

ACC 10000/143/2355

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SITUATION REPORT - SICILY REGION

MAR. 1945

SECURITY DIVISION
FILE
MINUTE SHEET

No. of sheet	Date	File No. of ans'd LTR	From whom Subject
1	23 MARCH		FASCIST ACTIVITIES

10000 / 1 43 / 2355

THIS FOLDED

CONTAINS PAGES

FROM MARCH 1945

TO

CATALOGUE.

Liberty Report Sicily Region

SECRET

ALLIED COMMISSION

SICILIA REGION HEADQUARTERS

APO. 394

(PUBLIC SAFETY DIVISION)

FILE NO: RPS/014.1/HM.

DATE March 23rd, 1945.

SUBJECT: Fascist activities in CALTANISSETTA.

TO: Headquarters, Allied Commission,

For the att'n of,-
Public Safety Sub-Commission.

With reference to telephone conversation (Lt. Col. WILSON - Major NIGHALL) regarding Fascist activities in CALTANISSETTA.

1. The Carabinieri Reali have made the enquiries requested and attached herewith is their report, please.

For the Regional Commissioner.

H. Nighall
H. NIGHALL,
Major,
Public Safety Officer.

Enclosure as above.

TO	INIT	DATE
DIRECTOR	<i>HM</i>	<i>27/3</i>
DEPUTY DIRECTOR	<i>HM</i>	<i>27/3</i>
EXEC. OFFICER		
PLANNING		
LOG & REG.		
PROG.		
ADM. OFFICER		
SECURITY		
CHIEF CLERK		

Security
Division
Rec'd <i>27/3</i>
Book No <i>6194</i>
File No <i>610.4</i>
Action

4736

TERRITORY, LEGION OF THE CAPABINIARI REALI F PALERMO
GROUP OF CALTANISSETTA.

File No. 52/16

Caltanissetta, 20th March, 1945.

Subject: Activities of fascist elements in Mussumeli.

TO : Allied Commission, Sicilia Region Headquarters,
(Public Safety Division)

Ans. : Folio dated 15th inst.

The telegram, which was the subject of your request, was sent to the "Allied Government, Rome", not by the President of the Christian Democratic Party of Caltanissetta, but by that of Mussumeli, Lawyer MISTRETTE, Salvatore, besides it has been misinterpreted.

The telegram was worded as follows:

"False social-communist movement supported by fascist elements among which are many deserters recently called up instigating population endeavouring to provoke disorders. Concern elements hostile Allied Government. President Christian Democratic Lawyer Mistrretta Salvatore".

Before initiating the explanation of the telegram it is opportunity to precise the following:

Since the foundation of the parties, only two parties immediately prevailed in Mussumeli: the Christian Democratic, supported by the Clergy, land-owners and the whole of the population eminently rural deeply attached to the christian ideology; and the social-communist in which intellectual elements, employees and the minority of the land-workers adhered.

The animator of the first party is Lawyer MISTRETTE Salvatore, son of the mayor, vice-prefector and land-owner; of the second is notary CIGNA Cesare, a deeply fanatically and violently social-communist element, which ideology he carried on also during the fascist regime.

The struggle between the two parties had immediately origin, which, lately, it has reached the apex, also due to the drawing near of the administrative elections. The struggle of the parties soon became worse, in open contrast between the two leaders.

On the 11th inst. the notary CIGNA had distributed to the public, printed manifests, of which a copy is attached (a copy was already sent to the command of the Legion with folio 45/39-2-1938 R dated 12th inst. by the Section of Mussumeli) in which they violently hurl reproaches against the members of the communal administration and, therefore, also against the mayor who - we must bear in mind - is one of the chief leaders of the christian democratic party and father of Lawyer MISTRETTE. On the same day the aforesaid lawyer made out and forwarded the telegram under subject.

Mistrretta was invited to call to clarify the subject, who stated:

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Mistrretta was invited to call to clarify the subject, who stated:

(1) The social-communist elements mentioned are the following:

Notary Cesare CIGNA - He does not result to have been inscribed to the fascist party, instead results to have always carried out sentiments contrary to such party;

SORCE, Vincenzo - agriculture - proprietor - already inscribed in the fascist party, but was expelled in 1933 and from that date on results to have carried out activities contrary to said party;

PIAZZA Manfredi - student - already inscribed in the fascist party. Element that although he exercised communist ideas, he has not yet assumed decisive attitude;

4735

- 2 -

SORCE, Alfonso - employed at the Notary Public Office of Cigna. He does not result to have been inscribed in the fascist party. Has always exercised antifascists sentiments;

PAUMBO Giuseppe - agriculture - Does not results to have been inscribed in the fascist party. A communist propagandist;

AMICO CAGI Giuseppe - student - already inscribed in the fascist party, Youth Organization;

FERRERI Roberto - Student in law - social-communist sentiments;

DILLIERO Stefano - agriculture - Does not results to have been inscribed in the fascist party. Has always exercised anti-fascist sentiments;

CALLARI Salvatore - proprietor - order-socialist element.

(2) With the phrase "false social-communist movement supported by fascists" he meant that said persons, specially CIGNA, lately they were sometime seen chatting in the local pharmacy FERRERI with some of the elements already belonging to the fascist party and precisely with MINNELLA Davide, teacher; MINNELLA Luigi, teacher, MINNELLA Michele, teacher; RANDAZZO Salvatore, geometer; RANDAZZO Michele, employed at the District Tax Collector's Office.

From enquiries made it results that these last mentioned persons do really meet in said place and that sometime they have been seen speaking with Cigna, but it is also true - it is difficult that in a small town as Mussoneli some particulars may escape - that said elements have completely kept out from public political manifestations, interesting themselves only and exclusively of their own private affairs.

In regard to the phrase "Concern elements hostile to Allied Government", lawyer Mistrretta precised that he had no intention with this phrase to charge them with acts of any importance committed against the Anglo-American offices or commands, but he based his affirmation only upon the following facts:-

1. At the time of the constitution of the communist party, as soon as the town was liberated, the superior officer of the AGOT, Lt. Colonel Fletcher served an intimation on Cigna, not to cause any disturbance among the population with his social-communist ideas as the majority exercise religious sentiments;
2. Following the grain campaign and during a visit made by Colonel Hancock, Chief of the Allied Control Commission, he was again warned not to sabotage the work of the Italian Government in persuading the farmers to turn in their grain to the Granai del Popolo.

It was impossible to check and verify these last allegations.

434

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It was impossible to check and verify these last allegations.

Based upon enquiries carried out at the town, it can be said without doubt that the telegram in question does not reflect the political situation of Mussoneli. What has been alleged by lawyer Mistrretta does not confirm anything, but only shows the great variance existing between the two local leaders of the two parties, who, in occasion of the imminent administrative elections, they do all possibility to draw the population in their favour.

The existence of fascist active elements or only persons hostile to the Allied Government, is to be discarded.

Only one thing is sure that the disagreement of the two parties has reached the utmost, this is also due to the violent characters of the members of the social-communist party and it is retained that a mere protest, a small scintilla may cause grave disturbances to the public order.

In this case, special verbal instructions have been given by the writer to the Commander of that Section.

4834

Under the name of the Democracy, which you have taken on loan, you have liberally granted bran, sugar, fertilizer, perphosphate, oil, petroleum to your various preferred friends; coupons for pasta and flour to your favourites, to all those who become rich at the people's expences and to those that live at the margin of your administration denying to give them to the poor, to the needy, to the rickets, to the scrofulous, to the old, to the pregnant and to all those that have RIGHTS.

The same you want to do with the Communal Property! Be ashamed.

The sugar you gave for the benefit of the writer without requesting for it, will be delivered to the Prefect as evidence of your misdeed and of your favouritism.

Resign, the peoples are not with you but against you.

Mussomeli, 8th March, 1945.

Mossy Cesare Cigna

For information:

Caltafissatta, 20th March 1945.

Captain Commanding the P.
(Largaiolli Silvio)

4733

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