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CARLOFORTE
NOV. 1945-APR. 1946

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HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
Education Subcommittee
APO 394

ED/GR/fr

ED/7A/B/AC

24 Aprile 1946

OGGETTO : Osservatorio di Carlo Forte

Al : Prof. Carnera
R. Conservatorio di Capodimonte
Napoli

Gentile Professore,

Per incarico del Col. Washburne le mando copia di una lettera da lui scritta al Dr. Lammerti che riassume quanto egli ha fatto presso il Ministero della Pubblica Istruzione per Carloforte.

Il Capo di Gabinetto mi ha comunicato di averle fatto telegrafare a Napoli di aver proceduto immediatamente alla nomina del Dr. Castellano per confermarlo nell'incarico dal 1 Aprile 1946 al 31 Marzo 1947 e di aver sollecitato l'invio degli arretrati dovutogli.

Il Colonnello e' partito ieri per gli Stati Uniti, e con la sua partenza si chiude ufficialmente la Sottocommissione. Io restero' qui fino al 15 maggio per sbrigare le ultime pendenze.

Le restituisco i documenti che gentilmente mi diede.

Con i migliori saluti.

GABRIELLA ROMEO
Professional Consultant

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HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
Education Subcommittee
APO 394

EB/CWW/ans

ED/7AB/5.1/AC

19 April, 1946

TO : Brigadier H.St.J.L. Winterbotham,
River Cottage, Sutton Courtenay, Berks.

Dear Brigadier Winterbotham:

Way back last December you wrote me a very cordial and appreciative note, which arrived just as I was leaving for Switzerland. It got into a folder I took with me, and just today, as I was clearing my desk I glanced through that folder and saw that I had not acknowledged your letter. I'm sorry. But I did appreciate it.

As to Cassinis, he is, from all accounts, well and active. He is Director of the Politecnico of Milan.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

CARLETON W. WASHBURN
Lt.Col., A.U.S.
Director of Education.

5432

UNION GÉODÉSIQUE ET GÉOPHYSIQUE INTERNATIONALE
(INTERNATIONAL UNION OF GEODESY AND GEOPHYSICS)

Dr. D. La Cour, *Président*.—*Meteorologisk Institut, Copenhagen, Denmark.*

Brigadier H. St. J. L. Winterbotham, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., *Secrétaire général*.—*"Grandfathers," Braughton, Hants, England.*
River Cottage, Sutton Courtenay, Berks.

December 18th 19345

Dear Colonel Washburne,

The Union which works under the above imposing title has been holding a meeting of its Executive Committee in Oxford.

Our esteemed colleague—Dr W.D.Lambert—has told us of your kindly and efficient action in the matter of the International Latitude Service, and we have seen copies of your letters.

The Union is exceedingly grateful. We know what it means to pursue Carnera. As easily could one put salt on the tail of a Dodo. We know that no man could have done more than you have. Permit me to add, as an old soldier and the father of a modern one, that the keen and friendly help we have found invariable from our opposite numbers in the American Army seems to be the best possible augury for success in the fight for individual liberty in the future as in the past.

If you can send it I should indeed be grateful for word of Cassinis. From 1930, when I undertook the secretaryship of this Union until the outbreak of war, I found him the most balanced and helpful of our Italian Colleagues. But I should like to know how he has done since 1940.

Again, then, in the name of the Union, many thanks.

Yours sincerely,

H. St. J. L. Winterbotham

General Secretary.

Copy to W.D.Lambert.

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
Education Subcommission
APO 394

ED/CWW/sas

ED/7AB/5.1/AG

8 April, 1946

SUBJECT : Carloforte: Measurement of Gravity.

TO : Dr. W.D. Lambert,
Pres. International Ass'n of Geodesy,
Coast & Geodetic Survey, Dep't of Commerce,
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Davis:

After getting your letter of 28 February with enclosure from Spencer Jones, I sent my assistant to Naples to see Carnara and find out whether the observer was actually at work in Carloforte.

To my chagrin I found that the matter had been only partially cleared and was still bogged in ministerial red tape. The observer was still in Naples, not in Sardinia.

A conference at the Ministry this week in which my assistant (Dr. Rombo) raised hell about the matter, got action. The Ministry promised to send the observer immediately and two men, recommended by Carnara, to put up the instruments and get everything in order. The next day the Ministry telephoned us that they had telegraphed Carnara to send the three men at once and had arranged for payment, including the observer's back pay.

I trust that this finished the matter.

Since I shall probably be leaving for the United States when you get this, if you want to have any further information, address your letter:

Education Subcommission
Allied Commission
(Att: Dr. Gabriella Rombo)
APO 394 c/o PM, N.Y., N.Y.

Dr. Rombo is thoroughly familiar with all the details. Unfortunately, from your angle, she will be leaving the Allied Commission on 15 May; but she will be in Naples (Piazza dei Martiri 30) until early June, when she sails for the United States on a graduate fellowship. Thereafter you will have to rely on direct correspondence with Carnara, etc.

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The enclosed letter concerning measurements of gravity has just come from Trieste. Copy of my letter requesting the information from Potsdam is also enclosed.

I am now signing off until August as far as my assistance I may render to you or Spencer Jones is concerned. From about the first of August I may again be able to serve as a point of contact. My address will be:

Dr. Carleton WASHBURN
Cultural Relations Division, Milan Office,
American Embassy, Rome.

If you want to reach me personally between now and August address me Care Sup't. of Schools, Winnetka, Illinois. That office will have my up-to-the-minute addresses as I flit from Chicago, to Washington, New York, Annapolis, Athens (Georgia), etc. Helms will be gliding with me and return to Italy with me in July.

Warm greetings to you and Bertha from us both.

CARLETON W. WASHBURN
Lt.Col., A.U.S.
Director of Education.

Copy to :
Sir Harold Spencer Jones.

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AIR MAIL

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY
WASHINGTON 25IN REPLY ADDRESS THE DIRECTOR
U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY
AND NOT THE SIGNER OF THIS LETTER
AND REFER TO NO. WDL/mh

February 28, 1946.

Lt. Col. Carleton W. Washburne,
Director of Education,
Headquarters Allied Commission,
A.P.O. 394 - c/o Postmaster,
New York, N. Y.

Dear Carleton:

Your letter of 30 January came a few days ago. Many thanks for all you have done to straighten matters out. The situation seems to be well in hand by now, as you say.

I have had no recent word from Spencer Jones. The Copenhagen assembly of the Astronomical Union has been postponed until early in March. I am glad Abetti will be able to attend. Glad also to have some word of Cassini's. I have had no reply to the letter I sent him.

The complete records from Mizusawa, Japan, one of the latitude observatories on the same parallel as Carloforte, have been received here. They are being sent to Spencer Jones. The records from our two observatories will also go to Spencer Jones till he asks for some different arrangement.

The Japanese have published (in English) Vol. VIII of the definitive "Results" for the latitude service, covering the period 1922.0-1935.0. Steps are being taken to get the volume distributed to those interested.

The Russians have kept their latitude observatory going. It is at Kitab near Samarkand. I have not heard what luck Spencer Jones has had in getting the records forwarded.

You might pass on to interested Italians what little news there is in this letter.

Let me know if and when you acquire civilian and diplomatic status in Rome and your new address in that case.

Best Wishes.

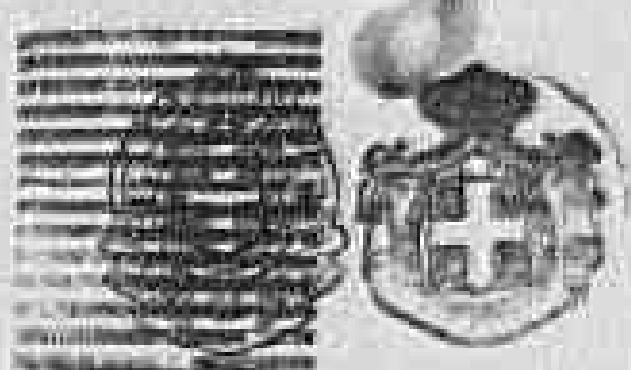
Cordially yours,

Walter D. Lambert
Walter D. Lambert.

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*File
Carloforte*



CONSIGLIO NAZIONALE DELLE RICERCHE

IL PRESIDENTE

N° 1996 in prot.

Sig. Colonnello,

Roma, 9 marzo 1946

a seguito della mia del 12 febbraio, La informo che il Ministero della pubblica istruzione ha assicurato essere suo intendimento che la Stazione astronomica di Carloforte riprenda al più presto la sua normale attività.

All'uopo il detto Ministero, in conformità della proposta del direttore dell'Osservatorio astronomico di Napoli, ha disposto che siano inviati in missione a Carloforte un assistente ed un tecnico dello stesso Osservatorio di Napoli.

Di quanto precede ho dato notizia diretta al prof. Spencer Jones, astronomo reale.

Accolga cordiali saluti.

[Handwritten signature]

Col. C.W. Washborne
Capo della Education Board
Commissione Alleata

R o m a

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY
WASHINGTON

*Copy for Lt. Col. Washburne
Director Education*

March 5, 1946

Sir Harold Spencer Jones,
Astronomer Royal,
Chairman, International Joint Committee
on the Variation of Latitude,
Greenwich Observatory,
London SE 10, England.

Dear Spencer Jones:

Your air-mail letter of Feb. 25 came through in reasonable time, being received here March 4.

Although the material from Carnera has arrived, as I have already written, a further supply will be very welcome. The requirements of Mizusawa and of our Nautical Almanac have exhausted my supply of some items.

I am sending the data for the Southern Hemisphere to La Plata. Should I send the same to Adelaide? I hope so, for Adelaide ought to continue, even if the instrument is not quite of the standard model.

As to what has or has not happened in Italy, something may depend on whether Carnera's letter to you is of later date than Lieut. Col. Washburne's letter to me dated Jan. 30, 1946, copy of which he sent you. In any case there does not appear to be much that I can do here and now. I have, however, sent to Washburne a copy of your letter of Feb. 25 and of this reply, though I do not know whether he is still in uniform and Director of Education, or even whether he is still in Rome.

Tardi, as Associate Secretary of the Association of Geodesy, has promised to send you a statement of Association funds available, in his opinion, for the work of the Latitude Service. It will take him a while to get a clear picture of the financial situation, for Perrier kept such matters very much to himself. I hope he and Winterbotham are not figuring at cross purposes, for the Association of Geodesy has or had a claim on some of the money in Winterbotham's keeping.

Copies of this go to Tardi, Baeschlin and Clemence (for the Nautical Almanac) and to Washburne, as already mentioned.

Too bad about Abetti.

With best wishes,

Very sincerely yours,

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WDL
Walter D. Lambert.

Communications should be
addressed to the
ASTRONOMER ROYAL

Rec'd Mar. 4, 1946

Royal Observatory, Greenwich,
London, S.E. 10,

AIR MAIL

February 25, 1946

for Lt. Col.
Washburne

Ref. VI 3(3)

Dr. W. D. Lambert,
Department of Commerce,
U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Lambert:

I have just received your letter of 18th February. I am sorry to learn that the material from Carnera has not turned up. It seems that it must have been lost in transit. I am sending another copy, which I believe contains everything that I sent in December. This is being sent by surface mail, registered, as it is too bulky to send by air. I hope it will arrive, as I have no further copy and there will be a considerable loss of time in obtaining copies from Carnera.

Winterbotham has agreed to send a grant of £200 for Carnera, from the funds of the I.G.G.U. Carnera has sent me a long letter, together with a copy of his letter to you of the 5th November. He agrees to my suggestion that he should complete the definitive reductions from 1935 to 1941 and the calculations (provisional) from 1941 to the end of 1946. Also that Cecchini would be competent to take over the work from the beginning of 1947.

The only difficulty is whether the grants from the two Unions will be adequate, in conjunction with the grants from the Ministry of Public Instruction and the National Research Council, to enable the Central Bureau to be kept in Italy. Apparently the station at Carloforte is not yet re-opened, in spite of all our efforts and of the assistance of Col. Washburne. In a letter dated 18th January Carnera writes "after repeated assurances by three Ministers (since April 1944 till now) nothing has been practically concluded to set up again the service at Carloforte. After the intervention of Lt. Col. Washburne, the Ministry writes to me to advance proposals, which I have done repeatedly from June 1944. Even in the situation brought by the war to our country, I would have wished that our Government had not put us in the condition to conceal, for our country's love, what it perhaps cannot do because of the preminence (sic) of more important things, or of a rather uncertain and abnormal situation. You can understand that the scientist who works apart from politics and wishes to honour his country, may find it hard to write such things.

I have just received a cablegram from Abetti to say that because of illness, he will not be able to attend the meeting in Copenhagen. This is very unfortunate; as I was depending upon him to give an estimate of the possibility of some increase in the Italians grant.

-2-

I will write to Carnera about the request from Ikeda. I think that it would be safer to send you the material for Ikeda, when it arrives, as it seems safer to send any material for Japan through U. S. channels. I shall ask Cort about the distribution list for the Vol. VIII of the International Latitude results. Carnera will be anxious to receive a copy as soon as possible, because of the importance of establishing the connection between the period covered by this discussion and the period up to 1941, with which he is dealing.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

(signed) H. Spencer Jones.

HSJ/MKH

785016

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION ED/CWW/fs
Education Subcommittee
AFO 394

ED/7AB/5.1/AC

February 20, 1946.

Prof. Carnera
R. Osservatorio Astronomico
Di Capodimonte
Napoli

Gentile Prof. Carnera,

Il Col. Washburne, prima di partire per la Venezia Giulia dove si tratterrà una quindicina di giorni, mi ha pregato di comunicarle di aver ricevuta la sua lettera del 9 Febbraio e di aver trasmesso al Prof. Spencer Jones e al Dott. Lambert le missive loro indirizzate.

Con i miei saluti,

GABRIELLA ROMBO

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R. OSSERVATORIO ASTRONOMICO
DI CAPODIMONTE
NAPOLI

Illustre Signor COLONNELLO.

Ho ricevuto nei giorni scorsi la Vostra lettera gentile del giorno 30/I, e quasi contemporaneamente una del Dott. W. Lambert ed una del Prof. Dr. Sir Harold Spencer Jones. Rispondo ad essi con le due lettere, che mi permetto unirvi a questa, pregandovi di volerle trasmettere, ben sapendo quanto più sicura riesca una trasmissione fatta da Voi. Mi permetto poi ancora, in un piego separato, inviare a Voi tre calendarietti tipicamente locali, riproducenti una scena da una casa dissepolta della vecchia Pompei, che spero possano far ricordare a Voi, a Sir Spencer Jones, ed al Dr. Lambert con la vecchia Pompei di due mila anni or sono, anche Capodimonte e l'Osservatorio, che sono grati e riconoscenti delle belle e gentili manifestazioni, che vogliono usare sempre a mio riguardo.

Se nei riguardi dell'Ufficio delle latitudini credo sia stata trovata la via migliore di soluzione, e spero e mi auguro si riesca ad attuare, non ostante tutte le promesse del Ministero non riesco a vedere pronta la soluzione per Carloforte. Il Ministero continua a promettere; lo fa da quasi due anni, ma non si è visto neppur l'inizio delle attuazioni. D'altra parte non basta il puro e semplice invio a Carloforte del Dr. Castellano. Ci vogliono altri provvedimenti, e di ciò sono tutti convinti, come ad esempio mi scrivono in lettere recentissime i Prof. Silva e Cassinis. Ed è su questo punto, che non vi è accordo: quale debba essere la portata.

ti tipicamente locali, riproducenti una scena da una casa dissepolti della vecchia Pompei, che spero possano far ricordare a Voi, a Sir Spencer Jones, ed al Dr. Lambert con la vecchia Pompei di due mila anni or sono, anche Capodimonte e l'Osservatorio, che sono grati e riconoscenti delle belle e gentili manifestazioni, che vogliono usare sempre a mio riguardo.

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Intanto la mia lettera, in cui chiaramente ponevo in luce le necessità, è rimasta senza alcuna risposta da parte del Ministero, ed io ho l'impressione che a Roma sono pronti e facili tutti a fare promesse, ed a dire belle e buone parole, ma che quanto a fatti preferiscono rimandare ogni cosa a domani, come fanno volentieri gli spagnuoli rimettendo tutto a "mañana", come fanno volentieri gli spagnuoli rimettendo tutto a

Ad ogni modo io sono sempre pronto a dare l'opera mia, pur di aiutare le cose ed avviare verso la desiderata soluzione. Non avendo avuto notizia di convocazione della Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei, è quasi certo che mia venuta a Roma, se il Ministero non mi chiama, debba esser considerata come non prossima, e probabilmente al più presto solo verso la metà di Marzo. Speriamo che per allora sieno accomodate tutte le questioni.

Vogliate accogliere i miei migliori saluti, e le scuse se mi permetto disturbarvi con queste mie lettere.

Vostro devoto
Enrico Fermi
 Capodimonte 9 febbraio 1946.



OSSERVATORIO ASTRONOMICODI
ARCI TRI - FIRENZE (I.S.R.A.)

31st January 1946

Dear Col. Washburne,

I have still to thank you for you gret kindness during my last visit to Rome.

I receive now your letter of 26 jan and am most grateful for the address of Prof. Antoni to whom I am writing at once, and for the most interesting astronomical publications which are very much appreciated in this Observatory.

I hope in February we will have a meeting in Rome with Cassini, Arzelini, Carnera and possibly others astronomers to define the matters of Carloforte and of the international service of latitude and will get in touch with you.

In the meantime with best thanks again and most cordial regards

Yours very sincerely

(Giorgio Aschieri)

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HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
Education Subcommittee
AFO 394

ED/CWW/cc

ED/7AB/5.1/AC

30 January, 1946

SUBJECT : Carloforte and International
Latitude Service.TO : Dr. W. D. Lambert,
President, International
Association of Geodesy,
Washington.

Dear Davis:

Thank you for your long letter of 4 January. I also received one from Spencer-Jones, dated 30 December.

Carnera came to Rome while I was in Switzerland and failed to make contact with my Executive Officer, whom I had briefed on the whole situation. He did, however, see the right person at the Ministry, and Arnelini, the astronomer at Monte Mario here in Rome.

After I returned, Abetti came to see me twice, seeing the head of the National Research Council (Colonetti) and the Ministry between times.

The situation seems to be well in hand. The observer has been sent to Carloforte, and his pay, from last March, provided for. The work here should proceed at once.

Carnera has reached retirement age and will be automatically retired six months after the signing of the peace treaty. It is felt that he should continue his present responsibilities until that time.

The National Research Council will send its regular contribution immediately; and either has sent or will send its contributions to the International Union of Geodesy and Astronomy. It is felt that these organizations should continue to give support to the Central Office of International Latitude Service. With the continuation of this support, the Central Office can continue to function.

Abetti will go to Copenhagen. I am trying to arrange for the Italian Government to advance the foreign exchange necessary to get there. Then on arrival he can receive the money allotted for his expenses in dollars or pounds, pay his way back, and reimburse the Government. If the expense money is sent here it will be converted into lire and it is extremely difficult or impossible to convert the lire into francs.

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gilder, etc.

Cassinis may go to Copenhagen also, but more probably will wait till July and go to the meeting of Geodists in July in Great Britain. Abetti assures me that Cassinis is OK politically.

Travel from Rome to Paris is now possible by the Simplon-Orient express three times a week. From there it is not too difficult to reach Copenhagen, I understand.

Since this letter answers much of what Spencer Jones wrote as well as the points you raised, I am sending a copy to him.

It now looks as if I should probably be attached to the American Embassy in Rome as Science and Education Officer when the Education Subcommittee closes down, as it will do very shortly. In that case I can continue all the major activities and interests in which I am now engaged.

Best wishes to you always,

CARLETON W. WASHBURN
Lt. Col., A. U. S.
Director of Education.

Cy to:
Sir Harold Spencer-Jones.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY

WASHINGTON

January 4, 1946

Lieut. Col. Carleton W. Washburne,
Director of Education,
Headquarters Allied Commission,
Education Subcommittee,
A P O 394,
c/o Postmaster, New York, N. Y.

Dear Carleton:

Your various letters - addressed to England and to Washington - have come to hand. I have Carnera's report to Spencer Jones and his letter of exculpation to you. It was sheer luck for us that you happened to hold the position that you do and we are properly grateful for the interest you have taken in our problems, for the work that you have done for us and - not least - for the good judgment that you have displayed. Our General Secretary, Brigadier Winterbotham, has sent me a copy of his letter to you, thanking you on behalf of the Union of Geodesy and Geophysics. I assume that Spencer Jones has copies and I am having copies made for Gen. Perrier, Secretary of the Association of Geodesy and for Prof. Baeschlin of Zurich.

Truly I am sorry for Carnera. It is partly his own fault, of course, but circumstances were against him. A few lines now and then would have saved any amount of misunderstanding and bad feeling. He always was an exasperatingly poor correspondent and his age and his personal difficulties, aggravated by the war, seem to have increased this psychological quirk.

Do you suppose linguistic difficulties were partly responsible? He has apparently gone to some trouble to write to Spencer Jones and to me - the very few times when he did write - in English, when any of the usual modern languages, not excluding Italian, would have done just as well. Do you suppose again that he simply failed to understand Spencer Jones's letters about the money sent him? Spencer Jones sent £200 from the Royal Society of London; this was a free-will extra grant to help along the good work, not part of the sums due in normal times from the Astronomical Union and the Association of Geodesy. There were available in England further sums from the Association of Geodesy; these would have been paid out by Brigadier Winterbotham to Carnera at my request whenever Spencer Jones gave the word. Spencer Jones held back to get some kind of report. Did Carnera understand all this? If he did, and if he needed money, as he says, why did he not ask for it?

Page 2

Lieut. Col. Carleton W. Washburne
January 4, 1946.

On the money question I hope that not only Carnera but the members of the Italian National Research Council fully understand the situation regarding this international latitude work. This commitment to maintain one of the special observatories, like that at Carloforte, is one thing; the work of the Central Office is another. There are no international subsidies for the maintenance of a special observatory; that is purely a national obligation. The subsidies of the work of the Central Office were meant to assist rather than to support completely the work of the Central Office of the Latitude Service. Even when the Central Office was in Japan, where salary scales are very low, it is doubtful whether the international subsidies paid for all the computation. The expenses of publication were a different matter, usually met by special grants as need arose.

At any rate the country having the Central Office within its borders was expected to contribute something in the way of salaries for routine work, in addition to the brain work of the Director. Now that the American Nautical Office has assumed the computation of star places, the routine work might perhaps occupy the full time of two computers. This is just an estimate by the people at our Naval Observatory; it agrees roughly with a similar estimate that I made some time ago.

Now perhaps the prevailing subsidies - if there can be said to be any prevailing ones - will pay two computers on the Italian salary scale and perhaps not. I am emphasizing this point because of the general uncertainty. The Astronomical Union and the Association of Geodesy are reorganizing after the war. There has been some demand for reduced dues from adhering countries and that will mean reduced income all around.

Both our Naval Observatory and Greenwich Observatory have offered to take on the work of the Central Office of the Latitude Service. They understand what this implies and would expect to handle the matter with their regular force, which would have either to work harder or to do less of something else. I am not advocating this course but merely explaining conditions. There has been some objection to having these international projects too closely tied up with national institutions. But you can't have it both ways at once. There are three possibilities.

- 
1. Abandon the international project
 2. Support it adequately from international funds
 3. Tie it up with some strong national organization that can carry the burden.

There may be a way out through UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization). UNESCO may have money to spend for international scientific work and some ideas on how it should be spent. I am on a committee of the International Council of Scientific Unions, which aims to speak for all

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Page 3
Lieut. Col. Carleton W. Washburne
January 4, 1946

international scientific unions, to negotiate with a similar committee of UNESCO. But what will come of it all I haven't the foggiest notion, for UNESCO appears to be very much in the formative stage. Scientists that I have talked with are a bit afraid of UNESCO, but think they may have to deal with it in the end and might perhaps derive some advantage from it, if things were managed well on both sides.

My point is briefly this. Perhaps the Italians can't or won't want to support the Central Office, if conditions should get worse. Then it would have to go somewhere else, regardless of their feelings.

I quite agree with Carnera that the Central Office should not simply be transferred to a computing bureau in Rome. There is more to the work than routine computation. It needs the brains of a man like Carnera to indicate the lines that the computations should follow and this kind of work can't be done by remote control. This is especially true when work is being done with a view to definitive publication.

The misunderstanding with regard to the instrument at Carloforte is extraordinary but I am glad that work will be resumed, for Carloforte is a vital link, and also glad that there was no removal of the instrument to Turin, which would have had a very questionable look. We may have a similar problem of aversion to a backwoods post in connection with our station at Ukiah, Calif., but our observer there seems contented enough with his lot. Unfortunately, he is near the age of retirement.

Now I have two requests to you to use your influence to secure the presence of Italian representatives at coming international scientific meetings. We were expecting a Prof. Signore, vulcanologist, at Oxford, but he didn't appear. It was said that the difficulty was mainly with the Italian government.

The astronomers want Abetti at Copenhagen. He is a Vice President of the Astronomical Union and a key man generally. Spencer Jones quoted Abetti as being very doubtful whether he could get away. Can you help him? Perhaps the presence of a second Italian representative at Copenhagen, specially charged with the subject of the international latitude work, might be useful. Spencer Jones thought it might be about as easy to secure the presence of two representatives as of one.

Then the Union of Geodesy and Geophysics will hold a special general assembly this year for business purposes only. It will be somewhere in Great Britain, probably Cambridge, at the end of 1947

Page 4
Lieut. Col. Carleton W. Washburne
January 4, 1946

July, 1946. The main purpose will be to ratify some of the decisions reached last month at Oxford and to act on other business matters. Ordinarily only one delegate from a country will be needed but there might be two if there were a minority point of view to be presented. Can you help to ensure the presence of one or more Italian representatives?

The Union of Geodesy and Geophysics is not all geodesy and the representatives could perfectly well be from Associations other than that of geodesy but the geodesists would be glad to see Cassinis, Gino Cassinis of Milan, at latest available reports. You will note that Winterbotham in his characteristic letter to you mentioned Cassinis also. At Oxford I heard that Cassinis had appeared in fascist uniform and so might now be in the doghouse. You can't tell in advance what a man will do for the sake of his living, his family or his very hide, but I am sure that Cassinis is no fascist at heart. If he had been, he would not have expressed himself to me as he did.

This is a long and troublesome letter and I show my appreciation of what you have done by asking still more. Show it, if you like, to Italian key men, either in extract or in its entirety. I shall write to Carnera and try to mollify him, for I am truly sorry for him, especially as I realize his difficulties as I did not and could not previously and I respect his scientific attainments. I shall send you a copy of what I write.

Personal and family matters on another sheet.

Best wishes,

Cordially yours,

Walter D. Lambert
Walter D. Lambert
President, International
Association of Geodesy.

*Copy for Sir C. Washburne
Director of Education*

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY

WASHINGTON

January 11, 1946

Prof. Luigi Carnera,
Director, Central Office of the International
Latitude Service,
Observatory of Capodimonte,
Naples, Italy.

My dear Professor Carnera:

Since my return to this country I have received from Sir Harold Spencer Jones a copy of your report to him, dated Dec. 7, 1945, and a letter from Colonel Washburne, enclosing an undated translation of your letter to him; the date of your letter seems to have been about Dec. 12 or 13.

I regret exceedingly that you should construe any action that might be recommended by the Joint International Committee on the Variation of Latitude as a reflection on your scientific competence. That was well known when the Central Office of the Latitude Service was put in your charge.

Nor does anyone blame you for the difficulties at Carloforte, difficulties due to the war and to the disorganization that followed it. You are not responsible for the remoteness of Carloforte from the main currents of life and scientific activity, nor for the frequent changes of ministry, which have made decisive governmental action difficult or impossible.

As for the failure of communications with you to which is due any suggestion of a change, it is clear that we who are outside Italy have not made sufficient allowance for your personal and general difficulties arising out of the war. Of course, we all realized in a general way that the war had made postal service and communications of all sorts slow and uncertain and had also made both supplies of many sort and personal services difficult to obtain, but I am sure we had not fully realized how acute the situation was nor made sufficient allowance for it.

On the general subject of communication with the Central Office, you will permit me, I hope, two suggestions. The first is that a long letter is not always necessary. A few brief lines will sometimes avoid a great deal of misunderstanding. The second is that it is not necessary to write in English. I can get the sense of whatever you may write in whatever modern language that you are likely to use. If I fail, there are translators available. It is not necessary even that the letters be typewritten. If no typist is available, a handwritten letter or

Page 2
Prof. Luigi Carnera
January 11, 1946

note will serve. I make these statements for myself alone but I think they are equally true of others to whom you are likely to write concerning the work of the Latitude Service.

In a letter from Colonel Washburne dated Dec. 7 I note a proposal to transfer some of the work of the Central Office to Istituto di Calcolo of the Italian National Research Council. The advantages of such a step seem to me very questionable. The work of the Central Office involves much routine computing, to be sure, but also much that is not routine. For the non-routine work the constant advice and assistance of the Director, or of someone of equal competence, would be needed.

No decision as to the location of the Central Office will be made till after the General Assembly of the Astronomical Union at Copenhagen at the end of February. The wishes of Spencer Jones in the matter will doubtless be very influential.

It is to be hoped that Italy will be represented at Copenhagen. We missed Prof. Signore at Oxford, where someone was needed to present the Italian viewpoint. I understand that it is difficult to send Italian representatives abroad. Perhaps Colonel Washburne would be willing to put in a word with the proper Ministry. I assume that Prof. Abetti, being a Vice President of the Union and ex-officio a member of its executive committee, would be the obvious delegate, but could not a second delegate be sent, especially authorized to discuss the International Latitude Service?

The final decision as to the Latitude Service may depend chiefly on finances. In the past the combined subsidies of the Astronomical Union and the Association of Geodesy were insufficient to support the work of the Central Office. This fact was clearly understood and the country where the Central Office was located for the time being was expected to make up the deficit. It may be that this post-war period will be a time of financial stringency and that the international subsidies may be even less than before, so that the entire burden of the Central Office will fall on the country where the Central Office is located. The U. S. Naval Observatory and Greenwich Observatory are prepared to assume a burden of this sort. They will either ask their respective governments for more funds, or their staffs will work harder, or the staffs will give up some other work in order to do the latitude work.

There is, of course, some objection to tying up international scientific projects too closely with national institutions but sometimes there is little or no choice.

Page 3
Prof. Luigi Garnera
January 11, 1946

Now I would like to leave these troublesome matters of business and administration and take up some scientific and technical details.

You know my interest in getting coordinates of the pole, clear back to 1900.0, all referred to the same mean pole. Unless we geodesists can have some assurance that at least an attempt has been made to refer everything to the same mean pole, we might as well not apply any corrections at all to our astronomical determinations. The principal direct interest of geodesists in the work of the Latitude Service is to get precisely these positions of the pole, all properly referred. Of course that by no means exhausts our interest in the Latitude Service, for we expect from it considerable contributions, in one way and another, to our knowledge of geophysics.

A few days ago I received a number of issues of the Bulletin horaire, issued by the Bureau International de l'Heure. These are the first I had seen since 1940. It was a pleasure to note the gradual resumption of the exchange of scientific publications. In one number of the Bulletin horaire the coordinates of the pole, stated to be furnished by the Central Office, were used as a basis for correcting the time signals. Are these the definitive coordinates of the pole, referred to a definitely stated mean pole, or are they merely provisional?

At Oxford I heard a story to the effect that a few copies of Kimura's definitive reductions for the period 1931-1935 or 1931-1936 were known to be at the Bureau de l'Heure. Do you know anything about it and have you seen any definitive reductions published by Kimura?

The Director of the Coast and Geodetic Survey has written to the American military authorities in Japan to get the Mizusawa records of observation - and of course copies of any publications by Kimura and others. The request has been acknowledged and it was stated that a certain naval officer, who some years ago had been connected with the Coast and Geodetic Survey, had been assigned to the duty. I don't think his former connection with the Survey will help him much in this instance. What is chiefly needed is an interpreter for a trip up country and some common sense. Mizusawa is in a class with Carloforte and Ukiab, rather remote from the centers of population. Maybe that is a good thing. The observers won't be tempted to absent themselves from their duties in order to go to the opera or to a night club.

Page 4
Prof. Luigi Carnera
January 11, 1946

The missing volumes of record for Ukiah (Feb. and Sept., 1941) have been photographed from the originals and the photographic copies will be sent with the duplicate records to Greenwich about the end of the month.

Believe me, my dear Professor Carnera, that any suggested changes in the location of the Central Office are not intended as a reflection on your scientific ability or on your devotion to your work throughout a very trying period, a devotion that we respect and admire.

With best wishes,

Very sincerely yours,

Walter D. Lambert,
Acting President, International
Association of Geodesy

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
Education Subcommittee
APO 394

ED/CWH/ams

ED/7AB/5.1/AC

30 January, 1946

SUBJECT : Carloforte and International
Latitude Service.TO : Prof. Carnera,
R.Osservatorio Astronomico di
Capodimonte,
Napoli.

Dear Prof. Carnera:

Thank you for your letter of 17 January. Since receiving it I have also had letters from Dr. Lambert and Sir Harold Spencer-Jones, and two conversations with Prof. Abetti.

I am sorry that you did not get to my office while you were in Rome. My Executive Officer, Capt. Vella, was fully informed in regard to your situation and when he got your telegram he made an appointment for you to meet the Minister and Prof. Colanetti on Monday morning. You did not call Capt. Vella, and when, later, he tried to call you again you had left Rome and the meeting had to be cancelled.

However, I am told that Castellano has been appointed to make the observations at Carloforte, and I assume that all is in order.

Prof. Abetti, to whom I showed your letter to me, feels that a joint responsibility of all astronomers for Carloforte would lead only to confusion. He believes, and I agree with him, that you alone should continue to direct this work. No commission seems necessary. He tells me that if you are not getting the help and support you need, Dr. Morelli, General Secretary of the Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche can give you prompt help. He says also that Prof. Armellini, as president of the Comitato Astronomia, Fisica e Matematica of the Consiglio now understands the importance of your work and is willing to give you all possible help.

Dr. Lambert and Sir Harold Spencer-Jones understand your situation much better, have sympathy with you, and have, as always, great respect for your scholarly ability. I think there is a possibility that the Central Office may remain in your hands if hereafter you will answer letters promptly. Dr. Lambert points out that you need not write long letters - if you will simply answer in a few words queries sent to you it is much better than to wait until you have time to write fully.

- 2 -

I think everyone concerned both in Italy and in the United States and Great Britain, now has a much clearer idea than before of the whole situation.

If there is anything further I can do to be of help, please do not hesitate to call upon me.

With high regard and best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

CARLETON W. WASHBURN
Lt.Col., A.U.S.
Director of Education.

R. OSSERVATORIO ASTRONOMICO

DI CAPODIMONTE

NAPOLI

Chiarissimo Signor Colonnello.

Il mio viaggio a Roma non è stato fortunato, essendo venuti a mancare tutti gli incontri ai quali ci tenevo, e che avrebbero potuto portare alla rapida soluzione delle questioni pendenti. La inattesa sospensione delle sedute alla R. Accademia dei Lincei ha fatto sì che non venissero a Roma i colleghi prof. Silva ed Abetti, e la Vostra partenza per la Svizzera, di cui ebbi notizia solo al mio ritorno a Napoli nel pomeriggio di domenica, mi impedì vedervi. Ebbi d'altra parte risposta al mio telegramma, fatto il mattino del giovedì, solo alla sera tardi del Venerdì e poiché mi si diceva di telefonare al V. Ufficio, mentre era ormai troppo tardi per quel giorno, mi fu impossibile avere comunicazione alle 9 del mattino seguente, e più tardi ero impegnato all'Accademia dei Lincei, e tutto il pomeriggio ebbi a trovarmi con i colleghi prof. Armellini e prof. Cassinis per cercare con essi la soluzione migliore per Carloforte. Ad ogni modo già nella mattinata di giovedì mi recai al Ministero, ove ebbi un lungo colloquio col Comm. Padula, che funge da Direttore Generale e tratta la questione della Stazione di Carloforte. Seppi di una lettera, che in seguito alle Vostre pressioni il Ministro mi aveva spedito la sera precedente. A quella lettera ho risposto

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sto oggi, e Vi unisco copia di quanto ho scritto. Apertamente e chiara-
mente devo dire e ripetere, che se la Stazione di Carloforte non ha ripre-
so il normale funzionamento da almeno 13 mesi, lo si deve esclusivamente
all'inerzia del Governo centrale, e dei suoi vari Ministeri, avendo cercato
e fatto quanto era in mio potere, ed alle volte persino movendo appunti,
che a rigor dei termini andavano al di là della mia autorità! Ed oggi,
mentre scrivo, dopo quasi due anni il Ministero non ha portato ancora a ter-
mine la prima cosa indispensabile: quella di nominare una persona, che si

rechi in Sardegna e riprenda le osservazioni. Parlare di provvedimenti in corso è una bellissima frase, ma con le frasi non si è mai pagato il lavoro delle persone, e non è supponibile, ed arrivereti a dire, che non è neppure onesto, pretendere che uno si rechi in Sardegna, lavori per quasi due anni ed attenda di esser pagato ~~quando~~ fino a quando la pratica ministeriale avrà finito il suo corso. Ma come io sostengo, e da tutti si riconosce, non vi è soltanto la difficoltà della ripresa, vi è quella di assicurare una buona volta la continuità del servizio, che negli ultimi anni è andata sempre peggiorando, dandomi non poco lavoro e dispiaceri. Sostengo, e da tempo, la necessità di un provvedimento radicale, in mancanza del quale non potendosi avere la sicurezza di un buon funzionamento, converrebbe confessare la nostra impotenza, e lasciare il compito agli altri. Su questo punto si è discusso a lungo con i Colleghi Prof. Armellini e Cassinis, e se ci siamo trovati concordi tutti nel riconoscere la necessità di provvedimenti, non vi è stato accordo nel formulare i provvedimenti, che se essi, d'accordo in ciò con vedute del Ministero, sarebbero di avviso di aggregare la Stazione di Carloforte all'Osservatorio di Napoli, io per mio conto devo dire che col personale ch'io ho disponibile (tre persone delle quali una di oltre 72 anni, ^{ed} una sempre ammalata), e con l'impossibilità di giusti avvicendamenti, e soprattutto col non poter dare alcuna garanzia di carriera, non posso assolutamente assumere un impegno di fronte a tutto il mondo, certo come sono di non poterlo assolvere. O mi si danno possibilità e garanzie, che oggi non ho, ovvero bisogna che l'impegno e la responsabilità ricada su tutti i direttori degli osservatori italiani: ed è precisamente questo che i colleghi vorrebbero sfuggire. Ad ogni modo come potrà vedere

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R. OSSERVATORIO ASTRONOMICO
DI CAPODIMONTE
NAPOLI

12/11/12
piere, abbia a suggerire i provvedimenti atti ad assicurare la vita avvenire della Stazione. Mi pare questa la proposta più semplice e più giusta, e mi auguro, che col Vostro autorevole appoggio il Ministro voglia attuarla al più presto possibile. Verso la metà del prossimo mese di febbraio si faranno a Roma le sedute della R. Accademia dei Lincei, sospese nella passata settimana, e saranno a Roma per quell'occasione il Prof. Silva e Cassinis, basterebbe invitare per quell'occasione ancora il Prof. Volta, che dirige l'Osservatorio di Milano, e che fu assistente prima e poi direttore della Stazione di Carloforte per circa sette anni, per avere un numero sufficiente di esperti e concludere. Vi sarò ad ogni modo molto grato se vorrete tener informato di quanto ho cercato di fare improposito tanto Sir H. Spencer Jones, quanto il Prof. Dr. W. Lambert. Al primo poi vorrei ancorregarVi voler trasmettere pure la lettera, che Vi unisco. Appena sabato per mezzo del prof. Armellini potrei sapere preciso quanto il Prof. Sir H. Spencer Jones aveva scritto nel novembre scorso ad Abetti, e darvi esatto conto degli appunti, che mi si muovono: credo potermi giustificare a sufficienza, dimostrando quanto buona parte di essi sieno infondati, non essendosi tenuto conto delle circostanze in cui si è svolta tutta la mia vita in questi ultimi anni. E molte altre cose avrei potuto ancor aggiungere alla lettera, che Vi unisco, ma avrei dovuto entrare in cose che dolose per me desidero, non diventino argomento di commenti pubblici.

Vi chiedo scusa se ancora abuso della Vostra cortesia, e mentre Vi prego volermi considerare sempre a Vostra disposizione, mi permetto in-

Cassinis, basterebbe invitare per quell'occasione ancora il Prof. Volta, che dirige l'Osservatorio di Milano, e che fu assistente prima e poi direttore della Stazione di Carloforte per circa sette anni, per avere un numero sufficiente di esperti e concludere. Vi sarò ad ogni modo molto grato se vorrete tener informato di quanto ho cercato di fare improprio tanto Sir H. Spencer Jones, quanto il Prof. Dr. W. Lambert. Al primo poi vorrei ancor pregarvi voler trasmettere pure la lettera che Vi unisco. Appena sabato per mezzo del prof. Armellini potrei sapere preciso quanto il Prof. Sir H. Spencer Jones aveva scritto nel novembre scorso ad Abetti, e darvi esatto conto degli appunti, che mi si muovevano: credo potermi giustificare a sufficienza, dimostrando quanto buona parte di essi sieno infondati, non essendosi tenuto conto delle circostanze in cui si è svolta tutta la mia vita in questi ultimi anni. E molte altre cose avrei potuto ancor aggiungere alla lettera, che Vi unisco, ma avrei dovuto entrare in cose che dolorose per me desidero, non diventino argomento di commenti pubblici.

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Vostro devotissimo.

Enrico Fermi

Capodimonte 17 Gennaio 1946.

5298

R. OSSERVATORIO ASTRONOMICO
DI CAPODIMONTE
NAPOLI

Espresso pubblicamente 1946.

AL MINISTERO DELLA PUBBLICA ISTRUZIONE

Direzione generale dell'Istruzione superiore

Espresso al foglio num. II/II del 8/II/46

Oggetto: R. Stazione astronomica di Carloforte.

Al mio ritorno da Roma ho trovato la lettera a cui mi pregio rispondere, ed immediatamente ho comunicato il contenuto all'interessato dott. Mario Castellano, onde avere elementi per rispondere in modo preciso.

La ripresa dell'attività della R. Stazione di Carloforte avrebbe potuto essere da per lo meno 18 mesi un fatto compiuto, se da gli annunciati provvedimenti sempre in corso, non fossero rimasti sempre allo stato di promessa ed ipotesi, senza giungere mai a conclusione concreta, e basterebbe sfogliare la lunga pratica e le molte lettere da me inviate con proposte concrete per persuadersi della cosa. Io ormai convinto che questo ministero intendesse chiudere definitivamente la stazione, e per tanto avevo cessato di importunare ulteriormente con i miei solleciti,

ed attendevo solamente la definitiva notizia della chiusura per comunicarla alla Commissione internazionale per il servizio delle latitudini. Ora pur non essendosi fatto ancora il passo decisivo, che è. il ministro Prof. Orso si aveva assicurato^e l'immolezione fin dal maggio 1946, ^e relativa alla nomina dell'assistente dott. Mario Castellano, pare si intenda prov-

Il mio ritorno da Roma ho trovato la lettera a cui mi pregio rispondere, ed immediatamente ho comunicato il contenuto all'interessato dott. Mario Castellano, onde avere elementi per rispondere in modo preciso. L'attività della S. Stazione di Carloforte avrebbe potuto essere da per lo meno 10 mesi un fatto compiuto, se ~~in~~ gli annunciati provvedimenti sempre in corso, non fossero rimasti sempre allo stato di promessa ed impegno, senza giungere mai a conclusione concreta, e desideravo sfogliare la lunga pratica e le molte lettere da me inviate con proposte concrete per perseguersi della cosa. Io ora mi convinco che questo Ministero intendesse chiudere definitivamente la stazione, e pertanto avevo pensato di importunare ulteriormente con i miei solleciti, ed attendevo solamente la definitiva notizia della chiusura per comunicarla alla Commissione Internazionale per il servizio delle latitudini. Ora mi rendo conto che il passo decisivo, che è, il ministro Prof. Orso si è assicurato ^{le} immediatamente fin dal maggio 1942, e la nomina dell'assistente dott. Mario Castellano, pare si intenda provvedere, ed io sarò ben lieto se si sarà dato di poter portare ancora una volta un contributo, io che credo essere in unione al Prof. Albrecht e persone che da più anni, e senza interruzione si occupano di tali studi e ricerche. ⁵²⁹⁷ Ho aggiunto perché da ben 43 anni mi occupo di tali cose, e conosco le opinioni di Carloforte con le sue necessità e tutte le sue difficoltà da cui lungamente credo necessario dire apertamente e chiaramente, che ove questo Ministero non intenda provvedere al più presto ad

sistemazione definitiva, atta a garantire il servizio con la continuità e serietà indispensabili, è preferibile per il nostro buon nome rinunciare all'incarico, dichiarando apertamente, che l'Italia non è in grado di assicurare più il servizio. Non è concepibile che si abbiano a verificare più periodi in cui l'astronomo/incaricato della direzione della Stazione, si rifiuti di ritornare al suo posto di lavoro - solo perchè era scoppiata allora allora la guerra -, e che in premio sia accontentato restituendolo alla sua sede preferita di Firenze. Non è ammissibile che un assistente incaricato possa starsene per ben nove mesi senza neppur metter piede all'Osservatorio, e che il Ministero avvisato ed invitato a licenziare la persona, che intanto si era fatta dare un incarico di insegnamento dal Provveditorato degli studi di Cagliari, attenda mesi e mesi senza muoversi. Non è tollerabile che mentre alcuni assistenti di Osservatori designati dalla Presidenza della R. Commissione Geodetica ad andare a Carloforte sono riuniti con pretesti più o meno buoni a scusare quel servizio, altri abbiano obbedito, e dopo aver compiuto il loro dovere con sacrificio e per la sede disagiata, e per il lavoro intenso, abbiano da vedersi posposti nei concorsi di promozione agli altri rimasti pacificamente nelle sedi comode, dotate di mezzi ampi di lavoro e di studio. Di questi e di molti altri inconvenienti che hanno generato un senso di ribellione in quanti in passato venivano designati ad andare a prestare servizio, più volte ho parlato e scritto a Codesta Direzione Generale per richiamare l'attenzione e proporre rimedi, ma sempre invano, e non è difficile profetia prevedere, ch'ève non venga preso un provvedimento radicale, la stazione continuerà a non funzionare

la sua sede preferita di Firenze. Non è ammissibile che un assistente incaricato possa starsene per ben nove mesi senza neppur metter piede all'Osservatorio, e che il Ministero avvisato ed invitato a licenziare la persona, che intento si era fatta dare un incarico di insegnamento dal Provveditorato degli studi di Cagliari, attenda mesi e mesi senza muoversi. Non è tollerabile che mentre alcuni assistenti di Osservatori designati dalla Presidenza della R. Commissione Geodetica ad andare a Carloforte sono riusciti con pretesti più o meno buoni a scusare quel servizio, altri abbiano obbedito, e dopo aver compiuto il loro dovere con sacrificio e per la sede disagiata, e per il lavoro intenso, abbiano da vedersi posposti nei concorsi di promozione agli altri rimasti pacificamente nelle sedi comode, dotate di mezzi ampi di lavoro e di studio. Di questi e di molti altri inconvenienti che hanno generato un senso di ribellione in quanti in passato venivano designati ad andare a prestare servizio, più volte ho parlato e scritto a Codesta Direzione Generale per richiamare l'attenzione e proporre rimedi, ma sempre invano, e non è difficile profetia prevedere, che non venga preso un provvedimento radicale, la stazione continuerà a non funzionare scientificamente, ed essere argomento di continue lamentazioni sia da parte del personale degli osservatori, che da quella dei direttori minacciati sempre dall'incubo di dover cedere uno dei loro assistenti e di dover interrompere ricerche avviate. Le mie ultime proposte sono state semplicemente sepolte, perchè un direttore si è dichiarato contrario: non insisto su esse, ma ripeto non posso immaginare che il servizio venga ri-

R. OSSERVATORIO ASTRONOMICO
DI CAPODIMONTE
NAPOLI

preso per trovarci fra qualche mese nelle condizioni del passato, e ^{vedendo che si dubita} ~~dever~~ rigettare come prive di significato e valore delle pretese osservazioni, che si ^{dicono} ~~pretende~~ fatte per mesi e mesi di seguito, ma che probabilmente sono frutto di pura e semplice fantasia e spirito inventivo. Durante il periodo dei sei anni dal 1936 alla fine del 1941, mentre le altre stazioni internazionali hanno funzionato tutte in modo perfetto, la sola di Carloforte presenta lacune per quasi due anni. Se Codesta Direzione Generale non ritiene di poter fidare nelle parole e proposte mie, nomini una commissione ad hoc, composta di astronomi, che abbiano piena e completa conoscenza della stazione e del suo lavoro per esserci stati, ed affidi ad essa il mandato di formulare proposte definitive, e tali da rendere il personale, che sarà destinato a quel servizio, sicuro e tranquillo per il proprio avvenire.

Premesso questo, nella convinzione, che sarà senz'altro attuato nel più breve termine di tempo possibile- ^{giacché} condizione ~~assoluta~~ ^{assoluta} perché io ~~possa~~ assumere la responsabilità della rimessa in funzione della Stazione di fronte alla Commissione internazionale- posso dirvi, che il Dr. M. Castellano è pronto a recarsi a Carloforte, appena avrà incassato almeno lo stipendio arretrato fino al Marzo dello scorso anno 1945, e saprà esser in corso il decreto per il periodo successivo ^{la} fine al giorno, in cui essendosi espletati i concorsi, sarà possibile provvedere alla sistemazione sua definitiva. ^{la} come ho già accennato verbalmente in occasione della mia visita al Ministero la andata del Castellano non può essere ritenuta sufficiente, e come era

stato riconosciuto pure già da Codesta Direzione Generale, ed approvato

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

forte presenta lacune per quasi due anni! Se Codesta Direzione Generale non ritiene di poter fidare nelle parole e proposte mie, nomini una commissione ad hoc, composta di astronomi, che abbiamo piena e completa conoscenza della stazione e del suo lavoro per esserci stati, ed affidi ad essa il mandato di formulare proposte definitive, e tali da rendere il personale, che sarà destinato a quel servizio, sicuro e tranquillo per il proprio avvenire.

Premesso questo, nella convinzione, che sarà senz'altro attuato nel più breve termine di tempo possibile- ^{generale}condizione assoluta perchè io assuma la responsabilità della rimessa in funzione della Stazione di fronte alla Commissione internazionale- posso dirvi, che il Dr. M. Castellano è pronto a recarsi a Carloforte, appena avrà incassato almeno lo stipendio arretrato fino al marzo dello scorso anno 1943, e saprà esser in corso il decreto per il periodo successivo fino al giorno, in cui essendosi espletati i concorsi, sarà possibile provvedere alla sistemazione sua definitiva. Ma come ho già accennato verbalmente in occasione della mia visita al Ministero la andata del Castellano non può essere ritenuta sufficiente, e come era stato riconosciuto pure già da Codesta Direzione generale, ed approvato nell'estate del 1944, è indispensabile che a Carloforte si rechi pure un astronomo pratico e provetto dei servizi, che rimetta la stazione e tutti gli strumenti in piena efficienza, e che vi rimanga fino a quando non sarà possibile di inviare colà il secondo osservatore. Con questo astronomo dovrà pur recarsi a Carloforte, per un periodo molto più breve, anche un tecnico. Ora per trovandosi anche questa specie in un periodo molto delicato, in quanto

sta proprio ora rimettendo anche questo istituto dopo il periodo della occupazione della specola da parte delle truppe alleate, pur tuttavia onde accerire al desiderio generale di veder riprese le osservazioni a Carloforte sono pronto a consentire, chel'aiuto Dott. Tito Nicolini venga comandato per alcuni mesi a prestare servizio a Carloforte, e che si rechi pure colà anche il tecnico di questo istituto Signor Vincenzo Casella. Ma mentre l'accio ben volentieri questo non lieve sacrificio, vorrei pregare Codesta Direzione generale di tener presenti le condizioni sempre più gravi di questo povero istituto, che sta facendo da troppo tempo la figura dei nobili decaduti finanziariamente. Tutti parlano dell'Osservatorio come di cosa grandiosa e di onore per Napoli, e questo per un passato che fu veramente notevole, ma ora siamo effettivamente in condizioni disastrose. Il personale ci è stato tolto ^{in parte} a vantaggio delle specole sorelle, e quello rimasto è vecchio e pensionabile da anni, ovvero in precarie condizioni di salute, ed il materiale scientifico risale ad epoche, che si potrebbero chiamare preistoriche, in quanto risale ancora all'epoca borbonica. Non è questo il momento per toccare questo argomento, che dovrà pur essere affrontato, ma non potrei in simile congiuntura acconsentire alla partenza dell'unico astronomo attivo, senza richiamare nel modo più energico l'attenzione di Codesto Ministero sulla situazione in cui ci si verrà a trovare, e senza chiedere, che almeno mi sia concesso di assumere un aiuto incaricato ed eventuale. Dove non vi sieno difficoltà insormontabili, e si approvi questa mia richiesta, farò proposte precise indicando la persona, che al caso assumeresi.

Hi auguro che questa mia trovi ~~la~~ la superiore approvazione e possa pertanto avere la più sollecita attuazione. Per mio conto sono pronto

sstituto, che sta facendo da troppo tempo la figura dei nobili decaduti finanziariamente. Tutti parlano dell'Osservatorio come di cosa grandiosa e di onore per Napoli, e questo per un passato che fu veramente notevole, ma ora siamo effettivamente in condizioni disastrose. Il personale ci è stato tolto ^{in parte} il vantaggio delle specole sorelle, e quello ^{ancora} rimasto è vecchio e pensionabile da anni, ovvero in precarie condizioni di salute, ^{mentre} il materiale scientifico risale ad epoche, che si potrebbero chiamare preistoriche, in quanto risale ancora all'epoca borbonica. Non è questo il momento per toccare questo argomento, che dovrà pur essere affrontato, ma non potrei in simile congiuntura acconsentire alla partenza dell'unico astronomo ^{attivo}, senza richiamare nel modo più energico l'attenzione di Codesto Ministero sulla situazione in cui ci si verrà a trovare, e senza chiedere, che almeno mi sia concesso di assumere un aiuto incaricato od avventizio. Ove non vi siano difficoltà insormontabili, e si approvi questa mia richiesta, farò proposte precise indicando la persona, che al caso assumerei.

Mi auguro che questa mia trovi ~~l'approvazione~~ la superiore approvazione e possa pertanto avere la più sollecita attuazione: Per mio conto sono pronto a dare il mio contributo fattivo, ma ancora una volta ripeto ed insisto ad avvertire, che tutto sarà vano, e condurrà ad un vero fallimento, recando il discredito sul paese e sulla nostra scienza, se non si prenderanno immediatamente ~~il~~ provvedimenti radicali, che risanino per sempre la situazione.

IL DIRETTORE.

Luigi Farina

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HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
Education Subcommittee
APO 394

ED/CWW/cc

ED/7AB/5.1/AC

29 January, 1946

SUBJECT: Carloforte and International
Latitude Service.

TO : Sir Harold Spencer Jones,
Royal Observatory,
Greenwich,
London, S.E. 10.

Dear Sir Harold:

Thank you for your letter of 30 December. The enclosed copy of a letter I have just written to Dr. Lambert covers most of the matters raised in your letter.

The letters you enclosed for the Minister, Research Council, and Lincei were dispatched immediately on receipt. Even though things seem to be settled it is just as well for the people here to see how much importance is attached to these matters by eminent scientists abroad.

I enclose copy of a letter I am sending in regard to Abetti's trip to Copenhagen. I have been assured over the telephone by Antoni that no difficulty is anticipated.

Because I am genuinely interested in these matters, don't hesitate to call upon me if I can be of further help.

With best wishes, I am

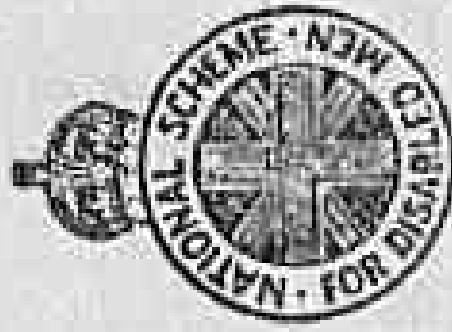
Sincerely yours

5:95

CARLTON W. WASHBURN
Lt. Col., A.U.S.
Director of Education

Communications
should be
addressed to the

ASTRONOMER ROYAL.



Royal Observatory, Greenwich,

London, S.E. 10.

December 30, 1945

Lieut-Col. Carleton W. Washburne,
Headquarters Allied Commission,
Education Subcommission,
APO 394.

Dear Col. Washburne,

I am very grateful to you for the trouble you have taken over the matter of the International Latitude Service, the difficulties we have had with Carnera and the question of the re-opening of the Carloforte Latitude Station. Your personal discussion of these matters with Carnera has thrown much new light on them; if Carnera had only written to explain matters, we should have understood his position better. Thank you for sending the translation of his letter to you and for the copy of your letter to him; I am glad that you emphasised that there was no question of his scientific competence involved.

Neither Dr. Lambert nor I have fully realised all the difficulties Carnera has been up against in endeavouring to carry on the work of the International Latitude Service during these last few years. I have asked Carnera not once, but several times, to give me information about the financial position and whether he was in need of funds. I have held in reserve the sending of a grant from the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics, until I knew that it was needed. Before I received through you Carnera's recent letter of the 7th December, the last letter I had had from him was dated the 18th February. In that letter he was optimistic about the re-opening of the Carloforte station. He wrote:

"Difficulties of bureaucratic character have till now hindered the re-opening of Carloforte's station and notwithstanding the best assurance of our Ministry Of Public Instruction, I fear we shall reach the beginning of summer before the retaking of the observations".

He suggested that I should send a letter to the Minister of Public Instruction, urging the importance of the Carloforte Observations, in order to help him in his efforts. This I did, sending the letter through the Foreign Office.

On the question of finance he wrote:

"After repeated requests, I had from the Ministry and from the Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche the checks unchanged

much new light on them; if Carnera had only written to explain matters, we should have understood his position better. Thank you for sending the translation of his letter to you and for the copy of your letter to him; I am glad that you emphasised that there was no question of his scientific competence involved.

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He suggested that I should send a letter to the Minister of Public Instruction, urging the importance of the Carloforte Observations, in order to help him in his efforts. This I did, sending the letter through the Foreign Office.

On the question of finance he wrote:

"After repeated requests, I had from the Ministry and from the Consiglio Nazionale della Ricerche the checks unchanged as in past time, which naturally doesn't take account of the inflation of our money and consequent great increase of expense"

At that time he had not received the grant of £200 which I had obtained from the Royal Society of London in aid of the work, which I had sent at the end of December. I have never received any acknowledgment of the receipt of this sum, though he mentions in his letter of the 7th December that he acknowledged receipt at the end of March: this letter evidently miscarried. He has since received a grant of \$245.00 from the funds of the International Astronomical Union held in the United States.

In order to relieve Carnera of the considerable amount of computational work involved in the preparation of the apparent places of stars on the observing programmes of the international latitude stations, Lambert and I made arrangements for this work to be done in the Nautical Almanac Office of the U.S. Naval Observatory by punched card machine methods. But before commencing the work, the U.S. Naval Observatory required certain information; both Lambert and I asked for this information, but it is only within the last few days, and since your intervention, that it has arrived.

Page 2

I am glad to know that you were attracted to Carners. I like him personally very much. It is only in the matter of correspondence, which is of considerable importance when undertaking work involving collaboration with others, that he has been wanting. Others have found the same difficulty. Abetti in a recent letter writes:-

"My relations with Carners are good, but I have also experienced his bad habit of not answering letters, which is very annoying and often delays necessary decisions."

Abetti also mentioned that Carners had reached the age of 70 years last April, when he was due to retire; but owing to the war, the Ministry kept him in his position, as had been done with others; he believed this would continue until peace was declared, when a new director would probably be appointed at Capodimonte.

At the end of a long letter to Carners, dated 5th September 1945, I wrote:

"As President of the Joint Commission on Latitude Variation, I have endeavoured to do whatever is possible to enable the work of the Central Bureau to be carried on during the present difficult times. The difficulties are much increased because you do not answer letters, supply information that is asked for, or acknowledge receipt of observation books. I regard the present conditions for carrying on the work of the Latitude Variation Commission as extremely unsatisfactory. Unless you can be more co-operative, it may be necessary to consider making alternative arrangements for the Central Bureau. I hope, however, that the need for this will not arise".

This should have made it clear to him why the removal of the Central Bureau to Turin has been considered.

I must confess to feeling a great respect for and admiration to you of the 9th December. I am sorry that he appears to have interpreted the proposal to remove the Central Bureau from Capodimonte as a reflection on his scientific work: there has never been any question about the quality of that.

As Carners is due to retire shortly, it seems that it would be best to leave matters as they are at the present time and not to move the Central Bureau to Turin until he retires. The work he has in hand consists of:-

(a) Current reductions of observations at the international latitude stations and derivation of provisional values of the polar motion. At present, with the Carloforte station not in operation and the observation books from Kitab, in Russian Turkistan, not yet available, there is not sufficient material for the derivation of provisional values of the polar motion.

(b) The definitive reductions of the observations for the years 1935-40, and their comparison with the observations for

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conditions for carrying on the work of the Latitude Variation Commission as extremely unsatisfactory. Unless you can be more co-operative, it may be necessary to consider making alternative arrangements for the Central Bureau. I hope, however, that the need for this will not arise.

This should have made it clear to him why the removal of the Central Bureau to Turin has been considered.

I must confess to feeling a great respect for and admiration of Carnere's independence of spirit, after reading his letter to you of the 9th December. I am sorry that he appears to have interpreted the proposal to remove the Central Bureau from Capodimonte as a reflection on his scientific work: there has never been any question about the quality of that.

As Carnere is due to retire shortly, it seems that it would be best to leave matters as they are at the present time and not to move the Central Bureau to Turin until he retires. The work he has in hand consists of:-

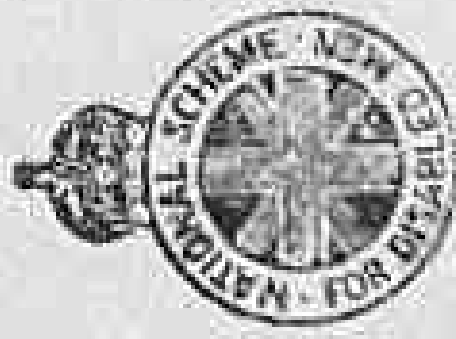
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(b) The definitive reductions of the observations for the years 1935-40, and their preparation for publication.

The removal of the Central Bureau to Turin at a later date would involve the transference of (a) but not of (b), which is work that it is desirable that Carnere should see through to completion, and which he could continue, if necessary, after his retirement. He may be under the impression that it was proposed to take both of these away from him. I am enclosing a letter for him, which I request you to forward and which will make matters plain, I hope.

I am sorry that there was a misunderstanding about the zenith telescope which is being used at Turin for the special programme of observation. The Minister of Public Instruction, Arangio-Ruiz, wrote me that "at the time of the closing down of the Astronomical Station of Carloforte (8th July 1943) the only instrument available there, a zenith telescope by Warrschaff, was brought to the Turin Observatory". The Turin Observatory report also mentions that when the Carloforte Observatory was closed, owing to the war, Dr. Missane, in charge of the observations, was transferred to Turin.

Communications
should be
addressed to the
ASTRONOMER ROYAL.



Royal Observatory, Greenwich,

London, S.E. 10.

page 5-

I am glad to know that the telescope is still in place at Carloforte and that there is a reasonable probability that observations will be resumed there. Carloforte, I understand, is a place rather out in the wilds and without any amenities, and observers do not like being stationed there.

I am enclosing letters for the Minister of Public Instruction, the Consiglio Nazionale della Ricerche and the Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei, stressing the importance of the resumption of observations at Carloforte. If everything is satisfactorily settled before you receive this, you can forward them or not as you please. It may be helpful for the importance which is attached to the Carloforte observations to be known.

There is one further matter in which, I should greatly appreciate your good offices. The Executive Committee of the International Astronomical Union is to meet in Copenhagen, March 7- March 12, 1946. Professor Giorgio Abetti is a member of the Executive Committee and, as President of the Union, I am very anxious that he should attend the meeting in Copenhagen. Abetti seems very doubtful whether he will be allowed to attend. I have written to the Italian Ambassador in London, asking him to use his influence to secure permission for Abetti, and mentioning that we very much desire to resume scientific collaboration with our Italian colleagues. But as you are on the spot and can follow things up, you are better placed than I am to see that the matter is not allowed to slide. With a little push from your end, all the apparent difficulties can probably be resolved.

With many thanks for all your help,

Yours gratefully,

J. G. van den Bergh

Astronomer Royal.

RGJ/WM.

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With many thanks for all your help,

Yours gratefully,

B. Gerasimovic

Astronomer Royal.

HBJ/MKH.

1793





Ministero
Ministero della Pubblica Istruzione
Ministero dell'Industria e Commercio
GABINETTO

Direttore delle Scuole
Commissione per l'Educazione
Commissione Alleata
S E D E

Reg. N°

445

Registrazione del

Per Per N°

Oggetto Stazione Astronomica di Carloforte.

Il Ministero ha deciso di conferire anche per l'anno corrente al dott. Mario Castellano l'incarico di eseguire lavori e ricerche presso la stazione astronomica di Carloforte.

L'interessato è già stato invitato, per il tramite del Direttore dell'osservatorio astronomico di Capodimonte, a far conoscere se sia disposto a raggiungere la propria sede.

Con l'occasione si comunica che il Ministero è già intervenuto presso il Prefetto di Cagliari al fine di evitare che venga requisita la palazzina della stazione.

IL MINISTRO

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2. CESSANTOASTRO ASTROFISICO
LACETRI - FIRENZE (U.S.)

17th January 1946

Lt. Colonel Carleton W. Washburne
Director of Education
APO 394

Rome

Dear Colonel Washburne,

Many thanks for your most kind letter of 29th dec. I hope you had a good journey and a little rest in Switzerland.

You may know by this time that the meeting of the Accademia dei Lincei have been postponed, so we had to postpone too our astronomical meeting. But to-day from a letter of Armellini I hear that he had a meeting in Rome with Carnera and Cassinis, president of Commissione geodetica italiana; it seems now that a satisfactory arrangement will be reached, with your kind interest and help when we will come in Rome in February for the Lincei. It seems to me that, giving to Carnera all credit for his constant and valuable activity for Carloforte and the international center that he deserves for all the past years, we must not forget the important fact that he has passed the limit of age ^{and}, if it is true what we hear from Rome, the transitory disposal of war times to keep him and others States University members in service, will ceased as soon as peace will be signed, what everybody hopes that will be in a few months. In this case we have to think, with the help of Carnera himself, to a worthy successor or successors of him without trying to choose a provisional solution.

For the trip to Copenhagen, I thank you for what you write me and I am sure that, if nothing else, you will be able to give me some very useful information. With many thanks and most cordial regards

Yours very sincerely

(Giorgio Abetti)

Giorgio Abetti

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For the trip to Copenhagen, I thank you for what you write me and I am sure that, if nothing else, you will be able to give me some very useful information. With many thanks and most cordial regards

Yours very sincerely

(Giorgio Abetti)

Giorgio Abetti

5391

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
Education Subcommittee
APO 394

ED/CWW/cc

ED/7AB/AC

3 January, 1946

SUBJECT : Conference in Rome.

TO : Prof. Carnera,
R. Osservatorio Capodimonte,
Napoli.

Dear Prof. Carnera:

My I again recommend strongly that you come to Rome 9 to 12 January to confer with the Ministry of Public Instruction, the National Research Council, and your fellow astronomers in regard to the support of Carloforte and your suggestions for improving conditions there and in regard to support of the Central Office of the International Latitude Service?

It is possible that I shall not be here myself at that time, as I may be in Switzerland. My Executive Officer, Capt. Vella, however, is fully acquainted with the situation as is my professional assistant, Miss Rombo, whom you have met. Our offices are on the fifth floor of the former Ministry of Corporations building on via Veneto - room 19; telephone 489091, extension 236 or 269. The offices are open from 9 a.m. to 12:30, and from 2 p.m. to 5:30.

I have discussed the problems with the new Minister of Public Instruction and with his director of higher institutions of learning; with Prof. Colonnetti, head of the National Research Council; and with Professors Abetti and Armellini. All are sympathetic and anxious to cooperate fully in seeing that the work at Carloforte continues, that the Central Office remains in Italy and that both get adequate support. Prof. Colonnetti says he will call a meeting of those most concerned to discuss with you your suggestions. My office can put you into contact with Prof. Colonnetti when you come, or you may go directly to him.

You may be assured that all persons concerned have a sympathetic attitude toward your work, respect for you, understanding of the grave problems you have so courageously faced, and a desire to be of help.

With cordial greetings and best wishes for a happy New Year, I am

Sincerely yours

5390

CARLETON W. WASHBURN
Lt. Col., A.U.S.
Director of Education

INCOMING MESSAGE

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

Education

Originator's Reference: 89195 D EVY

Message Centre No: G/5544

Date/Time of Origin: 141405A

Date Time Rec'd: 141730

Precedence: PRIORITY

FROM: ~~XXXXXX~~ TROOPERS

TO: ALLIED COMMISSION HOME

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED.

PERSONAL LT CL CARLETON Q WASHBURNES D OF EDUCATION FROM LAMBERT.
THANKS FOR TELEGRAM. SEND DUPLICATE OF LETTER TO ME AND OF DATA
TO ASTROLOGER ROYAL AT ROYAL OBSERVATORY LONDON SE. 10.

AC DIST

ACTION : EDUCATION

INFO : CHIEF COMMISSIONER

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PERSONAL LT CL CARLETON Q WASHBURN D OF EDUCATION FROM LAURET.
 THANKS FOR TELEGRAM. SEND DUPLICATE OF LETTER TO ME AND OF DATA
 TO ASTRONOMER ROYAL AT ROYAL OBSERVATORY LONDON SE. 10.

AC DIST

ACTION : EDUCATION

INFO : CHIEF COMMISSIONER

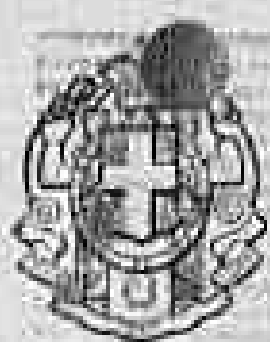
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ACTION



CONSIGLIO NAZIONALE DELLE RICERCHE

IL PRESIDENTE

Pr. 360 / IV, 10

Roma, 3 Gennaio 1945

Col. Carleton Washburne
Education Sub Commission A.C.
R O M A

Le restituisco, unitamente alla presente, la lettera del Prof. Carnera che Ella mi ha gentilmente favorito in visione; e Le confermo che resto in attesa di conferire con il Professore stesso quando questi verrà a Roma, allo scopo di vedere che cosa il Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche possa fare nel senso da Lei giustamente desiderato.

Con l'occasione La prego di gradire i miei distinti saluti e auguri per il nuovo anno.

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C:c



CAPODIMONTE - NAPOLI

IL DIRETTORE

On. Chiarissimo Signor Colonnello.

Se a distanza di poche ore dalla Vostra visita graditissima, e dopo aver pensato tutta la giornata di ieri su quanto mi avete comunicato, mi permetto tediarVi oggi con questa mia, ritornando sugli argomenti, spero mi vorrete perdonare, trattandosi per me di cose di importanza capitale, che mi colpiscono moralmente nel modo più grave. Ho cercato nascondere nel modo migliore la sorpresa dolorosa provata al sentire le Vostre parole, e quanto proponevate, ed ho tentato trovare la ragione e rispettivamente l'appunto, che mi si move per mettermi alla porta in modo così brusco. La Commissione Internazionale per il servizio delle latitudini, presieduta da Sir H. Spencer Jones, che nel Luglio del 1935 ha creduto di affidare a me il servizio dell'Ufficio Centrale, e rispettivamente i due Comitati esecutivi delle Unioni Internazionali Astronomica e Geodetica hanno naturalmente il pieno diritto di togliermi l'incarico affidatomi: credo però che da parte mia, dopo dieci anni, vi debba essere il diritto di conoscere le vere ragioni di simile atto.

5387

Se l'opera mia è stata manchevole in linea scientifica nulla ho da ridire, e non ho la pretesa di essere nel tempo stesso giudice e giudicato: tuttavia penso, che come ad ogni accusato mi debba esse acconsentito giustificarmi. Non credo debba giustificarmi per l'operato mio anteriore all'ultimo congresso di Stoccolma, in cui la Commissione ritenne far volare dall'Assemblea generale un voto di ringraziamento ed elogio per l'opera mia, che era il più vivo di quanti presentati in quell'occasione. Dopo di allora ho continuato il lavoro col ritmo abituale, e pubblicato i risultati delle osservazioni per il 1938, 1939 e persino del 1940, quando già la guerra era scoppiata, e ^{insieme} solo con enormi ritardi, e grazie all'aiuto del Console Generale degli S.U. a Napoli avevo potuto ottenere di ricevere i libretti di osservazione delle Stazioni americane. Se dopo di allora in conseguenza degli avvenimenti bellici non mi è stato dato di ricevere il materiale necessario per continuare il lavoro fino alla primavera dello scorso anno, non credo mi si possa muovere per questo un appunto. Ma se non ho potuto e non mi è possibile ancor oggi eseguire alcun calcolo conclusivo sul movimento del Polo dal principio del 1941 ad oggi non si può imputare ciò a me ed all'Ufficio centrale, ma al fatto che con le sole osserva-

zioni delle due stazioni di Ukiah e Gaithersburg (e neppure ancora complete, perchè mancano ancora dei libretti) è impossibile ricavare un qualsiasi risultato attendibile. E sapendo d'altra parte, che regolari osservazioni erano state fatte a Kitab ed a Mizusawa era logico attendere l'arrivo di queste prima di accingersi al lavoro. Del resto Sir H. Spenser Jones mi aveva ripetutamente scritto che contava farmi avere presto le osservazioni fatte a Kitab, ed era logico da parte mia attendere ^{chiamare} queste prima di tentare di giungere anche a conclusioni provvisorie. Ma il fatto di non aver potuto dedurre in questi anni il movimento del Polo, non ha impedito che l'attività nostra cessasse. Abbiamo continuato a calcolare ed a preparare tempestivamente tutti gli anni le effemeridi delle stelle da osservare, ed anche ora, da oltre due mesi, avevamo pronte quelle del 1946, sebbene la mancanza di opportune tabelle di valori per il calcolo delle posizioni apparenti rendesse meno agevoli i calcoli in confronto del passato. Abbiamo sempre calcolato tutte le osservazioni di cui ci sono pervenuti i libretti, e di più si è fatto buona parte dei calcoli per la riduzione definitiva delle osservazioni dei sei anni dal principio del 1935 alla fine del 1940. E questo lavoro è stato fatto senza chiedere assegni di ca-

rattere straordinario, che pur erano stati concessi analogamente al Prof. Kimura a suo tempo. Non credo pertanto mi si possa far rimprovero per ~~il~~ mancato lavoro. Eppure se c'è ~~che~~ avrebbe da lamentarsi, sarei forse io. Se fino al principio dell'anno 1940 ho sempre ricevuto regolarmente i contributi promessi dai diversi enti, poi sono incominciati i guai. Per i tre anni 41, 42 e 43 il Consiglio Nazionale delle ricerche in luogo di inviare alle rispettive Unioni i contributi dovuti dall'Italia, mi ha versato, a cambi ridotti, il contributo dovuto dall'Associazione Geodetica Internazionale, ed una parte di quello dovuto dall'Unione astronomica internazionale (era solo una parte perchè dovendo pur ricevere un contributo il Prof. Abetti di Firenze, la somma dei nostri due crediti era superiore di circa un terzo in confronto della somma che avrebbe dovuto pagare l'Italia all'Unione.) E mentre per effetto della guerra la nostra lira andava perdendo valore, e disposizioni legislative imponevano via via aumenti di stipendio al personale, ed aumentavano i costi di tutte le cose gli Enti italiani (Ministero e Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche) rifiutavano di aumentare gli importi dei loro contributi. Non si dimentichi che dall'agosto 1943 alla fine del 1944 non ho mai, ricevuto anche un solo centesimo sia per



CAPODIMONTE - NAPOLI

IL DIRETTORE

mandare avanti l'osservatorio, che per pagare il personale dell'Ufficio centrale, e che quando furono consumate completamente tutte le riserve, pagai di mia tasca anticipando io : Ed ora ancora mentre per conto delle due Unioni internazionali anche per gli anni 1944 e 45 ho potuto ricevere solo una parte del contributo, e sono grato personalmente al Dr. W. Lambert ed al Prof. Sir H. Spencer Jones, che così efficacemente si sono dati da fare per procurarmi quelle somme, mi trovo di fronte al Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche, che non intende neppur continuare a pagare il contributo dei tempi di ante guerra, cioè la 25 mila lire, ed al Ministero, che fa difficoltà a continuare a pagare le 20 mila ^{l'anno} che mi si erano concesse in passato ! E questo senza tener conto della svalutazione avvenuta, e dell'impossibilità in cui mi trovo per far fronte alle spese. Riconosco di avere un carattere fiato, e non disposto a presentarmi sempre con la mano tesa di chi chiede l'elemosina, di aver amato il mio paese e fatto tutto il possibile perchè alle colpe, non si aggiungesse anche l'onta, e quindi di aver tentato ^{non dover} di portare ⁵³⁸⁵ in pubblico ed all'estero tutti i nostri guai. Ho cercato di fare tutto quanto mi era possibile, ed ho la coscienza

di non aver mancato, ed ora col pretesto di non aver tenuto una corrispondenza attiva, mi si caccia come un colpevole, o per lo meno come un inetto! Ma mi si dirà, che in quasi due anni non sono riuscito a far riprendere il servizio a Carloforte. Devo ancor ripetere, che anzitutto la Stazione di Carloforte in Sardegna è un Osservatorio autonomo, che dipende direttamente dal Ministero, e sul quale nè io nè alcun altro direttore ha veste alcuna di intervenire, e se ripetutamente in passato in via confidenziale ho avvertito il Ministero perchè la Stazione non funzionava a dovere, mai si è creduto di tener conto. C'è stato un astronomo direttore della Stazione, che scoppiata la guerra, si è rifiutato di ritornare al suo posto e proseguire il lavoro, e nessuno si è sognato di muovere a lui per questo un appunto; ho segnalato nel 1940 e 41 che per mesi e mesi l'assistente colà rimasto non faceva neppure la più misera delle osservazioni, ma il Ministero non si è dato per inteso. Infine nella primavera del 1943 quando gli eventi della guerra ci portarono alla sospensione dell'attività della Stazione, perchè non mancasse ~~nessun~~ il contributo dell'Italia, non esitai a mettere a disposizione dell'Osservatorio di Torino un telescopio zenitale, un orologio a pendolo ed un cronografo, perchè il lavoro ve-

niisse ripreso collà. Anzi feci ancor di più, mi impegnai persino di partecipare nei calcoli, ed anche questo impegno mantenni fino a quando non rimasi isolato da Torino, e qui, per mancanza di fondi, dovetti licenziare una parte del personale. Non credo dunque, che mi si vorrà muovere appunto per questo, e mettermi per questo alla porta. E forse si vede una colpa mia nel fatto che oggi la stazione di Carloforte non funziona? Ma poichè il Ministero dopo mille promesse ed assicurazioni non ha creduto in oltre 20 mesi di decidersi ad una nomina, potevo arrogarmi diritti di disporre io? Quando ho fatto eseguire i lavori di restauro, pienamente autorizzati dal Ministero, e mi son visto presentare le fatture per i lavori eseguiti, ho dovuto pagare io, perchè il Ministero non aveva poi mandato i denari, e da un anno attendo il rimborso di 20 mila lire! Forse anche questa è una colpa mia personale! Ed anche quando suggerii un provvedimento, che avrebbe potuto assicurare la definitiva continuità del servizio, e lo feci perchè il Ministero me lo aveva chiesto, ebbi l'insoddisfazione di sapere, che ad essa si era manifestato contrario il collega prof. Armellini, e che di conseguenza della mia proposta non si sarebbe tenuto alcun conto! Il prof. Armellini, che mai si è occupato di simili questio-

ni, ma che si è mostrato sempre decisamente contrario alla conservazione delle Stazioni di latitudine, non poteva che essere contrario ad ogni provvedimento a favore di quella nostra stazione. Ma se mi guardo bene dal fare a lui per questo un appunto, posso anche sentirmi dolorosamente sorpreso quando l'apunto si fa ricadere su di me! Ma dunque se non mi si può muovere appunto per quanto ho fatto, quando si poteva, se durante la guerra ho cercato fare del mio meglio, perché tutto continuasse a progredire, e se ora ancora mentre difficoltà di ogni genere ostacolano la mia attività, e non mi riesce ottenere ancora neppure la derequisizione definitiva dei locali (comprese la cupola destinate agli strumenti!), mi si vuol infliggere (lo schiaffo morale) di togliermi senza ragioni palesi, ed a me reso note, l'incarico avuto dieci anni or sono, non si troverà fuor di posto che lo consideri un tale atto come sommamente ingiusto e non meritato, ho ragione di credere, che se vi è stato qualcuno a suggerire il nome del prof. Cecchini, come possibile mio successore, questi ignori completamente sia lo stato delle cose qui, che le condizioni in cui versa il prof. Cecchini, e difficoltà che avrebbe per assolvere tale incarico. Ma di questo non posso né voglio dir parola.



CAPODIMONTE - NAPOLI

IL DIRETTORE

Poco accetto nelle sfere ufficiali del passato, perchè non sufficientemente ligio al regime tramontato, io che non ho mai fatto sfoggio di divise fasciste accanto ai ministri del passato regime, mi avvedo^{ora} che forse, per non aver sventolato in tutta fretta nuove bandiere, ~~ed~~ esser rimasto semplicemente quello che ero prima, cioè soltanto ed unicamente un "italiano", ora sono ancor meno accetto nelle attuali sfere politiche, e da ciò forse le opposizioni, e magari anche questa nuova sorpresa, da parte di chi non mi attendevo. Non dirò la bugia, che essa non mi addolori // nel modo più vivo, perchè ho la coscienza di non averla meritata; onde senza sentire umiliazione alcuna prego nel modo più vivo si voglia tener presente quanto ho detto e fatto.

Non so Illustre Colonnello se Vi sarà possibile far conoscere tutto ciò al Dott. W. Lambert, ed al Prof. H. Spencer Jones prima della Riunione di Copenhagen, e sopra tutto se Vi sentirete di comunicare loro questa mia specie di difesa. Del resto nella mia lettera consegnatavi ieri accennavo alla probabilità ch'io debba rinunci⁵³⁸³¹ al compito affidatomi, e ciò per la mancanza di aiuti sia da

parte degli Enti italiani che da quelli internazionali. Ma una cosa è rinunciare, ed altra quella di esser messo alla porta.

Vi ringrazio ad ogni modo per la cortesia usatami venendo fino a Capodimonte, e dandomi il mezzo di poter inviare la corrispondenza in via sollecita a Londra. Vogliate accogliere intanto i più cordiali miei saluti e credermi.

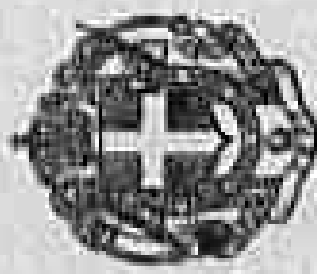
Vostro devotissimo

Luigi Farnera

Capodimonte 9 Dicembre 1945.

Dimenticavo aggiungere un particolare. Durante la guerra il Prof. Brunner, direttore dell'Osservatorio di Zurigo, si offrì di farmi pervenire i libretti delle stazioni per via diplomatica, come si era fatto antecedentemente durante la prima guerra europea. Aderii ben volentieri per poter mandare avanti il lavoro dell'Ufficio centrale e feci domanda al Ministero nostro perchè interessasse della cosa la nostra Legazione a Berna. Dopo lunga attesa mi si rispose, che la Legazione era oberata di lavoro e non poteva assumersi nuovi incarichi. Avvertii il Prof Brunner, ma la mia lettera in cui deploravo il contegno del nostro Ministero degli esteri non giunse mai a destino. La censura aveva trovato forse sconveniente si parlasse con poco entusiasmo del Ministero degli esteri italiano!

L. Jannetty



OSSERVATORIO ASTROFISICO
ARCETRI - FIRENZE (I.A.U.)

30 dicembre 1945

It. Col. Carleton W. Washburne A.U.S.
Director of Education
Headquarters Allied Commission

Roma

Oggetto: Servizio internazionale delle Latitudini
e stazione di Carloforte

Caro Colonnello Washburne,

le sono molto grato per la sua gentile lettera del 14 dic. Sarà proprio per il suo benevolo e pronto interessamento se potremo far continuare ... il polo terrestre a marciare in Italia!

La soluzione di affidare il funzionamento della stazione di Carloforte all'Osservatorio di Capodimonte sotto la piena responsabilità del suo direttore, prof. Carnera, quando vi sia personale e mezzi sufficienti allo scopo, è proprio quella che già da tempo avevo proposto.

Il collega prof. Armellini proponeva il trasporto della stazione sul continente, non lontano da Napoli, alla stessa latitudine di Carloforte ciò che faciliterebbe molto lo scambio degli osservatori ed il controllo necessario all'andamento delle osservazioni, ma per questo è necessario chiedere il parere degli astronomi italiani ed esteri competenti in materia.

Che il servizio internazionale delle latitudini rimanga in Italia e venga ora trasferito a Pino torinese, sotto la direzione del prof. Cecchini, quando sia provvisto dei mezzi adatti, è ottima cosa ed in questo senso ho scritto rispondendo alle domande dell'astronomo reale Spencer Jones. In futuro nulla toglie che si possa tornare a riunire questo argomento delle latitudini di nuovo tutto a Capodimonte, osservatorio ormai specializzato in questo campo.

Sarò a Roma dal 9 al 12 gennaio per la prima seduta dei risorti Linnei e sarò mio dovere di farle visita ed avere l'onore ed il piacere di conoscerla personalmente.

Prattanto con i migliori auguri e distinti saluti, mi creda

Carloforte

80721
Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/MND No. 785016

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Lettera del 14 die. Sarà proprio per il suo benevolo e pronto interesse che potremo far continuare ... il polo terrestre a marciare in Italia!

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Dante Moro

Giorgio Abetti
(Giorgio Abetti)

5381



Tel. 52596

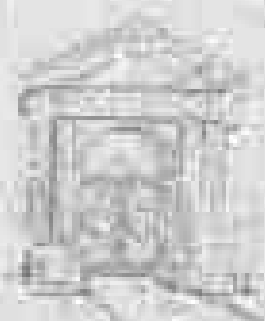
CAPODIMONTE - NAPOLI Chiarissimo Signor Colonnello.

Ho tardato qualche giorno a rispondere alla Gent.ma Vostra lettera del 18/X II, giuntami il 23, perchè vivamente desideravo esser pure d'accordo con i Colleghi, sui giorni in cui ci si sarebbe potuti vedere, essendo vivissimo desiderio di più di uno, e particolarmente del Presidente della R. Commissione Geodetica Italiana, giungere ad una soluzione radicale nei meriti della Stazione di Carloforte. Dato l'impegno che mi viene dall'obbligo delle lezioni, e che mi impedisce lasciare Napoli prima del mattino del giorno IX, ^{potrei} ed essere pertanto a disposizione Vostra il giorno II all'ora, che più vi piacerà indicarmi, telegrafando o telefonando qui a Napoli. Ove ci fossero difficoltà per quel giorno, e sia necessario anticipare di uno od al massimo di due giorni, Vi prego farmi avvertito al più presto, onde possa predisporre la partenza anticipata.

Colgo poi l'occasione favorevole per inviarvi con ⁵²⁵⁰ più doverosi saluti anche i migliori auguri per l'anno nuovo. Con la massima devozione mi segna

Capodimonte 30/XII/45

Raffaele Farinacci



GROSVENOR HOUSE,

PARK LANE,

LONDON, W. 1.

TELEPHONE: GROSVENOR 3333

TELEGRAMS:
GROSVENOR, ADDLEY, LONDON

7AB. 51

Dec 20

Lieut Col Carleton W. Washburne
 Director of Education
 Education Subcommittee
 Headquarters Allied Commission
 Rome

Dear Carleton, you certainly
 were very enterprising and took
 a lot of trouble about the
 business of the Central Bureau of
 the Int. Latitude Service. I think
 you should receive in due course
 an official note of thanks from the
 Gen'l Secy. I. U. G. G. 5379
 I would go into the matter more
 fully but I have been having
 a mild attack of flu and am

resting here, hoping to be well
enough for return plane trip
on Sat Dec 22.

also I have lost contact with
Spencer Jones

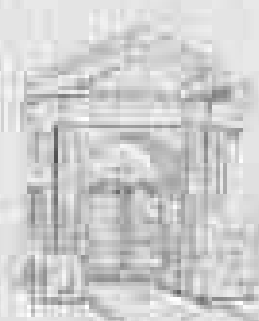
The plans outlined in your
letter of Dec 10 seem excellent
except that it may not do
for the Italians to count on

international funds too
heavily for the Central Bureau.
The whole matter of reorganization
of international scientific
activities is still up in the
air. I think the Cent. Bureau

has never been wholly maintained
by international funds. Before

World War I the Germans

and after it the Japanese and
the Italians must have
paid out some of their own money
for whatever prestige the



4AB.51

GROSVENOR HOUSE,
PARK LANE,
LONDON, W. 1.

TELEPHONE: GROSVENOR 4392
TELEGRAMS:
GROSVENOR, LONDON

Central Bureau carried with it
If international funds fail,
we may have to transfer the
work to Greenwich & Washington.

Excuse this scrawl. Poor
health & poor pen will write
more fully when I get back
to Wash & can command services
of typist.

Cordially

Walter D. Lambert

President, Int. Assoc. of Gentlemen

Over promoted at Dept 5378

Spencer Jones, besides being Chairman
of the Int. St. Com. is Pres.

Int'l Action Union, the organizer

that contributes in behalf
astronomers. He replaces
Sir Arthur Eddington, deceased.

Shall also write Camera
on my return. He could
not read the scrawl I
would write now.

785016

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
Education Subcommittee
APO 394

ED/CWW/cc

ED/7AB/5.1/AC

18 December, 1945

SUBJECT: Observators at Carloforte.

TO : Prof. Carnera,
R. Osservatorio Capodimonte,
Napoli.

Dear Prof. Carnera:

I have just had a talk with Dr. Raimondi, Head of the Division of University Instruction at the Ministry of Public Instruction. He promises to send an assistant to Carloforte very soon and will tell me when he does so. If I do not hear from him within a week, I shall call him again.

He says he will be glad to arrange a meeting for you with himself and representatives of the National Research Council on whatever date you wish to set. I shall be glad to ask the Minister to attend the meeting if you so desire. Will you, therefore, please let me know in advance what day you will come to Rome? I will then arrange the meeting for that day.

Prof. Armellini suggests that you come about 7 or 8 January, so that you would be here for the meeting of the Accademia Lincei 9-12 January, when all the astronomers will be here, including probably Cassinis. Armellini doubts if an astronomo aggiunto can be found for Carloforte, and suggests that instead Castellano be confirmed immediately, and that a second assistant be found to help until a new concorso can be held. Does this meet your approval?

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

CARLETON W. WASHBURN
Lt. Col., A.U.S.
Director of Education

5377

785016

7AD/51

C O P Y

EDUCATION SUBCOMMISSION

18 DECEMBER 1945

SIR HAROLD SPENCER JONES ASTRONOMER ROYAL GREENWICH
ENGLAND

9443

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED PD

SUBJECT INTERNATIONAL LATITUDE SERVICE PD

CARNERA DEEPLY HURT BY PROPOSAL TO TRANSFER GENERAL OFFICE
TO CECCHINI PD PAREN TO SIR HAROLD SPENCER JONES ASTRONOMER
ROYAL GREENWICH ENGLAND FROM HQ ALCON PAREN LETTER FOLLOWS

WASHBURNE PD

EDUCATION SUBCOMMISSION

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68-LA

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY

WASHINGTON

November 27, 1945

Lt. Col. Carleton W. Washburne
Director of Education
Headquarters Allied Commission
Education Subcommittee
A.P.O. 394
c/o Postmaster
New York, New York

Dear Carleton,

I have taken your latest official designation from your transmitting memo covering two communications to this Survey from the Instituto Geofisico at Trieste. They will be duly answered through regular official channels. Meanwhile, I wonder whether you are in a position to undertake an unofficial job of smoothing ruffled fur. It will soon be ruffled, if it isn't now. Maybe you are not in a position to do anything, or maybe you don't want anything to do with the business. In the latter case, don't hesitate to say so.

I have already written you something about the Central Office of the International Latitude Service located at the Observatory of Capodimonte near Naples with Prof. Luigi Carnera, the Director of the Observatory, as Director of the Central Office also. I think that on one occasion, at least, you lent a hand and produced results.

Carnera always was a perfectly rotten correspondent, seldom replying to letters. Now the thing has got beyond all patience. He doesn't reply to letters, doesn't acknowledge receipt of money, doesn't ask for more when told that more is available (this last suggests, of course, that he is really off his head), doesn't furnish necessary information, etc. Perhaps the poor man is sick, mentally or physically. In that case, however, someone in his office might be expected to report the fact.

Anyhow, things have come to such a pass that everyone concerned wants to make a change. The Naval Observatory at Washington and the Royal Observatory at Greenwich both stand ready to take over, if need be, the work of the Central Office of the Latitude Service. Back in 1935, when some new arrangement had to be made, Greenwich stood ready to do the same, and only withdrew to give the Italians a chance. With them it appeared to be a case of a desire for national prestige.

Prof. Cecchini, Abr. Contin...
64771

Page 2

Lt. Col. Carleton W. Washburne
November 27, 1945

To save the Italians pride, it has been suggested that the work of the Central Office be transferred to Turin and put in charge of a Prof. Cecchini at Turin, who seems to be favorably known to people more familiar than I with such matters.

The Italians have a further bargaining asset that they seem to be throwing away, namely the latitude observatory at Carloforte, Sardinia, one of the key stations of a chain of stations on the parallel of $39^{\circ}08'$ north. Carloforte was abandoned during the war but it was hoped to resume work there. As I remember, you, or someone for you, aroused Carnera to say as much.

Now, according to information just received, the latitude instrument (Zenith telescope) at Carloforte has been removed to Turin, the Carloforte observer also, and the instrument is being used for a special program. I won't say that the program is a wild cat scheme, but the instrument would be far more useful at Carloforte than it would at Turin.

This news has just come and I have had no time to get opinions of others but my own opinion is quite definite on the facts as they appear that, unless the Italians are willing to resume work at Carloforte, the Central Office should be transferred to Washington or Greenwich. If, on the other hand, they will resume regular work at Carloforte, I would consider voting for a new Italian Central Office, say under Cecchini at Turin, but no more Carnera, thank you. His scientific competence is not in question.

I leave tomorrow for London and Oxford. At Oxford, there will be a meeting of the Executive Committee of the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics. I imagine that this latitude business will not come before it in any formal way. The real decisions will be made at an informal meeting in London of the geodesists alone (counting out other brands of geophysicists) with Sir Harold Spencer Jones, Astronomer Royal, (that is, Director of Greenwich Observatory). This meeting has been set tentatively for December 8 in London. Its decisions will have to be ratified by a meeting of the Executive Committee of the International Astronomical Union set for the end of February at Copenhagen. However, any decision that suits Spencer Jones will doubtless suit the Copenhagen meeting.

Now, if you are willing to get into this mess, perhaps you can prepare the minds of leading Italian astronomers for a change in the location of the Central Bureau. I think everyone outside Italy would rather have work at Carloforte resumed than the special work undertaken at Turin, work that requires the instrument formerly at Carloforte. But, as I said, I can now speak only for myself.

3374

Page 3
Lt. Col. Carleton W. Washburne
November 27, 1945

In my correspondence with Spencer Jones and with an American executive officer of the International Astronomical Union, the name of Abetti has often come up. He is said to be good at managing things and to not be infected with nonsense about national scientific prestige. He is Prof. Giorgio Abetti, presumably still at Arcetri near Florence.

If you undertake this to do anything and succeed, let me know by air mail. My address for mail up to December 10 will be care American Express Company, 6 Haymarket, London SW 1. I shall be staying at the Grosvenor Hotel near the Victoria railway station.

Between December 10 and December 17, address me care International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics, Christ Church College, Oxford. I shall be back on London at the Grosvenor on the evening of the 17th, to stay until I can get a plane for home. Spencer Jones will be glad to get any report even on the 17th or later. He can use it at the Copenhagen meeting.

This isn't the only headache that I have caused by national feeling, to which even men of science are not immune.

Have you had any contacts with Prof. Gino Cassinis, geodesist? He is a good fellow and a good scientist, no fascist and I think you would like him. Last I knew he was at the Politecnico, Milan. I wrote him there a few days ago and hope to hear from him. I gave a mild hint only of our troubles with Carnera.

Personal and family items on a separate sheet. Best wishes.

Cordially yours,

Walter D. Lambert
Walter D. Lambert,
Vice President,
International Association
of Geodesy.

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
Education Subcommittee
APO 394

ED/gr/cc

ED/7G/1.0/AC

14 December, 1945

OGGETTO : Servizio internazionale
delle latitudini.AL : Prof. Giorgio Abetti
R. Osservatorio Astronomico
Arcetri, Firenze.

Gentile Professore Abetti:

La ringrazio della sua lettera del 6 dicembre 1945. Sfortunatamente, per il momento, non mi sara' possibile venire a Firenze, perche' sono sulle mosse di partire per gli Stati Uniti per una missione di qualche settimana.

La mia visita a Napoli e' stata molto interessante. Il Prof. Carnera mi informa che tutti gli strumenti sono ancora a Carloforte, compreso quello che si credeva inviato a Torino, che e' proprieta' dell'Osservatorio di Capodimonte. In questa settimana spero definire la quistione con il nuovo Ministro della Pubblica Istruzione e far mandare immediatamente un osservatore in Sardegna, che eseguirà il suo lavoro sotto la direzione del Prof. Carnera stesso.

In quanto all'Ufficio Centrale del Servizio Internazionale delle Latitudini ci si propone di affidarlo al Prof. Cecchini di Torino.

Saro' ben lieto di aiutarla ad ottenere i permessi necessari per il suo viaggio a Copenhagen in marzo, se sarò ancora in Italia a quell'epoca.

Mi e' grato porgerle i miei piu' distinti saluti.

CARLETON W. WASHBURN
Lt. Col., A.U.S.
Director of Education

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OSSERVATORIO ASTRONOMICCO
ARCETRI - FIRENZE (C.R.)

6 dicembre 1945

Col. Carleton W. Washburne
Headquarters Allied Commission
Education Subcommission
Ministero della Pubblica Istruzione

ROMA

Caro Colonnello Washburne,

Sentendo che lei parla così bene italiano mi permetto di scriverle nella mia lingua.

La ringrazio molto della sua telefonata e del suo interessamento per le cose astronomiche. Come lei ha saputo, ho avuto lettera dall'Astronomo Reale, Sir H. Spencer Jones in riguardo a Carloforte; in parte gli ho già risposto riserbandomi però di dargli una decisa mia opinione in proposito al servizio internazionale delle latitudini e di Carloforte, non appena io avessi ricevuto dai Colleghi informazioni che mi sono necessarie. Le dirò che di questo servizio io non ho mai avuto occasione di occuparmene, ma ora in seguito alla richiesta dell'Astronomo Reale debbo interessarmene per le prossime decisioni del Comitato Esecutivo dell'Unione Astronomica Internazionale al quale appartengo.

Io spero che la sua visita a Carnara le avrà chiarito molti punti sui quali basare la sua provvida ed opportuna azione. D'altra parte io potrei spiegarle molte altre cose per facilitare lo scopo a cui desideriamo giungere. Siccome io penso che per lei è molto più facile di muoversi che per me, io spero che ella abbia occasione di venire qui a Firenze dove a voce si potrebbe trattare molto più efficientemente che per scritto, e sarebbe per me un grande piacere di poterla incontrare avendo disgiuntamente mancato la sua visita qui. Posso aggiungere che dalle informazioni richieste ai Colleghi mi sono arrivate oggi quelle di Cecchini (Pino Torinese) che mi sarà gradito comunicarle.

Ringraziandola nuovamente mi creda con i più distinti saluti

Giorgio Abetti

(Giorgio Abetti)

P.S. Sir H. Spencer Jones, presidente dell'Unione Astronomica Internazionale

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Ringraziandola nuovamente mi creda con i più distinti saluti

Devo in Giorgio Abetti
(Giorgio Abetti)

P.S. Sir H. Spencer Jones, presidente dell'Unione Astronomica Internazionale, mi ha mandato l'invito per assistere alla riunione del Comitato esecutivo che si terrà a Copenhagen nel Marzo del 1946; credo che dovrò disturbarlo per il suo indispensabile aiuto per la mia eventuale partecipazione, permesse di trasporto ecc.

R.ASTRONOMIC OBSERVATORY
CAPODIMONTE - NAPOLI
DIRECTOR

My Dear Colonel,

I hope you will forgive me if I bore you by returning to the arguments which are of greatest importance to me and which concern me in a most serious way, only a few hours after your welcome visit and after thinking all day about what you have told me. I have tried to hide the best I could the painful feeling which I felt at hearing your words and proposals, and I have attempted to find the reason and respectively the reproach which are the cause of my dismissal in such an abrupt manner.

The International Commission for Latitudes, headed by Sir.H.Spencer Jones, who in July of 1935 entrusted me with the post in the Central Office, and respectively with the two Executive Committees of the International Unions of Astronomy and Geodesy have naturally full right to deprive me of the commission entrusted to me: I do think though, that I have the right to know the true reasons of such action after ten years.

If my work was inadequate in science I have nothing to add, and I do not pretend to be at the same time the judge and the judged: nevertheless I think, that, just as the case of any accused, I should be allowed to defend myself. I do not believe that I would have to defend myself for my work prior to the last congress at Stockholm in which the Commission considered opportune at the General Assembly to express gratitude and approval for my work stronger in a manner than in the case of any of the many others who were presented.

After that I have continued my work with habitual assiduity, and published the results of the observations for 1938, 1939, and for 1940, when the war had already broken out. Thanks to the help of the USA Consul General in Naples I have been able to obtain and receive the reports on observations by stations in the USA, though with considerable delay.

If it has not been possible for me to get the necessary material for the continuation of the work up to the spring of the last year due to the war, I do not think one could reproach me for that. But if I had not been able to (and even at present it is not possible for me) to accomplish any conclusive calculation on the movement of the Pole from the beginning of the 1941 up to the present I cannot be blamed for it, neither the Central Office. This is due to the fact that with only observations by the two stations of Ukiah and Gaithersburg (not even those being complete, since there are still reports missing) it is impossible to draw any reliable results. And on the other hand, knowing that regular observations have been done at Kitab and Mizz-sawa, it was logical to wait for those before starting with work. Moreover, Sir H. Spencer Jones had written me repeatedly, that he would let me have quickly the observations done at Kitab, and therefore it was only sensible for me to wait for these before attempting to reach even provisional conclusions.

But the fact of not being able to deduct in these years the movement of the pole has not prevented our work from continuing. We have continued to calculate and to prepare on time all years ephemeris of the stars to be observed, and now we have prepared for two months back those of 1946, in spite of not having the expedient tables of evaluations for the calculation of the seeming positions which made the calculations less easy in comparison with the past. We have always calculated all the observations of which we had received the reports and moreover a large part of the calculations for the definite reduction of

the observations was made - for six years, from the beginning of 1935 to the end of 1940. And this work has been done without requesting any extra allowance which have been granted in a similar case to Prof. Kimura at his time. I do not believe, however, that one could reproach me with inadequate work.

Yet, if there is anybody who should complain, it might be I. Up to the beginning of 1940 I have always received regularly the promised contribution from various institutions and then our difficulties have started. For three years 41, 42, and 43 the National Council of Research instead of sending to the respective Unions our contributions due from Italy, has given me with the reduced rate of exchange the contribution due to me from the International Association of Geodesy, and one part of that due to me from the International Union of Astronomy (there was only part of it because as we were to receive a contribution for Prof. Abetti from Florence, the sum of our two credits was higher for about a third in comparison to the sum which Italy should pay to the Union). And in the meantime as a result of the war our Lira continued loosing its value and while the government was raising wages to the employees and the cost of living was increasing, the "Ente Italiani" (Ministry and National Council of Research) refused to increase the amount of their allowances. Do not forget that since August 1943 to the end of 1944 I have never received one penny either for running the Observatory, or for paying the personnel of the Central Office, and when all our reserves were completely consumed, I paid out of my own pocket, lending myself. And even now, while I have been able to receive only part of the contributions from the two International Unions for 1944 and 1945, and I am personally grateful to Dr. W. Lambert and to Prof. Sir H. Spencer Jones, who have so efficiently acted to provide me with these sums, I am now confronting the National Council of Research, which does not

even intend to continue the payment of twenty thousand a year, which I have been receiving in the past! And this without taking into account the inflation which is now prevalent, and the impossible situation in which I find myself to meet the expenses.

I admit that I have a proud character and that I am not always disposed to have my hand stretched as those who beg. I have always loved my country and done everything possible, because I think that disgrace should not be added to our faults, and therefore I saw that our mis-
haps should not be made public at home and abroad. I have tried to do everything that was possible, and in my opinion I have not failed, but now under the pretext of not maintaining an active correspondence, I am rejected as the guilty one, or at least as someone who is unqualified!

I shall be told, that in almost two years I have not succeeded to take up the service at Carloforte. Let me repeat that the Station at Carloforte in Sardinia is an autonomous Observatory, which is directly responsible to the Ministry, and on which neither I nor any other director has the right to exert his influence, and if I have notified in the past the Ministry because the Station did not function as it should, that was not taken into consideration. There was an astronomer, director of the Station, who refused to return to his post and continue with his work when the war broke out, and no one dreamed to reproach him for that; I signaled in 1940 and 41 that for months and months the assistant who remained there was not doing even the poorest observations, but the Ministry would not hear of it.

At last, in spring 1943, when the events of the war brought about the suspension of Station's activities, so that the share of Italy would be done, I did not hesitate to give at the disposal of the Observatory in Turin a Zenithal Telescope, a Clock, and a Chronograph, so that the work might be taken up there. I have done even more than that; I took the responsibility to do the

calculations and was doing this until I was not out off from Turin, and then I had to dismiss part of my personnel due to the lack of funds. I do not believe, though, that one will reproach me for this, and throw me out for this reason.

But may be it is my fault that the station of Carloforte does not run today. After thousands of promises and assurances the Ministry seemed undecided over twenty months about a nomination, could I take the liberty to act myself? When I had the repair work done, fully authorized by the Ministry, and when I was shown the bills for the finished work, I had to pay myself, because the Ministry had not sent the money, and now I am waiting for refunds of twenty thousand Liras for a year. May be this is one of my personal faults too!

Even when I suggested an improvement which could secure an ultimate continuity of the work, having it done because the Ministry has asked me, I had the satisfaction of knowing that my colleague Prof. Armellini objected to it, and that as a consequence my proposal would not be taken into consideration! Prof. Armellini, who never dealt with similar questions, but who always categorically objected to the conservation of the Latitued Station, could not be but against any provision in favour of our station. But I am far from reproaching him for that, I only have hurt feelings when this reproach is turned against me!

If therefore one can not reproach me for what I have done when it could be done, if I have tried to do my best during the war, so that everything might continue to go on, and if now because of the difficulties of all kinds which are hindering my activity, and I have not even succeeded in getting back the requisitioned premises (including the cupole meant for instruments!) one wants to hit me morally and deprive me of the assignment, which I had for ten years, and I do not think it is out of place if I consider such an act as unjust and undeserved, since there are no clear reasons for it, and were not told to me.

I have the reason to believe, that if any one gave you the name of Prof. Cecchini, as my probable successor, this person is completely ignorant of the state of affairs here, as well as of the conditions in which Prof. Cecchini finds himself, and the difficulties which he would have in beginning such a task. But I cannot and I do not want to say one more word about it.

I was not very accepted in the official circles in the past, because I was not sufficiently cordial to the ex-regime, I who have never appeared in the fascist uniform accompanying the ministers of the past regime, I believe now, that may be because I have not waved the new flags promptly, remaining simply what I was before, that is, only an "Italian", I am now even less accepted in the present political circles, and may be the hindrances are for this reason, even though this is a new surprise, because I did not expect it from them. I shall not lie, saying that I am not most painfully hurt, because in my opinion I have not deserved it; therefore without feeling humiliated I beg you to consider what I have said and done.

I do not know, honorable colonel, if it will be possible for you to inform Dr. W. Lambert, and Prof. H. Spencer Jones, about everything before the reunion at Copenhagen, and above all, if you would forward to them this form of my defence.

Anyway, in my letter sent to you yesterday I hinted that I may have to resign from my post entrusted to me, either because of the lack of help from the Italian Institutions or that of the International Institutions. But one thing is to resign, and another is to be dismissed.

I am thanking you for the courtesy you have shown me by coming down all the way to Capodimonte, and for giving me the possibility of sending the correspondence quickly to London. Please, accept my deepest esteem, remaining,

Devotedly yours,

Capodimonte, Dec. 9, 1945.

CARNERA Luigi.

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I forgot to add a particular. During the war, Prof. Brunner, the director of the Observatory of Zurich, offered to furnish me with reports of the Stations through diplomatic channels, as it was done previously during the first European war. I gladly consented, so that I would be able to send on the work of the Central Office and applied to our ministry so that it would communicate with our legation in Bern. After a long waiting I was told, that the Legation was too busy, and could not take on new work. I notified Prof. Brunner, but my letter in which I lamented the action of our Ministry for Foreign Affairs, never reached its destination. The censorship found it probably inconvenient that the Italian Ministry for Foreign Affairs was spoken of with so little enthusiasm.

CARNERA Luigi

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
Education Subcommittee
APO 394

ED/CWW/cc

ED/7AB/AC 51

12 December, 1945

TO : Prof. Carnera,
R. Osservatorio Astronomico,
Capodimonte, Napoli.

Dear Prof. Carnera:

I am distressed that I apparently failed to make sufficiently clear to you that neither Dr. Lambert nor Sir Harold Spencer Jones raised the slightest question as to your skill, scholarship and devotion as a scientist. Your long letter to me, just received, is a defense of your work, which needs no defense.

What I tried to tell you was that the extreme irregularity of your correspondence made it appear to be necessary to shift the burden of the responsibility for the Central Office to the shoulders of some one who would give prompt answers to letters and submit data promptly. I was not expressing my opinion - it was not I who suggested the shift or that it should be to Cecchini. I was merely transmitting to you the gist of the letters from your associates in England and the United States and trying to save the Central Office for Italy and see that the work at Carloforte was resumed.

I am not a geodæst and do not pretend to understand the technical problems involved in your important work. I am here to help Italy recover her educational and scientific place in the world. When I learned that Carloforte was not functioning and that the Central Office was liable to be moved to Greenwich, I tried to see what could be done to avoid these things. I consulted Abetti by telephone, and Losurdo and Armellini personally, then went to you.

When I left you I felt quite happy - It was agreed that I was to follow up the sending of an observer to Carloforte and arrange for you to have a conference with the Minister and National Research Council in Rome - that seemed to save Carloforte as an observation center. Everyone seemed to agree that Cecchini might be induced to carry the Central Office - and you did not raise any objections; that would keep Italy from losing it.

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Now, apparently, you feel that relieving you of the labor of the Central Office is a slap in the face, a reproach to your scientific standing and work, an act of ingratitude after your long and devoted labor. That certainly was not in anyone's mind - even remotely. The facts, seen with Anglo-saxon directness and objectivity, appear simple: The Central Office requires an executive efficiency that often is not combined in the same person with great scholarship, and that, according to your British and American colleagues, you do not exhibit in action. The important thing is for the work to be done. It is thought that your strength lies in the fine, scholarly, scientific work you have continued to do even under the extreme difficulties and hazards of war. It is thought that the executive work of the Central Office can be better done by someone else. No one person combines all qualities. It is no insult or personal reflection to recognize that a man great in one field may be ineffective in another.

Personally, I have neither the authority, the competence, nor the desire to influence in any way the choice of the person to be in charge of the Central Office. That is a matter entirely for the Executive Committee of the International Latitude Service to settle. I am concerned that Italy shall, if possible, retain the Central Office, because Italy needs the international contacts and prestige. For the sake of science, as well as for the sake of Italy, I am concerned that the work at Carloforte shall continue. To these two ends, which are in the field of my responsibility, I am glad to be of any possible help. Beyond that, I am merely a convenient message bearer - apparently not too successful, since I failed to convey adequately to you the respect Dr. Lambert and Sir Harold Spencer Jones have for you as a scientist, and the fact that their sole reason for feeling that the burden of the Central Office should be passed on to someone else was that thereby its correspondence, etc. would be handled more expeditiously.

My personal feeling toward you, my dear professor, as I stated in my letter to Dr. Lambert and Sir Harold Spencer, is one of sympathy and admiration. I want to be of all possible help to you in carrying forward your work, and I shall proceed as I promised to do in regard to following through with the Minister and arranging for your conference in Rome.

With warm personal regards and great respect, I am

Sincerely yours,

CARLETON W. WASHBURN
Lt. Col., A.U.S.
Director of Education

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