

CONFIDENTIAL

COUNTER INTELLIGENCE CORPS
MILAN DETACHMENT ZONE 3
APO 512 c/o GSI(b) 2 DISTRICT CMF

24 April 1946

MEMORANDUM FOR THE OFFICER IN CHARGE

SUBJECT: Stealing of Mussolini's Corpse from the Musocco Cemetery in Milano

TO : Officer in Charge

On the night of 23 April unknown persons penetrated the "Musocco" Cemetery of Milano and carried away the corpse of Benito Mussolini.

Regarding the above sensational news, the following particulars have been noted:

1. The grave where Mussolini was entombed contained two boxes (coffins) one of which contained the body of the ex-Duce. This box was discovered open, minus the body, and only the remnants of one leg and foot were left behind in a partially decayed boot. Relative to the disappearance of the corpse, there are various conjectures and versions but one most probable and which is shared also by this office is that the body-snatching was organized by Fascist elements assisted by one of the members of the cemetery guard at the Musocco, some of the few who knew where the body of Mussolini was entombed.

2. In fact, the thieves left a blue-colored typed letter in a commercial envelope with the contents thusly conceived:
"Partito Fascista Democratico" - Comitato Direttivo Centrale - "Those with nostalgic memories of the past, and who cannot forget the destruction wrought on Italy, fling themselves against the anti-Fascist parties who have regiven "liberty" to the people, vindicating their right to reappear on the political scene". The same letter then praises the past of Mussolini.

These fascists belong to the "Partito Democratico Fascista" which allegedly has been organized in Milano and which is also suspected responsible for organizing and leading the uprising of the prisoners in S. Vittore Prison in Milano.

3. The above is sustained in a letter with a threatening tone, dated 16 April 1946, directed to the Prefect and Questore of the city of Milano in which the above mentioned Party requests:

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

-2-

(a) That on 25 April 1948 permission be granted to hold memorial services in a temple in memory of the fallen Italians (sons) who were killed during all wars, and of the Fascists assassinated by the "Red Terror" from 25 April onwards.

(b) That absolute guarantee and assurance be given that the cases against the political prisoners presently at S. Vittore which are now stagnating without judicial consideration be immediately reviewed providing for the immediate release of those who have not committed criminal acts.

(c) That authorization be given by means of the Milan Court of Justice, that 100 packages offered by the "PFD" be distributed on 25 April to the political prisoners in S. Vittore who have no relatives in Milan

(d) Revision of the arbitrary requisitions of apartments and lodgings legitimately belonging to Fascists, whose families are presently without homes and bread:

(e) That the safety of Fascists legally released be guaranteed and assistance be rendered to the needy;

(f) Punishment, according to Italian laws, of the criminals who, profiting from the political situation, have robbed and killed and have remained immune to punishment under the strange shadow of the democracy of Togliatti.

4. At this writing, no other clues have been found which may lead to the apprehension of the ghouls.

5. It is the concensus of public opinion that this ghoulish act on the part of the "PFD" is either an attempt to establish Mussolini as a martyr in preparation for a coup d'etat or to rally all Fascists to the defense of the principles that Mussolini died for with the hope of giving rebirth to the Fascist party.

6. The investigation is continuing.

Nicholas A. Natsios

NICHOLAS A. NATSIOS
Special Agent, CIC

APPROVED:

M.A. TONINI
Major, M.I.
Supervising Agent

CONFIDENTIAL