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PUBLIC
JULY 19

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PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICIALS IN MINISTRY OF INT.
JULY 1944

CONFIDENTIAL

19 July 1944

2A

O.P.S.

At 12 noon 19 July 1944 I called on S.E. Canavari, First Under Secretary of the Ministry of the Interior, to discuss defascistisation as far as the Public Security staff of the Ministry was concerned:

I explained that the Public Safety Sub-Commission AGC felt that officials of the Public Security should be free from the slightest taint of Fascism. S.E. Canavari said the Minister took exactly the same view.

He then went on to state that the Minister of the Interior was in the process of forming a Committee to carry out the dismissal of Fascists.

S.E. Canavari informed me that he was today writing a letter to the Public Safety Sub-Commission proposing to appoint the President of the Corte d'Assisi (Ferrara) as Director of Public Security at the Ministry. The letter will give the history and qualifications of Ferrara. The Minister would like a reply approving or disapproving as quickly as possible as they considered a new appointment urgent.

I asked S.E. Canavari if in the meanwhile Public Safety Sub-Commission should continue dealing with S.E. Solimena. He agreed:

Canavari then mentioned in confidence that there was a suggestion that there should be a complete overhaul of all the Questuri in Italian Government territory. In effect, all officials and agents would be dismissed and it would be necessary for them to apply for re-engagement. In that way only those considered suitable would be employed. It was also felt that their pay should be increased and their conditions of service improved. Canavari said that these proposals had not yet taken definite form and had not received the approval of the President. He wished the information to be regarded as confidential and unofficial.

I said that the Public Safety Sub-Commission was interested in the matter and would like to be informed of the proposals before they were put into effect. Canavari agreed. I also asked if he considered that if such a scheme were approved in Italian Government territory a parallel scheme should be put into operation in Military Government territory (as far as conditions allowed). Canavari thought AMG and the Italian Government ought to work in the closest co-operation to ensure that uniform treatment applied in both territories.

XO

Thank you. Keepwell
already of any major policy or
personal changes. 20 July 44
Lt. Colonel

CONFIDENTIAL

HEADQUARTERS
REGION 3, ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394, U. S. Army

Public Safety
SP20
1A

Ref:- G-2/SOLIMENA/244

13 July 1944

SUBJECT: SOLIMENA, Dott. Giuseppe.

TO : Public Safety, Salerno,
(Attention: Col. WILLCOX)

1. Reference your inquiry re Dott. SOLIMENA, Giuseppe.

2. I regret the delay in replying caused by the necessity of bringing our information up-to-date, that in our files having been obtained in the early days of the occupation and requiring modification from later appreciation.

3. The latest information is contained in the following:-

"In general, SOLIMENA is looked upon as an able administrator, and probably his rapid rise has been partly due to that fact. He has, however, had little or no experience in police work, and on that account there has been some surprise in local Questura circles.

"From the political point of view, it is pointed out that SOLIMENA joined the Fascist Party in 1926, long before his public position obliged him to do so. On the other hand, he took no active part in Fascist politics, and although he was on most friendly terms with certain eminent Fascists, it must be remembered that he had close relations with equally renowned anti-Fascists.

"In fact, SOLIMENA, like a typical man of the functionary class, did his best, and succeeded in keeping on good terms with all political parties. For this reason, many persons call him a turn-coat, but it must be borne in mind that he was one of the first to support BADOGLIO, and during the short time he was Comm. Straordinario in NAPLES, he does not appear to have cooperated with the Germans more than was strictly necessary by virtue of his public office."

4. Attached is also a copy of earlier details from our files.

For the Regional Commissioner:

A. Watts

A. WATTS,
Major, R. Signals,
Regional Security Officer.

Incl.
Report.

AE/11

CONFIDENTIAL

SOLIMENA Giuseppe.I. Biographical Details.

Born at Naples, 11 October 1896,
 Degree in Law, 30 June 1917,
 Entered in the Administration 20 August 1920,
 Nominated Prefect 15 June 1943,
 Commissario of the Comune of Naples, 6 August 1943,
 Ufficiale di Complemento of the Italian Army.

II. Translation of an Anonymous Letter Addressed to Col. F.F. Hume, dated 3 October 1943:

Excellency: The people of Naples accuse GIUSEPPE SOLIMENA of closely collaborating with COMMANDER SCHOLL (a German officer) when the Germans were here. GIUSEPPE SOLIMENA also lived at the same hotel that SCHOLL DID.

SOLIMENA forwarded to SCHOLL a complete list of all youths born from 1910 - 1925. These men had to present themselves at the German HQ to do labor work. (Actually they were held there and then shipped to Germany).

The public is wondering why SOLIMENA turned over to the Germans such a complete list instead of one less complete.

The Commissario (SOLIMENA) has worked his way up through numerous Fascist Organizations and is now "Commissario of the Prefettura".

We now see at large in Naples, Germans dressed in civilian clothes and possessing Italian documents issued by this Commissario.

During the period of horror, the employees of the Prefettura were often absent, thus the Commissario threatened them by a notice that he circulated to all the offices that if they continued to be absent, he would turn in their names to the German Command. The Chief Clerk of every office had a copy of this notice.
 (Signed) The People of Naples.

III.

H.E. GIUSEPPE SOLIMENA, too, is not a very strong character. He is crooked and ready to applaud whoever is in power. He was Chief of Cabinet for the Squadrist Prefect M.R. MANZIANI for many years, in Milan as well as in Naples. He is still remembered in Naples for his actions which caused the city to suffer. (It is sufficient to remember the suppression of the Gariboldi). Throughout his career, H.E. SOLIMENA was a tool of the Fascists. In order to be nominated Prefect, he accorded many favors to the two Fascist under-secretaries RUFFARINI and MABINI. During the

German occupation, that is, after 8 September, he was the humble servant of the Germans and he continually went to the German Lieutenant Weber of the Gestapo for orders. He too, recognized his faults in suspending the payment of officials before the law actually went into effect. But he added that he was forced by the two Communists MARIO PALEMO and VINCENZO INGANGI, both lawyers.

IV. Extract from C.I.C. Report, dated 17 March 1944:

SOLIMENA, Giuseppe, the Commissario Straordinario, or Acting Mayor of Naples, from investigation appears to be undesirable from a security point of view. Up to about three years ago, SOLIMENA was a virtually unknown functionary and just before the Allies arrived, he received his promotion to the rank of full Prefect on 15 June, 1943. This rise was meteoric, even for one favorable to Fascism. The rapid promotion of SOLIMENA appears to have been made under the aegis of Prefect GIOVAN BATTISTA MARZIALI, who was once Federale of Florence, appointed Prefect under Fascism in 1927 and considered a bad Fascist. SOLIMENA himself joined the Fascist Party in 1926 before it was actually necessary for him to do so. In his administration of the City of Naples, SOLIMENA has proved himself incompetent and inept and has protected Achille GUERRA, Carlo CRISCIO and DE ROCATIS, three minor but troublesome employees of the Municipio.

V. RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that SOLIMENA be removed from his present position as Commissario Straordinario as a security measure. (AGENT'S NOTE: At the present writing, this move is being considered by the Regional Commissioner of A.M.G., Region 3. The replacement, however, has not as yet been found, although INGROSSO Gustavo is being prominently considered.

It is further recommended that SOLIMENA be refused any future position with the Allied Forces, A.M.G. or the Italian Government.

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