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File - Plan IV

SCI Unit Z
Rome

12 May 1945

To: AC of S, G-2, CI, AFHQ
(Col. Nichols)

Subject: SAIL

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EXEMPTIONS Section 3(b)
 (2)(A) Privacy
 (2)(B) Methods/Sources
 (2)(G) Foreign Relations

NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT

1. While in Milan, the undersigned received information to the effect that SAIL was in hiding from the partisans. In view of the fact that two agents from this unit who successfully crossed the lines to conduct counter-intelligence missions had become involved with SAIL, it was felt necessary to interrogate him before the partisans overtook him.

2. Through a cut-out, an appointment was made and SAIL was visited in his hideout. He talked quite freely and gave partial information which tends to confirm his intensive knowledge of Allied intelligence activities, including valuable information as to the last few weeks of the Fascist Regime. He promised to submit a complete, detailed report of all Fascist and German activities since the armistice, giving every indication that he had participated with the highest German echelon in Italy.

3. On leaving the apartment, the undersigned and his cut-out were confronted by six members of the Matteotti Brigade who were in an automobile; fully armed with machine pistols and other weapons. Two members of the party indicated to the portiere that they were looking for someone in the apartment identical to SAIL's. In view of our interest in obtaining information concerning our operations and the possible whereabouts of valuable documents, a quick decision was made to intervene with these partisans by making SAIL a prisoner of war in the event they should discover his whereabouts. While the two partisans were in the apartment searching for SAIL, the undersigned questioned the occupants of the car concerning their activities. It was evident that they intended to exercise summary judgment and execution of all persons taken by them. After a half hour, the two partisans who had entered the building returned in great haste, jumped into the car and drove away.

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4. After waiting several hours, the undersigned went to SAIL and brought him immediately to Rome for detailed interrogation.

5. It is felt that because of SAIL's aid to our agents, we should prolong his internment in order to enable him to have a fair trial until partisan excitement has calmed down, and in order to extract from him valuable political and counter-intelligence information which he has acquired since the armistice of September 8. Had SAIL been kept in custody at Milan, there is little doubt but that the uncontrollable partisans would have attempted to take him into their custody by force of arms.

James Angleton
JAMES ANGLETON
1st Lt., Inf.
C.O. - SCI/Z Units



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