

ACC 10000/147/125

D/177/CS

DEFASCISM SPECIAL CASES (ALFREDO DONATUKI)

JULY - AUG. 1945

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION  
APO 394  
Communications Sub-Commission HTWM/ec

D.177. .OS

31th August, 1945

SUBJECT: Dott. Alfredo Donatuli, ex Provincial  
Director Bolzano.

TO : Regional Commissioner, Venezia Region  
(Att: Major Ayre) Major Turner)

1. Please see appeal of the above to the Italian Government.
2. What were the circumstances under which Dott. Donatuli was removed from office?
3. Kindly give your opinion as to whether any immediate action in the matter is advisable, or whether on the other hand it is a fair arrangement to leave the matter to the Italian defascistisation committee.
4. Please return correspondence in Italian.  
(English translation may be returned)  
*claimed*

H.H. SCUDDER,  
Lt.Col.Sig.C.  
Director.

Enclosure:  
Italian correspondence with translation.

*file*

4633

Translation by C. Gagliardi.From: Ministry FF.TT.

22nd August 1945.

Ref. No. 258142/4257-A.

Subject: 1st Class Provincial Director  
at Bolzano - Dott. Alfredo Donatuti.

We have received the enclosed statement direct from the 1st class Provincial Director of Bolzano, Dott. Alfredo Donatuti, who regrets having been removed, by the Allied Command, from his position of director of the postal and telegraph services of that province.

We have deemed it opportune to forward the statement on to you for your information, and so as that you may advise us as to what action you may consider it necessary to be taken as regards the person in question.

Il Direttore Generale.

|                    |            |
|--------------------|------------|
| Director           |            |
| D/Inspector        | <i>afm</i> |
| Chief. Telecons.   |            |
| Chief. Postal      |            |
| H. Q. Coms. O.     |            |
| Asst. Chief Postal |            |
| Censorship         |            |
| Chief Clerk        |            |

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| CROSS.<br>REFS.    |        |
| FILE<br><i>732</i> | B/Fwd. |

Date *23/8/45.*

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*Ministero delle Poste  
e delle Telecomunicazioni*

*Lettera* 2 *Sp.* 2 *Te.* I  
*Let. N°* 258142/4257-A  
*Allegati* Varî

*Translate*

Mod. 107

*Roma* 27 AGO. 1945

Al COMMISSIONE ALLEATA  
Communications Sub-Commis-  
sion APC 394

*Risposta al f. N°*

OGGETTO Direttore Prov.le di 1<sup>a</sup> classe a Bolzano  
Dott. Alfredo Donatuti.

E' direttamente pervenuto a questo Ministero l'unito esposto documentato da parte del Direttore provinciale di 1<sup>a</sup> classe a Bolzano, Dott. Alfredo DONATUTI, il quale si duole per essere stato, dal Comando Alleato, allontanato dalla direzione dei servizi postali e telegrafici di quella provincia.

Si è ritenuto opportuno di far far proseguire l'esposto a codesta Commissione, affinché ne abbia conoscenza e possa fornire a questa Amministrazione le notizie che riterrà del caso, sul conto del nominato Dott. DONATUTI.

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| Director          |  |
| D/Director        |  |
| Chief Telecoms    |  |
| Chief Postal      |  |
| Chief Coms O      |  |
| Asst Chief Postal |  |
| Censorship        |  |
| Chief Clerk       |  |

IL DIRETTORE GENERALE

|                 |        |
|-----------------|--------|
| CROSS.<br>REFS. |        |
| FILE<br>1.92    | B/twd. |

Date 23 AGO 1945

Translation by C. Gagliardi.

Bolzano, 20th July 1945.

To: Ministry PP.TT.  
Direzione Generale del Personale  
R o m e.

A few days after my letter No.191105 of the 22nd June last with which I kindly requested you to effect my transfer to Palermo, a position that, notwithstanding the exceptional period of emergency and danger, I accepted in June 1943 and that which, however, having the anglo-american landings already started, I was not allowed to reach, you having telegraphed me to suspend my departure and to consider the transfer as suspended, not revoked, the local Allied Command removed me from the position of provincial director of Bolzano, stating to have good and sufficient reasons for doing so, and which, however, I do not yet know, nothing having so far been contended of me verbally nor in writing. (attachment No.1).

I have only learned by direct information that it appears that an infamous charge has been made against me by three employees that, as a reprisal consequent to disciplinary action brought against them, have provoked an abhorrent conspiracy against me with the adhesion signed by about 60 employees or agents, in part already punished, or forced to sign subsequent to threats made to them.

They accuse me of having inflicted excessive despotic punishments and to have collaborated with the Germans during the occupation of this province annexed by them, from September 1943 to April last, to the German territory with the consequent actions of violence and oppression of any Italian activity.

I submitted a report on the work carried out during the above period to the Prefect and Commission of Epuration, accompanying the copy for the last named with a letter for the President (attachments 2 and 3) and I again affirm to you that the first accusation is totally unfounded as regards the entity of the single punishments and also as regards the number in comparison with the 700 dependants, about, in the province, also for the relapsing of the punished, as also because I could not have not repressed the abuse of the employees and agents whom by abandoning for a long time (being afraid of bombardments or with the excuse of sickness) the offices and joining their families who had gone into the mountains, provoking complaints from the chief clerks and sections that were continually complaining of the impossibility to guarantee the services under such conditions, though two of them (out of nine) who have now, because also punished, joined the agent Tancredi Giorgio (see my letter (report) No.18.598 of the 12th June last) and other

2.

bad elements are the principal instigators of the infamous accusations.

But, independently from that, and though the better part of the personnel had always noticed my usual fatherly benevolence, can an eventual excess of severity constitute an element for epuration and a legitimate premise to dismiss, as a criminal, an official who always tried to guarantee, amidst the exceptional difficulties and dangers of the abovementioned period, the services for this tortured Italian population, and for our prisoners of war and workers in Germany? I have before me a deliberation of the Sindaco of Milan as regards the abuse of denunciations for epuration against unwelcome officials and turbulent and lazy elements, and without commenting same I am enclosing a copy (attachment 4).

I am aware, for example, that many after having signed the charge against me are now repentant, and as with much disgust all the sound elements of the offices of Bolzano and province express their opinion, but they cannot openly protest for fear of reprisals as, per example, the officer Gianotta and the 1st officer Campisi who has already had to appeal to the Prefect not to have to bear a transfer requested by some ill intentioned person solely because by strong arguments he refused to adhere to the denunciation.

As regards the accusation of collaborationism, I would have considered same as ridiculous if all my strength of mind was not for the present beaten by the affront to see myself so vilely insulted after having exposed myself to repeated threats to send me to some concentration camp, by the Command of the supreme commissar of this area, embittered by the continual protests which were reaching him from the postal commissars and Nazi podesta' of the province, for my unceasing obstructive reaction to any request of theirs which would have meant oppression of the Italian personnel and choking of our services (see page 30 of attachment 3) and the warnings and threats of the kind were not only made to me direct, but, more than once, notified in the shape of hypocritical preoccupation by the postal commissars to my employees so that they advise me to change my system.

And all that working alone without any Italian authorities who could have stood by me as the Prefettura, Questura, Municipality, etc. etc. were entirely in the hands of the Germans whilst the Republican Ministry was a slave of the Nazis.

All the sound part of the personnel here and of the province, many professionals and officials of other administrations which knew of my work, many army officers who having returned from prisoner of war camps learned from their families what I had done, often also collaborating with the Red Cross to be able to guarantee the postal services and the despatch of parcels for them, express their disgust for the action against me and comfort

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me with their estimation, because above any misery of life stands the consciousness of my duty done and the estimation of the honest. But what comfort is there in to win the weariness of any force of mind, if taught to the maximum of bearability, and to soothe the nerves if brought to such a point of tension they jump as if rescinded by a clean cut of the scissors?

I do not intend with this to exalt my modest work, also because I have always avoided any sort of self advertising; but I would have never dreamed of such a grave insult by four scoundrels to whom with the varnish of liberty, of democracy, of justice has been given the possibility of venting their lust of revenge, as also I could not foresee a similar epilogue to six years of service carried out here.

Transferred to Bolzano in January 1939, I had to at once arrange for the formation of the Provincial Directorate with personnel of rather low quality and turbulent sent here from other Directorates who, having received instructions to transfer to Bolzano elements of their personnel, got rid of the worst elements. The Central Inspector, Comm. Gualtieri, who accompanied me to separate the services of this province from the Trento Directorate from which they previously depended, knows something on the question and the reports sent by me during the first years to you of that Ministry exactly set out that situation.

After just a year the famous law on the option of the "allogeni" and the evacuation of those who opted for Germany placed me in the necessity of substituting in about a month 500 employees between permanent personnel, receivers, supplenti, rural agents, collectors, pro caccia with precise instructions from the Prefect to avoid, for understandable political reasons, any suspension of services which the "alogeno" population would have been pleased to be able to attribute to the dismissal of their own elements. That Ministry by exceptional provision gave me ample powers to engage personnel from every other province of the Kingdom, and to increase, where necessary, the pre-existing retributions of the rural agents and pro caccia. The Prefect, on completion of the work, praised me with fluttering expressions for the result achieved in adherence to his directives.

Soon after, war broke out with all the difficulties for every region and in September 1943 came the humiliating criminal german domination of the whole of the province. And, all the six years of work without capable or trustworthy collaborators, without a director for the first reparto, often without an inspector, with a sick and inconclusive accountancy director, with office directors which were for the greater part weak and incapable.

But with faith in justice, I request from your Ministry an immediate energetic enquiry on the reliance and on the responsibility of the accusations whilst waiting that the epuration commission will be able to judge if on my part there has always been a fatherly severity, more than of persecution,

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despotism or wickedness to the personnel, and inflexible reaction, more than collaboration against the german oppressors I invoke the satisfaction to be able to regain, but only for a very short time, my position at Bolzano, and then see speedily accepted my request to be transferred to Palermo or, if it should not be possible for the present, to another head office of not inferior class and importance, so as that my defamers see if I have done my duty and if the Administration knows how to take same into consideration and protect my dignity.

Yours respectfully,

(S.gd) Donatuti Alfredo  
Grado VI - Gruppo A.  
Bolzano.

4627

Translation by C. Gagliardi.

Bolzano, 15th July 1945.

To: Ill.mo Signor PRESIDENTE  
della Commissione di Epurazione,  
B o l z a n o.

With their letter of the 26th June last, a copy of which I am attaching hereto, the Provincial Commissioner of the Allied Government, for reasons which I do not know, nothing having been contested of me previously, dismissed me from my position of Provincial Director for Posts and Telegraphs.

On the 4th inst., there not being at the time an Epuration Commission, I entered an appeal, following on the advice of the abovementioned Commissioner, to the Prefect for his further competent steps.; an appeal which I now also send to your Commission of Epuration, as per art.VII of the proclamation of the 11th July of the Allied Government.

I ask of you one only favour, that to arrange an ample urgent enquiry on the accusations made against me, having indirectly been acquainted, as per the attached statement, that I am charged with injustice and excessive harshness towards the personnel, as also of collaboration with the Germans.

Although believing that the first accusation does not come under the epuration law and would be, if it should be the case, of competence of the Ministry, I invoke just the same that each single individual who signed the accusation be questioned on both charges because, under a regime of liberty, it is not sufficient to place ones signature to accusations of that nature, but it is also necessary to prove the reason and the spontaneousness of ones adherence.

I, principally, invoke that the members of the executive Committee of this Sindacato PP.TT. be interrogated (Aiazzi, Bullera, Capocelli, Dassati, Franceschini, Lorenzini, Zampelli) who not having never, I believe, adhered to fascism, should be considered the most pure and objective. Let them state, as they who did not want to adhere to the denunciation, if I ever persecuted or was harsh with the personnel or, instead, if same was not always considered by me as a large family of mine, also when the faultiness of some imposed on my responsibility and on my duty to repress and punish them.

And the employees, who owing to the necessities of their service were able to closely follow my work during the german occupation (Albertani, Brunetti, Donafini, Coco, Cogo, De Zorzi, Haller, Gazzano, Giongo, Marchese, Nepi, Palambri, Piacentini, Rizzoli, Rossi, Zampelli, Zattoni, ecc. ecc.), state if my actions could be classified as collaborationism rather than of constant reaction to the german orders.

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You, as President of the Commission, please allow me, finally, to express my anguished doubt that the denunciation, though signed by many, and unconsciously by some, be the work of a few who have not seen for more than three steps further on from their resentments, instigating against me the others who signed.

Those substantially concerned would be only three:

1. - Chief Clerk of the railways, Mr. Negri Domenico, whom I always considered as a very good official, with whom I was bound by strong friendship, whom I managed to have returned home after only a few months as prisoner of war, whom I always valued entrusting to him, on his merits, certain work superior to his rank. I noticed, however, that recently he had changed towards me, and only now somebody makes me suspect that this strange change in his attitude towards me has been brought about by deleterious work of another employee, Mr. Palamidessi Mario, who, assisting me in the Direction in services directly concerning the duties of the office of Mr. Negri, often used to insinuate bringing to my notice irregularities and bad services which he affirmed to have verified at the railway office, going, sometimes, as far as making personal inspections, and expressing, in a momentary fit of nerves, some appraisal, to then later refer with malignity to Mr. Negri that I was not satisfied with his work, that I repented having entrusted that position to him and that I would sack him, etc. etc. Knowing his honesty, I ask Negri to state if that is true, and if in the service discussions he had with me, discussions sometimes on circumstances which did not fall in with my wishes as to a perfect working of the services, if he always found in me the same estimation.

Another instigator of the personnel would be the Chief Clerk of the telegraph services, Mr. Arturo Negri, whose behaviour during the german occupation of this Province is set out at page No. 6 of the attached report. Yet he was an official whom I always helped, also in his private family affairs, for which I had him, almost without interruption, assisted by a lawyer friend of mine; I recommended him to the President of the Tribunal as also to the Ministry up to the point of overcoming all resistance of the General Director who, for the abovementioned family situation, did not want to entrust to him the direction of the aforementioned telegraph office.

The third person who, notwithstanding any resentment, I cannot compare with the first two, for their seriousness and honesty, would be the agent Tancredi Giorgio whose moral precedents are specified in the report No. 18598 sent on the 1st June to the Ministry and to the Prefect and a copy of which is attached hereto (attachment 3).

But the Italians to day have, principally, need of justice and not of outbursts and personal grudges exercised with those hateful systems, known by all, of the nazi-fascist period. And it is for this that by the Commission presided by you I invoke the most ample enquiry on my conduct, if necessary also by bond of oath on the part of someone.

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I, therefore, hopefully await an act of justice and of rehabilitation solely because I may regain my dignity of a modest but pure and honest Italian, to be again near my personnel, to shake hands with them all, forgetting and forgiving any error and diversion of conscience, restart again my work with still more brotherly collaboration with all, and with that fatherly care and goodness that I have ~~to~~ the conscience to have always used with anybody.

Respectfully,

(S.gd) Donatuti Alfredo.

4624

Translation by J. Caleff.

REPORT OF PROVINCIAL DIRECTOR PP.TT. OF BOLZANO DR. DONATUTI ALFREDO CONCERNING PERIOD SEPTEMBER 1943 TO APRIL 1945

Deeply hurt I received the letter of June 26, on the 2 of this month, from the Provincial Commission of the Allied Military Government, with which I am dismissed from the position of Provincial Director of the Posts, without letting me know the reasons and without being notified orally or in writing of any accusation.

Someone refers to me that the cause of it is a denunciation presented by postal employees, for having adopted an excessive severity towards the personnel and for having collaborated with the Germans during their occupation of this Province. But if that is true, the accusation is an infamy, because I know, and everybody knows, how much I did to prevent the execution of orders received from Commissioners in charge of control of postal and telegraph services, of the Comando del Commissariato Supremo, as well as from the Provinces Nazi Majors attempting amongst other things to germanize, by imperious acts, the services and to remove the Italian personnel.

And if these are the determining accusations of the provision was I not supposed in application of the principles of right and justice was I not supposed to contest them, in order to defend and justify myself before such a grave sanction?

Anyhow, waiting to know the debits, I feel I must refer what my activity was during the abovementioned period: being sure that a rigorous inquiry will make it clear.

And on the other side what does collaboration mean? Does having punished an employee for neglecting his job mean collaboration with the enemy? That would be a very comfortable term for the worst elements, it would be a system against discipline and the public interests, of the administration, of the Nation itself.

I have punished, yes, even in the period September '43 - April '45, some employees systematically neglectful, I punished those who proved to be incomprehensive of the exceptional difficulties of the moment, I punished who with the pretext of danger of bombings abandoned the office for long periods. In conclusion I have punished who has failed in his duty, like a father that reprehends his children. But even admitting that the defect of retaining that everybody had to maintain an unconditioned devotion to his own duty, in any provision in which there has been an excessive rigour, is it against the principles of liberty to ask for the attenuation or the revocation, with the loyalty I have always adopted against my dependents? And if I have punished, did I not take care of everybody's desires and needs, specially of the punished, in order to bring them to improvement? During the war did I not give release and give furloughs to everybody, in order to reach their own refugee families? But when I punished someone that authorized to go away for a few days, came back after weeks' absence, was I collaborating with the enemy? I am accused as far as

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Supposing that this was not any more collaboration with the Germans, because already liberated of their domination, but even worse a bad reaction for the so long awaited and obtained liberty, I must say that after having authorized the absence for the 3rd., after having justified some that were not present on the next day, I have punished the ones that deliberately remained absent afterwards; furthermore under my personal responsibility I paid the wages for over a month to some dayshift employees wounded during actions on the 3rd and paid some others kept out of work for a longer time by the Comitato di Liberazione, this being against payment regulations for absentees. Without real service needs I hired clandestinely some prisoners returned home from Germany in early April, in order to give them a chance of living and to escape the German persecutions.

(2)

I expressed, on the contrary, my disappointment to the directors of the telegraph and railway offices for having abandoned their offices on the 3rd of May.

I suppose that the signers of the accusation letter do not know what has happened to me on the 3rd of May. I went down to the janitor's cabin to take a flag in order to expose it as soon as possible. A few hours later, four German soldiers entered my room, looked around and found the flag and took it away after having triked me. To my protests they threatened me with their pistols. Other employees were present.

Returning to the abovementioned accusation they can even say that not permitting the relaxation in the personnel's work during the enemy's occupation means helping this last's interests. That is exact when this work has any connection at all with the enemy. But the work requested to the offices PP.TT. was simply a work of communication for Italians and for our prisoners and workers in Germany, for it is evident that Germans had always their own complete organizations of postal services for civilians (Dienspost) that was even used by many Italians, who paid the taxes in German postal rates. It was agreed by the commissioners to create difficulties to Italian services, in order to develop the Dienspost ones.

Many employees, if asked, can confirm the difficulties opposed by commissioners to my initiatives when I wanted to star, in any way at all, the post service during the period in which the railway was interrupted, and against my agreement in October 1944 with the Red Cross presidency (Mrs. Fox) in order to send by trucks parcels for the prisoners and workers in Germany, which could not get them because the railway was interrupted at the Bremer.

That is why neglecting and weakening the services prejudiced exclusively the Italian, not the enemy's interests.

Germans used our postal services only for sending their newspaper (Bozner agblatt). It should be asked specially to the signers of the denunciation Mr. Negri Domenico, Director of railway office, and Palamidessi Mario (who was maintaining the principles of fascist politics since April - to be asked chief clerk Mr. Gazzano) about all I did in order to prevent the sending of the newspaper, and how pretending an excessive load, I did not permit to send the abovementioned by tricycles, which I had organized during the period of railway interruptions. This was then the only way of connecting the sole offices between Ora and Salorno, Fortezza and Brenner, Brunico and S. Candido. Mr. Palamidessi could even refer the discussion I had with the director of the newspaper himself. He said that his subscribers were complaining about what he called a disservice of the Italian post, and menaced to make a denunciation to the Supreme Commissioner, for serious sanctions against me, being responsible of this irregularities. At this I invited him to stop any conversation, to leave me alone, and to make the complaint to the German commissioner of the postal services, where I sent him accompanied by same Palamidessi.

Excluding these, as basement for the accusation, what else can be sustained against me? I will examine the question in three ways:

1. General services.
2. Treatment and guarantee of personnel
3. Germanization of postal and telegraph services in the Province.

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1. General services.
2. Treatment and guarantee of personnel
3. Germanization of postal and telegraph services in the Province.

GENERAL SERVICES. Besides the activity over the whole Province of the Dienspost, besides a German postal direction here in the Europa Hotel, besides the postal Commissioners at Merano, Silandro, Malles, Bressanone, Brunico, Vipiteno in order to control the Italian offices in these rectors, there were permanently in Bolzano four commissioners: two near my Provincial Direction for the Postal Offices, two at the telegraph; and nothing coming in or out escaped their control.

Still, as employees can confirm (Piacentini and Martoni), many times I gave direct and confidential dispositions, without asking the commissioner's authorization. And many times I prevented the mailing of a letter that had already my signature and their approval, because it contained provisions that they imposed on me but which it was my intention not to follow. And many times

(3)

I transmitted telegraph dispositions to offices 'phoning them at the central telegraph office, to be delivered furtherly (Mr. Angeletti, Mamaralli, Franceschini), in order not to compile the form which had to be approved by the commissioner. I was even sending confidential reports to the Ministry about what was going on; reports which unfortunately had no results. I had many difficulties even in maintaining the payment of subsidies to the families of italians, soldiers or prisoners in Germany.

#### TREATMENT AND GUARANTEE OF PERSONNEL.

- a) Personnel set in Bolzano: Against german orders, I continued to give furloughs specially to people which had refugeeed families, justifying it before the german commissioner as determined by exceptional family exigencies or some times I did not communicate it at all.
- b) When the Republican Ministry allowed a special indemnity for the state employees (emergency indemnity) of L. 30 daily - the supreme german commissioner ordered that abovementioned compensation include other accessory indemnities given years before by the Ministry to the personnel (eighth hour intensification, major production). Any way and for about two months I fought against this provision, which german authorities conferred mainly for not being economic concessions due to employees of the administrations also, and I succeeded in obtaining the revocation for the whole zone of the Prealps. The provincial director of Belluno and Trento expressed the gratefulness of their personnel.
- c) In the meantime the german supreme commissioner imposed 10 working hours for the whole personnel; not being able to make him change his order, I authorized the chief clerks to dispose that the employees start later their work, in order to maintain the old working hours. Besides, against orders, I paid special gratifications to several agents, distinguished in exceptional emergencies (to be asked Mr. Negri Domenico).
- d) Pretending service exigencies and difficulties, in fact inexistent, I succeeded in keeping away from the army employees and receivers of this province, although they were young, and if an employee was by mistake not included in the telegraphers lists (Mr. Franceschini) and was obliged to go during six months to work to the Lancia, I did my best to get him there a light and administrative activity.
- e) I gave many times a job to people just to keep them from going to the forced work and the danger of being eventually sent to Germany. I did that for the sons of Dr. Columba, Attorney Longi, Mrs. Falzon widow of Major Toscani, Struina Martina, Ursi Maria; and even this inspector's wife Mrs. La Rosa Edda already mobilized for heavy work, could be dispensed after my declaration that she was since a long time in charged of the Poste telegraphic mess, which was not true.
- f) And it is a fact that some of the signers of the denunciation, adopted after September 10, 1943 the sistem of addressing themselves to german commissioner; I was many times obliged to tell them that I resented this. The employee Mr. Sulligi Mario, for instance, who before July 1943 was praising to be a great friend of Minister Ost Venturini; also the worst among the denunciators: Landi Salvatore, Tancredi Giorgio, Girardelli Virgilio were always in the federazione, protesting, spying, denouncing me as a false fascist.

It is also true that many times before september 1943 I had disputes with the commander of the milizia postalegraphica, for defending employees unjustly and orribly treated by the militi; these disputes were also communicated to the segretari federali, of which the last one, Mr. Stefanini, managed to take

b) When the Republican Ministry allowed a special indemnity for the state employees (emergency indemnity) of L. 30 daily - the supreme german commissioner ordered that abovementioned compensation include other accessory indemnities given years before by the Ministry to the personnel (eight hour intensification, major production). Any way and for about two months I fought against this provision, which german authorities conferred mainly for not being economic concessions due to employees of the administrations also, and I succeeded in obtaining the revocation for the whole zone of the Prealps. The provincial director of Belluno and Trento expressed the gratefulness of their personnel.

c) In the meantime the german supreme commissioner imposed 10 working hours for the whole personnel; not being able to make him change his order, I authorized the chief clerks to dispose that the employees start later their work, in order to maintain the old working hours. Besides, against orders, I paid special gratifications to several agents, distinguished in exceptional emergencies (to be asked Mr. Negri Domenico).

d) Pretending service exigencies and difficulties, in fact inexistent, I succeeded in keeping away from the army employees and receivers of this province, although they were young, and if an employee was by mistake not included in the telegraphers lists (Mr. Franceschini) and was obliged to go during six months to work to the Lancia, I did my best to get him there a light and administrative activity.

e) I gave many times a job to people just to keep them from going to the forced work and the danger of being eventually sent to Germany. I did that for the sons of Dr. Columba, Attorney Longi, Mrs. Falzon widow of Major Toscani, Struina Martina, Ursi Maria; and even this inspector's wife Mrs. La Rosa Edda already mobilized for heavy work, could be dispensed after my declaration that she was since a long time in charge of the Poste telegraphic mess, which was not true.

f) And it is a fact that some of the signers of the denunciation, adopted after September 10, 1943 the system of addressing themselves to german commissioner; I was many times obliged to tell them that I resented this. The employee Mr. Sulligi Mario, for instance, who before July 1943 was praising to be a great friend of Minister Cei Venturini; also the worst among the denunciators; Landi Salvatore, Tancredi Giorgio, Girardelli Virgilio were always in the federazione, protesting, spying, denouncing me as a false fascist.

It is also true that many times before september 1943 I had disputes with the commander of the milizia poste telegrafica, for defending employees unjustly and orribly treated by the militi; these disputes were also communicated to the segretari federali, of which the last one, Mr. Stefanini, managed to take back my card if I persisted this way; I was also called in Rome for same reasons, and menaced of rigorous sanctions.

And returning to my collaboration with germans, maybe is it not true that I had to defy some chief clerks, for executing directly dispositions given by german commissioners, without my knowledge, saying that as long as I was not discharged I retained to be the Director and therefore responsible for the service? I refer particularly to chief clerk Mr. Negri Domenico, now named chief poste telegraphic sindaco, perhaps in order to create a opposition against me collaborating in this with Tancredi Giorgio, which in early 1944 went to Germany, on his own request, to serve in the postal administration there, and whose moral precedents are known to me and to the police office specified in relation 18598 which I sent to the Prefecture on the 10 June. Negri, who recently has been under disciplinary proceeding, for for having refused to send for a few

(4)

hours to the Direction a typist to copy a protest requested urgently by the Financial Office of the American Command, cannot possibly have forgotten that being made prisoner by Germans in Greece, where in September 1943 he was working at military post, and interned in Germany, was freed and sent home after a few months, because at request of his wife, I demanded his presence repeatedly to the commissioner for instant reasons of urgent and absolute service exigencies.

And even about the abovementioned there are some that say that he was sent home mainly because he passed to the fascist republic.

And now another signer of the denunciation, the telegraph chief clerk Mr. Negri Arturo. Can he deny that he became the German commissioner Mr. Russach's slave, and his secretary's? Up to the point that to be able to leave the office for a while the personnel had to ask her permission. Let Mr. Negri show my letters 27789 and 28152 of the 12 and 18 October 1944, with which, disgusted I absolutely forbade him to follow the order, telling him that if he was not strong enough to react, to inform the personnel that for such permissions they could address by phone to me.

He was also distrusted for consenting, without keeping me informed, to put at the office's entrance a German written sign; it was taken out only when I personally brought and fixed another one written in both languages. Negri bowed at every order Russach or his secretary gave him, maybe because, being in the fascist party since 1 December 1922, he was too much mixed in that politics. One day I found out - I think it was in July 1944 - that Russach made in his office speeches, of Nazi propaganda I believe, for the Italian personnel, interrupting even work. Making inquiries I found out the day and hour when one of this speeches was taking place and came to the office. I found, in fact, the employees that abandoning their posts, were all including Negri there, listening to Russach's conference. Intervening immediately, I ordered everybody back to their work. I knew afterwards that the directing organs of the German commission discussed the necessity of taking action on my behalf, but being in the right, nothing could be done against me.

The denunciation's signers did not refer that upon my request some hundreds of pairs of shoes, that existed in the stores of the commando in September 1943. They were shoes already sent by the Ministry to be assigned to postmen of the mountain services. When after a few months the commissioner asked informations about them, I felt sure they intended to requisition them.

I proposed to distribute these shoes to all the personnel, and although they refused to give me authorization, after some months I gave everybody one pair at the inventory price (L.105).

When it was known, the commissioners protested. There is no mention of that in the denunciation. On the contrary, I am accused of obliging employees to be examined by German doctors. It is a lie, a willing lie, falsifying the sense of a letter I wrote, in February 1944 I think. In that period the directors of the railway, telegraph and account offices pointed out repeatedly that they could not guarantee their services because the personnel, pretending to be ill absented because of the terror of bombings, reaching their own families in the mountains. Any other attempt being useless, I tried the abovementioned menace. It was just a

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#### PERSONNEL POSTAL OFFICES OF THE PROVINCE.

In this field the situation was more difficult, because the supreme commissioner the postal commissioners and the nazi mayors wanted to eliminate the Italian personnel from the postal offices in the Province and to substitute them others, already for the nazi Germany.

The action started with force and violence since September 1943 and some postmen and collectors in the zones of Collalbo, Brunico, Sarentino were forced to leave their service to others. I referred that to the Ministry, which did not answer. I refused to consign to the newcomers, and to pay their wages for a few months untill in December 1943 was ordered by the Ministry to consider the substitution legitimate and to pay the newly hired nazis.

(5)

I had to obey, and as I thought, this decision started many other requests of same kind. With varied pretences I still resisted, succeeding often, and in the case of Italian postmen, which they wanted to get rid of, were called in the army or for labor service, I stubbornly did not assume the ones that were imposed upon me, but I put in charge one of the recalled's relative, not to deprive the family of the retribution, or else, I connected the service to the other agents's one. The employee Mr. Bonafini, who under my direction used to do the work, can show you the relative papers and refer in detail about hundreds of such cases and under the menacing protests of the commissioners. It was in some of this occasions commissioner Dr. Angst and Dr. Deutsch warned me to change system and to stop all these obstructionism activities, if I did not want to suffer the consequences of serious provisions from the supreme commissioner, already exasperated by protests against me that he received from many mayors of the Province. Same warning was signaled to my employee Miss Haller, which was my interpreter, and which talked about it with other employees in this Direction.

But in April U.S.C. realizing that the enemy was almost ruined, I started making confidential arrangements directly with office directors, where Nazi elements had been hired. These were discharged on the 2nd May in the afternoon, reassuring the Italians already fired.

In November 1943 I received order from the German commissioner to discharge the directress of the postal office of Collalbo Mrs. Rosa Regele, simply because a Nazi woman there, had noticed that the King's picture was still pending on the wall. The Nazi's son destroyed it entering the office by force. I did not do it, by taking the whole responsibility of the fact declaring that until then I did not order to destroy the sovereign's pictures. A similar case happened because of the King's picture and for other circumstances with the director of the office in Cardano, Mr. Palumbo Giuseppe. The German police office wanted to send him away from the Prealps zone. I delayed the provision for a few months pretending not to have the possibility of replacing him until a W.O. obliged me to send with him the same evening an employee to Cardano, to take Mr. Palumbo's place immediately. On the 3rd May, this latter, which in the meantime lived in Vicenza, received my cabled message and got back his job in Cardano.

On the 24th September 1943 was asked to discharge the director of the postal office in Ortisei, Mr. Lauro Salvatore, who was in the meantime forced out of his office, sent to prison and heavily beaten. In reaction I put temporarily his wife in charge of the office, although against dispositions. My protests went to the Prefecture and to the supreme commissioner, considering the gravity of this case, Lauro's discharge was revoked and they recognised the necessity of giving him a body guard.

In April 1944 I was requested to discharge the directors of the offices in Villabassa and Valdaora, Mr. Dalla Torre Arturo and Miss Ober Rosa, only to give their jobs to Nazis Schoffeger Alberto and Hermann Francesco. I was absolutely against it and the two Italian book-keepers kept their jobs.

The employee who treated this arrangements Mr. Negri, is able to refer many other similar cases. I will only tell you the case of directress of office in S. Felice, Miss Bussetti, who was prosecuted by the mayor only for being Italian and deprived even of the ration cards and of wood for heating. I declared the case at

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#### GERMANIZATION OF THE OFFICES AND ITALIAN POSTALGRAPH SERVICES IN THE PROVINCE.

1. Immediatly after the german occupation the signs in the postal offices were destroyed in the whole province and replaced by others in german language. Only after repeated protests was it possible to obtain the use of signs in both languages, but successively the italian diction was progressively eliminated in many places, as for instance in Merano, although with my letter of 21st march 1944 I notified that the proceeding was "an act of violence and arbitrary" against dispositions of "the supreme commission for the prealps zone." The Ministry did not intervene.

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The letter was held by german commissioner, but I confidentially sent a copy to the General Director.

2. In february 1944 the german commissioners requested the substitution of all the service printings and of the Guller stamps, for corrispondence, of the postal bonds, a.s.o. with others in both languages as above. Opposing many difficulties the reprinting of the service's forms was made impossible; for the Guller stamps, the instances became menaces. I made pretences of all kinds, until realizing that any menace was useless, the commissioners provided themselves and printed the stamps in Milano and brought them to this provincial economo with order to send them to all offices.

To my opposition, the commissioners maintained declaring that they were acting under disposition of the supreme commissioner, and insisted about the provision. Present were also the provincial economo Mr. Coco and other employees.

I persisted that I could not give this authorization, even if I had to leave my position for that, without a precise legislative disposition from the Ministry. That is what I referred personally to the Minister of the ex-republican government, which being in Merano successively notified through that Posts Director that he was coming soon in Bolzano to settle the stamps matter.

That was the only time the Minister took an interest in the exceptional situation of this Province, and although he did not come, I could always tell the commissioners that I was waiting for his decision. In fact, the stamps remained here in store, without being ever used.

3. In october 1944 Dianspost's agents occupied by force for their personal use a barrack that the State's railway had built in the station upon my request, for our services. With letter 28735 of 4th november I exposed my protests to the commissioner declaring that was "an act of supreme power and of menace, to which our personnel was in the impossibility of reacting."

4. Since the beginning of the occupation it was imposed that all office letters sent by our Direction have a stamp with "Direzione Provinciale Poste e Telegrafi" written in german and italian. I agreed only after resisting in any way possible admitting the use of the stamp to letter to be sent to authorities and german offices (to be asked typist Mr. Zattoni, to whom I handed the few to be copied on such printed paper with a special sign).

5. The german commission's engineer made changes and reactivations in the ex-postal building, which was almost destroyed in the bombing of 13th may 1944, without any agreement with the technical organs of our direction, but demanding the reimbursement of expenses. I often made my reserves, and eliminating from the in coming mail the Ministry's authorization on this purpose, I did not make the payments (authorizations 336243 of the 29.11.1944 and 150028 of the 17.3.u.sc.) which are in the provincial's economo documents)

I have now specified the work I developed between september 1943 and all april 1945.

These are all the acts and evidences which can tell if there was collaboration or constant reaction to the german oppression. After having operated in the

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I have now specified the work I developed between September 1943 and all April 1945.

These are all the acts and evidences which can tell if there was collaboration or constant reaction to the German oppression. After having operated in the above-mentioned way I am terribly afflicted to see what I am accused of just in order to be substituted by someone that had subscribed to the fascist party since 1 November 1922, directing until shortly ago the fascist postelegraphonic association, and already twice appointed for my substitution by the fascist regime: first when the incident with the militia occurred, second when, maybe even by request of German commissioners, I was transferred by Republican Ministry to Verona; which I refused notwithstanding many advantages in my favor wishing to avail myself of the only advantage offered in Bolzano and that is not to have to swear on oath my loyalty to the fascist Republican party.

But I have nothing to be blamed for. Educated with Christian principles of honesty, of duty, of good, of loyalty, I served during about forty years the administration.

In 1923, I cannot be more precise, having lost all my cards during the

(7)

bombardment of the 13th may 1944, but Think it was in april or june, I subscribed to the fascist party, that is when they pressed the state employees especially directing ones, to adhere to fascism or to be discharged with the disgusting formula "not active enough." But I never went into politics, never accepting any charge of leader, and being interested only in some perodies of assistance activity for the postelegraphonics. Although always well qualified, never being reproved, but many prizes for special services, my promotions were many times postponed to younger ones, but squadristi, officers in the milizia, leaders a.s.o.

All I requests is rigorous inquiries and a clear judgement over all the work I did during this last period of time. If I failed and if the above mentioned action will be conferred, I will resign myself, because I would have failed without intention. If it will result that the accusations were not founded I will not be angry and will know how to forgive.

(S. ~~ed~~) Donatuti Alfredo  
Direttore Provinciale Poste  
Telegrafi

(S. ed) Donatuti Alfredo  
Direttore Provinciale Poste  
Telegrafi

4617

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THE POLICY OF EPURATION

Mayor Greppi, in a circular issued to all Offices, has pointed out the aims of epuration, its principle and limits. In consideration of that serious attitudes of grave indiscipline, similar sometimes to anarchy, have taken place in some Italian comuni, Mayor Greppi in the afore said circular states:

Open hostile attitudes are reported here and there against the legitimate Chiefs, solely guilty for their impartial severity. In full agreement with the C.N.L. for the Communal personnel, I bring to your notice that:

1. The Epuration has only political and moral purposes, and does not concerne at all "disliked superiors"
2. The Epuration should be carried only through proposals made to the C.N.L. who, after a first examination, must submit their temporary conclusions to the competent Commissions and to the Communal Administration.
3. All reasons of disciplinary character, as well as all complaints against the superiors should be laid in legal terms and be respectful to discipline and politeness.
4. Old resentments and grudges bear witness to paltry spirit and powerless wickedness.
5. All personnel discharged without any formality of justice, and whose names will not have been included, up to the 15th June, in the lists of those who were suspended from their appointments consequent on regular and reasonable proceedings processed by C.N.L., must be readmitted right away into their duties.
6. In case that the above denounced "bad manners," which are brought about by the most turbulent and improductive elements and have nothing to do with politics and democratic systems, will continue, severe disciplinary measures will be enforced.
7. Democracy does not generally mean disorder, but voluntary discipline and responsibility.

Having been acquainted with this circular, the Communal Giunta approved the mayor's initiative and directed its immediate implementation.

(S.gd) ALLIATA

4876

SERVICE PRECEDENTS OF DR. DONATUCCI ALFREDO.

Entered the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications - 1/12/1904

Graduated in jurisprudence - 1 July 1901

Promoted Secretary - 1908

" Prime " - 1911 - consequent to examination for distinct merit.

" Consiglier (grade VIII) - 1923

" Chief Section( " VII ) - 1933

" " Division ( " VI ) - 1939 (I)

Obtained several merit marks for special services rendered to administration,  
no preventing action in 40 years of service.

Took part in 1915 - 1918 war - two croci di guerra.

Named Cavaliere Corona D'Italia - 1916

" " Uff. " " - 1921

" " Comendatore " " - 1939

(I) The delay in the promotion to grade VII is due to the fact that precedence was given (from 1923 he had to wait until 1933) to younger ones, for being squadristi, ante-marzia and because in the first years of fascism I was suspected of having favoured the Federazione Rossa PP.TT. and the personnel strikes in 1921 and 1922. No leader charge in the fascist party.

In service in Palermo on 1911 as Direttore di Segreteria.

1912 - 1914 At the Istituto Superiore PP.TT. in Rome.

1915 - 1919 In the Army.

1919 - 1924 Director Ufficio Poste Ferrovie in Palermo.

1925 - 1934 Inspector of the Movimento and Chief Inspector for Sicily in Palermo.

1935 - 1936 Transferred to Rome depending of War Ministry for Military Post services.

1937 - 1938 Central Inspector at Ministry of Posts and Communications.

1939 - 1945 Provincial Director of Posts and Telegraphs in Bolzano 4615

Refer to: *As per file on Defascism  
series*

D.177. /CS

Subject: Dott. Alfredo Donatelli, ex Provincial Director Bologna.

To: Regional Commissioner, Venezia Region (Att: Mayor Dye )  
Mayor Turner

1. Please see appeal of the above to the Italian Govt.
2. Kindly consider the terms of the appeal in connection with the <sup>circumstances</sup> under which the former ~~Donatelli~~ was removed from office? ~~and what were the reasons for the steps?~~
3. Kindly give your opinion as to whether <sup>immediate</sup> any action <sup>on the other hand</sup> in the matter is advisable, or whether it is a fair arrangement to leave the matter to the local Italian defascistation committee.
4. Please return <sup>Italian</sup> correspondence in Italian. (English translation may be retained)

Enclosures: Italian Correspondence with translation.

4614

Polzano 15 Luglio 1945

Illmo Signor PRESIDENTE

della Commissione di Epurazione

BOZZA N. O

Con lettera del 26 Giugno u.s., qui allegata in copia, il signor Commissario Provinciale del Governo Alleato, mi ha licenziato dal la posizione di Direttore Provinciale P.P.T. per motivi che ignoro, nessun addetto essendomi stato in precedenza contestato.

Il 4 corr., mancando ancora la Commissione di Epurazione, ho presentato ricorso, per consiglio del prefato Commissario, al sig. Prefetto, per le ulteriori pratiche di competenza; ricorso che invio ora anche a codesta Commissione, ai sensi dell'art. VII del bando II Luglio del Governo Alleato.

Porgo a Lei un'unica preghiera, quella di voler disporre una ampia urgente istruttoria sulle accuse fattemi, avendo indirettamente appreso, come dall'unito esposto, che sarei incolpato di ingiustizie ed eccessivo rigore verso il personale, nonché di collaborazionismo con i tedeschi.

Pur ritenendo che la prima accusa esuli dalle cause di epurazione e sarebbe se del caso, di competenza del Ministero, ciò non pertanto invoco siano per entrambi interpellati i singoli firmatari della denuncia, perchè in regime di libertà non basta apporre la propria firma sulle accuse del genere, ma occorre comprovare i motivi e la spontaneità della propria adesione.

Invoco principalmente che siano interrogati gli stessi componenti del Comitato esecutivo di questo Sindacato P.P.T. (Aiazzi, Bullera, Capocelli, Bassati, Franceschini, Lorenzani, Zampolli) i quali, non avendo credo mai aderito al fascismo, dovrebbero essere considerati i più puri ed obiettivi. Richiama essi, così come coloro che non hanno voluto dare la loro adesione alla denuncia, se ho mai compiuto atti di persecuzione e cattiveria verso il personale o se piuttosto il medesimo non sia stato da me sempre considerato come una mia grande famiglia, anche quando le manchevolezze di qualcuno imponevano alla mia responsabilità ed al mio dovere di reprimere e punire.

E gli interrogati, per necessità del loro servizio hanno potuto da vicino seguire il mio lavoro durante l'occupazione germanica (Albertani, Brunetti, Donafini, Coco, Cogo, De Zorzi, Heller, Gazzano, Gionzo, Marchese, Neri, Palambri, Piscentini, Rinaldi, Rossi, Zampolli, Zattoni, ecc. ecc.) riferiscano se nei miei atti possa essere menomamente tacitato di collaborazionismo piuttosto che di costante reazione agli ordini dei tedeschi.

Ma contenta infine Lei, quale Presidente della Commissione, che le esprima il mio angoscioso dubbio, che la denuncia, sebbene da parecchi

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Invoco principalmente che siano interrogati gli stessi componenti del Comitato esecutivo di questo Sindacato PP. IT. (Alazzi, Bullera, Capocelli, Bassati, Franceschini, Lorenzini, Zampolli) i quali, non avendo credo mai aderito al fascismo, dovrebbero essere considerati i più puri ed obiettivi. Dichiarano essi, così come coloro che non hanno voluto dare la loro adesione alla denuncia, se ho mai compiuto atti di persecuzione e cattiveria verso il personale o se piuttosto il medesimo non sia stato da me sempre considerato come una mia grande famiglia, anche quando le manchevolezze di qualcuno imponevano alla mia responsabilità ed al mio dovere di reprimere e punire.

E gli impiegati, che per necessità del loro servizio hanno potuto da vicino seguire il mio lavoro durante l'occupazione germanica (Albertani, Brunetti, Donafani, Cogo, De Zorzi, Hallex, Gazzano, Gionzo, Marchese, Negri, Palambri, Piacentini, Rizzoli, Rossi, Zampolli, Zattoni, ecc. ecc.) riferiscono se nei miei atti possa essere menomamente tracciato di collaborazionismo piuttosto che di costante reazione agli ordini dei tedeschi.

Ma consenta infine Lei, quale Presidente della Commissione, che le esprima il mio angoscioso dubbio, che la denuncia, sebbene da parecchi firmata, qualcuno anche inconscientemente, sia opera di pochi che non hanno visto tre passi lontano dal loro risentimento, alzando contro di me gli altri firmatari.

Tratterebbesi sostanzialmente di tre soltanto:

I.) Capoufficio della ferrovia, sig. Negri Domenico, che ho sempre stimato ottimo funzionario, col quale sono stato legato da viva amicizia, che feci ripatriare dopo qualche mese dalla prigionia, che ho sempre valorizzato affidandogli meritatamente incarichi superiori al suo grado. Da poco tempo lo vedevo però mutato nei miei riguardi, ed ora soltanto qualcuno mi fa sospettare che tale strano mutamento sarebbe stato opera deleteria di un altro impiegato, sig. Palamidessi Mario, il quale, coadiuvandomi in Direzione in servizi direttamente afferenti ai compiti dell'ufficio del sig. Negri, veniva spesso ad insinuare, segnalandomi irregolarità e disservizi

che affermava aver constatato all'ufficio ferroviario, spingendomi qualche volta a personali accertamenti, e ad esprimere qualche apprezzamento in una momentanea nervosità; salvo poi riferire con malignità al sig. Negri che ero scontento della sua opera, che mi pentivo di avergli affidato quell'incarico, che l'avrei siliurato ecc. ecc. Nella sua nota onesta il Negri riferisce se ciò è vero, e se nelle discussioni di servizio avute con me, anche qualche volta discutendo su circostanze, che contrastavano col mio desiderio di un'impeccabile funzionamento dei servizi, trovò sempre in me la stessa stima. Altro istigatore del personale sarebbe stato il Capo ufficio del telegrafo sig. Arturo Negri, il cui comportamento durante l'occupazione tedesca di questa Provincia è precisato a pagina 6 dell'unità relazione. Eppure trattasi di un funzionario da me sempre aiutato, anche in sue private questioni di famiglia, per le quali lo feci assistere quando disinteressatamente da un avvocato mio amico, lo raccomandai al Presidente del Tribunale, nonché al Ministero, sino a superare ogni resistenza del Direttore Generale, che per le ommesse situazioni familiari non intendeva affidargli la titolarità del suddetto ufficio telegrafi.

Il terzo nominativo che malgrado qualsiasi risentimento non posso abbinare ai primi due, per la loro serietà e onestà, sarebbe l'agente Tancredi Giorgio, i cui precedenti morali sono specificati nella relazione 18598 inviata il 1° Giugno al Ministero ed al Prefetto, e qui allegata in copia (alleg. 3).

Ma gli italiani hanno oggi principalmente bisogno di giustizia e non di sfoghi e rancori personali esercitati con quegli odiosi sistemi a tutti noti del periodo nazifascista. Ed è per questo che dalla Commissione da lei presieduta invoco la più ampia istruttoria sulla mia condotta, occorrendo anche col vincolo del giuramento da parte di qualunque.

Quindi attendo fiducioso un atto di giustizia e di riabilitazione, unicamente perché possa riavere la mia dignità di modesto ma puro ed onesto italiano, riavvicinare il mio personale, stringere a tutti la mano, dimenticando e perdono qualsiasi errore e diversione di coscienza, riprendere il mio lavoro con ancor più fraterna collaborazione con tutti, e con quella paterna cura e bontà che ho la coscienza di aver sempre usato con chiunque.

Con osservanza

*Donato. Agnes*

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