5 June 1984

Dear Bianco,

I enclose copies of the two documents from the Labour Party archives, together with some notes of my own — I apologise for sending them in my own hand, but I didn't want to delay posting them in order to type them.

Please convey my regards to Professor Sabatini and to the convegno, and my regrets at not being present.

Yours sincerely,

Christopher Seton-Watson

Fondazione Alfred Lewin

Notes on Giacomo Matteotti's Visit to London, April 1924

Matteotti's visit lasted from 22 to 26 April (Reply by Home Secretary, Arthur Henderson, to parliamentary question by Lt Col. H.M. Meyler, 18 June 1924).

He addressed a joint meeting of the Trades Union Congress and the Executive Committee of the Labour Party on 24 April (a brief summary of his address is in Labour Party archives, WG/ITA/18)

References to the visit in the British Press:

1. Daily Herald, 16 June 1924:

   "Matteotti was known to many in England. It was the recent visit he paid here, in defiance of the unconstitutional attempts of the Fascist authorities to prevent it, that is said to have provoked the base, and it may be bloody, revenge of bravoes taught by Signor Mussolini to hold life cheap."

2. Daily Herald, 19 June 1924: Telegram to Matteotti's widow and to the Italian Socialist Party from A.A. Purcell, chairman of General Council of British Trades Union Congress and International Federation of Trades Unions, and C.T. Cramp, chairman of Executive Committee of British Labour Party:

   "Comrade Matteotti was the secretary of the United Socialist Party of Italy, and in that capacity addressed a meeting of the British Trades Union Congress and the Executive Committee of the British Labour Party a few weeks ago. He impressed us by the moderation of his political outlook and his complete agreement with the democratic political methods of the British Labour Movement. He was a man of gentle disposition, remarkable for his moral and intellectual fearlessness."

3. The New Leader (organ of the Independent Labour Party), editorial, unsigned but presumably by its editor, H.N. Brailsford, 20 June 1924:

   "Signor Matteotti, who visited our office only a few weeks ago, was a man of quiet courage but also of singular moderation. He was a noted student of finance, and there is no doubt that [he was kidnapped] because he was about to produce documents in the Chamber which convicted the Fascists of corruption in their dealings with concessions for oil wells and gambling dens."

Inserted per correlation a libro di M.M.

Fondazione Alfred Lewin

One of the objects of his visit was to arrange for the translation into English of his Un anno di fascismo. This in fact was published in the autumn of 1924 by the publication department of the Independent Labour Party, under the title of The Fascisti Exposed: A Year of Fascist Domination. In the preface, dated September 1924, Oskar Pollak wrote:

"I remember another word he spoke during his short stay in this country. He was speaking of the sufferings of his fellow-workers in Italy. 'The worst', said he, 'what even the strongest among our people cannot stand is that, for the last two years, when a man leaves his home in the morning, he does not know whether he will return that night'. He said it very quietly. And he went back — to die."

Christopher Seton-Watson

5 June 1984

Fondazione Alfred Lewin

IISG/ITA/17

PARTITO SOCIALISTA ITALIANO UNITARIO
DIREZIONE
~~VIA DELLA PANETTERIA, 15~~
~~TELEFONO 505~~

Roma, li 1° Novembre 192 3

Casella Postale 460

Chers Camarades,

Les jours 11 et 12 novembre , le Parti socialiste unitaire d'Italie rèunira ses représentants de toutes les régions d'Italie en Milan.

La réunion sera tenue au lieu du Congrès annuel qui serait autrement impossible.

Nous serons très heureux si quelqu'un de vous pourrà partécipér à notre réunion.

A Milan vous pourrez vous adresser chez Turati (Portici Galleria 23) qui vous renseignerà sur le lieu et les heures de la réunion.

A bon révoir

LES SECRÉTAIRE

Giacomo Matteotti

to the Labour Party and I.L.P.
L O N D O N

Fondazione Alfred Lewin