

XX 11515

SECRET

POUCH 823

5 April, 1946

TO: SAINT, Rome  
 INFO: SAINT, Cairo; SAINT, Washington  
 FROM: SAINT, London  
 SUBJECT: DADONE, Ugo  
 REFERENCE: JEX-6226 of 20 February 1946,  
 JEX-2295 of 31 January 1946 and  
 JEX - 2004 of Filippo ZAMBONI

*? can't locate*

In reply to your JEX of 6226 of 20 February 1946 we are forwarding you the following M.I.5 traces on Ugo DADONE:

"The following is a precis of the information we have on this man, in addition to what you mention is already in your possession.

"Ugo DADONE arrived in Egypt in 1934 and set up a news agency in Cairo where he worked up to the outbreak of war. This agency was partly controlled by STEFANI.

"His job was to keep Italy in the public eye, and in a favourable light, and at the same time to keep his government fully informed of the political and economic position in Egypt. He also carried on his work by explaining Italian policy to people he met socially and through his culture and charm acquired a large circle of friends in cultural, social and official circles.

"It is doubtful whether DADONE indulged in espionage which was not part of his job, although at one time information pointed to the fact that he was in touch with the Deutsch Nachrichten Büro.

"When interrogated (interrogation report dated 16.12.43) DADONE stated that his agency was only a semi official body. Until September 1939 when orders were no longer received, he was given guidance as to the general propaganda line he should take. These orders came mainly from the Cairo Legation, but also from the Italian Foreign Office, though not the Propaganda Ministerium.

"DADONE makes no secret of the fact that he is confirmed Fascist, and in his opinion democracy means disorder."

In addition, we note a card reference, apparently derived from a list or primer source dated 14.5.43, which gives the following

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 NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
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information on DADONE:

"Formerly head of Italian Propaganda office in Cairo, and an important I.S. officer. Before the fall of Mussolini he was in command of the Arab camp in Rome which has now been taken over by the Germans."

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