

May 27, 1950

Count Carlos Sforza my friend, I know that you have tried and that you will like to have you talk these things over with Rome, Italy and even with the Minister of the Interior himself, who is now using an edict signed by Mussolini in 1935 to destroy one of the most My dear Count Sforza: right, and that is to worship God according to the dictates of his conscience. They may say that these people are Quakers, but I know that you have many problems and that the tasks before you are not easy. You remember that when I introduced you in San Francisco to the Italians of that great city when we did not know what the fortunes of war might bring, that I said we were fighting a common cause and that the dreams and aspirations of the Italian people for liberation were our dreams and our hopes. You will further recall that during the war of liberation and immediately following, my office in Strategic Service was of no mean position and that I spared neither time nor effort nor material resources to do everything that was possible for the people of Italy. You who have given so much in the past to the cause of Freedom will understand what I mean. You will recall that when Dr. Fama and I came over for the writing of the Three Articles into the Italian Constitution which guaranteed freedom of assemblage, freedom of association, and freedom of religious worship, that we talked about the persecutions that had occurred against our people and that you said at the time that it was impossible. I know that you will also say that it was impossible for the things that have occurred since then. I am enclosing for your perusal three documents which I know you will be interested in seeing. I will send you, as soon as I arrive in California, two more photostats of where a minister of the Gospel, ordained in these United States to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ, has been denied water in Italy, first on the grounds that he is not an Italian Citizen, and second on the grounds that he is a Protestant Minister. My dear Count, what will this kind of doings, reaching these United States, do to the amicable relations which we have worked so hard to create?

Now, the denying of water is not the act of one man, the mayor of the community, but the act of the Municipal Council, which was done because it irked Catholic sensibilities. We are ready to call these things to the attention of our people, but we do not want to hurt the people of Italy. Dr. Fama said to me the other day after having received the medal which you folks gave him that he is ready to return it if these atrocities are to continue in the name of civilized people.