

1892

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

785016

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EXPLOSION, BRITISH EMBASSY
OCT. 1946 - JAN. 1947

Ex Comm.

3

21st and 22nd re submitted for
your information.

17-1-47.

2nd
17/1

6.

E. J. H. Dyer Col. 18.1.1811

Directr. P.S. Div.

NS Fed. If some military authorities
are working with Embassy on the matter
have copies of these reports.

In future we should not undertake translation
and production in English of reports in a case
like this unless we are primarily concerned and
have to pass the information on to some
authority.

19/1/47.

Mr Carr Bagdikian
E.C.

E.P.

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19/1/47.

Mr. R. B. B. B.
E.C.

6/1/47

5380

Ex Comm.

I

attached draft for
consideration per. Bureau
concerns
3110.

Ref Doc Col.

2

Ex Comm.

You may wish to see 14 B which is a
statement made to a press conference in Rome
26. 11. 46. by the Prof. Toham / Smertenk. This was
published, or extracts of it, in the Rome papers
including the Rome American.

2/12/46.

H. L. Luen
WAC
for D. D. Dir.

11/11/46
11/11/46

3.

Director, Public Safety Division. (Attn: Capt Ellis).

This is the file on Smertenk. CC wishes to know if we have
any evidence that this person operates in AC Displaced Persons Camps.

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26. 11. 46. by a Prof. Tohan (Smertenko). This was
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including the Rome American.

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H. L. L. L.
W. G. L.
for P. D. L. L.
11/11/46
11/16/46

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McLarty 535
M. CARR,
Brigadier,
Exec. Comm.

6 Dec 46

Exec Comm

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SMERTENKO was in Italy for only a short period
AC Displaced Persons Divn have no evidence that he
operates in AC camps

11/12

11/11/46
NOTED 11/12/46
MC

11/11/46
Capt Ellis Capt
Security Sub Div 11/16/46

QUESTURA DI ROMA

N. 067562 - U.P. - A.4.a.

Rome, 22/12/1946

SUBJECT : Enquiries on the dynamite attempt
on the British Embassy at the Italian
Government, situated in Via XX Settembre.

TO : Procuratore della Repubblica (Avv. Aronatisi).
and for info
Ministry of the Interior,
P.S. Direction General, S.I.S. Division.
Ministry of the Interior,
P.S. Direction General, A.C. Reserved Division.
Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Cabinet).
C.I.C. Command - Via Sicilia n.59.
C.S. Centre Commandant in Rome.
CC.MA. Internal Company - Rome.

At 02.43 hrs of the night turning 31st October
1946, as was communicated in that day's report, an object
exploded in front of the British Embassy in Via XX Settembre,
causing notable damage to the building, as can be seen in
the enclosed photographs taken on the same day 31st, by
the Superior Police School (see encl. n. 1) and by the
enclosed minutes on the damages ascertained by the Rome
office of the Corpo del Genio Civile (see encl. n.2).

Upon a first enquiry made on the spot by the
Roviano Minister Pietro Nenni, by the Head of the Police,

538

At 02.43 hrs of the night turning 31st October 1946, as was communicated in that day's report, an object exploded in front of the British Embassy in Via XX Settembre, causing notable damage to the building, as can be seen in the enclosed photographs taken on the same day 31st, by the Superior Police School (see encl. n. 1) and by the enclosed minutes on the damages ascertained by the Rome office of the Corpo del Genio Civile (see encl. n.2). 538.

Upon a first enquiry made on the spot by the Foreign Minister Pietro Menni, by the Head of the Police, Avv. Luigi Ferrari, by the Questore of Rome, Dr. Saverio Polito, by officers of the Political Police at the Questura of Rome and by the Commissariato Sediale, it appeared that two suitcases containing explosives had been placed on the outside step of the entrance to the Embassy in Via XX Settembre with a poster bearing the inscription "Miny", held up by a wooden pole supported also by a wooden support, and a red cloth, such as those usually used to signify the transportation of explosives on vehicles. Another poster, bearing "Atenzione Miny", leaning against a table held up

by a support, both of wood, had been placed beyond Porta Pia towards the square, while a third identical poster was found up side down, under an ordinary flour sack, in the passage of the building of n.14 Via

Bezzecca.

The first sign of danger before the explosion had been given by Passani Amilcare di Amilcare and di Moscardini Liberata, born in Cerrara, 3/4/1907 residing in Via Flavia n.39, Rome, barman of the Dancing Hall "Il Ragno d'Oro", situated in Viale XXI Aprile n.42, who, having noticed two suitcases, one on top of the other against the left shutter of the door to the Embassy, with a wooden stick propped on a square base, also of wood near it, and, further forward, a turned poster bearing "Miny" (see encl. n.3), had warned the personnel of the Embassy of the fact, who then informed the CC.FF. on duty at the Gate of Via Palestra, Firenze Domenico (see encl. n.11).

While the police and Artillery Direction were being phoned, the explosion took place and fully caught a certain Palitta Nicolino, driver, temporarily lodging here in Via Cernaia n.18, who was walking along Via XX Settembre at that moment.

Palitta, taken out from the debris by a Fireman, who had hastened with other comrades to the site of the disaster, and transported to the hospital 538.

Observation for various

poster bearing "luny" (see encl. n.3), had warned the personnel of the Embassy of the fact, who then informed the CC.RR. on duty at the gate of Via Palestra, Firenze-Domenica (see encl. n.11).

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Palitta, taken out from the debris by a Fireman, who had hastened with other comrades to the site of the disaster, and transported to the hospital Policlinico, was placed under observation for various wounds over his body and for shock.

Submitted to interrogation, his statements do not seem to be of any interest for the enquiries (see encl. n.6), but he, not being able to reasonably explain how he spent almost two and a half hours to go from the "Planetario Cinema" to his house, which is less than 200 metres far, even considering his assertion of not knowing the town, was held back while enquiries were being made, at the end of which he was released.

The explosion damaged all the buildings adjacent to the Embassy, breaking glasses, tearing out windows and making brick railings collapse.

The door-keeper of n.68 Via XX Settembre, Piantoni Benigno Dante, was slightly wounded on the arm.

On the same morning 31st October 46, this Political office, following my directives, commended enquiries to bring to justice the authors of the attempt, enquiries which it was decided should be made in agreement with the CC.RR. Internal Company Command, the Command of the Counter Espionage Centre of Rome, the C.I.C. Command of Via Sicilia n.69 and any other organizations and Allied officers who may have wished to participate.

The objective elements of the incident, as was communicated to you in our letter of even number dated 15/11/46 were:

- a. the two wooden supports with the two posters on which "Atenzione Miny" was written in red, found in the square of Porta Pia and in the passage of the building n.14 Via Dezzecca (the support with poster seen by Passani - were destroyed by the explosion).
- b. a sack of hemp of the Agostinelli Mill, found, together with the other poster and the other relative support, in the passage of the building

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- b. a sack of hemp of the Agostinelli Mill, found, together with the other poster and the other relative support, in the passage of the building n.14 Via Bezzecca.
- c. an electric detonator with five ordinary detonators, found on the same morning of the attempt by the Commander of the U.S. Centre of Rome, CC.PP. Major Dr. Eugenio Piccardo, in an ordinary purse on a window-sill of the building n.45 Via Castelfidardo, which it is sure are connected with the attempt.

The enquiries effected on these objective elements did not give any positive result (see encl. n.8 & 9). Nevertheless it was evident that the posters

of warning and their relative supports were constructed respectively with remains of cardboard and cases used by UNRRA for the sending of goods.

Nothing was found among the debris. From the attached minutes on damages, of the Genio Civile office of Rome, it was noticed, amongst other things, (see encl. n.2) that as regards the quantity of explosive used, (considering the amplitude of the vibrations, their gravity, the nature of the building and heavy structure, the fact that the cases containing the explosives had been placed outside the building so that there was no obstruction), that it had not been less than 50 kilos.

From the examination of the detonators, found in Via Castelfidardo, made by Major Piccardo, of the Rome Artillery Direction, 3rd Section, it appears that a common type of aluminium primer n.6 was used in the capsules.

The electric detonator, however, does not seem to be of the type normally used by the Italian Army. It is composed of a copper tube of the dimensions of a common capsule n.6, at one end of which there is a small rubber stopper, through which run two isolated copper wires, size about 0.5 mm. The other end of the tube is open and of such a size as to hold internally the end of an ordinary wick of slow combustion. Almost in the centre of the tube there is a slight

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The use of said detonator -the report concludes - (see encl. n.10) should be that of lighting a wick of low combustion, connected with a denoting capsule without

using matches or any other sort of flame lighters, therefore very handy for acts of sabotage, without calling any attention, especially if during the night.

The circumstance that the electric detonator did not seem to be of the Italian Army, the fact that the posters and supports were obviously constructed with material from UMRRA, the writing of the indications on the posters (Atenzione and non Attenzione Miny, Polish translation of the word Mine), the nature of the attempt which show that the aim of the executors and senders, was that of a lively protest, rather than making human victims, and also considered in relation to similar incident which recently occurred in Palestine and, finally, the state of mind of the Jews against England, induced this office to consider that the attempt was to be attributed to some foreigner's hands and precisely, Jews.

In fact, the press of the afternoon of the 4th November and that of the following morning 5th, spread the news that the Jewish Clandestine Military organisation "Irgun Zvai Leumi", by means of letters sent to political personalities, organisations and agencies, and particularly the press, had blamed its associates for the attempt perpetrated.

None of these letters reached this Quentura, but a copy was supplied by the journalistic agency but a copy was received by the C.I.C. Command

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The envelope appeared to contain a "message" in Italian, of the Supreme Command of the Irgun Zvai Leumi in Eretz Israel (see encl. n.12), in which it declares itself explicit author of the attempt; in this same message, written in the Jewish language (see encl. n.13) and in a letter addressed to De Gasperi (see encl. n.14) President of the Council, the Irgun once more takes responsibility for the attempt. This

acceptance of responsibility is apparently made on the same principle of saving lives and also points to this organisation being responsible.

The three documents are type-written and headed with the sign of the Irgun (Palestine - perpendicularly crossed by the river Jordan and diagonally by a musket held in one hand, with two Hebrew letters on the right and two on the left); all three bear the date of the 2nd November, while on the envelope they appear to have been sent on the 4th of the Agenzia Recapito Espressi per Città (Express town post).

It was not difficult to identify the employee of the main Agency in Piazza S. Claudio n.164, who contacted the sender of the letters: Ottaviani Iolanda, residing in Via Guglielmo Masscia n.59.

Ottaviani declared, first in the office of the C.I.C. Via Sicilia 59, and then in this office (see encl. n.15) that at about 11.30 hrs of the 4/11/45, a rather short individual dressed rather shabbily and with no hat on, and having a foreign accent, went to the Agency and handed him 17 registered letters to be sent urgently. Ottaviani remembers that the letters were addressed to various newspapers and press agencies (one of which was the French Press) and she believes that she can affirm that the sender was a Slav, and positively not Italian, English, German nor French.

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Ottaviani recognised definitely the yellow envelope, which was shown to her addressed to ANSA, Via Propaganda n.47, Rome, which later came into the

possession of this office, the stamp of the Agency with relative stamp and attached, the receipt bearing the indication 'b' (in red) 224667.

The press of the 9th November (see L'Indipendente of the 9th Nov. n.262) brought, word for word, 'The Irgun Zvai Leumi has disseminated to all the foreign correspondents in Jerusalem a very long message praising the criminal gesture against the British Embassy in Rome and threatening the spread of its anti-British campaign'.

On the 10th November posters of the Irgun Zvai Leumi, reproducing fully the message of the Jewish organisation, addressed to De Gasperi (in which the responsibility of the attempt is vindicated), were found posted along Via del Tritone and Corso Umberto I. One of these posters was completely taken down and recovered. (see encl. n.16).

On the 12/11/46, further similar posters, written in Italian and Hebrew, were found stuck on the walls of Iedispoli, where there is the Jews Refugee Camp.

The emphatic message of the Irgun and its translation into Hebrew, and the appeal of the President of the Council, confirmed in Jerusalem (even though it is necessary to receive it with all due reservations), nevertheless convinced those in charge of the enquiries that the attempt must have been perpetrated by foreign

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During the course of the enquiries which this office was effecting, it was heard that in one of the houses of Via Orti di Alibert, an unusual coming and going of foreign Jews had been taking place, for a few weeks. This circumstance, together with the fact that at n.29 of the same road there was the shop of iron-fittings of the Jew, Sonnino Leone, living in Via Catalana n.3 int.6, induced this office to have the agents Migliorini Michele, Spinosa Alfredo and Masci Vittorio, keep a close watch over the a/m place. After

a few days, they ascertained, in fact, that the suspected coming and going, was to the house of a certain Narducci Franco, mechanic, living in Via Orti di Aliberti n.27. The suspicions gained more ground when the agents found out that quite a large black box which could easily have been a duplicator, had been brought to Narducci's house.

Considering that a surprise in Narducci's house might have compromised the development of the enquiries, it was determined to have him come, under any pretext, to this Political office; this took place on the morning of the 10/11/46. Narducci, submitted to close interrogation (see encl. n.17), ended up by admitting that about a week before (i.e. just a day or two after the attempt) he had been asked by his neighbour and friend Sonnino Leone to let a room of his house to a person who was with him. It concerned a man of about 30 or 35 years old, 1.75 or 75 metres tall, sturdy build, wearing a dark brown overcoat, brown hat, on the whole well dressed, who spoke Italian with a northern accent.

Narducci had offered his house, composed of one room and kitchen as an address in order to do some work and this person had accepted, agreeing that he would have returned the following day at 8.30 hrs. But the next day, instead of the a/m, somebody else

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just a day or two after the attempt) he had been asked by his neighbour and friend Sonnino Leone to let a room of his house to a person who was with him. It concerned a man of about 30 or 35 years old, 1.75 or 76 metres tall, sturdy build, wearing a dark brown overcoat, brown hat, on the whole well dressed, who spoke Italian with a northern accent.

Narducci had offered his house, composed of one room and kitchen as an address in order to do some work and this person had accepted, agreeing that he would have returned the following day at 2.30 hrs.

But the next day, instead of the a/m, somebody else appeared, whom Narducci had never seen before, bringing a duplicator with him, and fixing it in the kitchen.

The unknown depositor of the duplicator was with a third party, who did not speak any Italian and with whom he worked on the machine until 12.00 hrs, then leaving, as he asserted, for lunch, while the other remained to count the stencils.

On giving the particulars of these two individuals, Narducci added that they had made him understand that they were Roumanians and that Sonnino had later stated that they were two Jews, but that he did not know them.

The following days, the two so called Roumanian Jews had returned to work on the duplicator and on one of these days, he who worked on the machine, having heard that Marducci's brother Ennio was a shoemaker, asked him to repair for 10.00 hrs of the following day, a pair of men's shoes which, even though appearing new, had the heels completely off and the soles half off. Owing to the short time at disposal, it was not possible to repair the shoes and the Jews had withdrawn them as they were.

Marducci affirmed that the two Jews had left at 10.00 hrs, Friday 8th November, and did not return that day, though they had promised that they would have put in appearance, all the more so as they had left the duplicator with him, two or three reams of white paper, a bottle of ink, a bundle of registers and a letter written in a foreign language.

It was arranged that agents should wait in Marducci's house, in order to surprise and capture the s/m Jews, should they return; the agents appointed for such service found in Marducci's house:

a) a duplicator 'Gestetner' n. 80851,

b) a hand-written appeal in French, addressed to the Hebrew Youth, stencilled copy of which is forwarded, found in the office of Via Sicilia and which will be spoken of later (see encl. n.18), containing complaints against the English policy in Palestine

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- b) a hand-written appeal in French, addressed to the Hebrew Youth, stencilled copy of which is forwarded, found in the office of Via Sicilia and which will be spoken of later (see encl. n.18), containing complaints against the English policy in Palestine and inviting youths to enrol in the National Military Organisation i.e. the Irgun Zvai Leumi.
- c) A wooden stamp bearing the sign of the Irgun Zvai Leumi **5374**
- d) three stencilled copies of the letter written in Italian sent to De Gasperi (see encl. n. 19,20,21), surmounted, on the left by the Irgun sign and on the right the words "Irgun Zvai Leumi Beerez Israel", evidently not come out well in the stencil.
- e) two stencilled copies, also badly reproduced of 44 lines written in Hebrew (see encl. n.22) (one of them is kept back for eventual compraisans).

- f) a box containing a tube of duplicating ink "Otin Pelikan".
- g) another box containing a tube of duplicating ink "Kores".
- h) two reams, still intact, of stencils and many sheets of paper of the same type.
- i) 23 "Seda" registers for duplicators, 10 registers for duplicators edged in green, with indications written in English and a "Kores" register all new, except for the latter, which has some traces of letters written in Hebrew.
- j) four registers "Made in England" - in which there are some designs of a pistol "Parabellum" type with its parts.

On the same day 10/11/46, American officers of the C.I.C. and officers of this Questura began to suspect the Palestinian citizen Krivosheim Moisè di Alessandro born in Iusovke, 24/2/1906 - journalist, passport n.209823, issued to him on the 9/4/1946; residing in Tel Aviv. Krivosheim, who had lodged at the Nizza Hotel in Via Massimo d'Azeglio from the 25th to the 29th October last, leaving for Bari, had returned to said hotel on the 1st November. He was therefore invited to put in appearance at this Political Office on the night of the 11/11/46, as Major Leo Pagnotta, of the C.I.C. Command, had communicated that he was planning to leave the following day by plane for Athens.

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the C.I.C. Command, had communicated that he was planning
to leave the following day by plane for Athens.

Krivoscheim, upon whom no specific charge
could be put, declared himself ready to furnish any
information concerning himself, not excluding where and
with whom he was at the moment of the attempt, but he
did not wish to give any particulars on the Irgun Zvai
Leumi, limiting himself to saying that he was not in
it, but that had he belonged to the organisation he
would have equally denied it.

With a view to further investigations on
Krivoscheim, together with the Allied Police it was

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decided not to let him leave on the plane leaving the following morning 12/11/46 for Athens.

On the 12/11/46 the Allied Police informed this office that amongst the passengers who had arrived in Genova on the 24/10/46, on the ship "Cairo", besides Krivoschein, there were also the Palestinian citizens Menahem David and Weber Harry, all connected with the Irgun Zvai Leumi.

Menahem was probably identified, according to his sojourn ticket as Menahem David, born in Jerusalem 23/5/1912, residing in Tel Aviv, passport n. 179102, issued in Jerusalem the 23/8/1944, and the other, also according to his sojourn ticket as Weber Harry, born in Vienna the 13/8/1921, tailor, bearing English passport n. 220152 issued in Jerusalem 12/9/1946.

Not having any trace of Menahem and Weber, except that the latter had lodged from the 26th to 28th October last, in the Norddeut Boarding house Via Firenze 38, and had gone to Milan, it was decided to closely interrogate Krivoschein who was invited to come to this Political office by 09.00 hrs. of the following day 13/11/1946.

But Krivoschein seemed to have equally left the Hotel Nizza and the letter of invitation addressed to him was withdrawn by his friend Epstein Israel, born in Vilna (Poland) 25/7/1914, elementary school

except that the latter had lodged from the 26th to 28th October last, in the Mardizzi Boarding house Via Firenze 38, and had gone to Milan, it was decided to closely interrogate Krivoschein who was invited to come to this Political office by 09.00 hrs. of the following day 13/11/1946.

But Krivoschein seemed to have equally left the Hotel Wizza and the letter of invitation addressed to him was withdrawn by his friend Epsztein Israel, born in Vilna (Poland) 25/7/1914, Elementary school teacher, residing in Tel-Aviv, Palestinian citizen, passport n. 219837 issued to him in Jerusalem on the 9/9/46.

On the morning of the 13/11/46, in agreement with Major Stanhope-Wright, elements of this political office and the Allied Police went to the Hotel Wizza to arrest Epsztein, and another person, who at that moment was asking for him, later identified as the Jew Deitell Tiburzio, born in Fiume the 2/1/1912, lodged here at the boarding house of Perrulla Assunta, Via Padova n.16, int.3. He though, upon arrest stated to

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agents that he was called Zeroni, and tried to get rid of a note-book which, instead, was immediately recovered (such note-book has been withdrawn by Major Stanhope-Wright for translation).

No papers of any value were found on Epstein; in his room at the hotel Nizza, about 200 copies of Italian and foreign newspapers were found, almost all of them bearing news of the attempt on the Embsay, 14 Hebrew books, Palestinian money and a little Italian money.

Deitell was found in possession of (besides the a/m note-book) a false post-office identity card n. 737510, issued in Rome (Prati) 1/8/46, bearing the particulars of Venturi Carlo di Giovanni, accountant, Italian, born in Pisino (Pola) 12/12/1911, residing in Rome, Piazza Firenze n. 2, of a receipt for the hiring of a post-office box n. 306 for the month of November 1946; of nos 1 & 2 respectively for July and August of the stencilled bulletin "Irgunpress" with the well known sign of the Irgun, both written in French (Bulletin d'Information consacré à la lutte du Peuple Juif pour la liberté. Éditeur: Irgoun Tzevai Leumi (Organisation Militaire nationale, Bureau du presse European) edited in Paris; of the well known appeal of the Irgun Zvai Leumi addressed to De Gasperi and of the so-called message of the Irgun, concerning the attempt on the Embassy, besides various papers and addresses.

On the same day of Epstein and Deitell's arrest

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On the same day of Epstein and Deitell's arrest (13 Nov), a search was made in the latter's room in Via Padova n. 18, which brought to light an appeal, written in Italian, of the Chief commander of the Irgun Zvai Leumi in Bretz Israel to the Jews of Solah, besides various sheets typed in Italian and Hebrew and a black leather bag locked, containing numerous documents, almost all written in ancient Hebrew, besides the sojourn ticket n.217 issued by the Questura of Bologna on the 4/9/1945 to the Polish Jew, Gelbert Wolf, born in Kalisz 17/12/1916,

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bachelor, driver, coming from Germany, residing in Bologne, still sought for and not yet traced; it is not improbable though, that said black bag was not even Gelbart's, though his sojourn ticket was found in it. Nevertheless it is certain that Gelbart is to be considered a suspicious individual.

Meanwhile, on the 11/11/45 a search was made in the office of the New Sionist Organisation in Via Momontana n.44, actually directed by the South African Jew Dr. Lifshitz Israel, born in Latvia 17/10/1915, passport n.57574, issued to him at Pretoria (South Africa) the 15/6/1946, living at the Hotel Sorrento in Via Nazionale n.251, member of the Befar and the revisionist party, successor of the Head of the Befar, the Polish camped in the Jews Refugee Camp of Grottaferata, he also a member of the Befar and revisionist party, named of his right hand, seemingly due to partisan activity.

The intervention was determined by the fact that, as justly communicated by the Questura of Milan, the N.O.S. (New Sionist organisation), Via Momontana n.44, int. 1, had sent, under-cover by post to Milan, Via Meravigli 7, an envelope containing a few copies of a long circular written in Hebrew to Sig. Gotlib (for Witlin) and that these two had been arrested (Gotlib Mendel di Samuel and di Witlin Iacob di Mendel) the 27/10/46, by the Milanese Police and by the F.S.S.

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The intervention was determined by the fact that, as justly communicated by the Questura of Milan, the M.O.S. (New Sionist organisation), Via Nomentana n.44, int. 1, had sent, under-cover by post to Milan, Via Meravigli 7, an envelope containing a few copies of a long circular written in Hebrew to Sig. Gottlieb (for Witlin) and that these two had been arrested (Gottlieb Mendel di Samuel and di Witlin Iacob di Mendel) the 27/10/46, by the Milanese Police and by the P.S.S. because suspected of clandestine traffic of arms with Palestine.

The operation had brought to the confiscation **5371** of a large number of publications, pamphlets, posters and papers written in the Hebrew language, and to the arrest of the following two persons who were found there, besides a third party who, upon their entering, having noticed the agents, tried to escape:-

- 1) Ernò Lowy - Lakatos, born in Kotaj (Hungary) the 22/11/1920, university student, Hungarian Jew, camped

at the Jews Refugee Camp of Iadispoli.

2) Becker Abram, born in Stepan (Poland) the 25/12/1921, Polish Jew camped at the Jews Refugee Camp of Grottaferata.

3) Ostascinski Daniel, born in Nowe Grodek (Poland) the 14/1/1921, stateless Jew, camped at the Jews Refugee Camp of Grottaferata.

The office, consisting of two empty sublet rooms, had been closed.

(The a/m three persons were then released on the 29/11/46, nothing having been found against them; the key of the office, which had no suspicious documents, was handed to Dr. Lifanitz together with all the papers, on the 5th inst.).

The Hebrew documents, found with Epstein, Deitel and the new sionist organization, were forwarded, on the 15/11/46 to you, so as to appoint an oriental expert for their translation into the Italian language.

On the 19/11/46, and i.e. 9 days after the lying in wait in Narducci's house, the agents of this office proceeded to arrest a Jew who had gone there to bring a type-writer, bearing ancient Hebrew letters of the following signs - Hermes Baby, made by E. Paillard & COY INCYVERDON - Switzerland Established 1814 Patent Applied for 193516 Swiss.

The Jew, from his sojourn ticket n. 1013, issued to him at the Lido of Rome 10/10/46, was

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The Jew, from his sojourn ticket n. 1013, issued to him at the Lido of Rome 10/10/46, was identified as Gurwitz Dow, born in Leipzig, the 7/2/1924 coming from Germany, camped at the Jews Refugee Camp of Ostia.

On the morning of the 20/11/46, agents of 537^v this office arrested, in his home, Sonnino Leone who had introduced the young man from northern Italy to Narducci.

Sonnino, submitted to interrogation, first of all stated (see encl. n.23) that he had met, in the Synagogue, after the arrival of the Allies, a

Palestinian soldier, whose photograph he produced, who told him his name was Giacomo. Later, the soldier had introduced him to some of his co-religionists, probably Poles, then living in a furnished room in Via Cola di Rienzo n.285, and actually with the already mentioned partisan Lazar Chain, his wife and another person. The soldier, on the same evening of the introduction to Lazar and his wife, and to the other person, having to return to Palestine, agreed with Sonnino that, should any post arrive addressed to him, he, Sonnino, should phone Lazar's house, who would then see to its collection.

Three letters and two telegrams actually arrived, with the address N.o L (and Sonnino thinks that there was also a T) Rayner c/o Sonnino, Via Catalana n.3 - Rome. Upon the arrival of the first letter, Sonnino phoned the Cola di Rienzo address, warning the landlady to tell Lazar that a letter had arrived from Palestine. Lazar sent another Jew, known by Sonnino as Vester, to collect the letter.

Sonnino has not been able to say who the second letter was collected by, having left it with his maid, but he remembers that the successive correspondence was withdrawn at his shop in Via Ortá di Alibert n.29, by a certain Sceroni. This Sceroni had told Sonnino that Lazar had moved to c/o Marcelli,

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Sonnino pointed out that, whilst Vester did not open the letter from Palestine, Sceroni opened the successive correspondence collected by him, read it, and put it in his pocket. 5389

About a month before the attempt on the Embassy (the last letter had arrived almost two months before the attempt), Sceroni went to Sonnino's shop, to ask him whether he would like to give hospitality, in his office, for an hour or so a day, to two young men,

who had to do some typing on sionist propaganda. Sonnino refused.

The first Sunday after the attempt, prior to a phone call, Sceroni returned to Sonnino's shop, begging him to keep a duplicator for him; this was brought by taxi by Sceroni on the same morning. Sonnino pointed out to Sceroni that he could keep the duplicator for 3 or 4 days, finding the excuse that his guardian would have no longer done any night duty and Sceroni assured him that within that time he would have seen to the withdrawal of the machine. The following morning, he insisted that Sonnino give hospitality to the two young men, but Sonnino refused and Sceroni asked him to find him a place to put the duplicator and the two men.

Sonnino introduced Sceroni to the already mentioned Marducci Franco, who accepted. The following day, an individual whom Sonnino had never seen before went to his shop to take away the duplicator and took it to Marducci's house.

Sonnino stated that, the Monday following the Sunday when the duplicator was brought to his shop, having heard of the attempt on the Embassy, he told Sceroni straightforwardly that he did not want any bother and that he intended to lose all interest in the delivery of the letters from Palestine. Sceroni reassured him, telling him that for quite a while, no more

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Considering that Deitel Tibursio, upon his arrest, had said that he was called Weroni, the officers of this office began to suspect that Sceroni, Zeroni and Deitel were the same person and infact, he being put up against Sonnino, the latter identified him (see encl. 23) as the person who withdrew the letters coming from Palestine and who later Sonnino had put in contact with the a/m Maráucci. Sonnino also recognised the Roumanian Jew, Gurwitz Dow (see encl.23), as he who had taken away

the duplicator from his shop and who was then arrested on the 19/11/46 in Narducci's house. Sonnino also recognised (see encl.23) Wachter Izak, born 16/4/1920 in Holonyja (Poland), Polish Jew, living in Via del Boschetto n.97, c/o Lombardi, as the person whom he knew as Wester and who had withdrawn, from his house, the first letter coming from Palestine.

Thus it has been shown how the arrest of Deitel, Epstein, Sonnino and Gurwitz came about.

On the same day of Sonnino's arrest 20/11/46, this office proceeded to arrest Wachter Izak, who declared that in March of this year, helped by the co-religionist Dr. Wolowinsky David, (once Head of the Sionist Organisation in Poland and at present according to him, abroad and probably in America, at one time living in Via Sallustiana n.4), he had obtained the direction of the Jewish Sionist newspaper "La Misachon" (Victory), a newspaper which had been printed for two or three months in Dr. Giovanni Bardi's typography in Via della Lungara n.10. Later, Wachter was employed with the organisation of the Polish Jews in Italy, Via Siena n.5, which is supposed to assist Polish Jews.

Wachter admitted having been given the charge to withdraw, from the house of the Italian Jew - Sonnino Leone, Via Catalana n.3, by a co-religionist, met in the restaurant "Raimondo" letters coming from Palestine and he had collected only one (see encl.24), which he had

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of the arrival of any further correspondence.

The fact is though, according to Sonnino, that he, upon the arrival of the correspondence, phoned the partisan Lazar, who then sent, first Wachter and then Sceroni (Deitel) to collect it. Now Lazar, arrested on the 29/11/46, states that it was the Palestinian soldier Giacomo who introduced Sonnino, the Italian Jew, to him, (see encl.26), but he denies having given to either Wachter or Sceroni, whom (contrary to the truth) he says definitely he does not know, the duty of collecting correspondence from Sonnino's house. Sonnino's version being considered true, it is clear that Lazar, Wachter and Deitel (who declares that he took away the letters and handed them to the addressee Raymer, in determined places) are not telling the truth. Or else, the truth is that the letters, coming from Palestine, though addressed to Raymer, were instead Deitel's, who opened and read them, as Sonnino states.

Nevertheless, it not being possible to prove that the letters from Palestine contained compromising instructions, too much importance cannot be given to these evident contradictions.

Deitel was questioned once on the 21/11/46 (see encl.n.27). He moreover was already known by this office as having set up, on the 14th April 46, in Via Sicilia n. 125 int.8, c/o Oldoni, an office of

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- 1) Rzpokowicz or Rzpokowicz Natan, born in Wloclawek 6/9/1920, Polish Jew, sojourn ticket n.4155, issued 5360 to him in Bari the 15/8/45, residing in Via dei Trentani n.12 (where at that time also Deitel lived),
- 2) Steingarten Chono, born in Lublino, 1926, Polish Jew, camped in the Jews Refugee Camp of Grotta-ferrata.
- 3) Girsch Guta Honie, born in Shevel 7/4/1918, Polish Jew, also camped in the Jews Refugee Camp of Grottaferrata.

Deitel, an ex artillery Lieutenant, clandestinely emigrated to Palestine owing to the racial fascist laws. When war broke out he was interned near Acari, then Kenya and Uganda and later sent back to Palestine and set free in 1944. In August or September of last year he landed in Naples without a passport going to Rome and then to the Jews Refugee Camp of Grottaferrata where he remained for a month or two.

On the 30/3/46, he took lodgings c/o Belardi Girolama, in Via Piemonte n.117; on the 6th March 1946 he moved to the Hotel Siena in Via Rasella n.47; on the 14/4/46 to Via dei Frentani n.12, c/o Agosti Domenica and on the 24/10/46 to Via Padova 18, where he was staying at the time of his arrest c/o Perretta Assunta.

Deitel, sent by a certain Raymer, admitted having collected some correspondence from the Italian Jew Sonnino Leone. He would have then handed it at determined places. He admitted having met Wachter and having written some articles on the newspaper "La Naizachon" of which Wachter was the responsible editor. He admitted that, a few days after the attempt, he took a duplicator to Sonnino's shop, sent there by a refugee whom he is supposed to have met under the arches of Piazza Colonna. The duplicator was handed to him by an unknown person in Via Boncompagni corner Via Romagna.

Assunta.

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He admitted having been introduced to Narducci by Sonnino and having therefore introduced Gurwitz to Narducci.

He states that he does not know what work Gurwitz did in Narducci's house and affirms that the introduction being effected, he took no further interest in the matter.

He recognised his five articles of the newspaper "La Nazione", which were found in his house, besides numerous travelling tickets (see encl. 28), and affirms that one of the copies of the well known message of the Irgun to Da Gasperi, with the envelope addressed to "Mercato Hagliti" - Via dei Mille 36, Rome, also containing the well known communication in Italian, was given to him by a refugee whose name he did not remember, he wishing to write an article on the "Nazione" on the attempt. The message and communication were found on him.

He admitted having met in Rome the already mentioned Krivoshein. On the 29th October at 10.40 hrs, Deitel with Krivoshein left by train for Foggia, where they arrived in the late afternoon of the 29th. From there they immediately got on to another train for Lecce, where they arrived at about 02.30 hrs of the 30/10/46 and where they went to stay at the Hotel "Patria". At about 17.00 hrs of the 30th they left by train for Bari, where they arrived the same night and where they took rooms at the Hotel Miramare. The night of the 31/10/46 they left Bari for Rome, arriving in the afternoon of the 1st November. Thus it is proved by their tickets and hotel bills that Deitel and Krivoshein were not in Rome at the time of the attempt.

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Deitel explains his numerous journeys by the fact that he took care of the clandestine emigration of Jews.

It has already been said that on the 19/11/46, the person caught in Via Orti di Alibert n.27, was arrested i.e. Gurwitz New. Gurwitz was brought to this Office and searched. Among the various papers of little importance found on him, a receipt of luggage deposited of the Belle Fratti Adda Masseri, Via Marsala n.86-96 receipt (see encl.29) this office has recovered two cases, one small and a larger one.

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The small case contained:

- 1) Sheets of paper hand-written in Hebrew.
- 2) 76 various photograph, mostly groups of persons, 12 of which bearing a few words in English.
- 3) 9 sheets printed in Hebrew and two small pamphlets printed in the same language.
- 4) 6 sheets typed in Hebrew.
- 5) 27 sheets stencilled in Hebrew.
- 6) A typed appeal of 5 pages in Italian, entitled "The Commander of the Irgun Zvai Leumi to the Jews of the Diaspora".
- 7) 3 jotters containing notes in Hebrew.
- 8) 1 copy of the newspaper "Irgunpress" n.2, consisting of 4 pages in Polish.
- 9) 40 sheets typed in English, consisting of propaganda for the Freedom of Palestine.
- 10) 5 cuttings of newspapers in English.
- 11) 17 sheets printed in English mostly published by the American League for a Free Palestine.

The owners of the a/m are not yet known.

- 12) File owned by Deitel, mostly concerning his commercial activity and emigration of Jews, including 8 yellow envelopes bearing indications in Hebrew.

In the file are two cables addressed to

Pzepakowicz when he and Deitel lived in Via dei Trentani n.12.

- 13) 3 letters addressed to Wachter Izak, Via del Boschetto n.97, Rome, one from Rome, one from France and one

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- 7) 3 jotters containing notes in Hebrew.
 - 8) 1 copy of the newspaper "Irgunpress" n.2, consisting of 4 pages in Polish.
 - 9) 40 sheets typed in English, consisting of propaganda for the Freedom of Palestine.
 - 10) 5 cuttings of newspapers in English.
 - 11) 17 sheets printed in English mostly published by the American League for a Free Palestine.
- The owners of the a/m are not yet known.
- 12) File owned by Deitel, mostly concerning his commercial activity and emigration of Jews, including 8 yellow envelopes bearing indications in Hebrew.

In the file are two cables addressed to

- Rzepkowiez when he and Deitel lived in Via dei Trentani n.12.
- 13) 3 letters addressed to Wachter Izak, Via del Boschetto n.97, Rome, one from Rome, one from France and one from New York.

The large case contained:

- 1) 45 copies of the newspaper Irgunpress nos. 1, 53833 of July, August and September.
- 2) 8 registers ready for printing.
- 3) 100 pamphlets written in Hebrew.
- 4) numerous material for propaganda in Hebrew of the "Irgun Zvai Leumi".
- 5) 57 sheets written in various European languages, most of them bearing the "Irgun" sign.

- 6) Numerous copies of newspapers written in Hebrew.
- 7) magazines, newspapers, pamphlets written in European languages.
- 8) manuscripts and notes written in Hebrew.
- 9) 6 sheets of propaganda, written in Italian bearing the "Irgun" sign.
- 10) 18 photographs, 4 showing British officers, 4 showing showing other persons and 10 showing writings in Hebrew and signs of the "Irgun".
- 11) a map of Palestine.
- 12) a list of 30 Italian newspapers with relative addresses.
- 13) a hand-written list of Embassies or Legations in Rome, of the principle foreign agencies with relative addresses.
- 14) a list of American and English newspapers.
- 15) a list of American press correspondents.
- 16) 5 lists of Italian and foreign organisations in Lecce, Brindisi, Bari, Santa Maria di Bagni, Marina di Leuca, Santa Cesarea Terme, Triase Porto.
- 17) 2 appeals written in Italian of the Commander of the "Irgun" to the Jews.
- 18) a number of files concerning the activities both commercial and on the emigration of Jews owned by Sig. Venturi Carlo alias Deitel.
- 19) a manuscript in Polish made up of 7 sheets.
- 20) a list of 121 names of Jews and one of 78.
- 21) addresses and odd papers.

- 15) a list of American press correspondents.
- 16) 5 lists of Italian and foreign organizations in Lecce, Brindisi, Bari, Santa Maria di Bagno, Marina di Leuca, Santa Cesarea Terme, Trieste Porto.
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- 19) a manuscript in Polish made up of 7 sheets.
- 20) a list of 121 names of Jews and one of 78.
- 21) addresses and odd papers.
- 22) a contract stipulated between Antonietta Andrei in Succi and Sig. Gutman Michael in which from September 1946 Mrs Andrei lets part of her small villa in Ladispoli to Gutman.
- 23) 6 sojourn tickets in the names of Tobek Isak, Saraga Michele, Menches Iulius, Blumenfeld Abram, Eisenderg, Ovedis Marco.
- 24) a large wooden stamp bearing, in metal, "Irgunpress" and the "Irgun" sign.

Deitel, being interrogated on the two cases deposited by Gurwitz on the 1/11/46, stated (see encls. 30

and 31) that they were not his, but that the small case had been lent to him by a certain Szalkowicz when he used to live in Via Piemonte n.117. He had then got rid of it, by giving it to a refugee whose name he did not remember. Deitel, faced with facts, had to admit that, both in the small case and in the large one, there was a lot of correspondence and papers belonging to him, for which he tried to give an explanation, stating that about two months ago, suspecting that he would have been subject to extortions on account of his commercial activities, he had made up two parcels of his correspondence, handing them to a friend whose name he did not wish to give. He added that he could not understand how his papers could have ended up in the cases deposited by Gurwitz on the 1/11/46.

It will be recalled that in the small case, 3 letters of the a/m Wachter Isaac, Via del Boschetto 97, were also found. Wachter also affirms that he does not know how these letters of his ended up in one of the cases deposited by Gurwitz, but he tries to explain the matter by saying his house had become a sort of post-office for his co-religionists.

The large case, had, moreover, another surprise hidden in it. The form of guarantee of the duplicator "Gestetner" dated 8/3/46 by SAM. (Meccanografico artisan Service) - Via degli Avignonesi 31, to Sig. Klummen Abe,

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Klurman, according to his sojourn ticket, has been identified as Kluman Aza, born Kenninsocevsdi (Poland) the 25/5/922, Polish Jew, at one time living in Via degli Avignonesi 26 c/o Petrucci Andrea. The latter has stated that she gave hospitality to the Polish Jew Klurman from September - October till last August, period in which Klurman, together with his wife and son, left, saying that they were moving to Grottaferata, Valle Violata locality. Klurman used to bring home large parcels,

containing, according to him, goods from UNRRA and parcels which he said came from a relation in America.

Klurman told Petrucci (see encl.23) that he was a journalist interested in the publication of a Hebrew newspaper.

Petrucci thought that the Klurman couple, after leaving for Grottaferrata, occasionally returned to the house to collect any correspondence addressed there.

Till now, it has not been possible to trace Klurman, neither in Grottaferrata nor elsewhere, and the search has been spread throughout the territory.

Instead, the seller of the duplicator, Massironi Aldo of Via Mazzuino 8, co-proprietor of the S.A.M. firm, has been interrogated; he states (see encl.34) that about the beginning of last March two persons entered his shop, wishing to buy a duplicator "Gestetner". They later returned to see the machine with a third party, quite well dressed, whom they called "Boss".

Massironi does not remember how he got to know that they were Polish Jews.

On the 8/3/45, Massironi delivered the duplicator to the Via Avignonesi 26, by means of his messenger-boy Proietti Enzo of Via Alessandria Meccinchi Stronzi n.36 (see encl.35).

Before the duplicator left the shop, it was

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Before the duplicator left the shop, it was paid for the man called the Boss, a man about 1.65 metres tall, regular build, dark complexion, straight hair, whom Massironi thinks he could identify as Klumman. 535.

A few days after the purchase, one of these Jews, passing in front of the shop, asked Massironi if he knew of any premises to let as an office.

During the period between the purchase and the end of October, the duplicator went out of order three times; the first time about a month after the purchase,

the second time, three or four months ago, and the last time about a month and a half ago, i.e. a few days before the attempt. It was always repaired by the mechanic Di Rienzo Giovanni di Carlo and di Centi Emilia, born in Rome 10/11/46, living at Largo Pebo 17, in the building of Via Piemonte corner Via Sicilia, 4th floor. It is the office of the Hebrew correspondents, in Via Piemonte 117 c/o Aldoni. In the said office Di Rienzo also noticed 2 or 3 type-writers and 3 or 4 persons, whom he would be able to recognize. Amongst these he did not notice Gurwitz, but he says he saw him buy some stencilling paper in the shop S.A.M. (see encl. 36).

Gurwitz has also been recognised by Massironi as one of the group of Jews who had made some purchases.

Infact, according to Massironi's registers,

the a/m Jews bought the following - in chronological order:

30 March - 4 reams of stencil paper

3 June - 3 reams of stencil paper

etc. etc. see pages 25 - 26 of report.

Massironi states that one of his Hebrew clients (about 1.70 m. tall, rosy complexion, thick fair wavy hair), one day asked him if he could get him, at any price, a Hebrew type-writer, which, at the end of September he said he had bought from the "Olivetti" firm, paying 15.000 lire for it. This same person asked him in September to get him a type-writer with Russian letters.

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etc. etc. see pages 25 - 26 of report.

Massironi states that one of his Hebrew clients (about 1.70 m. tall, rosy complexion, thick fair wavy hair), one day asked him if he could get him, at any price, a Hebrew type-writer, which, at the end of September he said he had bought from the "Clivetti" firm, paying 15.000 lire for it. This same person asked him in September to get him a type-writer with Russian letters.

Guritz was questioned on the 9th inst. (see 533, encl.37). Born in Germany lived in Roumania, therefore deported to a German concentration camp and finally to Dachau, he was set free upon the arrival of the Allies. He went to Bucarest, hoping to find his sister, he reached Italy with the idea of embarking for Palestine through Hungary and Austria, passing the Tarvisio frontier in August 1945. From Tarvisio, through the Jews Refugee Camps of Bologna and Padova he reached that of Ostia in

in October, where he was given a sojourn ticket. On the 10th October he was given a duplicate, his first one having been stolen about four months previously.

In Rome he came into contact with a Palestinian soldier (i.e. approximately Iest March), whose name he says he does not know, who suggested that he join in the Irgun Zvai Leumi. This soldier, (whom he says was not the one of Sonnino's photograph) introduced him to the Polish co-religionist Kluuman Aba, already mentioned; he also had come from a concentration camp, bearing on his left arm the number 113626 and was staying in Rome. He had already joined the Irgun.

The contacts between Gurwitz and Kluuman with the Palestinian soldier lasted almost two weeks, after which the soldier left with his unit.

Four or five weeks ago, Kluuman told Gurwitz that they would have to carry out some propaganda for Irgun. This work consisted in compiling and therefore writing with a duplicator some pamphlets in Hebrew, addressed to the co-religionists for propaganda in favour of Irgun. This was done in Via Sicilia 125 int.8 and i.e. in the office of the Hebrew correspondents, where Gurwitz was introduced by Kluuman and where the duplicator Gestetner and some type-writers were, amongst which, one with Hebrew letters, and actually the "Herman Baby" which was found at the time of the arrest.

On the night of the attempt, Gurwitz is

supposed to have slept at the Ostia Refuges Camp, hearing

the soldier left with his unit.

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On the night of the attempt, Gurwitz is supposed to have slept at the Ostia Refugees Camp, hearing the news from the newspapers of the 31st October.

At 17.00 hours of the 31st, he went to the office in Via Sicilia, where he is supposed to have found, on the table, the order, written in Hebrew, to clear the office, together with an order to retype on the 3/11/46, a message in Hebrew concerning "the operation" accomplished against the Embassy.

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On the morning of the 1st Nov. he went to the office of Via Sicilia, where he filled the a/m two cases with all the papers they could hold, and deposited them with Delle Fratte Ada Massari, Via Marsala 86. He is supposed to have spent the whole of the 2nd Nov. at the Ostia Camp, it being Saturday, the Jewish Feast day.

On the morning of the 3rd Sunday, he again came to Rome and, in agreement with Sceroni (Deitel) brought the duplicator to Via Boncompagni, corner Via Romagna, where Deitel took it over, taking it by taxi to Sonnino's shop.

In the afternoon of the same day 3rd. he typed on the type-writer "Hermes Baby", which he recognised, the copies of the message in Hebrew. He had to do 18 copies.

He states that he found the envelopes already addressed, besides the copies of the letter addressed to De Gasperi and the copies in Italian of the so called message. The instructions said that the "Communication" in Italian, and the letter to De Gasperi were to be sent together with the message in Hebrew.

Curwitz states that he does not know who wrote the messages in Italian nor the letters to De Gasperi and that he copied the "message" in Hebrew from some notes which he then tore up.

The envelopes were sealed by him and left

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Curwitz states that he does not know who wrote the messages in Italian nor the letters to De Gasperi and that he copied the "message" in Hebrew from some notes which he then tore up.

The 17 envelopes were sealed by him and left on the table in the office of Via Sicilia. He says he does not know who posted them; it certainly was not him, as he was not identified by Ottaviani, and Deitel likewise.
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was not identified.

Curwitz identified, on a sheet of paper shown to him, one of the "messages" in Hebrew, typed by him on the "Hermes Baby".

Curwitz has pointed out that the duplicator was taken away from the office of Via Sicilia, first of all to subtract it from eventual police enquiries and then

because he wished to print, in some safer premises, some proclamations regarding the attempt for peeling up.

It is well known how Gurwitz came into contact with Narducci and how, on the morning of the 6/11/46, he began to work on the duplicator, assisted by another Hebrew, whose name Gurwitz states he does not know, having met him in Via dei Mille, but that Narducci (see encl. 38) (and not also Sonnino) - states he recognises as the Hungarian Jew Braum Michail, born in Budapest the 25/6/1920, recognised by him in the refugees camp of Ladispoli (see encl. 38) where he was arrested on the 23/11/46.

Braum however protested his innocence (see encl. 39) and Gurwitz states that he does not recognise him (see encl. 40).

Gurwitz still states that he worked on the duplicator only on the 6th, printing copies of the well known letters addressed to De Gasperi, which he then brought to the office of Via Sicilia.

In the afternoon of the 6th, he tried to get Narducci's brother to repair the shoes given to him by another member of the Irgun, whose name he does not know; the shoes evidently contained some secret instructions.

Thus he remained at the camp till the 10th Nov. It is certain that on the 10th he returned to Rome and this is proved by the railway ticket found in his possession (see encl. 41) and on such an occasion he noticed

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Survivors still scarce
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Thus he remained at the camp till the 10th Nov. It is certain that on the 10th he returned to Rome and this is proved by the railway ticket found in his possession (see encl. 41) and on such an occasion he noticed that many sheets of the Irgun printed by him containing De Gasperi's letter had been posted along Corso Umberto I and Via del Tritone. The posters, posted in Ladispoli were also printed by him.

Meanwhile, for the reasons already mentioned, a search of the s/m office in Via Sicilia 125 int. 8, was necessary; the search brought to the recovery of and confiscation of:

- a) two English type-writers
- b) 9 stamps

- c) a silk plate bearing designs of pistols,
d) various papers written in Italian, European and Hebrew,
e) a treaty for dynamitards written in German and translated, page by page, into Hebrew (evidently forgotten there because found amongst a heap of foreign newspapers). The said treaty is composed of 35 pages typed in German, and 6 hand-written, also in German, divided into the following chapters: (see pages 29 -
- f) two sheets of copying paper through which the words in Italian of the communication of the Ingun can be read concerning the attempt on the Embassy.

Gurwitz, interrogated as to what was found in the office of Via Sicilia, has not been able to give any sort of explanation, limiting himself to saying that he had received the order to clear it, and so he had brought, on the 19/11/46 the "Hermes Baby" type-writer to Narducci's house where he was arrested (see encl. 37).

Deitel later stated (see encl. 42) that the office was really organised by the journalist Rzepeviovz, Steigarten and by Girsch and that he then went there occasionally to write his private correspondence and to draw up some articles, later published in the newspaper "La Nizachon". Nevertheless Deitel noticed that some sort of work for propaganda was being carried out in the office, with the duplicator and with various typewriters. He has

had received the order to clear it, and so he had brought, on the 19/11/46 the "Hermes Baby" type-writer to Narducci's house where he was arrested (see encl. 37).

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In the afternoon of the 1st Nov., returning from Barl and hearing of the attempt, he went to the office, which he found cleared. A few days later he managed to transfer the duplicator, fearing being mixed up with the authors of the attempt.

In a drawer of the office he found a letter addressed to "Mercat Haplitim Via dei Milie 36 - Rome - containing a copy of the well-known message to De Gasperi, evidently not sent - papers which he had, in a previous interrogation, declared that he had received from a refugee.

He had declared that he did not know that there were copies of the treaty on dynamitard in the office.

CONCLUSION

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Last March Gurwitz Dow and Klurman Aba, who it is ascertained were members of the Irgun, received the order to effect propaganda for the Association. This order was left by the unidentified Palestinian soldier, another member of the Irgun to Klurman - as Gurwitz affirms - but it is not improbable that it eventually reached them from Palestine.

For this work a duplicator and some type-writers were necessary. The duplicator was bought on the 8/3/45 (see guarantee) by Klurman and by other Polish Jews (see Massironi's minutes of interrogation) and at first, it was kept in Klurman's house, Via Avignonesi 26, where it was taken (see Proietti Ezio's minutes of interrogation) and where the work is begun. This is proved by the fact that on the 30/3/45, 4 reams of paper were bought.

More type-writers were still required and an office. One of the Jews asked Massironi to get for him, at any price, a type-writer with Hebrew letters (which, at the end of September he says he bought from the "Clivetti" for 15.000 Lire), besides a type-writer with Russian letters. A portable second-hand Remington n.55006 was

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A few days after the purchase of the duplicator (we are still in March) one of the Jews asked Massironi if he could indicate some premises to let as an office (see 533² Massironi's minutes of interrogation).

Here the Polish Hebrew journalist Rzepkovicz Natal, came into the scene who persuaded Deitel Tiburzio, his acquaintance, with whom he had been staying for a few days in Via dei Trentani 12 (see encl.42) to open an office of Hebrew correspondents, which was actually opened in Via Sicilia 125 int.8 c/o Oldoni, together with the Polish Jew

Steingarten Chono and Glisch Gata (the latter though, only stayed there about a week).

This office, well disguised as an innocent address for journalists, first became the centre of the Irgun propaganda and then the headquarters of the Irgun Zvai Leumi in Rome, where the attempt against the Embassy is projected, studied and brought to a conclusion.

The connections between the Rzepkovicz group (which, according to Deitel disappeared during the first fortnight of September), Deitel and Steingarten with the Irgun group to which Gurwitz and Kinnman also took part are fully proved by the fact that (as also Oldoni states - see encl.43) a few days after the opening of the office, two large cases were brought there, the duplicator and some type-writers, including a small portable one (Hermes-Baby) identified by him (see encl.44).

Infact, without the approval of the directors of the office in Via Sicilia, how could the members of the Irgun have settled themselves there?

Oldoni states that the office was also frequented by other foreigners, who were generally with the a/m. He also affirms that in July and in the first fortnight of August, the office was inactive. But it is not improbable that its work continued outside, not to arise suspicion, as Oldoni state (see encl.43) that the type-writers were often taken away and then brought back, in a basket, and that the Jews bought from Messingman between the 3/8/46

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The logical supposition is that in the office of Via Sicilia the attempt was projected and studied, and it is proved by the following facts:

- a) that members of the Irgun certainly had their address there;

- b) that the famous message of the Irgun and that to De Gasperi were typed in Italian. This is proved not by statements but by the sheets of carbon paper found, from which the phrases of the message in Italian can easily be read.
- c) by the haste in which the office was cleared after the attempt (note that the two cases were deposited by Gurwitz less than 34 hours after the attempt) and the duplicator taken elsewhere.
- (If it were otherwise, it could not be understood why the Jews should have hastened to clear the office of Via Sicilia and not that, for example, of the New Sionist organization in Via Momentana 44, or that of the Delasem (Hebrew Emigrants' Assistance Delegation) in Via Principe Amedeo 22, or any other of the numerous Jewish offices of the capital).
- d) of the finding, in the large case deposited by Gurwitz, of some papers, written in German of a treaty for dynamitards.
- e) of the finding, in the a/m office of a complete treaty for dynamitards, written in German, at least three copies, and translated page by page into Hebrew.
- f) of the finding of a page, written in Polish, in which the word "miny" occurs concerning types of arms, ammunition, mines and primers.
- g) of the finding, in Narducci's house, of the Irgun stamp and 4 pads for duplicators containing the design of a so-called "Bovalhellum" with its parts.

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d) of the finding, in the large case deposited by Garwitz, of some papers, written in German of a treaty for dynamitars.

e) of the finding, in the a/m office of a complete treaty for dynamitars, written in German, at least three copies, and translated page by page into Hebrew.

f) of the finding of a page, written in Polish, in which the word "miny" occurs concerning types of arms, ammunition, mines and primers.

g) of the finding, in Nerucci's house, of the Irgun stamp and 4 pads for duplicators containing the design of a pistol "Parabellum" with its parts.

h) from the fact that the treaty in German, the copies of the message of the Irgun in Italian and the copies to De Gasperi were written on the same type-writer "Super-Speed" (see encl.45). 53~

Is Deitel a member of the Irgun and has the Irgun to be considered an International Terroristic Association?

The following chapter written by Deitel and identified by him as being his is reproduced herewith.

THE IRGUN ZVAI LEUMI

Armed Jews assaulted the guard at the Rechovot railway bridge, south of Tel Aviv, over-powered him and blew up the bridge, thus interrupting the communication between Palestine and Egypt.

The same night, armed Jews cut the oil-tube of Mosul near Port Cheifa and set the naphta on fire.

The Irgun Zvai Leumi in its message takes

responsibility for these actions.

This is one of the many similar news items which came from Palestine. Similar attempts are continuously taking place.

From Palestine similar information is received. The attempts take place one after the other increasingly; they are always accomplished by armed members of the Irgun Zvai Leumi.

But what is this Irgun Zvai Leumi? National Military Organisation is the exact translation of these three Hebrew words. In Palestine it is generally called Etzel, joining the three initials.

The founder was Zeev Jabotinski, one of the principle Hebrew politicians who died in New York in 1941. He affirmed the principle that a Country is not bought, but conquered by blood and arms and he gathered the best part of the Hebrew youth into an organisation which had as its word of order "HAC" "OACH".

The Irgun Zvai Leumi commenced its activities

But it soon discovered

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The Irgun Zvai Leumi commenced its activities by reprisals against the Arabs. But it soon discovered that its main obstacle in reaching its goal - The Hebrew State - were the British and not the Arabs.

Thus arms were turned against it. With the 5351
outburst of war against Hitler a short rest was pronounced.

It did not take long to notice that England intended to scrupulously observe the line of conduct decided upon in the White Book of 1940, which limited Hebrew immigration to a total of ---- within a period of -----.

The boat "Patria" which was transporting to the isle of Mauritius a. ---- clandestine Hebrew immigrants

was blown up by its very passengers in the port of Haifa. A short while afterwards a small boat named Strum arrived in the port of Istanbul, with n. ---- Jews on board, mostly women and children. It had stopped in Istanbul as its engine was out of order. The sanitary conditions on board were incredible. There was danger that, at any moment, an epidemic might break out. The boat was not in a navigable state. Owing to the most elementary human laws, these people were to be landed as soon as possible. The Turkish authorities were willing to have them land having them proceed by land so as they possessed a Palestinian Immigration certificate. The Palestinian government refused to grant the certificates, finding the excuse that their quarterly number was already exhausted.

The Hebrew authorities turned imploringly to London and Jerusalem.

Finally after many long weeks the certificates were granted.

The Turkish authorities granted the innumerable orders to leave which, for innumerable times were postponed waiting for the certificates. But the certificates did not arrive and the boat was obliged to set sail. As soon as it was outside the port of Istanbul it blew up. Nobody was saved. In Palestine rumours immediately spread that this was caused by a British submarine, while in Europe thousands of Jews were being

that their quarterly number was already exhausted.

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Lord Wedgwood in the House of Lords defined the Palestinian administration as a "gang of fascist criminals" / And the Irgun Zvai Leumi started to fight again, but took care to state definitely that the battle was not against England but against the Palestinian administration. The attacks were only made against the strongholds and police headquarters taking care not to damage, in any way, England's capacity of war.

In the same message addressed to De Gasperi (see encl. 14) the Irgun appears as an active terrorist organization, having as its aim "war for the liberation of its country from foreign dominion, and the redemption of the Hebrews".

The "message" spread by the Irgun on the occasion of the attempt, wishes to appear to be a "bulletin of war". It speaks of the "attack on the offices of the Embassy", of "soldiers returning to their base, with all their arms" and it underlines the scheme that "the attack against the British Embassy in Rome means the opening of the Hebrew Military Front in Diaspora", ending up by pointing out that "the armed arm of the Eternal People will answer by war wheresoever and by all means".

Deitel does not make a mystery of his sympathies with Irgun and, after all, the valid assistance rendered to its members after the attempt certainly proves, if not that he belongs to the association, he is involved in it.

It is not materially proved that he is the compiler of the messages and of that to De Gasperi but, apart from considering that he possesses the desired intellectual capacity to draw them up, it must be noticed that, Oldoni's just statement (see encl. 46), only he and Garwitz were seen frequenting the office after the attempt and only Deitel remained there in the afternoon of the

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Owing to the above, this office denounces: **5349**

1. KLUHMAN ABA di David, ascertained to be a member of Ingun, as the presumed co-author of the attempt on the British Embassy (not being able to prove that he was not in Rome the night of the 30-31 October) and because he belongs to an international terrorist association, operating in Italian territory.

2. GURWITZ DOW fu Zaiman, ascertained member of Irgun, as belonging to the a/m terrorist association.
3. DEITEL GIEURGIO di Ludovico, as a probable member of Irgun and, in any case, accomplice in belonging to said association.
4. BRAUN MICHAEL fu Salomo, recognised by Narducci as Gurwitz's adjutant and, for also being a member of the Irgun.
5. RZPKOWCZ NATAN di Chil.
6. STEINGARTEN OYONC fu Jacob.
7. GIBSON GUTA fu Armon,
all at one time occupied in the a/m office of the Hebrew correspondents in Via Sicilia.
8. WACHTER ISAK di Herman, at one time editor of the newspaper "La Nizachon", some correspondence of which was found in the large case deposited by Gurwitz the day after the attempt and in the office of Via Sicilia.
9. KRIVOSHEIN MOSHE di Alessandro.
10. NEUHAER DAVID di Joseph.
11. WEBER HARRY di Hans Hermann.
12. EPSTEIN ISRAEL di Zev,

who, according to information given by the Allied Command, appear to be in relation with members of the Irgun Zvai Leumi.

Furthermore, denunciation as probable authors of the attempt on the Embassy or at least, as probably appertaining to the Irgun Zvai Leumi:

newspaper "La Nazione", some copies
was found in the large case deposited by Gurwitz the
day after the attempt and in the office of Via Sicilia.

9. KATVOSHEIN MOSHE di Alessandro.
10. MENHAEN DAVID di Joseph.
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who, according to information given by the Allied
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Irgun Zvai Leumi.

Furthermore, denunciation as probable authors of
the attempt on the Embassy or at least, as probably
appertaining to the Irgun Zvai Leumi:

13. GILBERT WOLF di Leibuse, whose sojourn ticket was found
in the bag found in Deitel's house, together with papers
in Hebrew, already sent to you for translation. 5348
14. STAIN ZEV, whose card of the Central Palestinian Office
for Italy was found in the small case deposited by
Gurwitz the day after the attempt.
15. OVADIS MARCO di Wolf and di Toni Schafter, born in
Bershaba the 10/7/1927, Jew, Palestinian, labourer,
camped at the Refugees camp of Ostia.

16. EISENBERG JERUDA di Josef and di Hava Minca, born in Lodz the 12/6/1928, Polish Jew, carpenter, camped at the refugees camp of Longitovere Senzio n. 13.
17. BLUMENFELD ABRAHAM di Josef and di Scharf Hans, born in Warschau the 19/3/1914, Polish Jew, employee, sojourn ticket n. 4970 issued to him in Bari 11/9/45.
18. MENCHES JULIUS di Leopold and di Esch Margareth, born in Cradlia the 29/8/1919, Roumanian Jew, student, camped at the camp of Ostia.
19. SARAG NICHELE di Moisè and di Toni Kerzo, born in Haifa the 15/5/1927, mechanic, Palestinian Jew, Refugees camp of Via Aldobrandini n.9.
20. TOBAK ISAK di Jada and Seinar Golda, born in Cradlia Mare the 9/12/1929, Roumanian Jew, mechanic, refugee camp of Via Aldobrandini n.9; whose sojourn tickets were found in the large case, deposited by Gurwitz the day after the attempt.

The supposition is strengthened by the fact that the above mentioned last seven persons got rid of their sojourn tickets, as is the habit of Jews, to leave for abroad undisturbed.

This office has found neither Sonnino Leone nor Harducci Franco responsible.

Of the above mentioned persons, Gurwitz, Deitel and Braun have been arrested; Klurman has escaped, probably to Switzerland, Wachter is very ill, maybe with

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Of the above mentioned persons, Gurwitz, Deitel and Braun have been arrested; Klurman has escaped, probably to Switzerland, Wachter is very ill, maybe with tuberculosis, has been served an intimation to keep himself at the disposition of the judicial authorities; Rapkowitz, Steingarten and Girsch have absconded, so **5347** also have Menahem and Weber. Gerlbart, Tain, Cvedis, Eisenberg, Blumenfeld, Menches, Saraga and Tobak, whose sojourn tickets were found in the large case, deposited by Gurwitz, have absconded and according to statements given by Gurwitz, they should have reached Palestine.

Attached herewith are 49 enclosures; the type-writers and the rest of the material confiscated is being held back in this office at your disposal for further enquiries.

The detonators will be sent to the Direzione d'Artiglieria, for their competent examination.

At this point the first phase of the enquiries concerning the attempt ends, it not yet being possible to trace, from the statements of those arrested, and from the material found, the actual perpetrators of the attempt, first of all because Jews, as is known, and particularly members of Irgun, are very reluctant to accuse each other, also for fear of reprisals by the organisation and then because they would act without knowing each other, except when indispensable; and this is feasible, considering the nature of the association, also when noticing that Deitel, a Jew, in introducing himself to Sonnino, Gurwitz and Wachter, also Jews, gave one of his false names (Scerom) and not his real one.

Meanwhile, the enquiries, though limited to the results obtained, have been extremely difficult. These Jews, generally full of fanatic hatred towards the British whom, as is noticed from the abundant material of propaganda confiscated, they even compare with the German SS, move from one place to another with great easiness, they very often adopt false particulars, try to avoid in every way, the Italian Police laws, live in their camps in great disorder, to such an extent that nearly always

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Gurwitz has made understand that the material authors of the attempt were not more than three. They

should have arrived, about the end of October, from Palestine leaving on the same day 1st Nov. or at the most 2nd. This assertion could be, to a certain extent proved by the fact that the purse containing the detonators, instruments which are undeniably connected with the attempt, were recovered by Major Piccardo, on the morning of the 1st Nov. right in Via Castellidardo, which is one of the most direct roads from the British Embassy to the Termini Station.

There is no doubt that the attempters, having accomplished their deed, got rid of the detonators, now having become superfluous and dangerous, putting the purse containing them on a window-sill, without letting it fall, an incident which could have provoked the explosion of the detonators.

And it is not improbable that the three attempters might have been those three persons seen by Brig. Innocenti Amedeo from a window of the Commissariato di Viminale, while going towards Via Goito, behind whom the agent Di Chiara Gaetano then fired a few mitra shots when they were already in Via Montebello, after having vainly enjoined them to stop. The speedy intervention of the Police might have even all the more determined them to immediately free themselves of the compromising material, as soon as they turned Via Castellidardo.

Gurwitz has stated that the money required for the execution of the attempt was drawn from a robbery

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it fall, an incident which could have provoked the explosion of the detonators.

And it is not improbable that the three attemptors might have been those three persons seen by Brig. Innocenti Amedeo from a window of the Commissariato di Viminale, while going towards Via Golto, behind whom the agent Di Chiara Gaetano then fired a few mitra shots when they were already in Via Montebello, after having vainly enjoined them to stop. The speedy intervention of the Police might have even all the more determined them to immediately free themselves of the compromising material, as soon as they turned Via Castelfidardo.

Gurwitz has stated that the money required for the execution of the attempt was drawn from a robbery committed by members of the Tigrun on an English bank in Palestine.

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It is pointed out that, according to statement made to the Police of Mulhouse by a certain Alired Weher, American, come from Lugano, the authors of the attempt

against the Embassy are:

1. Joseph Borenstein) all three of n. 5 Section of
2. Jacob Onilzi, Albanian) the Irgun.
3. Miro Salbino)
4. Ivan Zaiscifravitch, Polish
5. Meki Kerobani, Albanian
6. David Tzany, Czech
7. Milo Vacik, from Belgrad, Polish
8. Radoeca Borenstein, Polish
9. Joseph Libner, Polish.

According to such person, one of the organisers of the Irgun might be Ivan Kouznetzow, who is supposed to have stayed in Mulhouse the 18-19 October, accompanied by a certain Benderer, a Swiss from Zurich, born in Leningrad.

The previous report was made by the Allied

Command to this office on the 16th November last.

The a/m have no precedents in these proceedings, nor do they appear on the visitors list.

Re Kerobani, the Prefettura of Florence, in a letter of the 29th Nov. last communicated the following:

"Meki Kerobani, Albanian subject, could be identified as Babani Meki di Jakim and di Lucban Sabrye, born in Rabani 15/10/1918. He arrived in this town in March 1940 from Rome with a sojourn ticket n. 17790 issued by that Questura the 21/12/1933. Here he frequented the Art School. In February 1945 he left this city for Switzerland it is believed.

The previous report was made by the Allied Command to this office on the 16th November last.

The a/m have no precedents in these proceedings, nor do they appear on the visitors list.

Re Nerobani, the Prefettura of Florence, in a letter of the 29th Nov. last communicated the following:

"Vekri Nerobani, Albanian subject, could be identified as Babani Neki di Jakim and di Rusban Sabrye, born in Rabani 15/10/1918. He arrived in this town in March 1940 from Rome with a sojourn ticket n. 17790 issued by that Questura the 21/12/1933. Here he frequented the Art School. In February 1945 he left this city for Switzerland it is believed.

The Central Police Direction of Tirana then communicated the following on his account:

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"Babani Neki di Feim and di Sabrije, born in Babani (Billisht) the 15/10/1918, Art student in Florence, during his stay here he maintained throughout good moral and political conduct.

His family is composed of his parents, a sister and three brothers, one of whom named Servet is Secretary of the Commune of Nikai - Mertur (Scutari). They all enjoy good economical conditions.

In the past, neither Babeni Hekri nor his family ever bothered with politics. His religion is Musliman".

During the course of the enquiries, the following persons have been arrested by the CG.RR. Internal Company Command, then released, nothing having been found against them:

1. Cinque Giorgio, etc. etc.

(see report pages 42, 43, 44, 45 & 46).

The a/m enquiries have been made, under my direction by Dr. Bottino Carmine, P.S. Comm. Capo Director of the Political Office and by Vice Comm. ASS. Dr. Zecca Guido, assisted by the P.S. Brig. Landi Pietro, Vice Brig. Del Buono Guido and by the agents Migliorino Michele, Sottili Enzo, Spinosa Alfredo, Masci Vittorio and Castelli Dario.

Reservations are taken in communicating any further information.

The a/m enquiries have been made, under my direction by Dr. Bottino Carmine, P.S. Comm. Capo Director of the Political Office and by Vice Comm. Ass. Dr. Zecca Guido, assisted by the P.S. Brig. Lendi Pietro, Vice Brig. Del Buono Guido and by the agents Migliorino Michele, Sottili Enzo, Spinosa Alfredo, Masci Vittorio and Castelli Dario.

Reservations are taken in communicating any further information.

THE QUESTORE
(/s/ Saverio Polito) 5343

TRANSLATION

QUESTURA DI ROMA

21A

16 JAN 1947
14399
WB.

N. 067562

13 January 1947.

SUBJECT : Dynamitard attempt on the British Embassy.
TO : Colonel E.J. Bye
Public Safety Division.
Allied Commission - Rome.

In heartily thanking you for your kind expressions in yours of the 10th inst. attached herewith is copy of second report sent to the Judicial Authorities concerning further enquiries made on the attempt.

The Questore
/s/ Polito.

Translation ac/

5344

QUESTURA DI ROMA

N. 067562 U.P. A.4.A.

Rome, 11th Jan. 1947

SUBJECT : Dynamitard attempt on the British Embassy - Via
XX Settembre - Enquiries -

TO Hon. PROCURATORE DELLA REPUBBLICA
(Avv. Aromatizi)

R O M A

for information :

Hon. MINISTRY OF INTERIOR
Public Safety Gen.Direction
Division S.I.S.

Hon. MINISTRY OF INTERIOR
Public Safety Gen.Direction
Division A.G.R.

Hon. MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
Gabinetto

Hon. COMANDO C.I.C. -Via Sicilia 59
AL COMANDANTE DEL CENTRO C.S. ROME
AL SIG. COMANDANTE COMPAGNIA INTERNA
CARABINIERI
SIG. CAPO GABINETTO MINISTERO INTERNI
R O M E

Following my report of even number and subject dated 2/12/46, I inform you that the journalist Krivosheim Moche on whom researches were made after his departure by plane for Greece, was held up on the 5th Dec. in the Albergo Nizza where he was staying. The Allied Command was informed of this, for any informations on his account. Krivosheim declared (see encl 50) having been in Italy only twice after the actual war. The first time he had arrived in Genoa on the 24/10/1946 on the "Cairo". He had come to Italy as he wished to go to Cecoslovacchia for reasons of health but, having arrived late, he had then decided to go by plane to Greece. He had landed in Genoa with Epszetejn Israel whom he had met in Palestine and with whom he came to Rome, seeking rooms at the

- 2

Albergo Nizza, Via M. D'Azeglio

On the boat he had also met a certain Weber Harry (who, according to the Allies is connected with the "Irgun Zvai Leumi") but not also Menahem David (who according to the Allies is connected with the "Irgun Zvai Leumi").

Krivosheim is said to have met Weber in the port of Haifa having been stopped with him for explanations by the CID and therefore accompanied by him to the boat. Krivosheim then pointed out that he did not know Menahem for which he cannot exclude that the a/m may have travelled on the same boat as it seems to the Allies.

After being few days in Rome he met in a Bar near the Station Deitel Tiburzio an ex-comrade of his at the internment Camp of Palestine, who having heard that he was to go to Bari for commissions, decided to leave with him. Krivosheim and Deitel actually left about 1040 hrs, 29/10/1946, by train for Foggia where they arrived at dusk 29/10/46. They immediately passed on to the train for Lecce where they arrived at about 2.30 hrs. of the 30th, and there they took rooms at the Albergo Patria. At about 1700 hrs. of the 30th they left by train for Bari and arrived the same evening, taking rooms at the Grand Albergo Miramare. On the night of the 31st they left Bari for Rome arriving in the afternoon of the 1st Nov. 46. On the 11th Nov., as is pointed out on previous report, Krivosheim was briefly interrogated in this office and on the following day he left by plane for Athens, remaining in Greece till the 30th Nov. Then he embarked for Italy where he arrived the 3rd Dec. arriving in Rome on the 4th, with the intention of going to Cecoslovacchia But he was stopped the following day 5th as has already been said.

Krivosheim declared having been to Greece on business for the newspaper "Hamashkif" in Tel-Aviv. He has stated that he belongs to the Revisionist Party, but not to the Irgun Zvai Leumi: Wondering how he could travel around Europe with only 6.000 lire found on him at the moment of the arrest, he declared that as a correspondent of the Revisionist Party, he could ask anybody belonging to such Party for money at any time and place.

Copy of the a/m minutes was sent to the Allied Command, awaiting for their instructions.

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As can be seen in the previous report, on the morning of the 13th Nov. Epzstein Israel and Deitel Tiburzio had been stopped by members of the Allied Police and by this Political Office. Epzstein was questioned once on the 15th Nov. 1946. He stated (see encl. 51) having landed in Genova on the 24th Oct. 46 (thus with Krivosheim and Weber) with a regular passport and with the intention of going to Cecoslovacchia, getting off in Austria during the journey. In said State he would have tried to obtain a regular permit to visit his mother, confined in an American military concentration camp. He had travelled with the journalist Krivosheim up to Rome, taking rooms at the Albergo Nizza. In Rome he had seen the South African doctor Lifschitz, the Lithuanian partisan Lazar Chain, Mrs Karpinhes, besides a certain Izhwitz and Kotlowitz, all, as he, members of the Betar and Revisionist Party.

In Rome he had also met Deitel Tiburzio. Naturally he had met Krivosheim also belonging to the Revisionist Party, but, not, according to him, to the Irgun Zwai Leumi.

Epzstein was restricted to the local prison of Regina Coeli on the 16/11/46 while awaiting further information from the Allies.

The 15/12/46 Epzstein was taken out of prison to be interrogated on new circumstances which, meanwhile, had been pointed out by the Allies. He, in fact, was interrogated on the 16/12/46 (see encl 52).

He declared having lent Kotlowitz a type-writer bearing Hebrew letters which Kotlowitz had asked him for to bring to Paris where he would have returned it upon his arrival in that city. He denied, though, as it appears to the Allies, having sent a type-writer with Hebrew letters to the Halbern family, Rue de Teheran 19, affirming having only told Kotlowitz that he would have had to give the type-writer to said family, should he (Kotlowitz) leave Paris before his arrival.

Epzstein said that he had never seen the famous message of the Irgun Zwai Leumi to De Gasperi though he admitted knowing the contents of such letter, having seen the Hebrew version written by Krivosheim himself, who, as is known, lived in his room. At this point Krivosheim was let in (see encl. 52) who stated (see encl. 52) that one day entering his hotel room, occupied by both he and Epzstein, he had found under the door, a bundle of papers

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of unknown provenience, made up of the "message" on the attempt on the Embassy in Hebrew, a message to De Gasperi in Hebrew and of another sheet of paper also written in Hebrew, the contents of which he affirms not remembering. All these sheets were typed on thick, white, narrow paper. He transcribed some parts of the message and that to De Gasperi which he then forwarded to Palestine on the 11/11/46, in Epszstein's presence, for the newspaper "Hamashif".

The most important fact is that as Krivosheim has declared, he found the small parcel before the spreading of the messages thru the press when Epszstein was out in the hotel. He has admitted having shown Epszstein the draft of the message to De Gasperi stating not having kept the original forming the small parcel found under the door. He explains that he found himself in possession of the messages of the Irgum Zvai Leumi before their news-vending by the fact that someone, knowing he was a journalist wished to send him the parcel beforehand, adding that such a case is not infrequent among clandestine organizations in Palestine.

Copy of number 52 was forwarded to the Allies.

It was not deemed necessary to send Epszstein back to prison, he having insisted on remaining in custody at the Questura with Krivosheim, for whom news were expected and then because it was considered that the answer of the Allies would not be long in arriving. Infact during the evening of the 27/12/46, a superior Allied Officer pointed out to the director of this Political Office that both Epszstein and Krivosheim could be placed under arrest according to the elements gathered together with other persons involved in the attempt. As it was late, Epszstein and Krivosheim were kept in custody in the political office to be transferred to prison. But the following night, at about 030 hrs. Epszstein with the excuse of wishing to take a little air, skilfully fixed the loop of a long rope, which he had hidden under his coat, to the handle of the radiator near the window, throwing himself out. The Agent Rindone Nunzio tried to avoid Epszstein's escape while the other agent Vittucci Felice held back Krivosheim, who meanwhile had got up, but the fugitive, already clinging to the rope, continued his descent for which Rindone fired a pistol shot out of intimidation. Seeing though, that Epszstein was about to reach Via Genova, Rindone fired a second shot in his direction which caught him in the abdomen. Epszstein taken immediately to the hospital Policlinico

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was recovered under observation (see encl 53) and at 1645 hrs of the 28th died (see encl 54).

The corpse was placed at your disposition.

It is pointed out that all precautions were taken to avoid the eventual escape of the arrested persons. They were held in custody by 2 agents in a room which the very agents had previously locked from the inside, taking possession of the keys. It was not possible to foresee Epsztein's fulmineous move, who, being very agile and slim, succeeded in passing through an opening between the window-sill and shutters.

Enquiries are in course to ascertain how Epsztein had the rope, but there is founded reason to believe that it was cleverly hidden in one of the many tins of UNRRA which they both received daily from Delasem, an organization in charge of assisting Hebrew refugees (Delasem infact means : "Delegazione Assistenza Emigrati").

Meanwhile Krivosheim, who was in possession of the proclamations of the Irgun Zwai Leumi before their news-vending, as he himself admits, and on whom the reasons for his trips to Italy are not clear, is denounced to this Justice, as being suspected of belonging to the well known terroristic organization Irgun Zwai Leumi. It must, moreover, be remembered that both Krivosheim, Menaheim, Weber and Epsztein appear, according to the Allies, to be connected with the famous terroristic organization.

Attached herewith are two medical certificates concerning Epsztein, the minutes of interrogation concerning the a/m and Krivosheim and the first minutes of interrogation concerning Krivosheim besides the minutes of the statements of the two agents in charge of Epsztein's custody.

The rope used by him in the attempt of evasion will be deposited at the end of enquiries with this Segreteria.

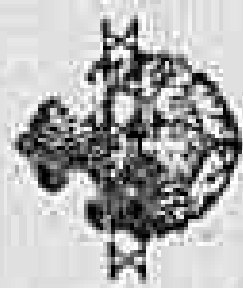
Reservations are taken for any further information.

THE QUESTORE
/s/ Polito

5337

N. 63 d'ordine P. S.

Mod. P
(Servizio anagrafico)



R. QUESTURA DI ROMA

N. 067562 Div. U.P. Categ. _____

Addl. 13 gennaio 1947- 194

Risposta a nota N. _____

OGGETTO: Attentato dinamitardo al=

del _____ 194

1. Ambasciata d'Inghilterra.

A/ SIG. COLONNELLO

E. J. BYE
HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
Public Safety Division APO 794

ROMA

Via Veneto

Nel ringraziareLa sentitamente per le graditissime espressioni rivoltemi con la Sua lettera del 10 andante, pregoni trasmetterLe copia del secondo rapporto inviato all'Autorità Giudiziarica circa le ulteriori indagini esperite in occasione del noto attentato.

Con rinnovati ringraziamenti e sentiti saluti.

IL QUESTORE
(Saverio Polito)

ROMA

Via Veneto

Nel ringraziarla sentitamente per le graditissime espressioni rivoltemi con la Sua lettera del 10 andante, prego mi trasmetterle copia del secondo rapporto inviato all'Autorità Giudiziaria circa le ulteriori indagini esperite in occasione del noto attentato.

Con rinnovati ringraziamenti e sentiti saluti.

IL QUESTORE
(Saverio Pilito)

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QUESTURA DI ROMA

N.067562 U.P. A.A.A.

Roma, li 11. Gennaio 1947

O G G E T T O: Attentato dinanzi all'Ambasciata di Inghilterra presso il Governo Italiano, sita in Via XX Settembre. Indagini.

On. PROCURATORE DELLA REPUBBLICA
(Avv. Aronandisi)

R O M A

o p. e. On. MINISTERO DELL'INTERNO
Direzione Generale della P.S.
Divisione S.I.S.

On. MINISTERO DELL'INTERNO
Direzione Generale della P.S.
Divisione A.G.R.

On. MINISTERO DEGLI ESTERI
(Cabinetto)

On. COMANDO C.I.O. - Via Siella 59

AL COMANDANTE DEL CENTRO C.S. DI ROMA

AL SIG. COMENDANTE COMPAGNIA INTERNA CARABINIERI

SIG. CAPO CABINETTO MINISTERO INTERI

R O M A

Di seguito a mio rapporto p.n. oggetto del 2.12.46, comunico che il giornalista Krivosheina Moche, di cui erano state diramate le ricerche dopo la sua partenza in aereo per la Grecia, venne fermato il 5 dicembre, nell'Albergo Nizza, dove aveva preso alloggio. Di tale fermo venne avvertito il Comando Aliato, per le informazioni sul conto del predetto. Il Kri-

Divisione S.I.S.

On. MINISTERO DELL'INTERNO
Direzione Generale della P.S.
Divisione A.C.R.

On. MINISTERO DEGLI ESTERI
(Cabinetto)

On. COMANDANTE C.I.O. - Via Sicilia 59

AL COMANDANTE DEL CENTRO C.S. di ROMA

AL SIG. COMANDANTE CORPORELLA INTERNA CARABINIERI

SIG. CAPO CABINETTO MINISTERO INTERNI

" R U M A "

Di seguito a mio rapporto P.N. oggetto del 2.12.u.s., comunico una
il giornalista Krivosheim Moche, di cui erano state diramate le ricerche
dopo la sua partenza in aereo per la Grecia, venne fermato il 3 dicembre,
nell'Albergo Nizza, dove aveva preso alloggio. Di tale fermo venne avvertito
il Comando Allato, per le informazioni sul conto del predetto. Il Krivosheim
dichiarò (vedi alleg. n. 50), di essere stato in Italia, dopo l'attuale
guerra, soltanto due volte. La prima volta era giunto a Genova il
24.10.1946, sul piroscafo "Cairo". Era venuto in Italia perché voleva
andare in Cecoslovacchia per ragioni di salute, ma essendo qui giunto in
ritardo, aveva poi deciso di recarsi per via aerea in Grecia. Era sbarcato
a Genova con Speztejn Israel, da lui conosciuto in Palestina, col quale
si era accompagnato sino a Roma, prendendo alloggio nella stanza
dell'Albergo Nizza, sito in Via M.C. Azeglio.

Sul piroscafo aveva anche conosciuto tale Weber Harry (che secondo

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QUESTURA DI ROMA

2

Gli Alleati é in rapporto con "L'Urgun Zvai Leumi", ma non anone Menahem David (pure secondo gli Alleati in rapporto con "L'Urgun Zvai Leumi").

Il Krivosheim avrebbe conosciuto il Weber nel porto di Haifa, essendo stato fermato con lui per senarianti dal CID e quindi accompagnato col predetto al piroscalo. Lo stesso Krivosheim ha poi precisato di non conoscere il Menahem, per cui non può escludere che il predetto possa aver viaggiato con lo stesso piroscalo, come risulta agli Alleati.

Dopo qualche giorno che si trovava a Roma, aveva incontrato in un caffè nei pressi della stazione il Daitel T. Burzio, suo ex compagno in un campo di internamento della Palestina, il quale avendo saputo che egli doveva recarsi a Bari, per commissioni avute da amici, decise di partire insieme con lui. Il Krivosheim e il Daitel partirono effettivamente verso le 10,40 del 29.10. col rapido diretto a Potenza, dove giunsero all'imbrunire del 29. Passarono immediatamente sul treno di Lecce, dove giunsero verso le 2,30 del giorno 30 e dove presero alloggio all'Albergo Patria. Verso le 17 del giorno 30 partirono col rapido per Bari, e arrivarono la sera stessa prendendo alloggio al Grand Albergo Miramare. La sera del 31 partirono da Bari per Roma, giungendovi nel pomeriggio del giorno primo novembre. L'11 novembre, come rilevasi dal rapporto precedente, il Krivosheim venne sommariamente interrogato in questo ufficio e il giorno successivo partì in aereo per Atene, rimanendo in Grecia fino al 30 novembre; quindi si imbarcò per l'Italia, dove giunse il 3 dicembre, arrivando a Roma il giorno 4, col proposito di recarsi in Cecoslovacchia. Benché venne fermato il successivo giorno 5 dicembre, come è stato già detto.

Il Krivosheina ha dichiarato di appartenere al partito revisionista, ma non all' "Irgun Zvai" (5334). Egli ha risposto che, quale corrispondente dell' "Organo", egli poteva domandare denaro in qualsiasi momento. Egli appartenenti al tale partito.

Copia del predetto verbale venne inviato al Comando Alleato, rimanendos
in attesa di ulteriori istruzioni. ::/::

QUESTURA DI ROMA

3

Come rilevasi dal precedente rapporto, il mattino del 13 novembre erano stati fermati da elementi della Polizia Alleata, di questo Ufficio Politico L'epsztein Israel e il Deitel Tiburzio. L'epsztein fu interrogato la prima volta il 15.11.45. Dichiarò (vedi alleg. 51) di essere sbarcato a Genova il 24 dello scorso ottobre (quindi insieme a Krivoshein ed al Weber) con regolare passaporto, e con intenzione di recarsi in Cecoslovacchia e scendere in Austria durante il viaggio. In detto Stato avrebbe cercato di ottenere un regolare permesso per visitare la madre, ristretta in campo di concentramento militare americano. Aveva compiuto il viaggio fino a Roma col giornalista Krivoshein, prendendo con lui alloggio nell'albergo Rizza. A Roma aveva veduto il medico sud-africano Lifschitz, il lituano partigiano Lazar Chaim, la signora Karpinhes, nonché certo Izhwicz e Kotlowitz, tutti, come lui, membri della Betar e del Partito Revisionista. A Roma aveva conosciuto anche il Deitel Tiburzio. Naturalmente, aveva conosciuto il Krivoshein pure appartenente al Partito Revisionista, ma, secondo lui, non anche All'Argun Zvai Leumi.

L'epsztein venne ristretto nelle locali carceri di Regina Coeli il giorno 16.11., in attesa di ulteriori informazioni che dovevano pervenire da parte degli Alleati.

Il 15.12.45 l'epsztein venne rilevato dalle predette carceri, per essere interrogato in ordine a nuove circostanze, nel frattempo fatte presenti dagli Alleati. Egli, infatti, venne interrogato il 16.12. (vedi alleg. n. 52).

Dichiarò di aver prestato al Kotlowitz una macchina da scrivere con

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creato di ottenere un regolare permesso per visitare la
in campo di concentramento militare americano. Aveva compiuto il viaggio
fino a Roma col giornalista Krivosheim, prendendo con lui alloggio nel-
l'Albergo Nizza. A Roma aveva veduto il medico sud-africano Lifschitz, il
lituano partigiano Lazar Chaim, la signora Karpinhes, nonché certo Izhwicz
e Kotlowitz, tutti, come lui, membri della Betar e del Partito Revisionista.
A Roma aveva conosciuto anche il Deitel Tiburzio. Naturalmente, aveva cono-
sciuto il Krivosheim pure appartenente al Partito Revisionista, ma, secondo
lui, non anche All'Irgun Zvai Leumi.

L'Upzstjen venne ristretto nelle locali carceri di Regina Coeli il giorno
16.11., in attesa di ulteriori informazioni che dovevano pervenire da parte
degli Alleati.

Il 15.12.u.s.l'Upzstein venne rilevato dalle predette carceri, per essere
interrogato in ordine a nuove circostanze, nel frattempo fatte presenti
dagli Alleati. Egli, infatti, venne interrogato il 16.12. (vedi alleg.n.52).

Dichiarò di aver prestato al Kotlowitz una macchina da scrivere con
caratteri ebraici, macchina che il Kotlowitz gli aveva chiesto per portarla
a Parigi, dove l'avrebbe restituita al suo arrivo in quella città. Egli,
pertanto, come risulta agli Alleati, si è visto mandato una macchina da
scrivere con caratteri ebraici alla famiglia Halbern, rue de Teheran n.19,
affermando di avere soltanto detto al Kotlowitz che costui avrebbe dovuto
conservare la macchina stessa alla detta famiglia Halbern, qualora avesse
lasciato Parigi prima del suo arrivo.

L'Upzstein disse di non avere mai veduto il noto messaggio dell'Irgun
Zvai Leumi all'On. De Gasperi, ammettendo tuttavia di conoscere il contenuto
di tale lettera, per aver veduta la sua versione in ebraico, su carta da

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QUESTURA DI ROMA

4

lettera scritta di pugno del Krivosheim, il quale, come è noto, allo giava nella sua stessa camera. A questo punto venne introdotto il giornalista Krivosheim il quale dichiarò (vedi alleg.n.52) che un giorno imprecisato, rientrando nella camera dell'Albergo occupata insieme con L'Epstein, aveva trovato sotto luscio un fascio di carte di provenienza ignota, costituito dal "comunicato" per l'attentato all'Ambasciata, in lingua ebraica, da un messaggio a De Gasperi, scritto in ebraico e da un altro foglio pure scritto in ebraico, di cui affermò non ricordare il contenuto. Tutti questi tre fogli erano datilografati su carta pesante, bianca e stretta. Trascrisse di sua mano passaggi del comunicato e del messaggio all'On. De Gasperi, che poi trasmise in Palestina l'11.11., presente L'Epstein, per il servizio del giornale "Hemashif".

Il fatto più importante è che, come il Krivosheim ha dichiarato, egli avrebbe trovato il plico prima che i comunicati fossero divulgati dalla stampa, in un momento in cui L'Epstein era fuori dell'Albergo. Egli ha successo di aver mostrato all'Epstein il tutto del messaggio all'On. De Gasperi, dichiarando di non avere conservato l'originale costituente il plico trovato sotto l'uscio. Egli spiega di essersi trovato in possesso dei comunicati dell'Irgun Zvai Leumi prima della loro divulgazione col fatto che qualcuno, sapendo della sua professione di giornalista, abbia voluto i fargli preventivamente il plico, aggiungendo che tal cosa non è infrequente per le organizzazioni clandestine in Palestina.

Copia di detto verbale N.52 venne trasmessa agli Alleati.

785016

stretta. Trasferisce di sua mano passaggi del comunicato e del messaggio all'On. De Gasperi, che poi trasmise in Palestina l'11.11., presente L'Epstein, per il servizio del giornale "Hamasif".

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Copia di detto verbale N. 52 venne trasmessa agli Alleati.

Non si ritenne necessaria inviare nuovamente L'Epstein al carcere, avendo egli insistentemente pregato di rimanere custodito in questura, insieme al Krivosheim, per il quale si attendevano notizie, e poi perché si riteneva che la risposta degli Alleati non dovesse tardare. La sera del 27.12., infatti, un Ufficiale Superiore Alleato fece presente al Dirigente di questo Ufficio Politico che tanto L'Epstein che il Krivosheim potrebbero essere deferiti in stato di arresto, in base agli elementi raccolti, ritenute alle altre persone indicate nel noto attentato. Data l'ora tarda, L'Epstein ed il Krivosheim rimasero custoditi nell'Ufficio Politico,

::/::

QUESTURA DI ROMA

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per essere trasferiti alle carceri. Benonché la notte successiva, verso le ore 0.30, L'Epzstein, col pretesto di prendere un pò di aria, assievrava costantemente il cappio di una lunga fune che nascondeva sotto il cappotto alla manopola del termosifone prossimo alla finestra, gettandosi nel vuoto. L'agente RINDONE Nunzio tentò di impedire la fuga dell'Epzstein, mentre l'altro agente VITTOCCI Felice teneva a bada l'altro fermato Krivoshein, che nel frattempo si era levato in piedi, ma il fuggitivo, ormai accarapponosi alla corda, continuò nella discesa, per cui il Rindone esplose un primo colpo di pistola, a scopo intimidatorio. Visto; però; che L'Epzstein stava quasi per raggiungere la Via Genova, il Rindone fece partire alla sua direzione un secondo colpo di pistola, che lo raggiunse all'addome. L'Epzstein, immediatamente trasportato all'Ospedale Policlinico, venne ivi rievoverato in osservazione per ferita di arma da fuoco a fondo cieco, con foro di entrata alla regione diaframmatica destra (vedi all.53) e alle ore 16.45 dello stesso giorno 28 cassò di vivere (vedi alleg.n.54). La salma fu posta a disposizione di V.6.Ill.ma.

Si fa presente che tutte le precauzioni erano state adottate per impedire l'eventuale fuga dei fermati. Essi erano custoditi da due Agenti, in una camera di cui preventivamente gli stessi Agenti avevano chiuso l'uscio dall'interno, prendendo possesso della relativa chiave. Non fu possibile prevenire la fulminea mossa dell'Epzstein, il quale, essendo assilissimo e di esile complessione, riuscì a calarsi nel vuoto attraverso uno spiraglio di non più di 40 cm. aperto tra il davanzale e la persiana a

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che L'Epzstein stava quasi per raggiungere la Via Genova, il Rimone fece partire alla sua direzione un secondo colpo di pistola, che lo raggiunse all'addome. L'Epzstein, immediatamente trasportato all'Ospedale Policlinico, venne ivi ricoverato in osservazione per ferita di arma da fuoco a fondo cieco, con foro di entrata alla regione diaframmatica destra (vedi all.53) e alle ore 1645 dello stesso giorno 28 cessò di vivere (vedi alleg.n.54). La salma fu posta a disposizione di V.S.Ill.ma.

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Sono in corso indagini per accertare come L'Epzstein sia venuto in possesso della chiave, ma si ha fondato motivo di ritenere che essa sia stata abilmente nascosta in uno dei tanti barattoli dell'U.N.R.A. ⁵³³¹ che i due fermati ricevevano quotidianamente dalla Delasem, Organizzazione incaricata dell'assistenza dei profughi ebrei (Delasem significa, infatti: "Delegazione Assistenza Emigrati").

Anche il Krivoshein, pertanto, che si è trovato in possesso del proclama dell'Irgun Zvai Leumi prima della divulgazione, come egli stesso ammette, e quindi non sono chiari i motivi dei suoi viaggi in Italia, viene denun-

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QUESTURA DI ROMA

6

ziato a codesta Giustizia, in qualità di sospetto appartenente alla nota organizzazione terroristica Irgun Zvai Leumi. Devesi, peraltro, ricordare che tanto il Krivoshein, quanto il Menahem, il Weber e L'Epzstejn risultano secondo gli Allenti, di essere in rapporti con la nota organizzazione terroristica.

Alligo i 2 referti medici relativi all'Epzstejn, il verbale di interrogatorio riguardante il predetto e il Krivoshein e il primo verbale di interrogatorio riguardante il Krivoshein, nonché i verbali delle dichiarazioni dei due Agenti che custodivano l'Epzstejn.

La corda usata da quest'ultimo nel tentativo di evasione sarà fatta depositare, ad indagini ultimate, in debito reparto, presso codesta Segreteria.

Riservoni, pertanto, ulteriori comunicazioni.

IL QUESTURIERE
(SAVERIO FOLITO)

zioni dei due agenti che custodivano l'epzstejn.

La corda usata da quest'ultimo nel tentativo di evasione sarà fatta depositare, ad indagini ultimate, in debito reparto, presso codesta segreteria.

Riservoni, pertanto, ulteriori comunicazioni.

IL QUESTORE
(SAVERIO POLITO)

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Hoad

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Ref: AC/14399/RS

30 December 1946.

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208

Dear Sir,

I refer to your letter of 23 December 1946 and to your visit to my office on the afternoon of 27 December on my invitation to discuss the subject raised in your letter.

As regards the statement made in your letter that the British military authorities have requested that the Italian police turn over to them the persons referred to by you for deportation to PALESTINE, following enquiries made of the British Embassy and the responsible military authorities I find, as I informed you, that no such request has been made by the British military authorities.

I confirm that if any action has been taken by the British civil authorities, as distinct from the British military authorities, the question would be one to be referred by you to the British Embassy or other diplomatic channel.

Very truly yours,

1/s/ Ellery Stone

ELLERY W. STONE
Rear Admiral, USNR
Chief Commissioner

COPY TO: Polad (A)
Polad (B)
CC
EC

Professor Johan J. Smertenko,
Hotel Mediterraneo,
ROME.

208

AMERICAN LEAGUE FOR A FREE PALESTINE Inc.
 25 West 45th Street
 NEW YORK 19, N. Y.

Hon. Guy M. Gillette,
 President.

Hotel Mediterraneo,
 Rome.

December 23rd, 1946.

Dear Sir,

May I call your attention to the fact that for a period of two months, the Italian police have been arresting a number of Hebrew persons on suspicion of their being implicated in the bombing of the British Embassy in Rome? These people have been held for interrogation and examination. The cases that have come to my notice include: Israel Epstein, a teacher of history and geography in Palestine; M. Krivoshein, an accredited correspondent for the Palestine Newspaper "Hamashkir"; Fabrizio Daitel, an Italian subject; Dov Gurvitz, a member of the Hebrew Underground Resistance movement; David Witten and Whitlin (first names unknown).

After exhaustive examination, the Italian political police reported that they believe Israel Epstein to be in no way implicated in the bombing of the British Embassy. I believe that similar reports are being prepared in the other cases. Nevertheless, we have learned that the British military authorities have requested that the Italian police turn over to them Israel Epstein and a number of the other people for deportation to Palestine.

I take the liberty of submitting to you this protest on behalf of the American League for a Free Palestine against the action of the British authorities. I am convinced that the deportation of any of these people to Palestine means their imprisonment in concentration camps, either there or in Eritrea, without the opportunity of a trial in a court of justice although they are not guilty of any crime against Italian law or against the Allied Military command.

I am informed that under the terms of the armistice, the Allied Powers have the right to take action in Italy against persons who threaten the safety of their troops or the security of their lines of communication. These men cannot by any stretch of imagination be regarded as guilty of these offences. I am authoritatively informed by their associates that these men have been engaged solely in propaganda and repatriation activities. Although such activities are inimical to the position taken by the Palestine administration, they are not illegal under international, Italian or American law.

I am communicating these facts to Senator Albert D. Thomas, Chairman of the Senate Military Affairs Committee and to Senator Francis J. Myers, member of the Senate Naval Affairs Committee with the request that they take whatever Congressional action they consider necessary to prevent this miscarriage of justice. Meanwhile, may I ask your kind offices in restraining British military authorities in Rome from deporting Israel Epstein and any of the other persons now in the hands of the Italian police.

I shall be very grateful to you for an appointment when I may have the opportunity of discussing this matter in detail.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Johan J. Smertenko.

Rear Admiral Ellery W. Stone,
Chief Commissioner,
Allied Commission in Italy,
ROME.

QUESTURA OF ROME

N. 067561

28 December 1946.

SUBJECT : Internal cable.

TO : Colonel Bye
Public Safety Division
Allied Commission - Rome.

A little after midnight, the Palestinian Epstein Israel son of Zev and Gitla Vitkin, born at Vilno 25 July 1914, who was closed in a room of the political office, with his fellow countrymen Krivoshein Moise son of Alessandro held on grave suspicion of having organised the famous attempt against the British Embassy, and was guarded by two agents, under the pretext of needing air, asked permission of one of the agents to go to the window which was open and then suddenly succeeded to climb out towards Via Genova which is underneath by means of a rope which he had hidden beneath his coat. The agent called on him to halt, but Epstein continued to attempt to escape and actually reached the ground at that, one of the agents Rindone Lunzio, fired a shot in the air from his revolver to frighten him but as he did not stop, fired again hitting Epstein in the abdomen. Epstein was given first aid and taken to the hospital of the Policlinico.

The accused man, for whom a warrant of holding in custody was authorised by the judicial authorities has been in custody since 13 November and after the first interrogation was held in the Carceri of Regina Coeli.

He had been brought to the political office for interrogation and was in custody of the agents of PS during the enquiries and necessary interrogation.

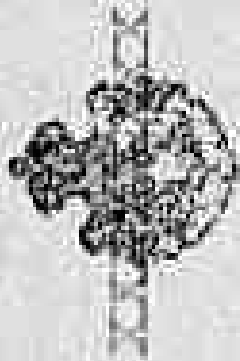
It is not known yet how he came into possession of the rope but strict enquiries are in hand to ascertain this.

Collusion by the Agents is absolutely excluded.

The Questore
/s/ Polito Saverio.

5326

N. 63 d'ordine P. S.



Mod. P
(Servizio anagrafico)

R. QUESTURA DI ROMA

N. 67561 Div. U.F. Categ. _____

Add 28 dicembre 1946- 194

Risposta a nota N. _____

OGGETTO: Fonogramma interno.

del _____ 194

A/ Sig. Colonnello

E.J. DYE

Headquarters Allied Commission
Public Safety Division
APO 794

R O M A

Via Veneto

Poco dopo mezzanotte, il palestinese Epsztejn Izrael fu Zev e di Gitla Vitkin, nato a Vilno il 25.7.1914, che si trovava pianto= nato in una stanza dell'Ufficio Politico, insieme al suo concitta= dino Krivoshein Moise fu Alessandro, entrambi indiziati gravemente di avere organizzato noto attentato Ambasciata Inglese, guardati e vista da due agenti di p.s., col pretesto di prendere aria si è avvicinato, dopo aver chiesto permesso ad un uno degli agenti di servizio, alla finestra, l'ha aperta e con moto rapido è riuscito a calarsi nella sottostante via Genova, mediante una fune che aveva nascosta sotto il pastreno. All'incrinazione di fermo, datagli da= gli agenti, l'Epsztejn continuava il tentativo di evasione, stando per raggiungere il suolo. Al che uno degli agenti stessi, Rindone

Headquarters Allied Commission
Public Safety Division

AFPO 794

ROMA

Via Veneto

Poco dopo mezzanotte, il palestinese Epsztejn Izrael fu Zev e di Gitla Vitkin, nato a Vilno il 25.7.1914, che si trovava pianto= nato in una stanza dell'Ufficio Politico, insieme al suo concittadino Krivoshein Moisè fu Alessandro, entrambi indiziati gravemente di avere organizzato notò attentato Ambasciata Inglese, guardati a vista da due agenti di P.S., col pretesto di prendere aria si è avvicinato, dopo aver chiesto permesso ad un uno degli agenti di servizio, alla finestra, l'ha aperta e con moto rapido è riuscito a calarsi nella sottostante via Genova, mediante una fune che aveva nascosta sotto il pastrano. All'intimazione di fermo, dettagli dagli agenti, l'Epsztejn continuava il tentativo di evasione, stando per raggiungere il suolo. Al che uno degli agenti stessi, Rindone Nunzio, ha esploso un primo colpo di rivoltella per aria a scopo intimidatorio e di fronte alla persistenza del proposito di fuga del detenuto ha esploso un secondo colpo mentre fuggiva l'ha raggiunto all'addome. L'Epsztejn è stato subito soccorso e trasportato all'Ospedale del Policlinico.

Il predetto, per il cui fermo fu chiesta all'Autorità Giudiziarie autorizzazione a mantenerlo, era stato fermato il 13 novembre e, dopo i primi interrogatori, inviato al Carcere di Regina

Coeli.

o/o

-2-

Tu prelevato per essere interrogato ed era trattato nel locale dell'Ufficio Politico, piantonato costantemente da Agenti di P.S., per il prosieguo delle indagini e degli interrogatori necessari.

Non si sa come - e sono per questo in corso, opportune, rigorose indagini - sia riuscito a procurarsi la fune per il tentativo di evasione.

L'epilogo del fatto esclude in modo assoluto qualsiasi connivenza da parte degli agenti che eseguivano il piantonamento durante la notte.

IL QUESTORE
(Saverio Felitto)



785016

QUESTURA OF ROME

18

N. 067562

29 December 1946.

SUBJECT : Internal Cable.

TO : Colonel Dye
Public Safety Division
Allied Commission.

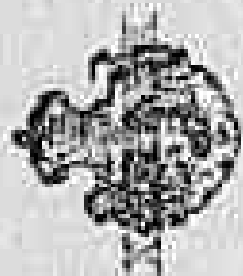
Following on the above I communicate that the
Palestinian Jew Epstein Israel died of his wounds at 16.45
hrs on 28th December in the hospital.

The body has been placed at the disposition of the
Procuratore della Repubblica.

The Questore
/s/ Polito Saverio.

532

N. 63 d'ordine P. S.



Mos. P
(Servizio anagrafico)

R. QUESTURA DI ROMA

N. 067562 Div. U.F. Categ. A.4.A.-

Addi 29 dicembre 1945- 194

Risposta a nota N.

OGGETTO: Fonogramma interno.

del 194

Al Sig. Colonnello

B.J. BIE
Headquarters Allied Commission
Public Safety Division APO 794

R O M A

via Veneto

Di seguito alla mia segnalazione p.n. in data di ieri, comunico che l'ebreo palestinese EPSZTEH Izrael è deceduto alle ore 16.45 di ieri, nel primo padiglione dell'Ospedale Policlinico, in seguito alla ferita riportata.

La salma è stata messa a disposizione del Sig. Procuratore della Repubblica.

IL QUESTORE
(Saverio Folito)

D. J. BIE
Headquarters Allied Commission
Public Safety Division APO 794

ROMA

via Veneto

Di seguito alla mia segnalazione p.n. in data di ieri, comunico che l'ebreo palestinese EPSZTEN Izrael è deceduto alle ore 16.45 di ieri, nel primo padiglione dell'Ospedale Policlinico, in seguito alla ferita riportata.

La salma è stata messa a disposizione del Sig. Procuratore della Repubblica.

IL QUESTORE
(Saverio Polito)

5323

CC.RR. GENERAL COMMAND
Situation and Service Office

17 DEC 1946
14349
WB
13 Dec. 1946
L

N. 786/6 R.P.

SUBJECT : Activity Jewish terrorists -

TO ALLIED COMMISSION
Public Safety S/C
Rome

Following letter n. 786/2 R.P. of the 21st Nov. 1946.
Further enquiries made by the investigations squad
of the CC.RR.'s Legion in Naples, together with the British
423 Section F.S.S., regarding the piece of paper found in Naples
by the CC.RR. CONTALDI Vincenzo, have had a negative result.

Also the investigations made by the 423 F.S.S. Section
at the Allied Offices, commands and magazines of the zone, for
the rescue of the typewriter used by the unknown writer of the
note, had a negative result.

2
THE GENERAL COMMANDER
Brunetto Brunetti

5324

Comando Generale dell'Arma dei Carabinieri

UFFICIO SERVIZIO E SITUAZIONE

N. 786/6 di prot. Roma, 11

R.F.

13 dicembre 1946

Risposta al del Allegati n.

OGGETTO: Attività terroristi ebrei in Italia.

ALLA COMMISSIONE ALLEATA
Sottocommissione per la P.S.

ROMA

UNIVERSITY MICROFILMS

Ha seguito al foglio n. 786/2 R.F. del 21 novembre u./s. -
Ulteriori indagini compiute dalla squadra investigativa della Legio-
ne Carabinieri di Napoli, in collaborazione con la 423ª Sezione P.S.S.
britannica, in merito al noto frammento di carta rinvenuto in Napoli
dal carabiniere scelto CONFALDI Vincenzo, hanno avuto esito infruttuoso.
Analogo risultato hanno avuto gli accertamenti compiuti dalla 423ª
Sezione P.S.S. presso gli uffici, comandi e depositi alleati della zona
per il rintraccio della macchina da scrivere usata dagli ignoti com-
patori del biglietto.

2012

ALLA COMMISSIONE ALLEATA
Sottocommissione per la P.S.

ROMA

Ha seguito al foglio n. 786/P.S.P. del 21 novembre u/s.-

Ulteriori indagini compiute dalla squadra investigativa della Legione Carabinieri di Napoli, in collaborazione con la 42^a Sezione P.S.S. britannica, in merito al noto frammento di carta rinvenuto in Napoli del carabiniere scelto CORRADI Vincenzo, hanno avuto esito infruttuoso.

Analoghi risultati hanno avuto gli accertamenti compiuti dalla 42^a Sezione P.S.S. presso gli uffici, comandi e depositi alleati della zona per il rintraccio della macchina da scrivere usata dagli ignoti cospiratori del bidietto.

IL COMANDANTE GENERALE
- Brunetto Brunetti -

Brunetti

5324

file 16^A

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
Public Safety Division
APO 794

AC/14399/PB

2 December 1946

SUBJECT : British Embassy Explosion.

TO : G-2 AFHQ.

1. With reference to attached statement to the press made by Prof. Johan J. Smertenk, Vice-president of the "American League for a free Palestine", I also attach hereto a pro-memoria regarding Smertenk which I have today received from the Ministry of the Interior.

2. Further information has just come to hand from the Ministry that Smertenk left Rome yesterday by air for Paris and London.

FOR THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER,

FGG/so

1 encl.

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

532^u

Secret

15A

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
Public Safety Division
APO 724

AC/14399/PS

2nd December 1946

SUBJECT : Hebrew Terrorist Activities.

TO : Commanding General Arma dei Carabinieri,
Rome.

Reference your report N. 786/2 R.F. of 21st November 1946.

1. A copy of this report was forwarded to the British Embassy at Rome and I have today received a letter from the Embassy asking me to convey to you their thanks and appreciation of the action taken by the Arma dei Carabinieri in this matter.

2. I am pleased to be able to forward their thanks and would like to say in addition that this is another example of the very real co-operation that has always been received from the Arma dei Carabinieri.

FOR THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER,

PSC/ac

E. J. HES
E. J. HES, Colonel
Director.

Secret

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Secret

14thHEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
Public Safety Division
APO 794

AG/14399/PB

2 December 1946

SUBJECT : British Embassy Explosion.

To : G-2 AFHQ,

British Embassy, Rome
Attn. Mr. A.C.E. Malone.

The attached copy of a statement made to a press conference in Rome on the 26th November 1946 is forwarded for your information.

FOR THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER,

FEG/as

encl.

H. E. E.
E. J. EYE, Colonel
Director.

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Secret

14B

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
26 Nov. 1946

STATEMENT OF
Prof. Johan J. Smertenko, Vice President
American League for a Free Palestine

In seeking the perpetrators of the bombing of the British Embassy in Rome, the Italian police have embarked upon a witchhunt that has resulted to-date in the imprisonment of at least ten innocent persons who are kept in conditions worse than those accorded to convicted criminals. They are confined in unheated cells, given no blankets or other bed covers, and fed only bread and water.

Moreover, the incessant searches and indiscriminate arrests by which these people are dragged in for so-called interrogation have terrorized and disorganized the refugees in the Displaced Persons camps who feel that they have no protection against the whimsical and arbitrary action of the police. In Grotta Ferrata, Indispoli, Lido Ostia, as well as other camps throughout the country, people are being lined up for examination and taken into custody without warrants or charges and even without any grounds for suspicion other than that they may be members of some militant Zionist organization.

The Betar (British Trumpet) organization has been specially singled out. This is the youth branch of the Zionist-Revisionist organization whose function is the education and training of young men and women for service as pioneers in Palestine. It is recognized and allowed to operate in every country, including Palestine. Nevertheless, its office in Rome was raided and closed. Two of its volunteer workers and visitor, who were in this office at the time of the raid, were arrested and have now been imprisoned for more than two weeks although Signor Bottini, the sub-prefect of Police, has repeatedly declared that he has nothing incriminating against them and that they will be released "soon".

As a representative of the American League for a Free Palestine, I was apprised of these facts on my arrival in Rome. I realized that these were helpless people, most of them without status, without relatives or friends who can intercede on their behalf. Upon consultation with my associates in New York and Paris, it was decided to take some steps to put an end to this outrageous situation.

First, we have retained legal counsel to take whatever action is possible under present Italian laws and conditions. More important, we are appealing through the press to public opinion in this country and throughout the world to recognize that innocent and defenseless people are being made the victims of police measures that are cruel and unjustified.

- 2 -

Let me make certain things perfectly clear. The American League for a Free Palestine, which is an organization of over 140,000 American citizens of every race and creed, headed by former Senator Guy M. Gillette, is interested in this matter not simply because there is a clear violation of elementary human rights and civil liberties of people who have no one to speak for them, but because it approves and supports the Hebrew Underground Resistance in its struggle against British oppression.

Like every other decent body of men, the American League deplores, recourse to violence and regrets the death of any human being as a result of violence. But we recognize that the violence by which the Hebrew Underground Resistance is combatting British oppression in Palestine and outside of Palestine is the direct consequence of the undeclared war that the British Government is conducting against the Hebrew people.

To be sure, the British do not use bombing and other measures of guerrilla warfare. Governments have other means of murdering people. They have planes and tanks and destroyers, armies and police, concentration camps and prisons. The uniforms of the men who use these weapons, the black robes of judges and executioners give a specious aspect of legality to such murders, but they are murders nonetheless.

We hold that the lives of British soldiers are neither more nor less sacred than the lives of the Hebrews in Palestine and Europe. If the deaths of a few score British soldiers shock us, then the death of hundreds and even thousands of Hebrews resulting from British policy and action ought to shock us equally.

Illegal restrictions on repatriation that leave a million and a half people destitute and desperate, violations of all civil rights and liberties of a peaceful population, mass arrests and deportations, prisons and concentration camps in Palestine and Eritrea, "third-degree" treatment by a new Black and Tan police and "trigger-happy" shootings by the unrestrained soldiers of an occupying army - all these constitute the British reign of terror in Palestine. They form the links of a chain in which other links are the bombings and assassination of the Underground Resistance. It is sheer hypocrisy to condemn the latter as acts of "terrorism" and to shut one's eyes to the former.

This is not solely the stand of the American League. These facts have been recognized by the British people as well. The first call to the Hebrews to resort to arms in their struggle against British imperialism came from the noble Englishman, Lord Wedgwood. Recently, R.H.S. Crossman and Michael Foot, two of the leading Labour Members of Parliament, found extenuating circumstances even for the assassination of Lord Moyne in the fact that one of the youthful assassins had seen, as a lad of fourteen, the blowing up of the SS Patria in which two hundred Hebrews were killed for no other offense than that they desired to return to Palestine.

./.

5316

- 3 -

We believe that the Hebrews in Palestine have no choice but to fight the illegal forces of British imperialism which keep them enslaved and are seeking to enslave and destroy the surviving remnants of the Hebrew of Europe. It remains for the British Government to determine how much suffering and how many more casualties must be incurred before this policy is abandoned and a just and permanent solution of the Palestine problem is sincerely offered to the desperate Hebrew nation.

531°

Secret

13^B

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
Public Safety Division
APO 794

AC/14399/RS

2nd December 1946

SUBJECT : Explosion at British Embassy.

TO : The Questore, Rome.

The attached anonymous letter received at this
office is forwarded to you for such action as you think proper.

-13^B

FOR THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER,

EGG/ac

*H. J. Bye*H. J. BYE, Colonel
Director.2 encls.531⁴

Secret

785016

138
TRANSLATION

We have advised you once before.

You 'd better to watch on Mr. TOZZI
Paolo and Mr. CARINCI, employed with AGEA,
electricity firm, at Via dei Pastini.

Perhaps you could find the trace of
the attempt to the British Consulate.

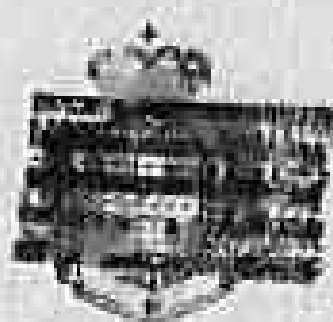
Received: 30.11.46.

5312

2021

785016

O/



Roma, 11 2 Dicembre 1945

Ministro dell'Interno

IL CAPO DELLA POLIZIA

14399

Caro Colonnello,

a seguito della mia precedente comunicazione
del 30 u.s., Le do notizia che il noto giornalista
americano Smertenk Johann Jacob, sedicente capo le-
ga americana per la libera Palestina, è partito in
data di ieri alla volta di Parigi e Londra.

Cordialmente.

De Rosa
Sanary

Al Colonnello B Y E
Capo della S.C. Alleata per la P.S.

R O M A

5317



MINISTERO DELL'INTERNO
IL CAPO DELLA POLIZIA

Roma, li 30 Novembre 1946

14399

Caro Colonello,

Le riporto, come d'intesa, l'Unità pro-memoria
riguardante il cittadino americano Jacob Johan
SMERTENK.

Mi è gradita l'occasione per inviarLe i più
cordiali saluti

*Donna
Guglielmi*

Al Colopello RYE

Capo della Sottocommissione
Alleata per la P.S.

ROMA

5314

113
P R O - M E M O R I A

Cittadino americano SMERTANK Johan Jacob, nato a Pyoskurov (Russia) il 7 dicembre 1895, autore, residente in America, munito di passaporto americano n. 5527 rilasciato a Washington il 1° agosto 1945.

E' entrato in Italia con visto n. 25180 rilasciatogli dal Consolato Generale italiano di Parigi il 15 novembre, valevole per un mese.

Il 19 corrente preso alloggio al Grande Albergo, senza rendere la dichiarazione di soggiorno; per cui in data 20 corrente è stato contravvenzionato ai sensi e per gli effetti dell'art. 142 T.U. Legge di P.S.

In questi atti non ha precedenti.

Secondo dichiarazioni del direttore del Grande Albergo egli nel presentarsi per richiedere la camera ha esibito un certificato d'alloggio della locale Ambasciata americana in data 18 corrente.

la dichiarazione di soggiorno; per cui in data 28 corrente è stato
contravvenzionato ai sensi e per gli effetti dell'art.142 T.U.

Legge di P.S.

In questi atti non ha precedenti.

Secondo dichiarazioni del direttore del Grande Albergo egli
nel presentarsi per richiedere la camera ha esibito un certificato
d'alloggio della locale Ambasciata americana in data 18 corrente.

5310

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Nov. 26, 1946.

STATEMENT OF

Prof. Johan J. Smertenko, Vice President

American League for a Free Palestine

In seeking the perpetrators of the bombing of the British Embassy in Rome, the Italian police have embarked upon a witch-hunt that has resulted to-date in the imprisonment of at least ten innocent persons who are kept in conditions worse than those accorded to convicted criminals. They are confined in unheated cells, given no blankets or other bed covers, and fed only bread and water.

Moreover, the incessant searches and indiscriminate arrests by which these people are dragged in for so-called interrogation have terrorized and disorganized the refugees in the Displaced Persons camps who feel that they have no protection against the whimsical and arbitrary action of the police. In Grotto Feratta, Ladispoli, Lido-Costia, as well as other camps throughout the country, people are being lined up for examination and taken into custody without warrants or charges and even without any grounds for suspicion other than that they may be members of some militant Zionist organization.

The Betar (Eretz Trumpador) organization has been specially singled out. This is the youth branch of the Zionist-Revisionist organization whose function is the education and training of young men and women for service as pioneers in Palestine. It is recognized and allowed to operate in every country, including Palestine. Nevertheless, its office in Rome was raided and closed. Two of its volunteer workers and a visitor, who were in this office at the time of the raid, were arrested and have now been

2026

accorded to convicted criminals. They are confined in unheated cells, given no blankets or other bed covers, and fed only bread and water.

Moreover, the incessant searches and indiscriminate arrests by which these people are dragged in for so-called interrogation have terrorized and disorganized the refugees in the Displaced Persons camps who feel that they have no protection against the whimsical and arbitrary action of the police. In Grotte Peratta, Ladispoli, Lido-Ostia, as well as other camps throughout the country, people are being lined up for examination and taken into custody without warrants or charges and even without any grounds for suspicion other than that they may be members of some militant Zionist organization.

The Betar (Brith Trumpador) organization has been specially singled out. This is the youth branch of the Zionist-Revisionist organization whose function is the education and training of young men and women for service as pioneers in Palestine. It is recognized and allowed to operate in every country, including Palestine. Nevertheless, its office in Rome was raided and closed. Two of its volunteer workers and a visitor, who were in this office at the time of the raid, were arrested and have now been imprisoned for more than two weeks although Signor Bottini, the sub-prefect of Police, has repeatedly declared that he has nothing incriminating against them and that they will be released "soon."

As a representative of the American League for a Free Palestine, I was apprised of these facts on my arrival in Rome. I realized that these were helpless people, most of them without status, without relatives or friends who can intercede on their behalf. Upon consultation with my associates in New York and Paris, it was decided to take some steps to put an end to this outrageous situation.

5309

First, we have retained legal counsel to take whatever action is possible under present Italian laws and conditions. More important, we are appealing through the press to public opinion in this country and throughout the world to recognize that innocent and defenseless people are being made the victims of police measures that are cruel and unjustified.

Let me make certain things perfectly clear. The American League for a Free Palestine, which is an organization of over 140,000 American citizens of every race and creed, headed by former Senator Guy W. Gillette, is interested in this matter not simply because there is a clear violation of elementary human rights and civil liberties of people who have no one to speak for them, but because it approves and supports the Hebrew Underground Resistance in its struggle against British oppression.

Like every other decent body of men, the American League deplores recourse to violence and regrets the death of any human being as a result of violence. But we recognize that the violence by which the Hebrew Underground Resistance is combatting British oppression in Palestine and outside of Palestine is the direct consequence of the undeclared war that the British Government is conducting against the Hebrew people.

To be sure, the British do not use bombing and other measures of guerrilla warfare. Governments have other means of murdering people. They have planes and tanks and destroyers, armies and police, concentration camps and prisons. The uniforms of the men who use these weapons, the black robes of judges and executioners give a specious aspect of legality to such murders, but they are murders nonetheless.

We hold that the lives of British soldiers are neither more nor less sacred than the lives of the Hebrews in Palestine and Europe. If the deaths of a few score British soldiers shock us, then the deaths of hundreds and even thousands of Hebrews resulting from British policy and action ought to shock us equally.

Illegal restrictions on repatriation that leave a million and a half people destitute and desperate, violations of all civil rights and liberties of a peaceful population, mass arrests

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of "terrorism" and to shut one's eyes to the former.

This is not solely the stand of the American League. These facts have been recognized by the British people as well. The first call to the Hebrews to resort to arms in their struggle against British imperialism came from the noble Englishman, Lord Wedgewood. Recently, R.H.S. Crossman and Michael Foot, two of the leading Labour Members of Parliament, found extenuating circumstances even for the assassination of Lord Moyne in the fact that one of the youthful assassins had seen, as a lad of fourteen, the blowing up of the S.S. Patria in which two hundred Hebrews were killed for no other offense than that they desired to return to Palestine.

We believe that the Hebrews in Palestine have no choice but to fight the illegal forces of British imperialism which keep them enslaved and are seeking to enslave and destroy the surviving remnants of the Hebrews of Europe. It remains for the British Government to determine how much suffering and how many more casualties must be incurred before this policy is abandoned and a just and permanent solution of the Palestine problem is sincerely offered to the despoiled Hebrew nation.

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5307

9A

R. QUESTURA OF ROME

Nº. 067562 Div. U.P.

24 November 1946

Reference your note Nº. AC/14399/PS
dated 23 November 1946

6A

SUBJECT: Explosion at the British Embassy.

TO: Col. BYE,
Headquarters Allied Commission,
Public Safety Division APO 794
ROME

I thank you heartily for your kind letter above mentioned and I wish to assure you in this regard that I have already issued the necessary orders and that the enquiries on the attempt at the seat of the Embassy are being conducted with utmost fervour.

The arrests of the following Jews, effected some days ago in the seat of the New Sicnist organization at 44 Via Nomentana, are being maintained.

1) Ernò Lowy-Lakatos of David Ferenc and Eugenia Mandel born on 22.11.1920 at Kotaj (Hungary) student of University, living at refugees Camp of Ladispoli.

2) Becker Abram fu Iccl Boruch and fu Tehor Bunia, born at Stepan (Poland) on 25.12.1921, student, living at refugees Camp at Grottaferrata.

3) Ostascinski Daniel of Chaim and Toipa Abramovicz, born at Nowo Grodek on 14.1.1921, Stateless, living at refugees Camp of Grottaferrata.

At the above premises numerous documents were found, almost all of them written in old Jewish language. They are being translated by an official expert appointed by the Judge. In the meantime the seat of the organization has been closed.

Another arrest has been effected in the person of Epusztein Izrael of Zev and Gitla Vitkin, born at Vilma (Poland) on 25.7.1914, teacher, coming from Palestina, because he was in contact with persons strongly suspected.

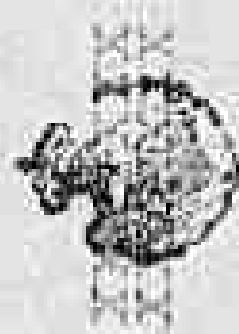
I will not fail to keep you informed on any further developments of enquiries.

With best regards and thanks.

The Questore
Sign. Saverio POLITO

5336

N. 13 d'ordine P. S.

Mod. P
(Servizio Grafico)

R. QUESTURA DI ROMA

N. 067562 iv. U. P. Categ.

Add 24 novembre 1946- 194

Risposta a noi: N. A C/I4399/PS.

OGGETTO: Esplosione all'Ambasciata

del 23 precedente- 194

Britannica.

Al SIG. COLONNELLO

E. J. BYE

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

PUBLIC SAFETY DIVISION

APO 794

ROMA

Nel ringraziarla sentitamente per la cortese comunicazione di cui all'oggetto, in merito alla quale Le assicuro di aver impartito le disposizioni del caso, prego riferirle che le indagini a proposito dell'attentato alla sede dell'Ambasciata proseguono con immutato fervore.

Viene mantenuto il fermo dei seguenti ebrei, operato giorni or sono nella sede della Nuova Organizzazione Sionista, in via Roman-
tana n. 44: 5300

I°) ERND Lowy-Lakatos di David Perenc e Eugenia Mandel, nato il 22.

II. 1920 a Kotsaj (Ungheria) studente universitario, alloggiato

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

PUBLIC SAFETY DIVISION

APO 794

ROMA

Nel ringraziarla sentitamente per la cortese comunicazione di cui all'oggetto, in merito alla quale Le assicuro di aver impartito le disposizioni del caso, prego di riferirle che le indagini a proposito dell'attentato alla sede dell'Ambasciata proseguono con inmutato fervore.

Viene mantenuto il fermo dei seguenti ebrei, operato giorni or sono nella sede della Nuova Organizzazione Sionista, in via Nomentana n. 44:

5300

1°) ~~Erno~~ Lowy-Lakatos di David Ferenc e Eugenia Mendel, nato il 22.

II. 1920 a Kotaj (Ungheria) studente universitario, alloggiato al campo profughi di Ladispoli,

2°) Becker Abram fa Ioel Boruch e fu Tchor Bunia, nato a Stepan (Polonia), il 25.12.1921, studente, alloggiato al campo profughi di Grottaferrata,

3°) Ostascinski Daniel di Chaim e di Toipa Abramovicz, nato a Nowo Grodek il 14.1.1921, apolide, alloggiato al campo profughi di Grottaferrata.

Nella sede della predetta organizzazione è stato rinvenuto notevole carteggio, quasi esclusivamente stilato in ebraico antico, alla cui traduzione attende un esperto nominato dal Magistrato. In at

c/c

29 NOV 1946

November 28th 1946.

SECRET.

To: Director, Public Safety Division,
Allied Commission.

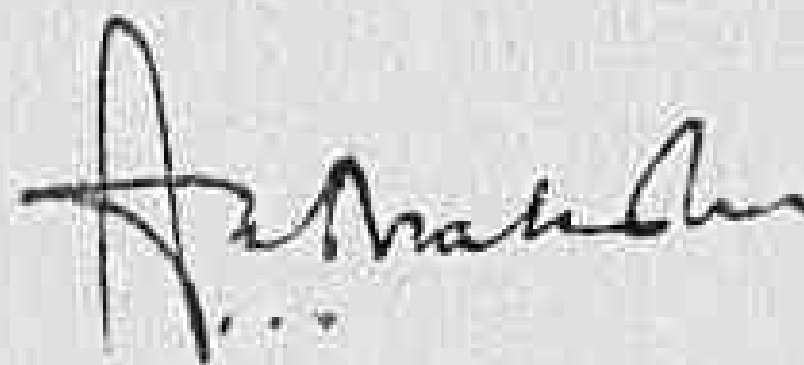
From: British Embassy, Rome.

Subject: Activity of Jewish Terrorists.

I write to thank you for your
letter of November 25th, AC/14399/PS in which
you sent a copy of a report received from the
Carabinieri Command.

I should be grateful if you would
express to the Commanding General our appreciation
of the action taken by the Carabinieri.

The information in question has been
telegraphed to those concerned.



A.C.E. Malcolm.

5304

SECRET

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
Public Safety Division
APO 794

URGENT

YA

AC/14399/RS

25 November 1946.

SUBJECT : Activity of Jewish terrorists.
TO : The British Embassy - Rome.

YB

I attach herewith for your information copy of a letter received from the Commanding General of the Carabinieri containing indications of threats against the British Embassy, Paris.

It will be observed that the F.B.I. have already taken action to inform A.F.H.Q.

R. J. Bye
R. J. BYE Colonel
Director.

PAG/ao

5300

SECRET

yB.

CO. RR. GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

N. 786/2

21 November 1946.

SUBJECT : Activity of Jewish Terrorists.

TO : Public Safety Division - Rome .

At 01.00 hrs of the 17th inst. in Naples, the Carabinieri Contaldi Vincenzo of the E.M.D.S.I. Company, patrolling with another soldier on the outside of the E.M.D.S.I. Depots in Via Emanuele Gianturco and actually at about 30 steps from the corner of Via Braccio S. Ruffino, noticed a piece of paper, slightly folded in two, on the ground, which, not showing too much interest, he picked up and put in his pocket, intending to determine its exact value at the end of his duty.

Re-entering his barracks at 04.00 hrs, he found out that it was a common scrap of white paper, evidently torn up and flung away, bearing the following words red-typed:

"The British Consulate in Paris will cease to exist within a few days A.O.D. 9. (TRONDI ZVAI LEUM) WLADIMIRO TIKALINESE".

The CO. RR. who was aware of the recent attempt on the British Embassy in Rome, went at once to hand the scrap of paper to his superiors.

From enquiries made by the CO. RR. of Naples it has been ascertained that the piece of paper was picked up in an isolated spot, in the immediate vicinities of the a/m depots, where there are no private houses and where (Via Emanuele Gianturco) an intense traffic is carried out between the port and the inter-land industrial area, full of stores and national military and Allied depots.

At a certain distance from that spot, there are the following offices and stores

9645 (German) Truck Bn. Maintenance Shop;
2034 Warehouse Via Emanuele Gianturco n. 23;
H.Q. 27 Field Bakery R.A.S.C.;
R.E. Stores
22 Supply Coy R.A.S.C. (Lt) Naples D.I.D.;
R.E.M.E. Recovery Via Galileo Ferraris;
15 M.F.O.;
33 Reception - Stn -;
Ordnance Depot 4.150 Shipping Lot no.

To determine where the piece of paper came from and to try to identify the type-writer used, the office of the 423 Section, British F.S.S., in Piazza Municipio n. 4, 3rd Floor, was approached, the chief of which asked for the scrap of paper so as to forward it to A.F.H.C. Caserta.

According to the actual facts, it seems that the paper and the type-writer used are of Allied sources.

The contents of the note appear to tally with the news published by the press on the occasion of the a/m attempt on the British Embassy in Rome; this could make believe a plain transcription, the purpose of which is not yet known.

Reservations are taken for further information.

Translation ac/

The Commanding General
/s/ Brunetti.



P.S.

Comando Generale dell'Arma dei Carabinieri

UFFICIO SERVIZIO E SITUAZIONE

Roma, li 21 novembre 1946

di prot. R. P.

N. 786/2

Risposta al

del

n.

Allegati

OGGETTO: Attività di terroristi ebrei.-

ALLA COMMISSIONE ALLEATA
Sottocommissione per la P.S.

ROMA

Alle ore una del 17 corrente, in Napoli il carabiniere scelto CONTALDI Vincenzo della Compagnia M.N..S.I., pattugliando insieme con altro militare all'esterno dei depositi M.N..S.I. in via Duomo Le Giannarelli e precisamente ad una trentina di passi dall'angolo di via Braccio S. Braccio, notava a terra un pezzo di carta leggermente piegata in due che, non avendovi attribuito sovrachio interesse, raccolse e riponeva in tasca riservandosi di stabilirne l'esatto valore al termine del servizio.

Rientrato in caserma alle ore 4, riscontrava che si trattava di un comune frammento di carta bianca, evidentemente straccia e buttata via, con le seguenti parole dattilografate con nostro rosso:

.....
 Alle ore una del 17 corrente, in Napoli il carabiniere scelto
 CONTALDI Vincenza della Compagnia A.N.O.3.1., pattugliando insieme
 con altro militare all'esterno dei depositi A.N.O.3.1. in via Emanuele
 le Giannone e precisamente ad una trentina di passi dall'angolo di
 via Braccia S. Brando, notava a terra un pezzo di carta leggermente
 piegata in due che, non avendovi attribuito soverchio interesse, rac-
 coglieva e riponeva in tasca riservandosi di stabilirne l'esatto
 valore al termine del servizio.

Mentre in cassa era 4, riscontrava che si trattava di
 un comune frammento di carta bianca, evidentemente stirata e buttata
 via, con le seguenti parole dattilografate con lettere rosse:

"IL CONSOLATO INGLESE DI PARIGI CESSA' DI ESISTERE PER POCHI
 GIORNI A.O.O.9 (INGUS ZVAL EXIMI) MALIZIOSO TIVGALISSE"

Il militare, cui era noto il recente attentato all'ambasciata
 Britannica di Roma, si affrettava quindi a consegnare il frammento
 di carta ai superiori.--

...

- 2 -

Dagli accertamenti praticati dall'Arma di Napoli è risultato che il pezzo di carta fu raccattato in punto isolato, nelle immediate vicinanze degli accennati depositi, dove mancano abitazioni private e dove (via Emanuele Gianturco) si svolge intenso traffico tra il porto e l'entroterra della zona industriale, disseminata di magazzini e depositi militari nazionali ed alleati.-

Ad una certa distanza da detto punto, esistono i seguenti uffici e magazzini:

- 9845 (German) Truck Bn. Maintenance Shop;
- 2064 Warehouse Via Emanuele Gianturco n.23;
- H.Q. 27 Field Bakery R.A.S.C.;
- R.E. Stores;
- 22 Supply Coy R.A.S.C. (Lt) Naples D.I.B.;
- R.E.M.L. Recovery Via Galileo Ferraris;
- 15 M.P.C.;
- 33 Reception - Stn -;
- Ordinance depot 4N50 Shipping Lot n°.-

Per stabilire la provenienza della carta e per tentare d'identificare la macchina per scrivere usata, veniva fra l'altro interessato l'ufficio della 423^a Sezione F.S.S. inglese, con sede in Piazza Municipio n.4 piano 3° il cui capo chiese il frammento di carta per trasmetterlo al Quarter Generale Inglese di Caserta.-

Alle stato dei fatti, sembra che la carta e la macchina usata siano di provenienza alleata.-

Il contenuto del biglietto trova riscontro in notizie già pubblicate dalla stampa in occasione dell'accennato attentato all'ambasciata Inglese. -

Il Pater ciò potrebbe far apparire una semplice trascrizione e scopo

- R.E. Stores;
- 22 Supply Coy R.A.S.C. (Lt) Naples D.I.D.;
- R.E.M.E. Recovery Via Galileo Ferraris;
- 15 M.P.Q.;
- 33 Reception - Stn -;
- Ordinance depot 4N50 Shipping Lot n°.-

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Il contenuto del biglietto trova riscontro in notizie già pubblicate dalla stampa in occasione dell'accennato attentato all'ambasciata Inglese di Roma; ciò potrebbe far supporre una semplice trascrizione a scopo finera non precisabile.-

Riserva di comunicare ogni utile notizia.-

IL COMANDANTE GENERALE
- Brunetto Brunetti -



file A

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
Public Safety Division
AFO 794

AC/14399/PS

23 November 1946

SUBJECT : Explosion at British Embassy.

TO : The Quastore, Rome.

5A

The attached letter received from the
Commanding General Arma di Carabinieri is forwarded
to you for any action considered necessary.

FOR THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER,

FSG/ae

*E. J. Bye*E. J. BYE, Colonel
Director.encl.: N. 723/8 of 21.11.46

529✓

CC.FR. GENERAL COMMAND

5A

N. 723/8

2 14399 1065
WS.

21 November 1946.

SUBJECT : Salamon Giuseppe - Jew.
TO : Public Safety Division - Rome.

It is reported that on the 2nd inst. Salamon Joseph, age 20, native of Leningrad and residing in Poland since 1935, suddenly reached the UFFA Camp of Carbonara (Bari), from Cinecitta' (Rome).

Salamon is suspected of having participated in the attempt against the British Embassy in Rome, or at least, to belong to the noted Jewish Terroristic Association.

The ~~suspect~~ is supported by Salamon's sudden arrival at the Carbonara Camp after the attempt and of his sudden isolation to the infirmary, disposed of by the internal directors, the majority Jews.

Salamon is expecting his brother to arrive.

Suspicion

Commanding General 5235
/s/ Brunetti.

Translation ac/

Translation by M.E.

4^A

CC. RR. GENERAL COMMAND
Service and Situation Office

14399

Rome, 31/10/46

Nr. 723/2 R.P.

To : ALLIED COMMISSION
P.S. Sub Commission
ROME

SUBJECT : ROME. Attempt at the British Embassy.

Transcribed herewith is a communication here received from
The Rome CC. RR. Internal Company :

" This morning, at 2.43 hrs. two bombs charged with powerful
explosive exploded at the British Embassy situate at Via XX Settembre.

The bombs had been put in two bags in front of the main entrance
together with two bills bearing the words "ATTENTION-MINE".

CC. RR. FIORENZA Domenico, in service at the Embassy, being
informed about the presence of the two bags, after a quick recognition
gave the alert to the personell lodging at the Embassy and rang up
his superiors, but in the meanwhile the bombs exploded causing the collapse
of a large part of the external wall and damages to the nearby buildings.

It has not been found out, up till now, the kind of the
explosive.

The Firemen, immediately intervened on request by the CC. RR.'s
extracted PAOLITA Nicolino, aged 25, from IURAS (Saesari), war veteran,
out of the ruins. He was wounded all over the body and is presently
suffering from a nervous choc.

No other victims.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Hon. NEMMI, went on the spot
and performed there an immediate enquiry, thus issuing a communicate
for the press.

The investigations for the discovery of the authors
attempt are being carried out by the QUESTURA Political Office in co-
operation with the Arma " ". 5277

The General Commander
sgd/ E. DR. NETTI

Receiv. 31/11/46
Transl. 2/11/46 mb.

Comando Generale dell'Arma dei Carabinieri

UFFICIO SERVIZIO E SITUAZIONE

N. 723/2 di prot. R.P. Roma, li 31 ottobre 1946
 Risposta al del Allegati n

OGGETTO: Roma - Attentato alla sede dell'Ambasciata Inglese.

ALLA COMMISSIONE ALLEATA

-Sottocommissione di P.S.-

R O M A

Trascrivo la seguente segnalazione della compagnia interna Carabinieri di Roma, in data odierna:

"Alle ore 2,43 oggi due bombe ad alto esplosivo sono scoppiate alla Sede dell'Ambasciata Inglese presso il Governo Italiano in via XX Settembre.

Le bombe erano state collocate in due valigie depositate dinanzi al portone d'ingresso unitamente a due cartelli recanti la scritta: "ATTENZIONE - MINY".

Il carabiniere FIORENZA Domenico di servizio nell'interno della Sede Diplomatica, avvertito della presenza delle valigie sospette da un autista dell'Ambasciata, dopo una rapida ricognizione, dava l'allarme al personale ivi alloggiato ed avvertiva i propri superiori ma nel frattempo gli ordigni esplodevano provocando il crollo di un

Trascrivo la seguente segnalazione della compagnia interna
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go tratto della parete esterna dell'edificio e danni ai caseggiati
limitrofi. 5296

Non è stata ancora accertata la natura delle bombe.

I pompieri, intervenuti immediatamente su richiesta dell'Arma
estraevano dalle macerie tale PALITTA Nicolino fu Giovanni Antonio,
di anni 25, da Luras (Sassari), reduce di guerra, ferito in varie par-

./...

ti del corpo e in preda a "vibrazioni" nervose per cui non è stato ancora possibile interrogarlo. Il poliziotto è piantonato dall'arma all'ospedale policlinico.

Non vi sono altre vittime.

Il ministro degli Interni Onorevole Nenni si è recato sul posto ed ha compiuto una prima sommaria inchiesta, redigendo un comunicato ufficiale per la stampa.

Le indagini per la scoperta degli autori dell'attentato sono condotte dall'Ufficio Político delle Questure in collaborazione con l'Arma.

IL COMANDANTE GENERALE
- Brunetta Brunetti -

Brunetta Brunetti

IL CONSIGLIO DI AMMINISTRAZIONE
- Braccio Braccio -

Braccio

529

Pub. Safety Div.

ce
3A

HQ ALCOM SIGNED CITE ADCC

14399

31 1315 OCT 1946

AFHQ

5353

UNCLASSIFIED

FURTHER MY 5350 — 2A

FOLLOWING COMMUNIQUE ISSUED BY ITALIAN GOVERNMENT QUOTE EARLY THIS MORNING AT 0243 HOURS TWO BOMBS HAVE EXPLODED IN THE BUILDING OF THE BRITISH EMBASSY AT PORTA PIA CAUSING SERIOUS DAMAGES PD THERE ARE NO DEATH CASUALTIES AND A PRIMARY INVESTIGATION DIRECTED ON THE SPOT BY THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS PIETRO NENNI THE CHIEF OF POLICE THE QUESTORE OF ROME AND THE FUNCTIONARIES OF THE POLITICAL RESEARCH POLICE HAS ASCERTAINED THAT TWO SUITCASES CONTAINING EXPLOSIVES PROBABLY TIMMBOMBS HAD BEEN PLACED ON THE EXTERNAL STEPS OF THE FRONT DOOR OF THE EMBASSY WITH A SIGN BEARING THE WORDS QUOTE ATENZIONE MINY UNQUOTE WITH A RED CLOTH SUCH AS ARE ORDINARILY USED BY TRUCKS TRANSPORTING EXPLOSIVES PD IDENTICAL SIGNS HAD BEEN PLACED ON BOTH SIDES OF THE BUILDING TOWARDS PORTA PIA AND VIA BEZZECCA PD THE FIRST WARNING BEFORE THE EXPLOSION WAS GIVEN BY A PASSER-BY TO AN EMBASSY DRIVER PD THE LATTER IN HIS TURN INFORMED THE CARABINIERE ON DUTY WHO AFTER HAVING SEEN THE TWO SUITCASES AND THE HANDWRITTEN SIGNS WENT TO GIVE WARNING AND AT THAT VERY MOMENT THE EXPLOSION OCCURRED PD A WOUNDED MAN IN A CONDITION OF NERVOUS SHOCK WAS FOUND A FEW STEPS AWAY FROM THE PLACE OF THE EXPLOSION PD

5293

BE ALOOM SIGNED CITE ACCG

31 1315 OCT 1946

AFHQ

5353

UNCLASSIFIED

MINISTER MENNI HAS EXPRESSED TO THE BRITISH CHARGE D'AFFAIRES MR VARD
THE SECRETS OF THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT
THE INVESTIGATION PROCEEDS PD UNQUOTE

PAGE 2

URGENT

Chief Commissioner's Office

5294

ELLERY W. STONE
Rear Admiral, USNR
Chief Commissioner

JOHN R HAYES, MAJ, AGD
Adjutant

222

PUBLIC SAFETY DIVISION

HQ ALCOM SIGNED STONE CITE 4000

31 1030 OCT 1946

AFHQ

5350

UNCLASSIFIED

AT ABOUT ZERO TWO THREE FIVE HOURS THREE ONE OCTOBER THREE SECURITY GUARDS ATTACHED THE BRITISH EMBASSY VIA XX SETTEMBRE WHO WERE OFF DUTY SAW A BOARD PLACED NEAR THE DOOR OF THE MAIN ENTRANCE TO THE EMBASSY PD ON THIS BOARD WAS MARKED QUOTATION MARKS ATTENZIONE MINE QUOTATION MARKS PD BEHIND THIS BOARD AND CLOSE AGAINST THE DOOR OF THE EMBASSY WERE TWO NEW LARGE SUITCASES PD THE GUARDS LISTENED BUT COULD DETECT NO SOUND COMING FROM THE CASES PD THEY ENTERED THE EMBASSY IMMEDIATELY AND REPORTED THE FACT TO THE SECURITY OFFICER PD WHILST REPORTING THERE WAS A TERRIFIC EXPLOSION AND ALL THAT PART OF THE EMBASSY AT AND NEAR THE MAIN ENTRANCE WAS HEAVILY DAMAGED CMA ALL GLASS IN THE BUILDING DESTROYED ALSO WINDOWS IN SHOPS AND HOUSES IN VICINITY PD NO PERSONAL INJURY TO EMBASSY PERSONNEL PD ONE CIVILIAN WHO WAS PASSING BY EMBASSY AT TIME OF EXPLOSION WAS BURIED BY DEBRIS INJURED AND LATER TAKEN TO HOSPITAL PD FOREIGN MINISTER NENNI ATTENDED AT FOUR AM AND DRAFTED PRELIMINARY COMMUNIQUE COVERING INCIDENT PD THE WHOLE OF THE INSIDE OF THE BUILDING IS PATROLLED AND GUARDED BY BRITISH PERSONNEL PD PERSONS RESPONSIBLE PRESENT UNKNOWN PD REPORTS FOLLOW END

U R G E N T

5291

Chief Commissioner's Office

JOHN R HAYES, MAJ, AGD
Adjutant

222

ELLERY W. STONE
Rear Admiral USNR
Chief Commissioner

179. ACCOM SIGNED

Cite ACCC

DRAFT

Signed Stone

SIGNAL from ALPH to AFHQ

Ungrate
Unclassified

5350

AT ABOUT 02.35 am 31st OCTOBER THREE SECURITY GUARDS ATTACHED THE BRITISH EMBASSY VIA VA SETTEMBRE WHO WERE OFF DUTY SAW A BOARD PLACED NEAR THE DOOR OF THE MAIN ENTRANCE TO THE EMBASSY. ON THIS BOARD WAS MARKED "ATTENZIONE MINE".

BEHIND THIS BOARD AND CLOSE AGAINST THE DOOR OF THE EMBASSY WERE TWO NEW LARGE SUITCASES. THE GUARDS LISTENED BUT COULD DETECT NO SOUND COMING FROM THE CASES. THEY ENTERED THE EMBASSY IMMEDIATELY AND REPORTED THE FACT TO THE SECURITY OFFICER. WHILST REPORTING THERE WAS A TERRIFIC EXPLOSION AND ALL THAT PART OF THE EMBASSY AT AND NEAR THE MAIN ENTRANCE WAS HEAVILY DAMAGED, ALL GLASS IN THE BUILDING DESTROYED ALSO WINDOWS IN SHOPS AND HOUSES IN VICINITY. NO PERSONAL INJURY TO EMBASSY PERSONNEL. ONE CIVILIAN WHO WAS PASSING BY EMBASSY AT TIME OF EXPLOSION WAS BURIED BY DEBRIS INJURED AND LATER TAKEN TO HOSPITAL. SIGOR PETRO FOREIGN MINISTER ATTENDED AT 4 AM, THE WHOLE OF THE INSIDE OF THE BUILDING IS PATROLLED AND GUARDED BY BRITISH PERSONNEL. PERSONS RESPONSIBLE PRESENT UNKNOWN. REPORTS FOLLOW.

And drafted preliminary
incident. Communique

covering
anti-munition

529

Ex Com
PO (ad B)
PO (ad B)
PS Div.

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