Recto [t-b, l-r]:


I am writing about Mr. Donato Olivieri, who is now interned under Canada / Defence Regulations Act. / I have known Mr. Olivieri for a number of years and can say that he is a / very good hearted man, lending his help to whoever asked him. I have known him through / our relations in the Order of Sons of Italy of Ontario Mutual Benefit Society, and can / testify that whenever an appeal to help some distressed member reached him he was always / ready to give his contribution and do his best to help. When in the Fall of 1939 I launched / an appeal in the name of the Order to collect Funds in favor of the Canadian Red Cross / Society Mr. Olivieri showed great patriotic and humanitarian zeal in collecting quite a / sum of money among the members of his Lodge and friends. / His good disposition to help, as stated above, I believe might have led / him to sign some paper which might have caused him trouble. Before the war, a certain / Camillo Vetere, former Director of a fascist paper “L’Italia” of Montreal, proposed to / print a book called “Oltremare” (Overseas), a kind of book which would correspond to / “Who is Who”. The book was to contain short sketches of lives of the Italian people in / Canada. The people whose sketches were to appear in this book were required to sign / a prepared form, which in most cases, I believe, was filled by Camillo Vetere himself, / and to pay a certain fee in advance. / Camillo Vetere, immediately before the war, was an Agent of “Il Progresso / Italo Americano”, an Italian Daly [sic] of New York, and as such he had the opportunity to meet / a large number of Italians in Canada. He apparently for some reasons [sic] seemed to be always / in need of financial assistance. His personal disposition and attitude moved people to / a sort of compassion for him, especially when they happened to know that he had a large / family, so that, whether they wish to subscribe to his Newspaper or to his “Oltremare” / or not, they would subscribe in order to help him out financially. I believe Mr. Vetere / approached Mr.
Olivieri who likely subscribed as many other [sic] did. / Camillo Vetere at that time – and he may be now for all we know – was a / Commissioner appointed from Rome to supervise and to form Fasci among the Italians in / Canada. This he admitted to me in my house in January 1941. I believe that invariably / these forms relating to the book “Oltremare” were filled in a way that the applicant / would appear to be a fascist. This is easy to understand: the book, which, by the way / was never published, would be sent to Rome and Camillo Vetere’s “Superior” would see / that he was doing a “good job” among the Italians in Canada.

• ICEA2010.0008.0011.a-verso

Verso [t-b, l-r]:


[typed] Toronto, [dotted line]

• ICEA2010.0008.0011.b

Recto [t-b, l-r]:

[typed] Re-Donato Olivieri continued / If Mr. Olivieri finds himself in a predicament for having signed such / a paper he is, I believe, a victim of his own simplicity, and what I said should / help to explain his case. / Respectfully yours,

• ICEA2010.0008.0011.b-verso

Verso [page upside-down] [t-b, l-r]:
Italian Canadians as Enemy Aliens:
Memories of World War II
901 Lawrence Ave. West
Toronto, ON M6A 1C3
T: 416-789-7011     F: 416-789-3951


[typed] Toronto, [dotted line]