

OCT 14 1967

CIA Linked To Secret Files In Italy, Foreign Student Aid

Italy

By THOMAS T. FENTON
(Rome Bureau of The Sun)

Rome, Oct. 13 — An alleged CIA document published here today states that the United States agency urged the Italian Government to maintain secret files on leading Italians.

The 1963 document concludes that the fact that the Italian Government followed Central Intelligence Agency's advice "will amply justify the money spent on this affair."

Discovery of the existence of the secret files by an Italian magazine last April produced a national scandal that resulted in the firing of the Army chief of staff.

Government Admitted It

The dossiers which the Government finally admitted were being maintained by SIFAR, the Italian equivalent of the CIA, contained reports on leading political, business, intellectual and ecclesiastical figures.

There was even a report on the political activities of Italian President Giuseppe Saragat is a Socialist, and SIFAR has been controlled by Italy's Christian Democratic party since World War II.

After the storm broke in Parliament this spring and an official inquiry was ordered, the Government clamped a lid of secrecy on the affair.

The allegedly authentic document published today by the left-wing magazine *Lastroleazio* gives the history of the SIFAR affair and the CIA intervention.

Friendly SIFAR Source

The magazine published a photostat of the cover of the document, which was labeled "Special Report—Office of Current Intelligence—The Situation in Italy — Central Intelligence Agency." The document is marked secret and dated July 5, 1963.

One of the magazine's editors said tonight the report had been leaked to it by a friendly source within SIFAR.

The document states the CIA believed that the secret files, which had been unofficially collected and maintained by two former Christian Democratic ministers of the interior, would be used by "unscrupulous persons" for political purposes.

Conceived By Scelba

Instead of urging that the files be destroyed, the CIA advised the Italian Government to take them over and give them to SIFAR "in order to reduce to a minimum the number of persons who could use them."

According to the document, Mario Scelba "conceived the idea of putting together dossiers on leading (Italian) personalities in the political, business, union and intellectual fields" when he was Minister of the Interior.

Scelba, who was Interior Minister for more than seven years and Premier from February, 1954, to July, 1955, is now one of the leaders of the right wing of the Christian Democrats, Italy's leading party.

The secret files were expanded by Fernando Tambroni, according to the document, who set up a news agency as a front for gathering more information on politicians, union leaders and journalists.

When Tambroni, in turn, became Premier five years later, he transferred the files to a private apartment in downtown Rome.

"Tambroni intended to use the files against his political adversaries in order to keep himself in power," the document states.

The secret files were transferred to a villa in Sardinia when Tambroni left office a few months later. When he died, according to the document, they were turned over to Scelba again.

Uneasiness And Anger

The alleged CIA report said the "case of the Tambroni documents" caused uneasiness and anger "among a large number of Italian politicians, including many of our friends." It was "quite possible," as some Italian politicians said, that the files could fall into "unscrupulous hands."

The report says there were "several confidential exchanges of views with political personalities," and "it was suggested it would be highly desirable" to regain possession of the files section of SIFAR.