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ACC 10000/143/2174 376/50 ASSOCIATIONS LABOR
OCT. 1943 - Apr. 1944

ASSOCIATIONS, LABOR*** 376.50

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THIS FORM

FROM OCT 1943

TO APR 1944

CATALOGUE

SECURITY INTELLIGENCE

FILE

MINUTE SHEET

No. of sheet	Date	File no. of Ans'd Ltr.	From whom	Subject
1.	20 March		CIC. PBS	Report on ENTE AUTOMATO DI NAPOLI
2.	7 March			Complete report on ENTE and Personnel
3.	2 April			Report By CIC - on <u>ENTE</u> .

ROUTING SLIP

HEADQUARTERS

PENINSULAR BASE SECTION

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Classification

2 Apr.

Date of Basic Letter

File No.

Subject: Ente Autonomo del Porto

Number each memo consecutively. Fill in each column, initial action, draw one line across the sheet. Use the entire width of sheet for long memoranda.

No.	Date	From	To
1	5 Apr.	H.2 ABS	Director, St. Branch ACC Att. Capt. Fielders

The attached copy of CTC report is in connection with other reports on same subject, and on persons connected therewith, which were given to Capt. Fielders on 30 Mar.

*William D.
Swain, P.A.*

(3)

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Classification

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COUNTER INTELLIGENCE CORPS
PENINSULAR BASE SECTION
A.P.O. 782

/lr

BPOBI

CASE NO. 33H-204-3V

2 April 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR THE OFFICER IN CHARGE:

SUBJECT: Ente Autonomo del Porto di Napoli

1. Pursuant to a request from Major James M. Arnold, G-2 Section, P.H.S., this Agent attempted to secure more detailed information regarding Subject organization.

2. On 31 March 1944, Dr. Hans GRIECO (Italian Naval lieutenant assigned to Subject organization and presently under investigation by this office) submitted a report entitled "Memorandum Concerning the Ente Autonomo Del Porto di Napoli", a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit "A".

3. The following information was obtained principally from interviewing GRIECO at this office on 1 April 1944. This Agent also has discussed Subject organization with the following persons:

Captain A. E. Heath, Regional Security Officer
Region 3, Allied Control Commission
Prefettura, Naples

Lt. McDonald
Base Fleet Security Office, ROIC, SOI (British)
Via Cristoforo (rear Navy House), Naples

Major Lister, British Officer in Charge

Enzo Fiore, Dept. of Industrial Output and Distribution,
Consiglio Provinciale dell' Economia di Napoli,
Piazza della Borsa, Naples.

4. The book "Il Porto di Napoli" by Arturo Assante (Naples, 1939) has also been consulted.

5. BACKGROUND OF ORGANIZATION: The ports of Italy were administered by a unit of the Italian government known as R. Capitaneria di Porto, with the exception of a few of the largest ports, such as Genoa, Naples, and Palermo, for which an "Ente Autonomo" was set up by the government responsible directly to the Ministry of Merchant Marine. The purposes of the Ente Autonomo were the operation of port facilities (docks, cranes, etc.), recruiting and managing port labor, policing the port, and other minor allied functions.

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6. ADMINISTRATION: The personnel of the Ente are divided into two groups: A: A permanent force of civilian employees for administrative and office work and a force of technicians (electricians, etc.) B. A management and supervisory group composed of naval officers, subject to assignment and removal by the Italian Navy. Apparently, the government allotted a sum of money to the Ente when it was set up (one source states Ente's original capital was 2,000,000 lire), and the organization depended for its income upon two sources, derived as follows: The Italian government owns the port and its facilities as well as all of the land immediately adjacent to and bordering on the port. Out of the revenue received from operating port facilities and from rental of land to private individuals, the Ente received a certain percentage for its operating expenses.

The Italian naval officers presently assigned to the Ente are as follows:

Admiral VESCIA, Roberto, representing Badoglio government
Colonel MILANO, Adelchi, Director of the Ente
Lt. Col. GREMICCA, formerly in charge of rental of seashore property
Lt. Col. DE MARCO, Vittorio, formerly in charge of discipline of port workers
Lt. GRISCO, Sans.

The present director in charge of civilian employees is Dr. RICHARDI, Gregorio. There are forty-eight civilian employees who report daily and "work" in the office from about nine in the morning until early in the afternoon. In addition, there are about 150 persons on the payroll who report daily, who perform no function, but are paid bi-weekly along with the other forty-eight office workers. These civilian employees are paid directly by the Banco di Napoli from Ente funds on deposit there (mostly bonds and shares" - GRISCO). The 150 persons who report daily (according to Grisco) represent the so-called "technicians", long-time employees of the Ente, no longer actively employed because the port is now operated by the Allies. The only actual function presently performed by the Ente office is certifying to lists of retired port employees (about 400) to whom a pension of about 120 lire a month are paid by Istituto Previdenza Sociale, Naples.

7. It does not appear that AMG (or AGO) have any interest in the Ente or exercise any control over it. Those who know of its existence at all believe it to be in the process of liquidation, by the Badoglio government.

8. Is there any connection between the association and the individuals presently employed by the Port? Ostensibly not, but Captain Heath is interested in this angle and is working along lines by which he hopes to reveal a connection. GRISCO states that the Port workers prefer to remain state employees under the administration of the Ente instead of being employed by private companies. He further stated that the Port employees had made known their preference to the Badoglio government.

APPROVED: NICHOLAS A. FORTUNATO
Special Agent, CIC,
Chief, Investigations Section.

CHARLES E. COOPER
Agent, CIC.

DISTRIBUTION: G-2, PBS (2); CI Sec (1) File (1)
Capt. A. E. Heath, AGC (1)

ENCLOSURE: Exhibit "A".

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EXHIBIT "A"

MEMORANDUM CONCERNING THE
"ENTE AUTONOMO DEL PORTO DI NAPOLI"

1. In 1918 the Italian Government founded the "Ente Autonomo del Porto di Napoli", granting to the aforesaid Ente a period of four years for the fulfilment of its tasks.

At the end of this period, the Ente was abolished and its place taken by "Commissariat for the Port of Naples", chief among whose tasks was the restoration of order and discipline in our port.

Meanwhile the other Italian ports were increasingly mechanized and thus it became necessary to put our port on the same footing. For this reason the Commissariat was abolished and replaced by the Administration of machines and port facilities. This took place in 1930.

The aforesaid administration dealt into port machinery and in the control of labor, and managed the administration of property pertaining to the port domain and was furthermore charged with purchasing, out of profits, machinery and apparatus for the improvement of existing installations.

Being afterwards necessary to extend the administrative side, by a new organization, designed to encourage all the various maritime activities, connected with the requirement of the area, was founded in 1941 the "Ente Autonomo del Porto di Napoli". It is worthy of note that the Ente is not a completely new institution, with purely fascist characteristics: the Ente is entrusted to fulfil tasks, such as those entrusted to other similar institutions existing in other Italian ports: for instance, the "Consorzio Autonomo del Porto di Genova" founded very many years before the advent of the fascist regime.

2. It would take too long to explain in detail what the Ente has done for this port; but a brief summary of its activities can nevertheless serve some useful purpose.

It is worthy of note that recently the Ente has caused to be undertaken a vast mass of works designed to increase the number of the moorings alongside the wharves, to improve machinery, strengthen discipline and the organization of labor. It also has laid down rules and prepared a scale of prices, with the intention of ensuring a more efficient organization of dock-workers and the best conditions for the resumption of trades.

Plans have been prepared in order to protect the port from backwash and for the enlargement of the deckspace available for the loading and unloading of ships.

The Ente has also reexamined railstock in order to increase its efficiency.

A better proof of what the Ente has done in the interest of our port during the period of its administration, may be given by some acknowledged facts.

Wharves extending 10000 m. and utilizable throughout their length for the mooring of ships and for the charge and discharge of their cargoes, a total of 562577 c.m., offered by the warehouses, squares for the uncovered deposit of the merchandise, with a total area of 138000 sq.m., 125883 sq.m. occupied by workshops and dockyards, 35000 m. of railway and

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4500 m. of aqueduct for the ships water-supply (269 openings and 1412 c.m. for each hour). Equally considerable was the technical equipment of the port: 263 floating - platforms (pontons and lighters 10802 R.T. and 18000 Ts. D.W. total).

50 tugs for pilotage and towing services.

15 pieces of equipment (shear - buks and floating cranes) with a raising capacity variable from 3 to 100 Ts.

During the same administration, one landing stage for passenger services was built, provided with 12 movable gang-planes.

Four noria-elevators for grains with an hourly capacity of 400 Ts. total.

Four electric elevators for the discharge of the coal, with a daily turn-over of 4500 Ts. total.

52 electric cranes on rails for the general loads with a daily working capacity of 5000 Ts. total and a raising capacity varying from 1 1/2 to 5 Ts. Such was the mechanical equipment of the port.

In addition the Ente owned a workshop, excellently equipped with highly skilled workmen.

Finally the excellent organization, both from a moral and technical point of view, of dock - labourers, ensured, to the advantage of our port, an honest and disciplined body; but this organization has been completely upset by the conditions, which at present govern labour in the docks.

3. Must this work, achieved through 25 years of experience, be totally destroyed, leaving us unprepared to face the grave problems which we must expect? The answer is no; for it must be considered that a disciplined activity represents a vital problem in the case of our port. Therefore the Ente should be retained as an organizing and planning body. Indeed at this very moment problems of considerable gravity remain to be solved.

The collisions accomplished in the port in September 1943 by German soldiers, the 102 aerial bombardments of Naples, and the consequences of the explosion of the S/S Caterina Costa have transformed the port into a heap of rubbish and caused the complete destruction of its mechanical equipment.

The railway installations and the aqueduct for ships water supply are in the same conditions.

The floating platforms and the tugs have been sunk and this, in addition to the lack of lifting-gear, means ships must be loaded and unloaded only by means of ships' derricks and by arms.

There are no more warehouses and for this reason the goods are no longer protected from the inclemency of the weather.

In order to minimize the effects of this devastation, the Ente should begin the necessary action for recovery, ordering to various owners to salvage their floating - stages and sunken tugs, promoting the restoration of railway installations and of the aqueduct, refitting the warehouses still susceptible of utilization and proceeding to the purchase of other lifting - gear of limited strength and self propelled.

The same Ente should be able to make small shipyards for the repair of floating - stages and tugs salvaged from the sea. Finally the aforesaid Ente should be able to start the repairs to the quays, whose mooring-space has been considerably reduced. All these considerations indicate that the aforesaid institution should not be suppressed.

Indeed it would seem opportune to increase its efficiency, by enlarging its tasks, among which that of facilitating and re-establishing all

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activities of the port; for it is here Naples finds still the chief source of its life and prosperity.

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TRANSLATION

C O P Y

MINISTRY OF THE NAVY
Undersecretary of State for the Merchant Marine

Naples, 7 March 1944

SUBJECT: Colonel TOMMASELLI

To: HQ. ARMED FORCES OF CAMPANIA - Mil. Post 120 -

Reference No. 3565 of 24 - 4 - 1944 re Subject.

The decree dissolving the independent port authority has been approved by the Council of Ministers, but has not as yet been put in force because the port employees and workers' associations have obtained a deferment of 2 months in publishing the order in the official record to allow them to find suitable employment, and for the workers' associations to form another agency to take the place of the present one which is to be dissolved.

As you are aware, when the communication to the effect that the directors of the independent authority (General Bisconti, President, and Colonel Tommaselli, Director) were not acceptable, an extraordinary commissioner was quickly nominated in the person of Admiral Roberto Vescia, R.N., to undertake the liquidation of the agency, which no longer functioned, until the dissolution order could be carried out and to ~~replace~~ Gen. Bisconti.

Col. Tommaselli could not be dismissed, not being of the permanent personnel of the service, but a private employee, and his dismissal cannot be handled in the same manner as for the other employees and according to the employment contract for 2 months until the publishing of the order in the official record of the kingdom.

The present usefulness of the agency is almost nil.

The extraordinary commissioner, Admiral Vescia, has, since taking office, been proceeding with the pruning of its duties.

UNDERSECRETARY OF STATE

Chief Information Office
/s/ Capt. F. di Lauro

(Signature Illegible)

Translated by G-2, FBS: P. J. P.

1826

C O P Y

C O P I A

RISERVATO ALLA PERSONA

MINISTERO DELLA MARINA
Sottosegretariato di Stato della Marina Mercantile

N. 40 RR.PP. di prot.

Napoli, 14 7 Marzo 1944

OGGETTO : Colonnello TOMMASELLI.

AL COMANDO FF.AA. DELLA CAMPANIA - P.M. 120 -

Riferimento foglio n.3565 del 24/2/1944 relativo all'orgamento.

Il Decreto riguardante lo scioglimento dell'Ente Autonomo del Porto é stato approvato dal Consiglio dei Ministri; ma non é entrato ancora in vigore perché sia gli impiegati sia i sindacati dei lavoratori portuali hanno interessato ed ottenuto dal R.Governo di prorogare di due mesi la pubblicazione sulla Gazzetta Ufficiale per consentire agli impiegati di trovare una occupazione che possa metterli in grado di vivere ed alle associazioni dei lavoratori portuali di organizzare un Ente che possa sostituire quello di cui é stato decretato lo scioglimento.

Come é noto a V.E., quando si ricevette la comunicazione che i Dirigenti dell'Ente Autonomo (Generale BISCONTI, Presidente, e Col. TOMMASELLI, Direttore) non erano graditi, si provvide subito a nominare un Commissario Straordinario, nella persona dell'Ammiraglio R.N. Roberto VESCIA, per iniziare la liquidazione dell'Ente, la cui funzione era ed é cessata, in attesa della promulgazione del Decreto di scioglimento e per rimpiazzare il Generale BISCONTI.

Il Col. R.N. Tommaselli non poté essere licenziato perché non appartenendo più al personale del servizio permanente effettivo, ma essendo un impiegato privato, la sua liquidazione non può farsi, come per tutti gli altri impiegati dell'Ente ed in obbedienza al contratto di impiego, che due mesi dopo piglia la promulgazione del Decreto sulla Gazzetta Ufficiale del Regno.

L'attuale funzione dell'Ente é pressoché nulla.

Il Commissario Straordinario Ammiraglio Vescia da quando é stato insediato sta eseguendo lo stralcio di tutta la gestione.

IL SOTTOSEGRETARIO DI STATO
f.to illeggibileP. C. C.
Il Capo Uff. Informazioni
-Capit.F.di Iauro-

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C O P Y

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C.I.C.
P.B.S.

312FS/3

1. Reference your verbal request for information concerning the Ente Autonomo del Porto di NAPOLI, and on Lt. Col. TOMASELLI.
2. Neither the commercial concern, nor its heads, General BISCONTI, President, and Lt. Col. TOMASELLI, Director General, have been of any service to the British Navy or Port Authorities since the Allied occupation.
3. Any action taken against the individuals mentioned will not in any way prejudice British interests.

/s/ R. F. Cartwright Capt.

O. C.
312 F.S. Section

CMF
22 Feb 44.

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ARMED FORCES OF CAMPANIA
H.Q. ROYAL CARABINIERI

Mil. P.O. 120, 21 February 1944

MEMORANDUM TO CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE ARMED FORCES OF CAMPANIA.

Mil. P. O. 120

L'Ente Autonomo del Porto di Napoli (Independent Agency for the Port of Naples) was created in 1937 for the purpose of centralizing all the various port services, from the hiring of labor to the management of port facilities.

The Agency still exists with offices in Piazza Augusteo, and Admiral Viscia, of the Reserve, was nominated as its head in place of General of the Port, Bisconti.

Liquidation of the Agency seems certain because it is now completely inactive since the Allies are managing the labor and facilities directly, and because the facilities were destroyed partly by bombings and partly by the Germans.

Colonel of the Port, Tommaselli, is an officer of the Port Authority Reserves, since, when the independent agency was formed, he applied for a discharge in order to accept the position of Director General of the said agency at an annual salary of 100,000 lire; a position which he now holds.

He is not too well liked and his business ethics in certain dealings are widely discussed.

COL. ANDREA COZZO

Commanding

Translated by G-2, PBS

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C O P Y

FF.AA.DELLA CAMPANIA
COMANDO CARABINIERI REALI

P.M.120, 11 21 febbraio 1944.

PROMEMORIA PER IL CAPO DI S.M.

DELLE FF.AA.DELLA CAMPANIA

P. M. 120

L'Ente Autonomo del Porto di Napoli fu creato nel 1937 con lo scopo di accentrare tutti i vari servizi portuali, dalla assunzione della mano d'opera alla gestione dei mezzi meccanici.

Tale ente, a capo del quale è stato da poco preposto l'ammiraglio della riserva Vescia, in sostituzione del Generale di Porto Bisconti, esiste tuttora ed ha sede in Piazza Augusteo.

Dato che l'ente non esplica più alcuna attività gestendo gli alleati il porto direttamente sia per quanto riguarda l'assunzione della manovalanza sia per i mezzi meccanici che d'altro canto sono stati distrutti parte dai bombardamenti e parte dai tedeschi, si dà come sicuro la sua liquidazione a quanto prima.

Il Colonnello di porto Tommaselli, è un ufficiale della Capitaneria di Porto della riserva, in quanto, allorché venne costituito l'ente autonomo, fece domanda di essere collocato in congedo per poter assumere la carica di Direttore Generale del detto ente, retribuita con L.100 mila annue; carica che tuttora ricopre.

E' uomo che non gode eccessive simpatie e la cui moralità, in materie di affari, in alcuni ambienti è molto discussa.

IL COLONNELLO COMANDANTE
(Andrea Cozzo)

1622

C O P Y

G. H. Q.
Military Intelligence Service
Naples

Naples, 21 January 1944

To: Hqs., Armed Forces
of Campania.

SUBJECT: General (Royal Navy) Antonio Bisconti di Marrone.

General Antonio Bisconti di Marrone of the Royal Navy, former president of the Ente Autonomo del Porto di Napoli (Separate Port Organization of Naples) was a member of the disbanded Fascist Party since its very beginning. The fact that he took part on the march on Rome, that he was a legionary of Fiume, and had received the Sciarpa Littorio (Littorio Scarf) were made use of by him in order to gain political concessions and to achieve other ends.

Formerly in command of the port of Palermo, he managed, through the intervention of Host-Venturi with whom he was very friendly, to obtain a transfer to Naples.

In this city he was about to be promoted to the rank of General, but since this would have resulted in his being transferred, he again used the influence of the Minister Host-Venturi and other noted politicians in order to delay the promotion so that it would coincide with the formation of the Ente Autonomo del Porto di Napoli of which he managed to become president, obviously gaining a great deal.

Soon after he became president, Lt. Col. Tomaselli, who was also connected with the command of the Port of Naples, asked and was made by him director-general of the Ente Autonomo, drawing the salary of one hundred thousand liras a year.

Lt. Col. Tomaselli was considered General Bisconti's right hand man and it is said that they took part in certain dishonest dealings in which the ex-minister Host-Venturi was also connected.

General Bisconti, for example, was accused of negotiating shady deals with certain port enterprises concerning building concessions and he is also known to have handed over to Fiat a large warehouse at a price which was below the real value.

It is also said that in the modification of the building where the Ente had its headquarters, which entailed the expenditure of 4 million liras, he realized a profit. Also known is the fact that the Ente Autonomo at the time when its constitution was formed had a capital of 9 million liras which for the most part had disappeared at the time of its liquidation.

He is also known to have maintained the most friendly relations with officers of the German Navy during this war.

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Generally speaking he is known as an unscrupulous speculator, and he does not enjoy a good reputation although it is admitted that he is efficient as far as handling his affairs are concerned.

Despite the fact that recently he has been away from Naples, he has succeeded in being appointed commanding general of the Port Command personnel () in the service of the Merchant Marine.

Major of the CC.RR Capo Centro
Camillo Pecorella

(Translation by G-2 PBS)

COPY

Napoli, 21 gennaio 1944

Comando Supremo
Servizio Informazioni Militare
Centro C. S. di Napoli

AL COMANDO FF.AA. DELLA CAMPANIA

NAPOLI

N. 446 di prot.

OGGETTO: Generale R.M. ANTONIO BISCONTI di MORRONE.

Il generale della R.M. CONTE ANTONIO BISCONTI di MORRONE, già presidente dell'Ente Autonomo del Porto di Napoli, fu iscritto al disciolto partito fascista fin dai primi anni della sua fondazione. Le giornario fiumane, marcia su Roma, sciarpa littorio ha saputo sfruttare le benemerienze politiche per il conseguimento dei suoi scopi.

Già comandante del Porto di Palermo per intercessione dell'ex ministro HOST-VENTURI col quale aveva stretta intimi legami di amicizia durante la permanenza in Fiume, si fece destinare a Napoli.

In questa città venne raggiunto dai limiti per la promozione al grado di generale; pertanto avrebbe dovuto essere promosso e poi trasferito; adoperando però l'influenza del Ministro HOST-VENTURI e di altri noti gerarchi riuscì a fare ritardare la sua promozione in modo che essa coincidesse con la creazione dell'Ente Autonomo del Porto di Napoli di cui riuscì a farsi nominare presidente, con cospicuo appannaggio.

Poco dopo il suo insediamento il Ten. Colonnello TOMASELLI, pure addetta alla Capitaneria del Porto di Napoli, chiese ed ottenne il collocamento a riposo e venne assunto del Bisconti come direttore generale dell'Ente Autonomo con lo stipendio annuo di lire cento mila.

Il tenente Colonnello TOMASELLI era considerato l'uomo di fiducia del generale Bisconti e si dice, che per suo mezzo il presidente dell'Ente Autonomo del Porto abbia trattato affari poco corretti nei quali si vuole sia stato anche cointeressato l'ex ministro HOST-VENTURI.

Al generale Bisconti ad esempio viene addebitato di avere commesso abusi nella cessione di capannoni ad alcune imprese portuali e di avere ceduto alla FIAT un vasto capannone per un prezzo inferiore al valore reale. Si dice altresì che per i lavori di adattamento dello edificio adibito a sede dell'Ente, lavori importanti la spesa di oltre 4 milioni, abbia realizzato guadagni. Si soggiunge infine che l'ente autonomo all'atto della costituzione avesse un capitale di 9 milioni sfumati in gran parte all'atto della liquidazione.

COPY

Gli si addebita ancora di aver mantenuto ottimi rapporti con gli ufficiali della marina tedesca durante la guerra attuale.

In sostanza è ritenuto affarista, speculatore e gode poca stima per quanto sia ritenuto competente nella sua materia.

Nostante sia stato di recente allontanato da Napoli, a quanto si riferisce, è riuscito ad ottenere la carica di comandante generale del personale delle R. Capitanerie di Porto e presta servizio presso il ministero della Marina mercantile.

IL MAGGIORE DEI CC.RR. CAPO CENTRO
- Camillo Pecorella -

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C.I.C. SECTION
PENINSULAR BASE SECTION
APO 782

Case No. BSN-16-P

14 November 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR THE OFFICER IN CHARGE.

SUBJECT: ANTONINO BISCONTI, Major General, Italian Army (reserve).

1. Reference is made to the reports of October 27 and 29, 1943, Case No. BSN-16-P, regarding BISCONTI, former Italian Port Commandant. Under orders from Major Papurt these Agents conducted further investigation to de-consolidate all evidence bearing on the question of Subject's loyalty to the Allied war effort.

2. These Agents interviewed Lt. Col. Hitt, Port Labor Administrator of the Sixth Port, who stated that so far as the United States authorities are concerned, BISCONTI has no position, official or unofficial, in connection with the port. Col. Hitt added that Subject has never approached him or offered his services in any way. (Evaluation A-1)

3. According to Mr. Nichols, of the War Shipping Administration, Subject now has no connection with the port, and should not be allowed to act even in an unofficial capacity in any duties concerning the port. Nichols declared that during BISCONTI's term of office as Italian port commandant, prior to the Armistice with the Allies, port workmen were compelled to contribute 33% of their salaries to the workmen's association of which BISCONTI was president. Nichols explained that he does not believe that Subject would attempt any sabotage or espionage; it is the belief of Nichols that Subject does not have sufficient courage to undertake any subversive activity against the Allies, and merely seeks to have the latter restore him to a position wherein he can resume his exploitation of the workers at the port (Evaluation A-1)

4. Capt. John C. Schwartzwalder, Port Intelligence Officer, Sixth Port, stated that Subject had offered the services of thirty crane operators, but that they were unable competently to operate the large cranes now in service, and could not be employed (Evaluation A-1)

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5. The records of the German Consulate in Naples, now in the possession of the Field Security Service, revealed that on August 25, 1939, Subject was awarded the Cross of Merit of the German Eagle 1st class for his services as Commander of the Port of Naples. BISCONTI gratefully acknowledged this award. (Evaluation A-1)

6. Lt. Commander Cochran, Fleet Base Security Officer explained that BISCONTI was not qualified to operate the port at the customary British speed, and that he had therefore been denied any position at the port. Lt. Commander Cochran received a report that BISCONTI was obtaining from the Italian Chief Harbor Pilot the names and exact locations of ships berthed or anchored in the harbor; however, on investigation it was learned that the pilot was merely continuing his former duties of making detailed reports to his former commanding officer. The pilot was forbidden to make further reports to BISCONTI. In the opinion of Lt. Commander Cochran, BISCONTI has neither the courage to attempt any subversive activities, nor could not have done so without having been detected. (Evaluation A-1)

7. It is recommended that BISCONTI and anyone known to be closely associated with him be considered unfit for any position of responsibility and trust in connection with any phase of the Allied war effort.

APPROVED:

HERBERT W. SMITH,
2nd Lt. Inf.,
Adm. Officer

/s/ MARTIN J. GRENNAN
MARTIN J. GRENNAN
Special Agent, CIC

/s/ JOHN L. MARTIN
JOHN L. MARTIN
Special Agent, CIC

/s/ DOMINIC J. DE VITO
DOMINIC J. DE VITO
Special Agent, CIC

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TRANSLATION

HEADQUARTERS ARMED FORCES OF CAMPANIA
General Staff - Operations Office

Nr.313/Op. di prot.

Naples, 11 November 1943

SUBJECT: General Bisconti.

To Captain Michaldwski - Peninsular Base Section - G.2

General Bisconti can be replaced by divisional admiral Roberto Vescia who has a good knowledge and at present is president of the Commission in charge of requisitioning and releasing ships.

The proceedings for the appointment of Admiral Vescia can be started unless there is some objection on the part of the Allied authorities.

The central authorities have already interested themselves in the matter of replacing Colonel Tomaselli.

Colonel Attilio Bruno
THE CHIEF OF STAFF

C O P Y

COMANDO FORZE ARMATE DELLA CAMPANIA
Stato Maggiore - Ufficio Operazioni

Nr.313/Op. di prot.

Napoli, 11 Novembre 1943

OGGETTO : Generale Bisconti.

AL CAPITANO MICHALDWSKI - Peninsular Base Section - G.2

Seguito foglio, pari oggetto, nr.169 del 4 corr.

A sostituire il generale Bisconti potrebbe essere chiamato, per le sue specifiche conoscenze, l'ammiraglio di divisione Roberto Vescia attuale presidente della commissione Requisizione e derequisizione naviglio.

Qualora non vi siano impedimenti da parte della Autorità Alleate si potrà svolgere la pratica per la nomina dell'ammiraglio VESCIA.

Per la sostituzione del colonnello Tomaselli sono già state interessate le Autorità Centrali.

d'ordine
IL CAPO DI STATO MAGGIORE
-Col.S.M. Attilio Bruno-

1614

C O P Y

TRANSLATION

HEADQUARTERS ARMED FORCES OF CAMPANIA
Chief of Staff - Operations Office

SECRET

Registry No. 169

Naples, 4 November 1943

SUBJECT: General BISCONTI.

To: Captain MICHALDVVSKI
Peninsular Base Section, G-2

The information gathered concerning General Antonio BISCONTI, the president of the Independent Port Authority of Naples, reveals that he was registered in the Fascist party since its origin and he has always shown a sympathy for the old regime.

Moreover he was extremely friendly with Captain COK and Lt. BOSCH, commandant and secretary, respectively, of the German Navy in Naples.

Some doubt as to the honesty of his dealings has been entertained within the port administration.

His excellency, the commandant, has already convinced Admiral CASARDI that, in agreement with the Allied port authorities, they provide a substitute for General BISCONTI and Colonel TOMASELLI (at present his collaborator).

THE CHIEF OF STAFF
/s/ Colonel ATTILIO BRUNO

Translated by G-2, FBS: H. F.

C O P Y

COMANDO FORZE ARMATE DELLA CAMPANIA
Stato Maggiore - Ufficio Operazioni

S E G R E T O

No. 169 /Op. di prot.

Napoli, 4 Novembre 1943

OGGETTO : Generale BISCONTI.

AL CAPITANO MICHALDVVSKI
Peninsular Base Section

--G 2--

Dalle informazioni raccolte sul conto del Generale BISCONTI Antonio - attuale Presidente dell'Ente Autonomo del porto di Napoli - risulta che egli era iscritto al partito fascista fin dai primordi ed ha sempre dimostrato un attaccamento al passato regime.

Risulta altresì che egli era in intima relazione con el capitano COK e Tenente BOSCH rispettivamente comandante e segretario della Marina germanica di Napoli.

Qualche diffidenza sull'onestà del suo operato e affiorata nell'ambiente del porto.

L'Eccellenza il Comandante ha già interessato l'Ammiraglio CASARDI perché d'accordo con le Autorità Alleate portuali provveda alla sostituzione del generale BISCONTI e del colonnello TOMASELLI (attuale suo collaboratore).

d'ordine
IL CAPO DI STATO MAGGIORE
-Col.di S.M. Attilio Bruno-

1612

C O P Y

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C.I.C. SECTION
PENINSULAR BASE SECTION
A.P.O. 782

Case No. BSN-23-E

29 October 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR THE OFFICER IN CHARGE:

SUBJECT : GREGORIO TOMASELLI, Colonel Piazza Augusteo

1. Special Agent Martin J. Grennan, Agent DeVito and this Agent submitted on October 20, 1943, a summary of information to the effect that TOMASELLI, former Italian assistant port Commandant, is attempting to induce the Allied authorities to restore him to his former position. In view of the fact that TOMASELLI is known to have served in an identical capacity under the Germans, Captain Lucien L. Picard, Executive Officer, requested an investigation of TOMASELLI's former activities and of his integrity.

2. By his own admission, TOMASELLI was director of the port, serving under Major General Bisconti, Italian Port Commandant. Bisconti and Subject were in complete control of the labor at the port, and ran a labor association which handled all employment, fixed wages, paid pensions and sick benefits, and assessed fines. All the mechanical equipment of the port and all loading and unloading, as well as the water system of the port, were under the supervision of Subject. Bisconti and Subject decided the rates for all these operations. In addition, Subject granted all concessions for the operation of any private enterprises within the port area. (Evaluation C-2)

The British Field Security Service has recently found in the papers of the German Consulate in Naples documentary evidence of satisfaction on the part of the Germans with the collaboration of the Italian port authorities. Bisconti, Tomaselli's immediate superior was decorated by the Germans. (Evaluation A-1)

According to Lt. Commander Cochrane, British Fleet Base Security Officer, Subject is incompetent, and is ignorant of the manner in which a port should be operated. In addition, Subject is involved with Bisconti in attempting to bribe the Italian head pilot of the port to furnish convey plans, and the names and exact location of ships berthed or anchored in the port of Naples. * (Evaluation A-1)

Colonel Lane, Head of the Labor Division of AMG, Region No. 3, stated that TOMASELLI, having lost the trust of Allied authorities, attempted by a ruse to obtain some of his former control of the port. Raul de Lutzenberger, who claims to be a Swiss citizen, has been attempting to have himself appointed labor supervisor of the port. Col. Lane discovered that Lutzenberger is an associate of TOMASELLI, and has been acting under TOMASELLI's instructions. (Evaluation A-1)

* See Report on Bisconti d. 14 Nov '43 (Par 6)

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SUBJECT: GREGORIO TOMASELLI, Colonel Piazza Augusteo Continued.

Confidential informants of this Agent term Subject an outstanding Fascist, who was intimately associated with the Germans. Some informants had expected Subject to leave with the Germans troops, when the latter retreated from Naples, and were surprised that TOMASELLI remained in this area. (Evaluation B-2)

3. It is recommended that TOMASELLI and anyone known to be closely associated with him be considered unfit for any position of trust in connection with the port or with any other phase of the Allied war effort.

John L. Martin
John L. Martin
Special Agent, CIC

Distribution

S-2 (2)
P.I.O., 6th Port (1)
File (1)

APPROVED:

Lucien L. Picard
Captain, M.I.
Executive Officer

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CLASSIFICATION

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No. PAGES ATTACHED

COUNTER-INTELLIGENCE REPORT

ORIGIN OF REQUEST

FILE No. BSN-23-E

ORIGIN OF REPORT

DATE MADE

PERIOD COVERED

REPORT MADE BY

20 OCTOBER
1943

Sp. Agent MARTIN J. GRENNAN

NATURE OF CASE

Possible Espionage

SUBJECT:

GREGORIO TOMASELLI,
Piazza Augusto.

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION:

1. Above named Subject is the labor director for Major General Bisconte, former Italian Commandant of the Port of Naples. In this capacity, he had complete control over all types of workers at the Port, i.e., issued working permits, collected dues and fees, assessed fines, maintained personnel records, arbitrated disputes, and in general was the labor czar in the area. This organization was actually a full-fledged labor union, although the use of the term draws a strong denial from TOMASELLI.

2. During the period in which the German Army operated at the Port, Subject is known to have afforded them every degree of cooperation. Together with his Commandant, TOMASELLI is reportedly responsible for the strike of 167 unskilled workers two days after the American forces began operations thereat. As a result, he was in hiding from approximately Oct. 1-14 incl. Recently, he has been attempting to have the U. S. officials restore him to his former position and is pledging his complete support to alleviate the present labor shortage.

3. A clear picture of conditions at the Port prior to Allied occupancy demands that a full investigation of TOMASELLI's activities be made.

Martin J. Grennan
MARTIN J. GRENNAN,
SP. AGENT, CIC.

John L. Martin
JOHN L. MARTIN,
SP. AGENT, CIC.

Dominic J. DeVito
DOMINIC J. DE VITO,
AGENT CIC.

DISSEMINATION

EVALUATION

DISPOSITION

()	EVALUATION		DISPOSITION
	SOURCE	INFORMATION	
()	COMPLETED RELIABLE	CONFIRMED TRUE	AS DIRECTED
()	USUALLY RELIABLE	PROBABLY TRUE	INFORMATION
()	FAIRLY RELIABLE	POSSIBLY TRUE	FURTHER ACTION
()	NOT USUALLY RELIABLE	DOUBTFUL	FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS
()	UNRELIABLE	IMPROBABLE	APPROVED
()	CANNOT JUDGE	CANNOT JUDGE	DISSENT (OVER)
			SIGNATURE

CLASSIFICATION

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C.I.C. DETACHMENT
PENINSULAR BASE SECTION
A.P.O. 782

CASE NO. BW 204 24

20 March 1944

MEMO

MEMORANDUM FOR THE OFFICER IN CHARGE:

SUBJECT: Ente Autonomo del Porto di Napoli
Piazza Augusto, Naples

RE : Rene Grieco connection

1. Pursuant to a request from Major James M. Arnold, G-2 Section, PHS, for information regarding SUBJECT organization, this Agent checked with the office of Lt. Col. David J. Nielson, Regional Finance Officer, ASD, Banchi d'Italia Building, Galleria Umberto I, Naples, to determine if any funds are being released to this organization, and if so, the extent and nature of their financial transactions.

2. After consulting his records, Lt. Col. Nielson stated that SUBJECT organization has an account with Banca Nazionale del Lavoro (a known Fascist-dominated bank, according to Lt. Col. Nielson), but that he has not authorized the release of any funds to them since the Allied occupation.

3. In Lt. Col. Nielson's file was a letter dated 13 October 1943 on the letterhead of Banca Nazionale del Lavoro over the signature of FORINO, Adolfo, to which was attached a description of the functions of SUBJECT organization.

4. Quoting directly from this document, SUBJECT organization is intended to administer "functions of a technical character concerning the management of the mechanics and operation of all harbor installations, the enrollment, discipline, protection, and administration of all labor employed in loading and unloading of goods, who, in accordance with various specialities are grouped in harbor companies. The workers' salaries deductions are made, by means of which, always through the Labor Office, the Ente Autonomo del Porto di Napoli provides the following contingencies and assistance for the workmen and their families:

"a. Mutual sickness fund between the workmen which provides for payments to dependents in the case of the illness of the family head. Other functions are those of medical assistance at home for the laborers and families, admissions to hospitals, issue of medicines, obstetrical aid, widows

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allowances.

"B. Social insurance to which laborers and employers contribute for the purpose of giving old-age or invalidity pensions to the laborers, for admission to the sanitarium for tuberculosis, and for special allowances.

"C. Family allowances with the payment from the employers through the harbor companies, the Banca Nazionale del Lavoro provides for the payment of larger monthly allowances according to the size of the families, in addition to the salaries. If the employers fail to pay their contribution, allowances will cease contemporaneously.

"D. Mutual Welfare Fund of Harbor Workmen, which issues a supplementary pension to that of the social insurance and subsidies to the widows of the laborers.

"E. Insurance against workmen's accidents, in case of temporary or permanent invalidity by reason of accidents sustained during work.

"F. Winter Assistance, which funds provide special subsidies and all other welfare in favor of laborers in periods of unemployment, and in the winter time.

"G. Administration of funds, the purpose of which was to serve at low prices warm and cold meals to the laborers.

"H. Loans to the laborers. The Harbor Institute, through the Labor office, to save the laborers from usury, concedes loans to the maximum amount of 500 lire against very low interest.

"I. Subsidies. The funds accruing by fines and from other sources are given to needy laborers or to the widows of same, especially at the time of Christmas and Easter. The Banca Nazionale del Lavoro has the care of funds and cash services, including the weekly payment of the harbor laborers."

5. It is evident that SUBJECT organization was performing functions, most of which have become obsolete since the occupation, by reason of the fact that the Port is now operated by the Allies and before them by the Germans. It is likewise evident that the organization is not actually disbursing funds itself.

6. GRIECO, Ilario (Case No. RSP-204-37 dated 13 March 1944) volunteered to submit a written report to this office on the present work of the organization.

7. GMI officer stated he believed SUBJECT organization is in the process of liquidation. 1607

8. Pertinent information will be forwarded as it becomes available.

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CE
CHARLES E. COOPER
Agent, C.I.C.

APPROVED:

NICHOLAS A. FORTUNATO
Special Agent, C.I.C.
Chief, Investigations Section

DISTRIBUTION:

C-2, P.S.S. (2)
C.I. Section (1)
File (1)



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