

RECEIVED 02 OCT 1979		
DESK OFFICER	REGISTRY	
INDEX	PA	Action Taken

PS/PUS ✓

NOTE to assemble please

ARREST OF SIGNOR MARANGON: FORMAL COMPLAINT BY ITALIAN AMBASSADOR

1. In his submission of 13 September, Mr Gladstone explained the action being taken on the Italian Ambassador's letter of 7 September to the Secretary of State about the arrest on 5 September of the Vice Mayor of Chioggia. The PUS asked for an early apologetic reply. As I recorded in my minute of 21 September to Mr Bullard, we have been pressing the Home Office to produce an explanation.
2. Sir Robert Armstrong has now sent the PUS a copy of a note summarising the report he has received from the Commissioner of Police. He proposes to send this, with a personal letter, to the Italian Ambassador.
3. The report suggests that Signor Marangon was behaving suspiciously and that the police had good grounds for arresting him. The Italian Note claimed that Signor Marangon was prevented from getting in touch with the Italian Consul General. The Home Office's reply is that the police tried, but were unable, to telephone the Consul-General. Although there was some delay before the attempt to telephone the Embassy was made it would not seem appropriate, on the evidence available, to apologise to the Italian Ambassador.
4. I recommend that the PUS should agree to Sir Robert Armstrong writing to Signor Ducci as he proposes and that a formal reply on the lines of the attached draft should be sent to the Italian Ambassador. In the circumstances, Signor Ducci may prefer not to return to the charge.

5.



-2-

5. I understand from Protocol & Conference Department that the FCO normally handle only complaints regarding diplomats. This point, together with those in my two preceding paragraphs, could perhaps be made orally to Sir R Armstrong's office.

P W M Vereker
Western European Department

28 September 1979

cc: Mr Gladstone o/r
Mr Nash
Protocol & Conference Department

M. Ferguson
M. Bullard

I agree.

28/7



SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG KCB-CVO
PERMANENT UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE

HOME OFFICE
QUEEN ANNE'S GATE
LONDON SW1H 9AT

WORK 020/1

RECEIVED
NO. 13

02 Submission to PS/PUS R. 28/9

MINISTRY
of Foreign Affairs

WED

pa. 26th September, 1979

for urgent advice psc

cc PCB

PS/PUS

Seaglean
26/9

My dear Michael,

I sent you a copy of my letter of 7th September to the Commissioner of the Police of the Metropolis about an incident to which the Italian Ambassador had drawn my attention, and I now enclose a copy of a note that summarises the report I have received from the Commissioner. As the Ambassador spoke and wrote to me, I would propose to send this note to him with a personal letter, and I hope it will also enable you to deal with the formal note of protest. Could you let me know by telephone if you have any comments?

If the Ambassador wishes to press the matter as a complaint against individual police officers, I think the standing arrangements agreed between our Departments are that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office would write direct to the Commissioner and that at the end of the day the Police Complaints Board would notify your people of the outcome.

Yours ever

Robert Armstrong

Sir Michael Palliser, G.C.M.G.



HOME OFFICE
QUEEN ANNE'S GATE
LONDON SW1H 9AT

81

SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG KCB CVO
PERMANENT UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE

Mr Sampson
Mr Venner
Mr Fradstone O.R.

1005 02011

OCT 1979

R/R 2/10

1st October 1979

PA

WED ✓

cc PCD
Mr. Rulland
PS/POS

2/1

My dear Roberto,

When I visited the "Horses of San Marco" exhibition at the Royal Academy on 6th September you spoke to me about an incident in which on 5th September near Westminster Abbey the police had detained an Italian citizen. I asked the Commissioner of the Metropolis for a report on the circumstances of the case, which I have now received.

The story is somewhat involved and I thought you would find it convenient therefore to have the attached separate note setting out the circumstances. This is the account as reported by the police, and obviously there is no comment that I can properly make on it.

I am sending a copy of this letter and its enclosure to Sir Michael Palliser at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office so that he will be aware of the background.

Yours ever
Robert Armstrong

M. Nad

His Excellency Signor Roberto Ducci.

CIRCUMSTANCES OF INCIDENT ON 5 SEPTEMBER NEAR WESTMINSTER ABBEY
INVOLVING SIGNOR MARANGON

At about 10.45 a.m. on 5 September a police officer was patrolling Broad Sanctuary, where a large crowd had gathered to see Lord Mountbatten's funeral procession. He found himself standing immediately behind Signor Marangon who, according to the officer, pushed forward and as he did so lifted the jacket of a man standing in the crowd. Signor Marangon was said to be looking down towards the man whose jacket he had lifted rather than at the procession. Having spoken to a Mr Lewington, he was seen again to push against the crowd and to lift with his left hand the jacket of another man and to reach with his right hand towards the jacket. Signor Marangon then returned to Mr Lewington and apparently offered him sweets. Another officer was called and both officers saw Signor Marangon move away from Mr Lewington, push against the crowd and reach with his right hand towards the jacket pocket of another man. After having talked again to Mr Lewington, Signor Marangon pushed himself back into the crowd with his right arm outstretched.

2. The Police officers stopped both Mr Lewington and Signor Marangon. Mr Lewington explained that he did not know Signor Marangon, who had continually tried to force himself upon him, and that he did not understand anything Signor Marangon had said. The officers found that Signor Marangon could not speak English. He was detained at 11.10 a.m. and taken to Cannon Row police station at 11.30 a.m. where the police summoned an interpreter, who arrived at 12.30 p.m. Through the interpreter Signor Marangon was told that he had been arrested for being a suspected person loitering with intent to steal and he was later charged with this offence. He consented to his hotel room being searched and went there with the arresting officers and the interpreter at 2 p.m. A large amount of various foreign currencies was found concealed within the folds of a newspaper and clothing, and the officers took possession while further enquiries were

2. They all returned to the police station with Signor Marangon at 3 p.m.

3. Before travelling to the hotel one of the arresting officers had tried to phone the Italian Embassy but found that the line was constantly engaged. He intended to try again on returning to the police station but at that stage he was told that the Consul General had been in touch with the police and would be attending the station. (Signor Marangon had spoken at the hotel to someone else in his party who, it seems, contacted the Embassy).

4. At about 4.40 p.m. the Consul General attended the police station and, having been apprised of the background, interviewed Signor Marangon at 4.50 p.m. The police decided that a surety would be needed before Signor Marangon could be released on bail. The Consul General was not able to stand as surety, but at 6.20 p.m. Signor Gallian, Director of the Italian State Tourist Department in London, arrived and offered surety, which was set at £500. Signor Marangon was released on bail at 6.40 p.m.

5. The following day, 6 September, Signor Marangon appeared at Bow Street Magistrates' Court where he was remanded on bail to appear again on 7 September (he had stated his intention of returning to Italy on the afternoon of that day). At the court hearing the evidence for the prosecution was as indicated above. Mr Lewington confirmed that Signor Marangon had repeatedly walked up to him and offered sweets, but was unable to say anything else about Signor Marangon's actions. Signor Marangon's evidence, given through an interpreter, was that he was pushed against that crowd which may have caused him to pull on jackets. He accepted that his actions may have looked suspicious but he denied any intent to steal. The charge against Signor Marangon was dismissed. An application on his behalf for costs was refused by the Magistrate, apparently on the grounds that Signor

Marangon's arrest had been brought about by his own actions.

Home Office

24 September 1979

Mr Boniface

(7)

by Nash

We must keep up the pressure on the Home Office to produce their explanation. Unless the P.O.S. will also want to see early this week.

WES 02011
 RECEIVED IN REGISTRY NO. 13
 03 OCT 1979
 WED
 REGISTRY
 Action Taken

Mr Bullard ✓

ARREST OF SIGNOR MARANGON

Thanks. You are right to press for an early reply. I should of course like to see it; in draft if sim here. JB 22/9

1. You asked what was happening about this case. We forwarded a copy of the Italian Note to Sir R Armstrong's Private Secretary a week ago. He promised to advise us how to reply to the Italian Ambassador once the police report was received. Meanwhile we sent an interim acknowledgement to the Italian Note.
2. I spoke to Sir R Armstrong's Private Office today and said that I was very concerned about the delay in getting a prompt, polite and (we hoped) apologetic reply rapidly to the Italians and I thought Sir M Palliser would be too. Mr Boniface also spoke to an Assistant Secretary in the Home Office dealing with the case.
3. The Private Office rang me back to say that a reply had come from the police and a draft letter was being prepared for Sir R Armstrong to send to the Italian Ambassador early next week (since Sir R Armstrong was not here at present). I said that the formal reply to the Italian Note would have to be sent by us and it would be helpful if we could see any additional letter that Sir R Armstrong proposed to send to the Ambassador in advance and could have at the same time as full an explanation of what had happened as the Home Office could provide.

21 September 1979

P Vereker

P W M Vereker

Western European Department

ccs

Mr Gladstone o/r
Mr Nash/Mr Boniface

Indeed we shall:
that at least

JNB
24/9

R. 24/9
 Mr. Vereker
 Mr. Gladstone.

1. I spoke to the HO again this morning. A draft letter to Sr. Ducci is being submitted to Sir R. Armstrong today but will not be signed until tomorrow (Tues). WED can expect advice and a copy of the letter the same day. from what I was told
2. It would seem that we shall need to apologise for the lack of access to a Consul Official. edisonface 24/9.

RESTRICTED



SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG KCB CVO
PERMANENT UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE

Mr. Vereker
Mr. Nash

HOME OFFICE
QUEEN ANNE'S GATE
LONDON SW1H 9AT

73

I think we had ~~had~~ all copy recipients already

~~WRA~~

PS

7 September 1979

WRS 02011

July 2/9

CC

PS/KPS

Mr Bullard

Mr Fergusson

~~Mr~~

News Dept

PA C Dept

Sao 12/9

Dear David,

When I visited the "Horses of San Marco" exhibition at the Royal Academy yesterday evening, the Italian Ambassador spoke to me about an incident which had occurred involving a visitor from Italy in some way connected with the organisation of the exhibition.

The Ambassador did not give me the name of the man concerned, nor details of his position in relation to the exhibition - though it was implied that he was in a position of some seniority. The Ambassador said that the man concerned had been, at some time during 5 September, in the vicinity of Westminster Abbey, when he had been arrested by the police and charged under Section 4 of the Vagrancy Act 1824. He had been taken to a Police Station and detained; and, when he gave the address of the hotel at which he was staying, his possessions were taken away from the hotel. The Ambassador said that the Italian Consul had not been informed, in accordance with the appropriate drill, and he would be making a protest about this to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. He had been brought before the Magistrate and had been remanded for a further appearance at 10.00 am this morning.

Apart from the failure to notify the Consul, the Ambassador was clearly concerned that, once the man concerned had established his position and his innocence, he was not discharged without further ado.

I emphasize that this is what the Ambassador told me. I should be very grateful if you could let me have a report of the case, on the basis of which I could write to the Italian Ambassador.

In view of the Ambassador's proposal to protest to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, I am sending a copy of this letter to the Permanent Secretary there, Sir Michael Palliser.

Yours etc

Robert Armstrong

PS/PUS ✓

LPS 02011

RECEIVED	17 SEP 1979
13	
17 SEP 1979	
17 SEP 1979	

Mr Gladstone: WJP
oops! P. 14/9
Mr Boniface Rhi 14/9
px see POS' comment

ARREST OF SR MARANGON: FORMAL COMPLAINT BY
ITALIAN AMBASSADOR

July
14/9

1. I understand that you asked to be kept informed of developments in this case, particularly since the PUS is due to lunch with the Italian Ambassador tomorrow (14 September).
2. The Secretary of State, in response to Mr Boniface's submission of 12 September (copied to you), has expressed the hope that we will be able to reply promptly to the Italian complaint on the basis of a full explanation of the behaviour of the Police.
3. Having been button-holed by Sr Ducci, Sir Robert Armstrong has already written to Sir David McNee asking for a Police report on the incident. We have, therefore, forwarded a copy of the Italian Note to Sir Robert's Private Secretary who, once the Police report has been received, has promised to advise us on how to reply to the Italian Ambassador. (He has not, for the present, undertaken to let us have a copy of Sir David McNee's report.)
4. As it seems unlikely that we shall be able to send a substantial reply to the Italian Ambassador before next week, we have sent an interim acknowledgment in the form of a Note from the FCO to the Italian Embassy.

D. A. S. Gladstone

D A S Gladstone
Western European Department

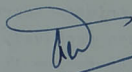
D. A. S.

13 September 1979

CC:
PS
PS/LPS
Mr Bullard
Mr Fergusson
News Dept
P&CD

That you. It is a ludicrous business
as we must get a prompt, polite
as I trust very apologetic reply, rapidly
to the Italians. I should like to see it
in depth.

Incidentally, who are certain of our
own side to the Italians? The word
"detainees" may be Italian but it is not
English. Let us get our own language
right - or else someone with the Dept. will
find himself in "detention"!


1379.



Secretary of State

WKS 0202.

02 OCT 1979

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED

PA

Private Secretary

- A
1. A formal complaint has been received from the Italian Embassy about the arrest on 5 September of Sr Marino Marangon, Vice Mayor of Chioggia.
 2. P&CD have requested a police report on the incident. Once this has been received a draft reply to the Italian Note will be submitted.
- B
3. The incident and the Italian Note have been reported in the Daily Express of 10 September. News Department have been informed that further enquiries are being made.

A C Boniface

11 September 1979

A C Boniface
Western European Department

- cc: PS/LPS
PS/PUS
Mr Bullard
Mr Fergusson
Mr Gladstone
News Dept
P&CD

Mr Boniface

The Secretary of State hopes that we will be able to reply promptly to the Italian Ambassador and that PCD will ensure that we get a full explanation of the behaviour of the Police.

Paul Lever
(P Lever)

cc: P&CD

12 September 1979

*The Italian Ambassador
to the United Kingdom*

6785

The Italian Ambassador presents his compliments to Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs and wishes to call his kind attention to what follows.

At about 11.30 a.m. on Wednesday 5th September 1979 a plain-clothed member of the Police took hold of an Italian citizen who was trying to see something of the funeral procession of Lord Mountbatten and obliged him to go to Cannon Row Police Station. The Italian citizen, much taken aback, followed however the policeman without protest or resistance.

At the Police Station it was ascertained that the gentleman in question was Signor Marino Marangon, Vice Mayor of Chioggia (near Venice) and Director of the Tourist Office of the city of Venice. He had come to London having been invited to the Private View and subsequent reception for the exhibition "The Horses of San Marco" at the Royal Academy. He was found in possession of the invitation card.

cont.d...

Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State
for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs,
London S.W.1.

Although such information should have been sufficient to release him, with an apology (admittedly he probably was not well understood since his command of the English language is very poor), the detainee was taken to the Hyde Park Hotel, where he had a room, and all his belongings were searched. He was then taken back to the Police Station.

There Signor Marangon was charged of "being a suspected person loitering with intent to commit an arrestable offence on 5th September 1979 a Broad Sanctuary, S.W.1., contrary to Section 4, Vagrancy Act, 1824 as amended by Section 15, Prevention Crimes Act, 1871 and (Sch 2) Criminal Law Act, 1967", and remanded in custody at Bow Street Magistrates' Court for the next day. The sum of £500 was paid for bail.

I well understand that on the morning of September 5th there was a certain nervousness among the security forces on the approaches to Westminster Abbey. I also understand that the Vagrancy Act of 1824, as subsequently amended in 1967 and 1971, is enforced by the Police in order to round-up people suspected of breaching of the peace. What I do not understand is why, once the identity of Signor Marangon and the reasons for his being in London had been established a judicial procedure was set in motion.

May I recall what has been published by the London press about four young Irishmen who were arrested that same day in the vicinity of Buckingham Palace, for security reasons, and set free the same afternoon with an apology.

cont.d...

Whatever the judgement to be passed on the behaviour of the Chief of the Cannon Row Police Station, I wish to call your most serious attention to the fact that Signor Marangon was not allowed to get in touch with the Italian Consul General. The Embassy got news of his incredible predicament only because a member of Signor Marangon's party happened to meet him while he was leaving the Hyde Park Hotel under Police escort. It was only thanks to the information so received that it was possible to alert the Consul General of what was happening and give him the possibility of going to the Police Station to assist Signor Marangon (where, however, he had to wait 20 minutes before being allowed to see the detainee).

This would seem to me as being contrary to Art. 19 of the Consular Convention between Great Britain and Italy which entered into force in August 1960. Art. 19 thereof reads:

- "(1) A consular officer shall be informed without delay by the appropriate authorities of the territory, when any national of the sending state is confined in prison awaiting trial or is otherwise detained in custody within his district.
- (2) A consular officer shall be permitted to visit without delay, to converse privately with and to arrange legal representation for, any national of the sending state who is so confined or detained for the purpose of any proceedings or interrogations or who is entitled to appeal under the ordinary rules as to the time within which an appeal may be made. Any communication from such a national to the consular officer shall be forwarded without delay by the authorities of the territory.

(3) Omissis

cont.d...

The Italian Ambassador wonders whether the Chief of the Cannon Row Police Station and other responsible members of the Police should not be reminded of the existence of such Convention and of its proper enforcement in order to avoid the occurrence of incidents which are not in the spirit of the friendly relations existing between Great Britain and Italy.

The Italian Ambassador would be grateful to receive, in due course, the comments of Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on the matter above.

The Italian Ambassador avails himself of this opportunity to renew to Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs the assurance of his highest consideration.



London, 7th September, 1979.

Daily Express - Monday 10-9-79

kitchen porter.

admitted.

Diplomatic rumpus as police bag Attilio

FOREIGN SECRETARY LORD CARRINGTON has received a scalding letter from the Italian Ambassador in London, **ROBERTO DUCCI**, over an incident at Earl Mountbatten's funeral.

Smoothie Ducci, a man not easily ruffled, is complaining about the arrest of Venetian deputy-mayor **ATTILIO MARANGON** outside Westminster Abbey last Wednesday.

Marangon, 62, like many of his fellow-countrymen, affects a rather effeminate handbag arrangement which caught the suspicion of keen-eyed police.

He was run-in as a potential terrorist, and his room at the plushy Hyde Park Hotel in Knightsbridge was searched. For six hours — without even a plate of spaghetti to cheer himself up — the unfortunate man



Carrington (left), rapped by Ambassador Ducci

protested his innocence until the police relented and allowed him to see an embassy official.

Marangon, a highly-respected citizen back home, then made two court appearances at Bow Street before he finally managed to convince the beaks that he was blameless.

He has since scampered back to the safety of his own country, leaving Ducci to rap Carrington's knuckles over a breach of protocol.