

785016

ACC

10000/143/1098

0200

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

785016

000/143/1098

CAMERINO, GINO
MAY-SEPT. 1946

17.

VP Economic Section. THH: Public Safety 3/2.

I agree that the explanation given is sufficient and that the matter should rest at that.

13 September 1965.

MS/13/5.

6160

15/
A/Vice President,
Economic Section.

1. I am not wholly satisfied with the explanation given in Page 2A.
2. I should like to see the application from the Ministry of Foreign Trade mentioned in para 1.
3. Was this the only application received from the Ministry of Foreign Trade? If there were other applications were MCC telegrams sent as a result of every application? If not, why was MCC 550 sent in this particular case of the American Export Corp?
4. From para 2 of Page 2A it would appear that MCC 560 referred to the import licence for the same firm for it is alleged to have been sent as a result of failure to reply to MCC 550. It would therefore appear that it was known to the AG that it was in fact intended to issue the licence in the name of the American Export Corp.

5. Is this so?

27 AUG. 46.

MSL
Brigadier,
Executive Commission.
4140

16

Executive Commission

The answer to the questions are at

3A.

Before it landed over the matter the H.P. had applications for 10,000 tons - Five 5000. There 5000. The question was to be or after

27 AUG 1965

Brigadier,
Executive Commission

6140

16

Executive Commission

The answers to questions are at

3A.

Before it landed over the matter the H.Q. had
applications for 10,000 tons - Fine 5000, others
5000. The quantity rose to 60,000 after
the H.Q. dropped out of the picture.

The normal procedure appears to have
been followed in this case.

The first application, which the Sec. supported,
was from an ex. A.C. Officer (who I understand
was still in the uniform of a full Colonel when he
visited the Foreign Trade Branch at that time).

I can find nothing however which leads me
to believe that this was other than coincidental.

As it was, I think it would have been better if MOC

560 had not been sent but there is no doubt that
there was a desperate shortage of sugar (mainly required

for fruit preserving) at that time. MOC 550 is to be a linked with

Please return attached file. MOC 550 is to be a linked with

785016

A/Vice President,
Economic Section.

1. The photostat copy is not that of the English letter confiscated by CAMERINO but that of a forgery in Italian which is irrelevant.

2. I note that MOC 560 of 11 May contains the information in the last paragraph that the Italian Government had been advised to proceed to issue import licenses for 5000 tons requested for immediate assignment. No explanation is given of this action by the Director of the Commerce Branch. I should like to know why that recommendation was made, if the Director of the Commerce Branch knew in whose name the import license was to be made, and whether it was made and in whose name.

25.14

Brigadier,
Executive Commissioner.

16. Aug. 46.

13

Major Rather
your attention is called to Jan 12 -
Please prepare answer thru this office
@grsland

14.

Ex-Cons

17-2A is a further report from Commerce
Branch which I think answers all the

13

Major Rothery is called to Union 12 -
your attention
Please prepare answer thru this office
@get school

616-8

14.

Ex-Comms

HT-2A is a further report from Commerce
Branch which I think answers all the
points raised in your Memo. 12

26/8/46

M. C. B. By O. D. 1/2/48
D. P. R. B. Sec

Minute No. 9

TO: Executive Commissioner

1. Attention is invited to Minute No. 8.
2. The Minister of Foreign Trade has promised a personal investigation and report on this case. (Major Rothery to follow up).
3. I ^{note} ~~know~~ in the Ferretti report the statement that the P.S. officer showed Ferretti a photocopy of the letter confiscated from Camerino. If this is a true statement the P.S. Officer should produce his copy.

X

Charles W. Walton
 CHARLES W. WALTON
 Colonel, AC
 Acting Vice President

MS. 128
 12.

9 August 1946

Copy to: Major Rothery, Commerce Branch

V.P. CAS.

10.

Will you ask P.S. to take action on X above
 & to speak to me *MS. 128*

11. 11. 11. 11.

Director P.S. S/c See Minute 8.

Will you speak E.C. and explain
 situation as regards photo copy left referring
 to the letter in question. *MS. 128*
 14/8/46. U.P. C. A.S.

Minute No. 8A.V.P. ECONOMIC SECTION
ALLIED COMMISSION

1. In reply to Minute No. 7
2. The application in question was brought round to this H.Q. by one Colonel Fiore, representing the American Export Corporation Inc. It was a letter dated 10 April 46 signed by Avv. Storoni, then Under-Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Trade. This letter is in the files in possession of this Branch. It was received before the hand-over to the Italian Government.
3. The procedure adopted by this H.Q. in relation to R.C.L. items was that, upon receipt of individual requests from the Ministry of Foreign Trade, individual applications were made in the COM/MOC series to CBB, Washington for permission to import. On receipt of the authority, a letter was sent to the Ministry, referring to the application, passing on this authority. In special cases of urgency, where it seemed that some immediate action on the part of this H.Q., was desirable, for example where economic damage or loss was likely to result through lack of action, prior permission was given, and the Combined Boards notified of the action taken. An example of this, which can be quoted, was the advice to the Italian Government to grant licences for the import of Cod Fish (a controlled item) because of the danger of the food going bad. Washington subsequently confirmed this action. 111
4. In the present case a MOC signal No. 550 dated 17 April 46 was sent off under the normal procedure, asking for an immediate allocation, within the overall request for 25,000 tons for second and third quarter 1946 requested in MOC Airgram 149 of 29 March 46. This was sent off before the hand-over, and while AC was still controlling the import of such items. This request was the first one to be received from the Ministry for the commodity concerned after the despatch of the above Airgram.

- 2 -

5. On the 21 April 46 the Italian Government was instructed to apply direct to Washington. A list of all outstanding applications was sent to the Ministry together with all outstanding MOC signals, including 550 referred to above. The total ~~of~~ applications for sugar, received up to that date was for 10,000 tons.

6. Subsequently the Director of Commerce (Foreign Trade) Branch was invited to attend a meeting at the Ministry of Foreign Trade. The request to the Director was made by the Ministry's Liaison Officer Dr. Tosarelli. The meeting was presided over by Comm. Ferretti and the object was to give advice on RCL procedure which was not fully understood, and to clarify the existing situation. At the meeting Italy's urgent needs for sugar for industrial purposes were again stressed, in order to save a large proportion of the fruit crop by conserving it. The actual figure, which applications for the import of sugar, had reached, was approximately 60,000 tons, and application had been sent off to Washington by the Ministry for this amount. It was pointed out that the overall allocation request was for only 25,000 tons and that therefore such a request was entirely out of line. It was agreed that the only thing AC could do was to attempt to assist the Ministry by a follow up MOC stating the urgency of the situation and advising immediate import of the amount already requested. This was done in MOC 560 dated 11 May 46 a copy of which was sent to the Ministry in order to complete the series already in their possession. This was the only communication made to the Ministry on this matter.

7. No letter was ever sent by AC to the Ministry. A rigorous search has been conducted of the files of this Branch concerning RCL matters, and no copy of such a letter alleged to have been received by the Ministry, has been found. If the Ministry state that they received such a letter from this H.Q., then they must be asked to produce it so that it may be denounced as the forgery it is. All communications between this Branch and the Ministry were written, without exception, in English.

8 August 1946

G. A. F. ROTHLEY
Maj/Lincoln
Director
Commerce (F.T.) Branch

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

A P O 394

Office of the Executive Commissioner

E

V.P. Econ Section.

I am not happy about this case. A definite allegation has been made that a letter was received from the Allied Commission by the General Direction of Foreign Trade (Ferrette Guineffe) advising and authorizing the Ministry to issue a permit for the importation of 5000 Tons of sugar the subject of Cameroon's application.

It is not enough in my opinion to state that there is no copy of the alleged letter.

The case should be more vigorously prosecuted and the Director General himself

41/50

and the late Miranda Bracci or his staff
should be asked either to produce the letter or
to withdraw the allegation. A vigorous

search should also be made of all files
which might contain the letter or copy thereof.

Please take immediate action

MS 3/8

7

To Mayor Rothery.

For compliance with Minutes 6
and any statement you wish to
make in the case

CW

7/8/46

(h) For a considerable time the Italian Government had been furnished with copies of COM/MOC cables of special interest to them. On turn-over to Italian Government, copies of COM/MOC cables on all open transactions were transmitted to that Government. You may recall that COM/MOC was a permitted channel for the transmission of Italian business.

3. A.C. is still represented on the working committee, but is no longer in the business of negotiating with the Combined Boards on Italian export-import activities.

Charles W. Walton
CHARLES W. WALTON
Colonel, A.C.
Acting Vice-President

4

Dr. P.S. S.K.

Will you now consider the matter in the light of Minute 3.

23/7/46

5

M. Carr Brigadier
V.P.C.A.S.

To: Executive Commissioner.

3rd August, 1946

Minute 3 does not make the position entirely clear.

Reference (d) of Minute 3. We still do not know whether in fact a letter was sent from this Headquarters to the Ministry of Foreign Trade advising the issue of an import licence to Camerino as stated at B page 2 Report No.4

Until this point is cleared it is difficult to determine whether any good purpose will be served by pursuing the enquiry.

M. Carr Brigadier
M. CARR, Brigadier.
VP. CA. SECTION. 4130

- 3 -

Minute 3

22 July 1946

Executive Commissioner
Allied Commission

1. Reference our earlier conversation.
2. The following is a response, in outline, of the preceding request:
 - (a) Originally Allied Commission controlled Italian ^{imports and} exports. Almost a year ago the Allied Commission withdrew from this activity on instructions of the C.C.S., except for Reserved Commodity List items. A.C. remained the channel for such items until April of this year, about which time notes verbale were transmitted to the Italian Government by the American and British Embassies, and a note was sent from the Allied Commission, advising the Italian Government that they would use their own channels thereafter for Reserved Commodity List, as well as other, items.
 - (b) See above answer.
 - (c) A.C. accepted membership on a working committee composed of Italian Government Ministerial representatives, British and American Embassies, and UNRRA, after we had transferred the responsibility for clearing RCL items. Meetings were scheduled for once weekly. (None have been held since the elections.) In these meetings matters were thrashed out pertaining to RCL interpretations and other problems. At more than one of these meetings the import of sugar was mentioned and advice was offered from several quarters, including A.C., on the desirability and necessity for the Italians to import sugar.
 - (d) I have no copy of the alleged letter to the Ministry of Foreign Trade.
 - (e) Major Rothery gave advice orally to functionaries in the Ministry who frequently asked assistance on procedures. No written communication from the Italian Government can be produced.
 - (f) So far as I am able to learn, Camerino's application, as such, was not specifically recommended. Recommendation that sugar be imported was made because of the very obvious necessity for such import.
 - (g) The cable was sent in the CCM/MOC series because such a procedure, that is, accepting imports in advance of allocations and asking for confirmation, had been successful in a preceding case. The transmission of this cable was part of an effort to continue to be helpful. As stated in (e) above, questions were raised frequently by Italian officials as to how they could obtain sugar. The Italian Government was not advised to issue military license but to issue import license.

I

Ex Comm.

Att. V.P. C.A.S.

Please see attached reports for
consideration and action.

E. J. Boyle, Col.

18.7.46

Minute No. 2.

A/Vice President,
Economic Section.

1. We discussed this case.
2. Can the following information and particulars please be supplied:
 - (a) ^{Signature of} the details of the original policy followed between the Allied Commission and the Italian Government with regard to importation of food supplies, including sugar. ✓
 - (b) The date of change in policy and details of the changed policy. ✓
 - (c) After the change did AC have any supervision over or responsibility for advising on issue of import licenses? ✓
 - (d) A copy of the letter alleged to have been sent by AC to the Ministry of Foreign Trade regarding advice to issue an import license to CAMERINO. ✓
 - (e) What was the pressure brought by the Italian Government on AC which caused the letter to be sent? Any written communication from the Italian Government should be produced. ✓
 - (f) Why was CAMERINO's application recommended, if it was so, to the exclusion of others and why recommended at all after

413.

2. Can the following information be supplied: *Answer here if*
- (a) ✓ the details of the original policy followed between the Allied Commission and the Italian Government with regard to importation of food supplies, including sugar.
 - (b) ✓ The date of change in policy and details of the changed policy.
 - (c) ✓ After the change did AC have any supervision over or responsibility for advising on issue of import licenses?
 - (d) ✓ A copy of the letter alleged to have been sent by AC to the Ministry of Foreign Trade regarding advice to issue an import license to CAMERINO.
 - (e) ✓ What was the pressure brought by the Italian Government on AC which caused the letter to be sent? Any written communication from the Italian Government should be produced.
 - (f) ✓ Why was CAMERINO's application recommended, if it was so, to the exclusion of others and why recommended at all after the change in policy?
 - (g) ✓ Should the letter from AC prove to be not authentic and the signature a forgery, why was the enclosed cable sent in which it states the Italian Government had asked for intervention by AC? Who had asked for intervention? Why was it said that the Italian Government was advised by AC to issue a ^{war}military license for 5,000 tons of sugar?
 - (h) ✓ How did the Italian Government come to be in possession of a copy of the enclosed cable? Is this procedure usual?
3. The copy of the cable in this file is on loan from the Questore and care should be taken that it is not mislaid.

20. July, 1946.

McLar Brigadier,
Executive Commissioner.

785016

14378/4 File
Statement by 4540507 Sgt JOHN REYNOLDS 276 I.S.S. Int. Corps.
regarding
CAMERINO Gino.

I, 4540507 Sgt JOHN REYNOLDS, have served with 276 Field Security Section, Intelligence Corps first at SALERNO from 10 Sep. 1943 and later in Rome from 4 Jun. 1944 until the present date.

I remember that towards the end of 1944 CAMERINO Gino was warned by this Sec that he MUST NOT pass himself off as having any connection with Field Security.

In Jan 1945, this Unit received a letter from AC. of S G-2, RAAC (ref. G/PII7I/Br d. 24 Jan 45) in which the following statement was made "A.F. HQ instruct that he (CAMERINO Gino) is not to be employed by any allied agency". This letter is held on this unit's files.

On 25 Jan 1945, CAMERINO himself made a statement to Sgt SIMONS 97 I.S.S. to the effect that he had never been a paid employee of any allied agency. (Copy of Sgt SIMONS report may be seen in this office).

I hereby state that CAMERINO Gino has ~~either~~ NOT during the period of my service with this Unit, served either as a paid employee, or been used in any other capacity, paid or unpaid, by 276 I.S.S.

J Reynolds

Sgt.,
Intelligence Corps.

17. Jan. 1946.

4130

14370?
14372?
2K

Statement by 4540507 Sgt JOHN REYNOLDS 276 F.S.S. Int. Corps.
regarding CAMERINO Gino. *correct*

I, 4540507 Sgt JOHN REYNOLDS, have served with 276 Field Security Section, Intelligence Corps first at SALERNO from 10 Sep. 1943 and later in Rome from 4 Jun. 1944 until the present date.

I remember that towards the end of 1944 CAMERINO Gino was warned by this Sec that he MUST NOT pass himself off as having any connection with Field Security.

In Jan 1945, this Unit received a letter from AC. of S G-2, RAAC (ref. G/PII7I/Br d. 24 Jan 45) in which the following statement was made "A.F. HQ instruct that he (CAMERINO Gino) is not to be employed by any allied agency". This letter is held on this unit's files.

On 25 Jan 1945, CAMERINO himself made a statement to Sgt SIMONS 97 F.S.S. to the effect that he had never been a paid employee of any allied agency. (Copy of Sgt SIMONS report may be seen in this office).

I hereby state that CAMERINO Gino has ~~either~~ NOT during the period of my service with this Unit, served either as a paid employee, or been used in any other capacity, paid or unpaid, by 276 F.S.S.

John Reynolds
Sgt.,
Intelligence Corps.

17. Jan 1946

2130

office).

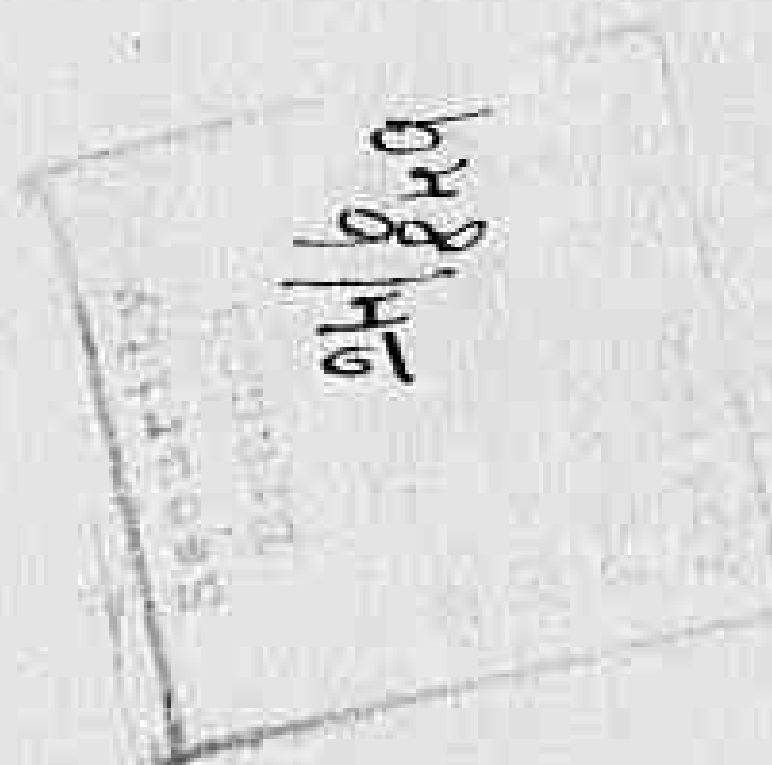
I hereby state that CAMERINO Gino has ~~either~~ NOT during the period of my service with this Unit, served either as a paid employee, or been used in any other capacity, paid or unpaid, by 276 F.S.S.

Demora

Sgt.,
Intelligence Corps.

17. Jan 1946.

4130



3A

A/Vice President
Economic Section

4 September 1946

1. Para 2 of Minute 15
Original letter of application from the Ministry of Foreign Trade is ^{in file} attached. (70.1.)
2. Para 3 of Minute 15
 - (a) This was not the only application received - it was however, the first to be received which I saw as Director of the Branch. Investigations since made have not revealed any previous applications.
 - (b) Subsequently, applications for approximately another 5000 tons were received. These applications varied from 10 to 2000 tons and are in other files according to countries from which the sugar was to be imported. Moc telegrams were not sent for subsequent applications because it was the practice, in such cases, to wait a reply to the signal outstanding. This was in line with a verbal request from a representative (Mr. Treves) of the Combined Food Board.
(FSA.2. alla file)
 - (c) Moc 550 was sent, following the normal procedure of receipt of an application from the Ministry. These applications always stated the name of the firm desiring to import.
3. Moc 560 was a "follow up" of Moc 550 (see Minute 8 para 6) it having been agreed with the Italian representatives that the only way to help the situation was to press for import of the amount already requested which happened to be the 5000 tons referred to in Moc 550.

413*

G.A.F. ROTHEY
H.M.

G.A.F. ROTHEY
Maj. Lincoln
Director

Commerce (For. Trade) Branch

~~14~~

Es/8.00

2A

A/Vice President
Economic Section

22 August 1946

1. On the 10 April 46 an application was received from the Ministry of Foreign Trade for an allocation of 5000 tons of sugar for the American Export Corporation. As a result MOC 550 of 17 April 46 was sent to Washington asking for the allocation of this 5000 tons.
2. No answer was received, and as a result MOC 560, copy attached, was dispatched on 11 May 46 informing Washington that the Italian Government had been advised to issue import licence for 5000 tons.
3. By this date this H.Q. was not concerned with the question as to which firm or firms would receive an import licence. The total applications received by the Ministry at that time amounted to some 60,000 tons.
4. As far as this H.Q. is concerned, there is no knowledge of any licence having been issued. Therefore the question, in whose name it was issued, does not apply.

G.A.F. Rothey 1.4130
M.A.M.

G.A.F. ROTHEY
Maj. Lincolns
Director
Commerce (For. Trade) Branch

COPYOUTGOING MESSAGE

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

FROM : HQ ALCOM

11 MAY 1946

TO : (1) AGWAR FOR CCS FOR CLAC
(2) WAROF (LONDON) FOR SLAO SECRETARIAT
(3) AFHQ FHGEG

Ref.No.3006

UNCLASSIFIED

THIS IS MOC 560
SUBJECT IS : SUGAR

1. Reference MOC 550. It is now learned that sugar lying Brazil not Tangiers.

2. Italian Government states no reply yet received to above quoted MOC 550 nor any allocations been made CEB on request made in overall Italian requirements RCL for second and third quarters 1946 as set forth in MOC Airgram 149.

3. Italian Government has solicited intervention ALCOM in this matter of sugar allocation as it is a matter of extreme urgency for Italian Economy, as defined MOC AIRGRAM 149, that some arrivals should take place before end second quarter 1946 that is to say before end June, and unless sugar is got moving now, there is a real danger that much fruit, destined for conservation under above plan, will go to waste.

4. Therefore, absolutely essential that immediate approval be given for import of a quantity of sugar to permit some being available for second quarters industrial requirements.

5. The amount suggested as immediate minimum allocation is ten thousand tons. In the meantime, bearing in mind the fact that it is now 6 weeks since MOC 149 was dispatched, the Italian Government has been advised to proceed to issue import license

for 5000 tons requested for immediate assignment on the
18 April 1946. Such quantity to be regarded as part
of the 25000 tons requested in MOC Airgram 149.

Copy to : Economic Section
Precedence: Routine
Office of Origin: Commerce Foreign Trade Br.
Tel.No.478192
Originator's signature: Capt.Rothey

Distribution

Action direction - ECON SECTION 12

CSO 6

SUPPLY OPNS - V.G./UDINE 6

ADVANCE COPIES TO: COMMERCE BR.2 - INFO - CHIEF COMMISSIONER
FINANCE BR. EXEC.COMMISSIONER 2
FOOD & AGRIC.BR.2 CC BR EMC
IND & UTIL BR CS US EMB
TN BR.2 UNRRA Bureau of R&D
FILE

785016

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
Public Safety Sub-Commission
AFC 794

A.C./14371/PS.

Tel : 478427

18 July 1946

SUBJECT : Offences by Italians.

TO : Executive Commissioner,
thru VP. CA. Section.

1. With reference to attached reports and statements:-

2. The report of the Questore No. 3 and the statement of Signor Ferretti, Director General of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Trade, No. 4 were received by me on 9th July 1946.

3. In consequence of the information contained in the paragraphs in the reports (now marked A & B), I saw Signor Ferretti, together with Dott. Vincenzo De Stefano, the P.S. Commissario in charge of the case, at my Office on 11th July 1946.

4. At my invitation, Signor Ferretti gave his version of the events as they happened as follows.

5. Sometime during April, Camerino had made application to the Ministry of Foreign Trade for an import licence to import 5,000 tons of sugar into Italy on behalf of certain industrialists.

At that time the granting of import licences for the importation of foodstuffs including sugar was subject to approval of A.C. Economic Section.

Camerino's application, together with a number of others, was sent to A.C. for consideration.

In the meantime the policy with regard to the granting of import licences was changed, A.C. apparently dropped out of the picture and the Ministry of Foreign Trade obtained approval for the issue of import licences direct from the Combined Food Board, Washington. Any foodstuff imported without consent of the Board would be deducted from the quota brought in by U.N.R.R.A.

4130

6. Owing to the change in policy the applications sent to A.C. were held up. At the end of April or early May, Camerino accompanied by an Allied Officer, whom Signor Ferretti has good reason to believe was Col. Fiore, went to Signor Ferretti's Office and pressed him for a decision with regard to his, Camerino's, application.

7. As will be seen in Signor Ferretti's statement, they were very insistent that he should write to A.C. about Camerino's case and when told a letter could not be sent on account of an individual case when there were 30 cases outstanding, Camerino replied that he knew that the reply from A.C. would, in any case, give permission for the issue of a licence to him, whatever the decision with regard to the other cases might be.

8. As will be seen, Ferretti, after consultation with the Minister, Signor Dracchi, did not send a letter to A.C. but a few days later he received a letter from A.C., written in Italian, which, he said, was signed in the name of Capt. (now Major) Rothery, Economic Section, in which it was stated that, on account of pressure from the Italian Government, authorisation was given for the issue of an Import Licence to Camerino.

9. As the Ministry had not written to A.C. on the matter, Ferretti took the letter and the file to the Minister.

I questioned Ferretti about the letter. He said it was typewritten on official A.C. Economic Section paper and he felt convinced the signature was that of Capt. Rothery, although he qualified this statement by saying he might have made a mistake. He found the letter in a sealed envelope lying on his desk when he arrived one morning.

10. I had asked the Questore to obtain the letter for my inspection but on enquiry by the P.S. Commissario, Dr. De Falco, Chief of the Cabinet to the Ministry of Foreign Trade, declared that the letter had not been received by the Minister but instead produced the copy of a cable sent by Capt. Rothery, Economic Section, to Washington, London and A.F.H.Q. dated 11th May, stating that Italian Government had asked intervention by Alcom in the matter of sugar allocation. Ten thousand tons was an immediate necessity and Italian Government had been advised to issue an import licence for 5,000 tons of sugar.

11. Signor Ferretti has seen the cable. He is certain it is not the document he received and passed to the Minister, in fact he had never seen the cable until it was shown to him by Commissario De Stefano.

12. Signor Ferretti appeared very sincere and there would appear to be no reason to doubt his statements. Undoubtedly he did receive a letter purported to be from A.C. Economic Section.

4120

13. It is indeed strange that this letter should mention pressure from the Italian Government, whereas no letter had been sent to A.C. Of course it is not beyond the bounds of possibility that the letter from A.C. was the work of Camerino, he would be quite capable of composing such a letter and forging Major Rothery's signature, but against that there is the cable which also mentions application by the Italian Government for A.C. intervention and what is more states that the Italian Government had been advised to issue an import licence for 5,000 tons of sugar, the amount which Camerino desired to import.

If information given me by Signor Ferretti is correct, this cable was sent after the change in policy and when A.C. had ceased to be interested in importation licences.

The Ministry of Foreign Trade has asked the Questura to return the cable to that Dept.

The above facts are submitted for information and such action as is deemed necessary. Cable referred to and received from Ministry of Foreign Trade attached No. 7.

14. When searched the attached letters and visitors' slip to AC were found on Camerino.

Letters numbers 3, 4 and 5 are of no interest to A.C. The visitors' slip No. 6 merely shows Camerino was visiting this building on 25th July, presumably 1945.

The letter No. 2 from Col. Campbell to Signor Arpesani is of interest, in as much as it would appear to be the original letter. It is dated 9th March 1946 but was found in Camerino's possession on 19th June 1946 when he was arrested. Whether the letter had ever reached Signor Arpesani is not known.

15. So far no action has been taken with regard to this letter. It is submitted for consideration.

EJB/ae

E. J. Bye
E. J. BYE, Colonel
Acting Director.

(Translation OK)

QUESTURA CP ROMA

Div II - Categ. II

Add 12 July 1946

Subject : CAMERINO Gino di Ettore

To Col. DYE

Allied Commission
Director, Public Safety S/C
R o m a

As from to day's verbal request, we transmit herewith enclosed :

- 1) Statement by Mr. De Stefani, Commissario of P.S. at this office, regarding contacts taken with some officials of the Foreign Trade Ministry in order to investigate about a letter forwarded from the Allied Commission Economic S/C to the above mentioned Ministry. Said letter authorized the issue of licences for the importation of sugar.
- 2) A letter, written in English, and signed by Lt. Col. Campbell of the A.C., sent to Avv. G. Arpesani, Under Secretary at the Presidency of the Council of the Ministries.
- 3) Two private letters, written in English, addressed to Camerino.
- 4) A note, written in English on A.M.R. (Representative Maritime Agency) headed paper.
- 5) A "pass" released by the A.C. on Camerino's name.
- 6) A private telephone directory.

The correspondence as of n.s 2 and 6 has been found at Camerino's.

The Questore
s/ Ciro Verdiani

4124

DECLARATION2

On the 18th June 1946, by request of the Head of the Police, the undersigned effected enquiries for the identification of the person not known, who was responsible for the falsification of a letter of the Ministry of Foreign Trade, in which it was stated that the issue of Licenses for the importation of sugar, in the name of a few industrial firms, of which, a certain Camerino would have given a list.

The enquiry brought about the identification of the author of the falsification as Camerino Gino di Ettore, and in whom the responsibility rested :

- a) Falsification
- b) Attempted swindling
- c) Violation of Art. 157 of P.S. Law.

In the course of the investigation, writer contacted Dott. Giuseppe Ferretti, Director General of Importations and Exportations with the Ministry of Foreign Trade, who informed him that following letters received by him from Camerino, for the issue of a license for the importation of sugar, a letter had been received by Dott. Ferretti from A.C. Economic Section, written in Italian, in which it was pointed out that as the Italian Govt. had requested A.C. to give a decision with regard to an importation license to Camerino, the A.C. now offered no objection to the issue of such a license.

As a result of the enquiry, Camerino was denounced to the Procura di Roma.

About 12.00 hrs of the 10th, Dott. Rodriguez Ernesto, P.S. Commissario in service with A.C. Liaison, kindly asked the writer to let him have the a/m letter from the Ministry of Foreign Trade, inasmuch as Col. Eye, Director Public Safety S/C, wished to see it. Dr. Rodriguez added that the letter was to reach him by 10.30 hrs of the next day, as by appointment between Col. Eye and the Questore.

The writer phoned Dott. Ferretti, Dir. Gen. for Importations & Exportations - Ministry of Foreign Trade, who communicated that the letter in question was in the hands of the Minister, he having Camerino's file.

Thus, he was advised to turn to the Head of Cabinet of said Ministry - Dott. Di Falco.

Still by phone, the undersigned asked Dott. Di Falco for the letter in question and he was told to phone back later as he would have asked the Minister.

-2-

Phoning again later, Dott. Di Falco said that the document could be withdrawn at 18.00 hrs. It was added that it was not a letter but a cable.

At 18.00 hrs Dr. Di Falco handed the file copy of a cable written in English, addressed to foreign offices, not known by the Italian Administration.

As the undersigned insisted that it should have been a letter and not a cable, he decided to phone Dott. Ferretti, who confirmed what is afore mentioned by the writer. Dott; Di Falco insisted on the opposite affirmation and handed the file copy to the undersigned.

The writer, not being convinced of Dott. Di Falco's behaviour brought the a/m file copy to Dott. Ferretti who declared that he had never seen it before and still confirmed that the document, handed by him, to the Minister, was a letter, written in Italian, subject as known, and addressed to his office.

Ferretti and the writer then went to Dott. Di Falco, the former and the latter each maintained their own opinion, Ferretti for direct knowledge, Dott. Di Falco by voice of the minister.

On the insistence of the writer, Dott. Di Falco returned to the Minister & the writer effectively saw him enter the Minister's office situated at the opposite end of the corridor from Dott. Di Falco's office - he then came out saying that the Minister confirmed not having received from Dott. Ferretti other than the file copy shown.

In faith of the above

Rome 12 July 1946

Dott. Vincenzo De Stefano
Commissario di P.S. Questura - Rome

/s/ De Stefano

Translation ac/

4120

COPY

Ministry of Foreign Trade
Direction General
Exportation & Importation

21 June 46.

N. 30161

TO : The Questura - Rome.

Referring to the request made on the correspondence carried out by Camerino to obtain a permit for the importation from abroad of a lot of sugar, I point out the following:

About a month and a half ago, the usher on duty handed me a request to interview an Allied officer, whose name I have forgotten, he, entering my office with another gentleman who then introduced himself as Camerino, pointed out that the Allied Commission, before the existing deficiency of sugar in Italy, would have been disposed to authorise the issue of a permit for the importation of 5,000 tons of sugar, if the Italian Ministry of Foreign Trade would have granted its concession.

It is to be borne in mind that sugar is included among the goods in exchange between countries, and subject to the control of a central Office in Washington.

I answered that, following recent dispositions issued, the Allied Commission was no longer competent in issuing such authorisation inasmuch as the Italian Govt. had been authorised, just then, to turn directly to the competent offices in Washington for assignments of controlled goods - such as sugar. Moreover, I added that on the other hand I could not have allowed the expediting of the permit for one person only, whilst there were more than 50 similar cases lying at the Direction General and this out of justice. Both the officer and Camerino insisted to induce me to expedite the authorisation, stating that the only possibility for Italy to dispose of sugar was represented by the conclusion of the importation of the sugar subject of the request made by Camerino, and which, if I should not have adhered to, I would have been responsible of a serious economic damage before the country. Camerino stated that he had been a colonel with the Allied Information Service and that his contacts would have only allowed him to import sugar to Italy. In spite of all the discussions made by the officer and Camerino, I was inflexible saying that I was disposed to submit to the minister the necessity of addressing a letter to the Allied Commission asking for the result of the 30 or more cases of importation of sugar which, according to previous dispositions given to the Italian Govt. to turn directly to the offices of Washington, had been sent to that Commission for the authorisation and which had been suspended due to the delay in the two procedures.

-2-

The officer and Camerino, seeing that all further insistences were useless, appeared to be aware of what I had said and once more confirmed their illimited possibilities in obtaining from all the Italian and Allied offices the greatest help.

I had a letter written which I submitted to Minister Bracci, with a small note of mine attached, in which I pointed out the insistence of the officer and Camerino, expressing my views on the inopportunity of sending the same letter, inasmuch as it was not fair to favour one sole importer.

Moreover, I prospected to the minister the serious situation in which the Ministry would have been in, if amongst 50 requests of for the importation of sugar, only one would have been granted.

The minister, both due to what I had prospected to him and because he was perfectly aware of the interests attached to the importation of sugar, did not forward the letter, instead he gave me precise instructions to submit to his personal attention all matters concerning the importation of sugar.

Matters were at such a stage, when a few days after, a letter was received by the General Direction from the Allied Commission in which I was being informed that the Commission, due to "expedites made by the Italian Govt." advised and authorised the Ministry of Foreign Trade to issue the permit for the importation of 5000 tons of sugar subject of Camerino's application. Being surprised of such a communication, I immediately went to Minister Bracci who, just as surprised as I of such an unexpected communication, and particularly on the hint of expedites which by no means had been made to the Allied Commission; he took Camerino's whole file, stating that he would deal with it personally. From there I heard no more of the matter until the P.S. Officer in charge of the enquiries, showed me a photo-copy of the letter confiscated from Camerino.

For what concerns the possibility of importing sugar temporarily, according to the rules in circular 30030 of the Ministry of Foreign Trade of 27 April 46 - I point out that in said circular it is effectively determined that the Customs Offices are authorised to directly allow the temporary importation of those goods foreseen or which the temporary importation can be granted. Apart from the fact that the temporary importation of goods is ruled by specific legislative provisions, the Customs Direction General has received precise instructions from the Ministry of Foreign Trade that such disposition is not applicable to goods subject to international control - and therefore sugar.

I do not know whether such a disposition is ignored by those who practise the commercial activity of importation or exportation, nevertheless it is to be borne in mind that the rules on exchanges with abroad, issued by the Ministry are spread thru special circulars addressed to all the Chambers of Commerce, Prefet^{ures}, Organisations and associations, besides thru the press and radio.

Translation ac/

Director General
/S/ Ferretti Giuseppe

21st June 1940 at 11.40 hrs - in the office of the Questura ⁵

Rome

Before us P.S. Commissario, there is Fiori Annibale di Luigi and di Rosa Massa, born in New York on the 26/1/1905, residing in Torino, Via Viotti n.1, Attorney General for Italy of the American Export Co. - American citizen, who declares:

I know Prof. Gino Camerino, having met him in the offices of the Allied Command in Rome when he worked with that Command and I was in service with the American Army.

When I was discharged, Camerino, having heard of my activities as a civilian, offered himself as a collaborator. Not trusting Camerino too much, I accepted his offer, but I asked him not to undertake any job or engagement without my prior consent.

A while ago he proposed a business deal on the importation of 5000 tons of sugar from Algiers, assuring me that he had the necessary documents in order, I followed the case but nothing was made of it because the permits arrived when the sugar had already been sold to others.

Lately in Torino a civilian visited me who, having contacted Camerino in Rome, stipulating a contract with the Firm I represent, came to me for some explanations. Everything was completely new to me and I was bothered at the abuse of the a/m contract made by Camerino.

I tried to speak to him through the phone but did not succeed at once and after a few days, always by phone, I recalled him sharply on this act, so indelicate to me and my firm. He answered that we would have cleared the matter better verbally, pointing out that it was a good deal, already well ahead and for which he already had all the permits in order. I let the matter drop asking him to send me a letter on it. Letter which has never reached me and which has induced me to anticipate my coming to Rome to see clear in the matter.

Here in Rome I have heard of his arrest.

I particularly declare that Camerino has never been my partner he has never concluded any business with me and with the American Export, he is a complete stranger, never having had direct or indirect contacts with the Company. Thus the operation which he intended to conclude lately, regarding the purchase and sale of 10.000 tons of sugar is completely new to my Firm not having given Camerino any consent to operate under his name and on his own account.

Read, confirmed and undersigned 412~

6

The 19th June 1946, at 20.45 hrs, in the Office of the Questura of Rome.

Before us P.S. Commissario there is Sig. Facci Giovanni fu Pietro, who, in addition to the statements just given, considers it his duty to make the following declaration:

" In the dealings which I was carrying out with a group of Torino and Milan for the sale of more than half of Prof. Camerino's sugar, I came in contact with Sig. Fiorentino, residing in Rome, who, to justify the diffidence of his group on the existence of the necessary documents authorising the exportation of the goods from the place of origin, specified that a few days ago a certain Prof. Ghe, almost 80 years old, a man of a high social position and, I think, also an ex Senator of the State, went to Rome carrying with him 5 legalised applications of other sweets industries for the temporary importation of 2000 tons of sugar and that before contacting the importers of the stuff had gone to confer with the minister Bracci from whom he is supposed to have received the confirmation of the existence of the permit given to Prof. Camerino for 10.000 tons. Still not satisfied with such an authoritative assurance, Prof. Ghe is supposed to have gone to the Food S/C - Allied Commission, to make sure of the existence of the documents proving the authorisation for the exportation thru the International organs of control. (u)

I have not been able to inform Prof. Camerino of this, as, since yesterday, I am no longer in contact with him, but I must state that last Saturday, in my office, when I put Prof. Camerino in contact with elements of the group in which Sig. Fiorentino is (whom, moreover, I did not know on the Saturday evening) Camerino stated to be willing to bring with him, to the competent office of the Allied Commission, a representative of the group and, if necessary a public notary who would give an account of the existence of a minute which showed all the correspondence carried out with International organs of control, for the authorisation of the exportation of this lot destined to Italy extra contingent Unrra, on temporary importation and as Camerino states, six copies were made of this minute, one of which for the Ministry of Foreign Trade, one for the Customs Office, two for UNRRA, one for the Combined Food Board of Washington and one for the Allied Commission.

In spite of such an exact declaration, the group interested on the purchase was still in doubt, but promised, in a letter bearing yesterday's date, to buy the lot when Camerino would provoke the visit of the Allied Commission, which I have mentioned above.

(1) On reading the a/m, before signing it, the declarer notices an important omission which he adds before signing it,

Prof. Ghe, according to Fiorentino's declaration, is supposed to have made sure by his visit to the Allied Commission, that there was nothing on an exportation of sugar from Brazil, a temporary importation to Italy in the name of Prof. Gino Camerino.

After such a statement, Prof. Ghe is supposed to have left for Milan with his applications in his pocket, without contacting the importer, considering the affair without any foundation.

Read, confirmed and signed

/s/ Prof. Facci.

Translation ac/

R. QUEIRA DI ROMA

3

N.95155

23 June 1946

SUBJECT : Arrest of Camerino Gino di Ettore and fu
Usigli Carlotta, born in Venice the 5/1/1897,
residing here in Via del Gambero N.30.
responsible for :

- 1) forgery
- 2) Attempted swindling
- 3) Violation of art.157 P.S. Law.

TO : The Procura - Rome.
for info
Ministry of the Interior
Gen.Direction P.S. Police Div. Sez.1^a - Rome
Lt.Col.Millhouse. - S.Vitale - Rome.

In a letter dated the 18th inst. Ing.Luigi Saracino, Director General of the Technical Services - Ministry of Foreign Trade, informed his Ministry that, his collaborator Ing. Zilacchi Aldo had referred that there was a letter of the Ministry of Foreign Trade, signed by him, going around the commercial circles of importers, in connection with the granting of a permit for a temporary importation of 10.000 tons of sugar. As Ing. Saracino's office had never issued such declarations (which are not even within his power) efforts were made to obtain a copy of said document, with success a photographic reproduction of it was obtained which was forwarded to the Ministry for enquiries deemed necessary.

Being in possession of such photographic copy, it was ascertained that the letter was addressed to a certain 'Prof. Gino Camerino for the American Export Co. Rome'

This name was known to Ing. Saracino as he had met the afore mentioned on various occasions between the 27th May and the 6th June 46 under circumstances concerning the expediting of the opinion of that office on the issue of a permit for the temporary importation of 10.000 tons of sugar.

The Minister of Foreign Trade, in possession of the a/m letter, informed the P.S. Direction General for the competent enquiries and action, forwarding Ing.Saracino's two letters and the photographic copy of the letter never sent by an office of the Ministry (encls 1,2 & 3).

Deeming Camerino aware of the falsification, during the morning of the 19th June, he was traced and arrested.

6114

-2-

Camerino, identified as in subject, stated having been interested in the importation of sugar since last April, during which period, a certain Huzan of the "Sociem" Society, hqrs in Via Toscana 1, had offered him the importation of 5000 tons of sugar which was in Algiers. For such occasion, Camerino created a commercial combination with himself, Huzan and a certain Avv. Fiore, ex colonel of the American Army, Attorney General for Italy of the American Export Co. of New York. But the deal went off, because, while the necessary documents in Italy were being prepared for the transaction, the sugar had been sold to others.

Thus, Camerino, perceiving that such dealings could give grand profits, got busy in finding another lot of sugar for importation, and, hearing that the Catholic Financial Society situated in Via della Vite 13, had a lot of sugar coming from Brazil, he contacted the directors of said Society to grab hold of the deal.

With the confirmation of the existence of the goods, he started to take the necessary steps to obtain the importation licenses, meeting great difficulties in effecting his plan.

Meanwhile Camerino received a letter which stated that according to the law on temporary importations and according to circular N.30030 A.G. dated 27/4/46 - chapter 3 - last paragraph, sugar could be freely imported on a temporary basis.

While the dealings between the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Camerino were going on, Camerino contacted those who were in a position to make use of such temporary importations of sugar.

Owing to the delay in the granting of the necessary licenses, the prospective buyers were obliged to wait, urging Camerino to come to some solution.

The long delay for the issue of the importation permit, overcome only about 20 days ago due to the knowledge of the a/m circular (N.30030 AG dated 27/4/46), had obliged Camerino to say to a few of his intermediaries and buyers that he had received communication authorising the temporary importation of the sugar, (falsified letter enclosed n.1). He did not mention the existence of the a/m circular to them, which according to Camerino abolishes the necessity of a special permit, from the Ministry of Foreign Trade, for the temporary importation of sugar, in order to deal with the matter just the same and obtain the possible profits.

Apart from the interpretation given by Camerino on the contents of the circular, contacts had been made with the local Customs office (Direzione Compartimentale delle Dogane) to find out the opinions of those officials who had already ~~give~~ expressed themselves favourably. Camerino pointed out that he had conferred with a certain Dott. Guarini of that office.

The impeached letter, had been created by Camerino for the a/m purpose, using paper taken from the Ministry of Foreign Trade on his many visits there. With a view to spreading the ~~same~~ letter, he had had a few photographic copies made and a few

-3-

authentic ones made thru a notary, putting one of his mediators, a certain Vaccaroni - a complete stranger to Camerino's tricks, in charge of the reproduction.

Camerino, being asked, excluded the fact of ever having received money from his buyers.

As evidence of the various affirmations made, he exhibited a few documents which were added to the file.

Furthermore he said that in 1922 he graduated in Philosophy at the University of London Nicola I, (encls 3 to 11).

On being questioned, Camerino, amongst other things pointed out that :

a) the sugar he intended to buy would have been bought in Brazil thru the Catholic Financial Soc. - Via della Vite n.13.

b) he acted for the American Export Co. of New York, whose representative in Italy was Avv. Annibale Fiore, Attorney General of the Company.

c) the purchasing price of the sugar was around 170/180 lire per kilo, equal to about 400 dollars; the sale price between 260/300 lire per kilo. Thus the amount to be paid to the seller, was 4 million dollars, payment guaranteed by the opening of a credit to be cleared on arrival of the goods in an Italian port - Genova - and on presentation of all the documents representing the goods.

d) to effect the opening of the a/m credit - equal to 1 milliard 600 million Italian lire, he intended to utilise, with the guarantee of the law towards clients, the cash credits which the buyers would open in the various banks in his favour, inasmuch as they, as by contract, were to be irrevocable, fractionable and transferable. These credits were payable only when Camerino or the firm to whom he had endorsed such accounts could produce the necessary documents for their remittance.

e) for his own peace of mind, he made arrangements with the local Banca Popolare di Novara in order to have the various credits which the buyers would have opened in his favour, converge there, and with which bank, he could have then provided to commence a credit in favour of the sales firm.

Camerino admitted that in some of the contracts stipulated with the buyers, he had added the clause that 5% of the whole amount, on signature of the contract, could be freely disposed of by the Bank for the odd expenses, such as the insurance prize on goods before embarkation etc.

He added, though, that for such, a client, whose name he did not remember, presented to him by a certain Dott. Sangiovanni of Milan, had offered himself, putting the necessary sum to affront the a/m expenses, at Camerino's disposal.

Camerino showed, re the affirmation in para e) a copy of one of his applications addressed to the Banca Popolare di Novara, concerning the opening of a credit, and a draft of a contract to be stipulated with the same bank (encls 12, 13 & 14).

-4-

But, on the inquiries of the office, Camerino's affirmations were all denied.

Infact :

1) - Fiori Annibale di Luigi, living in Torino, Via Viotti 1 American citizen, ex colonel of the American Army, Attorney General for Italy of the American Export Co. of New York, denied and disowned Camerino, affirming that he (Camerino) had abusively acted for his Company. Having heard about the matter, a few days ago in Torino, he had asked Camerino for some explanations by phone, expecting immediate explanations by post. As nothing had reached him, he went to Rome to see through Camerino's action, as he had never trusted him.

Arriving in Rome on the 21st June, he heard about Camerino's arrest, for activities effected under the name of the American Export Co. which, moreover is completely unaware of Camerino's mischief.

Fiori denied having had Camerino as a partner in the past, insisting that he had never given his consent on the above operations (in contrast to what is mentioned in para 2). (encl.15).

2) - Milani Guido Marco fu Giuseppe, living in Rome, Via S.Martino 31, 2nd floor, delegate administrator of the Catholic Financial Society in Via della Vite 13 - Rome, admitted having had from Camerino a request for the importation of sugar from abroad, with the affirmation of having obtained from Washington, a special permit according to which the importation in question was considered extra UNRRA contingent. Milani added that on the 6th June, the relative contract had been stipulated between the Society and Camerino, who promised that the credit, in dollars, would have been made by the Banca di Novara, within 15 days of the date of the contract, after which date the contract would be automatically void.

On such occasion, Milani had pointed out to Camerino that the contract bore an enormous figure in dollars - about 4 million - but he had assured that it was completely alright and that he was in a position to immediately effect the opening of the credit.

Camerino's affirmation on the circumstance that the importation in question would be considered extra contingent UNRRA, was contradicted by a communication in the newspaper 'Il Globo' - n.116 dated 13/5/46 - found amongst the papers of the a/m, this newspaper bears an article of the Ministry of Foreign Trade inviting the firms interested to desist from such pressure (encls 16,17 & 17').

3) Forni Carlo, director of the local Banca Popolare di Novara, being called on the matter, declared not having accepted Camerino's request because the prospected operation, technically not applicable, required an enormous estimate to assure the necessary dollars - 4 million - to affront the promise (encl. 18).

The persons with whom Camerino had dealt with to place the sugar which he intended to buy as mentioned above, are the following :

-5-

- 1) Ferri Piero di Secondo - Via Barrac 12 int.1, Rome (enc 19)
- 2) Bordon Mario fu Vincenzo - Via del Tritone 46, Rome (enc 20)
- 3) Facci Giovanni fu Pietro - Via Tomacelli 147, Rome (enc 21 to 25)
- 4) Mazza Gaetano fu Cesare - Piazza di Spagna 9, Rome (enc 26 to 33)

Mazza's declarations concerning contacts with the Ministry of Foreign Trade, were also confirmed by his employer Buzzanga Salvatore di Concetto, Via Berengario 14 int.16a - Rome, who had followed the matter (encl 34).

They all agreed that the operation proposed them by Camerino was amazing, owing to the ruling international restrictions, clearly pointing out that no sum of money, at any price, had been asked for or given to Camerino.

Having identified the persons who had had contacts with Camerino, they were interrogated on the nature of their contacts, and the following declarations were given :

A. Guarini Federico fu Luigi, Customs Officer, Via Magnagrecia 30 int.7 - had given Camerino some technical advice on the operations of importation and exportation, following some dealings made between Camerino and his friends.

On the interpretation to be given to circular n.30030 A.G. of 27/4/46, of the Ministry of Foreign Trade, he had prepared a draft of questions which Camerino would have had to address to the Head of the Customs Office of Rome, in order to find out the opinion of that office on such interpretation (encls 35, 36 & 37).

B. Paretti Vittorio di Ercole, Via Acaia 50, Sc A- int.26, Rome, stated that through Camerino's confidences and from what he had directly heard for having been present at conversations between Camerino and persons involved in foreign trade, it was not easy to obtain permits for the importation of sugar from the Italian Govt. (encl 38).

C. Huzan Adriano fu Alberto, Via Nazionale 13 int.8, cited by Camerino for he who had started him into such operations, affirmed that actually last March he had prospected to Camerino, a deal on the importation of 5000 tons of sugar from Algiers, but having received direct news from the Under-secretary of Foreign Trade, that it was not possible to import sugar extra contingent UNRRA supply, he had given up the idea, turning to other jobs.

In his meetings with Camerino during that period, the latter had affirmed having many Allied friends because he was an ex colonel in the British Army, ex Inter-regional Commissioner for Lucania and at the time of the conversation, he was supposed to be an observer at the Allied Commission (encl.39).

D. Vaccaroni Ores fu Giuseppe, Via Edolo 9, Milan, ~~bi~~ here at the Albergo Atlantico, met by Camerino about 4 months ago, had been a mediator in a number of business deals concerning Allied surplus, deals which were not ended.

-6-

Recently, having heard that Camerino was expediting some permits for the importation of a large amount of sugar, he had tried to find some buyers whom he had put in contact with Camerino.

Having heard that the Ministry of Foreign Trade had addressed a letter to Camerino informing him that the issue of the permit for the importation of the sugar was in course, he had intensified his work and, to give his clients a certain peace of mind, he had had the letter photographed, distributing the copies and had, at the same time gone to a notary to have a few authentic copies made.

He confirmed that Camerino had presented himself as an agent of the American Export Co. of New York.

Excluding the fact that Camerino might have received a sum in advance from the buyers, he stated that the industrialist Tenchini di Chiari, thru a representative, a Dr. Sangiovanni, had dealt with the concession, to Camerino, of a loan of 50 million to affront the expenses.

Tenchini intended to obtain by such an operation, the interests agreed on, plus an allowance of 5 lire per kilo on the quantity of sugar which he would have bought from Camerino (encls 40 & 41).

As to the arrangements of the loan granted to Camerino, thru Dr. Sangiovanni, by the industrialist Tenchini, Sangiovanni seemed to identify himself as Mario di Raffaele, living in Rome - Albergo San Giorgio, Via Regina di Bulgaria, who said that, as a representative of ^{buyers} sugar on temporary importation, he had business contacts with Camerino, who, to affront expenses in connection with the operation in course, to avoid the request of the buyers of about 5% of the value of the commissioned goods, had hastened him to obtain a loan of 50 million for him.

This loan was granted him thru Sangiovanni, by Rag. Franco Tenchini, industrialist, residing in Chiari, Viale Mazzini 11, with office address at Milan, Via Ozanam 12, under the condition of controlling the payments directly and thru Sangiovanni himself.

Thus, a first advance of 10 million had been granted by the opening of an account in the name of Tenchini who would have disposed of the sum according to Camerino's request.

Tenchini asked for no guarantee (encl. 42). Amongst the papers kept by Camerino, the following contracts were found :

- 1) Dr. Mario Sangiovanni - Milano - (encl. 43).
- 2) Dr. Casimiro Bellanca di Antonio - Via Piave 5, Milan (encl. 44).
- 3) Palumbo Domenico fu Pasquale, Via Passarella 2, Milan (encl. 45).
- 4) T.S. Drory - Import Export, Torino (encl. 46).
- 5) Ditta Interaffari - represented by the delegate administrator Sig. Martelli Gaetano, Via Uffici del Vicario 35 - Rome (encl. 47).

The Direction General Import & Export of the Ministry of Foreign Trade, the director being asked whether there was a file in course on the granting of a license for the importation of sugar in the name of Camerino, and on the interpretation to be given to the circular n. 30030 of 27/4/46, with letter ref. 30161 dated 21st inst. stated that between his office and Camerino, since almost a month and a half,

-7-

there had been contacts concerning such authorizations, but nothing had ever been concluded because operations such as those requested by Camerino, were not allowed.

Lately, due to the interference of the Allied Commission, not rightly justified, the Minister had personally desired to deal with Camerino's file. Nevertheless, no decision had been taken up till 21/6/46. | P

On the possibility or not of importing sugar temporarily, according to circular 30030 of 27/4/46 it was clear that said circular effectively established that the Customs offices are authorised to directly allow the importation of those goods foreseen and for which the temporary importation could be granted.

Apart from the fact that temporary importations of goods are ruled by specific legislative provisions, it is true that the Direction General of the Customs Offices received precise instructions from the Ministry of Foreign Trade that such a disposition is not applicable to goods subject to international control, therefore - sugar.

In this letter, the above disposition cannot be ignored by those who practise such importation and exportation commercial activities; nevertheless, it is to be borne in mind that the rules on exchanges with foreign countries, issued by the Ministry, are sent out on special circulars addressed to all the Chambers of Commerce, Prefetturas, Organisations and "associations, besides being propagated thru the press or wireless (encl. 48).

The search made in Camerino's house gave the following results:

- 1) A cheque of 20.000 lire N.189990 signed Lina Riccardi, issued without date on to the Banca Commerciale - Milan (encl. 49).
- 2) A cheque of 1.500.000 lire, signed Roberto Almagi - issued 12/11/45 on to the Banca Ugo Natali, Via della Vite 13 - Rome (encl. 50)
- 3) An extract of a current account of the Banca Natali - addressed to Prof. Gino Camerino, with a debt of 853535 lire (encl. 51).
- 4) A letter dated 15/6/46, signed by Mazzucchelli, in which he asks Prof. Camerino for the restitution of a sum of money, loaned to Camerino for which Camerino had given Mazzucchelli a blanc cheque (encl. 52).

Camerino, being asked for explanations on the a/m, declared that:

- 1) the cheque for 20.000 lire had been given to him to be cashed, by Vaccaroni Cres, to whom the relative amount had to be given.
- 2) The cheque of 1.500.000 lire had been issued by Camerino on a current account, of the Banca Ugo Natali, where he held a bank book. He had done this, to make a friend of his believe that he had succeeded in concluding a deal of such a sum, with the construction firm Almagi of Rome. Camerino affirmed not having used nor endorsed nor shown the above cheque to anyone, thus the matter remained only an intention.

-8-

3) As to the extract of the current account, Camerino stated having had a current account on the Banca Ugo Natali, closed last March 1945 with a passive of 83.535 lire, adding that, quite a while ago, he had handed in to said bank 50.000 lire as an advance to such debt.

4) As to Mazzucchelli's letter dated 15/6/46, Camerino stated having received from a Rag. Tello, proxy of the SATAI Firm, Via Piave 3 - Rome, and with which Camerino had business contacts, a cheque of 80.000 lire on a bank of Milan. Camerino was told to cash it as Tello was leaving for Tripoli where he still should be as director of the SATAI there. For such occasion, Camerino had loaned Tello a sum of money.

Then Camerino, being in debt with Mazzucchelli, Via Due Macelli 65 or 66, went to his office with the cheque received from Tello, but the cheque was refused for lack of funds.

Thus, Mazzucchelli who, on his side, had had others advance him money, claims, in his letter, his debt from Camerino, in order to face his obligations.

On such, Camerino added that, due to his business and friendly relationship with Comm. Poggi, one of the directors of the SATAI, who had presented Tello to him, on receiving the a/m cheque from him (Tello) had had no reason to doubt that it could not be exacted, and thus, in good faith, had not hesitated in passing it to Mazzucchelli to be exacted (encl. 53).

Referring to the above, it is pointed out that Camerino, a well known crook, has once again tried to put forward his intelligence in planning a colossal trick to the damage of industrialists greatly in need of sugar for their industries.

The organising appearance given to the operations which Camerino had shown to his clients, shows his non-common slyness and ability. But analysing his acts, words and movements, the low trick which he intended to effect, to the damage of those in need of such article, and who had trusted him, running a considerable risk, is discovered.

The only truth in all of Camerino's doings is the sugar kept at the disposal of the Catholic Financial Society, with the relative documents.

The mandate conferred on Camerino by the American Export Co., the authorisation of considering extra contingent UNRRA the goods to be imported, the license of importation, even though temporary, issued by the Ministry of Foreign Trade, the opening of a credit with the Banca Popolare di Novara, the qualifications as ex-colonel in the British army, ex inter-regional Commissioner for Lucania and observer

-9-

at the Allied Commission were circumstances which existed only in Camerino's imagination, and who, through a number of frauds had succeeded in having himself known as titular of all the a/m titles.

All this comes out in the depositions of :

a) Fiori who denies the mandate given to Camerino by the American Export Co. It is Fiori himself who states having accepted Camerino's collaboration in his commercial activities with Italy, taking utmost reservations. But, bearing Camerino's equivocal personality in mind, who from the very first contacts had not inspired much trust, Fiori had treated Camerino with a certain amount of diffidence.

b) Forni, director of the Banca Popolare di Novara, who denies having had any dealings with Camerino on the financing of the a/m commercial operation.

Forni affirms having spoken once with Camerino who prospected the operation, which he immediately put off, because technically impossible.

c) Camerino himself, who, whilst denying the three appointments held with the Allies, being cornered by his clients, was obliged to lie, turning to Ing. Saracino's letter - Ministry of Foreign Trade, to create something to induce his clients into error. And to emphasize his trick, he had not hesitated in having a notary for the authentication of the document.

And all this, to induce his victims into error, who, surprised at his persuading manner, his high intelligence, had trusted his tricks disposed to give him credit, being sure of possessing the sugar, very necessary to their industry.

The whole operation had been cared for in every particular, giving the exact impression that he was not fooling them in any way. But, in some contracts there was a clause that seemed insignificant to the majority : "with the stipulation of this contract, the buyer promises to hand in 5% of the sum of the contract on exhibition, by the seller, of the permit for the temporary importation and to deposit to the Catholic Financial Society an authentic photo-copy of the same permit, and a declaration of the seller who promises to notify the name of the purchasing firm to the competent authorities and to obtain, from the authorities, the license of temporary importation in the name of the purchasing firm for the quantity sold etc"

If the whole amount, which the individual buyers should have paid is to be considered - about 3 milliard Italian lire - it can soon be seen how much Camerino, with his minimum of 5%, thought of realising thru his crooked activity. As is seen, the accomplishments to obtain that 5%, after all that which Camerino was able to organise in order to have the good faith of the buyers, were easily realised. And in fact, the sum of 825.000 lire had been received by the Banca Popolare di Novara from the Firm Bertolino Giuseppe & Quaranta Giovanni of Torino, as an advance on the 5% as by stipulated contract of sugar for the sum of 16.500.000 lire.

-10-

As is seen, the accomplishments to obtain that 5%, after all that which Camerino was able to organise in order to have the good faith of the buyers, were easily realised. And in fact, the sum of 825.000 lire had been received by the Banca Popolare di Novara from the firm Bertolino Giuseppe and Quaranta Giovanni of Torino, as an advance on the 5% as by stipulated contract of sugar for the sum of 16.500.000 l

On the above, Camerino is arrested for being responsible as in subject. Whilst the charges 1) & 2) are shown by the facts in the present report 3) - violation of art.157 P.S. Law. In fact, Camerino on the 3rd Feb. 1941 was suspected as above, apart from his penal precedents and private doubtful activities. The a/m, ex antiquary has quite a background for the emission of blanc cheques - bankruptcy and cheating.

Referring to the cheques and letter found with Camerino, encl. 49 to 52, your office will see which crime is to be attributed to him. Camerino's affirmations have not been controlled because his declaration were not clear. Nevertheless though, his private doubtful manner of life can be seen.

Attached herewith are the documents obtained, all the papers confiscated from Camerino and not having any connection with the above enquiries and copy of the minutes of arrest.

The a/m is now in the local jail of Regina Coeli at the disposition of your office.

4110

The Questore
/s/ Ciro Verdiani

Translation ac/

BEST COPY POSSIBLE
FILMED AS FOUND
IN COLLECTION

HQ ALGER

11 MAY 1945

(1) ADVISE FOR GCS FOR ELAS

(2) WARET(LONDON)FOR ELAS SECRETARIAT (3) AMHQ PRDGG

3006

DECLASSIFIED

THIS IS MSG 560

SUBJECT IS SUGAR PD

PARA ONE PD REFERENCE NINE ONE ONE CHARLIE FIVE FIVE NINE PD IT IS NOT
 LEARNED THAT SUGAR LYING BRAIL NOT RECEIVED PD

PARA TWO PD ITALIAN GOVERNMENT STATED NO REPLY YET RECEIVED TO ABOVE
 QUOTED NINE ONE ONE CHARLIE FIVE FIVE NINE PD FOR ANY ALLOCATION THIS MADE BY
 CHARLIE FOXE HAKER ON REQUEST MADE IN OVERALL ITALIAN REQUIREMENTS
 NINE ONE ONE LOVE FOR SECOND AND THIRD QUARTERS ONE NINE FOUR SIX AS
 SET FORTH IN NINE ONE ONE CHARLIE AIRGRAM ONE FOUR NINE PD

PARA THREE PD ITALIAN GOVERNMENT HAS SOLICITED INTERVENTION 4405 ON
 THIS MATTER OF SUGAR ALLOCATION AS IT IS A MATTER OF EXTREME URGENCY FOR
 ITALIAN ECONOMY ONE AS DEFINED NINE ONE ONE CHARLIE AIRGRAM ONE FOUR NINE
 ONE THAT SUGAR ARRIVALS SHOULD TAKE PLACE BEFORE END SECOND QUARTER ONE
 NINE FOUR SIX THAT IS TO SAY BEFORE END JUNE ONE AND UNLESS SUGAR IS
 NOT MOVING NOW ONE THERE IS A REAL DANGER THAT MUCH FRUIT ONE DESTINED
 FOR CONSERVATION UNDER ABOVE PLAN ONE WILL GO TO WASTE PD

PARA FOUR PD THEREFORE ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL THAT IMMEDIATE APPROVAL BE
 GIVEN FOR IMPORT OF A QUANTITY OF SUGAR TO PERMIT SOME BEING AVAILABLE
 FOR SECOND QUARTER INDUSTRIAL REQUIREMENTS PD

./.

- 2 -

PARA FIVE PD THE AMOUNT SUGGESTED AS IMMEDIATE MINIMUM ALLOCATION IS
TEN THOUSAND TONS PD IN THE MEANTIME ONE BEARING IN MIND THE FACT THAT
IT IS NOW SIX WEEKS SINCE MINE ONE CHARLIE ONE FOUR FIVE WAS
DISPATCHED PD THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN ADVISED TO PROCEED
TO ISSUE IMPORT LICENSE FOR FIVE ZERO ZERO ZERO TONS REQUESTED FOR
IMMEDIATE ASSIGNMENT ON THE ONE EIGHT APRIL ONE NINE FOUR SIX PD
SUCH QUANTITY TO BE REGARDED AS PART OF THE TWO FIVE ZERO ZERO ZERO
TONS REQUESTED IN MINE ONE CHARLIE AIRGRAM ONE FOUR NINE PD

4105

ROUTINE

COMMERCE FOREIGN TRADE BRANCH

476192

Capt. ROTHBY

GEXSON E. HUMPHREYS
CWO, USA
Asst. Adjutant

0 2 4 6

~