

Orig. sent Mr. Hawes 7/29

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13 July 1944

THE GAZZETTA ITALIANA ASSERTS
RUSSIA RECEIVED CLOTHING DESTINED FOR ITALIAN RELIEF

"The Italians in America have been discouraged by disclosures that supplies already gathered for Italy were sent to Russia instead," asserts a front-page English-language editorial in the anti-United Nations and formerly pro-Fascist Seattle weekly Gazzetta Italiana for 7 July. The newspaper blames the Administration for the "series of snags" attendant upon the organization of a national agency for the collection and shipment of used clothing to Italy. As an alternative, the editorial urges that Italian-Americans be permitted to send packages of clothing individually to Italians or Italian towns of their choice, without "all this organization and red tape." "Is there no one in the administration whose job it is to make things easy instead of difficult?"

The Gazzetta's assertion about the Russian destination of supplies collected for Italy may be founded on nothing more substantial than the elaborate series of insinuations contained in Luigi Criscuolo's English-language column of the same issue. (Criscuolo has for months in his monthly newsletter, The Rubicon, attempted to discredit committees organized to supervise campaigns for Italian relief. Excerpts have been regularly republished by the Gazzetta, as well as by other newspapers of similar outlook.) In the Gazzetta for 7 July Criscuolo writes that

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"a snag has been struck in the lack, or alleged lack of ships on which to transport the clothes..... It seems that the final word will be given by Joseph E. Davies, former U. S. Ambassador to the Soviet Union, and some anti-communists have been saying that Davies will put one over on all of the committees that are collecting clothes by sending the whole batch to Russia instead of to the other countries to which it might originally be destined. We hope that rumor is not correct. But, in any event we warn the Roman Catholic Hierarchy to be sure that the clothing it collects will really reach Italy and not the Soviet Union."

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