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DISTURBANCES RE ITAL. P.O.W.
JAN. 1946

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED COMMISSION
PUBLIC SAFETY LIAISON OFFICE
NAPLES

Ref: PS/9.5(a)

11/602/20

16 January 1946

Tel: 53296

SUBJECT: Meetings and Demonstrations -
Italian POWs at Naples.

TO : Headquarters, Allied Commission
(Director, Public Safety Sub-Commission).

1. Reference previous correspondence, subject and number as quoted, dated 11 Jan. 1946 and 12 Jan 1946, there is attached a copy of the denunciation made by the Questore of Naples against 19 men for participating in the demonstration and other illegal activities on 10 January 1946.

2. It will be observed that several of the men have criminal records and that others are much too young to have been soldiers.

For the Senior Liaison Officer:

A.C. SAUNDERS, Major,
P.S. Liaison Officer,
Naples.

KLW/jag.

Enc. 1 as referred.

TRANSLATION

R. QUESTURA di NAPOLI

File N. 10645 Div. U.F.

Naples, 12 January 1946

SUBJECT: Denunciation and arrest of:-

- 1) COFAINI Osvaldo fu Enrico and di Graniglia Giuseppina, born in Naples on 17.4.1906, resident here in Via Salvatore Rosa N.70, unemployed;
- 2) MESSINA Salvatore fu Giuseppe and di Amedeo Maria, born in Sommatina (Caltanissetta) on 31.5.1918, resident in Vico Neve della Dogana 9, unemployed driver;
- 3) TIRORE Antonio fu Giuseppe and di Golia Maria born in Naples on 24.2.1922, resident Corso Garibaldi N.118, unemployed employee;
- 4) PENNINO Vincenzo di Gabriele and fu Viscusi Maria, born in Telese on 7.5.1921, resident in Via S. Antonio Abate N.29, unemployed;
- 5) GUADAGNINO Pasquale fu Vincenzo and di Sica Susanna, born in Naples on 24.7.1917, resident in Ponte di Tappia N.5, unemployed;
- 6) BRISETTI Gaetano di Luigi and di Cimmino Maria, born in Grumo Nevano on 2.1.1916, resident in Seomdigliano Corso Umberto I, N.1, a mill man;
- 7) PUNZO Ciro fu Ciro and fu Aprea Teresa, born in Torre del Greco 24.4.1913, resident in Ponticelli Via Ottaviano 64, unemployed;
- 8) SORRENTO Pellegrino fu Pasquale and fu Abate Anna, born in Avella on 10.12.1920, resident in Bruscianno Via Starzia N.5, unemployed workman;
- 9) RUSSO Luigi of unknown father and di Russo Anna, born in Acquara on 13.11.1920, resident in Striano Via Nesario Sauro with Balbo Nestore, unemployed;
- 10) BOTTINO Vincenzo di Pasquale and fu Testa Anna, born in Naples on 7.1.1918, resident in S. Giovanni a Teduccio Via Pazzigno 42, as responsible for inciting to delinquency (art.414 C.P.) instigating to disobey the laws (art.415 C.P.) and to have published leaflets without authorization according to art. 113 T.U. P.S. Laws; MESSINA and BRISETTI as responsible also for attempted entrance to public building (art. 56 and 633 C.P.) of aggravated damage (art. 635 Comma 3^a) of participation to seditious meeting (art. 655 C.P.) and for having held a public meeting without the prescribed warning (art. 18 T.U. P.S. Laws);

resident in Vico Neve della Dogana 9, unemployed driver;

- 3) TIROME Antonio fu Giuseppe and di Golia Maria born in Naples on 24.2.1922, resident Corso Garibaldi N.118, unemployed employee;
- 4) PENNINO Vincenzo di Gabriele and fu Viscusi Maria, born in Telese on 7.5.1921, resident in Via S. Antonio Abate N.29, unemployed;
- 5) GUADAGNINO Pasquale fu Vincenzo and di Sica Susanna, born in Naples on 24.7.1917, resident in Ponte di Tappia N.5, unemployed;
- 6) BRISSETTI Gaetano di Luigi and di Cimmino Maria, born in Grumo Nevano on 2.1.1916, resident in Secondigliano Corso Umberto I, N.1, a mill man;
- 7) PUNZO Ciro fu Ciro and fu Aprea Teresa, born in Torre del Greco 24.4.1913, resident in Ponticelli Via 386 Ottaviano 64, unemployed;
- 8) SCREFFATO Pellegrino fu Pasquale and fu Abate Anna, born in Avella on 10.12.1920, resident in Brusciano Via Sterzia N.5, unemployed workman;
- 9) RUSSO Luigi of unknown father and di Russo Anna, born in Acquara on 13.11.1920, resident in Striano Via Nazario Sauro with Balbo Nestore, unemployed;
- 10) BOTTINO Vincenzo di Pasquale and fu Testa Anna, born in Naples on 7.1.1918, resident in S. Giovanni a Teduccio Via Pazzigno 42, as responsible for inciting to delinquency (art.414 C.P.) instigating to disobey the laws (art.415 C.P.) and to have published leaflets without authorization according to art. 113 T.U. P.S. Laws); MESSINA and BRISSETTI as responsible also for attempted entrance to public building (art. 56 and 633 C.P.) of aggravated damage (art. 635 comma 3) of participation to sedicious meeting (art. 655 C.P.) and for having held a public meeting without the prescribed warning (art. 18 T.U. P.S. Laws);
- 11) BORGIA Giuseppe di Gabriele and di Tevera Elena, born in Naples on 6.1.1928, resident in Vico Petrone alla Salute N.3, student;
- 12) CARACCIOLO Osvaldo di Francesco and fu Berinda Giovanna, born in Torre Annunziata on 27.5.1923, resident at Salita Pubità e Foria N.16, unemployed motorist;
as responsible for attempted entrance to public building (art. 56 and 635 C.P.) aggravated damage art.635 comma 3) devastation and looting (art. 419 C.P.) resistance to the Police force (art. 337 C.P.) participation to sedicious meeting (art. 655 C.P.)

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instigation and disobedience to the laws (art. 415 C.P.)

- 13) SPECIALE Vittorio di Armando and di Alfano M. Cristina, born in Naples on 2.12.1927, resident here in Rampe Montemiletto N. 18, unemployed, responsible for attempted entrance to public building (art. 56 and 635 C.P.) aggravated damage (art. 635 C.P.) instigation to delinquency (art. 414 C.P.) instigation to disobey the laws (art. 415 C.P.) and participation to seditious meeting (art. 655 C.P.).
- 14) PICERILLO Giovanni di Attilio and di Cuozzo Livia born in Naples on 30.9.1923, resident in Via Nuova Capodimonte N. 121, unemployed, responsible for instigation to delinquency (art. 414 C.P.) instigation to disobey laws (art. 415 C.P.) attempted entrance to public building (art. 56 and 633 C.P.) aggravated damage (art. 635 comma 3^a C.P.) devastation and looting (art. 419 C.P.) participation to seditious meeting (art. 655 C.P.).
- 15) UCCELLO Alfredo di Vincenzo and di Petito Anna, born in Naples on 5.6.1928, resident here in Via Goffredo Malatesta N. 4, apprentice, responsible for participation to seditious meeting (art. 655 C.P.) aggravated damage (art. 635 comma 3^a C.P.) devastation and looting (art. 319 C.P.).
- 16) D'AURIA Carmine fu Pasquale and di Corrado Giuseppe, born in Naples on 17.1.1917, resident in Vico Rotto S. Lucia al Monte N. 1, unemployed, responsible for attempted entrance to public building (art. 56 and 633 C.P.) aggravated damage (art. 635 comma 3^a C.P.) instigation to disobey laws (art. 415 C.P.) instigation to delinquency (art. 414 C.P.). All persons except the ones mentioned with numbers 1-3-4-5-7-8-9 and 10 responsible also for refusing to obey the order to disband from the meeting (art. 24 T.U. P.S. Laws).
For the manifestations of the 11 January 1946. Denunciation and arrest of:-
- 17) SEMITO Ferdinando fu Pietro and di Tanaceto Anna, born in Naples on 16.3.1920, resident in Chisiano Via Vecchia Napoli N. 3, unemployed;
- 18) BONI Armando of unknown parents, born in Firenze on 11.9.1911, resident here in Via Bartolomeo N. 57, unemployed;
- 19) RONDINELLA Rolando fu Gisberto and Faggia Assunta, born in Naples on 21.2.1921, resident in Via Alessio

- (art. 635 C.P.).
- 14) **PIORILLO Giovanni** di Attilio and di Guozzo Livia born in Naples on 30.9.1923, resident in Via Nuova Capodimonte N. 121, unemployed, responsible for instigation to delinquency (art. 414 C.P.) instigation to disobey laws (art. 415 C.P.) attempted entrance to public building (art. 56 and 633 C.P.) aggravated damage (art. 635 comma 3^a C.P.) devastation and looting (art. 419 C.P.) participation to sedicious meeting (art. 655 C.P.).
 - 15) **UCCELLO Alfredo** di Vincenzo and di Petito Anna, born in Naples on 5.6.1928, resident here in Via Goffredo Malatesta N. 4, apprentice, responsible for participation to sedicious meeting (art. 655 C.P.) aggravated damage (art. 635 comma 3^a C.P.) devastation and looting (art. 319 C.P.).
 - 16) **D'AURIA Carmine** fu Pasquale and di Corrado Giuseppe, born in Naples on 17.1.1917, resident in Vico Rotto S. Lucia al Monte N. 1, unemployed, responsible for attempted entrance to public building (art. 56 and 633 C.P.) aggravated damage (art. 635 comma 3^a C.P.) instigation to disobey laws (art. 415 C.P.) instigation to delinquency (art. 414 C.P.). All persons except the ones mentioned with numbers 1-3-4-5-7-8-9 and 10 responsible also for refusing to obey the order to disband from the meeting (art. 24 T.U. P.S. Laws).
For the manifestations of the 11 January 1946.
Denunciation and arrest of:-
 - 17) **EMILIO Merdinando** fu Pietro and di Tanaceto Anna, born in Naples on 16.3.1920, resident in Chisiano Via Vecchia Napoli N. 3, unemployed;
 - 18) **BONI Armando** of unknown parents, born in Firenze on 11.9.1911, resident here in Via Bartolomeo N. 57, unemployed;
 - 19) **ROMBINELLA Rolando** fu Gisberto and Paggia Assunta, born in Naples on 21.2.1921, resident in Via Alessio Mezzococchi 12, unemployed; as responsible for instigation to disobey the laws (art. 415 C.P.) participation to sedicious meeting (art. 655 C.P.) refusing to obey the order to disband from the meeting (art. 24 T.U. P.S. Laws) disobedience to the Prefect's Order dated 10 January 1946 according to (art. 17 T.U. P.S. Laws).

On the 7 January 1946 among the group of unemployed who daily assemble at the Labour Office in Via Duomo 219, it was mentioned that the press had published episodes of violence committed by unemployed ex POWs in Firenze, Roma, Milano and Catanzaro. The most excited unemployed incited also the others to do the same in this city, making them believe, that would be the only way to obtain help for the ex POW on behalf of the Government.

Among those present some individuals, then identified for the a/m CORSINI Osvaldo, MESSINA Salvatore, TIRONE Antonio, PENNINO Vincenzo and BRISETHI Gaetano nominated themselves members of a so-called Deputation to which was assigned the task to act without going to the representatives of committees legally recognized (Ex POW Committee) and they started among those present and at the city shops to get a collection together with the a/m PUNZO, Giro, SORRENTO Pellegrino, RUSSO Luigi and BOTTINO Vincenzo, and were able to get \$500 lire, assigned to print 1000 clandestine leaflets at the printing press of CARIDEI Alfonso in Vincenzo in Via Divino Amore N. 11, with which the ex POW and veterans all unemployed were called to assemble on the 10 January 1946 at 0900 hours in the Galleria Principe di Napoli, "for communications of general interest".

The following day, 8 January 1946 the same individuals to whom GUADAGNINO Pasquale, mentioned in subject, united himself with the same ideas, started personally without any authorization to post on the city walls the leaflets. At 1700 hours of the same day the a/m individuals components of the so-called Deputation got together in the residence of CORSINI where MESSINA brought the order of the day prepared by himself, inciting the unemployed ex POW to commit acts of violence. A speech was prepared to be said during the meeting and several points were prepared to be asked the Prefect during the manifestation which was to take place in the square below the Government building.

This Political Office which had ascertained the above and identified CORSINI Osvaldo, TIRONE Antonio, PENNINO Vincenzo GUADAGNINO Pasquale, PUNZO Giro, SORRENTO Pellegrino, RUSSO Luigi, and BOTTINO Vincenzo, was able to detain them between the 8 and 9 January 1946.

From the domicile searches besides finding the samples of the leaflets in CORSINI's house also leaflets of the speech and the order of the day were found and seized.

The persons detained when questioned admitted what was found out with the investigations.

Notwithstanding the measures adopted the morning of the 10 January 1946, in the Galleria Principe di Napoli about 2000 ex POW veterans

PENNINGO Vincenzo and BRISSETTI Gaetano nominated themselves members of a so-called Deputation to which was assigned the task to act without going to the representatives of committees legally recognized (Ex POW Committee) and they started among those present and at the city shops to get a collection together with the a/m PUNZO, Ciro, SORRENTO Pellegrino, RUSSO Luigi and BORTINO Vincenzo, and were able to get 6500 lire, assigned to print 1000 clandestine leaflets at the printing press of CARIDEI Alfonso fu Vincenzo in Via Divino Amore N. 11, with which the ex POW and veterans all unemployed were called to assemble on the 10 January 1946 at 0900 hours in the Galleria Principe di Napoli, "for communications of general interest".

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Notwithstanding the measures adopted the morning of the 10 January 1946, in the Galleria Principe di Napoli about 2000 ex POW, veterans and unemployed assembled, MESSINA by means of a megaphone spoke to them, then with BRISSETTI they organized the people in a procession which increased on the road with evildoers and good-for-nothings. They all went to the Piazza Plebiscito in front of the Prefettura building. A deputation was formed to which MESSINA, BRISSETTI and SPECIALLI took part, and they were admitted to speak with the Prefect; meanwhile the crowd already greatly excited tried to enter the building of the Prefettura. They were pushed back by the Police Force, and even after having ordered the dispersment of the demonstrators by means of bugle calls, the crowd attempted again to invade the building, some of the most excited scaled the side

- 4 -

of the building and were able to reach a balcony.

Among these the a/m SPECIALE was identified, whom the Police was hardly able to have abstain from committing further violent acts. Others below with a large pole were trying to break into the big door of the Prefettura until the decided intervention of the Police was able to prevent this serious danger.

After these demonstrators were dispersed, others from the crowd with stones broke window panes from the Prefettura windows and threw them against the police and the Military Police, they damaged the nose of the firemen who seven out of eight were injured.

Besides SPECIALE among the more excitable the a/m BORGIA Giuseppe, CARACCIOLO Osvaldo, FIORILLO Giovanni UCCIELLO Alfredo and D'AURIA Carmine were identified, who, after the demonstrators had been dispersed by the Police, assembled again in the Balleria Umberto I and devastated and looted the wooden stands placed there for the ex POW Fair. There again the Police contacted the demonstrators and were able to arrest BORGIA Giuseppe armed with a club which he was waving against the Police, and CARACCIOLO Osvaldo. Also UCCIELLO Alfredo was arrested, who was found in possession of a bag stolen from an unidentified person.

Along a street in Piazza Montesanto FIORILLO Giovanni armed with the leg of a table was arrested as he was at the head of a gang of scoundrels. Later this Political Office was able to identify and arrest the a/m MESSINA Salvatore, BRISILLI Gaetano and SPECIALE Vincenzo.

On the evening of the 10 Jan. 1946 in Piazza Dante in front of the Office of the Veterans Association the 3802 dependent V/Brigadiere PAULINO Rosario and the guard CIMMINO Alfredo and GENTILE Antonio noticed an individual, identified later for D'AURIA Carmine inciting the harangues to repeat on the next day the same violent acts. D'Auria was arrested the next afternoon, the 11 Jan. 1946.

During the morning of the 11 Jan. 46, notwithstanding order of the Prefect forbidding meetings and assemblies of persons, groups of isolated unemployed ex POW or persons calling themselves such, tried to incite and form a new procession to go to the Prefettura building in order to repeat the acts of the previous day.

The police quickly intervening dispersed them, and in Piazza Carità V/Commissario Ass. of P.S. Dr. MARUSCIELLO Enrico and the Lt. Of the P.S. Guards Dr. VINALE Umberto arrested the instigators identified for GEMITO Ferdinando,

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The Police quickly intervening dispersed them, and in Piazza Carità V/Commissario Agg. of P.S. Dr. MARTUSCIELLO Enrico and the Lt. Of the P.S. Guards Dr. VINALE Lamberto arrested the instigators identified for GEMITO Ferdinando, BONI Armando and RONDINELLA Rolando.

I denounce to your Procura the arrested persons for the normal law proceedings according to the crimes committed by each mentioned in subject, I communicate that they are detained in Poggioreale Prison at disposition of your Office, all except UCCELLO Alfredo who is detained in S. Eframio Prison for Minors.

I enclose the investigations statements made out by the functionaries Dr. MATARESE, IACCHETTI and IRACE and by the dependent NCOs and guards PAULBO Rosario, TAMARO Ettore, DI PATERIO Costantino, GEMILE Antonio, CIMMINO Alfredo, AMATO Giuseppe, DI CARO Vincenzo, NOVACA Sabino and MESSINA Giuseppe,

the statements of the arrested persons, the arrest reports, and the domicile search reports, the leaflets, the order of the day, the speech, in all 43 documents duly listed and deposited in this Secretary Office, also the samples of the leaflets seized from GCHSINI, the bag seized from UCCELLI and the leg of the table seized from NICILLIO.

I add that from these records appears:-

- 1) PRISTINI Gaetano detained for security measures in 1940 and repatriated with obligatory travel orders;
- 2) BOTTINO Vincenzo sentenced by the Tribunale Militare di Guerra of Taranto dated 21.10.1941 to 6 months imprisonment according to art. 146 n.2 and 147 n. 2 C.P. Militare Guerra;
- 3) BONTI Armando sentenced for swindle and denounced for illegal possession and aggravated theft;
- 4) RONDINELLA Rolando denounced to the Local Pretura for walking off the job;
- 5) CARACCIOLO Osvaldo in 1945 arrested by the local Military War Tribunal for not answering military service call.

IL QUESTORE
(M. Broccoli)

3863

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED COMMISSION
PUBLIC SAFETY LIAISON OFFICE
NAPLES

14602/20
12 January 1946
Tel. 53296

Ref/ PS/9.5(a)

SUBJECT: Meetings and Demonstrations -
Prisoners of War at Naples.

TO : Headquarters, Allied Commission
(Director, Public Safety Sub-Commission).

1. Further to my report of even number dated 11th January 1946, there is attached hereto a note giving details of the main points issuing from a meeting held at Naples on 11th January, 1946, between the Prefect and representatives of the Prisoners of War.

For the Senior Liaison Officers:

TO	INIT.	DATE
DIRECTOR	W.L.	14/1
DEPUTY DIRECTOR	W.L.	14/1
EXEC. OFFICER	W.L.	14/1
POLICE	W.L.	15/1
LIC. & REG.		
PRISONERS		
ADM. OFFICER		
SECURITY		
CHIEF CLERK		

WLW/tp.

Enc. 1

Referred to.

W.L. Wilson
W.L. WILSON
Capt.
P.S. Liaison Officer
Naples.

3860

TRANSLATION

Today, at 1030 hours, a deputation of ex POW was received by the Prefect. The meeting, to which also a representative of the Labour Office attended, lasted until 1400 hours.

The following program was established :-

- 1) Dismissal of the women temporary employees at the local public offices and employment of an equivalent number of ex POW.
- 2) Institution of a charity mess of a cooperative shop for the ex POW.
- 3) The Prefect in a few days will go to Rome to decide on the matters with the competent Ministries.

Today the Veterans Association in Piazza Dante will hold another meeting among the leaders of the ex POW.
No incident.

Naples, 11 January 1946

IL COMMISSARIO DI P.S.
(Allocca Dr. Giuseppe)

3859

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED COMMISSION
PUBLIC SAFETY LIAISON OFFICE
NAPLES

Ref: PS/9.5(a)

11 January 1946
Tel. 53296

SUBJECT: Meetings and Demonstrations -
Prisoners of War at Naples on 10/1/46.

TO : Headquarters, Allied Commission
(Director, Public Safety Sub-Commission).

1. Further to telephone conversation (Col. CHAPMAN - Capt. WILSON) at 1530 hours, 10th January, 1946, there are transmitted herewith copies of reports received from Questore and Carabinieri on the demonstration by Italian Prisoners of War at Naples on 10th January 1946.

2. Prior information of the demonstration had been received and arrangements were made by Civil Police to deal with such contingencies as could be foreseen.

3. The Provost Marshal, P.B.S. was also informed verbally and in writing so that steps could be taken by him to prevent damage to Allied Property, injury to Allied personnel and disruption of Military Traffic.

4. Very soon after the demonstration commenced it was very evident that the Officials at the Prefettura were more than alarmed and at about 1100 hours the Capo Gabinetto requested Col. PENNYQUICK to arrange for the intervention of Military Police. This request was not approved and Colonel PENNYQUICK made it clear that the responsibility for maintaining law and order rested on the Prefect and Questore and that the Military Police were concerned with safe-guarding Allied Military property and personnel.

5. In the vicinity of the Prefettura there are several Military installations including a large vehicle Park and M.P.s had been posted in this area. When the demonstration was at its height the M.P.s assisted in dispersing the crowd from the vicinity of the car park and thereby considerably eased the strain thrown on the Civil Police.

3853

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(Director, Public Safety Sub-Commission).

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6. This particular incident is not considered serious but will probably be the forerunner of others unless the position of P.O.s is satisfactorily settled.

TO	INFO	DATE
DIRECTOR	1/11	11/1
DEPUTY DIRECTOR	1/11	11/1
ASST. OFFICER	1/11	11/1
1st LIEUT. 1st Bn.	1/11	11/1
CC & REG.	1/11	11/1
WLV/tp.	1/11	11/1
SEC. OFFICER	1/11	11/1
SECRETARY. 2 Reports.	1/11	11/1
CHIEF CLERK	1/11	11/1

For the Senior Liaison Officer:

W.L. Wilson Cap.

W.L. WILSON

Capt.

P.S. Liaison Officer,

Naples.

1 from Carabinieri.

TRANSLATION

TERRITORIAL LEGION OF THE ROYAL CARABINIERI OF NAPLES
Naples Internal Group

File N. 4/7

Naples, 10.1.1946

SUBJECT: Protest of Ex POWs.

TO : CO. RE. Legion H.Q., Service Office, Naples.

This morning at about 1030 hours, roughly 3000 Ex POWs assembled in Piazza Plebiscito and Piazza Carolina with threatening intentions. About 150 of them pushed their way through a window situated at the first floor, succeeded in penetrating the building, but they were soon stopped by Public Safety Officers and Carabinieri who had been kept ready for action since early morning, in anticipation of possible disorder. During this police operation a few rifle shots were fired by the Police forces in the Prefettura courtyard with the object of intimidating the demonstrators. Such action induced the mob to give up the idea of forcing the main entrance of the building which was closed.

Representatives of the demonstrators were then received by the Prefect. They protested against the moral and material treatment that ex POW, war invalids and war veterans have received up to now, and demanded better possibilities of employment and for women to be dismissed from public and private employment. After having invited these representatives to abstain from disorders and to keep calm, the Prefect promised to take up the matter with the central and local authorities so that these problems could be solved; but he made it known that as he had no power for doing so, he could not bring pressure on private firms to dismiss female employees.

After a somewhat heated debate the representatives with the Prefect's approval, decided to assemble at the Teatro Nuovo to make known and explain to the demonstrators the results of the meeting and to proceed with the appointment of a central commission. This meeting started at 1200 hours and was over at 1330 hours without incidents.

Meanwhile disorders started suddenly in the Galleria Umberto 1st where a big group of other ex POWs ravaged the majority of the stands which had been built with the purpose of holding a sale for total benefit of POWs. In the course of the stands had been previously warned and had therefore hidden their goods only small damages are reported.

A P.S. Agent, a Carabinieri, a sailor and a civilian were slightly wounded following the disorders which took place when police forces intervened at once to disperse the demonstrators.

Other demonstrations were simultaneously attempted at the SEPRAL and at the Labour Regional Office, where Carabinieri and P.S.

This morning at about 1030 hours, roughly 3000 ex POWs assembled in Piazza Plebiscito and Piazza Carolina with threatening intentions. About 150 of them pushed their way through a window situated at the first floor, succeeded in penetrating the building, but they were soon stopped by Public Safety Officers and Carabinieri who had been kept ready for action since early morning, in anticipation of possible disorder. During this police operation a few rifle shots were fired by the Police forces in the Prefettura courtyard with the object of intimidating the demonstrators. Such action induced the mob to give up the idea of forcing the main entrance of the building which was closed.

Representatives of the demonstrators were then received by the Prefect. They protested against the moral and material treatment that ex POW, war invalids and war veterans have received up to now, and demanded better possibilities of employment and for women to be dismissed from public and private employment. After having invited these representatives to abstain from disorders and to keep calm, the Prefect promised to take up the matter with the central and local authorities so that these problems could be solved; but he made it known that as he had no power for doing so, he could not bring pressure on private firms to dismiss female employees.

After a somewhat heated debate the representatives with the Prefect's approval, decided to assemble at the Teatro Nuovo to make known and explain to the demonstrators the results of the meeting and to proceed with the appointment of a control commission. This meeting started at 1200 hours and was over at 1330 hours without incidents.

Meanwhile disorders started suddenly in the Galleria Umberto 1^o where a big group of other ex POWs ravaged the majority of the stands which had been built with the purpose of holding a sale for total benefit of POWs. As the owners of the stands had been previously warned and had therefore hidden their goods only small damages are reported.

A P.S. Agent, a Carabinieri, a sailor and a civilian were slightly wounded following the disorders which took place when police forces intervened at once to disperse the demonstrators.

Other demonstrations were simultaneously attempted at the SERPAL and at the Labour Regional Office, where Carabinieri and P.S. Agents were able to prevent further trouble.

Looting attempts also took place at the market of Porta Capuana. Here the prompt intervention of the Carabinieri succeeded in preventing damage and in dispersing the demonstrators.

At 1400 hours the situation was near to normal and completely under C.C.P.R. and Public Safety control.

A complete report will be forwarded today.

IL T. COLONNELLO COMANDANTE
Ernesto Matarrese

TRANSLATION

P. QUESTURA DI NAPOLI

File n. 10174 Div. Gab.

10 January 1946

TO: E.A. A.C. Public Safety Liaison Office, Naples.

Today at 0930 hours about 2000 ex POWs collected in the Galleria Principe di Napoli al Museo, where a few amongst those who attended spoke, proposing that a deputation go to the Prefettura to make their requests known to the Prefect.

They all went towards the Prefettura and while a deputation entered the building to speak with the Prefect, the others, as if they had already planned the action, assaulted the building, throwing stones, and tried to scale the lower floors, at different points. A few of them, the most excited, succeeded in entering with menacing attitude but were stopped by the P.S. Agents and Carabinieri on duty inside the building.

The Police Force outside the building was, at the same time, actively engaged and after repeated attacks preceded by prescribed bugle signals, and with the help of the Allied Military Police were able to disperse the demonstrators.

Other demonstrators in the Galleria Umberto devastated the stalls of the 'Fiera del Reduce' (Fair of the Ex POWs) (the goods having already been taken away by the sellers), in order to make clubs with the wood. The Police also intervened there, and fired a few shots in order to intimidate them, thus preventing further serious incidents.

Also at the Offices of the SEPRAL and Labour in Via Duomo, groups of demonstrators and rascals who intended to commit violent acts were strongly opposed by the Police Force.

Other groups scattered in the various sections of the City, threatening to invade the shops and stopping the traffic of vehicles and trams and other fights took place with the Police, who showing great courage, were able to prevent the shedding of blood.

Up to now, 7 firemen and 2 CC.PP. have been conveyed to the City Hospitals. This Office has detained 16 individuals, three of them charged with inciting and instigating people to commit criminal acts.

Vigilance continues.

IL QUESTORE
(M. Broccoli)

