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DEPENDANT IN ROATTA TRIAL ARRESTED

ROME, January 2 — Major Elio Ligas of the Carabinieri, one of the 14 persons who will be tried here on January 22 on charges of helping to keep Fascism in power, has been arrested, Mario Berlinguer, Deputy High Commissioner for the Punishment of Fascist Crimes, announced here today.

Berlinguer also announced that the High Court of Justice had officially acceded to his request that the Roatta group, comprising 10 persons, and the Sivich-Jacomoni-Benini-Cortese group be tried jointly.

Berlinguer added that the inquiry and the decisions of the High Court would be limited to the specific charges preferred against the 14 accused persons. In the case of Lt. Gen. Mario Roatta, he said, the court will confine itself to offenses allegedly committed between 1934 and 1938, the period during which Roatta was head of the Italian Military Intelligence, and will not deal with his alleged responsibilities for Italian war operations in the Balkans, with his alleged failure to defend Rome against the Germans, or with activities of other sections of the Military Intelligence.

Of the 14 involved in the trial, eight are now under arrest. They are General Roatta; former Foreign Affairs Under Secretary Fulvio Sivich; Francesco Jacomoni, former Lieutenant General in Albania; Carabinieri Colonel Sante Benini; Army Captain Mario Petrucci; Vincenzo Bertolotti, colonel of infantry; Major Domenico Formica and Carabinieri Major Ligas.

The six in hiding or in enemy-controlled territory are: General Alberto Pariani, former Under Secretary for War; Filippo Anfuso, at present Fascist Republican Ambassador in Berlin; General Paolo Angiol, probably in Africa; Carabinieri Lieutenant Eugenio Piccardi; Zenone Benini, former Under Secretary for Albanian Affairs, and Paolo Cortese, Fascist Republican Minister to Bratislava.

The public prosecutor at the trial will likely be Assistant General Crown Attorney Corradino Berardi. General Roatta will be defended by Bruno Cassinelli. (UNN)

FASCIST CORRUPTION REVEALED

ROME, January 2 — A story of widespread corruption and graft in the allocation of war contracts through the Fascist Italian War Ministry between 1937 and 1939 today was revealed with disclosure of a report made by Lt. Col. Ettore Faga, of the Carabinieri, at the request of the SIM (Italian Military Intelligence) in 1940.

The report, which covers the tenure of office of War Under Secretaries General Alberto Pariani and General Ubaldo Soddu, is one of the documents in the forthcoming trial of Lt. General Mario Roatta, former Foreign Affairs Under Secretary Fulvio Sivich and 12 others on charges of contributing to the maintenance in power of the Fascist regime. The trial is to open January 22.

Seven of the defendants are in custody and will appear at the trial. The other seven are to be tried *in absentia*.

Colonel Faga's report discloses that firms favored with war contracts promised to pay sums of money to former Under Secretary for War Ubaldo Soddu and other officials of the War Ministry and to build villas for them. These deals fell through, the report adds, when Soddu was replaced by General Antonio Sorice. Other firms were called in and they, in turn, took over the contracts in exchange for luxurious apartments for their proteges.

General Soddu is reported to have been given a villa worth half a million lire near Lake Garda, by a firm supplying arms to the War Ministry. He is also mentioned in the report as having eliminated General Amoroso from his post as commander of the Bolzano Army Engineers' unit for not knowing how to deal with firms previously contacted by his office.

Colonel Faga's report was sent to Mussolini, who in turn forwarded it to War Minister, General Alfredo Guzzoni. As a result, Colonel Sante Emmelele, SIM chief, was "liquidated" from this post. (UNN)

ROATTA Case

FASCIST INTERVENTION IN SPANISH WAR BARED

ROME, December 30 — Fascist plans to wage bacterial warfare in Spain during the civil war there, and to transport explosives into that country in diplomatic pouches, were revealed today in two reports which are part of the evidence gathered for the trials on January 22 of General Mario Roatta and the former Fascist Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Fulvio Suvich.

Both are under charges preferred by the Italian High Commissioner for the Punishment of Fascist Crimes.

The reports, written on 27 January and 3 February 1937, by Carabinieri Colonel Sanic Emanuele (at present under arrest) to the head of the SIM (military intelligence service), unveiled a complete scheme for the execution of large-scale sabotage against the Republican forces in Spain.

Colonel Emanuele, in his reports, advocated the introduction of germs into food leaving France for Republican territory, in the hope that this would cause an epidemic in

Barcelona so as to provoke the closing of the French frontiers for sanitary reasons. He also suggested suppression of undesirable persons by means of poison. His plan for sabotage called for explosives camouflaged as pieces of coal, thermos flasks, and suitcases, to be placed in trains and other transportation leaving France.

Coal, Emanuele wrote, is particularly suitable for locomotives, while the other means can easily be placed inside railway carriages and trucks. Magnetic explosive devices are being prepared at the 'chemical center' at my request. They should be taken to France from Italy by diplomatic pouch.

Emanuele gave detailed directions as to the sabotage of ships, particularly Russian ships, transporting material for the Spanish Reds, sailing from eastern Mediterranean ports.

His second report stated that he had given directions for the first acts of sabotage, and that they were to take place in February and March of 1937. He asked for funds—50,000 lire to begin with—for the payment of his agents.

He gave details of the rates that these agents were to receive for sabotage in Spain. For the destruction of a ship, 25,000 lire were to be paid; for a locomotive, 15,000 lire; for a loaded railway truck, 5,000 lire; and for a motor van carrying men, 10,000 lire.

For the diffusion of infectious diseases and damage to defense and railway works, rewards were to be in ratio to the results obtained. Agents' families were to receive payments at a fixed scale, should accidents occur. For at least five months of arrest, the family would be given 5,000 lire; for at least a year's imprisonment, 10,000 lire; for imprisonment over that period, 25,000 lire; and for the death penalty, 50,000 lire.

Among the numerous acts of sabotage committed, according to the reports, were the following: placing of explosive coals aboard the ships *Citta di Barcelona* and *Villa*

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Among the numerous acts of sabotage committed, according to the reports, were the following: placing of explosive coals aboard the ships *Cinco di Barcelona* and *Ville de Madrid* in February, 1937; the exploding of a metal tube near the Spanish Consulate at Perpignan; and the explosion of numerous «flasks» in railway carriages. (UNN)

