed with screaming and shouting civilians, witnesses,

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	100 CC.RR.	
Exterior -		
	103 P.S. officers and men	
	and CC.RR.	
	10 P.S. mounted	
	10 CC.RR. "	123
Regina Coeli		
	22 P.S. officers and men	
	with machine guns &	
	hand grenades	
	4 motorcycles	
	2 lorries	22
Police reserves ready for alarm		
at other places		200
TOTAL		550

The Questore Morazzini was in charge of the Police arrangements.

DISORDER INSIDE THE PALAZZO DI GIUSTIZIA

13. Unfortunately most of the entrances to the Palazzo di Giustizia were open to the public, and it is estimated that 5000 to 6000 at least swarmed into the building between 6:30 and 9:00 a.m. -- they were in the corridors, upstairs, downstairs -- in fact all over the building.

14. At 9:30 a.m. I received a message from Rome Command about the dinner and I at once went to the Court where the trial was to take place. The place was in a complete uproar and it was packed with screaming and yelling civilians, witnesses, court officials, and relatives of Argentine Gaven victims. The two balconies above were crowded, and I estimate there were 500 to 700 people at least craning into this fairly small courtroom. Between 40 to 50 police were present but were completely powerless and had no control over the public.

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

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

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

DISORDER OUTSIDE THE PALAZZO DI GIUSTIZIA

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

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

20. Garretto was dragged from the cab, again subjected to violence, dragged across the road and thrown into the River. It is said that some person with an ear kept on striking the body in the water. Garretto was apparently dragged out of the river and taken by some man to Regina Coeli prison where he was hung up by the feet, tied with rope. He was quickly cut down however, and the body taken inside the prison entrance. I arrived at the prison at 12:30 p.m. and was present with the Procureurs when the body was examined by Doctor Alfredo Ronasco, Prison surgeon, who pronounced life extinct, death being caused by fracture of skull and multiple head and body injuries. The body was removed later to the mortuary at Verano Cemetery, San Lorenzo, where I arranged an adequate CC.BB. guard.

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

SUGGESTIONS FOR NEXT HEARING.

22. At 3:00 p.m. 18th September, 1944, I submitted a separate list containing suggestions for general arrangements at the resumed trial which should not take place tomorrow. In accordance with orders I will personally supervise the arrangement with Major Caxhead.	29.9.44
<u>CONCLUSION</u>	29.9.44

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

[Signature]
J. H. POLLOCK
Lt. Colonel
Chief, Public Safety
REGION IV.

Enclosure
C.C.C. sent
Refer to Caxhead

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SUGGESTIONS FOR NEXT MEETING

22.5 11:40 to 12:00. 11th September, 1944
 suggestions for General arrangements at the
 place tomorrow. In accordance with orders
 sent with Major General.

CONCLUSIONS

23. The whole trouble was not ~~in~~ ^{about} the courtroom was too large and the ~~big~~ ^{big} public, which simply invited trouble. The in their duties. The ~~rest~~ ^{rest} of the

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J.R. FOLLOME
Lt. Colonel
Chief, Public Safety
SECTION IV.

CONFIDENTIAL.

3A

Minutes of interview with Dott, Ferrari, Director ofPublic Security. 10th Sept. 1944.

At 12.10 p.m. on September 10, Dott, Ferrari visited Col. Wilcox's office to discuss the affair of the previous morning at the Palace of Justice which resulted in the killing of Carotta - its precedents, ramifications and possible results, and to discuss preventative measures for the future.

Told by Col. Wilcox that the Chief Commissioner was much perturbed about the affair. He said that it was not in itself a big thing.

In answer to the statement that according to reports reaching Col. Wilcox the police on duty had shown little or no initiative or energy, he said that he had in fact had a report from the Justice to the effect that the police had not reacted as they should and added that the law morale of the police force as a whole was to blame. Asked what were the chief reasons for this Dott, Ferrari explained that the police were at present being made targets for public ridicule by the press, that they were all under investigation by the Espionage Committee - could not feel themselves a trusted body of men - were under the possibility of dismissal at any moment, that they were underfed and ill clothed and that they got no sort of encouragement from any quarter.

Dott, Ferrari said that he had already made exhaustive enquiry into the case and would send Col. Wilcox a copy of his report at once. He was reading the report which had occurred to Col. Wilcox as needing investigation (1) - e) paper 1A); and said that the 5 points were covered in his report. The numbers of guards on duty and general arrangements made for the trial from the police standpoint had been adequate, but unforeseen circumstances as well as the tone of their morale had militated against them. He said in confidence that although naturally the Police always get and have to take the blame on these occasions, the real blame lay much higher up than the Public Security Department. For some time this trial had been advertised.

2278

Told by Col. Wilcox that the Chief Commissioner was much perturbed about the affair he said that it was not in itself a big thing.

In answer to the statement that according to reports reaching Col. Wilcox the police on duty had a long little or no initiative or energy he said that he had in fact had a report from the masters to the effect that the police had not reacted as they should and added that the low morale of the police force as a whole was to blame. Asked what were the chief reasons for this Dett. Ferreri explained that the police were at present being made targets for public ridicule by the Press, that they were all under investigation by the Espionage Committee - could not feel themselves a trusted body of men - were under the possibility of dismissal at any moment, that they were underfed and ill-clothed and that they got no sort of encouragement from any quarter.

Dett. Ferreri said that he had already made exhaustive enquiries into the case and would send Col. Wilcox a copy of his report at once. He was read the point which had occurred to Col. Wilcox as needing investigation (1) - (a) paper 14), and said that these points were covered in his report. The numbers of murders on duty and general arrangements made for the trial from the police standpoint had been adequate, but unforeseen circumstances as well as the tone of their morale had militated against them. He said in confidence that although naturally the Police always set and have to take the blame on these occasions, the real blame lay much higher up than the Public Security Department. For some time this trial had been advertised by very widely hundreds of invitations has been issued and the families of the "Bosch" Ardentine victims were invited. The trial itself was held in the Central Hall of the Palace of Justice - a most unsuitable place for such a trial - and Cinematograph cameras were busy in the Hall making a film. Altogether, for political reasons, the trial was being made a grand debut of reputation on the scale of a huge music hall revue and lost the character of a legal procedure - hence the witnesses were not in the witness room but in the Hall itself and in the corridors - nothing in fact was being run on usual, lawful lines. When the trial was resumed perhaps tomorrow it would be in a place unknown to the public. For future trials Dett. Ferreri had given orders that all witnesses, judges etc. must be in the Palace of Justice, in their appointed places, one hour before the

trial commenced.

Dott. Ferrari said that the big mistake yesterday was that nobody had foreseen the danger of the enormous crowd inside and particularly outside the Palace of Justice, which had by Press campaign and other publicity been worked up to a fine state of frenzy, only needing a spark to reduce it to bestial madness. What happened was only a natural result of the foregoing building up the whole thing had received. He indicated that this had been sponsored from high places for political reasons.

Col. Wilcox told Dott. Ferrari of the meeting called for 5 p.m. on Thursday 21st September 1944, in Brigadier Ugo's room and His Excellency undertook to bring Benoni's Under Secretary at the Min. of Interior, Col. ~~CAVALLI~~ Wilcox said he would advise the General's Commanding the CO.MA and the CG.FP.

Dott. Ferrari promised that by Thursday he would have thought out possible remedial measures for the Police morale and said that as a preliminary even words of encouragement would do wonders, and a favorable Press campaign even more.

RWW

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Row

DRAFT.

SUBJECT : The Killing of Caretta on the 18th September, 1944.

TO : Vice President, Administrative Section.

Normally in all cases of sudden death the Italian procedure is for the Lucatore to investigate and report to the Procuratore del Re who then decides what further legal action is to be taken. In the case of Caretta it is desirable that a special enquiry should be held. Presumably the Italian Government will settle on the members of the Court of Enquiry and the terms of reference and notify A.C.C. of their proposals. As far as the Police are concerned the following points should be thoroughly investigated:-

- 1) Who was responsible for making the police arrangements at the Palace of Justice and the Prison?
- 2) Were the arrangements adequate? Specifically:
 - i) Number of police on duty inside and outside the Court. Duties of officers in charge.
 - ii) Number of Police on reserve.
 - iii) Method of calling out reserves.
 - iv) Control of number of persons admitted to Palace of Justice.
 - v) Control of number of persons admitted to the Court room.
 - vi) Protection of prisoner.
 - vii) Protection of witnesses.
- 3) Who were the officers on the scene responsible for putting into effect the arrangements?
- 4) What orders were given
 - a) to control the crowd inside the Palace of Justice
 - b) to disperse the crowd outside the Palace of Justice
 - c) to restore order once trouble developed.
 - d) to protect Caretta
 - e) to arrest disorderly persons

It is recommended that this matter be discussed with His Excellency Dr. Ferrari the Director General of Public Security, Ministry of the Interior.

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