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ACC

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CASE OF GEN. FERNANDO SOLETI
JULY-SEPT. 1944

ACC/14760/64/8

73

Case of Gen. Fernando Soler

Regte. 1/1/50
adm. 3/1/50

Revised. 3/1/50
PS 1/1

ACC/14730/bu/R

43

Case of Gen. Fernando Soler

Page 1000. 25/8.
adm 30/8

Printed. 25/8.
PS 1/8

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Office of Gen. Raymond J. ...

Regt. Affair 238
20/10

Relat. 20/10
PS 1/2

10000 / 43 / 1682
THIS FOLDER
CONTAINS PAPERS
FROM AUG 44
TO SEPT 44
CATALOGUE.

Return Section

Re 1A

Reports from RPOH are

attached at 32A-34.

It will be noted that

it is recommended that the case of Gen. SOLTI be dealt with by the Italian authorities. MIA

have been consulted and have asked for these papers so for consideration as they are interested.

Belvedere W. G.
Public Safety

30th Aug 1944

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 594
ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION

4A

AOC 11760/64/PS

1 Sep 44

SUBJECT: Case of General Fernando Solati.

TO : His Britannic Majesty's Minister to the Holy See.

Sir:

Your memorandum dated 14 August and addressed to the Commanding General Rome Allied Area Command has been passed to this HQ for investigation and action.

The case of General Solati has been investigated and I have to state that in view of the history there is no possibility of his immediate release.

His case is under active consideration for decision as to whether it will be handled by the Allied Authorities or whether he will be handed over to the Italian Government for trial.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant

C. R. UDOHEN Brig,
for Captain Ellery W. Stone, RMC
Acting Chief Commissioner

Ext: 525
GRU/jwt

941

963

HEADQUARTERS
ARMED CONTROL COMMISSION
Public Safety Division
APO 394

30th August, 1944.

SUBJECT: General Fernando SOLATI.

TO : Col. Paul C. Kirk, Director Public Safety Sub-Comm.
APO. HQ.

1. In reply to your letter of to-day's date, I attach copies of papers concerning this case. (enclosure F.A. tells the story in brief, 2.A. copy of original complaint.)
2. A copy of a statement made by C.C. 27. ANTONI at 3.4 and my cross-examination of Solati is set out at 4.4. Please also see 5.2. and 5.3.
3. I have several other denunciations against Solati in my file.
4. Copies of petitions on behalf of Gen. Solati are set out in 6.4, 6.5. and 6.6.
5. I arrested him on 26th June when I gave written instructions to Capt. Freeman in charge of the prison to treat Gen. Solati with due deference to his rank and place him in the security wing; also to give him every possible facility as befitting his position.
6. Gen. Solati abused this privilege with the result that on 15th July, orders were given that he would not be allowed to receive further visitors. (see 7.A. attached).
7. At present General Solati is confined in a separate wing of the prison away from common prisoners, in the infirmary, according to my information and he is awaiting transfer to P.O. Camp.
8. I recommend that he be handed over to the Italian military authorities to be dealt with as early as possible. Security Section P.A.A.C. would have no objection to this course.
9. I am herewith returning your file.

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Colonel
Chief, Public Safety
SECTION IV.

Approved by [Signature]
[Signature]

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
ROME REGION
APO. 394

Public Safety Division
22nd July, 1944.

CASE OF GENERAL FERNANDO SOLETTI

age : 52
born : in Rome.
former chief of military police forces
in German occupied Italy.

Arrested by Lt. Col. Pollock at 11 a.m. on 28th June, 1944, and now in Regina Coeli prison awaiting transfer to P.O.W. camp or handing over to Italian military authorities.

Then arrested by Col. Pollock. Soletti stated he was Chief of Police for Italy, then he later corrected this and stated he was Chief of Military Police in Italy.

Appointed to this post in January 1943. Said he was appointed by the Minister of Interior.

Soletti informed Col. Pollock that he presented himself to General Benicivegna when the Allies entered, but has not been in service since.

His address was 58 Lungotevere Flaminio, but he was actually arrested in the house of Mrs. Nelson Page, an American citizen at Via Vinciana 21. Soletti says he is engaged to this lady, hopes to be married to her soon, alleges she is not his lover, but his fiancée. She obtained cancellation of her previous marriage six months ago.

See statement of a CC.R.R. attached, which alleges that Soletti assisted Mussolini to escape from Campo Imperatore, Gran Sasso, and ordered the CC.R.R. not to shoot.

In German occupied Italy.

Arrested by Lt. Col. Pollock at 11 a.m. on 28th June, 1944, and now in Regina Coeli prison awaiting transfer to P.O. V. camp or handing over to Italian military authorities.

When arrested by Col. Pollock, Solati stated he was Chief of Police for Italy, then he later corrected this and stated he was Chief of Military Police in Italy.

Appointed to this post in January 1943. Said he was appointed by the Minister of Interior.

Solati informed Col. Pollock that he presented himself to General Sencivegna when the Allies entered, but has not been in service since.

His address was 39 Lungotevere Flaminio, but he was actually arrested in the house of Mrs. Nelson Page, an American citizen at Via Vincenza 21. Solati says he is engaged to this lady, hopes to be married to her soon, alleges she is not his lover, but his fiancée. She obtained cancellation of her previous marriage six months ago.

See statement of a CC.HH. attached, which alleges that Solati assisted Mussolini to escape from Campo Imperatore, Gran Sasso, and ordered the CC.HH. not to shoot.

Solati denies certain allegations, but it is clear from his cross-examination attached that he has collaborated closely with the Germans, and there is strong reason to believe that he was one of the principal ring leaders in Mussolini's escape.

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Soletti himself must have been anticipating trouble because when I arrested him he immediately produced from his brief case, a 19 page petition.

I have not had the time to have this translated, but it is a long, long story, obviously framed to cover up his tracks.

Personally I think he should go at once to P.O.W. camp, and interned for the duration or handled by the Italian authorities when they are prepared to deal with him.


J.R. POLLOCK
Lt. Colonel
Chief Public Safety
ROME

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

785016

J.R. POMEROY
Lt. Colonel
Chief Public Safety
ROME

938

TERRITORIAL LEGION OF ROYAL CARABINIERI ROME
Special OfficeJA
23c

Memorandum for Col. Pollock.

The General of the Metropolitani, Fernando SOLETTI partook in the liberation of Mussolini at the Gran Sasso, tricking the military of the Arm who were on duty there for the surveillance of the former Duce. He guided the German parachuters to the Gran Sasso. I propose that he be immediately arrested.

Colone, Commanding the Legion
Carlo Perinetti.

Address in Rome of General Soletti:
Lungotevere Flaminio 38
At present living with
Mrs. Nelson Page, Via Pinciana 21.

J. Pollock
per

---000---

GENERAL PROCEEDINGS of the examination of major marshal
of cavalry ANTONIO Cavallero.

---000---

The year 1944, 24th June, 1944, in this special office of the Command of the Territorial Legion of the Royal Carabinieri of Rome, at 11 o'clock.

Before us, Capt. GENIOLO Giorgio and Lieutenant FILIPPI Mario, is present cavalry major marshal ANTONIO Cavallero, who having been properly interrogated declared: In answer to the question asked me, and with regard to the liberation of MUSELLI, I relate the following:

I state beforehand that on the morning of 18th Sept, 1944, the headquarters of the Carabinieri went to the base of the Gran Sasso of the vigilance service at the hotel of Campo Imperatore, that orders previously emanated by the Government had been received in the sense that in case of the arrival of the Germans of in any case of any action on the part of anyone whatever for the liberation of MUSELLI, the maximum caution should be used, and the use of arms should not be made - in short - exterior actions - without making any opposition whatever.

Said orders were given to me on the same day by Lieut FALOLA who had received them in his turn from Gen. GUBBI; and which orders were transmitted by me to my dependents.

On 18th September, at about 11 o'clock, the carabinieri on guard duty to the west side of the hotel, gave the alarm because he had noticed in the sky some planes who released, from over 1000 meters - some gliders (seven or eight in all) preceded by a "Cicogna" type plane, which a few minutes after landed in the vicinity of the hotel.

From this latter plane an Italian General in uniform descended (I came to know later that he was General SOLTI, Chief of Police in Rome) a German captain of the SS, who had a scar on his face and a German officer, pilot.

As soon as the plane landed about 150 meters from the hotel, General Solati waving his arms and in a loud voice invited the military not to make use of their arms, and very pale cried out: "Do not shoot, do not shoot".

Upon reaching the entrance of the hotel, always in the company of the German captain (I do not remember if the pilot followed) he turned to Lieut FALOLA and to the motorcade, suggesting them to accompany me to the motorcade.

in answer to the question, I relate the following:
 the liberation of MUSSOLINI, I relate the following:
 I state beforehand that on the morning of 10th Sept. 1943,
 I accompanied Lieutenant GUSLI to the base of the Gran Casso
 of the vigilance service at the hotel of Campo Imperatore,
 that orders previously emanated by the Government had been
 modified in the sense that in case of the arrival of the
 Germans of in any case of any action on the part of
 anyone whatever for the liberation of MUSSOLINI, the maximum
 caution should be used, and the use of arms should not be
 made - in short - exterior actions - without making
 any opposition whatever.

Said orders were given to me on the same day by Lieutenant FALOLA,
 who had received them in his turn from Comm. GUSLI; and
 which orders were transmitted by me to my dependents.

On 12th September, at about 14 o'clock, the carabinieri
 on guard duty to the west side of the hotel, gave the alarm
 because he had noticed in the sky some planes - who released
 from over 1000 meters - some gliders (seven or eight in all)
 preceded by a "Cicogna" type plane, which a few minutes
 after landed in the vicinity of the hotel.

From this latter plane an Italian General in uniform descended
 (I came to know later that he was General COLLETI, Chief of
 Police in Rome) a German captain of the SS, who had a scar
 on his face and a German officer, pilot.

As soon as the plane landed about 150 meters from the hotel,
 General Colletti waving his arms and in a loud voice invited
 the military not to make use of their arms, and very pale
 cried out: "Do not shoot, do not shoot".

Upon reaching the entrance of the hotel, always in the
 company of the German captain (I do not remember if the
 pilot followed) he turned to Lieutenant FALOLA and to Inspector
 GUSLI, requesting them to accompany them to MUSSOLINI.

They were thus shown in to MUSSOLINI's apartment, and with
 whom they spoke for a few minutes. Subsequently an order
 was given to prepare the personal baggage belonging to
 MUSSOLINI, and then the party, composed of the German
 captain, of the pilot and of MUSSOLINI, went into the same
 "Cicogna" plane whereas General COLLETI and Inspector GUSLI
 went down to the base of the Gran Casso by funicular railway,
 from whence they departed by motor car.

The next day 12th Sept., all the carabinieri, with the exception
 of the under signed, of Lieutenant FALOLA and of some day other
 person, was taken away by auto vehicle to L'Aquila.

I should state it should appear we have compiled the
 present verbal proceeding, which upon having been read and
 confirmed is signed by the persons who interviewed.

Signed Lieutenant Osvaldo

Lieutenant Filippo

Capt. Giorgio Cantoni.

HEADQUARTERS
ROME REGION
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394 U.S. ARMY

28 th June 1944

TO : Capt Freeman

1. You may detain in prison General Fernando SCLETTI pending enquiries.
2. Alleged circumstances concerning Fascist conspiracies & assisting Mussolini's escape.

J. Pollock
J.R. POLLOCK

Lt Col
Chief Public Safety

FM AMERICAN
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 08-11-2010 BY 60322
POLICE Headquarters

25th June, 1964.

Subject: Arrest of General Solati Remando.

1. Full name: Fernando Solati Remando
Age: 53
Born: in Rome
Identify document: Pass No. 238 Corpo Agenti di Polizia.

2. General Solati is commanding general for all the Public Security Agents for the whole of Italy, and according from the Ministry of the Interior.

3. He appointed in this post on January 1st, 1964, by Chief of Police.

4. Col. Pollock asked "If you are Chief of Police, how is it that you depend from the Chief of Police?"

5. The Chief of Police for Italy, both civil and military, General Solati was Chief of the military police.

6. The Chief of Police, both civil and military is present.

7. Col. Pollock asked if he had been in service since 5th June, 1964 - Yes or no?

8. Reply "No". Presented himself to General Remando who took his name and address, and then he went to the Ministry of the Interior and gave them a Memorandum of his doings before and after Sept. 8th, 1963. A copy of the said Memorandum was given to Col. Pollock.

9. Gen. Solati said that he was one of those who assisted General Badoglio in the coup d'etat of 25th July 1943.

10. Gen. Solati said that he was one of those who assisted General Badoglio in the coup d'etat of 25th July 1943.

Identity comments: Page No. 253 Corro Agent: di Milano.

2. General Colletti is commanding general for all the Public Security Agents for the whole of Italy, and depending from the Ministry of the Interior.
3. Was appointed in this post on January 1st, 1943, by Chief of Police.
4. Col. Follos asked "If you are Chief of Police, how is it that you depend from the Chief of Police?"
5. "The Chief of Police for Italy, both civil and military." General Colletti was Chief of the military police.
6. The Chief of Police, both civil and military is Follos.
7. Col. Follos asked if he had been in service since 5th June, 1944 - Yes or no?
8. Reply "No". Presented himself to General Benavente who took his name and address, and then he went to the Ministry of the Interior and gave them a memorandum of his doings before and after Sept. 8th, 1943. A copy of the said memorandum was given to Col. Follos.
9. Gen. Colletti said that he one of those who arrested General Badoglio in the coup d'etat of 25th July 1943.
10. Col. Follos asked "Will you also support that view?" and Gen. Colletti replied "Yes".
11. The following persons will also confirm this fact:
 - General Verdon
 - General Guice
 - Vittorio Emanuele Orlando.
12. Gen. Colletti says that it is public knowledge that he did on 25th July, 1944.
13. Prefect Cristini can also give information on him.

- 2 -

13. Gen. Solai left command on 12th Sept. 1943, and has been in hiding until 5th June, 1944. He says he has never collaborated with the Germans. Asked whether he collaborated with Mussolini, he replied "NO".

14. Col. Pollock said his answer to him is "YES".

15. He never received orders from Mussolini, but from the Chief of Police.

16. Asked as to whether he was ever photographed with Mussolini, Gen. Soletti replied at Reviews where he was on duty.

17. Col. Pollock said that it was alleged that Gen. Soletti was Mussolini's personal confidant and informant.

18. Gen. Soletti replied that he would not have direct contact with Mussolini, because there was the Chief of Police before him.

19. Col. Pollock said that he is also charged as being responsible for Mussolini's escape.

20. Gen. Soletti declined this responsibility.

21. Col. Pollock asked the General whether he could help him and tell him who the actual responsible individuals were for Mussolini's escape.

22. Gen. Soletti then made the following statements:

a) On Sept. 10th he was under the command of Gen. Galvi, who fled to Germany.

b) Chief of Police Senesi was in hiding, and he was the only one who knew where he was. The Getseapo knew for certain that Gen. Soletti knew where Senesi was. They took him to Frascati on 11th Sept. and asked him to tell them where Senesi was, but he replied that he did not know.

c) on 12th Sept. 1943, in the morning he was at the Ministry of Interior (Viminale).

16. Asked as to whether he was certain that Gen. Soletti was responsible for Mussolini's escape, he replied that he was not sure, but he was certain that Gen. Soletti was responsible for Mussolini's escape.
17. Col. Follock said that it was alleged that Gen. Soletti was Mussolini's personal confidant and informant.
18. Gen. Soletti replied that he would not have direct contact with Mussolini, because there was the Chief of Police before him.
19. Col. Follock said that he is also charged as being responsible for Mussolini's escape.
20. Gen. Soletti declined this responsibility.
21. Col. Follock asked the General whether he could help him and tell him who the actual responsible individuals were for Mussolini's escape.
22. Gen. Soletti then made the following statements:
- a) On Sept. 10th he was under the command of Gen. Calvi, who fled to Germany.
- b) Chief of Police Senesi was in hiding, and he was the only one who knew where he was. The Getaapo knew for certain that Gen. Soletti knew where Senesi was. They took him to Frascati on 11th Sept. and asked him to tell them where Senesi was, but he replied that he did not know.
- c) On 12th Sept. 1943, in the morning he was arrested by the Germans at the Ministry of Interior (Viminale).
23. Col. Follock said that his reports indicate that he was responsible for guiding the German parachuters to Mussolini's place of arrest - Gran Sasso.
24. Furthermore, that he collaborated and assisted the Germans throughout with regard to Mussolini's escape.
25. The General replied that this information was not exact.
26. The General then gave the following information:

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Sept. 12th, 1943, at 10 A.M. the Germans took him to Pratica di Mare and asked him to collaborate with them. He was a hostage.

The men who were guarding Muscolini were under the orders of Sersai, and the General knew nothing about these orders. There was only a group of his men forming part of the guard.

The Germans informed the General that if Muscolini was killed even in conflict, the General would be held responsible. Hitler's orders were to get Muscolini alive.

I heard later that on the morning of my arrest, 12th Sept., the Chief of Police Sersai went to the villa where Muscolini was, to see what would happen to him. He was preoccupied as to what would happen to Muscolini because it was three days that nobody had interested themselves with regard to Muscolini.

It appears that Sersai sent a radio message to the Inspector General of Police Galletti, on duty at Campo Imperatore instructing him to see no violence. But the General did not of this at the time.

Gen. Galletti refused General Sersai's request (the German in charge of the expedition) to participate in the expedition or collaborate. But he was forced to go with them, and they placed on a glider.

Gen. Galletti was in the third or fourth glider, and when he landed at Campo Imperatore, Muscolini had already been liberated by the Germans.

On the basis of the radio message received that there was to be no violence, they were all sleeping and Muscolini was liberated without a single shot being fired.

Sersai, Chief of Police was on duty from 12th to 24th Sept. He was then arrested by Germans, and was taken a prisoner to Germany.

The Germans told Muscolini that he had no cause for gratitude towards Gen. Galletti, and that the latter had been brought to Germany with them as he had refused to collaborate with them for his liberation.

I heard later that on the morning of my arrest, 12th Sept., the Chief of Police Senesi went to the Viminale evidently preoccupied as to what would happen to Mussolini because it was three days that nobody had interested themselves with regard to Mussolini.

It appears that Senesi sent a radio message to the Inspector General of Police Gueli, on duty at Campo Imperatore instructing him to use no violence. But the General did not of this at the time.

Gen. Solati refused General Student (the German in charge of the expedition) to participate in the expedition or collaborate, but he was forced to go with them, and they placed on a glider.

Gen. Solati was in the third or fourth glider, and when he landed at Campo Imperatore, Mussolini had already been liberated by the Germans.

On the basis of the radio message received that there was to be no violence, they were all sleeping and Mussolini was liberated without a single shot being fired.

Senesi, Chief of Police was on duty from 12th to 24th Sept. He was then arrested by Germans, and was taken a prisoner to Germany.

The Germans told Mussolini that he had no cause for gratitude towards Gen. Solati, and that the latter had been brought to Germany with them as he had refused to collaborate with them for his liberation.

27. The General was then asked his address in Rome, which is: Lungotevere Flaminio No. 38. However, he is not living in his home as there is no water or light. He is at present the guest of Mrs. Nelson Roca (an American citizen) address: Via Flaminia 21. He is engaged to this lady and will be married to her as soon as possible. She is not his lover but his fiancée. She obtained a cancellation of her previous marriage six months ago.

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28. Col. Pollock then told Gen. Coletti that he had asked Col. Perinetti of the C.M. to come along as he knew more about the facts than he did.
29. The interview was adjourned until Co. Perinetti arrived.
30. Gen. Coletti filled in a "Scheda Personale" in the meantime.
31. When Col. Perinetti came in, the interview continued.
32. Gen. Coletti repeated more or less what he had already stated to Col. Pollock.
33. Col. Perinetti made the following queries and the following replies were obtained:
- 1) Who were on guard at the Gran Sasso?
 - C.M. and P.S. Guards, including some of Gen. Coletti's men.
 - 2) Under whose command?
 - Inspector General Guelli who received orders directly from Fencel.
 - 3) Col. Perinetti asked about a certain person named Agianello and the General replied that he was known to be a spy for the Germans. Had been to Germany two or three times before 25th July 1943.
 34. The following brief details were given as to what took place from the time the General landed with the glider at Campo Imperatore and when he was brought into the presence of Mussolini there.
 35. There was only one C.M. guard who was taken by surprise when the gliders landed.
 36. When the General landed in the 3rd or 4th glider, the hotel was already surrounded. Everybody seemed to be asleep as it was 2 p.m. The Germans had already disarmed the men inside.
 37. When Guelli looked out of the window, the General told him that the Germans were armed to the teeth.

- 1) Who were on guard at the Gran Sasso?
- Col. and P.O. Guards, including some of Gen. Roletti's men.
- 2) Under whose command?
- Inspector General Guelli who received orders directly from Ceneai.
- 3) Col. Perinetti asked about a certain person named Agianello and the General replied that he was known to be a spy for the Germans. Had been to Germany two or three times before 25th July 1943.

34. The following brief details were given as to what took place from the time the General landed with the glider at Campo Imperatore and when he was brought into the presence of Mussolini there.

35. There was only one C.O.R.A. guard who was taken by surprise when the gliders landed.

36. When the General landed in the 3rd or 4th glider, the hotel was already surrounded. Everybody seemed to be asleep as it was 2 P.M. The Germans had already dispersed the men inside.

37. When Guelli looked out of the window, the General told him not to fire as he knew that the Germans were armed to their teeth and nothing would have been gained. Guelli said he had received orders from Ceneai by radio to the effect that no violence had to be used against Mussolini, and was under the impression that everything was tranquil in Rome.

38. Col. Perinetti asked how was it that if Ceneai was in hiding he had been able to send a radio. The General replied that he came out of hiding that morning 12th Sept., and sent the radio message to Guelli. A special code between the two had been used. Ceneai had thought that with this action he had put straight his position with the Fascists and the Germans.

39. In twenty minutes/ had been placed on a "volcano" and taken away.

- 3 -

40. Before leaving he told Guelli to prepare his baggage and send it to Leonella Caminetti.
41. Gen. Coletti said he was then taken to Station 21 Here, and then by plane to Vienna.
42. He said that it was then that he knew that the base of the Gran Sasso had also been surrounded before the action took place at Campo Imperatore.
43. Gen. Coletti said he was taken to the same hotel as Mussolini in Vienna. Nobody told him this but he imagined this because it was the same commander who came forward to meet him as was at Campo Imperatore.
44. On 12th Sept. he was taken to "Mussolini's room" Mussolini did not recognize Coletti and asked him what General he was.
45. Col. Farinetti asked him if it was that General Coletti was in the uniform of the army.
46. Gen. Coletti replied that by decree no. 224, 1943 the arms of P.S. Agents together with the arm of the CC.NN. on his proposal were included in the Armed Forces of the State. Since that date he had been authorized to dress as a General of the army.
47. Mussolini told the General that he was very sorry that he had heard that the General had been asked to collaborate for his escape and had refused.
48. Gen. Coletti replied that as a prisoner he could not take any part.
49. Mussolini then said that his position would be examined later.
50. The General was then taken from Vienna to Munich by plane, was then transported to the offices of the Settago and later to the Gettago prison in the Royal Park in Munich.
51. At this point he was told that he was considered a prisoner of war, and was put in a wing of the prison together with Generale di Corpo Armato Maran, Admiral de Angelis and Col. Tenucci. Gen. Coletti understood that there were some 25 Generals there.

44. On 17th Sept. he was taken to Mussolini's room - Mussolini did not recognise Coletti and asked him what General he was.

45. Col. Perinetti asked how it was that General Coletti was in the uniform of the army.

46. Gen. Coletti replied that by Decree - Aug. 2nd, 1943 the arm of P.S. agents together with the arm of the G.D.M. on his proposal were included in the armed forces of the State. Since that date he had been authorized to dress as a General of the Army.

47. Mussolini told the General that he was very sorry that he had heard that the General had been asked to collaborate for his escape and had refused.

48. Gen. Coletti replied that as a prisoner he could not take any part.

49. Mussolini then said that his position would be examined later.

50. The General was then taken from Vienna to Munich by plane, was then transported to the offices of the Gessapo and later to the Gessapo prison in the Royal Park in Munich.

51. At this point he was told that he was considered a prisoner of war, and was put in a wing of the prison together with Generale di Corpo Armato Maree, Admiral De Angelis and Col. Foucaud. Gen. Coletti understood that there were some 25 Generals there.

52. From Sept. 18th - 19th was isolated in the Bayerischer Hof, Munich. He was taken back to the Gessapo prison and told that he was at the disposal of the Fascist Government.

53. On 26th Sept. Chief of the Gessapo told Gen. Coletti that he had to return to Rome, and was at the disposal of the Fascist Government upon request of Buffarini.

54. Gen. Coletti was taken to Tolarno on the same day, and on 28th Sept. was told that he would have to leave for Rome in the company of an official of the SS. going down.

- 6 -

55. On the way to Rome at Borgo Panico, the train was stopped as at Bologna there was an alarm. There was machine-gunning at this point, and Col. Coletti escaped from his guard (the SS, official) during the panic, and went in the Podesta's car to Bologna.

56. Thence he came by first available train to Rome, always in uniform, without being disturbed by fascists or Germans.

57. On the train he met, Gen. Clemente, a CC.FR. official.

58. When he got to his home in Rome, he immediately got in touch with the Adjutant Major in order to inform himself of the situation at the Ministry of the Interior.

59. By this time it was a Fascist Ministry and there were no Germans controlling.

60. Col. Coletti went to the Ministry the next morning to get documents regarding the movement of SS. for which he was responsible.

61. While at the Ministry he was informed that they wanted to arrest him.

62. Comm. Marocco informed the General that his house had been surrounded. This information had been relayed by the General's orderly.

63. The General escaped from the Ministry and hid in the house of a certain Mr. Leonardo - Via Martiri Fascisti 26, Rome.

64. After four days he went into the Convent of San Clemente as a guest of Father Bodwell, an Irishman, and remained there until 5th June.

65. Col. Perinetti asked the reason of the arrest, first on the part of the Germans and then by the Fascist Government.

Gen. Coletti replied: firstly because of the coup d'etat on 25th July when I occupied the Viminale (Ministry of Interior) and cut off all communications with the rest of Italy. My name was included on the Fascist black list for traitor by Spanish Tribunal, the list began with the name of Clano and so on; secondly my having arrested Cherici, Chief of Police under Fascist Government, and my having refused to participate

59. By this time it was a Fascist Ministry and there were no Germans controlling.

60. Col. Solati went to the Ministry the next morning to get documents regarding the movement of SS. for which he was responsible.

61. While at the Ministry he was informed that they wanted to arrest him.

62. Gen. Marocco informed the General that his house had been surrounded. This information had been relayed by the General's orderly.

63. The General escaped from the Ministry and hid in the house of a certain Mr. Leonardo - Via Martiri Sanesi 36, Rome.

64. After four days he went into the Convent of San Clemente as a guest of Father Dodwell, an Irishman, and remained there until 5th June.

65. Col. Perinetti asked the reason of the arrest, first on the part of the Gatsape and then by the Fascist Government.

Gen. Solati replied: firstly because of the coup d'etat on 28th July when I occupied the Viminale (Ministry of Interior) and cut off all communications with the rest of Italy. My name was included on the Fascist black list for trial by Special Tribunal, the list begun with the name of Ciano and so on; secondly my having arrested Cherici, Chief of Police under Fascist Government; thirdly my having refused to participate in the liberation of Mussolini.

66. Col. Perinetti asked him to confirm his attitude at the moment of the liberation of Mussolini, and the General replied that when he saw Gueff, Inspector General of Police at the window of the hotel at Campo Imperatore, he cried out to him "Don't fire on Mussolini has already been liberated."

- 7 -

67. Col. Solati requested over and over again that he was simply a cushion so that if Mussolini were killed he would have been sentenced to death.

68. Col. Parinetti asked if in this liberation of Mussolini does it result that the Germans instructed somebody else.

69. The General replied that he did not know.

70. Col. Pollock then said that he is satisfied that there are sufficient grounds for ordering his immediate arrest pending further investigations of allegations against him.

71. Gen. Solati was not in agreement; he said that if in any way he had collaborated for the liberation of Mussolini his name could not be on the Fascist black list, commencing with the name of Ciano; if he had collaborated for the liberation of Mussolini he would probably have been made Minister of one of the Government offices at once; and finally, he was in the grades of the Germans and Fascists they would not have wanted to arrest him.

72. Col. Pollock said "Is he suggesting now that he was never an ardent Fascist?"

73. Gen. Solati replied that he was never a Fascist at heart. As an example of this sentiment he gave the following information:

In Dec. 1942 Senesi had received orders from Mussolini to arrest Prince Doria as he had criticized Fascist economy. Prince Doria had to be sent to "confinement" for five years.

Senesi who was anti-Fascist did not wish this to happen, and although the duty did not lie with Gen. Solati, he was asked by Senesi to see Doria and work the matter in such a way that the arrest could be waived. Gen. Solati saw Doria, but Doria would not go back on his words. However, with the help of Prince Doria's sister and daughter, the matter was arranged in such a way that Doria was not sent to "confinement".

Gen. Solati said that he could have gone to see Prince Doria and remind him of this, but had not done so.

74. Col. Pollock said that the General was under arrest and that the Italian

of Mussolini he would probably have been made Minister of one of the Government offices at once; and finally he was in the graces of the Germans and Fascists they would not have wanted to arrest him.

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Gen. Solleti said that he could have gone to see Prince Doria and remind him of this, but had not done so.

74. Col. Follock said that the General was under arrest and would be sent to Regina Coeli prison, and that the Italian Government when they came to Rome would decide what was to become of him. The General asked if it were not possible for him to remain in his own home under arrest, but the reply given was "No". However, Col. Follock said that the whole case would be submitted to his seniors.

75. Col. Follock said that every consideration would be given to the General while under arrest.

Follock
11/10

Generale SOLETTI, Fernando.

Del Corpo Agenti di P.S.-Già Commandante
il Corpo fino all'8 Settembre 1943. L'11 Settembre
1943 i tedeschi si servirono di lui per liberare
Mussolini detenuto a Campo Imperatore e quindi
lo condussero in Germania. Ritornato in Italia
ne fu disposto l'arresto dal Ministero Buffarini,
arresto cui si sottrasse, dandosi alla macchia.

Translation:

Belonging to the P.S. Forces.
Commander of the Corps until 8th Sept. 1943.
On 11th Sept. 1943 used him to liberate Mussolini
detained at Campo Imperatore, and then they took
him to Germany. Upon his return to Italy his ar-
rest was directed by Minister Buffarini, but he
escaped into hiding.

SOLETTI Fernando son of Gustavo and of Garatti Luigia,
born in Rome on 10.5.1891, widower, living at Lungotevere
Flaminia 38;

He who had the rank of Questore for Fascist merits
was promoted General, commanding the Metropolitan Corps,
a rank purposely created for him.

After the events of 8th September, Soletti, in agreement
with Nazi authorities went to "Campo Imperatore" and
liberated Mussolini, whom he accompanied to Germany.
After some time he came back from Germany, and did not
leave Rome again.

At present, perhaps for the sake of caution he left
his home at Lungotevere Flaminio and was last seen,
five days after the arrival of the Allied troops in Rome.
Confidential informer refers further that it would
appear that Soletti is living with a sister of his,
at Viale Legi, but it was not possible to obtain the
number.

Al Sig. Giovanni Collo ~~Collo~~
Capo dell'Polizia Alleata
Roma

Come ho già detto, il mio memoriale a Lei presentando, fu da me redatto non a scopo difensivo - Per tale motivo, in detto memoriale non ritenni allora l'indicare le persone che possono corroborare ora le mie affermazioni - Reputo perciò opportuno dare qui appresso i nomi:

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Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

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che possono convalidare ora le mie
affermazioni - Reputo perciò ap-
proposito dare qui appresso i nomi
di alcune personalità che dovrebbero
essere ora presenti in Roma e che
potrebbero facilitare gli accertamen-
ti che eventualmente dovessero
essere praticati in quanto

ho affermato nel memorandum stesso.

Tali persone sono:

1° Sec. Pietro Barabano, già Polso,
gubern. alla Presidenza del Consiglio
nel ministero Badoglio.

2° Sec. Prefetto Carlo Schiavi, attuale
mente capo del Personale al Ministero
del Interno - (Per la conoscenza che ha
della mia persona e di tutta la mia
attività, può riferire in ogni momento
particolare).

3° Colonnello di S.M. Bazan, già
capo dell'ufficio militare presso il
Gabinetto del Maresciallo Badoglio.

4° Comm. M. Mario Uicali, V. Prefetto
già capo della Segreteria di S.E. Ba.
all'attuale al Ministero del.

2. Lee. Prefetto Carlo Savari, amministrante capo del Personale al Ministero dell'Interno - (Per la conoscenza che ha della mia persona e di tutta la mia attività, può riferire in ogni minimo particolare) -
3. Colonnello di S.M. Bazzan, già capo dell'ufficio militare presso il Gabinetto del Maresciallo Badoglio -
4. Comm. Dr. Mario Micali, V. Pupetto già capo della Segreteria di S.E. Badoglio, attualmente al Ministero del. l'Interno -
5. Comm. Querci V. Pupetto presso il Ministero dell'Interno - (Per essere stato il capo della Segreteria del capo della Polizia può riferire sulla mia attività dal 25 luglio al 10 settembre -

6. Comm. D. H. Pianaese, V. Pupetto
 al Ministero dell'Interno -
 (Per riferire su tutta la mia
 attività prima e dopo il 25
 luglio).

7. Ten. Colonnello Giulio Gabricca
 addetto al Ministero dell'Interno -
 (Era alle mie dipendenze e perciò
 ha seguito tutta la mia attività)

8. Comm. Luigi Morazzini, Gen.

Stare,
 (Era presente quando il 25 lu-
 glio io giunsi al Ministero dell'
 Real Casa per ricevere gli ordini
 circa l'occupazione del Palazzo
 Viminale)

Con osservanza

in seguito tutta la sua attività)

8. Comm. Lucio Morazzini, Que.

stare,
(ha presente quando il 25 lu-
glia si giunse al ministero della
Real cassa per ricevere gli ordini
circa l'occupazione del Palazzo
Viminale)

con osservanza

Generale F. Stelti

Roma 29 Giugno 1944

35 ~~68~~

Local newspaper have given this morning the news of my arrest attributing me qualifications and tasks I never had; and including me between the chiefs of Fascist Republic Police.

I inform you:

- I) I was only a Commander of Italian Military Police during the period Badoglio.
- 2) At 10 September I passed at the dependence of Military Commander of Rome, General Calvi di Bergolo, when Rome was declared an open city.
- 3) On 12 Sept. I was arrested by German Secret Service while I was in the palace of Viminale where I remained instead of the Chief of Police SENISE who was sought by Germans.
- 4) I was obliged (though I did not want) with menaces and by main strength to get on an aeroplane who brought me at Campo Imperatore where Mussolini was prisoner.
- 5) Under the menace of Germans I was obliged to assist at all what they did, while two officers of them aimed their guns against me.
- 6) If Mussolini should have been killed by Italians who watched him, I, and the others of sentry ought to have been murdered - so Germans would justify themselves against Hitler.
- 7) The chief of sentry of Campo Imperatore was the Questore Comm. Guelli who had received by radio orders by the chief of Police Senise - he knew that Germans were arriving.
- 8) After the liberation of Mussolini I was carried in Germany and incarcerated at Monaco by Gestapo - I was considered as a war prisoner as other Italian Generals who were there.
- 9) At request of Fascist Government I was carried back in Italy to answer for my resistance to Germans.
- 10); During the travel from Monaco to Rome I could escape and have remained hid from 30 Sept. until now.
- II) Police was informed and received order to arrest me, my house was invaded by Police Fascist and watched over for more than two months.

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- II) Police was informed and received order to arrest me, my house was invaded by Police Fascist and watched over for more than two months.

You may be sure (and waht I have written you attest it) that I have never been a Chief of Fascist police but only one of its victims.

I like to add that on the evening of 25 July I was choosed by the Chief of Police GENISE (Badoglio Government) to occupy with mi guards Palazzo Viminale -to cut off all the telephones-Arresting the chiefs of Fascist Police, and above all General Clerici- and had orders to help the new govern=ment to take possession of Palazzo Viminale.

All these orders where executed so that the Fascist Govern+ment denounced me giving orders to let me judge by Special Court of Justice.

All this has been ~~by-me~~ told, written and refered ~~by~~ me to Authorities ,so I beg you to communicate the necessary infor=mation to local press to take away all prejudices the article of romans newspaper may have caused on public opinion.

signed;Generale Fernando Soletti

TRANSLATION

I refer to what is represented in my memorandum, given to you and Prefect Schiavi, Chief of Personnel, Interior Ministry.

In said memorandum I limited myself in analytical description of events, in which, for reasons of my function as General of Police, I assisted and partook.

I therefore abstained from whatsoever consideration on the facts in it stated, not intending to put on an act of defence because, examining my behaviour and my conscience, I don't think it necessary to disculpate myself.

But, after the interrogatory 28th June, it is evident that on my account there are severe preventions.

In fact, for some questions put to me, I imagine that on my account completely wrong signalations have been brought in.

I precise:

1. One told me it results that I was one of the intimates of Mussolini.

I answer that during 22 years I never conferred with Mussolini.

I was practically unknown to him. I say "practically" because only from 1931 to 1938 as Commander of Police, every year, the 8th Oct. I presented to him the Force in occasion of its anniversary. This circumstance only consented in my exchanging with him the usual phrases with which a Commander answers the questions put to him by who ~~then~~ inspects the parade of the units.

Different to other high Police Officers I never had occasion to confer rapport with Mussolini, as my activity was limited to the ~~organizational~~ military organization of the Force, and for which I was responsible only towards the Chief of Police.

For this reason, it was completely impossible for me to have direct contact with him. This can be confirmed by Chief of Personnel Prefect Schiavi.

That I was also practically unknown physically by him, shows the fact that he didn't know precisely who I was when he saw me on the Campo Imperatore, and when he reproached me at Vienna my behaviour towards the Germans when these wanted me to partake in his liberation.

2. One gave me to understand that my feelings were fascist.

I answer: My feelings were so known by my superiors that when one wanted to make the Coup d'Etat on 25th July, I was the only person that Senise wanted next to him, at the Ministry of the Royal House, to trust me with the execution of the hardest task, and the most important one in that minute, that is to take possession of Viminale Palace, to interrupt telephone communications with the whole of Italy, to arrest the Fascist Chief of Police, Prefect Chierici, and to prepare, in the Viminale, the taking in possession of the new Government.

Before, in December 1942, when Mussolini ordered once again the confinement of Prince Filippo Doria, actual Mayor of Rome, Senise, that time Chief of Police, trusted me

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Before, in December 1942, when Mussolini ordered once again the confinement of Prince Filippo Doria, actual Mayor of Rome, Benise, that time Chief of Police, trusted me even it not entering my competence, to find the best way to help him to not submit to the orders of Mussolini. This can be witnessed, apart of by Prince Doria, by the Countess Bernomeo, sister of the Prince, and by his own daughter.

On this occasion Benise declared that for such a task he couldn't trust any other police officer. Apart of modesty, I can say it was me who spared Prince Doria the new sentence of condemnation already ordered by Mussolini.

3. In the interrogation one insisted in precisising my behaviour in occasion of the German expedition to Campo Imperatore. The happenings have been my me precisely exposed in my memorandum, I therefore limit myself now to only obvious considerations.

~~Il Viminale era un luogo di detenzione per i fascisti.~~

If, with my doings, I would have, in the least, partaken in such operation, I would have failed my principles and my duties, but I would have received a very different treatment than that I had to undergo afterwards, and such is:

1. Arrested and taken into Gestapo prison of Munich on Sept. 13th;
2. Considerated afterwards Prisoner of War together with other Italian Generals.
3. On Sept. 19th taken back to prison by order of new Fascist Government.
4. Taken to Italy on Sept. 25th, to be judged by Special Court of Justice.
5. Order of Buffarini for my immediate arrest, after my escape to Borgo Pancale;
6. Inclusion of my name on List of captured, together with Ciano, de Bono, Cenci, Frignani, etc., sent to all Police offices, Italian, German, Fascist.

T. Benise

7. Active searching for me during the whole time that I was hidden, (9 months) with watch over my house during two months and perquisitions and doging of my relations and friends.

All this against me ought to be enough to convince anybody that my activity and my behaviour in every circumstance, were judged by the Germans and the Fascists as deserving that punishment which I surely would have received if they would have succeeded in capturing me.

I think I am about the only high ranked Italian Police Officer who did not receive any decoration from the Germans.

This to confirm my feelings towards them, and because I always evitated contacts of what so ever kind with German Authorities.

On these simple considerations of mine I recall the attention of who has to judge me and I allow myself to ask that, after all I have passed, and the proofs I gave of my feelings, that one spares me the prolongation of a situation so mortifying and degrading to the soul of a man and an old soldier.

0281

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

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922

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
ROME REGION
APO 394

PUBLIC SAFETY DIVISION
12th July 1944

FILE NO. : PS/3106/1
SUBJECT : Security - Arrests.
TO : Capt. FREEMAN
Supt. of Prisons.

1. Until further instructions General SOLETTI will NOT be allowed to receive any visitors, whoever they may be. This also applies to Mrs. NELSON PAGE, his fiancée.
2. If they desire to send in food to him, this should be done through you and all communications in writing should be carefully censored by you.
3. This is Col. Poletti's order, which will also apply to all other SECURITY Prisoners.

J. R. Pollock

J. R. POLLOCK
LT. COLONEL

Chief, Public Safety Division

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J.R. POLLOCK
LT. COLONEL
Chief, Public Safety Division

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
Public Safety Sub-Commission
APO 394

Tel. 473708

25 August 1944

ACC/14760/64/PS

SUBJECT : General Fernando Soleti.

TO : R.P.S.O. Region IV.

With reference to attached papers on the above named, will you please cause immediate review of this case, and furnish me with a written report so that reply can be made to the British Legation to the Holy See.

Please treat as very urgent.

PAUL G. KIRK,
Colonel, Inf.
Director Public Safety
Sub-Commission

HP/ngd

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See.

Please treat as very urgent.

PAUL G. KIRK,
Colonel, Inf.
Director Public Safety
Sub-Commission

BE/hgd

920

ROME ALLIED AREA COMMAND
APO #794, US Army

AG 253

Admin. Sec.
7152
TKB/rw
18 August 1944
1A

Subject: Case of General Fernando Soleti.

To : Headquarters Allied Control Commission, Administration Section,
APO #794, US Army.

1. In compliance with directive from Allied Armies in Italy, dated 10 August 1944, a communication from the British Legation to the Holy See, concerning the case of General Fernando Soleti, is forwarded herewith.

2. General Soleti is now a common prisoner in the Infirmary Wing, Regina Coeli Prison.

3. In view of this directive, it is requested this matter be handled direct with the British Legation to the Holy See.


THEOBURN K. BROWN,
Brigadier General, US Army,
Commanding.

1 Incl:
Communication fr British Legation.

16

16 August 1944

Genral Fernando Soleti:

He has been arrested *in* date of 20th June 1944.
Since that day he was in "Regina Coeli Prison" (C.I.C. Wing)

In date of 9th Aug 1944 he has ^{been} transfered from
C.I.C. Wing to Common Wing.

Removed to infenary in the same day by orders
of Capt. Freeman.

To-day 16th August 1944 he is still in the
infernary of Regina Coeli Prison.

L. C. Davis

1225

1c

THE COMMANDING GENERAL

ROME ALLIED AREA COMMAND

I send to you herewith a translation of a long memorandum which I have received from Commendatore Adolfo Soletti, the Commander of the Pontifical Gendarmerie, about the case of his brother, General Fernando Soletti, who has been for over six weeks in Regina Coeli. I should be grateful if careful consideration could be given to the memorandum by the appropriate authorities.

It should perhaps be added that this legation are under a debt of gratitude to Commendatore Soletti for his treatment of the British ex-Prisoners of War who took refuge in the Vatican and were lodged under his supervision in the Pontifical Gendarmerie Barracks.



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British Legation to the Holy See,
VATICAN CITY. August 14th, 1944.

917

742

Translation.MEMORANDUM ABOUT GENERAL FERNANDO SOLETTI

Major-General Fernando Soletti, Inspector of the Body of Agents of Public Security from January to September 1943, has been, by orders of the Allied Authorities; confined since June 26th last in the Regina Coeli Prison.

From the communications made to the Press it appears that the charges brought against him are of two different kinds:

- 1) that he commanded the Republican Police Forces in Rome until June 4th, 1944, co-operating with the Quattore Ceruso in the illegitimate and inhumane acts committed by the latter;
- 2) that he rendered possible the liberation of Mussolini from Campo Imperatore on September 12th, 1943.

The first charge can at once be shown to be without foundation because there is abundant evidence that Soletti, as from September 12th, after having been arrested and having when succeeded by a miracle in escaping, was obliged to remain hidden.

On account of his well known anti-Fascist sentiments and also as a person of tried loyalty, he received orders from the Badoglio Government on July 25th, 1943, to play a part of decisive importance at that moment.

With promptitude and energy he occupied the Ministry of the Interior, arrested the head of the Fascist Police, interrupted telephonic communications with the rest of Italy and so prevented orders being given for resistance to the new Government.

On the following day, the 26th, at the risk of his own life (on account of which he was recommended for a Silver Medal), he made his way into the barracks of the Anti-Aerial Militia in the Via Palermo, where Generals and Fascist armed forces, who might have formed the nucleus of armed resistance, had taken refuge.

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On the following day, the 26th, at the risk of his own life (on account of which he was recommended for a Silver Medal), he made his way into the barracks of the Anti-Aerial Militia in the Via Palermo, where Generals and Fascist armed forces, who might have formed the nucleus of armed resistance, had taken refuge, disarmed them and took them as prisoners to the Ministry of the Interior.

On the 12th September he was captured by German officers, together with an officer attached to him; after being brought to Pratice di Mare he was disarmed, separated from his officer and forced to get into an aeroplane.

When he realised what was happening, in a state of reaction and moral depression, he drew out a second pistol that he had on his person and tried to use it against himself; he was however deprived of this weapon also and was held under strict armed surveillance. A high Italian officer, who had heard about it directly from a German officer, can give testimony to this.

When the eight aeroplanes which transported the German soldiers flew over Campo Imperatore, the Inspector-General of Police, to whom the custody of Mussolini had been entrusted, gave orders to the forces under his command not to fire. This order was in accordance with the instructions to this effect which the same official had received that morning in a telegram addressed to him by the Chief

of/

of Police.

In fact, the scanty force of Italian police - some 50 or 60 men - who were guarding Mussolini did not fire a single shot, either when the aeroplanes were flying over Campo Imperatore or when they landed or even when the armed forces got out of them, i.e. when they were in a position to see whether there were any Italian authorities with the Germans.

Moreover if they could see General Soleti in the group, they must have seen that he was pushed forward by force and with arms pointed at him from the rear.

In addition to the above, besides the German forces which had landed at Campo Imperatore, two battalions of S.S. were posted in the neighbourhood and the whole of North Central Italy had fallen into German hands.

The presence of General Soleti at Campo Imperatore was the result solely of coercion and in any case had no effect.

If he had contributed to the success of the operation, he would not immediately afterwards have been imprisoned, but praised and rewarded.

It was precisely on account of his reluctance to facilitate the release of Mussolini (already a certainty as a result of the German occupation of Italy and of the telegram of the Chief of Police to the Inspector-General of Police) that Soleti was at once taken as a prisoner to Germany and confined in the Gestapo prison at Munich. At the end of September, by request of the Italian Government, which wished to proceed against him, he was reconducted under escort to Italy. During the railway journey; thanks to the general confusion produced by an air raid in the neighbourhood of Borge Panicale, he was able to escape and, after various adventures; to reach and take refuge in Rome.

On the 30th September his house in Rome was surrounded and subsequently searched by a large force of police acting under the orders of Marocco; a new order of arrest was issued on October 15th

02931
The presence of General Solati at Campo Imperatore was the result solely of coercion and in any case had no effect.

If he had contributed to the success of the operation, he would not immediately afterwards have been imprisoned, but promised and rewarded.

It was precisely on account of his reluctance to facilitate the release of Mussolini (already a certainty as a result of the German occupation of Italy and of the telegram of the Chief of Police to the Inspector-General of Police) that Solati was at once taken as a prisoner to Germany and confined in the Gestapo prison at Munich. At the end of September, by request of the Italian Government, which wished to proceed against him, he was reconducted under escort to Italy. During the railway journey, thanks to the general confusion produced by an air raid in the neighbourhood of Borgo Panicle, he was able to escape and, after various adventures, to reach and take refuge in Rome.

On the 30th September his house in Rome was surrounded and subsequently searched by a large force of police acting under the orders of Commissario Marocco; a new order of arrest was issued on October 15th under the signature of Travaglio (then Chief of Police); a sister of his had to go into hiding in a convent; other members of his family were dogged by the Republican and German Police.

On the morning of June 5th, immediately after the entry of the Allied troops into Rome, Solati reported to General Benicivenga, and placed himself under his orders; then he went to the Rome Questura and afterwards to the Ministry of the Interior; where he presented a report on what had happened.

Suddenly on June 26th he was arrested and brought before Colonel Pollock of the Allied Forces. Immediately afterwards he was interrogated by Colonel Pollock to whom he also gave a report, and since then he has been detained in the Regina Coeli Prison on instructions from the Allied Forces.

The truth of the above account can be testified to by numerous witnesses/

witnesses of proved trustworthiness and it has been drawn up with the help of detailed memoranda drawn up by General Soletti himself.

The case is that of a General decorated with two silver medals for military valour won during the 1915-1918 War; decorated also with the French Gold medal for civil valour and the Italian silver medal for civil valour. He is well known in Roman circles and especially at the Ministry of the Interior, where his antecedents and his opinions can easily be ascertained.

What is asked is the Legation's intervention in order that he and may be put to the humiliating situation in which General Soletti, against whom no accusation can be brought, at present finds himself.

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