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REPORT OF BRUNO SEGRE
ON THE SITUATION IN ITALY

In my last report I gave news of the situation of C.O.s in Italy up to June 1950. Since then there have been no new cases of conscientious objection, and our activities have been confined to following up the various processes of appeal to the Supreme Military Tribunal on behalf of those C.O.s sentenced and to continuing the work of the propagation and defence of our aims on public opinion in Italy. The appeal of Pietro Pinna sentenced by the Tribunal of ~~Expiex~~ Turin to 10 months and by the Tribunal of Naples to 8 months (but subsequently freed), was examined on 24th February by the Supreme Military Tribunal in Rome. In this trial, which was assisted by the Advocate Vassalli, the Public Prosecutor repeated the arguments expressed by Jesuits ~~x~~ in the magazine "LA CIVILTÀ" CATTOLICA". The Tribunal rejected the appeal elaborated by the undersigned, who asked ^{only} for some concessions to ~~be~~ granted ~~under~~ on the grounds of particular moral and social value. In actual fact Pietro Pinna is now working at a Bank in Ferrara.

On the 3rd April the Supreme Military Tribunal heard the appeal by the anarchist objector Pietro Ferrua against the two sentences by the Military Tribunal of La Spezia, which condemned him in all to 1 year and 3 months.

Notwithstanding the defence by the advocates Vassalli and Pedio, the Tribunal dismissed the appeal and confirmed the sentence. Finally, at the end of June, at the termination of his sentence Pietro Ferrua was freed from Gaeta prison and ~~was~~ ^{was} recovering in hospital at La Spezia under observation. However he succeeded in escaping so as not to be directed into the Army and I think that he intends to go into exile. (anarchist)

On the 29 May the appeals of Elevoine Santi and Mario Barbani against the sentence of the Tribunals of Naples and Palermo, which condemned them to 1 year of prison each, were heard. Santi was by then already released, while Barbani was still detained. The Supreme Tribunal, having heard the defence by the Advocates Vassalli and Pedio, dismissed Santi's appeal as being inadmissible by reason of procedure and partially accepted that of Barbani, to whom has been granted the benefit of the non-mention of the sentence on his penal certificate. Actually, Mario Barbani is still imprisoned at Gaeta, while Elevoine Santi is about to work in an I.V.S.P. camp.

In October last 2 Jehovah's Witnesses, Nicola Rojo from Francavilla a mare and Francesco Tontodonati from Pescara, were sentenced to 1 year's imprisonment with conditional suspension of the penalty, having refused to undertake military service for reasons of religion.

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During the period 1950-51 there has been varied and useful activity on behalf of conscientious objection. On 28 and 29 October a national Convention was held in Rome to discuss the problems of C.Os. The Convention was organised by prof. Capitini and others Italian friends. Many personalities participated in the Convention and the Italian press gave much publicity to it. (A report of the work of that Convention was published in the November issue of magazine L'INCONTRO, n.11).

Prof. G. Pioli, the most worthy adherent to conscientious objection in Italy has recently published a book entitled "LA RINUNZIA ALLA VIOLENZA" ("The Renunciation of Violence"), which contains a wide account of the campaign in favour of C.Os.

The independent newspaper L'INCONTRO of Turin has published each month detailed notices on conscientious objectors, discussing with the opponents and proclaiming the ideal of non violent resistance.

The undersigned, during a visit to Switzerland, was interviewed on the 28 January over the Monteceneri Radio on the problems of C.Os.

Dr. Carlo Allioni, student Alessandro Sarti and the printer Enzo Jouve, who had printed and diffused some leafs illegally on the 30 August 1949 during the Pinna trial, were sentenced at Turin. They, defended by the undersigned, were released.

The project of the Calosso- Giordani Bill for the legal recognition of C.Os., which was several months ago presented to the Chamber of Deputies, has not yet been discussed. Recently a petition drawn up by prof. Capitini, Pioli and the undersigned on this project, ~~will~~ shall be sent to the members of the Italian Parliament.