

American Holds Secret of Fascist Plot

United Press
SAN ANTONIO, Tex., June 10

Martin Arnold, a lawyer who has documents purportedly containing details of the murder of the anti-Fascist statesman, Giacomo Matteotti, in Rome 17 years ago, will not open them until he has proof that Amerigo Dumini, their author, is dead.

Mr. Arnold said he received the documents in the mail in 1929, soon after he returned from a tour of Italy.

(The Cairo anti-fascist newspaper, Corriere D'Italia, today publishes a letter purportedly written by Dumini in which he complained of his treatment following the Matteotti murder, and adding that it believed Dumini had been killed before British forces captured the Libyan town of Derna.)

DOCUMENTS' SOURCE UNKNOWN

"I don't know who sent the documents to me, what they contain, or what to do with them," he said. "I believe they are connected with Italian politics during the rise of fascism and that they contain inside information on the death of Matteotti.

"I am supposed to turn the information they contain over to the public if anything happens to Dumini. Until I have proof of his death or until the person who sent me the document gives me permission, I have no right to open them. I am acting merely as the agent of the person who mailed them to me."

STATE DEPARTMENT KNOWS

Mr. Arnold said he last heard of Dumini, a confessed accomplice in the Matteotti slaying, "five or six" months ago. He received a letter saying Dumini was an Italian government prisoner "somewhere in Libya."

The State Department "knows all about the incident, perhaps even what the documents contain," said Mr. Arnold. He said he had asked Hugh Robertson, another lawyer, to help him in the case because "it's such a peculiar thing I wanted to make certain I handled it ethically and honestly."

Dumini's Letter of Complaint

CAIRO, June 10—A letter in which Amerigo Dumini, one of the kidnap-murderers of the anti-Fascist Italian Deputy Giacomo Matteotti, purported to complain of his subsequent treatment by the Fascist regime in whose name he acted, was published today by the Free Italian newspaper Corriere d'Italia on the 17th anniversary of Matteotti's disappearance.

The letter said Lawyers Martin Arnold and Hugh Robertson of San Antonio, Tex., had copies of Dumini's will and of complete documents pertaining to his role in the Matteotti case, which nearly caused the overthrow of the Fascist government and led to the repressive edicts that marked the conversion of Italy to a totalitarian state.

DUMINI BELIEVED KILLED

It was asserted that the letter was found in Dumini's house at Derna, Libya, when the British captured that town, and that Dumini was believed to have been killed.

(London reported that Dumini, after living in Derna for nine years, had been arrested there by the British in February.)

Italy still had a parliament, and Socialist Deputy Matteotti, a wealthy intellectual, was a bitter opponent of Fascism, when Matteotti disappeared June 10, 1924. His body was found three days later at a lonely roadside spot 12½ miles from Rome. On June 15, opposition deputies withdrew from Parliament until the scandal should be cleared and the government's part in it known. It never was.

But so dangerous was the protest of the opposition that Mussolini was forced to take severe repressive measures and at the same time to sacrifice some well known Fascists involved. Dumini and others took responsibility and were sentenced to prison but the terms were soon remitted.

In the letter, dated Oct. 28, 1933, Dumini addressed Field Marshal de Bono. He named Arturo Bocchini,

head of the secret police, who died last Nov. 20, as his chief persecutor. "It is a queer way of rewarding one who had served Il Duçe," he wrote.

"When I was assuming responsibility for the Matteotti crime (which I was against) I far from suspected I should be a fall victim of such savage treatment."