

ACC 10000/143/2525

140/GD

DIAGO GAETANO VOL. II

JAN. - OCT. 1944

DRAGO GAETANO

INTERROGATION OF DRAGO Gaetano

Born at - S. AGATA, 11/4/1897.
Inscribed in P.N.F., 10/11/1923., at the Fascio
et UCRIA.
Profession - Avvocato. (Has not excercised
this profession since 1927.)

In 1927 was appointed Vice-director of the
Unione Industriale Provinciale Messina, and as a
result of a competitive examination in 1931 became
director.

Member of Consiglio Prov. Corporazione di Messina
from 1935/43. - Appointed by Prefect.

Member of Rettorato Amministrativo Prov. di
Messina from 1929/34. - Appointed by Prefect.

Appointed Commissario of Camera Agrumaria, Messina
in August 1943 by the Prefect.

Stated that although he never lived in ROME he
visited that city for 2 or 3 days in each month of
the year in connection with his official duties.

Denies ever having been a Squadrista.

During the interrogation he expressed surprise
at being arrested now and not six months ago
when he more or less expected it.

SQUADRISTA

Informants Nos. 1 & 2 are firmly of the
opinion that he was a Squadrista but cannot
give any definite proof. No. 2 says that
he was also a Sciarpa Littorio.
No. 3 in his report does not refer to this
but when asked verbally said he does not
think he was a Squadrista.

No. 1 says that on the occasion of the
Fiera at Messina in May 1938 he saw DRAGO
in the uniform of a Gerarcha amongst a group
of squadristi in a parade.
No. 4 says definitely he is a Squadrista but
No. 5 when asked said he did not think so.

O. V.R. A.

Informant No. 1 is firmly of the opinion that
he was a member of the O.V.R.A., and that he held
a very important position in it.
No. 2 states that it is said that DRAGO was
given the task of presiding over the activities

These positions
were usually held
by very strong
fascists and as

during the years
before the war
Messina province
was under the
charge of very
strong Fascist
Federales it

Messina seems doubtful that
a non or anti-fascist
would have been
allowed to hold
such posts.

All official fascists
records in Messina
including lists of
Squadristi at the
Questura were completely
destroyed before the
arrival of the Allies.

Member of Consiglio Prov. Corporazione di Messina before the war
from 1935/43. - Appointed by Prefect.

Member of Rettorato Amministrativo Prov. di Messina from 1929/34. - Appointed by Prefect.

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No. 2 states that it is said that DRAGO was given the task of presiding over the activities of O.V.R.A., agents.

No. 4 says that he was a secret informer of the carabinieri and took part in the main branch of O.V.R.A.

RELATIONSHIP WITH FEDERALE SCAGLIONE.

According to Informant No. 3, it was a family wish that DRAGO should marry his cousin but instead

All official fascists records in Messina including lists of Squadristi at the Questura were completely destroyed before the arrival of the Allies.

she eloped and married SCAGLIONE (the Federale) from this developed an enmity between SCAGLIONE and DRAGO.

Informant No. 1 says that he was protected by SCAGLIONE and thinks the Federale made him head of the O.V.R.A.

At the interrogation DRAGO himself hinted at the fact that there were differences of opinion between himself and SCAGLIONE.

If it is true that there was enmity between SCAGLIONE and DRAGO it is difficult to understand how DRAGO managed to maintain his important positions in Messina and seems to indicate that he was well thought of in fascist circles - even higher than SCAGLIONE.

PUNITIVE EXPEDITIONS AGAINST ANTI-FASCISTS AT S. PIERO PATI IN THE EARLY DAYS OF FASCISM.

According to Informant No. 4 he was a member of a group including SCAGLIONE, CATALANO (ex Federale) GRECO, SALLO, CALEGA and the MAGISTRI brothers, headed by FARANDA and under the guiding influence of DE CESARO who took part in these punitive expeditions. Informant No. 5 says DRAGO was one of the promoters of Fascism and that he is believed to be one of the inspirers of the violent vendetta policy of CRISAFULLI when the latter was Federale. He also states that public opinion attributes the violent persecution and terrorism during the period 1935/39 when SCAGLIONE was Federale, to DRAGO and certain FERLAZZO.

COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES

Extract from report by Informant No. 5 -
" One definite fact is that in this period (1935-39) DRAGO started his commercial activities with a certain RICCOBONO who several years before was deeply in debt. Together they started a vast industrial and commercial activity in the automobile line which was easily developed and expanded by the protection and the influential acquaintances of DRAGO. In the actual belligerent period the Council of the Corporations where DRAGO was 'magna pars' assigned to RICCOBONO the handling of all new and requisitioned tyres, naphta and petrol."

Informant No. 2 confirms this extract.

GENERAL

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Informant No. 2 confirms this extract.

GENERAL

Informant No. 2 says DRAGO was PRO-German and anti-British and was one of the founders of the "Free Malta" movement in Messina.

According to Informant No. 1 he made a speech at the Messina Fiera in May 1938 extolling the resurrection of Messina brought about by the Fascist Party and the will of the DUCE. The text of this discourse was published in "La Gazzetta" di Messina" the following day.

Informant No. 5 says that DRAGO pursued his political activities through an emissary - Dott. DE GAETANI, vice-director of Fascist Provincial Industrial Union.

G.S.I. (b) 8th Army submitted that the activities of DRAGO appeared to constitute a danger to the prestige of the Allied Military Government. This was as a result of a report rendered by 13 F.S.3., on 21/9/1943.

INFORMANTS

No. 1.	-	Questura Agent and Ex O.V.R.A. Agent
No. 2.	-	- do -
No. 3.	-	Retired officer of C.C.R.R.
No. 4.	-	Anti-fascist.
No. 5.	-	Squadrista.

Information supplied by Informants Nos. 1, 2 & 4 was not based solely on their own personal knowledge but on information obtained from other sources.

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(21)

L'anno l'anno Gaetano
Drago dal 1938 epoca
in cui assunse il comando
M. M. della Sicilia e lo tenne
fino all'occupazione di Messina
da parte delle Truppe Anglo-Americane,
cui per più di cinque anni
le Drago assunsero la carica
di Direttore della Confederazione degli
Industriali.
L'anno fascista, segue del vecchio
e come fascista, segue del vecchio
Stampo. Non si è mai occupato
famiglia - Non si è mai occupato
di politica - D'ogni modo sempre
i profittatori gerarchici fascisti.
L'anno dal partito fascista, come
in seguito di antifascismo, come
tutti i galantuomini che erano
costretti ad assistere alle mafie
dei gerarchi -
L'anno completamente la ragione
per le quali il 14 febbraio
nessuno fu arrestato e condotti
nessuno fu arrestato e condotti

Drago dal 1938 epoca
 in cui arrivarono il Comandante
 McMan della Sicilia e lo Tenente
 fino all'occupazione di Messina
 da parte delle Truppe Anglo-Americane,
 e per più di cinque anni -
 Le Drago occuparono la carica
 di Direttori della Confederazione degli
 Industriali -
 L'anno precedente, seguire del vecchio
 Stampo di mobile e patriottica
 famiglia - Non si è mai occupato
 di politica - dopo la morte sempre
 i profittatori generali fascisti -
 Era dal partito fascista -
 in seguito di antifascismo, come
 tutti i galantuomini che erano
 costretti ad arrivare alle mafiate
 dei generali -
 Ignorano completamente le ragioni
 per le quali il 14 febbraio
 erano per arrestati e condotti
 in un campo di concentramento
 e non sono perciò in grado
 di esprimere un parere sulla
 accorte che gli sono state fatte per

2024

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

may 1944

1 DISTRICT

II

GOVERNO MILITARE ALLEATO

N.B.- PENALITA' SEVERISSIME, DI PRIGIONE E DI AMMENDA, SONO
PREVISTE PER CHIUNQUE FACESSE DELLE DICHIARAZIONI FALSE NELLA
PRESENTI SCHEDA

SCHEDA PERSONALE

1) Nome e cognome : GAETANO DRAGO

a) Luogo di nascita : S. AGATA MILITELLO b) Data di nascita
(prov. Messina) 11 aprile 1897

2) Indirizzo : Messina a) Residenza permanente: Messina
Villa Beltrandi-Viale P. Amedeo

3) Professione : Avvocato (non esercita la professione dal 1927)

4) Eravate iscritte al P.N.F.? SI a) Da quando? 10/11/1923

5) Appartenevate ad uno dei seguenti gruppi (SI o NO):

a) Sansepolcristi: NO b) Squadristi: NO c) M.V.S.N.? NO

d) Se eravate nella Milizia, in quale delle seguenti unità avete
prestato servizio? (Indicate con un SI ed un NO l'unità e la data
57

negli spazi rispettivi):

PERIODO DI SERVIZIO

(Specificare se servizio effettivo o nei

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- a) Sansepolcristi: NO b) Squadristi: NO c) M.V.S.N.? NO
- d) Se eravate nella Milizia, in quale delle seguenti unità avete
prestato servizio? (Indicate con un SI od un NO l'unità e la data
neeli spazi rispettivi):

PERIODO DI SERVIZIO
(Specificare se servizio elettivo o nei
quadri)

Milizia ordinaria? NO ==

Milizia Ferroviaria? NO ==

Milizia Postale? NO ==

Milizia Portuale? : NO ==

Milizia Forestale? : NO ==

Milizia Stradale? : NO ==

Milizia Confinaria? : NO ==

Milizia Universitaria? : NO ==

Milizia Antiaerea? : NO ==

Milizia Armata Marina Marittima? : NO ==

Moschettieri del Duce? : NO ==

Battaglione "MM"? : NO ==

e) Se avete militato solo in tempo di guerra, siete entrati nella milizia da volontario e in seguito a regolare chiamata? : NO

f) Avete ricoperto una delle seguenti cariche nel Partito Fascista? (rispondete SI o NO e indicate i periodi di servizio in ciascuna carica negli spazi rispondenti):

PERIODO DI SERVIZIO

a) Segretario del P.N.F.? : NO ==

b) Membro del Direttorio Nazionale? : NO ==

c) Segretario Federale? : NO ==

d) Membro del Dirett. Federale? : NO ==

e) Ispettore del Partito? : NO ==

f) Ispettore Federale? : NO ==

g) Segretario politico di un PC? : NO ==

Milizia Forestale? : NO
 Milizia Stredade? : NO
 Milizia Confinaria? : NO
 Milizia Universitaria? : NO
 Milizia Antiaerea? : NO
 Milizia Armata Marina Marittima? : NO
 Meschettieri del Duce? : NO
 Battaglioni "M"? : NO

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PERIODO DI SERVIZIO

a) Segretario del P.N.F.? : NO
 b) Membro del Dirett. Federale? : NO
 c) Segretario Federale? : NO
 d) Membro del Dirett. Federale? : NO
 e) Ispettore del Partito? : NO
 f) Ispettore Federale? : NO
 g) Segretario politico di un P.N.F. : NO
 h) Rifiuto di un gruppo rion.? : NO
 i) Membro di un gruppo rion.? : NO
 j) Capo-settore? : NO

k) Capo nucleo?	: NO	==
l) Una posizione autorevole nella C.I.L.?	: NO	==
m) Una posizione autorevole nel G.U.F.?	: NO	==
n) Una posizione autorevole nei Fasci Femminili?	: NO	==
o) Qualche altra carica nel Partito?	: NO	==
Quale? ==		
7) Siete stato in qualche periodo membro dell'OVRA?	: NO	Quando? ==
8) Avete fatto parte dell'ufficio politico dei CC.RR.?	: NO	Quando? ==
9) Avete fatto parte di un ufficio polit. della P.S.?	: NO	Quando? ==
IC) Siete stato in qualche periodo in una delle seguenti organizzazioni		
PERIODO DI SERVIZIO		
a) In una Corporazione?	: NO	==
Quale? ==		
Denominazione della carica	==	
b) In una Unione Sindacale?	: SI	
Quale? : Unione Industriali prov. Messina		
Denominazione della carica	: Direttore - 1927-1943 (Assunto come V. Direttore nel 1927 e promesso Direttore in	
c) In un Consorzio Agrario?	: NO	

m) Una posizione autorevole
nel G.U.F.?

: NO

n) Una posizione autorevole
nei Fasci Femminili?

: NO

o) Qualche altra carica
nel Partito?

: NO

Quale?

==

7) Siete stato in qualche periodo membro dell'OVRA? :NO Quando? ==

8) Avete fatto parte dell'ufficio politico dei CC.RR.? :NO Quando? ==

9) Avete fatto parte di un ufficio polit. della P.S.? :NO Quando? ==
funzionario

10) Siete stato in qualche periodo in una delle seguenti organizzazioni

PERIODO DI SERVIZIO

a) In una Corporazione?

: NO

==

Quale?

==

Denominazione della carica

==

b) In una Unione Sindacale?

: SI

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Quale? : Unione Industriali prov. Messina

Denominazione della carica

: Direttore - 1927-1943 (Assunto come
V. Direttore nel 1927 e
promosso Direttore in
seguito a concorso pub-
blico nel 1931-32)

c) In un Conserzio Agrario?

: NO

Quale?

==

Denominazione della carica

==

57

PERIODO DI SERVIZIO

d) In qualche altra organizzazione

cooperativa o sindacale?

: NO

==

Quale?

==

Denominazione della carica

==

II) Indicate le cariche nazionali, provinciali e comunali-governative o parastatali-occupate da voi dal 1921, come segue:

NOME DELL'ISTITUTO	PERIODO DI SERVIZIO	MODO DI ASSUNZIONE
Membro del Cons. Prov. Cooperaz. di Messina	1935-1943	Decreto Prefetto
Membro del Rettorato Amministr. Provino di Messina	1929-1934	"
Commissario Camera Agraria Messina	agosto 1943	"

I2) Indicate le principali fonti dei vostri introiti durante il regime Fascista:

FONTE	MEDIA ANNUALE	INTROITO DEL 1942
Stipendio Dirett. Un. Ind.		
Rendite ereditarie		
Rendita totale		

I3) Avete prestato servizio militare? :SI a) In quale arma? ARTIGLIERIA

b) Quando? 1916-18 c) Quale grado rivestivate ultimamente? CAPITANO

d) Dove avete prestato servizio? :Fronte 3a Armata (Carso-Piave)

e) Siete stato volontario nella guerra civile Spagnola? : NO

f) Siete stato volontario nella campagna dell'Africa Orientale? : NO

Del Nord Africa? : NO

g) avete goduto di qualche esonero dal servizio militare? : NO

Per quale motivo? : ==

I4) Avete fatto parte dal 1922 in poi di qualche organizzazione politica diversa dal Partito Fascista? : NO

corporativa o sindacale?	: NO	==
Quale?		==
Denominazione della carica		==
II) Indicate le cariche nazionali, provinciali o comunali-governative o parastatali-occupate da voi dal 1921, come segue:		
NOME DELL'ISTITUTO	PERIODO DI SERVIZIO	MODO DI ASSUNZIONE
Membro del Cons. Prov. Corporaz. di Messina	1935-1943	Decreto Prefetto
Membro del Rettorato Amministr. Provino. di Messina	1929-1934	"
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PONTI	MEDIA ANNUALE	INTROITO DEL 1942
Stipendio Dirett. Un. Ind.		
Rendite ereditarie		
Rendita dotale		
I3) Avete prestato servizio militare? :SI a) In quale arma? :ARTIGLIERIA b) Qualche? :1916-18 c) Qualche grado rivestivaste ultimamente? :CAPITANO d) Dove avete prestato servizio? :Fronte 3a Armata (Carso-Piave) e) Siete stato volontario nella guerra civile Spagnola? :NO f) Siete stato volontario nella campagna dell'Africa Orientale? :NO Del Nord Africa? :NO g) avete godute di qualche esenzione dal servizio militare? :NO Per quale motivo? :==		
I4) Avete fatto parte dal 1922 in poi di qualche organizzazione politica diversa dal Partito Fascista? :NO - Nome dell'organizzazione? :== Periodo di appartenenza? :==		
GIURO CHE LE PRECEDENTI DICHIARAZIONI SONO VERE.		
FIRMA : <i>M. Messina</i>		
Data : Messina 31 dicembre 1943		
N.B.-Rileggete prima di consegnare la scheda, e se avete scritto il falso correggete. Vi ricordiamo che le superiori dichiarazioni sono state fatte sotto giuramento e che pene severe sono stabilite per il falso giuramento.		

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIANCE CONTROL COMMISSION
PUBLIC SAFETY & SECURITY DIVISION
SECURITY DIVISION
A. F. S. S.

(20)

CONFIDENTIAL

Ref. : SW/140 (Draft) 25 October 1944

Subject : Mr. Luciano D'Amico

To : U.S. Lazio-Umbria Region

1. With reference to your letter R/3388 of 29 September 1944.

2. No security has yet been given by A.F.S.S. for the release of the above named from internment. It is recommended, however, that he should on no account be employed in any official capacity.

SPH
JOHN H. CHAPMAN,
Colonel, J.A.S.
Director Public Safety,
Security Division.

CONFIDENTIAL

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ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2
APO 512 U.S. ARMY

B-389.453/4-C

11 October 1944.

SUBJECT: Internment of DRAGO, Gaetano.

TO : Security Branch,
Headquarters, Allied Control Commission.

Reference your SB/140 of 26 September 1944.

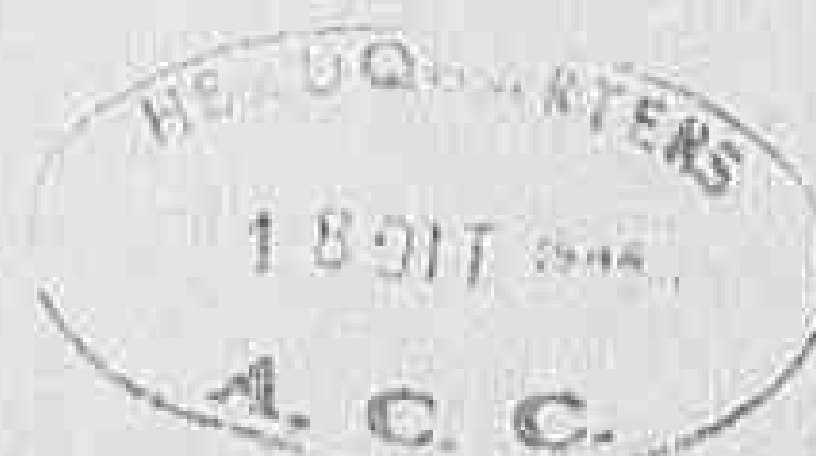
In view of the change in the military situation in SICILY the release of Baron Gaetano DRAGO is not objected to. It is recommended, however, that he should on no account be employed in any official capacity.

For the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2:

E. Dale Lewis
S. S. HILL-DILLON,
Colonel, G.S.,
G-2 (CI) Section.

SEARCHED	18/10.
INDEXED	2451
RECORDED	140 (Drago)
FILED	
ACTION	

Copy to: Commandant, 371 P.W. Camp.



CONFIDENTIAL

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HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
SECURITY BRANCH
A.P.O. 394

(19)

29 September 1944.

Ref. SB/I40 DRAGO G.

Subject : DRAGO Gaetano

To : Civil Affairs Branch.

1. Reference your 314/241/CA of 23 September 1944.
2. I attached hereto a copy of a report submitted by this Branch to Colonel Pike on 20 March 1944.
3. The case was re-received again in April 1944 and the decision of A.A.I. I (b) was that it was not considered desirable that this internee should be released at present.
4. I have forwarded a copy of the report of Regional Commissioner Lazio Region to G.2. (G.I.) AF. HQ. to enquire whether the release of subject can now be considered.
5. Their decision will be communicated to you in due course.

FOR THE DIRECTOR /

JOHN A. MCKAY,
Major,
Security Branch.

Copy to:

Regional Commissioner, Lazio Region.

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HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
SECURITY BRANCH
A.P.O. 394

CONFIDENTIAL

Ref : SE/140 DRAGO G.

26 September 1944

Subject : DRAGO Gastano

To : G-2 (CI) A.F.H.Q.

1. I transmit herewith an appeal supported by Regional Commissioner Lazio Region, for the release of the above named who has been interned at 371 P.W. Camp.

2. A.A.I.'s decision in the matter in April 1944 was that it is therefore not considered desirable that this internee should be released at present, "as" it was felt that his release and return to Messina would be likely to prejudice the security situation in that area vide AAI/1479/1/G(Ib) of 22 April 44.

3. It is the opinion of this Branch that there are no longer sufficient grounds for internment on grounds of military security hostilities having moved so far away from Sicily.

4. It is requested that you give this case further consideration and that we be informed of the result.

John A. McKay
JOHN A. MCKAY,
Major,
Security Branch.

Copy to:
Civil Affairs Branch
Regional Commissioner
Lazio Region

C O P Y

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
REMY IV
APO 394

R/2388

20 September 1944

Subject: Avv. Gaetano DRAGO

To : Executive Commissioner
Headquarters, Allied Control Commission.

1. This is an appeal on behalf of Gaetano Drago of Messina, Sicily.
2. Your files will indicate that I appointed Drago as Commissioner for Camera Agraria of Sicily. This appointment confirmed his appointment by Badoglio Government.
3. Lt. Colonel Story and Major Douteck, who were in Messina as AMG officers both worked with Drago and found him reliable and helpful.
4. Investigations made by the Messina AMG officers disclosed no grounds necessitating imprisonment of Drago. The matter was submitted to AMG II Headquarters and it failed to understand why the imprisonment was necessary.
5. In all events Drago has been in an internment camp at Padula in the province of Salerno for 7 or 8 months. It is believed that his case merits investigation and reconsideration at this time. Has justice been done?
6. Attached is a copy of a petition of the wife of Drago.

/s/ Charles Poletti
Charles Poletti
Colonel
Regional Commissioner

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INCL: 1

Petition: Mrs Drago.

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
REGION IV
APO 394

23 SEP Recd

20 September 1944

R/2358

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TO : Executive Commissioner
Headquarters, Allied Control Commission

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Charles Poletti
CHARLES POLETTI
Colonel
Regional Commissioner

INCL: 1

Petition: Mrs. Drago

239

C O P I A

HQ. 56 AREA

"G" BRANCH

Io sottoscritta Alba Maria DRAGO mi onoro esporre a V.S. quanto segue.

Mio marito, avv. Gaetano DRAGO fu Giuseppe e di Palmira Paraci, nato a S. Agata di Militello (Prov. di Messina) il 10 Aprile 1897, è stato fermato al proprio domicilio in Messina il 13 gennaio 1944 e, successivamente, il 13 di Febbraio trasferito al Campo di concentramento.

Da allora ho atteso che gli fossero fatti conoscere i motivi per i quali è stato arrestato.

Legittima speranza, io credo, perchè un uomo, che è stato privato della libertà personale, ha il diritto di conoscere le ragioni per le quali tale libertà gli è stata tolta, di documentare la propria condotta, di chiarire gli eventuali errori. In una parola di difendersi.

Ho la certezza che mio marito, ove gliene fosse stata data la possibilità, avrebbe assai facilmente dimostrato la perfetta bontà del suo operato sotto ogni riguardo, e sarebbe stato altrettanto rapidamente restituito alla propria libertà e alla propria famiglia.

Ma otto mesi sono passati senza che ciò si sia verificato.

Perciò, pur non conoscendo le accuse specifiche che gli sono mosse, ma conoscendo perfettamente il suo operato ed il suo passato politico, desidero fare noto ciò che in piena coscienza posso affermare di lui.

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= 2 =

E' noto, che mio marito non ha mai avuto cariche politiche di nessun genere. Nè ha mai svolto alcuna attività politica. Se ciò fosse da alcuno contestato, LO SAREBBE IN PIENA E DELIBERATA MALAFEDE e comunque gli sarebbe facile dimostrare il contrario.

Egli è stato dal 1931 fino all'occupazione Alleata, Direttore dell'Unione Industriali di Messina, impiegò di carattere tecnico-amministrativo, che ha ottenuto per regolare concorso nazionale. Successivamente, in data 4 Agosto 1943, ebbe, dal Governo Badoglio, la nomina a Commissario per la Camera Agrumaria della Sicilia, carica che gli fu riconfermata dal Sig. Col. POLETTI, in seguito ad attento ed accurato esame del suo passato politico.

E' indubbio che egli ha goduto in Messina, fin dai primi anni della sua attività di lavoro, larga influenza negli ambienti cittadini. E' però incontestabile da chiunque che ciò è derivato non già dalla sua posizione politica, che non è mai stata al di sopra di quella di un comune tesserato, ma piuttosto e unicamente dalla sua posizione personale, dal cospicuo rango sociale della famiglia e, mi sia consentito dirlo, nella misura maggiore del suo notevole prestigio personale, frutto di singolari doti di carattere, di generosità, di signorile equilibrio.

Mi risulta tuttavia che di tale influenza si rende a fargli un addebito.

Nessuno può negare che essa sia esistita ed anzi essa è stata anche sperimentata dalle stesse Autorità Alleate, dopo l'occupazione. E' noto come mio marito ha subito sentito il dovere di collaborare nell'interesse dei propri concittadini, con tali Autorità, e ciò ha

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= 3 =

fatto, per quanto mi risulta, con notevole efficacia, con pieno apprezzamento da parte Alleata e, come sempre, con dirittura, disinteresse e dignità.

Tengo a chiarire che mi riferisco alla parte avuta da mio marito nel primo periodo dell'Amministrazione Alleata di Messina unicamente per sottolineare che la collaborazione fornita agli Alleati fu da lui intesa e costituita in effetti una coerente continuità con l'opera svolta in precedenza nello studio e nella risoluzione dei problemi tecnico-amministrativi della Città e che pertanto gli Amministratori Alleati sono stati osservatori sereni e testimoni obbiettivi, oltrechè della sua capacità organizzativa, della natura della collaborazione che egli poteva fornire all'Amministrazione cittadina, e dei reali sentimenti a cui essa si ispirava.

Del resto ciò che ho sopra affermato non corrisponde soltanto alla mia personale convinzione ma, ho motivo di asserire, a quella di tutta la cittadinanza di Messina, tranne, naturalmente, quei pochi che sono in malafede.

Chiesto pertanto oggi che vogliate riesaminare la pratica riguardante mio marito, perfezionare le indagini, interrogarlo, permettergli di dissipare gli equivoci e di ristabilire la verità.

Chiesto cioè che tutto quanto lo riguarda sia portato alla luce perchè ciò che noi temiamo non è la luce ma le tenebre che ancor oggi nascondono la verità e soffocano il suo diritto alla libertà.

In una parola chiedo per mio marito non un privilegio, ma un diritto che è di ogni uomo in un Paese civile.

47

F.to Alba Maria DRAGO
Villa Beltrandi
Viale Amedeo

MESSINA

Person's paper?

File 140
(brago)
HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
R.C. AND M.C. SECTION
ATO 394

Security Branch
Reg'd 24/9
Book No. 2201
File No. 2201
Action File

Ref: 314/241/CA

23 September 1944.

SUBJECT: Arrest of Gaetano Drago

TO : Security Branch, A.C.C. ✓

1. Attached are:
 - (a) a letter dated 20 Sept. 44, Ref: R/2388 from the Regional Commissioner, Region IV on behalf of Gaetano Drago of Messina, Sicily, a former official appointed by the Regional Commissioner and now in an internment camp at Padula province of Salerno;
 - (b) a petition from Mrs. Drago for her husband.
2. Would you please investigate the case of Mr. Drago to discover, as the Regional Commissioner, Region IV requests, whether justice has been done and whether Mr. Drago could be released.
3. May we please have your recommendations on this case so that we may inform the Regional Commissioner, Region IV.

W. A. S. Dillard
Major
for NORMAN E. FISKE.
Colonel.
Deputy Executive Commissioner.

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Incl:2.

Copy to R.C. Region IV.

CONFIDENTIAL

5-1953

371 P.W. Camp,
C. M. F.
25 April 44.

SUBJECT: Release of InterneesThe Director, Security Branch, A.C.C. ✓

16

1. Reference previous correspondence respecting BRAGO Gactano, this case has been carefully reviewed and a copy of our recommendations to Commandant, 371 P.W. Camp is enclosed for information and retention.
2. Copy of letter from G.S.I.(b), A.A.I, dated 22 April 44 is also enclosed for information.
3. Your two files are returned herewith.

F. J. Leach. Lt.
A.C.C. (Security Branch).



(COPY)

Subject:- Release of Internees; NO ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALYCONFIDENTIAL.AAI/1479/1/G(Ib).Commandant,
371 P.W. Camp.22 April 44.

Reference your letter 371/12 dated 18 Apr 44.

1. The case of the internee DRAGO Gaetano was investigated very thoroughly by Col. GIBSON and Capt. BOKAY of Security Intelligence A.C.C. when they visited Sicily last month. In this office letter AAI/1455/2/G(Ib) dated 18 Mar 44 addressed to Security Intelligence A.C.C. it was stated that DRAGO Gaetano should remain interned as it was felt that his release and return to Messina would be likely to prejudice the security situation in that area.
2. G.S.I. No.1 District were well informed on this case, and it is felt that their opinion should be upheld. It is therefore not considered desirable that this internee should be released at present.
3. With reference to the question of signed statements, it will be appreciated that it is very hard indeed to get testimony in this manner, since most informants are unwilling to commit their facts to paper. We are, however, doing what we can in this matter.
4. Your file is returned herewith.

(Sgd.) D.B.O. YOUNG Major
for Brigadier
BrG.S.(I).

SP.

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
SECURITY BRANCH.

17th April, 1944.

SUBJECT: Civilian Internee - DRAGO Gaetano.

TO: Major J. S. Marshall, Commandant, No. 371 I. M. Camp.

1. Reference above, he was interrogated by Agents Geron and Blinn, A.C.C. (Security Branch) on 15th and 17th April 1944, the information thereby obtained is given below.

2. He was inscribed in the Fascist Party in September 1923, denies being a Squadristi and holder of the Sciarpa littoria. DRAGO explains this by indicating the date of enrolment which prevents him from holding these distinctions. Stoutly denies any connection with C.V.R.A. Admits to being Vice-Director of Unione Industriale Provinciale Messina from 1927, and Director of same organisation from 1935. These positions were obtained by competitive examinations.

3. DRAGO denies making a speech at the Piers, Messina, in 1938, but states that in 1940 he gave a public address at the same place on the industrial importance of Sicily; he claims that emphasis was laid on the fact that he considered Sicily was not being regarded sufficiently by the Central Government and this led to him being reprimanded by Rome. The address was reported in the local press the following day.

4. He admits acquaintances with SCAGLIONE, CATANEO, ORICO, SALLIO and CALIDA, but has never personally known the MAGISTRI brothers. SCAGLIONE married DRAGO's cousin (Olga Drago) and they have not been good friends owing to this marriage. Regarding the alleged punitive expeditions he says he has no knowledge of such happenings and points out that the suggestion that a group under the leadership of FERRARO, acting under the guidance of DR URSARO is ridiculous as the two last named have always been renowned anti-Fascists.

5. DRAGO does not agree that violent vendetta and persecution increased between 1935 and 1939 and denies having any personal knowledge of any incidents which might have happened during this period.

6. Questioned about the "Free Italy" movement, he says that no such organisation existed in Messina and doubts if it existed in other parts of Sicily.

2. He was inscribed in the Fascist Party in September 1923, decline being a squadrists and holder of the Solara Littoria. DRAGO explains this by indicating the date of enrolment which prevents him from holding these distinctions. He denies any connection with O.V.R.A. Admits to being Vice-Director of Unione Industriale Provinciale Messina from 1927, and Director of same organization from 1933. These positions were obtained by competitive examinations.
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4. He admits acquaintances with SCAGLIONE, GATTILANO, GREGO, SALLO and CALRO, but has never personally known the SALISFRI brothers. SCAGLIONE married DRAGO's cousin (Ol. a Drago) and they have not been good friends owing to this marriage. Regarding the alleged punitive expeditions he says he has no knowledge of such happenings and points out that the suggestion that a group under the leadership of PERANO, acting under the guidance of DE GRANO is ridiculous as the two last named have always been renowned anti-Fascists.
5. DRAGO does not agree that violent vendettas and persecution increased between 1935 and 1939 and denies having any personal knowledge of any incidents which might have happened during this period.
6. Questioned about the "Grise Salta" movement, he says that no such organization existed in Messina and doubts if it existed in other parts of Sicily. A certain Saltese doctor, name unknown; did conduct a tour of Sicily and Italy and DRAGO says that lectures were held under the auspices of local Fascist branches on the instructions of the Party Headquarters in Rome.
7. Regarding Dott. DE GATTILANO, DRAGO admits close association owing to their relative positions in the Fascist Provincial Industrial Union and claims that the former was an anti-Fascist at heart who, just prior to the Allied invasion, was in touch with Count GREGO.

8. DRAGO says that the Sicilian industrialists (men controlling the larger businesses) were not ardent Fascists, all joined the Party solely to facilitate business interests.

9. After a thorough perusal of the files and lengthy interrogations of DRAGO we have come to the following conclusions:

(a) DRAGO was a most active industrialist, interested in many spheres of business in Messina Province, he became a member of the Fascist Party entirely to further his personal interests.

(b) He is a very wealthy man with many influential contacts all over Italy and Sicily, and it is not possible for us to decide how much pressure he exercised behind the scenes politically. We feel sure that a man of his wealth could quite easily assert his wishes in high circles without it being generally known.

(c) There is no evidence to show that at present he can be considered a danger to military security since hostilities are now far removed from Sicily. It appears to us that if he has ever been of security importance the crucial period was at or immediately after the Allied occupation of Messina.

10. The documents at our disposal have not disclosed to us the necessity for his continued internment on security grounds.

W. G. Speech Lt.

P.O. G.M.C. Ident.

A.O.O. (Security Branch);

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
SECURITY BRANCH
A.P.C. 394

13

Ref : SH/3II.5/I40.

20 March 1944.

Subject : DRAGO Gaetano.

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. Inscribed in the P.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 Commissario della Camera Agrumaria 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 "Bosurgi and Co", of which the proprietrix, Sagra. Bosurgi, is alleged to have been Mussolini's mistress;
- j. Subject and a certain Count Cavena alleged to have offered their services as an "advisory committee" to A.M.G., Messina, as soon as Messina fell; A.M.G., 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.

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- l. Enquiries made in February, 1944, by an officer of this Branch shewed 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 Messina 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.M.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 Messina 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

JOHN A. MCKAY, Capt.
Security Branch.

1st. Ind.

To: Col. N.E. Fiske.

For information. The return of this file is requested.

Approved

L.R. DAINES, Lt. Col.
Assts Director of Security.

20 March, 1944.

For Review

*See by Col. who was not feel that he would
recommend that the matter is taken up with Mr. Alexander
and wishes the case to be brought up again when he
visits this place in 3/4.*

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1st. Ind.

To: Col. N.E. Fiske.

For information. The return of this file is requested.

20 March, 1944.

L.R. DAINES, Lt. Col.
Assts Director of Security.

JOHN A. MCKAY, Capt.
Security Branch.

In Review

*See by Col. Case who was not feel that he could
recommend that the matter be taken up with Mr. Alexander
and wishes the case to be brought up again when the
Review takes place at 371.*

21 March 44

John

Subject:- DRAGO Giuseppe.

Security Intelligence,
A.C.C.

At your request the case of DRAGO Giuseppe of MESSINA has been considered, and, after discussion with HQ 1 District, it is thought that he should remain interned, as it is felt that his release and return to MESSINA would be likely to prejudice the security situation in that area.

JH.
Copy to:- 1 District.

H.Q. Allied Armies in Italy.

CONFIDENTIAL.

AAT/1455/ 2/G(Ib).

18 Mar 44.

Security for.

(7)

S-700

(12)

W. D. Gibson

Lt. Col. 39
G.S.I.(b).

CONFIDENTIAL

Headquarters
Allied Control Commission
Security Branch.

29th. February, 1944.

REF. 311.5/140.

SUBJECT: DRAGO Gaetano, Messina.

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

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

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

*Seen by Lt. Col. Gibson
G.S.O.1(b)
3. Nov. 44.*

*File like Colonel L. Young with
Capt. Murray when he goes
4. 11. 44*

CONFIDENTIAL

SECURITY INTELLIGENCE, A.C.C.
SICILY.

26th. February, 1944.

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

(10)

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.

W.R. Hare
W.R. Hare.
Captain.

PALERMO.

18th. February, 1944.

TO: Col. A. A. Young.

FROM: Major Reiff.

SUBJECT: DRAGO Gaetano.

9

1. The Schema of the Subject individual referred to this Office by Capt. M. A. Here, discloses the following significant elements of Fascist background.

2. (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 (1932 to 1943). Appointed by Prefectural Decree (not by any competitive examination).
- (d) Member of the Reetorate (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 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) 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.

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.

35

A. L. Roffe

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 - (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)
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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. 35

A.L. Roffa
A.L. Roffa

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 GAETANO. (Second interim Report)

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.M.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 Sado Sic Government in August, 1943. I then pointed out that this was only playing with words as A.M.G., had the over-riding authority to confirm the appointment or not.

3. I submit that these alteration 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 Raffa, 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. Col. Poletti, it was agreed to issue a Decree appointing another person to the position of Commissario Camera Agrumario, Messina. A copy of this decree is attached, and it will be seen that a certain MELCHIORRE 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 F.S.O., Messina, has arrested Subject, and he is now in the P.O.W., Cage, 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 in-formed 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.


W.R. Hare.
Captain.

CHIEF OF BUREAU REGIONAL HEAD, SICILIA

210 354

10 February 1944

ADJUTANT OFFICIAL

71

Viato la necessità di nominare un nuovo Commissario della Camera Agraria con sede in Messina

Io, CHARLES POLICIELLO, Ufficiale Capo degli Affari Civili della Sicilia, in virtù del potere esecutivi

DECRETI

Il Cav. Michele Gugliotta è nominato Commissario Esecutivo per la gestione della Camera Agraria della Sicilia con sede in Messina con effetto immediato.

Charles Policello

CHARLES POLICIELLO

Uff. Colonnello

Ufficiale Capo degli Affari Civili
Sicilia

DISAMMENDI

For information

Inspects.

Ispezione Agraria Compartimentale.

Via Carducci 1, Palermo

Spares-35

11
Visto la necessità di nominare un nuovo Commissario della
Camera Agraria con Sede in Messina.

Io, GIANNI RUFFINI, Uff. Colonnello, Ufficiale Capo degli
Affari Civili della Sicilia, in virtù dei poteri conferitimi

D E C R E T O

L'Avv. Melchiorre Gugliotta è nominato Commissario Istituzionale
per la gestione della Camera Agraria della Sicilia con sede in
Messina con effetto dal 1° 10.

Charles Boetta

GIANNI RUFFINI
Uff. Colonnello
Ufficiale Capo degli Affari Civili
della Sicilia

ESPEDIZIONE

P.S.A.O. 'a for information
infects.

Iservatore Agrario Compartimentale,
Via Carducci 1, Palermo
SPAS-35

SECURITY INTELLIGENCE, A.C.C.

SICILY.

7th. February, 1944.

TO:- Col. A.E. Young.

FROM:- Capt. W.R. Hare.

SUBJECT/ DRAGO Gaetano. (Interim Report)

- I. An examination of the "Scheda Personale" of the above named shows this man to be unsuitable for any position with A.M.G., 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. Provino. 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 Camera Agrumaria, 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 "D" is not mentioned.

2. He joined the Fascist Party in 1923 and in 1929 he was appointed to:-
 "A" Membro del Rettorato Amministrativo, 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 Camera Agraria, 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 appointed to this position just before Messina fell. At that time A.M.G.O.T., 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.

Page 2.

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 Questora of Messina.

My own enquiries of MARTINO Gaetano, Rector of Messina University, and of LIPARI Police of Messina, are 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.I., 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.

W. R. Hare
W. R. Hare.

Captain.

RESTRICTED

FARGO 814

(5)

FARGO

8 FEB 44

RESTRICTED

10050 YOUNG

PRIORITY

IDB

----- FULL REPEAT FUEL TO PERHAPS PAREN FARGO BAREN TO IDB FOR AND
 REASON ONE FOR HANCOCK FOR HARE PD CITE FARGO MIGHT ONE FOUR PD REPORT STILL BARRIRED
 ON DIAGO CMA MASSINA PD URGENT

L. F. RICKEL 30
 Lt. Col. and
 Adjutant General

RESTRICTED

ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
SICILY REGION HEADQUARTERS
AFD 394

FILE: RDO 319.1

5/2/44

SUBJECT: Appointments of Italians to Public Office Objected to by
Army Authorities.

TO : HQ, Allied Control Commission
Attention - Colonel C. M. SPOFFORD

I am submitting, as requested by your telegram of 4 February 1944,
Fargo 681, a copy of Military Government Section directive dealing with appointments
of Italians to Public Office directed to HQ AMG.

I presume that this is the AFHQ directive to which you refer.

Charles Poletti

CHARLES POLETTI
Lt. Colonel
Regional Civil Affairs Officer

INCL 1 AFHQ Report -
22 January 1944

U.S. SECRET
 Equals British MOST SECRET
 ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS

ATM/HP/mit

20

Military Government Section

MGS-091.112-1

22 January 1944

SUBJECT: Appointments of Italians to Public Office Objected
 To By Army Authorities.

TO ; HQ AMG (Attention: Col. Spofford)

1. Reference is made to cable this Headquarters to Fargo for Spofford repeated IBS Sears for Poletti, No. 30199 of 17 January, directing revocation of the appointment of Baron Drago as Commissario Prefettizio for Camera Agrumeria Della Sicilia in Messina.

2. Action was taken by this Headquarters on the presentation by G-2 of overwhelming evidence of this man's past record of Fascist activities and a request from G-2 that the appointment be revoked. The reports in the possession of G-2 forwarded by the C.G. No. 1 District indicated that objection to the appointment by Army authorities had been submitted to the acting RCAO, but that the appointment had been persisted in over the Army's objection. No report had been received from AMG on the matter.

3. Attention is invited to letter AFHQ AC-014.1-1 GCT-ACM of 12 November 1943, subject: "Relations between Military Commanders and Officers of Allied Military Government," and particularly to paragraph 5 thereof which reads as follows:

"5. Military commanders and Allied Military Government officers will maintain liaison at all times and will carry out their respective functions in close cooperation. Any difference which may arise between them will be promptly reported to this headquarters. If however an immediate decision is required, the military commander will make that decision and Allied Military Government Officers will comply with his orders, pending receipt of instructions from this headquarters."

4. It is directed that, if any similar case arise in the future which cannot be resolved on the spot in the spirit of the cited letter, report of the difference be made at once to this Headquarters. Attention is invited to the language of paragraph 5 of the letter that "If an immediate decision is required, the Military Commander will make that decision and AMG officers will comply with his orders." It is expected that the number of cases where such action will be required will be reduced to a minimum.

U.S. SECRET
 Equals British MOST SECRET

Copy to:
 RCAO, Region I
 G-2 (Col. Hill-Dillon)

A.T. MAXWELL
 Colonel
 Acting Chief, MGS 28

042105A
Form 125D

N-887 FEB Recd 8

RC-MG RADIO

2472

Signal Corps, United States Army

Telegram

Received at

PENINSULAR BASE SECTION
SIGNAL MESSAGE CENTER

4 FEBRUARY 1944

19

SECRET

ROUTINE

ACTION COPY

TO (ACTION) : CG PBS FOR FARGO
 (INFORMATION): NONE
 FROM : SEARS FOR POLETTI
 DATE TIME SIGNED: 041530A
 DATE TIME REC'D.: 042105A
 REFERENCE NR. : S-6748
 CITE : REO-38



ENROUTE TO NAPLES IS CAPTAIN HARE WITH PAPERS IN DRAGO.
 CASE REFERENCE YOUR FARGO 681.

10
 (Signature)

Doyle - AMG Hq
 Secy
 C.G. (Action) Rec Dist: RC-MG Sec 121

27

12634

ACTION COPY

FORM #18-A

CRYPTO

(Signature)

SECRET

2068

405.25

3 FEB Recd

18

SECRET

FARGO 601

FARGO

2 FEBRUARY 1944

SECRET

10050 SIFTED

PRIORITY

I B S

CONVERSATION ON DRAGO WITH COLONEL YOUNG IS
 SUBJECT PD PLEASE PAREN FARGO FROM SPOFFORD PAREN TO IBS FOR HANCOCK SR
 DOWNER PD CITE DRAGO SIX EIGHT ONE PD THIS HEADQUARTERS FILE ON SUBJECT
 NOT AVAILABLE HERE MAY BE WITH CAPTAIN HARRIS IN SIBLY PD CONTACT HARRIS
 SOONEST AND IF HE HAS FILE FORWARD THIS HEADQUARTERS BY AIR COURIER PD
 PAPER PARTICULARLY REQUIRED IS ATHQ DETECTIVE ON AND APPOINTMENTS OBJECTED
 TO BY ARMY AUTHORITIES PD HARRIS MAY NOW BE IN MESSINA PD IF HE DOES NOT
 HAVE FILE REQUEST COPY OF YOUR PAPERS ON DRAGO INCLUDING DETECTIVE REFERRED
 TO BE FORWARDED THIS HEADQUARTERS AT ONCE PD MOST URGENT MATTER

L. F. NICKEL 26
 Lt. Col., AG
 Adjutant General

SECRET

U. S. SECRET

Equals British MOST SECRET

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS

Military Government Section

ATE/HI/mit 1643

DCCAO 17

MGS-C91.112-1

25 JAN 1944

22 January 1944

SUBJECT: Appointments of Italians to Public Office Objected To By Army Authorities.

TO : HQ AMG (Attention: Col. Spofford)

1. Reference is made to cable this Headquarters to Fargo for Spofford repeated IRS Sears for Poletti, No. 30199 of 17 January, directing revocation of the appointment of Baron Drago as Commissario Prefettizio for Camera Agraria Della Sicilia in Messina.

2. Action was taken by this Headquarters on the presentation by G-2 of overwhelming evidence of this man's past record of Fascist activities and a request from G-2 that the appointment be revoked. The reports in the possession of G-2 forwarded by the C.G. No. 1 District indicated that objection to the appointment by Army authorities had been submitted to the acting RCOA, but that the appointment had been persisted in over the Army's objection. No report had been received from AMG on the matter.

3. Attention is invited to letter AFHQ AG-C91.1-1 GCT-AGM of 12 November 1943, subject: "Relations Between Military Commanders and Officers of Allied Military Government," and particularly to paragraph 5 thereof which reads as follows:

"5. Military commanders and Allied Military Government officers will maintain liaison at all times and will carry out their respective functions in close cooperation. Any difference which may arise between them will be promptly reported to this headquarters. If however an immediate decision is required, the military commander will make that decision and Allied Military Government Officers will comply with his orders, pending receipt of instructions from this headquarters."

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U. S. SECRET

Copy to:
RACO, Region I
G-2 (Col. Hill-Dillon)

Equals British MOST SECRET

T. MAXWELL
Colonel
Acting Chief, MGS

25

Form 135D

181437A

Signal Corps, United States Army

Telegram

PRIORITY

Received at

SECRET

19

PENINSULAR BASE SECTION
SIGNAL MESSAGE CENTER

18 JANUARY 1944

SECRET

PRIORITY

TO (ACTION) : CG PSS FOR FARGO FOR SPOFFORD RPTD IBS FOR SEARS
FOR POLETTI

(INFORMATION) : DISTONE

FROM : SIGNED CINC

DATE TIME SIGNED: 171952A

DATE TIME REC'D : 181437A

REFERENCE NR. : 30199

CITE : FHMOS

SUBJECTS PAST RECORD OF FASCIST ACTIVITY AS SUBMITTED BY G-2
MAKES HIM UNSUITABLE FOR ANY APPOINTMENT. GENERAL DIRECTIVE FOLLOWS
REFERENCE APPOINTMENTS OBJECTED TO BY ARMY AUTHORITIES. APPOINTED OF
BARON DRAGO AS COMMISSARIO PREFETTIZIO FOR CAMERA AGRUMERPA DELLA
SICILLIA IN MESSINA WILL BE REVOKED.

SECRET

FORM #18-A

CRYPTO

9953

ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
SICILY REGION HEADQUARTERS

FILE: REO 333.5

AFG 394

SUBJECT: Internment of Important Civilian Suspects.

TO : Office of A.C. of S., G-2 Section.
(For the attention of Col S.S. Hill-Dillon)
Allied Force Headquarters.

THROUGH: Chief of Staff, A.M.G. Hq.

20 January 1944

1. With reference to the letter addressed by G.O.C. No. 1 District to Office of A.C. of S., G-2 Section, A.F.H.Q. on the subject of "Internment of Important Civilian Suspects" dated 15 January 1944 ref. 1721/G(I), I desire to place on record, that in the references made to interviews with me at Palermo I am somewhat misrepresented.
2. The grounds upon which the cancellation of the official order appointing Drago as Commissario Prefettizio of the Camera Agrumario, Messina, was considered unnecessary, was due to the expressed intention of G.O.C. No. 1 District to intern him. (Ref: Via Radio rec'd 12 January 1944). This measure would automatically create a vacancy of the Camera Agrumario and the appointment of a successor by a subsequent official order would obviously revoke the previous one.
3. The remarks in the penultimate paragraph of the letter under reference are a complete distortion of the conversation, which was mostly concerned with chain of authority, and it is curious to say that anyone at this Headquarters is not responsive to suggestions for the removal of undesirable officials in face of the number throughout Sicily who have already been removed from, or denied, office.
4. Communications from No. 1 direct to Provincial S.C.A.O.'s without clearance through this Headquarters are mainly the cause of the Drago incident and have caused perplexity in the minds of the S.C.A.O.'s concerned as to which authority they should look to for their orders. In consequence this Headquarters had no knowledge of any security objections.
5. A copy of a letter to M.G.S. on the subject is enclosed for information from which it will be noted that Drago's appointment by the Badoglio Government was made on 30 July 1943 and not on the date given in G.O.C., No. 1 District's letter.
6. A copy of a recent letter by Lt. Col. Stephen B. Story, S.C.A.O. Messina to the P.S.S. representative of that town is also enclosed.
7. As a result of the personal interview with G.O.C. No. 1 District on 16th instant at which Lt. Col. Story was present, the following is a summary of the results of the interview.

Dec 15

(80)

23

THROUGH: Chief of Staff, A.M.G. Hq.

1. With reference to the letter addressed by G.O.C. No. 1 District to Office of A.O. of G., G-2 Section, A.F.H.Q. on the subject of "Internment of Important Civilian Suspects" dated 15 January 1944 ref. 1724/3(1), I desire to place on record, that in the references made to interviews with me at Palermo I am somewhat misrepresented.
2. The grounds upon which the cancellation of the official order appointing Drago as Commissario Prefettizio of the Camera Agrario, Messina, was considered unnecessary, was due to the expressed intention of G.O.C. No. 1 District to intern him. (Ref: Via Radio rec'd 12 January 1944). This measure would automatically create a vacancy of the Camera Agrario and the appointment of a successor by a subsequent official order would obviously revoke the previous one.
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6. A copy of a recent letter by Lt. Col. Stephen B. Story, S.C.A.O. Messina to the F.S.S. representative of that town is ^{also} enclosed.
7. As a result of the personal interview with G.O.C. No. 1 District on 18th instant at which Lt. Col. Poletti was also present, the foregoing and other questions were amicably discussed and a basis for future mutual guidance was established.

Encl. 2 letters.

William R. Col
A. N. MANCOCK
Lt. Colonel
D.R.C.A.O.

1652

ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
SICILY REGION HEADQUARTERS

FILE-REG 014.12

APO 394

19 January 1944

SUBJECT: Baron Drago.

TO : Military Government Section.

THROUGH: Chief Staff Officer, Hq. A.M.G.

1. The attention of this Headquarters has been drawn to the case of Baron Drago of Messina whose internment is contemplated on the grounds of military security.

2. On 6 January 1944, by Official Order No. 11 from this Headquarters, he was confirmed in the office of Commissario Prefettizio of the Camera Agrumaria for Sicily to which he had been previously appointed by the Badoglio Government on 30 July 1943.

3. The necessity to confirm the Badoglio Government's appointment was first considered early in December 1943 following on a visit of Baron Drago to this Headquarters for the purpose of fixing the price of citrate of lime in connection with the 1943-44 lemon crop, according to usual custom.

4. Careful enquiries were made concerning Baron Drago's past history, especially as to his fascist connections, over a period of almost a month and from no report, either verbal or written, which included one from the S.C.A.O. Messina, Lt. Colonel Stephen Story, was there sufficient evidence to condemn him on the grounds of ardent fascist taint.

5. On 4 January 1944 Baron Drago was invited to a technical conference at this Headquarters in regard to lemon and lemon derivative prices and the occasion was taken to scrutinize most carefully his Scheda Personala and contest, by interrogation, any public office he held during the fascist regime. After final consideration and consultation of the case with Political Intelligence of A.M.G. it was decided that the Badoglio Government's appointment could be confirmed by an official A.M.G. order.

6. Baron Drago gives the impression of being a capable and serious business man of many years standing and it seems desirable that the foregoing circumstances should be brought to your notice.

for *an. Hancock*
CHARLES TOLETTI *L. Col. 1588*
Lt. Colonel
Regional Civil Affairs Officer

C O P Y

13

Messina, 15 January 1944

Gaetano Drago
Captain Peters, P.S.S.

1. I have read carefully the statement of Gaetano Drago. The portions of his statement which relates to his activity in respect to Allied Military Government in the Province of Messina are accurate and true. At no time did Drago attempt to put himself forward and all his services were performed at our request. I am convinced that Drago was the most experienced and competent person available in Messina for the services which we were seeking and I am unable to perceive how he could profit financially from the work in which he engaged himself on our behalf.
2. All of Drago's services were rendered gratis and he has received no compensation for whatever expense he may have incurred in connection with his work.
3. It is a matter of regret to me that Drago's work at the request of AMGOT has caused attention to be attracted to him and placed him in a position in which the security of the Allied Forces is affected.
4. If arrangements can be made whereby Drago can continue his work without prejudice to military security I believe the interests of both the citrus fruit growers and the manufacturers of citrus products will be aided.

STEPHEN B. STORY
Lt. Col., CMP
SCAC-Messina

GOVERNO MILITARE ALLEATO

N. B. - Penalità severissime, di prigione e di ammenda sono previste per chiunque facesse delle dichiarazioni false nella presente scheda.

SCHEDA PERSONALE

1. Nome e cognome GAETANO DRAGO.
- a/ Luogo di nascita S. AGATA MILITELLO
Messina.
- b/ Data di nascita 11 Aprile 1897.
2. Indirizzo Messina.
- a/ Residenza permanente V. le P. pe Amedeo.
Villa Beltrandi.
3. Professione Avvocato (non esercita la professione dal 1927 perche funzionario dell'Unione Industriali).
4. Eravate iscritto al P. N. F.? Si. 10/11/1923.
a/ Da quando?
5. Appartenevate ad uno dei seguenti gruppi (SI o NO):
- a/ Sansepolcristi No. b/ Squadristi No. c/ M. V. S. N.? No.
- d/ Se eravate nella Milizia, in quale delle seguenti unità avete prestato servizio? (Indicate con un SI od un NO l'unità e la data negli spazi rispettivi):

PERIODO DI SERVIZIO
(Specificare se servizio effettivo o nel quadri)

Milizia ordinaria?	No.	
Milizia Ferroviaria?	No.	
Milizia Postale?	No.	
Milizia Portuale?	No.	
Milizia Forestale?	No.	
Milizia Stradale?	No.	
Milizia Confinaria?	No.	
Milizia Universitaria?	No.	
Milizia Antiaerea?	No.	
Milizia Artiglieria Marittima?	No.	
"Moschettieri del Duce"?	No.	

SCHEDA PERSONALE

- Nome e cognome GAETANO DRAGO.
a/ Luogo di nascita S. AGATA MILITELLO
Messina. b/ Data di nascita 11 Aprile 1897.
- Indirizzo Messina. a/ Residenza permanente V. le P. pe Amedeo.
Villa Beltrandi.
- Professione Avvocato (non esercita la professione dal 1927 perche
funzionario dell'Unione Industriali).
- Eravate iscritto al P. N. F.? Si. a/ Da quando? 10/11/1923.
- Appartenevate ad uno dei seguenti gruppi (**SI** o **NO**):

- | | | | | | |
|-------------------|-----|---------------|-----|-----------------|-----|
| a/ Sansepolcristi | No. | b/ Squadristi | No. | c/ M. V. S. N.? | No. |
|-------------------|-----|---------------|-----|-----------------|-----|
- d/ Se eravate nella Milizia, in quale delle seguenti unità avete prestato servizio? (Indicate con un **SI** od un **NO** l'unità e la data negli spazi rispettivi):

PERIODO DI SERVIZIO (Specificare se servizio effettivo o nei quadri)	
Milizia ordinaria?	No.
Milizia Ferroviaria?	No.
Milizia Postale?	No.
Milizia Portuale?	No.
Milizia Forestale?	No.
Milizia Stradale?	No.
Milizia Confinaria?	No.
Milizia Universitaria?	No.
Milizia Antiaerea?	No.
Milizia Artiglieria Marittima?	No.
"Moschettieri del Duce"?	No.
Battaglioni "M"?	No.

e/ Se avete militato solo in tempo di guerra, siete entrato nella milizia da volontario o in seguito a regolare chiamata? No.

6. Avete ricoperto una delle seguenti cariche nel Partito Fascista (rispondete **SI** o **NO** e indicate i periodi di servizio in ciascuna carica negli spazi rispondenti):

PERIODO DI SERVIZIO

- a/ Segretario nel P. N. F.? No.
- b/ Membro del Direttorio Nazionale? No.
- c/ Segretario Federale? No.
- d/ Membro del Direttorio Federale? No.
- e/ Ispettore del Partito? No.
- f/ Ispettore Federale? No.
- g/ Segretario politico di un Fascio? No.
- h/ Fiduciario di un Gruppo Rionale? No.
- i/ Membro di un Gruppo Rionale? No.
- j/ Capo-settore? No.
- k/ Capo-nucleo? No.
- l/ Una posizione autorevole nella G. I. L.? No.
- m/ Una posizione autorevole nel G. U. F.? No.
- n/ Una posizione autorevole nei Fasci Femminili? No.
- o/ Qualche altra carica nel Partito? No.

Quale? --

7. Siete stato in qualche periodo membro dell'OVRA? No. Quando? --
8. Avete fatto parte dell'ufficio politico dei CC. RR.? No. Quando? --
9. Avete fatto parte di un ufficio politico della P. S.? No. Quando? --
10. Siete stato in qualche periodo funzionario in una delle seguenti organizzazioni:

PERIODO DI SERVIZIO

- a/ in una Corporazione? No.

Quale? --

Denominazione della carica --

- b/ In una unione sindacale? Si.

- e/ Ispettore del Partito? No.
- f/ Ispettore Federale? No.
- g/ Segretario politico di un Fascio? No.
- h/ Fiduciario di un Gruppo Rionale? No.
- i/ Membro di un Gruppo Rionale? No.
- j/ Capo-settore? No.
- k/ Capo-nucleo? No.
- l/ Una posizione autorevole nella G. I. L.? No.
- m/ Una posizione autorevole nel G. U. F.? No.
- n/ Una posizione autorevole nei Fasci Femminili? No.
- o/ Qualche altra carica nel Partito? No.

Quale? --

7. Siete stato in qualche periodo membro dell'OVRA? No. Quando? --
8. Avete fatto parte dell'ufficio politico dei CC. RR.? No. Quando? --
9. Avete fatto parte di un ufficio politico della P. S.? No. Quando? --
10. Siete stato in qualche periodo funzionario in una delle seguenti organizzazioni:

PERIODO DI SERVIZIO

a/ in una Corporazione? No.

Quale? --

Denominazione della carica --

b/ In una unione sindacale? Si.

Quale? Unione Industriali Prov. Messina.

Denominazione della carica Dirrettore.

c/ In un Consorzio Agrario? No.

Quale? --

Denominazione della carica --

1927 - 1943 (assunto come Vice Direttore nel 1927 e promosso Direttore in seguito a concorso pubblico nel 1931 - 32).

PERIODO DI SERVIZIO

d) In qualche altra organizzazione corporativa o sindacale? No.

Quale? - -

Denominazione della carica - -

11. Indicate le cariche nazionali, provinciali o comunali - governative o parastatali - occupate da voi dal 1921, come segue:

NOME DELL'ISTITUTO	PERIODO DI SERVIZIO	MODO DI ASSUNZIONE
Membro del Cons. Prov. Corpor. di Messina.	1935 - 1943.	Decreto Prefetto.
Membro del Rettorato Amministraz. Provinc. Messina.	1929 - 1934.	" "
Commissario Camera Agrumaria Messina.	Agosto 1943.	" "

12. Indicate le principali fonti dei vostri introiti durante il regime Fascista:

FONTI	MEDIA ANNUALE	INTROITO DEL 1942
Stipendio Direttore Un. Ind.	L. 30,000.	60,000.
Rendite ereditarie	20,000.	24,000.
Rendita totale	25,000.	25,000.

13. Avete prestato servizio militare? Si. a) In quale arma? Artiglierie.

b) Quando? 1916-18. c) Quale grado rivestivate ultimamente? Capitano.

d) Dove avete prestato servizio? Fronte 3a Armata (Cerso - Pieve).

e) Siete stato "volontario" nella guerra civile Spagnola? No.

f) Siete stato "volontario" nella campagna dell'Africa Orientale? No. Del Nord Africa? No.

g) Avete goduto di qualche esonero dal servizio militare? No.

Per qual motivo? - -

14. Avete fatto parte dal 1922 in poi di qualche organizzazione politica diversa dal Partito Fascista? No. Nome dell'organizzazione? - -

Periodo di appartenenza? - -

GIURO CHE LE PRECEDENTI DICHIARAZIONI SONO VERE.

(Firma) Gaetano D'Amico

voi dal 1921, come segue:

NOME DELL'ISTITUTO	PERIODO DI SERVIZIO	MODO DI ASSUNZIONE
Membro del Cons. Prov. Corpor. di Messina.	1935 - 1943.	Decreto Prefetto.
Membro del Rettorato Amministraz. Provino. Messina.	1929 - 1934.	" "
Commissario Camera Agrumaria Messina.	Agosto 1943.	" "

12 Indicate le principali fonti dei vostri introiti durante il regime Fascista:

FONTE	MEDIA ANNUALE	INTROITO DEL 1942
Stipendio Dirrettore Un. Ind.	L. 30,000.	60,000.
Rendite ereditarie	20,000.	24,000.
Rendita dotale	25,000.	25,000.

13. Avete prestato servizio militare? Si. a) In quale arma? Artiglieria.
- b) Quando? 1916-18. c) Quale grado rivestivate ultimamente? Capitano.
- d) Dove avete prestato servizio? Fronte 3a Armata (Carso - Piave).
- e) Siete stato "volontario" nella guerra civile Spagnola? No.
- f) Siete stato "volontario" nella campagna dell'Africa Orientale? No. Del Nord Africa? No.
- g) Avete goduto di qualche esonero dal servizio militare? No.
- Per qual motivo? - -

14. Avete fatto parte dal 1922 in poi di qualche organizzazione politica diversa dal Partito Fascista? No. Nome dell'organizzazione? - -
- Periodo di appartenenza? - -

GIURO CHE LE PRECEDENTI DICHIARAZIONI SONO VERE.

(Firma) Gaetano Drago.

Data 31 Dicembre 1943.

N. B. - Rileggete prima di consegnare la scheda, e se avete scritto il falso, correggete. Vi ricordiamo che le superiori dichiarazioni sono state fatte sotto giuramento e che pene severe sono stabilite per il falso giuramento.

Pagina riservata alle annotazioni dell'Ufficiale degli Affari Civili

SUBJECT: Internment of Important Civilian Suspects

MOST SECRET

1721/G(I)

Office of A.C. of S., G-2 Sec., (for the attention
Allied Force Headquarters. of Col. HILL-DILLON)

15 Jan 44

On the recommendation of F.C.O. 310 P.S. Section, submitted after consultation with G.S.O.1., 40 Div., and S.C.A.F.O. MESSINA Province, G.O.C., No.1 District on 4 Jan 1944 ordered the arrest with a view to internment for the duration of hostilities of the following five influential residents of MESSINA Province on Security Black List, none of whom occupied any official position at that date:

1. ATTERASIO Francesco	- TAORMINA
2. PARON DRAGO	- MESSINA
3. BAGNO Luigi	- S.TERESA DI RIVA
4. INGRILLI Giuseppe	- CAPO D'ORLANDO
5. IRRERA Renato	- MESSINA

The grounds for arrest are implicit in the state of affairs existing in MESSINA Province where recrudescence of underground Fascist activity is under observation.

MESSINA Province is one of the key points in SICILY from the point of view of Military Security. It is the one province on the island where little Security action was taken in the early days of our occupation of SICILY as the arrest policy was changed on the day our troops entered. As a result nearly all prominent fascists who had not fled were allowed to remain free and in many cases they have maintained their ascendancy in the provincial and communal administrations by reason of their wealth and influence.

This state of affairs has caused intense dissatisfaction amongst the majority of the populace in this province which was the hardest hit by bombing and is one of the poorest in essential food supplies, and has moreover retarded the development of other political parties.

The long rumoured news that A.M.C. is handing over to the BADOGLIO Government and that political liberty was to be granted resulted in this ex-Fascist circle coming into the open under the guise of a "Christian Liberal" Party. Their influence is immense and they already control indirectly most of the provincial government. There are strong grounds for connecting this party with the disturbances and underground Fascist activities which are troubling the province.

G.O.C., No.1 District therefore, ordered the preventive internment of the above named civilians, summary of whose security record is attached.

10

Upon proceeding to the arrest of Baron DRAGO it was learnt that he had been called to HQ SICILY Region A.M.G., PALERMO, and that by A.M.G., SICILY Region Official Order No. 11 dated 6 Jan 1944, this subject was appointed Commissario Prefettizio for the Camera Agraria della SICILIA in MESSINA.

In this connection it is pointed out that in response to a call for vetting by Field Security on or about 12 Dec 1943, C.A.O., MESSINA Province (Major DEUTSCH) was informed that there were security objections to the nomination of this man to a public appointment. Security intelligence A.C.C. and A.F.H.Q. were also advised.

A signal was therefore sent to A.M.G. SICILY Region requesting cancellation of the order and informing them that arrest would meanwhile be stayed.

The presence of G.S.O.2(1), No.1 District, in PALERMO on 12-13 Jan led to interviews with Lt. Col. HANCOCK, S.C.A.O., who declined to cancel the appointment as in his view DRAGO who had initially been nominated for this appointment by the BADOGLIO Government on 26 July 1943, was a suitable person to fill it.

Lt. Col. HANCOCK was not responsive to the suggestion that no person to whom either the Military or the Civil authorities had an objection should be nominated to an appointment, although this has always been the mutual principle guiding local S.C.A.O.'s and F.S.O.'s in their extremely close collaboration.

In view of the fact that A.M.G. is responsible for the removal and replacement of unreliable officials it is not considered advisable to proceed with the arrest and internment of Baron DRAGO in spite of the fact that this arrest was ordered prior to the date of the A.M.G. order appointing the subject. It is stressed that such an appointment should never have been made in face of an adverse report from the Military Security authorities. The subject is under house arrest.

Your ruling on this matter is requested.

s/C.A. Heydeman
C.A. HEYDEMAN
Major General,
Commanding
No.1 District

C.M.F.
AJC/CHT

18

Reproduced by Sicily Region I Hq. 29 Jan 44

ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT.
SICILY REGION HEADQUARTERS.

C O P Y .

BARON DRAGO. - MESSINA.

Squadrista, SciarpaLittorio. Took part in the March on Rome. One of the promoters of Fascism. Closely connected with the late Federale CRISAFULLI and when Crisafulli was made fedezale, Drago started " commandeering and committing his nefarious operations in his native Province ". Said to be one of the inspirers of the violent vendetta policy of Crisafulli. Nominated Vice Director of Fascist Provincial Industrial Union when the syndicates were started. Relation of SARO SCAGLIONE who was Federale of Messina 1935-1939. During this period the most violent persecutions took place. DRAGO and a certain FERLAZZO Giuseppe are the two men held primarily responsible. Also during this period DRAGO started commercial enterprise with a relation , RICCOBONO, in the motor industry, which reached vast scales due to DRAGO's political standing. DRAGO pursued political activities through his emissary Dott. De GAETANI, Vice Director of Fascist Provincial Industrial Union. Known for his pro German and anti British sympathies. Intimate friend of Attenasio and Avv. Ragno. Believed member of the Christian Liberal Party.

RE. AT. PEN BASE SECT. SIG. CENT. 18 JANUARY 1944

SECRET

PRIORITY

CG PBS FOR PARGO FOR SPOTTORD RTD IRS FOR SEARS FOR POLETTI

DISTONE

SIGNED CINC

171952A

181437A

30199

FILMS

SUBJECTS PAST RECORD OF FASCIST ACTIVITY AS SUBMITTED BY G-2
MAKES HIM UNSUITABLE FOR ANY APPOINTMENT. GENERAL DIRECTIVE FOLLOWS REFERENCE
APPOINTMENTS OBJECTED TO BY ARMY AUTHORITIES. APPOINTED OF BARON DRAGO AS
COMMISSARIO PREFETTIZIO FOR CAMERA AGRUMERA DELLA SICILIA IN MESSINA WILL BE
REVOKED.

COPY

COPY

COPY

FROM:-

Major A. J. COVENTRY,
G.S.O. 2 (I),
HQ No. 1 District, C.M.F.
-----6 Dec 43.Dear *Col. Young,*

Ref our conversation concerning the circle of advisers used by A.M.G. HQ, MESSINA, attached for your information are copies of reports made in Sep last by 13 and 310 F.S. Sections and No. 1 District Security Reports Nos. 1 and 2.

The situation as set out in the above reports has made no change for the better. Further information indicates that Sig. TRICOMI of the Sicilian Electric Coy, to whom reference is made in No. 1 District Security Report No. 1, is also one of the unofficial advisers who have won the confidence of A.M.G. in MESSINA. This person at the request of A.M.G. started the MESSINA newspaper in Oct 43.

Yours *Sincerely**A. J. Coventry*

TO:-

Colonel A. E. YOUNG,
Security Intelligence,
A.M.G.

C O P Y

SECRET 5

SUBJECT : Anti Fasc Activities
in MESSINA

Main H. Q.
Eighth Army, C.M.F.
M 316 I(b)

F.S.O. 13 F.S. Section.

29 Sep 43

Reference W13/1/53 dated 21 Sep 43.

1. The activities of Count CANEVA, Baron DRAGO and Signora BOSURGI appear to constitute a danger to the prestige of Allied Military Government.
2. Please act on your suggestion and endeavour to obtain concrete evidence of black market activities and then arrange a legal prosecution through A.M.G.O.T. MESSINA.
3. It is emphasized that care must be taken to make a good case, as an unsuccessful prosecution would probably have a most undesirable effect.

Field
EWL/RM

Sgn ?????????
Lt.-Col.,
G.S.I.

Copy to G.S.I(b) Main HQ 30 Corps
G.S.I. Main HQ 51 (H) Div.

COPY
SUBJECT - Report on the Activities of :
Count CANEVA, Baron DRAGO &
Mrs BOSURGI

SECRET

13 F.S. Section
Ref No. W13/1/53
21 Sep 43

G.S.I.(b) Main HQ Eighth Army
Copies to : G.3.I(b) Main HQ 30 Corps
G.3.I Main HQ 51 (H) Div

The a/m persons have been reported to F.S. from various sources in the town of MESSINA. The reports about them are in the main concerned with their activities as Fascists before the Allied occupation of the island of SICILY and accuse them of continuing a "racket" covering the administration of affairs in MESSINA at the present time.

Information about these persons was received from an AMGOT officer working in MESSINA and these are briefly the facts of the case:-

Count CANEVA is the brother of Mrs BOSURGI of SANDERSON & SONS, the fruit exporters and merchants. Mrs BOSURGI was an ardent Fascist and according to her brother is still holding these beliefs to this day. Capt DAWSON S.I.(b) informed F.S. that she was actually the mistress of MUSSOLINI and information from another source indicates that she was also very intimate with RIGGARDI, the Minister of Exchange. Through these mediums she was able to expand her industrial interests in Europe including Germany. CANEVA married an English woman, EVE BECK a singer and BOSURGI's sister married a Frenchman. Each member of the family was then able to further their company's interests to the fullest in Europe.

A friend of CANEVA is Baron DRAGO, Gaetano, who, it is reported comes of a good family. He had studied law but apparently never practiced his profession. He was apparently one of the promoters of Pasolam when CHRISAFULLI was federale of MESSINA, and was later nominated Vice-Director of the Pasolam Industrial Provincial Union. When MESSINA was occupied by the Allied forces, DRAGO and CANEVA immediately approached AMGOT offering their help by the shape of an advisory committee. They succeeded in doing this from the first instance and are still doing so. The report against them accuses them of continuing their profiteering by influencing AMGOT with regard to prices and the holding back of food for Black Market purposes.

After interviewing the originator of the main report, one LONGARDO Francesco, who is i/c food distribution in MESSINA and who, F.S. have long wished to intern but were prevented from doing so by AMGOT: it was decided to see AMGOT in the person of Lt. Col. STOREY and Major DEUTSCH, E.S. Army on the matter and if necessary to warn them of their association with CANEVA and DRAGO. As luck would have it, the F.S.O. of this section saw Capt DAWSON S.I.(b) in TACCHINA and talked about the matter to him. As stated above, it was confirmed that Mrs BOSURGI had lived with MUSSOLINI.

On approaching AMGOT - MESSINA, F.S. put the facts before them and voiced the opinion that such people as CANEVA and DRAGO should not be too closely associated with AMGOT in view of the reports which had come in about the former. AMGOT's reply was that they were quite satisfied on the question of "bons fides" of the two men, who, they claim had been of the greatest assistance to them (AMGOT). They were quite sure that they were genuine in their desire to help. As AMGOT were satisfied F.S. had to leave the matter temporarily owing to the absence of solid proof against that CANEVA and DRAGO were "feathering their own nests". Every effort will be made to find proof against these men because F.S. are certain that they are

continuing a "black" covering the administration of affairs in MESSINA at the present time.

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It is submitted that the old regime - the Fascist regime - is still operating in the MESSINA province and has not changed in the least from the point of view of the masses. As long as AMOT persists in using the old gang and dubious interpreters who report all to their masters, we will never have the goodwill of the people and the Fascist regime will never be stamped out.

Sgn ?????????

Capt.
Field Security Officer.

EXTRACT FROM 341 F.S. Section SECURITY INTELLIGENCE REPORT

Date 16 Sep 53.

Continual unrest in the area is being caused by the policy of AMGOT of leaving most of the highly placed Fascist officials in power, especially, in view of recent broadcasts made by members of Allied Governments.

The rackets and corruption which existed when the Fascist party were in power, are being carried on, on a bigger scale.

It is almost impossible for good anti-Fascist elements of the population to approach AMGOT. There is the saying, especially in MESSINA Province, that to get an "AMGOT" armband (i.e. get a job with AMGOT) it is necessary to have been a strong Fascist.

Mrs BOSURGI

The following report has been received on the above mentioned woman from Av. Lombardo, Food Controller of Messina.

"CANEVA brother of Mrs BOSURGI boasts that he is a member of the Intelligence Service.. The family situation is as follows: His sister, widow of the notable Industrialist BOSURGI is the owner of the most important industry in the City which trades under the name of W. Sanderson and Company. BOSURGI while living was a philanthropist and several benevolent institutions owed their existence to him. The widow through political influence developed enormously her company. In fact I think she was the only woman member of the Central Corporative Committee (organisation created by the Fascist Regime). In intimate relationship with RICCARDI The Minister of Exchange she was thus able through his medium, to strengthen and expand her industrial interests in Germany, while at the same time she availed herself of her brother for her commercial intercourse with England and of her sister, who is married to a Frenchman, for commercial contacts with that country. Thus each member of the family had a definite mission to accomplish, not sheer benevolence but any of the nations in question but to strengthen as far as possible the Company's interests abroad.

Today the brother (Geneva) in common with Drago makes a virtue out of a necessity operation in an underhand fashion in the exclusive interests of their nefarious commercial enterprises.

12

Drago was one of the promoters of Fascism and when the Hon MICHELE CRISAFULLI was made Federal Drago started commandeering and committing he nefarious operations in his native province. It is said - and is not far wrong - that he was one of the inspirers of the violent policy of "Vendettes" of Crisafulli. When the syndicates started he was nominated Vice-Director of the Fascist Provincial Industrial Union with a remuneration equal to that of a Prefect. These syndicalist pretences were the real enemies of the people.

From 1935 and up to 1939 a relation of Drago Engineer SARO SCAGLIONE was Federal of MESSINA. This was the period of real terrorism and of the most violent persecutions. Public opinion attributed this violent policy to two men: The Accountant GIUSEPPE FERLAZZO and GASPANO DRAGO. One definite fact is that in this period Drago started his commercial activities with a relation of his, a certain RICCIBANO who several years before was full of debts. Together they started a vast industrial and commercial activity in the automobile line which was easily developed and expanded by the protection of the influential acquaintances of Drago. In the bellicent period the council of the Corporations, where Drago was "magnum pars",

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Mde BISQUER

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A documental investigation would serve to confirm all that I have stated above.. Do not rely on the testamentary assertions of any of the employees in Drago's pay.

When Messina was occupied by the Allied Forces, Drago through Caneva succeeded in becoming the Counsellor of the ALGOT Command and as such he has been able to execute undisturbed all his nefarious interests. If all the biggest industrialists, deceiving the good faith of the Allied Command, have been able to commit their misdeeds such as holding back of goods for Black Market and of selling other goods officially at unjustifiable high prices approved by the Allied Command (see the VACCARINO soap case) it is all due to the intrigues of Drago.

2/.....

-2-

There are some interpreters who are in the service of the Drago-Caneva clique to whom they refer all measures taken by the Command during their (Drago and Caneva's) absence.

While Drago and Caneva were so earnestly engaged with the AMCOF Command, Rocco Caneva's partner and a certain CALICA a big capitalist of PATTI, all associates of this clique, presented themselves to Captain BORAK to obtain the cession of all cars and materials abandoned by the Italian Army. Captain Borak however did not take their request into consideration.

Apart from his commercial activities, Drago also pursued a political activity which was done through one of his emissaries and precisely the Vice Director of the Fascist Provincial Industrial Union, Doctor DE GAETANI; this last mentioned person is another profiteer of Fascism who had managed to obtain a well remunerated post in a commanding position. In the Fascist Regime the real dictators after the Federals were the Syndicalists.

Below is also a report on the firm of Bisourgi supplied by Av. Francesco Restuccia.

"This company started with the name William Sanderson, following the earthquake of 1906, when the owner died Bisourgi the chemist became owner of the company. During the Fascist era the company was known as G.A. Bisourgi and while the books both interior and exterior were kept in English, they were changed to Italian and then to German.

Today the proprietress keeps the books in English again. Helped by the various ministries she had the monopoly of manufacturing Citric Acid. She charged 80 and 100 lire a kilo but made out the bills for 16 lire as the official price.

Authorized by the Government to make Terguine, she sold it to the soap manufacturers who had to use it as laid down by decree. Some paid for it although it was of bad quality. That is why the company felt that it had to give the Government various gifts. A lovely villa was presented to the G.I.L.

Although the government has forbidden the making of concentrated lemon essence Bisourgi carried on and was thus without competition. Her friendship with the Government obtained for her the privilege of buying land near her factory (Tremestieri and Pistunna) much to the detriment of the people who sold it to her.

During this war she was the sole supplier of goods to the Italian and German Governments. She gave the country 5 kgs of Gold to help carry on the war in Africa.

It seems strange that this firm which had active support from the Fascist Government and received protection from the Germans (Mme Bisourgi is reported to have been in active contact with Krupp's agent on the French Riviera) should now be patronised by the Allied Government through AMCOF. The bad impression on the Sicilian populace is enormous.

20931

U. S. SECRET **EQUALS** BRITISH MOST SECRET

21

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
AFO 512: : : : :
: S E C R E T :
: Auth: C in C, AF :
: Initials W, Y :
: 12 November 1943 :
: : : : : :

AG OMA.1-1 OCT-AGM

12 November 1943

SUBJECT: Relations between Military Commanders and
Officers of Allied Military Government.

TO : All concerned.

1. a. As outlined in Administrative Memorandum No. 69, this headquarters, es, the Allied Military Government of Occupied Territory has been divided into two units; one under Allied Military Government 15 Army Group, to operate in the combat zone, and the other, under Headquarters Allied Military Government, to operate in all other occupied territory.

b. This directive defines the relationship between Military Commanders (British District, Sub-District, Area, Sub-Area and Garrison Commanders and U.S. Base Section and District Commanders) and AMG Officers, in the area which is under Headquarters Allied Military Government for military government purposes.

2. a. It is intended that the government of Italian territory in rear of the combat zone shall be handed over to the Italian Authorities as soon as the situation permits. Headquarters Allied Military Government will then be replaced by an Allied Control Commission which will administer a system of post-armistice control over the Italians.

b. Until this transfer of responsibilities takes place, the existing system of military government will continue in operation, under the direction and control of the Chief Civil Affairs Officer at Headquarters Allied Military Government, and through his subordinate Regional Civil Affairs Officers.

3. a. Allied Military Government personnel will be under command of the Commander of the Base Section, District, Sub-District, Area, Sub-Area or Garrison concerned for disciplinary purposes, subject to the provisions of Administrative Memorandum No. 11, this headquarters, es, (Revised to 21 Oct. 1943).

b. In cases of military emergency, the Allied military commander responsible for defense and security will assume full command of Allied Military Government personnel and will issue such orders to them as the situation demands.

U. S. SECRET **EQUALS** BRITISH MOST SECRET

U. S. SECRET EQUALS BRITISH MOST SECRET

AG 014.1-1 GGT-ACM, 12 Nov. '43 (cont'd.)

c. In special circumstances, e.g. where there is a very small garrison under a commander junior to the Allied Military Government officer, or where an Italian commander is responsible for the administration, defense or security, special instructions will be issued by this headquarters.

4. It will be the duty of the Regional Civil Affairs Officer to assist military commanders in his region in their dealings with the civil population. Similarly it will be the duty of the military commander to assist the Regional Civil Affairs Officer, and to uphold his authority in the civil sphere, by military action if need be.

5. Military commanders and Allied Military Government officers will maintain liaison at all times and will carry out their respective functions in close cooperation. Any difference which may arise between them will be promptly reported to this headquarters. If however an immediate decision is required, the military commander will make that decision and Allied Military Government Officers will comply with his orders, pending receipt of instructions from this headquarters.

By command of General EISENHOWER:

T. J. Davis
T. J. DAVIS, *USA*
Brigadier General, USA,
Adjutant General.

DISTRIBUTION:

5 - GOC-in-C, 15 Army Group
2 - CG, Fifth Army
2 - GOC, Eighth Army
10 - Chief, Hq. Allied Mil. Govt.
5 - Chief, Allied Mil. Govt., 15 Army Gp.
2 - Air C-in-C, Med.
3 - CG, MAAF
1 - DTC, NATOUSA)
2 - CG, Pen. Base Sec.) THRU:
2 - CG, Island Base Sec.) CG, NATOUSA
1 - CG, SOS NATOUSA)
2 - GOC, No. 1 District
2 - GOC, No. 2 District
1 - Allied Military Mission
1 - D/C.A.O., AFHQ Adv Adm. Echelon
1 - Military Governor Sardinia
1 - Military Comdr. (Allied) Sardinia
1 - SC/S

DISTRIBUTION

2 - C.A.O.
2 - G-1 (A)
2 - G-1 (B)
2 - G-2, AFHQ
3 - G-3, AFHQ
2 - G-2, NATOUSA
2 - G-3, NATOUSA
2 - G-4
1 - Civil Affairs
5 - Mil. Govt. Section
1 - British Resident
2 - AG Records

U. S. SECRET EQUALS BRITISH MOST SECRET

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Messina 15 Gennaio 1944

Gaetano Drago

Captain Peters, F. S. S.

Ho letto attentamente il memoriale di Gaetano Drago.

Le posizioni del suo memoriale, che si riferiscono alla sua attività rispetto al Governo Militare Alleato nella provincia di Messina, sono precise e vere.

In nessun tempo Drago cercò di mettersi avanti e tutti i suoi servizi furono prestati su nostra richiesta.

Io sono convinto che Drago era la persona più competente e di maggiore esperienza, tra quante ve ne fossero a Messina, per i servizi che noi avevamo bisogno ed io non saprei comprendere come egli avesse potuto avvantaggiarsi finanziariamente col lavoro che egli ha fatto a nostro favore. Tutti i servizi di Drago furono resi gratuitamente ed egli non ha ricevuto alcun compenso per qualsiasi spesa che egli abbia fatto in dipendenza del suo lavoro.

Mi rincresce molto che il lavoro di Drago, fatto su richiesta dell'A.M.G.O.T. ha richiamato l'attenzione su di lui e l'ha posto in una posizione dalla quale la sicurezza delle Forze Alleate possa essere minacciata.

Se potrà essere fatto un accomodamento per cui Drago possa continuare il suo lavoro, senza pregiudizio della sicurezza militare, io credo che gli interessi dei produttori di agrumi e dei fabbricanti di derivati agrumari saranno molto aiutati.

STEPHEN B. STORY
Lt.Col. CMP
SCAO -MESSINA-

Messina, 12 Gennaio 1944

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Sir,

many years ago, having won (First Classified) a regular course for the degree of Director of one Unione Provinciale della Confederazione degli Industriali I have been appointed Director of the Unione of Messina. I have fulfilled to the duties of my Office without interruption until the Allied Forces took possession of the Town of Messina.

At that date I was Commissario for the Camera Agrumaria, appointed only since a few days after Generale Badoglio had become Head of the Government.

The day after the Allied Occupation I presented myself to a Superior Officer of AMGOT, Major E. Detsch, and I declared to him my above mentioned Qualities. The Major ordered me to go on with my work and after some days asked me to reorganize the Industry and Commerce in this Province.

I undertook that work as a sentiment of duty towards this same Province and towards those Productive Activities to whom for many years I had devoted all my Assistance. I have neither asked nor obtained any wage or reward of any kind.

After about 20 days with letter in date 13 September addressed to Major Deutsch, I renounced to that care for the reason expounded in the same letter, and I waited that this appointed should be given to somebody else.

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Major Deutsch instead sent an envoy of his to call me and asked me not to insist in my purpose and to continue to grant to the Allied Authorities my loyal collaboration for the work they were willing to develop to reorganize the civil life and the productive activities in Messina's Province.

I interpreted the kind words of Major Deutsch as orders and I continued to work, collaborating with AMGOT in the study and resolution of some of the more urgent questions; examining and studying the reorganization of those Entities that should have succeeded to those dissolved; collaborating for the renewal of Bancal and Financial Activities; assisting daily a great number of Industrial and Commercial Firms in the intent to ease the difficult renewal of their activity, and finally constituting, under the protection of AMGOT a free association between Business men of Industry and Commerce in the province of Messina; these in great number amidst the most important and representative, have joined in an Organization which rose in a few days, and will shortly elect its Directive Organs, following the Rules of a Statute proposed by me and entirely approved by an assembly composed by hundreds of men and at which your Representatives have assisted.

I wished to recall till now the activity developed by me in this sector.

For what regards instead my charge as Commissario alla Camera Agraria I remember what follows: Appointed Commissario after the landing of the Allies in Sicily and before the occupation of Messina, I didn't want to begin any personal activity

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waiting the decision of AMGCT on my eventual new confirmation or substitution. Therefore I waited that this decision should be taken, and I have not asked sollecitated such reconferment neither directly nor indirectly.

The day 4th of December of last year, presenting my self to Colonel Poletti, this Gentleman after a long conversation (to which Mr. Cardullo, functionary of the Camera Agrumaria was pre sent) decided to confirm me in the appointment of Commissario.

Successively the same Colonel Poletti called me in Palermo on 3th Gennaio to discuss the Agrumary affairs, and after a care ful examination of my situation sent me communication of his renewed decision to confirm me in the charge of Commissario della Camera Agrumaria. Lecture was made to me too of the Ordinance disposed at that purpose to be communicated to the Authoritys of the Sicilian Provinces interested in it.

You knw by personnal and direct knowledg, that all that I have recalled until now unswers to perfect truth, and that ^I have ~~never~~ taken step to obtain or maintain the above mentioned Appoin^{ments}.

You certainly will know taht I have many times refused to accept other cares or appointments which have been offered to me, as for instance that of Commissario of the Chamber of Commerce in which the latt Consiglio Provinciale delle Corporazioni has been trasformed (conformably to the written proposition contained

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in a brief relation presented, three monthes ago by me to Major Deutsch who had asked me for it, and which, as he told me, had been appreciated by the Regional Authorities of AMGOT.

I know now that somebody tries to stimulate the Allied Authorities to against me.

Why?

Because of the Appointements I have detained and coveted by somebody else, as I am sure that if I had not nad those Appoin^{te}ments and had remained apart, no voice would have been raised against me.

Certitude of this is given to me from my past and honesty and from the elevated moral level on which have evolved alla acts of my life of employé and of privatmen.

Credit of this is given to me by the continuous proofs of esteem, trust and respect which come to me from all parts, from ex-Fascists and Antifascists, and which constitute the highest recognizance of duty accomplished constantely towards others, towards myself, and towards all that have till now carried my name.

I must conclude then, Sir, that the attacks against my per^{son}ality have been determined because of the trust that AMGOT has shawed to me, and ~~for~~ of the modest but loyal and disinterested collaboration that I have felt dutiful to yield to Allied Autho^{ri}ties.

Therefore I asck to my self: of what am I accused?⁵

Allow me, Sir, to examine briefly my socalled "Fascist Past" as one can move against me no accusation exept or Fascism.
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More than 20 years have passed since my inscription in the Fascist Party. That means that I have entered into it from free choice; but at a period when Fascism was not in condition to secure any privileges to its subscribers.

That means moreover that I and those other very young ones who, like me, had returned from the trenches after having bloodily fought for years, joined with enthusiasm into a Party in which they thought to have to continue to fight for those same Ideals of Country and Civility for whom we had poured our blood on the battle fields.

That was in fact the initial program of that Party in whose ranks were pushed by the injuries and offences with whom the survivors received us when we soldiers came home, when we returned and appeared on the streets and in the squares of our towns.

Having entered into the Fascist Party which was my activity into it from the first until yesterday?

Pray, examine the declarations included in my personal record: You will establish that I have never covered any political situation, neither any degree have I had neither in the Party itself nor in the Milizia neither in any of the numerous organizations that depended from directly (as GIL, OND, etc.....).

I have been for some years a member of the Amministrazione Provinciale, an organ of permanent administrative character, and I have taken part in those councils and administrations in whom by law or statute the organization of Industry of which I was Director, used to take part (as for instance the Consiglio Provinciale delle Corporazioni).

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If, in more than 20 years, I have had no political appointment, even a modest one it is clear that I have kept away from any activity of the Party, and this one has allways judged me as insufficiently fascist. The fact is that to my risk, I have refused many times to take part in the Milizia, and many times I have avoided to take positions of political carachter.

Instead of that I have limited myself to assist by every means (and very often against the local heads of the Party) the equitable interests of Industrials (Fascists and not Fascists) following the duties and by the mens inherent to my quality of Director to theyr organization.

I can think to have fulfilled well those duties towards business men as it has been so easy now for me to group them rapidly into a new association.

I have hade the proof of that in the fact that, having been named by AMGOT Commissario of it, its first Assembly has wonted to manifest its approbation for my nomination deliberating by acclamation to confer to the Commissario the full powers.

In this moment I would like to ask you to be exonerated from the two heavy charges of whom it has been mentioned, but I wont do it as my substitution would appear as a sanction provoked by others, and would, for evident reasons, offend me no less than it would offend AMGOT in the criterium it has, untill now, adopted to judge me.

I ask therefore, without hesitation, to be substituted immediately if you think that I have deserved your confidence or if my

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Fascist Past is such as to impose such a proceeding.

If though, you will order me to remain in my place, examine please the means apt to secure to me the necessary serenity for any honest and profiguous work.

P.S. Yesterday morning I was just sending this letter, when a Sergeant of F.S.S. has paid me a visit and invited me to follow him to the Campo di Concentramento of Catania.

The travell, after a few kilometers, xas stoped on account a damage to the car.

Therefore I was carried back to Messina and after a stop by the Command F.S.S., I was accompanied again to my house, with the invitation to remain to disposal of F.S.S.

Messina 3/1/944

MEMO TO CAPTAIN HARE

The following conversation long distance from Cap. Newfeld to Major Ramsey at 1740 hours:

SUBJECT: Conversation on Drago with Col. Young.

" This H Q file on Drago not available here maybe with Cap. Hare now in Sicily. Contact Captain Hare soonest and if he has file forward tis H Q by air courier. Paper particularly required is the A.F.H.Q directive on AMT appointment objected to by Army Authorities. If he does not have file, request of you papers on Drago including directive referred to be forwarded this H Q Report."

*Signed
Spagnard
a c c l t y
nephew*

Please, see me at once
MAJOR RAMSEY

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