

ACC 10000/143/2524 140/GD

DIAGO GAETANO VOL. I

Feb - MAR. 1944

SECURITY BRANCH
FILE
MINUTE SHEET

No. of Sheet	date	File No; of Ans'd Ltr.	From } to }	Subject
1.	7 Feb.			DRAGO Gattano (Interim Report)
2.	10 Feb.			Ordine Ufficiale.
3.	17 Feb.			(Second Interim Report)
4.	18 Feb.			DRAGO Gattano
5.	26 Feb.		Capt. W. R. HARE	Drago Gattano, of Messina.
6.	29 Feb.		To: Lt. Col. Gibson	" " "
7.	20 March.		To: Col. Young	" " "

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
SECURITY BRANCH

(7)

Ref : ~~SR/140~~ / IAO. DRAGO G.

20 March 1944.

Subject : DRAGO STEFFANO

Goetm

To: Colonel A.E. Young.

1. Enclosure 7 shows the decision of H.Q. A.A.I.I. in respect of Subject.

2. The following is a summary of the history of the case:

- a. Born at St. Agata 11.4.1897;
- b. Incribed in the F.N.F. 10.11.1923;
- c. 1927 - Appointed Vice-Director of Unione Industriale Provinciale di Messina;
- d. 1931 - Appointed Director (competitive examination);
- e. 1935/43 - Appointed Member of Consiglio Prov. Corporazione di Messina (Prefectural appointment);
- f. 1929/34 - Appointed Member of Rettorato Amministrativo Prov. di Messina (Prefectural appointment);
- g. Aug. 1943 - Appointed Commissioner della Camera Agraria di Messina (Prefectural appointment);
- h. No definite evidence of his having been a Squadrista or member of O.V.F.A. - Field Security, No.1 District have reason to suspect that he was both;
- i. Subject was a friend of a Fascist business clique running under the name of "Rosurgi and Co" of which the proprietrix, Siera. Rosurgi, is alleged to have been Mussolini's mistress;
- j. Subject and a certain Count Cavera alleged to have offered their services as an "advisory committee" to A.M.G., Messina, as such as Messina fell; A.M.O., Messina were advised of suspicious background of Subject, but replied that they were satisfied by the good work Subject had done;
- k. On 4 January, 1944, G.O.C. No.1 District ordered arrest, with a view to detention for the duration, of Subject on grounds implicit in the state of affairs existing in Messina Province where recrudescence of underground Fascist activity was under observation. On 6 January, '44 Subject was appointed Commissario Prefettizio della Camera Agraria della Sicilia, in Messina, by Region 1 Official Order No.11. In consequence of this, No.1 District stayed the arrest and appealed to A.F.H.Q.

Subject: DRAGO Giuseppe

To: Colonel A.E. Young

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2. The following is a summary of the history of the case:
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 - b. Inscribed in the P.N.F. 10.11.1923;
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 - f. 1929/34 - Appointed Member of Rettorato Amministrativo Prov. di Messina (Prefectural appointment);
 - g. Aug. 1943 - Appointed Commissario della Camera Agrumaria di Messina (Prefectural appointment);
 - h. No definite evidence of his having been a Squadrista or member of O.V.N.A. - Field Security, No.1 District have reason to suspect that he was both;
 - i. Subject was a friend of a Fascist business clique running under the name of "Posurgi and Co", of which the proprietrix, Signa. Posurgi, is alleged to have been Mussolini's mistress;
 - j. Subject and a certain Court Cavena alleged to have offered their services as an "advisory committee" to A.M.C., Messina, as soon as Messina fell; A.M.C., Messina were advised of suspicious background of Subject, but replied that they were satisfied by the good work Subject had done;
 - k. On 4 January, 1944, G.O.C. No.1 District ordered arrest, with a view to detention for the duration, of Subject on grounds implicit in the state of affairs existing in Messina Province where recrudescence of underground Fascist activity was under observation. On 6 January, '44 Subject was appointed Commissario Prefettizio della Camera Agrumaria della Sicilia, in Messina, by Region 1 Official Order No.11. In consequence of this, No.1 District stayed the arrest and appealed to A.F.H.Q. for a decision. A.F.H.Q. directed that the appointment be revoked. It should be noted that the Region 1 Order was in confirmation of the appointment made by the Regoglio Government itself on 30th. July, 1943;
 - l. Enquiries made in February, 1944, by an officer of this Branch showed that Subject was unfit to hold any official position under allied control;
 - m. On 10th. February, 1944, a new Commissario Prefettizio della Camera Agrumaria was appointed by Region 1;
 - n. About 20th. February, 1944, subject was arrested by F.S.S. and his internment for the duration of hostilities was authorised by G.O.C. No.1 District;

Page 2.

3. While it is obvious that the removal of Subject from any official position was advisable, it is the opinion of this Branch that there are no longer sufficient grounds for internment on the grounds of military security, having regard to the fact that Subject was not arrested until February of 1944. When this point was discussed with Lt. Col. Gibson, G.S.O.1 I(b) of A.A.I.I. and with Major Coventry, G.S.O.2 I(b) of No.1 District, their answer was that by the time Messins was reached by our Forces, the policy as to internment had changed and that, if the policy had not changed, Subject would have been immediately interned. The reason for the delay in arrest was stated to be that it was hoped to persuade A.W.G. that Subject was not a fit person to hold office; this does not justify his present detention. When it was pointed out that Subject could no longer hold any official position while A.C.C. was in existence, the reply was that in the opinion of the Security Officers of No.1 District, the background and associations of Subject were such that his release and return to Messins would be likely to prejudice the security situation in that area, through the unofficial influence he might be in a position to exercise.

JOHN A. MCKAY, Capt.
Security Branch.

1st. Ind.

To: Col. N.E. Fiske.

For information. The return of this file is requested.

20 March, 1944.

I.S. DAINES, Lt. Col.
Assts Director of Security.

Headquarters
 - Allied Control Commission
 Security Branch.

29th. February, 1944.

REF. 311.5/140.

SUBJECT: DRAGO Gastano, Messina.

TO/ Lt. Col. Gibson, G.S.O.1 1(b).

(6)

1. The accompanying file is forwarded for your information.

2. In my view, the present detention of this subject is not justified upon grounds of military security, particularly having regard to the fact that his arrest did not take place until February, 1944.

3. If you agree, I shall be glad if you will make arrangements for his release.

Sgt. Jelli 4. The return of this file is requested as soon as possible.

*to keep as check
 on missing file.*

29 Feb.

Jack

A.E. YOUNG,
 Colonel.
 Director of Security.

SECURITY INTELLIGENCE, A.C.C.
SICILY.

26th. February, 1944.

TO:- Col. A.E. Young.
 FROM:- Capt. W.R. Hare.
 SUBJECT:- DRAGO Gaetano, of Messina.

⑤

1. With further reference to Subject.
2. I have received from Capt. Peters, F.S.O., Messina, a full report on all the information he has on Subject. The informants are known by numbers in the report, but he informed me that should I desire to interview any of them he would be pleased to arrange a meeting.
3. In view of the fact that this matter would appear to be closed as far as A.C.C., is concerned, as Subject has now been arrested by F.S.S., I did not think it was necessary to make the journey to Messina to interview these informants.
4. A copy of Capt. Peters report is attached.
5. Whilst speaking to Capt. Peters on the telephone I asked if he had 'screened' the new Commissario Camera Agrumaria, of Messina, as stated by the prefect. Capt. Peters stated that this had been done and the man in question - Melchiorre GUGLIOTTA - appears to be quite all right.
6. I have no further information on this matter.

Hare
 W.R. Hare.
 Captain.

4

PALERMO.

10th, February, 1941.

TO: Col. A. S. Young,

FROM: Major Raffa.

SUBJECT: DRAGO Geetano.

1. The Schede of the subject individual referred to this Office by Capt. W. H. Here, discloses the following significant elements of Fascist background.
 - (a) Member of the Fascist Party since 1923.
 - (b) Only professional since 1927 as an official of a Fascist Industrial Union.
 - (c) Member of the Council of Provincial Corporation of Messina for eight years (1935 to 1943). Appointed by Prefectural Decree (not by any competitive examination).
 - (d) Member of the Rectorate (governing body) of the administration of the Province of Messina. Also appointed by Prefectural Decree.
 - (e) The major part of his income came from the above named Fascist Financed Sources (60,000 lire out of a declared 109,000 lire per annum)
3. Appointments to the positions of the type stated, (leading and governing functionaries within a Fascist 'Corporazione' and in the Fascist dominated provincial administration) would have been given only to tried, true and unquestionably loyal Fascists. Moreover, the length of service in each position and twenty years of membership in the Party, would definitely indicate that the individual was considered an unwavering Fascist in belief and action.
4. In the light of these facts alone, the individual is clearly within the category of Fascists who should not be permitted to remain in Public Office.

A. S. Raffa 6

2008

1. COL. A.S. YOUNG.

FROM: Major Raffa.

SUBJECT: DRAGO (Secret).

1. The Scheme of the subject individual referred to this Office by Capt. ... Here, disclose the following significant elements of Fascist background.
 - (a) Member of the Fascist Party since 1927.
 - (b) Only professional since 1942 as an official of a Fascist Industrial Union.
 - (c) Member of the Council of Provincial Corporation of Fascists for eight years (1935 to 1943). Appointed by Prefectural Decree (not b. any competitive examination).
 - (d) Member of the Directorate (governing body) of the administration of the Province of Messina. Also appointed by Prefectural Decree.
 - (e) The major part of his income came from the above named Fascist financed sources (50,000 lire out of a declared 100,000 lire per annum).
2. Appointments to the positions of the type stated, (leading and governing functionaries within a Fascist 'Corporazione' and in the Fascist dominated provincial administration) could have been given only to tried, true and unquestionably loyal Fascists. Moreover, the length of service in each position and twenty years of membership in the Party, would definitely indicate that the individual was considered an unswerving Fascist in belief and action.
3. In the light of these facts alone, the individual is clearly within the category of Fascists who should not be permitted to remain in Public Office.

A. L. Raffa 6
A. L. Raffa

Major, A.C.

Security Intelligence
Officer, Region I

SECURITY INTELLIGENCE, A.C.C.
SICILY.

17th. February, 1944.

TO:- Col. A. E. Young.

FROM:- Capt. W. R. Hare.

SUBJECT:- DRAGO GASTANO. (Second Interim Report)

(3)

1. Since making further enquiries in this matter it would appear I made some slight mistakes in my description of the positions held by Subject. Under these circumstances the following is a correction of paragraphs 3, and 5, of my report dated 7th. February, 1944.

(3) The appointment marked "A" is a committee set up by the Fascists to deal with Provincial Property in the Province, such as the care and maintenance of the Provincial Roads. In this capacity the Committee was responsible for placing contracts for road repairs and other Provincial Property, as distinct from State and Communal Property.

(5) The appointment marked "C" is an institution which originated in 1908 to control the whole of the Citrus industry, and was allowed to remain, and was used by the Fascists after they came into power. (The remainder of this paragraph reads as before)

2. It has also been suggested that Subject did not hold a position with A.S.G., or A.C.C., as mentioned in paragraph No. 1 of my report dated 7th. February, 1944, but that it was only a position to which he was appointed by the Badoglio Government in August, 1943. I then pointed out that this was only playing with words as A.S.G., had the over-riding authority to confirm the appointment or not.
3. I submit that these alterations to the wording of my original report do not in effect alter the position as far as Subject is concerned, and that is, that he is unsuitable to hold any Official Position for the reasons already stated.
4. In an effort to get further independent opinion on this point I have conferred with Major Ruffa, whose report is attached and is self explanatory.

Page 2.

5. Lt. Col. Hancock has informed me that as Subject appears to be under a cloud, after conferring with Lt. C. L. Poletti, it was agreed to issue a Decree appointing another person to the position of Commissario Camera Agraria, Messina. A copy of this decree is attached, and it will be seen that a certain MASTRORE GUGLIOTTA now holds this position.
6. This selection was made from three names submitted by the Prefect of Messina Province, and I understand that Gugliotta has been properly screened, but I will verify this.
7. Subsequent to this new appointment, Capt. Peters P.S.O., Messina, has arrested Subject, and he is now in the P.S.O., Caga, Catania.
8. I have spoken to Capt. Peters on the telephone, twice in the last three days, but he is not yet in a position to confirm whether or not Subject was a "Squadrista". In this connection Capt. Peters informed me he is making every possible enquiry and he stated his intention of interrogating Subject today.
9. I will submit a further report as soon as the result of Capt. Peters enquiries are known, with any further information I have been able to obtain.

[Signature]
 C. L. Hare.
 Captain.

2

GOVERNO MILITARE SICILIA
QUARTIERE GENERALE REGIONALE DELLA SICILIA
N. 394

10 Febbraio 1944

ORDINE UFFICIALE

71

Visto la necessità di nominare un nuovo Commissario della
Camera Agrumario con sede in Messina

Io, CHARLES FOLETTI, Gen. Colonnello, Ufficiale Capo degli
Affari Civili della Sicilia, in virtù dei poteri conferitimi

D E C R E T O

L'Avv. Melchione Gugliotta è nominato Commissario Prefettizio
per la gestione della Camera Agrumario della Sicilia con sede in
Messina con effetto immediato.

Charles Foletti

CHARLES FOLETTI
Gen. Colonnello
Ufficiale Capo degli Affari Civili
della Sicilia

DISTRIBUZIONE

S.C.A.O.'s for information
Prefects.
Ispettorato Agrario Compartimentale.
Via Carducci 1, Palermo
Spars-35

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SECURITY INTELLIGENCE, A.C.C.
SICILY.
7th. February, 1944.

TO:- Col. A.E. Young.
FROM:- Capt. W.R. Here.
SUBJECT/ DEAGO Gaetano. (Interim Report)

- 1. An examination of the "Scheda Personale" of the above named shows this man to be unsuitable for any position with A.M.P., or A.C.C., for the following reasons.
- 2. He joined the Fascist Party in 1923 and in 1929 he was appointed to:-
"A" Membro del Rettorato Amministr. Provinc. Messina.
He held this position until 1934, and in 1935 was appointed to:-
"B" Membro del Cons. Prov. Corpor. di Messina.
He held this position until 1943, and in August 1943, was appointed to:-
"C" Commissario Camere Agrarie, Messina.

3. The appointment marked "A" is a Committee set up by the Fascists to deal with State Property in the Province, such as the care and maintenance of the State Roads. In this capacity he was responsible for placing contracts for road repairs and other State Property, as distinct from Provincial Property.

4. The appointment marked "B" is a Committee set up by the Fascists to control all the labour and industry in the Province. This would appear to be a promotion.

5. The appointment marked "C" is a Fascist Chamber of Commerce controlling the whole of the Citrus Industry. I have made enquiries of British Officers who knew Italy before the war and they state that the positions "A" and "B" would only be held by very good Fascists as it was a means by which the Fascist Bosses obtained their 'rake off' from the sources shown. It is hardly likely under these circumstances, that the person holding these positions would let the opportunity pass to make some easy money, when he had to arrange for other people to do it.

6. The appointment marked "C" is not necessarily held by a good Fascist, but it is interesting to note that he was

- 2. He joined the Fascist Party in 1943 and in 1929 he was appointed to:-
 - "A" Membro del Rettorato Amministrativo, Provinca, Messina.
 - He held this position until 1934, and in 1935 was appointed to:-
 - "B" Membro del Cons. Prov. Corpor. di Messina.
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6. The appointment marked "C" is not necessarily held by a good Fascist, but it is interesting to note that he was appointed to this position just before Messina fell. At that time A.N.C.O.I., had been operating at the other end of Sicily for a few weeks and their policy had been to leave such persons in such positions as this, provided the person holding it had no Fascist Political background.

It would appear that this was done in this case, not giving sufficient thought to the link with politics of the previous positions held by this man.

7. Owing to shortage of time, I have not been able to confer with Capt. Peters, F.S.O., Messina, but have spoken to him on the telephone. I gathered from this conversation that most of his information respecting DRAGO is of the Sicilian Whispering variety, but his information that DRAGO was a Squadrista is a report from the Quattora of Messina.

My own enquiries of MARTINO Gaetano, Rector of Messina University, and of LIPARI Felice of Messina, were to the contrary. Both men state that DRAGO was not a Squadrista.

In consequence this matter has to be cleared up.

8. As to whether DRAGO is a danger to Military Security or not I am unable to say at the moment. I understood from my telephone conversation with Capt. Peters, that it was not because of DRAGO's association with A.M.G.O.T., that they considered him such a danger, but because of his association with others who they are satisfied are a danger to Military Security.

I will make more enquiries respecting this.

[Handwritten Signature]
W.H.Hare.
Captain.

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W. R. Aire.
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Captain.

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