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COUNTER INTELLIGENCE CORPS
MILAN DETACHMENT ZONE 3
APO 512, U.S. Army

27 August 1946

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION:

**SUBJECT: Bomb-Throwing Incident Against the "CASA del Popolo"
at Lambrate**

1. On 23 August 1946, at about 2100 hrs., bombs were thrown at the "Casa del Popolo" of Lambrate (suburb of Milan), Via Conte Rosso # 12. This building exists as a club-house or meeting place for the PCI, PSI, UDI (Unione Donne Italiane), ANPI (Associazione Nazionale Partigiani d'Italia), Fronte della Gioventu, and the Associazione Reduci.
2. At the time of the bomb incident, about 30-40 members of the PCI were holding a meeting in the building.
3. The first bomb is reported to have been a home-made time bomb which exploded beneath one of the street-level windows. The bomb was not a powerful one and the damage caused was slight. This explosion was immediately followed by 4 hand grenades thrown against the windows. In the resulting confusion sub-machine gun fire was heard. When the situation quieted down, investigation disclosed the dead body of a youth near the entrance whose head was partially torn off by what the police determined to be a burst of machine-gun fire. The body was identified as that of Primo ZAZZI, 16 years old, residing at 71 Via Giacosa, Milan. The body was identified by a sister Delia ZAZZI.
4. Another youth, Alfredo FORTINARI, 16 years old, 61 Viale Monza, Milan, was arrested near the scene as an accomplice. It has been ascertained the FORTINARI was once inscribed in the Gruppo Fascista Baldini.
5. The directors of the "Casa del Popolo" revealed that several threatening letters had been received previous to the incident following the arrest of several neo-Fascists in the zone.
6. During the investigation another four un-exploded hand grenades were found in the vicinity.

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7. The "Camera del Lavoro" denounced the act as treacherous and violently attacked the unknown instigators. A radio appeal was sent out on Saturday 24 August 1946, for a popular demonstration at Lambrate on the following day, the appeal being addressed to all Partisans in the Milan area.

8. On Sunday morning, 25 August 1946, a protest demonstration was held at Lambrate where about 6000 people participated. Several left-wing speakers were heard including the PCI Deputy, CAVALLOTTI, who denounced the campaign to discredit partisans. Another speaker PESCE ANPI, spent all of his allotted time discussing the Asti incident where the dismissal of two score partisan auxiliary policemen drew national attention when they were dismissed under the leadership of Giovanni ROCCA (ex-Partisan chief of the IX Garibaldi Division) and LAVAGNINI escaped into the hills with all their equipment and arms and invited all partisans to join them.

9. On 26 August 1946, industrial workers of the main Milan industrial concerns ceased work from 1315 to 1330 hrs. as a protest to the Lambrate and Asti incidents.

CONCLUSIONS:

1. The Asti affair seems to be the main issue involved and the Lambrate incident takes a back seat in the two affairs.
2. No time was lost by left-wing elements to capitalize on the Lambrate incident to hold a protest demonstration, where strangely enough most of the time was spent protesting against ill-treatment meted to partisans, calling for the partisans to replace the Carabinieri as police, abolition, and calling for the abolition of the UQ Party.
3. The fact that one culprit was killed by machine gun fire indicates that a person or persons inside the building were armed and probably expected trouble since the reaction to the explosions by members inside the building was surprisingly swift.
4. Italian authorities believe that the whole affair was "mis en scene".

APPROVED:

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