



**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION**

**CARLO TRESCA**

**PART 5 OF 10**

**BUFILE: 61-1335**

Carlo Tresca

Section 5

Department of Justice  
Alien Enemy Control Unit  
Washington

January 12, 1943

MEMORANDUM TO MR. J. EDGAR HOOVER  
DIRECTOR, FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

RE: CARLO TRESCA

*Mr. Clegg*

It is noted that the above-named subject has recently been murdered in New York City under circumstances which suggest some possible association with alien enemy groups or societies within the United States.

It would be appreciated if you would investigate to see whether there is any such connection and whether it may have any relevance to subversive activities or other security problems bearing on the alien enemy situation.

*Edward J. L...*

Director

*2-16-43  
1/25/43  
JSC*

*NAI*

*61-1335-236*

16 JAN 14 1943

*JSC*  
*OK*

JPC:CGB:DKM

1/25/43

ORDER 61-1335-237

EX-21

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. EDWARD J. KENNIS  
DIRECTOR, ALIEN ENEMY CONTROL UNIT

Re: CARLO TREGGA

Please refer to your memorandum dated January 12, 1943, relative to the captioned individual who was murdered on January 11, 1943, your reference TMC/vgk.

The compliance with the request outlined in your communication would necessitate the investigation of a murder which is clearly within the jurisdiction of local law-enforcement agencies. Such an investigation by the FBI would, in my opinion, establish a precedent for similar action on the part of this Bureau should cases of this type arise in the future. This precedent would in all probability be established particularly in those instances where allegations are made charging that subversive elements are concerned with the murder in question, regardless of how incidental or remote those allegations might be.

Since the investigation of this murder case would be contrary to the established policy of this Bureau, and in view of the fact that the Attorney General is in accord with the FBI's policy in refraining from concerning itself with cases solely within local law-enforcement jurisdiction, the requested investigation is not being undertaken.

If you have any information in your possession indicating that a Fascist group is responsible for the perpetration of this crime, I would appreciate being advised of it. You may be assured, also, that if such data come to my attention you will be furnished with them immediately. To date nothing has come to the attention of this Bureau which would indicate that Fascist elements are responsible for the murder of Carlo

- Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Kramer \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. McGuire \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Harbo \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_
- Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

Very truly yours,

J. Edgar Hoover  
Director

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION  
MAILED 15  
JAN 26 1943  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

58 JAN 30 1943

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DEPT OF JUSTICE  
JAN 26 11 26 AM '43

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JAN 26 8 02 PM '43

*[Handwritten signature]*

*[Handwritten initials]*

227





Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C.

January 12, 1943

DML:PC  
Call: 10:20 AM  
Transcribed: 10:50 AM

- Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Kramer \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. McGuire \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Harbo \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_
- Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_
- Miss Beahm \_\_\_\_\_
- Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. E. A. TAMM

*EM*

I called ASAC Donegan of the New York Office with reference to the death of Carlo Tresca and inquired if they are doing anything about this matter. Donegan stated that Tresca was a casual informant of that office; that he was interviewed about two weeks ago and that there is no reason why it should come out that he was an informant.

*Whelan*

Donegan stated that one of the newspapers there mentioned something about the FBI being interested, but it was mentioned on the basis of his radical activities sometime in the past. Donegan stated that they are having nothing to do with this; that they have not investigated; have not contacted the police or anything else.

I told Donegan that the purpose of my call was to make certain that we stayed out of this. Donegan stated that he would see to it that this is done and advised that a teletype has been submitted to the Bureau relative to this matter.

The above mentioned teletype was later received by this office and is attached hereto.

Respectfully,

*D. M. Ladd*  
D. M. Ladd

Attachment

61-1325-238



61 FEB 27 1943

130



100-9744  
Letter to Director

1/16/43

He said that [redacted] desired the information for his friend [redacted] and [redacted] [redacted] that it was necessary that [redacted] drop every other matter for the League and devote his energies to the investigation of [redacted] [redacted] did considerable research work at the New York Public Library, and also made an investigation, and as a result thereof, informed [redacted] that there was no evidence that [redacted] was a Communist, and on the other hand there was every evidence to show that [redacted] was a Fascist and had been engaged in subversive activities. [redacted] laughed the matter off, and emphasized the fact that we could not let [redacted] down, and he stated that if the evidence could not be secured in a legitimate manner, that it was to be purchased, inasmuch as [redacted] wanted to "get" [redacted] as well as several other Italians who had charged that he [redacted] was a Fascist. [redacted] did mention TRUSSARDI's name. I am certain of that. However, I dropped the matter and went on with other League work.

"A short time after this, [redacted] opened an office on [redacted] using the name of [redacted] I believe he had [redacted] associated with him, although I never saw [redacted] to my knowledge there. I did meet [redacted] there at [redacted] [redacted] was working for the [redacted] although he also ran a [redacted]

[redacted] also known as [redacted] was also at the office, and as [redacted] expressed it he did not want the work for [redacted] to become generally known at the [redacted] offices. On this occasion, however, [redacted] stated that he wanted to get evidence against the Mazzini Society and its leaders for [redacted] office about a month later, owing all sorts of bills, as usual, and as for obtaining evidence against the Mazzini Society, [redacted] or the others, we were up a blank wall. At that time, [redacted] was reporting to a [redacted]

On one occasion I took a sealed package for [redacted] from the [redacted] office over to [redacted] showing that [redacted] had full knowledge of proceedings.

"I kept emphasizing to [redacted] the folly of trying to secure evidence against the Italians opposed to [redacted] stating that I believed if anybody was guilty of subversive activities, it was none other than [redacted] himself. To this, [redacted] stated that [redacted] had money and influence enough to frame or kill off anybody who did not do his bidding, and that anyway I cannot [redacted]

"I supposed the admonition sufficiently cooled [redacted] down, but this last June, 1942, [redacted] started up the same old story, stating that [redacted]

James H.

b7d

100-9744

Letter to Director

1/16/43

wanted to frame a man named [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] He said that the Mazzini Society was a bunch of Communists and Fascists, and that anything done warranted the measures taken. He suggested that I visit the Mazzini Society and try and rope [REDACTED], which I did, and became more than ever convinced that [REDACTED] were guilty and were trying to frame an innocent man or group of men. I also started a still hunt to secure another job so that I might get away from the [REDACTED]. However, one day [REDACTED] told me that I would have to go out and buy some evidence for [REDACTED]. He had hired an Italian gangster by the name of [REDACTED] in the meantime as an investigator for the League, and [REDACTED] came in with all sorts of stories, fabrications, of course.

"Nevertheless, [REDACTED] had every faith in [REDACTED] who would do anything for a dollar, and was the ideal man for [REDACTED]."

[REDACTED] gave me a time limit to 'secure the evidence', but I stalled him off, all the time hunting another job. [REDACTED] grew insistent and vaguely threatened all sorts of things. He wanted me to buy some affidavits, that is, get two men to swear in writing that they had visited the Mazzini offices and had been asked to contribute money to the Mazzini Society, and that they had paid [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] said that [REDACTED] would pay the men a week or so later as [REDACTED] had not paid him. [REDACTED] I again stalled the matter off and cautioned [REDACTED] that he and the rest might find themselves in jail, but [REDACTED] laughed it off and said that [REDACTED] could get anybody killed that opened their mouth, and that he had great influence at [REDACTED] Washington.

"At about this time, [REDACTED] told me that [REDACTED] wanted me to get some divorce evidence, stating that I would receive \$100.00. Said all I had to do was to testify to seeing a couple in a hotel room. Of course, I well knew that the purpose of this was for [REDACTED] to hold a club over my head but nevertheless I ducked the issue and as you know I eventually left the [REDACTED] and when [REDACTED] demanded to know the reason why I was leaving, I told him I was sick and tired of the methods of [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] said, 'If you are wise, you will keep your mouth shut about [REDACTED].'"

"After leaving you today, I received a phone call from [REDACTED] saying that he had something for me and would I make an appointment to come to his office. I set Thursday at noon, and if this TRESCA case is under the jurisdiction of the FBI, might I ask that you or some one of your fellow agents accompany me to [REDACTED] and find out what it is all about."

100-7744

Letter to Director

1/16/43

"I believe you have before you all of my reports to [redacted] or [redacted]. There is something subversive back of the entire matter, and as [redacted] is part and parcel of the gang, [redacted] etc., it may prove of interest.

"I very well remember statements made to me by [redacted] at various times to the effect that 'the Chicago fellow got knocked off' and three or four more will follow, this, of course, referring to the Italians, [redacted] BRESCIA et al. I also vividly remember the last time I saw [redacted] when [redacted] stated that somebody had tipped the FBI off to some of his dealings and he suspected it was I. He also said that [redacted] wanted to see me at the [redacted] but advised me not to keep the appointment, stating that if I did I probably would get my head knocked off and would be lucky if I was dead. [redacted] had tried to get me to call and see him at the [redacted]. Naturally I did not keep the appointment, and for that matter never saw [redacted] again.

[redacted] is mixed up in this job some where, and in that connection there is an Italian publisher of a weekly paper down on Fourth Avenue who has some knowledge, as this man was opposed to [redacted] and with reference to him [redacted] once told me that this Italian had better take out some life insurance. Tomorrow I will get this man's correct name and address, which I have forgotten at the moment, and it will take too long for me to go through my old books to locate it.

"Now that the [redacted] are stated to have unlimited funds at their disposal due to a recent connection with a millionaire by the name of [redacted]

[redacted] anything can happen, and to tell the truth I have a certain amount of fear that these subversives may pull something on me, as they know that I have too much knowledge of their operations. If it be [redacted] who is backing the [redacted] you will find that this man is well known as a crackpot Communist and Left Winger and that he has been thoroughly discredited in the past, but nevertheless [redacted]

[redacted] is able to do what he pleases.

"Please excuse my haste in typing and the lack of neatness."

b7D

Very truly yours,  
F. E. FOXWORTH  
Assistant Director

gs/pk  
2-2-43

61-1335-239

MEMORANDUM FOR THE EXECUTIVE  
ASSISTANT TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
MR. UGO CARUSI

CONFIDENTIAL

A confidential informant has advised that when employed by the [redacted] in New York City, he was instructed to conduct investigations allegedly on behalf of [redacted] in an effort to get some evidence showing that [redacted] and the other leaders of the Mazzini Society are Communists. My informant advises that he did considerable research work and also made an investigation after being informed by his immediate superior in the [redacted] that [redacted] desired the information for his friend, [redacted]

According to the informant, at the conclusion of his work, he told [redacted] that there was no evidence to show [redacted] was a Communist but on the other hand there was every reason to believe that [redacted] was a Fascist and had engaged in subversive activities. [redacted] is reported to have treated this as inconsequential and emphasized the fact that "we" [redacted] could not let [redacted] down and stated if the evidence could not be secured in a legitimate manner, it was to be purchased inasmuch as [redacted] wanted to "get" [redacted] as well as several other Italians who had charged that he, [redacted] was a Fascist.

The informant states he continuously pointed out to [redacted] the folly of attempting to secure evidence against the Italians opposed [redacted] and that in the informant's opinion if anyone was guilty of subversive activities, it was [redacted] himself. [redacted] it is claimed, responded that [redacted] had money and influence enough to frame or kill anybody who did not do his bidding and "any way I can't turn [redacted] down as he has the

Mr. Tolson reads on me".

Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_

Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_ Again in June 1942, the informant states, [redacted] began another

Mr. Glavin investigation for [redacted] who wanted to "frame" a man named [redacted]

Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_

Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_ that the Mazzini Society was made up of Communists and Fascists and

Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_ COMMUNICATIONS SECTION \_\_\_\_\_ he done to them was warranted under the circum-

Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_ During the course of this more recent investigation [redacted] the

Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_ says, told him he would have to go out and buy some evidence for

Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_ The informant maintains [redacted] gave him a time

Mr. Egan \_\_\_\_\_ limit to secure the information but the informant kept putting him

Mr. Kramer \_\_\_\_\_ off the subject [redacted] became insistent and vaguely threatened all

Mr. McGuire \_\_\_\_\_ requested the informant to buy some affidavits

Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_ containing statements which could be used against the Mazzini Society

Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_

Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

8 125  
FEB 26 1943

b7D

Memorandum for Mr. Ugo Carusi

b7D

-2-

and said that [REDACTED] would pay the authors of these affidavits a week or so after they were secured, payment not being made in advance because [REDACTED] had not paid [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] was warned that he and his associates might find themselves in jail, [REDACTED] laughed the matter off and said that [REDACTED] could have anybody killed who spoke against him and added Pope had great influence in Washington.

As you can see from the details set forth, the source of this information can very readily be identified by a person having a complete knowledge of the matter described in this memorandum. It is therefore most urgently requested that, should you have occasion to discuss these facts with anyone who might be familiar with the details, considerable care be used so that it will not become known that this informant has furnished this information to the Bureau or the Department of Justice.

The reliability of these statements is not known but this memorandum is being directed to you because of your previously expressed interest in the activities of Generoso Pope.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

JAN 14 1943

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. E.A. Tamm	
Mr. Clegg	
Mr. Glavin	
Mr. Ladd	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tracy	
Mr. Carson	
Mr. Coffey	
Mr. Hendon	
Mr. McGuire	
Mr. Mumford	
Mr. Quinn	
Mr. Nease	

FBI NYC  
DIRECTOR  
VEST

1-12-43

10-22 PM

WHS

RE CARLO TRESCA, IS - I, REMYLET OF NOV NINTH, FORTY TWO, ENTITLED DOLORES FACONTI, ASSISTANT USA, SDNY. FACTS IN LETTER PREVIOUSLY CONFIRMED BY TRESCA. [REDACTED] SUSPECTS FRANK GAROFALO MAY HAVE HAD MOTIVE TO ASSASINATE SUBJECT IN VIEW OF FAROFALO-S PAST QUARRELS WITH TRESCA. [REDACTED] CONTEMPLATES FURNISHING INFORMATION CONCERNING GAROFALO TO MAYOR LA GUARDIA PERSONALLY AS HE HAS NO CONFIENCE IN THE INFORMATION BEING, KEPT FROM GAROFALO BY THE POLICE. ARTICLE IN NY POST RELATES THAT [REDACTED] TRESCA HAD CALLED A MEETING AT HIS OFFICE THE EVENING OF HIS MURDER TO DISCUSS THE MAZZINI SOCIETY, AND ITS ACTIVITIES.

FOXWORTH  
PLS HOLD

*b7D*

RECORDED  
&  
INDEXED

*N160*

61-1335-  
B  
1 JAN 16 1943  
J. J. [unclear]

*Rec'd 11:40 P.M.  
1-12-43  
EW*

*Memorandum  
1-13-*

*61-1335-240*

*FIVE*

EDGAR HOOVER  
DIRECTOR



Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C.  
January 13, 1943

JPC:mae  
67-1335

- Mr. Tolson
- Mr. E. A. Tamm
- Mr. Clegg
- Mr. Glavin
- Mr. Ladd
- Mr. Nichols
- Mr. Rosen
- Mr. Tracy
- Mr. Carson
- Mr. Coffey
- Mr. Hendon
- Mr. Holloman
- Mr. McGuire
- Mr. Harbo
- Mr. Quinn Tamm
- Tele. Room
- Mr. Nease
- Miss Beahm
- Miss Gandy

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. LADD

RE: CARLO TRESCA

Reference is made to the attached newspaper clippings, the content of which is concerned with the murder of Carlo Tresca on the night of January 11, 1943. Tresca, an Italian alien, was the anarchist editor of the Italian newspaper "Il Martello". It will be recalled that this individual was an Italian Socialist and he made himself famous by leading various groups who were interested in bringing about the freedom of the leaders of the much heralded Sacco Vanzetti case.

Tresca was utilized by the New York Office on several occasions in the recent past inasmuch as he had information in his possession regarding Fascist activities in that area. He was last contacted by a Bureau Agent on January 6, 1943.

These facts are being brought to your attention inasmuch as the New York Times erroneously reported on January 12, that Agents of the FBI have joined in the investigation with the New York Police Department for the purpose of determining the identity of the subject's murderer.

A review of the Bureau files reflects the presence of a letter from New York dated November 9, 1942, indicating that Miss Delores Faconti, Assistant United States Attorney, Southern District of New York, had brought one Frank Garofalo into the membership of the Cons of Italy in New York. Garofalo is alleged to be an ex-gangster and bootlegger, and a one time associate of Charles "Lucky" Luciano. Garofalo is said to be harmless politically but to be criminally dangerous. [redacted] an informant of the New York Office advised that on September 10, 1942, a dinner was held in New York by the War Savings Bond Committee of Americans of Italian extraction; that Carlo Tresca was present at the meeting; and that Tresca commented on the fact that a number of former pro-Fascist sympathizers were at the dinner. When Garofalo, who had threatened Tresca's life in 1931, entered the dining room, Tresca's indignation knew no bounds and he exclaimed, "Even that gunman is here." Tresca immediately arose and left the room.

ENCLO. 2  
MIL

INDEXED  
67-1335-240

Fish

BUY  
UNITED STATES SAVINGS BONDS

670

52 JAN 28 1943

On January 12, 1943, the New York Office advised by teletype that an informant, ██████████ suspects Frank Garofalo of having a good motive to assassinate Tresca in view of the past quarrels which took place between the two and possibly because Tresca had called a meeting at his office on the evening of his murder for the purpose of discussing the activities of the Mazzini Society.

The New York newspapers are affording this case a considerable amount of publicity and it is concluded from a review of the articles appearing therein that the Italian-American Labor Consul of Luigi Antonini as well as the Mazzini Society are bringing a great amount of pressure to bear in order that the identity of Tresca's murderer may be established.

Of course, the Bureau is conducting no investigation in the matter but it is deemed advisable to bring the foregoing to your attention because of the publicity that has been afforded it as well as the fact that informant Lupis has indicated that he will furnish the information concerning Garofalo to Mayor La Guardia personally as he has no confidence in the information being kept from Garofalo by the New York Police Department.

Respectfully,

F. L. Welch

Attachment

67D

# Carlo Tresca, Ardent Radical, Slain in N. Y.

Anti-Fascist Editor  
Shot Down on 5th Ave.

NEW YORK, Jan. 11 (N.Y. News).—Carlo Tresca, ardent Socialist revolutionary and editor of an Italian anti-Fascist weekly newspaper, was slain tonight on dimmed-out Fifth Avenue a few seconds after he left his newspaper office. He was cut down in a volley of shots as he and an associate stood on a street corner.

According to witnesses, a car pulled up at the curb, one man hopped out and fired several shots, then hopped back in again and the car sped away.

## Falls to Street

Tresca, famous for his rendezvous with trouble, for his arrests in labor clashes, for his battles with police, for his brushes with would-be assassins, slumped to the gutter with at least one bullet in his head and others in his body. The friend he was with, Giuseppe Calabi, was unscathed.

Calabi told police they were en route to Tresca's home.

Police immediately searched the area surrounding the office of Tresca's paper, *Il Martello*, a vitriolic Mussolini baiter for many years. About 100 feet away they found a .38 caliber gun, at first believed to be the murder weapon. But examination disclosed that the gun was fully loaded and one of the bullets which hit Tresca was found and identified as .32 caliber.

## Murder Car Described

The murder car was described by witnesses as a 1938 or 1939 Ford—its presence on the street lending an ironic note to the city's efforts to eliminate all but "essential" motoring.

Tresca, about 60 years old, has been known in his long and turbulent career as an anarchist, perennial revolutionist, syndicalist, Socialist and proponent of the I.W.W. But in recent years his ardor has been concentrated on smashing fascism. One of his many arrests was for assaulting a local Fascist leader.

Tresca came to this country in 1904, when he left Italy as a political exile. By 1913 he had acquired national notoriety for his defense of a colleague, Arturo Giovannitti, charged with murder after rioting in the Lawrence (Mass.) textile strike.

## Aided Hotel Worker Strike

In the same year, Tresca played a leading role in the New York hotel workers' strike and in the three decades since he has figured in nearly every major labor trouble. Newspapers described him as "the champion trouble-maker of all time."

In 1924 he was sentenced to a year's imprisonment in Atlanta Federal prison for sending obscene pamphlets through the mails, the pamphlets being tracts relating to birth control. The sentence was later reduced by President Calvin Coolidge and Tresca was released after a few months.

Tresca was a leader of the Mesaba Range iron ore strikes in northern Minnesota in 1916 and was charged with first degree murder as a result of a riot death there. He was acquitted. During the great Paterson, N. J., silk strike he was arrested seven times, held in \$30,000 bail and thrice placed on trial.

## Teamed With Emma Goldman

During many of his labor adventures he was teamed with two other famous Left-Wing figures, Elizabeth Curley Flynn and Emma Goldman.

In 1921 he headed an 'emergency committee' to aid Sacco and Vanzetti, advertising in his newspaper to seek out anyone with information to help the accused anarchists.

In 1924 Tresca was sentenced to a year's imprisonment in Atlanta Federal penitentiary for running a two-line birth control advertisement in his newspaper. H. L. Mencken republished the ad in the *American Mercury* and challenged the authorities to send him to Atlanta, too.

As a result of the furore that followed, President Calvin Coolidge reduced Tresca's sentence to four months. On his way back from prison, Tresca stopped off at the White House and—unrecognized—shook hands with Coolidge. He later said, "I was afraid to tell who I was, for fear guards would look in my pocket for bombs."

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Kramer \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. McGuire \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

*Handwritten notes:*  
F. J. ...  
W. H. ...

ENCLOSURE

WASHINGTON TIMES-HERALD  
MORNING EDITION JAN 12 1943

file  
Mr. Callahan  
Mr. W. P. [unclear]  
Mr. Coghane

## Tresca Slaying Still a Mystery; Communist or Fascist Plot Is Seen

The man who shot Carlo Tresca and drove away in the dimout Monday night left behind him only the evidence that it was well-planned killing, according to the police twenty-four hours later.

District Attorney Frank S. Hogan said last night that the slayer left wide open the question whether his motive was personal or political; and, on the political side, whether Tresca, the 68-year-old firebrand of his own evolving ideas of liberty, was more of a present obstacle to the Fascists or to the Communists.

The killing was pronounced a political crime and therefore an assassination, however, in a statement issued last night for the Italian American Labor Council, an organization of 300,000 Italian

and Italo-American trade unionists in New York and the vicinity.

"We accept this assassination as a challenge to all liberty loving people," the statement ended, "and we intend to go very deeply into it, and will not be satisfied by a mere superficial explanation."

The statement was issued over the signatures of Luigi Antonini, president, and Joseph Catalonotti, vice president, of the council. It was supplemented later by a declaration that "a mere superficial explanation" meant "the tendency to attribute the crime to Fascists and to ignore other explanations."

Meanwhile the police have taken possession of the offices of Tresca's publication, Il Martello, in front of which he was killed, and are reading back through his editorials and files for enlightenment on his current political position.

District Attorney Hogan said the

This is a clipping from  
page 1 of the  
New York Times for  
JAN. 13, 1943  
Clipped at the Seat of  
Government.

ENCLOSURE

# TRESCA SLAYING STILL A MYSTERY

Continued From Page One

research had not gone far enough to justify a judgment, but that it was evident Tresca's traditional violence and tremendous intellectual prestige among organized Italians here had been directed recently against communism.

## 30 Witnesses Are Questioned

Numbers of Tresca's friends among the thirty witnesses questioned yesterday by Assistant District Attorney Jacob Grumet, chief of the homicide bureau, said privately later they told him why they thought it most likely a Communist job.

One of Tresca's closest associates said last night that the dead firebrand's attacks on the Communists were "based on the widespread opinion among anti-Fascist, libertarian elements that we in the United States have now reached a situation with respect to the Stalinists which developed in Spain in the latter period of the civil war, when the Stalinists proceeded to liquidate in various ways persons in the anti-Fascist camps whom they regarded as obstacles in their efforts to achieve a monopoly of power."

Mr. Grumet, when pressed as to this, said all such information was receiving full attention as a "possibility."

Trails run in all directions, the chief of the Homicide Bureau pointed out, when a prosecutor is called to explore the political enemies of a man who has been variously an anarchist, syndicalist, "wobbly," Socialist, anti-Fascist, who has been bombed, kidnapped, had his throat cut and been four times shot at in the interest of various ardent Italian partisanships during his lifetime. More-

over, he is known to have been on the Fascist death list in 1931. During his stormy lifetime he has been arrested in disorders and assaults some thirty-six times, according to the police, although he never spent more than four months in jail at any time.

His current activity consisted in successfully blocking the admission of Communists into the Maxzini Society, a subcommittee of which was to meet in his office the night he was killed.

The meeting was attended only by Tresca and his associate, Giuseppe Callabi, and was abandoned after a period of waiting. When Tresca stepped into the street he was shot. The police are still questioning the four committee members who were absent as to why they stayed away.

## 100 Detectives Busy on Case

To deal with the procession of witnesses, District Attorney Hogan added assistant district attorneys Eleazar Lipsky and Louis A. Pagnucco to Mr. Grumet's staff of questioners in the homicide office.

More than 100 detectives worked yesterday from the District Attorney's office and under the direction of Inspector Conrad Rothenberg, commanding the detectives of the West Side of Manhattan, searching the vicinity of the crime and attempting to get something out of the meagre clues.

Some half-dozen passers-by who rushed to the scene on hearing the shots which killed Tresca, did not see much in the dimout. They could not tell whether the killer jumped into the waiting car and drove off alone or whether he had a driver.

Even Tresca's companion, Callabi, who leaped to shelter when the firing started, could give only a highly generalized description of the man, principally that he wore a black hat.

## Slayer's Car Is Found

The killer left behind an empty cartridge case, evidently ejected by his automatic. The police also found a fully loaded .38-caliber revolver behind some ash barrels

near by, but the number was not registered.

The 1938 sedan in which the killer risked being stopped by the station checkers who might have inquired his business, was found eight hours later parked five blocks away, near the Eighteenth Street entrance of the Seventh Avenue subway.

Through an old Federal auto tax stamp on the windshield it was traced to a former owner, John A. Conniff of 141 Ninth Avenue, who said he sold it about six weeks ago to the Confield Motors, Inc., 1900 Broadway. There the police found the car had been resold to a customer who paid \$300 for it and brought his own plates so that he could drive it away—on Dec. 14,

eighteen days before the murder. The plates, IC-9272, were checked up and the owner found to be registered as Charles Pappas of 807 Eighty-second Street, Brooklyn. The police found no such address.

Last night, the autopsy by Assistant Medical Examiner Milton Halpern showed that the killer hit Tresca with two equally deadly .32-calibre bullets. One entered his left lung. When Tresca turned under the impact, the killer fired a mother bullet into the right side of his face at such close range that the powder burned the skin. The bullet passed through Tresca's brain and was found lodged in the base of his skull.

The body was formally claimed by Tresca's stepson, Carl Harris de Silver, and will lie in state from today in the Frank E. Canabon Funeral Church on Madison Avenue at Eighty-first Street.

The Italian-American Labor Council announced it was planning an imposing mass funeral for Tresca in the largest hall that can be obtained on Saturday.

This is a clipping  
page \_\_\_\_\_ of the  
New York Times of

Clipped at the  
Government.

ENCLOSURE

*File*

*Handwritten scribbles and signatures*

# FBI Hunts Slayer of Carlo Tresca

New York police and FBI men were searching yesterday for slayers of Carlos Tresca, editor of Il Martello, an Italian language paper.

Tresca was shot down Monday night at about 9:30 o'clock on Fifth Ave. a few feet from the headquarters of his paper at 2 West 15th St. According to his friend, Giuseppe Callabi of 215 Central Park West, who was with Tresca at the time, four shots were fired by a man who stepped out of an automobile. Three shots went wild. Another pierced Tresca's head.

The car sped away and Callabi was unable to give the police a good description of the gunman.

Yesterday a car found in the vicinity was described as the car used by the slayer in a United Press report.

Police found a .38 caliber revolver near the scene Monday night. The bullet that killed Tresca, however, was of .32 caliber.

Hearst's red-baiting Journal American yesterday attempted a Hitlerite incitement by dragging in the "Communists" among those possibly implicated in the case.

*FBI*

This is a clipping from page 3 of the Daily Worker for

1-13-42  
Clipped at the Seat of Government.

### THE DEATH OF CARLO TRESCA

The murder of Carlo Tresca removes a man who was capable of expressing and inspiring violent disagreement, but whom only an embittered fanatic could have hated. His name carries one's memories back to days which were certainly turbulent enough but also gayer than those through which we are now living. Tresca was at various stages an Italian Socialist, a leader of the I. W. W. and a self-styled syndicalist. He was best known a generation ago, when he was likely to turn up wherever there was a strike, always, of course, taking the side of the strikers. Those were the days when people like John Reed, Elizabeth Gurley Flynn and Big Bill Haywood seemed a menace to the established order, and when the I. W. W. were looked upon much as the American Communists are now—though in justice to them it must be said that, unlike their successors, they had a sense of fun.

Those were also the days when left-wingers, parlor pinks, and liberals of various shades could sometimes get together without trying to break each other's necks. The passport to the society in which Carlo Tresca lived so exuberantly was simply a belief that something was dreadfully wrong and that steps should be taken to correct it. The steps taken did not shake this Republic. Carlo Tresca, arrested thirty-six times, tried seven times, was a fighter only when a fight was going on. Otherwise he was charming and disarming. He was no hand with deadly weapons. When his life was threatened and he took out a permit to carry a revolver the first thing he did was to shoot himself in the foot. It was his boast that the bomb squad always called on him after an explosion. "They are good fellows," he said. "They ask me what I know, but I never know anything. So we have wine."

Despite his humor and his unreclaimed dialect he was serious. He carried on a one-man war against Fascism long before the rest of the United States joined him. He may have come to his death as a result. He had some wild ideas, particularly against religion, but one simple statement he made can still be endorsed after all the years: "I seek only freedom, not anarchy."

This is a clipping  
page 22 of the  
New York Times of  
JAN. 13, 19  
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Government.

ENCLOSURE

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FOREIGN NATIONALITY GROUPS IN THE UNITED STATES  
MEMORANDUM BY THE FOREIGN NATIONALITIES BRANCH  
TO THE DIRECTOR OF STRATEGIC SERVICES

Number 96

January 19, 1943

Political Aspects of the Tresca Murder

The murder of Carlo Tresca in New York, January 11, 1943, came at a time when Italian factions in the United States were already deep in acrimonious political controversy. Reactions which have been expressed for public consumption follow the ideological and personal cleavages of the moment.

In the partly covert fight which during recent months has created great confusion within Italian anti-Fascist circles, the following line-ups had manifested themselves by early January:

1. The Communists, while proclaiming their desire for a broad anti-Fascist unity and their willingness to recognize therefore Count Sforza's title to leadership of an Italian National Committee, had in fact retained all of their hostility to Tresca among the Anarchists, to the Socialists of *La Parola*, to the Labor elements led by Luigi Antonini, and to Tarchiani and Cianca of the Mazzini Society. Their closest friends were two men formerly prominent in the Mazzini Society but now hostile to it, Giuseppe Lupis and Carlo a Prato. Less intimately the Communists maintained friendly relations with the Republicans led by Aurelio Natoli and Colonel Randolph Pacciardi. Sartin, an Anarchist opposed to Tresca on ideological grounds, had help from the Communists in his journalistic polemics with their enemies.

2. Giuseppe Lupis, the "dissident Socialist" and editor of *Il Mondo*, had become closely associated with Carlo a Prato. He conducted vigorous campaigns against Fascists, as all of these factions did, but he also opposed the Mazzini Society on ideological grounds. In particular he nursed a deep grudge against the Socialists and Luigi Antonini. His sympathies were with the

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4-25-17

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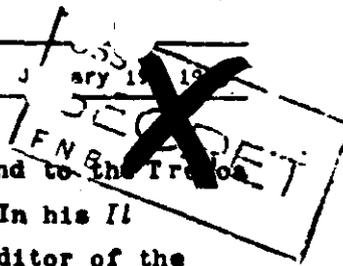
Republicans, and, less avowedly, with the Communists. (His intimacy with the Republicans may now be disappearing, for in the last issue of *Il Mondo* he gave space to a long article which took up and expanded Professor Salvemini's criticisms of the Italian Legion project of Colonel Pacciardi.)

3. The Italian Socialists and the group of Italo-American labor leaders grouped around Luigi Antonini have always been in practice a single political force. In the past they had opposed Communist efforts to bring about a union of all groups including the Communists; in the process the Socialists had alienated the Republicans, but they had supported Tarchiani and Cianca at every turn. In the last thirty days, they had broken completely with Tarchiani and Cianca, and they have now been trying to put through a reorganization which would make the Antonini group the only surviving political force within the Mazzini Society.

4. The Republicans, hostile to all groups except the Communists and the Lupis-a Prato coalition, had not appeared to be more than "properly" cordial even to these. On the other hand, in their soldier-leader, Colonel Pacciardi, they had the commanding military figure among the Italians. Pacciardi himself had for a year endeavored to remain within Republican ranks and to avoid at the same time the handicap his political affiliations imposed upon his military aspirations.

5. Tarchiani and Cianca, who comprised the Mazzini Society's Secretariat, had suddenly been isolated when Antonini and the Socialists turned on them during the past month.

The leadership of Count Sforza, which Tarchiani and Cianca have steadfastly supported, continued to be accorded recognition by all anti-Fascist factions. Pacciardi was likewise everyone's choice for the "military authority." But in fact no one cooperated with anyone else across factional lines. Quite the reverse: each faction charged all others with engaging in cutthroat competition in the race to get to North Africa and a hoped-for preferred position, eventually, in Italy proper. There appears to be some foundation for many of the accusations bandied back and forth to this effect.



The foregoing makes up the political background to the Treves murder. The victim was virulently anti-Fascist. In his *Il Martello* he waged a private feud with Sartin, an editor of the rival *L'Adunata dei Refrattari*, as to which of them was the better anarchist. In the factional fighting whose main lines are sketched above, he was violently anti-Communist, critical of Lupis, cold to the Republicans, but warmly friendly to Antonini and the Socialists.

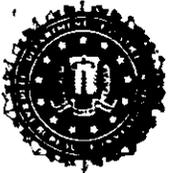
Most of the factions have already expressed themselves on the murder, either in statements given to the press, in "official" pronouncements in their partisan organs, or in private remarks to friends.

The Antonini-Socialist element at once placed suspicion on the Communists.

The *Daily Worker* published a rehearsal of those Marxist doctrines whereby Communists disavow the use of assassination as a political weapon. The next issue of the Stalinist weekly *L'Unita del Popolo*, when it appears, will probably reiterate these principles and will also undoubtedly direct its fire at other Italian-language papers.

Lupis has in private expressed his belief in the innocence of the Communists. He has suggested that the murder may have been the work of Fascist *squadrists*. He apparently feels that the murder may have been designed to advertise to all other anti-Fascist Italians the effective although undercover continuation of the authority of Mussolinian terror. In any event, Lupis is certain that the murder was political.

Tarchiani, no friend either of Lupis or of the Communists, nevertheless gives the Italian-Communists a clean bill of health. He has suggested, however, that the "GPU" might have had independent motives for the assassination of Treves, who, since the murder of Trotsky, had at frequent intervals publicly charged the "GPU" with that killing, and had published many documents in support of this charge.



Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C.

EAT: JDR  
Call 4:45 PM  
Typed 4:47 PM

January 18, 1943

*[Handwritten signature]*

MEMORANDUM FOR ~~THE DIRECTOR~~

Re: CARLO TRESKA

- Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Kramer \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. McGuire \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Harbo \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_
- Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_
- Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

I called Mr. Donegan of the New York office in connection with the Carlo Tresca murder case and told him you think the New York office should keep in close touch with it in so far as the so-called anti-Fascist angles are concerned in order that if anything shapes up on it, we will know what it is. I told him that although you do not want to take over the case and assume any responsibility for the investigation of the murder, not wanting to do anything which would permit anyone to state publicly that the Bureau is in the case, at the same time you want to keep in sufficiently close touch with the anti-Fascist angle to so state if any information develops through informants or otherwise to avoid being suddenly plunged into the case whether we want it or not, since there appears to be a concerted effort toward that end now.

Mr. Donegan said the press has been calling and asking if the Bureau is investigating the case, and he has told them since it is a murder case, the Bureau cannot investigate it. I told him he should continue to take that position with the press.

Mr. Donegan said the New York office would follow up this matter in accordance with your wishes.

Respectfully,

*[Handwritten signature]*  
Edward A. Tamm

cc: Mr. Ladd

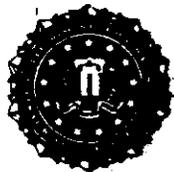
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ENCLOSURE

JAN 28 1943



56 JAN 28 1943



KRM:chr

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C.

January 23, 1943

- Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Holloman \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_
- Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_
- Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. F. L. WELCH *JW*

RE: CARLO TRESCA

The following article concerning the murder of Carlo Tresca was contained on page 21 of "Time" magazine dated January 25, 1943:

"Flame-red, the carnations lay upon six square feet of sidewalk of Manhattan's Fifth Avenue and 15th Street. Flame-red, they rested in the cars of the funeral cortege that rolled by. On pavement and auto seat, in lapels of hundreds of mourners, they symbolized the passing of Carlo Tresca. Shot down last week on a street corner near his little Italian-language newspaper office, the jovial, goateed, almost legendary radical editor presented in death the spectacle, revolting to the U.S., of political assassination.

"Tresca, son of a wealthy landowner, came over from his native Italy as a steerage immigrant in 1904. He knew one Benito Mussolini, the Socialist who had told him 'Tresca, you are not radical enough.' For the next 38 years this rotund journalist in the oversize black hat unceasingly championed the causes of the Left. In an earlier day he belonged to the same firebrand company as Emma Goldman and the I.W.W. His voice was raised in a long array of newspapers, of which the last was Il Martello (The Hammer). He campaigned in the Pennsylvania coal fields, in Manhattan's garment district. He scrapped with Communists, but above all with Fascists. Yet no one who met the man face to face, who sat down with him and a bottle of red wine at a restaurant table, could help liking him. Personally his enemies seemed few. Politically they were legion.

"The number of these enemies was perhaps baffling to those investigating Tresca's murder. Said New York's District Attorney Frank S. Hogan: 'It seems at some time or other, in politics and personalities, that Tresca was "agin everything.'" Police had one important witness, several thin leads. A pistol had been found near the murder scene, and an abandoned car. An ex-convict had been spotted entering the same car just before the murder; he was in custody and being questioned. More than 100 detectives were on the case, for among the slain man's friends was Mayor LaGuardia.

"Mussolini, long after his admonition to Tresca, had put the radical editor on the Fascist death list. There was belief that a Fascist agent might now have carried out the deed.

61-1335-243

Memorandum for Mr. Welch

Page 2

whose influence he bitterly fought. He was a man without a party, yet he spoke thoughts that are going through the minds of millions of his countrymen, here and in the homeland, who stand against oppression. But the disturbing thing was that Tresca's murder might have cast upon the New World the shadow of Old World political murder."

Respectfully,



K. R. McIntire

Mr. Tolson	.....
Mr. E. A. Tamm	.....
Mr. Clegg	.....
Mr. Glavin	.....
Mr. Ladd	.....
Mr. Nichols	.....
Mr. Rosen	.....
Mr. Tracy	.....
Mr. Carson	.....
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Mr. Quinn Tamm	.....
Mr. Nease	.....
Miss Gandy	.....

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*Coyler*

FBI NYC  
DIRECTOR  
VEST

1-14-43

6-45 PM

WHS

RE CARLO TRESCA, IS - I, IT HAS BEEN ASCERTAINED THAT DISTRICT ATTORNEY OF NY COUNTY QUESTIONED DOLORES FACONTI, ASST USA, SDNY, IN CONNECTION WITH SUBJECTS HOMICIDE AND THAT FRANK GAROFALO WILL BE QUESTIONED TODAY. CARMINE GALANTE, THIRTY FIVE, A PAROLEE, IS BEING HELD AS A SUSPECT BY NY PD.

RECORDED 61-1335-244

FOXWORTH  
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FACCIST

Jan. 12, 1943.

The writer was to see Otto again today.

The attached clipping will explain why the meeting was deferred for a few days.

Note section marked in clipping. This is the Elizabeth

Flynn who conducted last night's Lenin Memorial at Madison

Square Garden.

--- \* \* ---

4  
ENCLOSURE

61-1235-245  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
JAN 25 1943  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

52 JAN 20 1943

244  
1/22/43

**THE WEATHER**

Today: Windy and colder by night  
Temperatures Yesterday: Max. 35; Min. 28  
Detailed Report on Page 30

VOL. CII No. 35,121

# Carlo Tresca Assassinated On Fifth Ave.

## Familiar Radical Figure Shot Near Union Square, Killer Flees in Dimout

## Publisher Was Foe Of Italian Fascists

## Met Mussolini as Exile, Later Feared Death at Hands of Duce's Agents

Carlo Tresca, who for thirty-eight years had been a unique, party-less figure in radical movements in the United States, was shot and killed at 9:45 o'clock last night by a lone attacker at the northwest corner of Fifth Avenue and Fifteenth Street.

Mr. Tresca, who was sixty-eight years old, left the offices of the newspaper "Il Martello" (The Hammer) at 2 West Fifteenth Street, which he had published for years with a friend, Guiseppe Callabi, of 415 Central Park West, a few moments before the shooting.

The Fifth Avenue intersection was dark in the dimout. There was little traffic, and few people were about. As Mr. Tresca and Mr. Callabi turned the corner onto Fifth Avenue the killer suddenly materialized in the dimout, whipped out a gun and shot four times. Three bullets went wild, but the fourth struck Mr. Tresca in the head, passing through his cheeks.

He fell the Fifth Avenue gutter, the assassin bent over him, and was dead when Mr. Callabi bent over his friend. The assassin ran east toward Union Square and escaped in the darkness.

### Familiar Figure at Rallies

Since 1904 Mr. Tresca's short, squat figure, his mustache and goatee and the large hat had been familiar at radical meetings, in strikes, and in a good many courtrooms and jails as he gave all his time to work in radical movements, supporting himself by publishing newspapers and never receiving pay from a union or any other organized group.

In recent years he worked persistently as an anti-Fascist, and his slaying immediately introduced the likelihood that Italian Fascism had claimed another victim.

Mr. Tresca once met Benito Mussolini—in Geneva, Switzerland, in 1904, when both were in exile from Italy, and after an evening's argument Mr. Tresca tired of the bombastic Socialist who later became dictator of Italy. They did not part on particularly friendly terms.

After the march on Rome Mr. Tresca came forth openly against Fascism and apparently at one time was placed on a blacklist by the regime that strengthened its hold on Mr. Tresca's native land by organized murder.

In 1931, when Mr. Tresca was leading an anti-Fascist movement among Italians here, he was approached by an ex-bootlegger who told him he had been paid to assassinate him. The bootlegger was a fugitive from justice and needed money to return to Italy. If Mr. Tresca would give him the money, he said, he would forget about the murder.

### Would-Be Killer Cowed

The problem was taken care of by another man who called on Mr. Tresca, and invited him to a conference at which the bootlegger was present in cowed and timorous person. The bootlegger was told to kiss Mr. Tresca's hand, and did, and it developed that the chief of the Black Hand in Sicily had sent orders that Mr. Tresca was to be protected from Mussolini's agents. Mr. Tresca had not been troubled thereafter.

Mr. Tresca lived at 52 West

(Continued on page 18, column 2)

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# Carlo Tresca Assassinated On Fifth Ave.

(Continued from page one)

Twelfth Street, a short distance from the offices of "Il Martello." He was known to radicals of all leanings throughout the world and enjoyed almost general respect. He was difficult to classify. Not a Socialist or a Communist, he sometimes called himself an anarchist, and was formerly a leader of the I. W. W., but he never belonged to a party.

He moved through radical circles here for thirty-eight years without entering any definite classification, but was always actively engaged in the particular labor cause of the moment that most enlisted his interest.

He was born in Pulmona, Italy, the son of a wealthy landowner, and the workers called him "Don Carlo" when he joined the local branch of the Socialist party. He became editor of "The Seed," a Socialist newspaper, and first got into trouble with the police—a routine occurrence thereafter—by libeling a local political leader.

Mr. Tresca was tried and sentenced, forgot to file an appeal, and departed for Geneva, where he met Comrade Benito, a fellow Socialist follower. He later described the incident:

"Mussolini was very weak tempered and vain, a man who would push himself forward so people applaud. I argued all night with him. He says he is a very radical man, an extreme Socialist. Next day he says good by to me at the station and he says, 'Tresca, you are not radical enough.' Can you imagine? I am an anarchist now, and what is Mussolini, who was so radical? A traitor to the cause. He remembers that incident, and if I go anywhere near Italy I don't live long."

It will remain for police procedure to determine whether in fact Mussolini remembered the incident, and finally finished his argument with an agent's bullet.

Mussolini went on from the Geneva meeting to become Il Duce. Mr. Tresca continued in the same path on which he had started.

He came to the United States in steerage and for three year edited the official organ of the Italian Socialist Federation. In 1907 he quit the job and went to the Pennsylvania coal fields to argue for a movement he named syndicalism. He founded a newspaper, "La Plebe" (The Common People) in Pittsburgh and began attacks on the Catholic Church. The paper was suppressed in 1909, and

he then started "Benito" (and Future) in New York City.

This newspaper also was forced to suspend because of opposition to the entrance of the United States into the first world war, and Mr. Tresca then bought the weekly "Il Martello." This newspaper closed for lack of funds in 1923 but was resumed in 1924.

It was while he was publishing "Il Martello" that the hand of Benito Mussolini again cast its shadow over Mr. Tresca, or so he believed. That was in 1923. He was charged with printing obscene matter in the weekly, and was convicted for a two-line advertisement on birth control. An appeal failed, and Mr. Tresca went to Federal prison on Jan. 5, 1925.

Meantime it became known that the indictment had been obtained at the instance of the Italian Ambassador in Washington, because of an article, "Down with Monarchy" which criticized the Italian government.

Public indignation over the interference by Italy reached such a state that President Calvin Coolidge commuted the sentence on Feb. 16, 1925, to four months, and Mr. Tresca was released in May.

Mr. Tresca had been arrested thirty-six times in all and tried by jury seven times, but the year-and-a-day sentence for the birth-control advertisement was his longest sentence.

Always a sturdy fighter with both pen and tongue (his accent has been described by Max Eastman, his friend, as that of a man speaking Italian and using English words). Mr. Tresca achieved his greatest notoriety as an I. W. W. leader just before the World War.

He was arrested seven times during the silk mill strikes in Paterson, N. J., in 1913, and the police were so much on the watch for him that he had to remain away. His name became synonymous with radical activities.

He worked for years with Elizabeth Gurley Flynn, whom Mr. Tresca's wife, Hilga, named as co-respondent in obtaining a divorce in 1916. Mr. Tresca had married in Italy and later brought his wife to the United States.

He had friends in many different fields, many of whom held beliefs quite opposite to his. On May 24, 1931, 250 persons of oddly assorted political beliefs gathered at a testimonial dinner to Mr. Tresca, at which the late Heywood Brown described Mr. Tresca as follows:

"Tresca has never told me what he stood for. He only tells me what he is against. I am against what he is against 100 per cent."

Most of those present were there because they agreed with Mr. Brown.

Turn in your half-empty War Stamp book—into interest-bearing War Bonds.

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

WAR DEPARTMENT  
Military Intelligence Service

Washington  
JAN 27 1943

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. E. A. Tamm	
Mr. Clegg	
Mr. Glavin	
Mr. Ladd	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tracy	
Mr. Carson	
Mr. Coffey	
Mr. Hendon	
Mr. Kramer	
Mr. McGuire	
Mr. Mumford	
Mr. Quinn	
Mr. Nease	
Miss Gandy	

Subject: Letter of Transmittal

To: Lt. Col. J. Edgar Hoover  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Department of Justice

The attached communications are forwarded for your information and such action as you consider advisable.

For the Chief, Military Intelligence Service:

*J. T. Bissell*

J. T. BISSSELL  
Colonel, General Staff.  
Asst. Executive Officer, M. I. S.

*Whitaker*  
*Procyne*

Enclosures:

*No has this info sent*

1 ENCL. 2

RECORDED & INDEXED

61-1335-246

8 JAN 27 1943

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

60 FEB 18 1943

*okay to release per Army letter 1-24-43*

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

SERVICE CONT  
HEADQUARTERS SECOND CORPS AREA  
OFFICE OF ASSISTANT CHIEF OF STAFF-G-2  
GOVERNORS ISLAND, NEW YORK

SPKBB

WCG/wf

January 14, 1943

Subject: CARLO RESCA, deceased

To: Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2  
Military Intelligence Service  
War Department  
Washington, D.C.

1. Attached copy of report relative to the assassination of CARLO RESCA was received unsolicited by this office.
2. This is transmitted for your information.

For the Director of Intelligence:

GEO. W. HIGMAN, JR.  
Lt. Colonel, G.S.C.  
Executive Officer

1 Incl. (dup)  
Rpt re subj.

ENCLOSURE

61-1335-246

pic 12122c

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

70, 11-5-

b7c

Subject: CARLO TRESCA, deceased

Although it has no bearing on army affairs, yet the murder of Tresca brings to my mind some of the operations of [redacted] when he was running the "investigation" affairs of the Anti-Nazi League.

While I have not located the correct dates, as yet, but will do so, [redacted] back in 1941 told me that [redacted] was out to get [redacted] Tresca and several others who had accused him, [redacted] as being a fascist. [redacted] stated that [redacted] had confided his matter to Congressman Dickstein, and naturally Dickstein ran the Anti-Nazi League. I was sent out to get a lot of information on [redacted] stated it would be necessary to prove that [redacted] and others were Communists. After my investigation I told [redacted] that every evidence existed that such was not the case, but on the other hand that there was abundant proof that [redacted] was a fascist.

Time went on, and [redacted] kept muttering that "we will get these fellows one of these days", and if I am not mistaken he had the notorious [redacted] working with him in some capacity. [redacted] told me that [redacted] who, as you know, has a long criminal record, and was mixed up with the Anti-Defamation League, could get anybody killed for a price, and that there would be no prosecution due to Washington influence.

In June of this year, [redacted] resumed his operations for [redacted] and [redacted] and made a man [redacted] of the Mazzini Society, a subject. Employed [redacted] of Bossi to try and get some "evidence", and finally [redacted] ordered that I bribe some people to make a false affidavit relative to the Mazzini. I stalled him off, and started my hunt for a job away from the Anti-Nazi. However, one day [redacted] asked me to approach [redacted] and offer him \$100 a week if he would go to work for Generoso Pope, stating that I could tell this Italian that it would be an easy job, with little or any work, and all that was involved was to keep his mouth shut. I approached [redacted] and while I stated that I understood that [redacted] would pay him \$100.00 a week I said nothing about keeping his mouth shut. The result was that [redacted] ordered me from his office. I reported to [redacted] and he said that "we will take care of these fellows one of these days." and thus we note that they actually have, or the presumption is that they have, and this coupled with the Chicago case makes two on the list for the Communists.

I learned yesterday that the Anti-Nazi League have secured new financing, from a millionaire named [redacted] (believed to be [redacted] son of [redacted] who inherited his fortune from his mother is well known in Communist circles, and if it is true that he is backing the League, anything may happen.

7-711-5

enc 1

January 26, 1943

JPD:egb

THE DIRECTOR

Re: Carlo Tresca

You will recall the recent publicity afforded the case of Carlo Tresca, who was murdered on January 11, 1943. Tresca, an Italian national, has been in this country since August, 1904. He has been rabidly anti-Fascist and anti-Communist and by his own admission is considered to have been an outright anarchist. Tresca for the past thirty years has been extremely active in labor movements and was one of the active leaders in the Sacco-Vanzetti Defense Committee. As you have previously been advised, the New York Office in accordance with your request was informed to keep in close touch with the case but to assume no responsibility for the investigation of the murder.

On January 25, 1943, the New York Times reported that the Social Democratic Federation of New York City has issued a "demand that the Attorney General order an investigation of the murder of Tresca". This excerpt, which is attached, reports that delegates of the Federation adopted a resolution declaring that the killing of Tresca "has raised the issue of political assassinations in America", thus requiring the intervention of Federal authorities. In view of the possibility that the Department may refer this matter to the Bureau, the data set forth in this memorandum are being brought to your attention.

The Bureau files reflect that the Social Democratic Federation publishes the "New Leader"; that the Federation is anti-Communist, anti-Fascist, and Socialist in nature.

- Tolson \_\_\_\_\_
- E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_
- Glegg \_\_\_\_\_
- Clegg \_\_\_\_\_
- Glavin \_\_\_\_\_
- Ladd \_\_\_\_\_
- Nichols \_\_\_\_\_
- Rosen \_\_\_\_\_
- Tracy \_\_\_\_\_
- Carson \_\_\_\_\_
- Hendon \_\_\_\_\_
- McGuire \_\_\_\_\_
- Mumford \_\_\_\_\_
- Hargo \_\_\_\_\_
- Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_
- Case \_\_\_\_\_

107-1335-247

*J. Edgar Hoover*

32 FEB 18 1943

with the FBI's policy in refraining from concerning itself with cases solely within local law-enforcement jurisdiction, the requested investigation was not being undertaken.

Recently Luigi Antonini, head of the Italian-American Labor Council, charged that Communists, rather than Fascists, are responsible for Tresca's death. Immediately thereafter, the "Daily Worker" published articles denying these charges and, at the same time, alleged that Antonini's statements would cause damage to the war effort. New York State Councilman Peter V. Cacchione likewise replied to Antonini's charges, stating that Fascist elements are responsible for the subject's murder. Cacchione's reply was reported in the "Daily Worker".



Respectfully,

D. M. Ladd

b7D

Attachment

January 26, 1943

JPC:sgb

MR. TRACY

Re: Carlo Tresca

For the attention of the Technical Laboratory, there is attached a newspaper clipping from the January 14, 1943 issue of the New York Journal-American. It will be noted that on the last page of this enclosure there is a photograph of the registration card of the automobile which purportedly was utilized by the murderer of Carlo Tresca.

It is requested that the Technical Laboratory compare the signature of "Charles Pappas" appearing in this enclosure to the signatures on the various fingerprint cards that have been submitted on suspect Carmine Galante. From the information available, it appears that Galante has in the past employed the following aliases: Bruno Russo, Charles Russo, Carmine Galante, and Germaine Galante.

It is realized that the mentioned specimen is not of the most satisfactory type; however, at this time the original registration card is not available.

I would appreciate being advised as soon as possible whether in the opinion of the document identification specialists, there is any evidence that the handwriting of "Charles Pappas" may be identical with the handwriting appearing on the various fingerprint cards which have been submitted to the Identification Division on Carmine Galante.

It is requested that the matter be afforded preferred attention and that the memorandum reflecting the results be directed to Supervisor P. Coyne in Division V.

Very truly yours,

D. M. Ladd

Attachment

61-1335-247

- Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. McGuire \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Mumford \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Harbo \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

*copy*

*file*

SECURITY DIVISION  
 -ROUTINE-  
 Mr. Kramer  
 Mr. Alden  
 Mr. Carson  
 Mr. Cunningham  
 Mr. Fitch  
 Mr. Kinball  
 Mr. Strickland  
 Mr. Tamm  
 Mr. Traynor

*4210*

*John [unclear] [unclear]*

**Tresca Not Considered As Council's Leader**

The Office of War Information said yesterday that Carlo Tresca was only one of many leaders of Italian-American organizations in the United States with whom the OWI had discussed the formation of a National Council of Italian-Americans, and that he was "in no sense" considered the leader of the council. Five days before Mr. Tresca was assassinated, he consulted about the proposed council with [unclear], associate chief of the OWI's Foreign Language Division.

61-1385-A  
 11/10  
 [Signature]

EX-11

THE WASHINGTON POST  
 MORNING EDITION

Date 1-19-43

50 JAN 31 1943

# Hogan Hunts OGPU Man in Tresca Case

An Italian-born Red terrorist, once defended by such an eminent lawyer as the late Clarence Darrow, was "definitely" sought today for questioning in the still unexplained slaying of Carlo Tresca.

The man, first drawn into the case by the New York Journal-American, was identified by District Attorney Hogan as Carlos Contreras, alias Sorrento, alias Enea Sormenti.

Although both natives of Italy and both violently anti-fascist, Contreras and the slain 68-year-old editor apparently had little else in common, and Tresca once charged of the other:

"Where he is, murder is."

For Tresca was as rabidly anti-Communist as anti-fascist, whereas Contreras, although recently a bitter foe of Stalin, once obtained refuge in Russia and was trained in terrorism there by the OGPU.

## FLED FROM ITALY.

Although ex-convict Carmine Galante was still held as a "suspect" in the murder, with authorities definitely skeptical of his alibi, main interest today shifted to the elusive Contreras as further details of his checkered past came to light.

Born in Italy, Contreras early was attracted to the Communist movement and joined other radical elements in bitterly opposing fascism and the rise of Mussolini.

In 1923, a year after Mussolini

*Continued on Page 7, Column 1.*

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. E. A. Tamm	
Mr. Clegg	
Mr. Glavin	
Mr. Ladd	✓
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tracy	
Mr. Carson	
Mr. Egan	
Mr. Gurnea	
Mr. Hendon	
Mr. Kramer	
Mr. McGuire	
Mr. Quinn Tamm	
Mr. Nease	
Mr. Gandy	

*Malch*

*Coyne*

66-1555-4

CLIPPING FROM THE  
N.Y. JOURNAL AMERICAN  
DATE JAN 15 1943  
FORWARDED BY N.Y. DIVISION

58 FEB 3 1943

# OGPU Graduate Sought for Quiz In Tresca Case

# DEATH CAR CLUE



Above is the signature of "Charles Pappas" taken from the registration card of the car which police say was used in the murder of Carlo Tresca. An OGPU trained Communist terrorist was being sought for questioning today.

Continued from First Page  
 ized control of Italy. Contreras and his homeland and came to the United States, where he soon aligned himself with Communist elements here.

Tresca was one of the men he met here, with Contreras, under the alias Enca Sormenti, editing an Italian-language paper in Chicago, while Tresca published his "Martello" (the Hammer) in New York.

### FOED BY TRESCA.

Whatever their other differences, both men fought for the end of preventing the doctrines of Mussolini from gaining a substantial hold on the thousands of Italian-Americans.

In 1927 deportation moves were launched against Contreras, and Tresca was one of those who came to his aid, asserting that he would certainly be shot if sent back to Italy.

Clarence Darrow was one of the many others who rallied to the young editor's defense, but despite Darrow's powerful aid immigration authorities ruled Contreras must leave this country.

Russia then offered him a haven, and it was during his stay there that he attended an OGPU school and learned the methods of terrorism that he hoped might eventually serve him in good stead, helping to overturn the Mussolini regime.

### SLAYINGS CHARGED

Apparently he did not get back to Italy, however, and the next town of him he was in Mexico, reported by that country, he turned up in Spain, where he fought with the Loyalists against Hitler, Mussolini and Franco in the Spanish Civil War.

He was soon withdrawn from military duties in Spain and assigned to police work.

By this time Tresca had turned violently against him, accusing Contreras of murdering a man in Barcelona.

When Franco defeated the Loyalists, Contreras succeeded in getting back to Mexico, and soon thereafter Tresca charged him with a murder in that country, accused him of killing a young man.

The young woman, it was said, succeeded in learning a great deal about Contreras' activities.

### ILLING OF TROTSKY.

Little is known of him since. Some reports on him with

ceeded in getting across the Mexican border into this country.

Whether District Attorney Hogan was questioning those who helped Contreras in his unsuccessful fight against deportation in 1927 was not learned.

Darrow, of course, is dead, but other prominent attorneys were associated with him in the case. Radicals who helped him at the time included a leader in many New Jersey strikes and Communist candidate for the U. S. Senate from that State in 1934.

Contreras is now 42.

"We'd be very interested in talking to him," Hogan said, emphasizing, however, that the man is not a suspect.

Aside from the arrest of Galente and the search for Contreras, little was disclosed today on the mystery of why Tresca was shot down Monday evening at dimmed-out Fifth ave. and 15th st. a short distance from his office.

Hope that an immediate "break"

might be expected was blasted when Giuseppe Callabi, of 451 Central Park W., companion of the editor when he was shot and killed, had been unable to identify Galente as his assassin.

Callabi confronted the puny, "prison-wise" ex-convict at the District Attorney's office, peered at him for several minutes, and then shook his head dubiously.

### FACES NEW QUIZ.

Detectives who have worked without a letup on the case since the murder Monday night sighed with disappointment. They made no secret of the fact that Galabi's memory of the killer might speed their investigation.

Galente was remanded to the Tombs, where he is being held on a charge of parole violation. Although he has denied all knowledge of the crime, authorities announced they would continue to question him.

He has definitely been linked

with what police have called the "Death Car"—a shiny black Ford sedan found abandoned at the 15th st. entrance to the Seventh ave. subway three hours after the shooting.

The license plates on the vehicle—1C-9272—were said to be the same as those carried by a car in which Galente was seen by two officers of the State Parole Board to leave the board's office, at Center st., just 90 minutes before Tresca was slain.

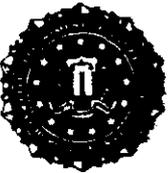
### STICKS TO STOPP.

Galente, however, stoutly maintains the two parole officials were "screwy."

He insists that after leaving the State Parole Office he ducked into a subway and went uptown to a movie, "Casablanca," after which he kept a date with a woman friend.

The District Attorney said Galente is very vague about the movie, an anti-fascist spy thriller, that he claims to have seen.

Because of its international complications, it was learned, FBI agents have joined in the hunt for the Tresca assassin.



KRM:hr

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C.

January 27, 1943

- Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Holloman \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_
- Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_
- Miss Gahan \_\_\_\_\_
- Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

*J.H.*

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. F. L. WELCH

RE: CARLO TRESCA

*5- file*

The following article concerning the death of Carlo Tresca appeared in the "New Leader," official organ of the Social Democratic Federation, dated January 23, 1943:

"The investigation of the assassination of Carlo Tresca, clearly established as a political murder, led this week into the political underworld of the totalitarian groups.

"District Attorney Frank Hogan of New York has declared that he would like to talk about the assassination with one Ena Sormenti, alias Carlos Contreras, an admitted Communist. It is a well known fact that Tresca often denounced Sormenti in his newspaper. In the May 14, 1942, issue of Il Martello, Tresca attacked Sormenti, writing 'And now Sormenti is moving against the Mazzini Society by orders of Stalin.' Whether Tresca was killed by a man Sormenti or by another Communist killer (George Mink?) or by assassins hired by fascist groups cannot be stated positively at the moment. The fact remains that the District Attorney has his reasons for wanting to see Sormenti.

"There are several opinions about Sormenti's character. Leading anti-Fascist fighters who are also anti-Communists charge that Sormenti is a Communist gunman who helped liquidate anti-Communist foes of Franco during the Spanish Civil War. The Daily Worker of January 20 regards Sormenti as a Communist hero. It deploras mention of his name, and of Communism, in connection with the Tresca case, lest such mention serve 'to shield the killers.'

*61-1335-248*

"Does the Daily Worker want to expose the killers? The District Attorney wants to see their 'Sorrenti.' The Daily Worker says he is in Mexico. They have a disciplined party and money. Let them produce Sormenti in New York. They will get the investigation they say they want. But they don't want it, and that is why they are getting stooges to try to drown out the chorus which cries and continues to cry—investigate the totalitarians of both camps!

31 FEB 10 1943

"The Daily Worker has long been reluctant to discuss Sormenti and was driven to do so only because of Mr. Hogan's statement. In discussing Sormenti, the Communist organ protests against statements which have been made to the effect that Communists may have had a hand in the murder of Tresca, long their implacable foe. The Daily Worker on its own hook, and through the mouths of several stooges, characterizes such statements as Hearst inventions. They are nothing of the kind. Mr. Hogan has not accused Sormenti, but his statement implies his interest in the Communist angle to the Tresca murder. He is not Hearst. The New York Times, the New York Herald Tribune, most other newspapers and trade union leaders have taken account of the fact that the OGPU has murdered its enemies in foreign lands almost as often as Mussolini's OVRA has, and of the fact that Tresca was an enemy of Communism just as he was of Fascism. The demand for as thorough an investigation of trails leading to a possible Communist killer as of those leading to a possible Fascist killer has come from a score of good American and good liberal and good trade union sources. The demand continues. A thorough investigation must come and all leads explored.

"It is interesting that the Daily Worker leans upon an article which appeared in the New York Post of January 18. That article, based on a talk with an OWI representative, declares that Tresca had agreed with the Office of War Information to make no issue of the inclusion of Communists in a projected Italian-American Victory Council. This pretension is well known to be false. Not only did Tresca continue to the last to attack Communists in his paper, Il Martello, but he was specifically opposing their efforts to capture the projected Council. In a statement issued January 18 to contradict the Post, the Mazzini Society's National Secretary, Alberto Tarchiani, declared as follows;

"As for Tresca's attitude towards the Italian-American Victory Council, it is a known fact that he was against an alliance with the ex-Fascists such as Generoso Pope and with the Communists. He had been invited to the preparatory meeting which Mr. Lee Falk (of the OWI) had called for Thursday, January 14th, and which has been postponed to January 29th. He had asked his friend Dr. Umberto Gualtieri, Vice-President of the New York Chapter of the Mazzini Society, to accompany him to the meeting called by Mr. Falk and said that they would have been present as mere observers, and moreover if he had seen among those present ex-Fascist leaders or Communists he would have left the assembly. This declaration was made by Tresca to Dr. Gualtieri at noon of the very Monday on which Tresca was assassinated."

"These facts, confirmed by other witnesses close to Tresca, make clear once again what the world knows, that Tresca had two great political enemies, Communists and Fascists, both of whom regard murder as a political instrument, and that he was removed from the scene at the very moment when he was effectively making an issue of both those political movements in an important political situation. The insinuations by OWI representatives that Tresca was becoming reconciled with the Communists are flatly false.

"The New York Post treatment deserves further examination. It quotes a statement of the Mazzini Society issued on January 16. Along with the article there appears a box 'summarizing' the Mazzini statement. This summary selects from the 7-paragraph Mazzini statement two paragraphs in entirety and one sentence from a third paragraph. The net effect thereof is to direct suspicion against Fascists, and against them alone. The original statement also contained some remarks about Communists, as follows:

"It must be added that, early and of late, Carlo Tresca, true libertarian in philosophy, opposed the proletarian dictatorship of Moscow. Looking forward toward the defeat of the Axis armies, Carlo Tresca rejoiced in the heroic achievements of the Russian people in resisting invasion. But this by no means reconciled him to Stalin's theories or to the political aims of Stalin's followers here. He continued publicly to oppose them and the files of the Daily Worker are replete with invective against him."

"Only with this paragraph in mind, as well as those directed against Tresca's Fascist enemies, can one understand the demand made in the Mazzini statement for a 'thorough investigation of the political roots of this totalitarian crime.' The omission of that paragraph, directed against the Communists as well as Fascists, constituted a grave distortion of the Mazzini statement.

"As The New Leader stated editorially last week, Tresca's murder introduces here the totalitarian method of political debate which killed the Roselli brothers, ex-GPU Agent Ignace Reiss, Rudolf Klement, Trotsky's secretary, Leon Trotsky, Camillio Bernieri, the Italian anarchist and friend of Tresca, murdered in Spain, and literally scores of others.

"That method must be stopped here lest it claims more victims."

Respectfully,

K. R. McIntire

JPC, cgb

January 25, 1943

SAC, New York

Re: CARLO TRESCA  
INTERNAL SECURITY - I.

Sir:  
For the information of your Office there is enclosed a memorandum dated January 19, 1943 which was prepared by the Foreign Nationalities Branch of the Office of Strategic Services. This memorandum is entitled, "Political Aspects of the Tresca Murder".

In accordance with the recent telephonic conversation which took place between Assistant Director E. A. Tamm and Mr. Thomas Donegan of your Office, active investigation of Tresca's murder should not be conducted by the New York Office. However, the Bureau should be kept currently advised of up-to-date developments in this case. It is therefore expected that you will continue to furnish the Bureau with such data as they are received by your Office.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

JAN 28 5 55 PM '43  
RECEIVED - DIRECTOR  
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

Enclosure

- Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. McGuire \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Mumford \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Harbo \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_
- Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION  
JAN 26 1943 P.M.  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

61-1335-249  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
JAN 28 1943  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEB 3 1943

RECEIVED  
JAN 28 1943  
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

JAN 16 1943

TELETYPE

*W*  
*EW*

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. E. A. Tamm	
Mr. Clegg	
Mr. Glavin	
Mr. Ladd	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tracy	
Mr. Carson	
Mr. Coffey	
Mr. Hendon	
Mr. McGuire	
Mr. Mumford	
Mr. Quinn Tamm	
Mr. Nease	
Miss Gandy	

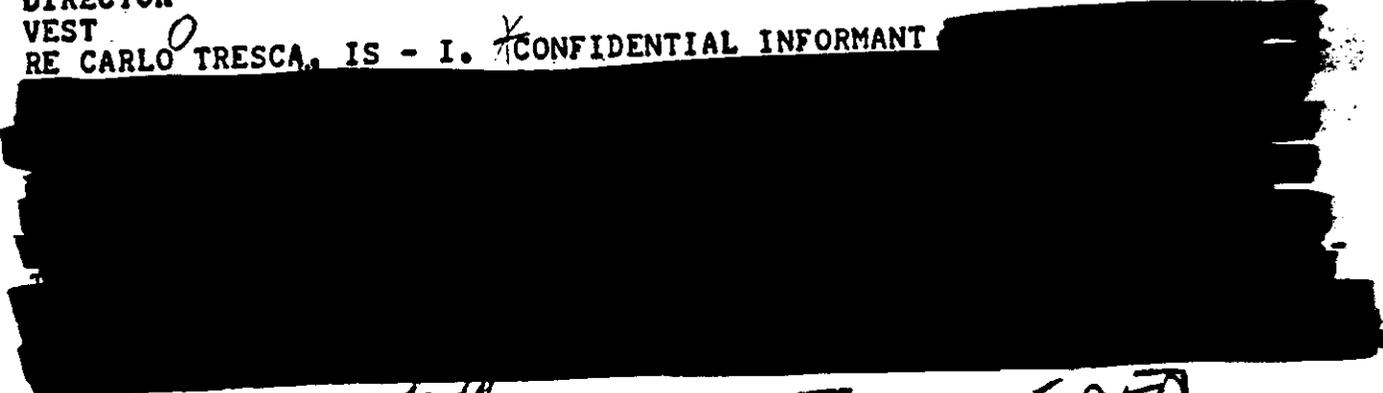
*5-10-43 JWS*

FBI NYC  
DIRECTOR  
VEST

1-16-43

8-46 PM

RE CARLO TRESCA, IS - I. \*CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANT



FOXWORTH  
PLS HOLD

*memo. re-24  
1/28/43  
JWC*

EX-4

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&  
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<i>LADRO</i>		
<i>cc</i>		

JPC:egb

January 28, 1943

PERSONAL ATTENTION

EX-8

SAC, New York

Re: CARLO TRESCA  
INTERNAL SECURITY

Dear Sir:

For your information and assistance in following the developments of this case there is attached a memorandum outlining the pertinent data contained in the Bureau files regarding the captioned subject. There is likewise included therein a summary of the information which is presently available to the Bureau on the following individuals who are reportedly considered as suspects in the instant murder cases: Carmine Galante, with aliases; Jesus Sormente Vidal, with aliases; and Frank Gerofalo.

The referenced memorandum is being transmitted solely for the information of your Office in order to assist you in following the developments of this case in a logical manner.

As you have previously been instructed, I desire that you follow the case closely and at the same time refrain from conducting any active investigation, inasmuch as the matter is solely within the investigative jurisdiction of local law-enforcement agencies.

It is expected that you will furnish the Bureau with any pertinent information that comes to your attention relative to the instant case immediately after it is received by your Office.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

- Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. McGuire \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Mumford \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Harbo \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_
- Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosure

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION  
 MAILED 15  
 ★ JAN 29 1943 P.M.  
 FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
 U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RECEIVED RECORDING ROOM  
 JAN 29 1 02 PM '43

61-1335-250

*Handwritten signature*  
 65

58 FEB 1 1943

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. E. A. Tamm	_____
Mr. Clegg	_____
Mr. Glavin	_____
Mr. Ladd	_____
Mr. Nichols	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Tracy	_____
Mr. Carson	_____
Mr. Coffey	_____
Mr. Hendon	_____
Mr. Kramer	_____
Mr. McGuire	_____
Mr. Harbo	_____
Mr. Quinn Tamm	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Mr. Nease	_____
Miss Beahm	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

**Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C.**

January 26, 1943



JPC:crb

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. LADD

Re: Carlo Tresca

For our approval there is attached a letter to the New York Office pertaining to the instant case. Enclosed with this letter is a memorandum outlining the pertinent data contained in the files of the Bureau regarding subject Tresca. There is also included in this memorandum a summary of the information contained in our files on the following individuals who reportedly are considered as suspects in the instant murder case: Bernardino Loria, with aliases; Jesus Lombardo, with aliases; and Bruno Perofino.

Although it has been reported that Vidal was in New York City at the time Tresca was murdered, inquiries are being conducted by the S.I.U. Section for the purpose of determining whether he actually was in Mexico City on January 11, 1942. The latter action has been taken in accordance of a suggestion made by Mr. Ladd of the New York Office following the appearance of an article in a Mexican newspaper which indicated that District Attorney Hogan is interested in determining the whereabouts of this subject.

In accordance with the Director's request, the New York Office has been instructed to closely follow the developments of the case and at the same time to refrain from conducting any active investigation, inasmuch as the case is solely within the investigative jurisdiction of local law-enforcement agencies.

This letter is being furnished to the New York Office for its confidential information and assistance in following the development of this case in a local manner.

Respectfully,

*[Handwritten signature]*  
E. L. Welch

61-1335-251

ENCLOSURE

Attachment

FOR DEFENSE



RECORDED  
&  
INDEXED

JAN 27 1943

*[Handwritten signature]*

JAN 28 1943

J.P.Coynes:rgb  
1/25/43

Re: Carlo Tresca

Background Information

Carlo Tresca was born in the town of Sulzogna, Province of Abruzzi, Italy, in 1879. It has been reported that prior to his departure from that country he was editor of "Il Geune", a revolutionary, Socialist paper which was published in his native village, Sulzogna, Italy. Tresca reportedly served in this capacity from 1900 to 1904, during which period he was imprisoned many times.

In 1903 subject was elected secretary of the Syndicate of Firemen and Railroad Engineers, the largest labor organization then existing in Italy.

Prior to coming to the United States, Tresca was sentenced to a prison term of two years for creating political agitation in Italy. Rather than complete his prison service, he escaped from Italy and proceeded to Switzerland.

Early Years in the United States (1904-1925)

Tresca is reported to have arrived in this country in August, 1904 on the SS TOURNAINE. From the outset the subject was considered anarchist.

ENCLOSURE

In the textile strikes in Lawrence, Massachusetts in 1912 he was active as an IWW organizer and played a prominent part in the disorder that occurred in that city.

RECORDED

61-1325-251

In January, 1913 Tresca, with Elizabeth Curley Flynn,<sup>8</sup> was an active leader in the New York City Hotel Workers' Strike. This strike was accompanied by a considerable amount of rioting and disorder. Following the termination of the strike the subject assisted in organizing the Barbers of New York City in a similar strike.

In 1913 he was one of the leaders of a strike which occurred in the silk mills at Paterson, New Jersey. Tresca was allegedly responsible for the disorder that resulted therefrom, inasmuch as the strike was attributed in the main to his speeches and personal activity. One of the strikers in Paterson was killed and at the grave Tresca was called upon to speak. Several of the New York newspapers of April 23, 1913 have quoted him as saying at this time, "Fellow workers, do not forget the principle of the toilers who came from Italy. For blood, you must take blood." The subject was indicted in New Jersey for his participation in the Paterson strike. He was charged with making seditious utterances and with causing a riot. He was acquitted of the first charge on July 1, 1914, but was found guilty of the latter offense and was subsequently sentenced in the Lower Court to sixty days imprisonment. However,

- Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. McGuire \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Mumford \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Harbo \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_
- Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

W

upon appeal, the conviction was dismissed.

In 1914, Tresca was active in New York City where he was associated with Alexander Berkman and other radicals. Taking advantage of the unemployment situation, demonstrations were staged throughout New York City by the subject and his companions. These demonstrations usually were culminated with the formation of processions and on one occasion in April, 1914 after a demonstration had been made in Union Square, Tresca declared to newspaper reporters that the New York City police were afraid to interfere with his actions.

Tresca was also an associate of Caron, Hanson, and Berg, three anarchists who were blown to pieces while making a bomb in a house on Lexington Avenue, New York City. Following the demise of these three men, Tresca was one of the speakers at a meeting held in their honor. He was interviewed on that occasion by a newspaper reporter who quoted the subject as saying, "I have no fault to find with him (Caron). I believe in violence. I believe he was justified in what he intended to do. Nothing can make me believe any other way than Caron did." On this occasion Tresca led the reporter to believe that the bomb which the three men were making was intended for Mr. John D. Rockefeller.

In 1914, Tresca filed suit for divorce, alleging that his wife was not a proper person to retain the custody of their child. Mrs. Tresca filed countersuit for divorce, naming as correspondent Elizabeth Gurley Flynn, but Mrs. Tresca was refused a divorce. It has been reported many times that Elizabeth Gurley Flynn, the present vice-president of the New York State organization of the Communist Party, was Tresca's mistress.

In 1915, Tresca was active in the defense of Carbone and Arbano, who were convicted of placing a bomb in St. Patrick's Cathedral, New York City. When interviewed by a reporter of the New York "World" as to the probable guilt of the defendants, Tresca is alleged to have said, "If these defendants are guilty, I want to see them convicted. I believe in violence, but only in violence when it advances the cause of labor." The aforementioned quotation appears in the April 3, 1915 issue of the New York "World". During the trial of Carbone and Arbano, an inspector of the New York Police Department testified that when Carbone was questioned subsequent to his apprehension, he advised the inspector that "he got the idea of planting bombs while attending anarchist meetings and hearing fellows like Tresca speak".

Tresca was closely associated with and a friend of Luigi Galleani, the leader of the then well-known Galleani group of anarchists in the New England district.

In 1916, while Tresca was active in the iron ore mines strike in Minnesota, one of the strikers was shot and killed. At his burial Tresca is alleged to have administered the following oath to the persons present: "Fellow workers, I want you to take the following oath, 'I solemnly swear that if any Oliver gunmen shoot or wound any miners, we will take a tooth for a tooth, an eye for an eye, or a life for a life'."

*note*  
In a speech made by Tresca on November 30, 1913, during an iron ore strike in Minnesota, he is reported to have told the strikers that they had just begun their fight and that they could only call themselves victors when they had planted the red flag on the mining properties. He is alleged to have said "not the rag with the stars and stripes, but the red flag of our redemption". He is stated to have closed his speech by saying that when they have won this strike and returned to work, the miners should save their money and instruct their children to save their money in order to buy cartridges with which to take the mining properties away from the "ruffians and dirty bosses" and give the property back to humanity to whom it belonged.

In July, 1916, Tresca was indicted in Minnesota in connection with the death of Deputy Sheriff J. C. Myron, who was killed in the iron ore strike of 1913. In December, 1916 he was acquitted of all charges.

For many years Tresca has been the editor of various radical Italian publications. Prior to 1924 and up to the time of his assassination on January 11, 1923, he was the editor and publisher of "Il Martello" (The Hammer) in New York City.

In addition to the publication of "Il Martello", Tresca has also engaged in the distribution of a considerable number of books and pamphlets which have dealt with the subject "Anarchy".

The subject is alleged to have been extremely active as a worker and speaker on behalf of the Sacco-Vanzetti Defense Committee.

On May 14, 1922 the subject is reported to have addressed a gathering of radical Italians at Swatara, Pennsylvania and in the course of his address he allegedly stated that all governments were corrupt and that the people as a whole would be better off without any government at all. At this point in his speech one of the persons present asked Tresca if he were a Socialist, and in reply Tresca stated that he was not a Socialist but an anarchist.

✓ In the issue of "Il Martello" dated April 26, 1919, there appears an editorial referring to the deportation of a number of Russians. From that editorial the following is quoted: "We curse your bourgeois Republic. You may imprison us, you can blind us but ideas cannot be deported. The ideas we

have sown with a full hand will germinate -- will bear fruit. It will be those ideas which will enlighten the slaves on whose ample, curved shoulders your pretorians are today resting. Ideas are not imprisoned; are not deported; they remain. We curse you, oh lying Republic. We denounce you before the world.

In the May 1, 1921 issue of the same newspaper, the following appeared: "To aid it (Communism) according to us, it is necessary and sufficient that all be free and that all possess the means of production; that no one impose his own will on another and that no one shall oblige another to work for him. And it is to realize these conditions that we believe in the necessity of the violent revolution. Once the material obstacle (the Government) is overthrown, all violence will be useless, harmful, and criminal."

During his many years in the United States, Tresca was frequently reported to be active in anti-Fascist activities and demonstrations. In "Il Martello" of September 17, 1921, there appeared an article captioned "Wolf in Sheep's Clothing" which, in its own words and by way of quotation from the Italian anarchist paper "Umanita Nuova", was an incitement to assassination of the Italian Fascist deputy Bottai, who was then in the United States. On August 14, 1923, Tresca was taken into custody and charged with mailing and delivering unmailable matter through the United States mail. At his arraignment the then Congressman Fiorello LaGuardia appeared as his counsel. The obscene matter which formed the basis for his arrest was alleged to be of an extremely improper and vile nature. The article which contained this obscene matter appeared in the May 5, 1923 issue of "Il Martello". Tresca was indicted by the United States Grand Jury and after various postponements of his trial, was found guilty on November 27, 1923. On December 8, 1923 the subject was sentenced to one year and one day by United States District Judge Goddard of the Southern District of New York. Tresca had been represented by Harry Content of New York, and the latter, as well as George Gordon Battle and Congressman LaGuardia, pleaded with Judge Goddard for mitigation of sentence. Before passing sentence, Judge Goddard asked Tresca if he was married, and upon Tresca's answering in the affirmative, he stated that his wife was Elizabeth Gurley Flynn. Upon further questioning the subject admitted that he had been living with her for a period of twelve years, having been separated from his first wife, to whose support he had been forced to contribute. An appeal was taken by his attorney and the subject was released on \$5,000 bond pending the disposition of that appeal. The Circuit Court of Appeals evidently affirmed the decision of the District Court, for Tresca was incarcerated in the Atlanta Penitentiary on January 7, 1925. However, he was released from that institution by commutation of sentence on May 6, 1925.

More Recent Activities of the Subject (1925-1943)

From 1925 until the time of his death the subject reportedly continued his activities as agitator, anarchist, author, and editor. All during this period he edited "Il Martello", an anarchist newspaper with offices located at 2 West 15th Street, New York, New York.

During the course of his lifetime, Tresca is reported to have been arrested on 36 occasions on such charges as conspiracy, inciting to riot, unlawful assemblage, blasphemy, slander, libel, disturbing the peace, murder, and criminal obscenity.

From the information available it does not appear that the subject ever filed a declaration of intention to become a citizen of the United States. In 1926 the Italian Government was reported to have started proceedings in Rome, in order to deprive Tresca of his Italian citizenship. This alleged action on the part of the Italian Government was attributed to the anti-Mussolini and anti-Fascist activities of the subject in the United States.

Information has been received to the effect that on May 13, 1927 Tresca "raided" the offices of the Alliance Fascisti Il Duce in the Bronx and he demanded, at the point of a gun, that 150 applications for membership on file in the safe be handed over to him. Thereafter he was arrested on a charge of felonious assault. This charge was dismissed by the Grand Jury on March 15, 1928. In the same year, 1927, according to the November 3, 1927 issue of the New York Times, he was the head of the Anti-Fascisti Alliance of North America.

According to the World-Telegram of December 27, 1928, the postal authorities barred several issues of his paper from the mails. The basis for this action on the part of the Post Office Department has not been established. On June 28, 1933, the New York World-Telegram reported that Tresca was arrested on that date in Philadelphia following a meeting wherein a clash resulted between the Fascists and the Communists in Eastern Pennsylvania. Tresca was discharged by the local police on the same day.

The subject was reported to be a member of the American Committee to Defend Leon Trotsky in 1937 and 1938.

Tresca is reported as being definitely anti-Fascist, living as he said "for the day Mussolini is run out of Italy and I can return to die in peace".

In recent years Tresca is reported to have ceased active participation in labor troubles, devoting the majority of his time to a crusade against Fascism.

At the time he was slain the subject was reportedly working with the Office of War Information to form an Italian-American Victory Committee, which allegedly would have embraced all anti-Fascists and anti-Nazi groups, including Communists. Tresca had in the past been a leader in the movement that barred Communists from membership in the Massini Society and in keeping with his beliefs was reportedly opposed to the inclusion of Communists in the Italian-American Victory Committee. Tresca outwardly indicated his opposition to the acceptance of persons whom he considered as pro-Fascist in the Committee, naming specifically Genoroso Pope, editor of the "Il Progresso Italo-Americano", whom he branded as a former apologist of Fascism and dictatorship.

Murder of Carlo Tresca

Carlo Tresca was killed at 9:45 P.M. on January 11, 1943 as he was leaving the offices of his newspaper, "Il Martello", at 96 Fifth Avenue, New York City. As he left his office he was in the company of a friend, Giuseppe Callabi, 96 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York.

The New York Post of January 12, 1943 reported Callabi as stating that the assassin ran up behind them as they reached the northwest corner of Fifth Avenue and 15th Street, fired three shots, two of them taking immediate effect, and then ran to a car which was parked nearby. The driver of the car immediately turned a corner and proceeded west on 15th Street. According to newspaper reports, the assassin had an accomplice, and in the newspaper versions of the crime it is reported that two persons were in the "getaway" car. This car, in which the slayer and his accomplice made their escape from the murder scene, is reported to have been found abandoned approximately two hours and fifteen minutes later in front of 168 West 18th Street. This address is four blocks from the spot where Tresca was murdered. Immediately preceding the murder Tresca is reported by Callabi to have advised that he was going to meet his wife at a nearby restaurant, at ten P.M.

The automobile referred to above was a 1938 V-8 Ford sedan bearing New York license No. 1C-9272. The January 12, 1943 issue of the New York Post reported that the New York Police Department determined that the car was listed in the name of Charles Pappas, 82-07 82nd Street, Glendale, New York. The same newspaper stated that no such address existed in that locality.

The Tresca assassin is described by Callabi as being a white man between 35 to 40 years of age, five feet five inches tall, weighing 130 pounds. He is further reported to have been dressed in a "black hat and overcoat and a dark suit".

The New York Police Department is reported to have found a fully loaded .38 caliber Colt revolver (police positive) near the Fifth Avenue building. Information has likewise been received that an unfired .32 caliber bullet was found near the body of Tresca. From the information available it appears that Tresca was killed by two .32 caliber bullets.

Callabi, who was unharmed, is reported to have stated that Tresca called a meeting of six men at the offices of his newspaper on the night he was murdered. The meeting was scheduled for seven P.M., but Tresca and Callabi were the only persons who appeared. The names of those who failed to attend the conference were not made public. The subject of the meeting was to be the Mazzini Society, an anti-Fascist group which has become increasingly active in the United States. Tresca himself was extremely anti-Fascist and his newspaper continually attacked Fascism.

Suspects

Carmine Galante

From the information available it appears that Galante, an ex-convict and the subject of frequent arrests, appeared at the office of the Parole Division, 90 Centre Street, New York City, an hour and a half before Tresca's murder, in order to make his weekly report, inasmuch as he is under parole supervision until 1945, having recently completed the service of a twelve-and-one-half-year sentence for armed robbery. Two investigators from the parole board are reported by the New York Daily Mirror of January 14, 1943 to have placed Galante under surveillance immediately after he left their office. Mr. David Dressler, head of the Parole Division, is reported to have informed the press that upon leaving Dressler's office, Galante dashed to an automobile which was parked nearby with the motor running and another man behind the wheel. The following is a quotation from the New York Daily Mirror of January 14, 1943: "The auto started even before Galante slammed the door, Dressler said; and the parole officers jotted down the license number, 1C-9472." (It will be noted that the car which reportedly carried the assassin and his accomplice from the scene of the murder was carrying the same license tag number.)

Galante was taken into custody for questioning by the New York Police Department, and according to the data available he has denied any knowledge of or affiliation with the crime. According to the Daily Mirror of January 14, 1943, when Galante was questioned regarding his activities after reporting to the Parole Division, "he insisted he 'ducked into the subway' after leaving Dressler's office." Mr. Dressler stated to the press that his office has had Galante under supervision since May 1, 1939, when he was released from Dannemora. He had been sentenced on January 8, 1931 in Brooklyn, New York, following an attempt to shoot a police sergeant during a hold-up.

Police records on Galante reportedly show four aliases, eight arrests on charges including juvenile delinquency, assault, robbery, and homicide, as well as four convictions.

In connection with suspect Galante, the New York Daily Mirror of January 16, 1943 reported the following: "District Attorney Hogan admitted yesterday that Galante has failed to identify Carmine Galante, 32, ex-convict, who has been held since the day after the shooting as the man who shot Tresca in the back, afterward fleeing in a dark-hued car with another man behind the wheel."

Carmine Galante, alias Carmine Galante, alias Bruno Russo, alias Charles Russo, alias Charles Bruno, alias Carmine Galante, was born in 1900. He is five feet four inches in height and weighs 142 pounds. At the time he was taken into custody by the New York Police Department for questioning he was employed as a helper on a truck that is operated by the Knickerbocker Trucking Company, 520 Broadway, New York City.

The New York Journal-American of January 15, 1943 in writing up the instant case stated: "Galante, however, stoutly maintains the two parole officers were 'screwy'. He insists that after leaving the state parole office he ducked into a subway and went uptown to a movie, 'Casablanca', after which he kept a date with a woman friend."

Jesus Sorrento Vidal

District Attorney Hoxen, according to the New York Daily Mirror of January 16, 1943 "said search is being made for Carlos Contreras, notorious Mexican Communist, suspect O.G.P.U. triggerman and a bitter enemy of Tresca, who once exposed him as an alleged wife-murderer as well as a participant in a plot to assassinate Leon Trotsky a few years ago.

It has been determined that Carlos Contreras' true name is Jesus Sorrento Vidal. Additional aliases which have been utilized by this individual are the following: Enea Sorrenti, Carlos Sorrento, and Carlo Contreras.

From the data available it appears that Contreras in 1923, a year after Mussolini seized control of Italy, fled his homeland and came to the United States where he aligned himself with Communist elements here. He later proceeded to Mexico and was allegedly deported by that country. He subsequently turned up in Spain, where he fought as Commandant of the Fifth Regiment in the Spanish Loyalist Army against Hitler, Mussolini, and Franco in the Spanish Civil War. While Contreras was in Spain he was accused by Tresca of murdering a man in Barcelona. The New York Journal-American of January 15, 1943 reported that "when Franco defeated the Loyalists, Contreras succeeded in getting back to Mexico and soon thereafter Tresca charged him with a murder in that country." Tresca accused Contreras of killing a young woman who had succeeded in learning a great deal about Contreras' activities. Contreras, an Italian, is reported by informants to have posed recently in Mexico as a Spanish refugee. They likewise advised that he was a leading figure in bringing about the "purge" of Laborde and Campa from the Communist Party in Mexico. He is closely connected with Vincente Lombardo Toledano, Mexican labor leader. He has been referred to as a Comintern Functionary and one of the principal influential contact men between "Free Germany" and the Mexican Communist movement. He has been alleged on several occasions to be an O.G.P.U. operative in Mexico City. From the information presently available it is indicated that this suspect spent many years in Russia.

According to the New York Journal-American of January 19, 1943, Contreras was reported to have been in New York during the very recent past.

Frank Carofalo

This individual is alleged to be an ex-gangster and bootlegger who was at one time an associate of Charles (Lucky) Luciano. Carofalo's past associations are reportedly of an unsavory character and are said to be well-known in the New York area. Although he is not considered dangerous politically, he is said to be criminally dangerous. Carofalo became a member of the Greater New York Lodge of the Sons of Italy in February, 1942.

Confidential and reliable sources have reported that a dinner was held at the Manhattan Club in New York City on September 10, 1942 by the War Savings Bond Committee of Americans of Italian Extraction. Carlo Tresca was one of the persons who attended this dinner. In the course of the evening Tresca reportedly commented on the fact that a number of former pro-Fascist sympathizers were at the dinner. When Frank Carofalo, who allegedly threatened Tresca's life in 1931, entered the dining room, Tresca's indignation knew no bounds and he exclaimed, "Even that gunman is here." The same confidential sources have advised that Tresca immediately arose and left the room.

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There is no other information available on this individual except that there are indications that he may be considered as a suspect in the instant case.

JPC:DMG  
1/30/43

61-1335-252

RECORDED

FEB 4 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

RE: CARLO TRESCA

You will recall my personal and confidential memorandum to you dated November 27, 1942, entitled "Dolores Faconti, Assistant United States Attorney, Southern District of New York," wherein I outlined information which had been received relating to Miss Faconti, one Frank Garofalo, and Carlo Tresca.

In reference to the recent murder of Tresca I thought you would be interested in knowing that the Honorable Fiorello H. LaGuardia, Mayor of New York City, telephonically advised the Agent in Charge of our New York Office on January 28, 1943, that he had received information to the effect that shortly before his murder Tresca was contacted by Assistant United States Attorney Faconti who requested him to refrain from publishing anything concerning her or Garofalo in his newspaper, "Il Mundo."

From the information available it appears that Garofalo is presently considered as one of the suspects responsible for Tresca's assassination.

In the aforementioned conversation of Mayor LaGuardia he requested information as to whether this Bureau is concerned with the case. He was informed that since the case is solely within the jurisdiction of local law enforcement agencies the FBI is not conducting an investigation relative to Tresca's death.

The only information contained in the files of this Bureau relative to Frank Garofalo is set forth in my aforementioned memorandum to you dated November 27, 1942.

Respectfully,

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

- Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Kramer \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. McGuire \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_

MAR 9 1943

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CHICAGO

*[Handwritten signature]*



Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C.

January 29, 1943

Call 9:12 PM  
Typed 9:30 PM

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

- CC- Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Kramer \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. McGuire \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Harbo \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_
- Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_
- Miss Beahm \_\_\_\_\_
- Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

Acting SAC Donegan telephonically advise that in the course of conversation with Mayor LaGuardia today the latter referred to a Miss Dolores Faconti, an Assistant U.S. Attorney (SDNY), who, according to information furnished to the Mayor, called Tresca shortly before he was killed and requested of him not to link her name with that of Garofalo. Garofalo is supposed to be an ex-gangster and bootlegger and the Mayor wanted to know if the Bureau had anything to do with this matter. Thereupon Mr. Donegan advised him that such matters did not come within the field of FBI jurisdiction and is something for the Department to handle. The Mayor then indicated that this information would be passed on, and had called it to Mr. Donegan's attention as a matter of interest.

Mr. Donegan stated that this matter is summarized in correspondence directed to the Bureau some time ago attached to which was a notation by Mr. Foxworth that Corea was also notified of the facts in the case.

I told Mr. Donegan that a memo to the Department would be written tomorrow advising them thereby keeping our records clear in this regard. Mr. Donegan indicated that he would next contact Mayor LaGuardia on Thursday, February 4th, and at that time would once again tell him that the matter is of Department interest. A letter of confirmation will follow shortly thereafter.

Respectfully,

Edward A. Tamm

61-1335-252

FEB 5 1943



60 MAR 10 1943

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
WASHINGTON, D. C.  
JAN 29 1943

Dear Mr. Biddle:

3-1943

The recent (shameful) assassination of Carlo Tresca in New York has raised the grave question of political murders in the United States. To be sure as far as possible that political enmity in America does not follow the familiar and hideous old world pattern, I join with other believers in democracy in requesting that you direct the Federal Bureau of Investigation to probe this assassination.

Sincerely,

*Stanley McNeil*

61-1335-253

FILES DIVISION

2 | 3 1943

TO:

MR. PATTERSON  
 MR. WAIKART  
 MR. SEYFARTH  
 MR. NEDLER  
 MR. POND  
 MR. DUGAN  
 MR. WALSH  
 MISS LIEB  
 MISS PAULSEN  
 MISS SPEERS  
 MRS. SMITH  
 MR. CAMPBELL (5259)  
 MR. CLEMENTS (5708)  
 MR. FEEHAN (4237)  
 MR. GOULD (5700)  
 MR. MCGUIRE (4238)  
 MR. POWELL (4716)  
 MR. ROGERS (316)FHLBB  
 MR. REMNEBERGER (B-114)

CENTRAL HOLD DESK  
 Enclosure  
 CLASSIFYING  
 CHIEF CLERK  
 CONSOLIDATION  
 DEFERRED RECORDING  
 Send to \_\_\_\_\_  
 Room # \_\_\_\_\_  
 FILING UNIT  
 Checkers  
 FRONT OFFICE  
 IDENT. DIV.  
 IDENT. & STAT. FILES  
 LABORATORY  
 MAIL ROOM (5th Floor)  
 NUMBERING  
 PERSONNEL FILES  
 SEARCHING  
 RECORDING  
 Examiners  
 M \_\_\_\_\_

Error  
 Please Handle

See Me  
 Send by Messenger

*Mr. Deane*  
 Routing Unit (Room 6632)  
 O. H. Patterson

JPC:egb

61-1335-253

February 8, 1943



RECORDED  
INDEXED

109

B

Mr. Stanley McMail  
Box 152  
Marion, North Carolina

Dear Mr. McMail:

Please be advised that your communication dated January 29, 1943 addressed to the Attorney General has recently been referred to this Bureau by the Department of Justice. Your interest in writing the Department of Justice in this regard is appreciated.

In reference to the subject matter of your communication, you may be assured that the content thereof has been carefully noted and is being afforded appropriate consideration by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

- Tolson \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_
- Glegg \_\_\_\_\_
- Goffey \_\_\_\_\_
- Glavin \_\_\_\_\_
- Ladd \_\_\_\_\_
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- Mumford \_\_\_\_\_
- Harbo \_\_\_\_\_
- Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_
- Nease \_\_\_\_\_
- Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

MAILED

★ FEB 8 1943 ★

P. M.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

60 FEB 19 1943

*J.E.H.*  
*J.W.*

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER  
DIRECTOR



Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C.

February 7, 1943

CC-287

- Mr. Tolson ✓
- Mr. E. A. Tamm
- Mr. Clegg
- Mr. Glavin
- Mr. Ladd
- Mr. Nichols ✓
- Mr. Rosen
- Mr. Tracy
- Mr. Carson
- Mr. Coffey
- Mr. Hendon
- Mr. Kramer
- Mr. McGuire
- Mr. Harbo
- Mr. Quinn Tamm
- Tele. Room
- Mr. Nease
- Miss Beahm
- Miss Gandy

JPC:cm

MEMORANDUM FOR [redacted]

Re: Carlo Tresca

In connection with the recent murder of Carlo  
Tresca in New York City, I thought you would be interested in  
knowing that a highly confidential and reliable informant of the  
New York Office advised that arrangements have been made on behalf  
of the Communist Party to go to a fifteen-minute radio broadcast  
deal with the subject's death. According to this informant,

[redacted]

This broadcast is scheduled to be made from 11:30 to 12:15 P.M.  
on February 8, 1943.

You will be advised of pertinent additional information relative  
to the broadcast as soon as it is received.

Respectfully,

F. L. W.  
F. L. Welch  
JPC

b7D

ENCLOSURE

RECORDED  
INDEXED

67-1335-257  
B  
FEB 9 1943

W

FOR DEFENSE  
BUY  
UNITED STATES  
SAVINGS  
BONDS  
AND STAMPS

81 FEB 22 1943

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

JAN 24 1943

*W. H. MacCabe*

- Mr. Tolson
- Mr. E. A. Tamm
- Mr. Clegg
- Mr. Glavin
- Mr. Ladd
- Mr. Nichols
- Mr. Rosen
- Mr. Tracy
- Mr. Carson
- Mr. Coffey
- Mr. Hendon
- Mr. McGuire
- Mr. Mumford
- Mr. Quinn
- Mr. Nease

FBI NYC  
DIRECTOR  
OPAL

1-30-43

4-19 P

[REDACTED] DURING THE PAST WEEK CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANT [REDACTED] HAS BEEN OF PARTICULAR ASSISTANCE TO THIS OFFICE. ACCORDING TO INFORMANT [REDACTED]

THE CARLOS TRESKA MATTER WHICH WILL BE BROADCASTED FROM RADIO STATION WHN IN NYC. THE BROADCAST IS TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR NINE THIRTY TO NINE FORTYFIVE PM FEBRUARY EIGHT, FORTYTHREE. IN VIEW OF THE TYPE OF INFORMATION BEING SUPPLIED BY THIS INFORMANT IS SUGGESTED THAT HIS SERVICES BE CONTINUED.

ENCLOSURE DONEGAN

HOLD

*memo Mr. Ladd  
2/2/43  
J.P.C.*

RECORDED  
INDEXED  
142

67-1335-254

FEB 9 1943

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**b7D**

ANONYMOUS COMMUNICATION  
KEEP ENVELOPE ATTACHED

✓ SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC FEDERATION  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Jasper McKay, National Chairman  
Mayor of Independent, Conn.

Room 505  
7 East 15th Street  
New York City, N. Y.  
Phone: 2-11-6320

Resolution adopted by unanimous vote at the National Conference  
of the Social Democratic Federation at its session Sunday Jan. 24th  
in the People's House, 7 East 15th Street, New York City.

Resolution on Political Assassination and for the  
Defense of Democratic Anti-Fascists.

The recent cowardly murder of Carlo Trovasi, the veteran anti-fascist and anti-totalitarian fighter, has raised the issue of political assassinations in the United States of America.

The Social Democratic Federation supports the courageous stand taken on the matter by Luigi Antonini, President of the Italian-American Labor Council and by all democratic anti-fascists, and asks its advice to the Attorney-General Biddle to start an investigation of the crime of political assassination in this nation.

We also urge the Government not to permit its officials to further the interests of the Communist Party by favoring inclusion of Communists in the so-called VICTORIAN COMMISSION, formed among the foreign language groups.

We stand with the democratic anti-fascists and anti-Nazi groups in their opposition to the Communist inspired attempts to take control of anti-fascist and anti-Nazi movements both here and abroad.

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INDEXED  
67-1335-255  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
JAN 26 1943

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61-1335

255

RECORDED 2/6/43

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. JAMES HOWE, JR.  
THE ASSISTANT TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Re: Carlo Tresca

For your information and such consideration as you deem appropriate there is attached a resolution that was directed to the Attorney General by the Social Democratic Federation, 7 East 15th Street, New York, New York. The referenced communication was recently referred to this Bureau by the Office of the Attorney General.

Inasmuch as the assassination of Carlo Tresca is a case which is apparently within the sole jurisdiction of local law-enforcement agencies, and because this Bureau is not conducting any investigation relative to Tresca's murder, the referenced resolution is being returned at this time for whatever action you deem appropriate.

Very truly yours,

*J. Edgar Hoover*  
John Edgar Hoover  
Director

- Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. McGuire \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Mumford \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Harbo \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_
- Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION  
MAILED 7  
★ FEB 8 - 1943 P.M.  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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60 FEB 13 1943  
*Handwritten notes and signatures*



KRM:shr

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C.

January 29, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. F. L. WELCH

RE: CARLO TRESCA *J. J. J.*

*5-File - [unclear] - [unclear]*

The following article concerning Carlo Tresca appeared in the January 29, 1943, issue of "The Call," official publication of the Socialist Party:

"While the identity of Carlo Tresca's assassin was still unknown as this issue goes to press, The Call has discovered a network of totalitarian intrigue which supplies the background for what is undoubtedly the political murder of the beloved Italian anti-fascist.

"Of course Stalinists and fascists -- both of whom have made use of political assassination -- are deeply involved in this intrigue and, as often happens, the line between the two is sometimes blurred. The unusual aspect of the story is that the Stalinists seem to be operating successfully through the Office of War Information, apparently without the knowledge of its director, Elmer Davis, who is under the illusion that no 'fellow-travelers' are working under him.

"At the time of Tresca's death, the OWI was trying to organize an Italian-American Victory Council which would include not only anti-fascists, but also Stalinists and 'reformed' fascists--Italian-Americans who until recently were propagandists for Italian fascism. In effect, the OWI, following the line of the State Department, wanted an anti-Mussolini, rather than an anti-fascist front.

"Logical Follow-Up

"This policy is a logical corollary of the appeasement of pro-fascists begun by the United States government in the North African deal with Darlan. Churchill has also repeatedly stated that only one man--Mussolini--was responsible for Italy's participation in the war and has indicated a willingness to make a deal with anybody else in Italy.

"The American government has intensified its efforts to force the anti-fascist Italian Americans into a spurious 'national' unity with the Stalinists and 'reformed' fascists because the invasion of North Africa puts the possibility of an invasion of Italy itself, next on its military



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52 FEB 17 1943

agenda. And the Darlan deal is evidence enough that our government is willing to make a deal with Italian fascists, and permit them to keep political and economic control if only they will renounce Mussolini's leadership, and support Allied military invasion of Italy. The large number of Italian-Americans in the United States gives added importance to this maneuver.

"The Communist Party favors this move because of its desire to relieve Nazi pressure on Soviet Russia through a 'second front' achieved by effecting an Allied invasion of Italy. Nor, since the Stalin-Hitler pact, have they shown any reluctance to deal with fascists.

#### "Red and Black Totalitarians

"The 'victory council' envisioned by the OWI was to include Italian branches of the International Workers Order, Stalinist fraternal front. It was also to include pro-fascist Italian-Americans who became converts to democracy about the time the U.S. entered the war; for example, Generoso Pope, New York publisher, who played the Democratic side of the street for the fascists and was a New York elector for President Roosevelt in 1940; and Almerindo Portfolio, New York politico, who played the Republican side of the street for the fascists.

"To impose the red and black totalitarians on the anti-fascists the OWI used, among others, two Italians, one named Facci and the other Sereno. The latter was pro-fascist until 1938, when he became pro-Stalinist. Facci practically broke up the Mazzini Society in Philadelphia when he tried to get it to accept the leadership of Judge Alessandroni, prominent in the Sons of Italy and a notorious pro-fascist.

"To all of this Carlo Tresca was implacably opposed and he was fighting it until the moment he was shot down. Not only was Tresca opposed to it, but so also were other leaders of the Mazzini Society, the pro-democratic Italian anti-fascist organization. These leaders are among the most eminent Italian anti-fascists in the world--Prof. Gaetano Salvemini, Prof. G. A. Borghese, Prof. Maz Ascoli, Count Carlo Sforza.

#### "'Unity' Not Created

"These men and their followers were dispirited and divided by the efforts of the OWI to lump them with Stalinists, anti-Mussolini fascists and fair-weather anti-fascists. The net result of the OWI's attempts at 'unity' was to create disruption and confusion among true anti-fascists from which only the disciplined followers of Stalin and Mussolini could profit.

"The Stalinists in the OWI tipped their hand in an 'exclusive' story in the New York Post of Jan. 18 which attempted to whitewash the OWI's

role and to absolve the Stalinists of any connection with the murder of Tresca. The principal informant of The Post is given in the story as 'responsible sources in the Office of War Information.' It was admitted in The Post city room that the story was 'ordered' from above.

"The 'responsible sources' in the OWI turned out to be Lee Falk of the OWI foreign language division. Falk is a Stalinist fellow-traveller who lives with another OWI employe in the same division named Carr who is also a fellow-traveler.

"Tresca Didn't Approve

"Falk is quoted in the Post story as saying that Tresca gave 'whole-hearted approval' to the plan for an Italian-American Victory Council. The story also states that Tresca agreed 'not to make an issue' of the inclusion of Stalinists.

"Tresca's widow, Margaret de Silver, and other intimates of Tresca categorically and vigorously deny these statements. To those acquainted with Tresca's career and ideas, they are obviously false.

"The story also speaks of the 'amazing series of problems for the OWI' arising from the setting up of the 'Victory Council.' But it gives no hint of the fact that the OWI itself was responsible for these problems.

"For example the story refers to 'the inclusion of Generoso Pope' in the 'Victory Council,' but sedulously avoids saying that it was the OWI itself that originally proposed the inclusion of Pope and of all other recent fascist apologists.

"The story reveals its Stalinist inspiration by making much of the opposition to Pope while avoiding mention of the opposition to the rest of the suspiciously fresh converts from fascism. It appears that Pope incurred the wrath of the Stalinists by refusing to allow fellow-travellers on the staff of his newspaper. Consequently they were quite willing to see Pope attacked, especially since it created the illusion that discretion was being exercised in the formation of the 'Victory Council.'

"Tresca and his associates were, of course, bitterly opposed to Pope. But they did not regard Pope as the worst of the fascist apologists. They were equally opposed to others. But The Post story did not mention the opposition to the others, presumably because they had made their peace with the Stalinists.

"The most disturbing sidelights of the Post story are that it could appear in a U.S. paper at all and that it could appear in the New York Post. It is the kind of inspired story--inspired not even by the government, but by a vicious faction in the government--that is typical of the worst in European journalism. It is a fitting accompaniment to political assassination.

"Finding it in The Post--a right wing American Labor party paper normally sensitive to Stalinist machinations--may be explained either by the gullibility of the publishers or by their willingness to whitewash the Stalinists along with the Administration."

Respectfully,

  
K. R. McIntire

# CHANGE THE WORLD



*The Gun That Killed Tresca  
Was Fired By the Same Hand  
That Burned the Reichstag*

**By MIKE GOLD**

*File  
G. Gold*

It will be ten years on February 27th that the Reichstag fire frameup took place in Berlin. A younger generation, flung into the world struggle since 1933, will barely know about that fire.

Yet it is worth studying.

The fire, for one thing, set a pattern for future Nazi frameups and provocations. If you study the Reichstag blaze in all its dramatic intrigues you can almost solve an event as recent as the Tresca assassination.

Any mall-order detectives can tell you that the first step in crime detection is to search for a motive.

The possible formation at last of a broad and truly national united front of all Italian groups against Mussolini and Hitler may have inspired the Gestapo with its immediate motive in the Tresca case. Or the defeats in Russia may have caused Nazis to create a renewed witch-hunt against that favorite bogeyman of all Dies witch-hunters and Tories, the legendary "OGPU."

Only a united front of the people everywhere can beat Hitler. The Communists work for such a united front. The assassination of Tresca is being used to defame the Soviet people and the American Communist Party, hence the united front. Who can benefit by the current campaign but the Nazis, the Hearsts, the Mussolinis?

To repeat, the pattern for all such diversionary frameups was set in the Reichstag fire in 1933.

Von Hindenburg had sneaked Hitler into the office of Chancellor, under order of the masters of Germany, the steel and coal magnates, the Prussian junkers and war-mongering generals.

But new elections were coming in March. The country was in a state of revolt against Hitler. He could only win the elections by a reign of terror. He needed some legal fiction for the opening of a terror.

The Communists smelled the possibilities and warned the German people. In a speech delivered on Feb. 26, 1933, Deputy Wilhelm Pieck, a Communist, warned that "certain circles are spreading rumors that the Communists are preparing an attempt on Hitler's life. Let me remind you of the provocative assassinations practised in Italy which served as a pretext for the incredible persecution of the workers."

But through the newly won Goebbels radio, thousands of Nazi demagogues and newspapers went on screaming "Bolshevik Plans for a Coup d'Etat."

Something was to happen. It was in the air. The fire took place on the night of Feb. 27. Hitler appeared on the scene within a few minutes. Goering and Goebbels also were conveniently free and in Berlin on the same fateful night.

Within ten minutes after the fire, Hitler said to a British correspondent, "This is a signal from Providence. No one will prevent us now from dealing with the Communists with an iron hand."

How could he know so soon who had made the fire? But the frame-up trial of Dmitroff at Leipzig exposed the story of the plot. That brave lion of the working class, Dmitroff, told the full tale in court. And one after another accomplice in the fire was murdered by Hitler, or fled Germany, or otherwise paid for knowing too much.

A world jury of eminent barristers under the chairmanship of Sir Stafford Cripps held a public hearing in London on the Reichstag blaze. They examined all evidence and blamed Hitler for the fire with which he ushered in a new epoch of Nazi murder, horror, assassination, barbarism and general return to the jungle.

In the Tresca case similarly be exposed to the full light of day. Such is the demand of all honest anti-fascists. The bloody fingerprints found on the Reichstag walls will surely be found on the gun that laid Tresca low.

*1935-A  
File*

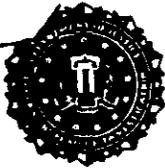
This is a clipping from page 12 (Sec) 2 of the Sunday Worker for

*1-31-43*

Clipped at the seat of Government

56 FEB 26 1943

J. EDGAR HOOVER  
DIRECTOR



Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice

Washington, D. C.

January 23, 1943

- Mr. Tolson
- Mr. E. A. Tamm
- Mr. Clegg
- Mr. Glavin
- Mr. Ladd
- Mr. Nichols
- Mr. Rosen
- Mr. Tracy
- Mr. Carson
- Mr. Coffey
- Mr. Hendon
- Mr. Kramer
- Mr. McGuire
- Mr. Harbo
- Mr. Quinn Tamm
- Tele. Room
- Mr. Nease
- Miss Beahm
- Miss Gandy

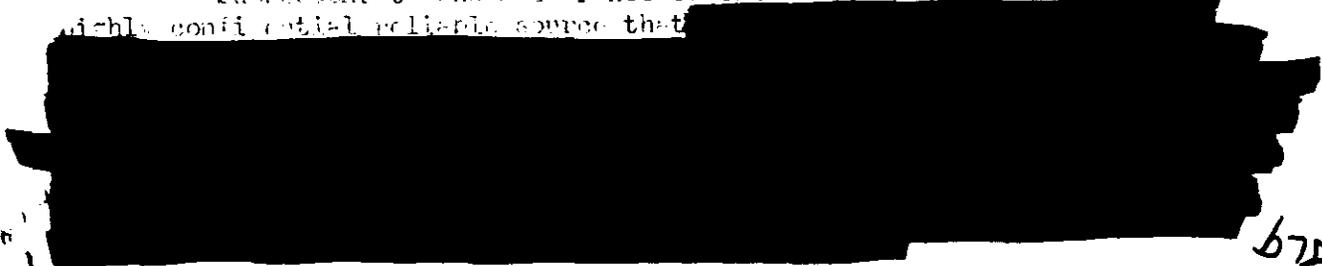
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61-1335

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. LADD

Re: Carlo Tresca

In reference to the recent assassination of Carlo Tresca, the following information is being brought to your attention. On January 22, 1943, an article appeared in the New York Times bearing the caption "Friends of Tresca Charge O.I. Insisted on Peace in 'Victory Front'". This article, which is attached, reports that Luigi Antonini, President of the Italian American Labor Council, charged that the O.I. is an instrument for the infiltration of Communists into the Italian-American Victory Committee and the Italian American Domestic front. The article states that Antonini believes the Communists are responsible for Tresca's death, rather than the Fascists.

Subsequent to the appearance of this article it was reported by a highly confidential reliable source that [REDACTED]



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1 ENCL. 12

Another highly confidential and reliable source has advised the New York Office that there are indications that members of the Communist party will distribute a leaflet to the 10,000 members of Antonini's Local No. 89, Italian Press and Artist Workers Union, which leaflet will brand Antonini as "a liar".

In the "Daily Worker" of January 23, Robert Liner likewise answered the "slandering remarks made by Luigi Antonini" and charged that the allegations of the latter will cause damage to the war effort of the United Nations.

RECORDED & INDEXED

61-1335-257

OBSERVATIONS: To date nothing has come to the attention of the Bureau which would definitely indicate that either Fascist or Communist groups in the United States are responsible for the murder. The Communists continue to attribute the crime to Fascist groups, while various representatives of several Italian factions charge that the Communists are responsible for Tresca's death.



347

60 MAR 4

ACTION: Inasmuch as the FBI is not investigating Trasca's murder, it would appear that action is unnecessary at this time.

Respectfully,

*F. L. Welch*  
F. L. Welch

Attachment

File

Mr. Coyne

Mr. Winterrowd

Mr. Mac Carter

### Friends of Tresca Charge OWI Insisted on Reds in 'Victory Front'

The assassination of Carlo Tresca led yesterday to indignant denunciation by leading Italian-American organizations of the Office of War Information for its tactics in seeking to promote anti-Fascism here.

Leaders no longer hesitated yesterday to be quoted in accusations that the authority of the OWI had been put behind an insistence that a proposed Italian-American Victory Committee should not only include democrats in whom the Italian-American population believed, but also a number of pro-Fascists whose conversion dated only from Pearl Harbor; and, least welcome of all, that it should include Communists.

It is against the Communist participation that the organized Italian-American indignation is pre-

ponderantly directed. The OWI is charged with being the instrument for the infiltration of Communists into the Italian-American domestic front, where, they have heretofore had little numerical success.

And the suspicion entertained by these Italian-American leaders is approaching a state of certainty that the communists will be found responsible for the assassination of Carlo Tresca, who had succeeded in having them barred even from membership in the powerful Mazzini Society and who was preparing to have them shut out of the OWI meeting that was to launch the Victory Committee three days before he was shot on Jan. 4.

Tresca had threatened to stop the communists and ex-fascists or

Continued on Page Fourteen

This is a clipping from page of the New York Times for

Clipped at the Seat of Government.

61-1335-257  
ENCLOSURE

## RIENDS OF TRESCA CRITICIZE THE OWI

Continued From Page One

pose the manner in which the Victory Committee was coming to being. The organization meeting was postponed by the OWI un- three weeks after the assassina- tion, until Jan. 29, but the Ital- ian-American leaders who ex- pressed themselves here yesterday declared the Victory Committee could then be found to have been set down with Tresca.

When echoes of this backfire reached Washington yesterday, the central office of the OWI denied it insisted upon anything. "The OWI people in the field," said an

OWI spokesman, "were told to do what they could in a tactful way to prevent any one faction from gaining a dominant position in any one group, but there was no effort to force the inclusion of communists of any other special division."

In New York, however, there was a flat contradiction among the Italian-American leaders who pre- sented themselves. They named

Lee Falk of the OWI's Foreign Language Division as the attack- ed organizer of the New York section of the Italian-American Victory Committee. They said he had insisted on Communist partici- pation. And they said he had spread the report that the assassin, Carlo Tresca had agreed with him to abandon opposition to Communists.

It was the indignation of the Italian-American leaders at what they considered an unscrupulous

misrepresentation of the beliefs for which Tresca was killed.

Luigi Antonini, head of the 40,000 members of Italian Dress and Makers Union 89, and presi- dent of the Italian-American Labor Council, representing more than 100,000 organized labor union-

He said: "Up to this moment I was re- luctant to put any statement out. But when the OWI came to see me to try to build up a section in New York of this victory council, I spoke to Tresca of it many times and he was of my view. Tresca was not only 100 per cent against the admission of Communists; he was 100 per cent against it. In fact, he blocked the admission of Communists into the Mazzini So- ciety and said he would block them in any organization of the Victory Council."

"This is a shame to put in his name that he was ready to ac-

cept the Communists in that body. That is a lie—from the top to the bottom.

"Carlo Tresca needs some one to square his account with the Com- munist. Naturally I cannot point my finger at his assassin, but if I had to choose between the Fascists and the Communists, I will give the Communists 95 per cent that they did it, and the Fascists 5 per cent. Because the Fascists at this time are running and it is not a good time to do anything of the kind. And I think the Communists are in better position to do it in revenge on this man.

"I told Mr. Falk that in my or- ganization we cannot prevent the coming in of Communists camou- flaged as representatives of some other organization—you know how the Communists camouflage them- selves. But we watch them very closely and do not permit them to do something wrong. Our opinion,

the present opinion of those people I represent, resents the coming in of the Communists. So far as we can, we will prevent it.

"I believe that Cranston (Alb. Cranston, chief of the OWI's Foreign Language Division) and Falk with their statements that the Communists have to come in the Italian-American Victory Council have doomed it from the start. It is not going to get anywhere."

### Mazzini Society's Stand

For the Mazzini Society, Angelo Tarciani, general secretary, said: "We have told everybody including the OWI that we don't want co- operation with totalitarians, Com- munist or Fascist, and Tresca was completely of the same opin- ion. I don't know why the OWI says the contrary. I don't be- lieve the council they propose will have any good effect on the community."

This is a clipping from  
page \_\_\_\_\_ of the  
New York Times for

Clipped at the Seat of  
Government.

# Cacchione Blasts Smear by Antonini

Councilman Peter V. Cacchione, Italian-American Communist leader, charged Luigi Antonini, garment union leader, with furthering partisan quarrels in his "obscene attempts to drag the corpse of Carlo Tresca across the front pages of our newspapers." Cacchione's charge was contained in a statement issued yesterday in answer to Antonini's attack upon the Communists and upon Italian-American anti-fascist unity.

The Councilman also accused Antonini of whitewashing the fascists by reckless charges that there is only a 5 per cent chance that they murdered Carlo Tresca.



"Slandorous accusations" against the Communists by Antonini "are unimportant," Cacchione said, "as compared with his irresponsible attacks on the Office of War Information, which has been the consistent target of the Axis abroad and pro-Axis elements here."

The Councilman's statement follows, in full:

"Luigi Antonini's attack on the OWI which was seeking to unite Italian-Americans of all shades of opinion behind the victory program of our President, can only have the unfortunate effect of weakening the growing anti-Axis unity among the Italian-American people. Until the cruel assassination of Carlo Tresca, undoubtedly at the hand of fascist assassins, unity among the Italian-Americans was growing. Responsible OWI officials testified that the Italian-American community, hitherto rent by political differences, was uniting more and more behind the anti-Axis war program of President Roosevelt.

## DEFEATIST GAME

"The murder of Tresca was promptly seized upon by sinister appeaser and defeatist forces to split the unity of the Italian-American people in particular, and the American people in general. Furthermore, it is being used in unscrupulous fashion to discredit our great ally, the Soviet Union.

"Mr. Antonini's statement that there is only a 5 per cent chance that fascist elements murdered Tresca constitutes in fact a whitewash of fascism. It is in direct contradiction to the stated opinion

of another leader of the Italian-American community of our city, Magistrate J. Roland Sala, who was quoted on Jan. 18, as follows: 'I'd stake my reputation that this (the Tresca murder) is a fascist plot.'

"Mr. Antonini's slanderous accusations against the Communists are unimportant as compared to his irresponsible attacks on the Office of War Information, which has been the consistent target of the Axis abroad and pro-Axis elements here. It is a matter of record that Communists are opposed to individual terror and could not have the faintest connection with the Tresca case. Mr. Antonini's obscene attempts to drag the corpse of Carlo Tresca across the front pages of our newspapers to further his partisan quarrel, will be rejected by decent-minded citizens of all political faiths and racial strains.

## NOT FOR LABOR

"Mr. Antonini does not speak for the whole Italian-American community. He does not even speak—as he presumes to speak—for the entire Italian-American labor movement of New York, nor even for the membership of his union.

"All decent citizens will continue to press for an unflinching investigation of the Tresca killing. This inquiry will undoubtedly lead to the fascist underworld.

"Italian-Americans of all political opinions, Republican, Democrat, or Communist, will continue to cement their unity behind the anti-Axis war policies of President Roosevelt, and will thrust aside any would-be splitter of that unity."

FIVE

This is a clipping from page 1 of the Daily Worker for

1-23-43  
Clipped at the Seat of Government.

44-1335-257

ENCLOSURE

## Minor Hits Slanders

Robert Minor, assistant general secretary of the Communist Party called for all-out unity of anti-fascists working for the defeat of Hitlerism. His statement was made in connection with the Office of War Information's efforts to stimulate the liberation movement in Italy, and in connection with the slanderous remarks made by Luigi Antonini and others about the role of the Communist Party in the anti-fascist front.



Robert Minor

Minor's statement follows:

"The Communist Party is interested in only one quarrel—the quarrel with the enemies of our country and of all mankind, the Hitler, Mussolini and Hirohito governments. We see no reason to quarrel with any of the various groups that desire to aid in the war. We work with all forces that are willing to engage in the job of winning the war. If there is anyone who believes the Communists of the respective countries will have nothing to do with the war of liberation by which Italy and the other occupied countries will secure their freedom, such a person has a very strange sense of reality. If there is anyone who still indulges in suggestions that the Communist Party shows the slightest tolerance for methods of assassination, such dishonesty is one of the dangerous vices that attract small men in disturbed times like the present. In the long run the people they mislead will repudiate such slanderers.

"The main thing is that the war has entered into a new and extremely important phase. A decisive turn in favor of the United

(Continued on Page 6)

Nations is unmistakably to be seen in the events on the Rostov and African fronts. The necessity is all the greater for all honest Americans and all anti-fascist and anti-Nazi citizens of all countries now in this country to work together to help our country and the British to deliver the blow in Europe with the support of the European peoples. We are going to work with all. If there are groups who wish to set up other standards than willingness to fight the Nazis and fascists, such persons will do some momentary damage to the war effort, but in the long run the guarantees of unity will be secured."

Five

This is a clipping from page 1 of the Daily Worker for

1-23-43  
Clipped at the Seat of Government.

1-1335-257

J. EDGAR HOOVER  
DIRECTOR



**Federal Bureau of Investigation**  
**United States Department of Justice**  
**Washington, D. C.**

- Mr. Tolson
- Mr. E. A. Tamm
- Mr. Clegg
- Mr. Glavin
- Mr. Ladd
- Mr. Nichols
- Mr. Rosen
- Mr. Tracy
- Mr. Carson
- Mr. Coffey
- Mr. Hendon
- Mr. Kramer
- Mr. McGuire
- Mr. Harbo
- Mr. Quinn Tamm
- Tele. Room
- Mr. Nease
- Miss Beahm
- Miss Gandy

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE.

JAN 26, 1943 **CONFIDENTIAL**

JPC:ceb

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP-1 BJK/KJ MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR  
REASON - FCIM 11, 1-2.4.2 2-25-79  
DATE OF REVIEW 6-25-89 RE: Carlo Tresca

You will recall the recent publicity afforded the case of Carlo Tresca, who was murdered on January 11, 1943. Tresca, an Italian national, has been in this country since August, 1904. He has been rabidly anti-Fascist and anti-Communist and by his own admission is considered to have been an outright anarchist. Tresca for the past thirty years has been extremely active in labor movements and was one of the active leaders in the ~~Masso-Vanzetti~~ Defense Committee. As you have previously been advised, the New York Office in accordance with your request was informed to keep in close touch with the case but to assume no responsibility for the investigation of the murder.

On January 26, 1943, the New York Times reported that the Social Democratic Federation of New York City has issued a demand that the Attorney General order an investigation of the murder of Tresca. This demand, which is attached, reflects that delegates of the Federation adopted a resolution declaring that the killing of Tresca "has raised the issue of political assassinations in America", thus requiring the intervention of Federal authorities. In view of the possibility that the Department may refer this matter to the Bureau, the facts set forth in this memorandum are being brought to your attention.

The Bureau files reflect that the Social Democratic Federation publishes the "New Leader"; that the Federation is anti-Communist, anti-Fascist, and Socialist in nature.

On January 11, 1943, a memorandum was directed to the Bureau by Edward J. Dennis, Director of the Alien Enemy Control Unit, requesting an investigation to determine if there was any connection between the subject's death and alien enemy or subversive groups in this country. In the memorandum of reply it was pointed out to Mr. Dennis that compliance with his request would necessitate the investigation of a murder which is clearly within the jurisdiction of local law-enforcement agencies, and that it would in all probability establish a precedent for similar action should cases of this type arise in the future. Mr. Dennis was further advised that in accordance

FOR DEFENSE



50 FEB 18 1943

**CONFIDENTIAL**

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**CONFIDENTIAL**

with the FBI's policy in referring from concern itself with cases solely within local law-enforcement jurisdiction, the reported investigation was not being undertaken.

Recently Luigi Antonini, head of the Italian-American Labor Council, charged that Communists, rather than Fascists, were responsible for Trocca's death. In a similar connection, the "Daily Worker" published articles denying these charges and, at the same time, alleged that Antonini's statements would cause damage to the war effort. New York State Councilman Peter V. Cacchione likewise replied to Antonini's charges, stating that fascist elements are responsible for the subject's murder. Cacchione's reply was reported in the "Daily Worker".



Respectfully,

D. M. Ladd

*Handwritten signature/initials*

*Handwritten initials "bl"*

Attachment

**CONFIDENTIAL**

File

Mr. Cogley  
Mr. Winterrowd  
Mr. E. C. ...

### BIDDLE INQUIRY ASKED IN MURDER OF TRESCA

#### Social Democratic Federation Appeals to Attorney General

Carlo Tresca

Demand that Attorney General Francis D. Biddle order an investigation of the murder of Carlo Tresca, Italian anti-fascist leader and enemy of the Communists, was made yesterday by the national conference of the Social Democratic Federation at 7 East Fifteenth Street.

Delegates from many States adopted a resolution declaring that the killing of Tresca "has raised the issue of political assassination in America" requiring intervention of the Federal authorities.

The resolution expressed support of the position taken by Luigi Antonini, president of the Italian-American Labor Council, in demanding an investigation and in criticizing the action of agents of the Office of War Information in what Mr. Antonini charged was their support of Communist united front efforts among Italian anti-fascist elements in this country.

"We urge the Office of War Information not to permit some of its officials to further the interests of the Communist Party by favoring inclusion of Communists in the so-called Victory Councils formed among foreign language groups," the resolution declared. "We stand with the democratic anti-fascist and anti-Nazi groups in their opposition to the Communist-inspired attempts to take control of anti-fascist and anti-Nazi movements both here and in Europe."

The conference, after adopting resolutions dealing with labor problems, social security and issues bearing upon the war and future peace, ended last night with a dinner at the Hotel Commodore in honor of Algernon Lee, president of the Rand School of Social Science and veteran leader of the American Socialist movement. The dinner marked Mr. Lee's 70th birthday.

This is a clipping from  
page 7 of the  
New York Times for  
Jan. 25, 1943  
Clipped at the Seat of  
Government.

61-1335-258

ENCLOSURE



Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C.  
February 15, 1943

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Kramer \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. McGuire \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Beahm \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

CET:FW  
#61-1335-247

MEMORANDUM FOR  
MR. COFFEY

Re: Carlo Tresca

Reference is made to the evidence listed below which was submitted to the Laboratory for examination by D. M. Ladd under date of January 26, 1943. This memorandum is for the special attention of Supervisor J. P. Coyne of Division Five.

- #61-1335-247 Q1 One sheet of paper containing headlines from New York Journal American newspaper, January 14, 1943 and beginning, "Tresca Murderer Linked".
- Q2 Second sheet of paper from same source reading, "To OGPU Agent".
- Q3 Third sheet of paper from same source containing newspaper clipping beginning, "Arrest Near of 2nd Man....."
- Q4 Fourth sheet of paper from same source containing newspaper clipping of Q3 continued beginning, "business address... " and containing false address and signature of "Charles Pappas."

Pursuant to your request a search was made in the Alphabetical Name File of the Bureau on the basis of the names "Carmine Galente", "Bruno Russ", "Charles Russo" and "Carmine Calente", but a comparison of the handwriting appearing on specimen Q4 with the signatures appearing on the fingerprint cards located disclosed no significant similarities.

The submitted evidence is being retained in the Laboratory.

1 ENCL. 10

Respectfully,

C. A. Appel

RECORDED

61-1335-247  
R  
10 FEB 19 1943



53 FEB 27 1943

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER  
DIRECTOR



Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C.

JKM:LHH  
Call: 8:40 PM  
Transcribed: 10:00 PM

January 15, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. LADD

RE: CARLO TRESCA

- Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. E.A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Carson *JK* \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Kramer \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. McGuire \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Harbo \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_
- Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_
- Miss Beahm \_\_\_\_\_
- Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

ASAC Donegan of the New York Field Office called at this time and informed that District Attorney Hogan seems to be very much interested in an individual by the name of Carlos Contreras, who is reported to be in Mexico City at the present time. He stated that he thought that the Bureau might like to make some discreet inquiries to see if this individual is in Mexico City.

He further informed that Bureau letter dated March 26, 1942, makes mention of Contreras. The title of the letter is Santiago Garcia Ricardo Dotres; Espionage - S, that the letter refers to Contreras being in Mexico. He stated that it might be interesting to determine the connection with the present case.

Mr. Donegan stated that an Italian had been picked up for the murder of Tresca on the basis that two parole officers saw him in the car shortly before the time of the murder. His name is Carmine Galante. He informed that he thought they had a "dud" in this connection, that they have not been able to get him to talk.

Respectfully,

*J. K. Mumford*  
J. K. Mumford

RECORDED  
&  
INDEXED

ENCLOSURE

61-1335-257  
FEB 1 1943





Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C.  
January 18, 1943

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Carson *W* \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Coffey *W* \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Kramer \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. McGuire \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Beahm \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

JPC:cgb  
61-1335

MEMORANDUM FOR Mr. Ladd

Re: Carlo Tresca

Reference is made to the attached memorandum from Mr. Mumford to Mr. Ladd dated January 15, 1943. It will be noted therein that in endeavoring to determine the murderer of Tresca, District Attorney Hogan has expressed a keen interest in an individual by the name of Carlos Contreras, who is reported to be in Mexico City at the present time.

A review of the Bureau files reflects that the true name of Contreras is Jesus Comenent Vidal; that he is Italian; that he spent many years in Russia; and that he was Commissar of the Communist Lister Brigade in Spain during the Spanish Civil War. He is considered by informants to be a most dangerous character. Vidal, alias Contreras, poses as a Spanish refugee in Mexico. He was a leading figure in bringing about the "purge" of Laborer and Campa from the Communist Party in Mexico. He is closely connected with Vincente Lombardo Toledano. He was arrested by the Mexico City police in March, 1941 and was released a short time thereafter. The reason for the arrest is unknown.

The files further reflect that he is referred to as a Comintern Functionary and one of the principal influential contact men between "Free Germany" and the Mexican Communist movement.

REFER - ONI

Although the Bureau is not investigating the death of Tresca, it is definitely interested in any information pertinent to the Tresca case. Accordingly, it is suggested that this memorandum be brought to the attention of the SIS Section in order that an immediate check may be made on the activities of Vidal, alias Contreras, for the purpose of determining his whereabouts at the time of the murder and, likewise, in order that up-to-date information may be secured relative to his present activities. It is further suggested that this matter be afforded expeditious attention.



Attachment  
SIS # 721  
1-17-43

Respectfully,  
*F. L. Welch*  
F. L. Welch

RECORDED

INDEXED

61-1335-259

18 FEB 1 1943

NHL/grv  
Memo for Mr. Ladd 1-18-43

RECORDED 61-1335-259 January 26, 1943

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL  
VIA DIPLOMATIC AIR TOUCH

SIS # 72  
Mr.  
The American Embassy  
Mexico, D. F.

Re: Carlo Tresca

Dear

On the night of January 11, 1943, Carlo Tresca was shot and killed on Fifth Avenue, New York City as he was leaving his office. The assassin has been neither identified nor apprehended although the New York City Police Department is presently conducting an intensive man hunt to achieve these purposes.

Tresca is described as an anarchist who received considerable publicity prior to his death. It is known that he was intensely disliked by both Fascists and Communists and sources of information have indicated that either of these two groups may have been responsible for his death.

Although the Bureau is not investigating the death of Tresca, it is definitely interested in any information pertinent to the case. There is a possibility that an individual by the name of Carlos Contreras, alias Jesus Sorrente Vidal, who is reported to be in Mexico City at the present time, may have been involved in the assassination of Tresca or may have information which may lead to the apprehension of the guilty parties.

A review of the Bureau files reflects that the true name of Contreras is Jesus Sorrente Vidal; that he is Italian; that he spent many years in Russia; and that he was Commissar of the Communist Lister Brigade in Spain during the Spanish Civil War. He is considered by informants to be a most dangerous character. Vidal, alias Contreras, poses as a Spanish refugee in Mexico. He was a leading figure in bringing about the "purge" of Laborde and Campa from the Communist Party in Mexico. He is closely connected with Vincente Lombardo Toledano. He was arrested by the Mexico City Police in March, 1942, and was released a short time thereafter. The reason for his release is unknown.

Mr. Tolson  
Mr. E. A. Tamm  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Coffey  
Mr. Glavin  
Mr. Ladd  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tracy  
Mr. Carson  
Mr. Hendon  
Mr. McGuire  
Mr. Mumford  
Mr. Harbo  
Mr. Quinn Tamm  
Mr. Nease  
Miss Gandy

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION  
M. Tolson files further reflect that he is referred to as a Comintern functionary, and appears the principal influential contact man between "Red Germany" and the Mexican Communist Movement.

FEB 10 1943  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

56 FEB 20 1943

*[Handwritten signature]*

Mr. Clarence W. Moore

Page 2

REFER - ONE



You are directed to immediately conduct an investigation of Contreras to determine his whereabouts at the time of the murder and to secure current information concerning his present activities and contacts. You are instructed to afford this matter expeditious, continuous, and thorough investigative attention, and to immediately inform the Bureau of any pertinent developments.

Very truly yours,

NB

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

- Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Carson *W*
- Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Kramer \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. McGuire \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Harbo \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_
- Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_
- Miss Beahm \_\_\_\_\_
- Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER  
DIRECTOR



RDD:red

**Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C.**

January 23, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. LADD

RE: VITTORIO VIDALI, alias  
Commander Carlos Contreras

Censorship has recently advised that the above-named subject is now in Mexico. British Censorship advised American Censorship that a letter was recently intercepted to Stato Operario, P. O. Box 166, Station D, New York City, from S. Velez, Abraham Gonzalez 20, Mexico, D. F., and that this letter was in the known handwriting of Commander Contreras. The British stated that he is an Italian Communist who is largely responsible for the founding of the Garibaldi Alliance in Mexico.

American Censorship recently intercepted a letter addressed to Carlos Contreras, Architect, Edificio "La Nacional", Avenida Juarez #4, Mexico, D. F., from Walter H. Blucher, Executive Director, American Society of Planning Officials, 1313 East 69th Street, Chicago, Illinois. This letter enclosed clippings from the New York Times which stated that the New York Police were anxious to interview Carlos Contreras regarding the recent murder of Tresca, Italian political leader in New York.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that this information be furnished to Mr. Carson and that he consider the advisability of notifying the New York Police Department as to the present whereabouts of Contreras.

Respectfully,

R. D. Douglas



FILED 1943

NWB:fh  
Memo for Mr. Ladd 1/23/43

61-1335-260

February 3, 1943

SIS #72

Re: Carlo Tresca

~~REDACTED~~

*Redeemed by*

*CAI*

S. A. Richard M. Ains  
Date JAN 25 1972

Refer to Bureau letter of January 28, 1943, captioned as above.

As of possible assistance in conducting the investigation requested in the referenced letter there follows information indicating the subject to be in Mexico.

Censorship has recently advised that the above named individual is now in Mexico. British Censorship advised American Censorship that a letter was received from E. Meloz, Abraham Gonzales 20, Mexico, D. C., and that this letter was in the known handwriting of Commander Contreras. The British stated that he is an Italian Communist who is largely responsible for the founding of the Garibaldi Alliance in Mexico.

American Censorship recently intercepted a letter addressed to Carlos Contreras, Architect, Edificio "La Nacional", Avenida Juarez 74, Mexico, D. C., from Walter H. Blucher, Executive Director, American Society of Planning Officials, 1313 East 69th Street, Chicago, Illinois.

This letter enclosed clippings from the "New York Times" which stated that the New York Police were anxious to interview Carlos Contreras regarding the recent murder of Tresca, Italian political leader in New York.

- Mr. Tolson
- Mr. E. A. Tamm
- Mr. Clegg
- Mr. Coffey
- Mr. Glavin
- Mr. Ladd
- Mr. Nichols
- Mr. Rosen
- Mr. Tracy
- Mr. Carson
- Mr. Hendon
- Mr. McGuire
- Mr. Mumford
- Mr. Harbo

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION  
MAILED 2  
★ FEB 4 1943 P.M.  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RECEIVED IN DIVISION  
FEB 3 1943

- Miss Quinn Tamm
- Miss Nease
- Miss Gandy

56 FEB 20 1943