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380/01

BLACK MARKET

DEC. 1943 - JAN. 1945

FILE

MINUTE SHEET

No. of sheet	Date	File no. of Ans'd ltr.	From whom	Subject
1	26 Nov.	Report	George Houser	- Report on men and situations (2 copies)
2.	19 Dec.			Alleged Traffic in handbags
3.	10 Jan.			Alleged Black Market in Fertilizers.
4.	20 Jan.	- -	- -	Suspected larceny of coffee (MORANDI)

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
LAZIO-UMBRIA REGION
APO 394

Public Safety Division.
29th January, 1945.

File No. :- LUR/22/1/PS.

Subject :- Suspected larceny of coffee.

To :- HQ., AC., Public Safety Sub-Commission,
(Security Division: Att. Major Harvey).

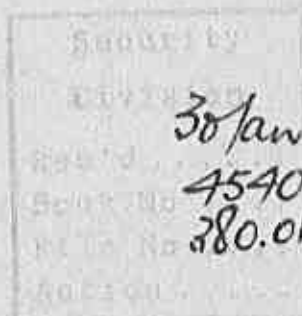
1. Further to letter from this Headquarters, LUR/22/1/PS, of 20th January, 1945 (para.3), further enquiry has now been made, and the result is given in attached translation of a report from the Squadra Mobile of Regia Questura di Roma.
2. It would appear that your informant was not reliable.

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For the Regional Commissioner:

C.T. Francis

C.T. FRANCIS.
Lt. Colonel.
RPSO., LAZIO-UMBRIA REGION.



TRANSLATIONREGIA QUESTURA DI ROMA

No. 16542 - Squadra Mobile -

Following your information dated 22 January, 1945, regarding a certain MORANDI owner of the barber's shop at Via Boncompagni or Piazza Fiume, as suspected seller of Brazilian Coffee at Black Market at 2000 lire per kilo, agents of this squad have done the necessary enquiries and found that in those neighbourhood are two barbershops.

The managers of them are the uncle and nephew MORANDI and the two shops are at Via Piave 90 and Via Nizza 13.

The first one is of MORANDI GAETANO of late Antonio. He lives at Via Piave 110 and the second one is of MORANDI GIULIO, son of Francesco, living at Viale Trieste 185.

After long lying in wait we have searched their houses and the shop of Gaetano who was more suspected.

The searches, though diligently done, gave negative results.

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s/ Il Dirigente la Squadra Mobile
(O. MANES)

Maj Price, Finance

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
LAZIO-UMBRIA REGION
APO 394

Security
File
Public Safety Division.
20th January, 1945.

File No. :- LUR/22/1/PS.?

Subject :- Suspected larceny of Coffee.

To :- HQ., AC., Public Safety Sub-Commission,
(Security Division - Attn: Major Harvey)

1. Reference is made to the information received from your office that Brazilian coffee, shipped to and unloaded at Civitavecchia, was being sold, at 2.000 lire per kilo, by one MORANDI, a barber, at Piazza Fiume, Via Boncompagni.
2. No coffee from Brazil has yet been unloaded at this port and no coffee of any kind has been unloaded there for many months.
3. Agenti di P.S. will continue the enquiry in Rome.

For the Regional Commissioner:

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C.T. Francis

C.T. FRANCIS.
Lt. Colonel.
RPSO., LAZIO-UMBRIA REGION.

Security
Division
Rec'd
Book No. 3376
File No. 380.01
Action

Security
Division
Rec'd. 13 Jan
Book No. 4104
File No. 380.01
Action

SECRET

275 TS Section
Phone 478445 Ext 17
Ref: SEC/15
20 Jan 45

To Major CRAWFORD
Agricultural Sub Commission
HQ Allied Commission

→ Major HARVEY, Public Safety
HQ AC

Subject - Alleged Black Market in
Fertilisers

1. Ref recent conversation on this and cognate matters, att is a copy of a report made on the a/n by a member of the firm of MONTECATINI chemical producers.
2. For your information and whatever action you may deem appropriate

FIELD.

Barry
Capt.,
Int Corps.

PRO-MEMORIADISTRIBUZIONE FERTILIZZANTI E ANTICRITTOGAMICI

I fertilizzanti e gli anticrittogamici devono essere in questo momento venduti tramite Federazione dei Consorzi Agrari la quale, previ accordi con l'A.C., li assegna ai suoi Enti Federati: i Consorzi Agrari, che a loro volta dovrebbero cederli ai diretti consumatori.

Praticamente, oltre queste consegne, ne avvengono anche alcune sporadiche, in relazione a disposizioni dirette della Commissione Alleata la quale dispone assegnazioni e nominativi che dovremmo ritenere consumatori. Abbiamo detto dovremmo, in quanto e' recentissima una voce che ci e' pervenuta circa l'inizio di un mercato nero verificatosi in seguito ad alcune di queste assegnazioni. A quel che ci e' stato riferito, pare che i nominativi ai quali erano state fatte queste assegnazioni (nominativi che non risultavano in precedenza fra i nostri normali acquirenti), avrebbero rivenduto ad es. perfosfato minerale fuori del nostro stabilimento al prezzo di L. 2.500- il q.le, nel mentre da noi e' stata fatturata, ed anche in via provvisoria, la stessa merce a L. 525- il q.le.

A noi consta che per i fertilizzanti e gli anticrittogamici si e' fatto - e purtroppo ancora si fa - del mercato nero. Da dove siano potute provenire queste merci che sono state immesse nel mercato nero, non ci sappiamo ben rendere conto.

Sta di fatto che per esempio l'"AVANTI" del 13 ottobre u.s. riferiva che il perfosfato minerale veniva rivenduto in Sicilia persino a L. 1.500 il q.le, mentre noi, quel perfosfato minerale, lo avevamo venduto a L. 105 il q.le.

Per questo stesso prodotto attualmente quotiamo L. 525- il q.le, dato il costo della nuova produzione, per quanto questo prezzo non si possa ritenere ancora ufficiale poiche' se ne attende ancora la convalida dalle competenti Autorita'.

Numerose sono le voci che corrono sul mercato nero dei fertilizzanti e degli anticrittogamici.

Si parla di prezzi, per il solfato ammonico, oscillanti fra le 8/10.000 lire al q.le ed anche L. 12.000 nel Napoletano, mentre recenti disposizioni dell'A.C. limiterebbero il prezzo di vendita al consumo di questo prodotto a lire 293- franco fabbrica compreso sacco che da solo il mercato valute a L. 250 cadauno.

Si parla di prezzi di vendita del perfosfato minerale oscillanti anche tra le 2/3.000 lire, compreso sacco, il q.le mentre, ripetiamo, non e' stato ancora convalidato il richiesto nostro modesto prezzo di vendita di L. 525- il q.le franco fabbrica, merce nuda.

- e purtroppo ancora si fa - del mercato nero. Da dove siano potute provenire queste merci che sono state immesse nel mercato nero, non ci sappiamo ben rendere conto.

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Si parla di anticrittogamici ceduti a dei prezzi iperbolici, tanto da non potersi più valutare a q.le ma addirittura a kg.; elementi precisi si potrebbero avere sui luoghi di consumo e, dati i mezzi di comunicazione, non è possibile a noi ora, per una esposizione così affrettata, dare elementi sicuramente fondati.

Il mercato dei fertilizzanti potrebbe, secondo noi, essere meglio disciplinato, nei limiti attualmente possibili, se venissero attuate le seguenti proposte:

- 1) e' necessario stabilire in modo preciso ed ufficiale, e il più sollecitamente possibile (sono oltre due mesi che abbiamo richiesto una determinazione del prezzo di vendita del perfosfato minerale) i prezzi di vendita franco fabbrica di tutti i fertilizzanti che vengono oggi prodotti in Italia in condizioni particolari e per cui necessita una nuova determinazione dei prezzi di essi in relazione all'effettivo loro costo.

Questa determinazione evidentemente non può essere fatta d'accordo tra industriali produttori ed organi di controllo dei prezzi in quanto oggi, per

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Le notevoli mutate condizioni dei costi di produzione, e' da rifare completamente lo studio intorno a tali questioni;

- 2) sono da determinare altrettanto sollecitamente le quote di cui gravare questi prezzi franco fabbrica per la resa media dei fertilizzanti franco destino nei vari centri di consumo, si che si conoscano in conclusione i prezzi ufficiali franco destino al consumo;
- 3) concessione dei mezzi idonei e controllati di trasporto;
- 4) massima divulgazione dei prezzi dei fertilizzanti direttamente al consumo;
- 5) controllo sulla vendita dei fertilizzanti, sui prezzi che si applicano in periferia e sulla destinazione che in definitiva prendono le partite dalle autorità assegnate alle zone agricole.

ROMA, 22 dicembre 1944

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PRO-MEMORIADISTRIBUTION OF FERTILIZZANTI AND ANTICRITTOGAMICI

The fertilizzanti and the anticrittogamici must in this moment be placed on sale by means of the Federation of the Consorzi Agrari who, in agreement with the A.C. assigns them to their Enti Federati the Consorzi Agrari, who should hand them over to the direct consumers.

Practically, besides these consignments there comes also some sporadically, in regards to dispositions directed by the Allied Commissions who disposes the distributions and nominatives which we should retain consumers. We have said, we should, as it is that just recently we have heard voices about the commencement of the black market following some of these consignments. From what we have heard it seems that the nominatives who have already had these distributions (nominatives who do not result amongst our normal buyers) have re-sold for instance, perfosfato minerale outside our establishment for the price of Lire 2,500 the q.le, whilst by us it was invoiced at Lire 525 the q.le.

To us it results that either for the fertilizzanti or the anticrittogamici the price of same has been augmented -and unfortunately still is - at black market prices. Where these goods that have been placed on the black market come from we cannot understand.

For instance the paper "Avanti" of the 13 October last, refers that the perfosfato minerale was re-sold in Sicily for Lire 1,500 the q.le whilst, that same perfosfato minerale was sold by us for Lire 105 the q.le.

For this same product at the moment we have quoted the price of Lire 525 the q.le, owing to the cost of the new production, but this price we cannot keep yet as official because we are waiting for conformation of the competent Allied authorities.

Numerous are the voices that are going around about the black market in fertilizzanti and anticrittogamici.

It is spoken of prices, for the solfato amonico, about 8 to 10,000 Lire the q.le and even 12,000 Lire sold on the market of Naples, whilst recent dispositions issued by the A.C. limited the price of sale to the consumers of this product to Lire 293 free of cost, including sack which alone on the black market is valued at Lire 250 the-q.le each.

It is spoken of the retail price of perforato minerale at about 2 to 3,000 Lire the q.le including sack, whilst, we repeat there has not yet been any conformation on our modest request of lire 525 the q.le free of cost, for just the goods.

It is said as well that anticrittogamici is given at hyperbolic prices, even to not being able to value it anymore in q.le but kilograms, exact proofs could be had on the spot, but owing to means of communication it is not possible for us to do so now.

The market on these fertilisers could be, we think, better disciplined, in the limits actually possible, if the following proposals could be adopted:

- 1) It is necessary to fix in a precise and official way, and as quickly as possible (it is already two months that we have asked for a decision to be taken on the sale price free of charge, of all the fertilisers that are now being produced in Italy and for which it is necessary to establish a new price owing to their high cost. This resolution cannot be done amongst the industrial producers as naturally the organs control on the prices of today must agree to the high conditions of the cost of production. A complete study and re-newal of this question must be done;
- 2) There must be determined quickly the quotation of the price free of charge of the fertilisers with the free transport to the various centres of consumption, also that it will be clearly made known officially the price fixed free of transport to the consumer.
- 3) The conception of proper means and control of transport;
- 4) Maximum of divulging the prices of the fertilisers directly to the consumer.
- 5) Control on the sale of the fertilisers, on the prices that are given in the periphery and on the destination that must be taken by the authorities of the agricultural zone to which they are sent.

Rome 22 December 1944.

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CONFIDENTIAL

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
A.P.O. 394
PUBLIC SAFETY SUB COMMISSION
SECURITY DIVISION

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REF : SD/380.1

3657

19 December 1944

SUBJECT : Alleged traffic in Sandbags

TO : R.P.S.O. Lazio Umbria Region

1. The attached relates to the alleged illicit movement of sandbags from the Anzio dump.

2. Perhaps the information may be of use to the Italian Police of Anzio or the Allied Military personnel there if thefts are prevalent.

[Signature]

JOHN W. CHAPMAN,
Colonel J.A.G.D.,
Director Public Safety,
Sub Commission.

Tel:- 489081
Ext:- 367

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SJH/nb

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INFORMATION RE SANDBAGS

From information received from eye-witnesses it results that twice a week on the Anzio-road a truck of the IO,B.L. type travels loaded with sandbags, which come from the Anzio Dump. From the zone of the Palasche they enter the cross-road and come out again on the Via Laurentina, the road of Ardea, and then out by a secondary road at 5 K.M. from the E.42 (Exposition-territory) - This road comes out at the Passegiata Archeologica in the zone of Quo Vadis. - All this happens during the 1st hours of darkness or early in the morning during the Curfew. The truck is said to have a false circulation-permit issued by the Command of Naples. Every truck load can carry 20.000 sandbags. - I expect other informations before long, which shall be referred to you in due time.

Da informazioni ricevute da persone che venno continuamente sulla zona di Anzio mi riferiscono che lungo la strada due volte alla settimana incontrano una macchina tipo 19 B.L. carica di sacchi che provengono da Anzio (Deposito) dalla zona delle (Falasche) entrano nella via traversa e riescono sulla Via Laurentina (strada di Ardea e tagliano per una strada secondaria a cinque chilometri prima dell'E. 42.

Strada che va a riuscire alla Passeggiata Archeologica in Zona Quo Vadis l'operazione si svolge in prima sera oppure al mattino prima del Coprifuoco. Si presume che siano ~~xxxxxxx~~ muniti di fasi permessi del Comando di Napoli.

Ogni carico può portare 20.000 sacchi. Attendo informazioni più precise che rimetterò appena in possesso.

C O N F I D E N T I A L

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
SECURITY INTELLIGENCE

26 November 1943

Report of HOUSER, George J.

Superintendent of the Alimentation Section for the province of Palermo is Salvatore Di Piazza, the former Judge. Di Piazza is a member of the Frazione "Intransigente Dei Separatisti" and is a colleague of the group of the principle ~~Mafiosi~~ Mafiosi of the small towns in the vicinity of Palermo.

When Di Piazza was appointed to the section of Alimentation, Alimentation of Affairs were at a low ebb. At this time Dr Bartolo Arrone offered his services to Di Piazza as director of Alimentation without remuneration. Arrone has been in the food business for many years in Sicily.

He was however given a brush-off by Di Piazza, who then hired a certain Rumbolo as director of Alimentation.

During the 1st World War, Rumbolo was involved in a scandal concerning the hiding of sugar and grain. But as he had friends in high places 25yrs ago the scandal was hushed up. The record of the case can be found in the Archives of the ~~Regia~~ Regia Questura at Palermo.

After this scandal Rumbolo left Palermo for a time, then returned as a plumbing contractor. Rumbolo and Di Piazza are both intimate friends of the Prefect Musotto.

On the 3rd of November 1943, Di Piazza was at the Prefettura in the company of Avv. Gagliardi, one of the principal ex-

④ RAMPOLLA?

HOUSER Report Cont-

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ponents of the Black Market in Palermo in cheese, Olive-oil, and Meat.

Another of Di Piazza's friends is Francesco Cuccia, the famous Capo Maffia who today operates three bakeries in Palermo.

Up to the 31st of October 1943, the procurement and distribution of the entire rationed food supply had been controlled by the Provincial Office of Alimentation.

On the 1st of November 1943, the Distribution of flour for Palermo was turned over to the Municipality, which received daily from the Superintendent of Alimentation of the Alimentation office the flour available for the City. This was a change for the better because it made the distribution in the City more orderly and more abundant.

In the light of the following however, it would appear that the office of Alimentation has consistently tried to hinder the functions of the new arrangement.

On the 28th of October 1943, three days before the transfer of this function to the city-the Giunta Comunale had to state with regret that the Provincial Office of Alimentation did not want to give to the Community neither the stamps, nor the other necessary equipment for the function of the new Municipal Service. It was necessary for two of the Assessors³⁷⁹¹ to go immediately with Power of Attorney from the Giunta Comunale, which was then in session, to the Prefect in order to obtain stamps and equipment which had been denied to the City without any justified reason.

The Alimentation Office was unable to find flour in the

HOUSER Report Cont -

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the Province of Palermo.

The Province of Caltanissetta had placed at the disposal of the Province of Palermo some 1,000 quintls of wheat. But only a part of this grain was brought to Palermo by the Office of Alimentation.

It is reported that Di Piazza has a cousin named Francesco to whom he gave a permit authorizing him to transport 1,500 kilograms of grain from Burgio, Province of Agrigento, to his property in S. Cristina, Gela, for seeding purposes. This transport was to be effected the 21st of November 1943, after which Francesco Di Piazza was to have consigned the authorization to the Sindaco of S. Cristina, Gela.

It is also reported that Francesco Di Piazza owns no property whatever at S. Cristina, Gela.

The truck driver from Piana Dei Greci, who was hired to make the haul, is reported to have stated that prior to the 21st of November 1943, he had already transported at least 2,000 kilograms from the Province of Agrigento for the same Di Piazza.

It is interesting to note that while the price of grain in the Province of Palermo is 4,000 Lire a Quintal, it is reported that at Burgio it is only 1,200 Lire a Kilo. 2720

For many months there has been no ration of olive-oil. It has been available only on the Black Market at 150 Lire a Liter.

At the beginning of the olive-harvest in the Province of Trapani, a certain Signor Titone who has for many years been a merchant of oil and wine, was in a position to buy in the

HOUSER Report Cont-

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in the vicinity of Castelvetro-and to transport to Palermo, large quantities of olives every day during the harvest season.

The Prefect of Trapani had placed an embargo on the shipment of olive-oil from the Province of Trapani, but there was no such embargo on the shipment of olives. The shipment of olives however could be effective only by an authorization from the Provincial Office of Alimentation.

Mr. Titone has stated that if the olives which he could have brought to Palermo were to be converted into oil in this Province, there would have been sufficient oil for rationing for the entire Province of Palermo at a price of 30 Lire a Kilo.

Titone asked Di Piazza for the Authorization to transport from the Province of Trapani the above mentioned olives, and also asked for Di Piazza's assurance that the Department of Alimentation would take all the olives off his hands for conversion into oil or for sale to the Public.

Di Piazza's answer was "I cant give you an answer now, but come back in eight days". Eight days later the harvest was over, and all the olives had already been bought.

This will be further substantiated.

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