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4. On 11 August the MA, Colonel Dawson, who had just returned to Rome, called on [] and gave us a copy of his Top Secret report of 10 August 1954, Serial S-24-54, subject: Italian Ministry of Interior Effort to Penetrate U.S. Intelligence in Italy. Although Headquarters may have ready and immediate access to this document in Washington, we are nevertheless attaching hereto a photo reproduction of the copy handed us. We expressed appreciation of the MA's courtesy in showing us this report and inquired as to whether or not he wished to identify the source of the information to us. Dawson said that he did not desire to identify the source, and that he had explicitly told Moffett not to reveal the source of this information in connection with Moffett's original call. He stated that the reason for this was that the informant "belonged" to one of the Italian services with whom he, Dawson, believed us to be in touch. He further added that he was endeavoring to discourage contact with this informant with his own office, lest the Italians suspect that the MA was endeavoring to use one of their own agents against them. In view of this feeling on Dawson's part, we, of course, did not press for identification of his informant.

5. At this point, in view of the fact that HAAS was indicated as sub-source of S-24-54, the recent [] cables []-8653, 8635 and 8634) which, in effect, constitute a debriefing of HAAS on the part of [] plus the fact that we know the MA's office to have had contact with [] in 1949-50 (suggest [] be queried on this point), it appeared most likely that [] was the MA's source.

6. We cannot, at present, properly evaluate the allegations contained in (S-24-54). It is by no means impossible that an investigation has been undertaken, and it is quite possible that Scelba, personally, may be interested in clandestine American operations here. This we will endeavor to find out more about. Meanwhile, the first question that comes to mind in reading this document is the motive behind its being given to the MA. So far as motive goes, it may well fit into the picture of guerrilla warfare in which [] appears to be engaged (see GIRA-4801 (KAFOK-358)).

7. On 26 July, MAZZOCCO of FOA told [] that he had been informed by one ORTOLANI of a plan initiated by SIPAR to confuse or compromise MAZZOCCO's activity in Italy. ORTOLANI had previously told MAZZOCCO of an alleged plan on the part of [] to take over the police. The whole flavor of these allegations on the part of ORTOLANI were so strongly reminiscent of KAFOK-3588 as to suggest that the approach to MAZZOCCO was a deliberate effort to raise doubts in American minds of SIPAR's purpose and good faith. [] memorandum on this conversation is being forwarded under GIRA-5031 (KAFOK-3700).

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2. Against this background, 2-24-54 looks like a counter-move to blacken [] and his colleagues in U.S. eyes, possibly with the expectation that the information would be promptly brought to KENNEDY's attention. This is the first tentative conclusion we have reached in discussion among ourselves here. There is a sense of the feeling which has developed here between Interior and SIFER, of which we do not yet have the full picture of full flavor, and which can produce bad results for ourselves.

Enclosure - 1
Reference by 45 of
in 2-24-54, 20 Aug 54

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