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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

● PRIORITY

EO 12958 3.4(b)(1)-25Yrs
(C)

Intelligence Information Cable

COUNTRY ITALY

DATE OF INFO.

DISTR. 23 DECEMBER 1964

SUBJECT

PROBABILITY THAT ITALIAN SOCIALIST PARTY WILL REVERT TO OPPOSITION ROLE

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SOURCE AND APPRAISAL:

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ITALIAN SOCIALIST PARTY (PSI)

1. THE LEADERS OF THE / / , INCLUDING PIETRO NENNI, GIOVANNI PIERACCINI AND GIACOMO MANCINI, SEE NO ALTERNATIVE TO THE CURRENT ITALIAN POLITICAL SITUATION BUT TO GO INTO THE OPPOSITION. IF GIOVANNI LEONE IS ELECTED PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC WITH THE HELP OF RIGHT WING VOTES, THE PSI CANNOT REMAIN IN THE GOVERNMENT. WITH THE SPLIT IN THE VOTES OF THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY (DC) ON THE FIRST SIX BALLOTS, LEONE HAD NO CHANCE OF BEING ELECTED BY THE PARTIES OF THE CENTER LEFT GOVERNMENT. ONCE LEONE RECEIVED VOTES FROM THE LIBERAL PARTY ON THE SEVENTH AND FROM THE NEO-FASCISTS ON LATER BALLOTS THE PSI COULD NOT VOTE FOR LEONE.

- BAKER
- BARNETT
- BENTLEY
- BIRNBAUM
- CHASE
- COOPER
- JESSUP
- JOHNSON
- KEENE
- KLEIN
- KOWAL
- MOGENSEN
- REEDY
- SAUNDERS
- SAYRE
- THOMPSON

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AD/CI 2

GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic
downgrading and
declassification

PRIORITY TO: STATE
WHITE HOUSE SIT ROOM

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DATE: OCT 2000

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CLASSIFICATION — DISSEMINATION CONTROLS

IN 48078

PAGE 2

2. SHOULD BY SOME CHANCE GIUSEPPE SARAGAT SUCCEED IN BEING ELECTED, THE SOCIALISTS WOULD BE OBLIGATED TO REMAIN IN THE GOVERNMENT. HOWEVER, THERE APPEARS LITTLE CHANCE THAT THE DC PARTY WILL SHIFT ITS SUPPORT TO SARAGAT. [REDACTED] COMMENT: PIETRO NENNI IS ALSO A CANDIDATE FOR THE PRESIDENCY, AND THIS HAS CAUSED SOME ILL FEELING BETWEEN THE PSI AND THE ITALIAN SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY (PSDI). THE PSI INSISTS THAT PIETRO NENNI'S NAME WAS SUBMITTED ON THE TENTH BALLOT TO PREVENT THE COMMUNISTS FROM SHIFTING THEIR VOTES TO AMINTORE FANFANI. SINCE THE ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY (PCI) HAS NOW SHIFTED ITS VOTES TO NENNI, THERE IS ALSO THE POSSIBILITY OF NENNI BEING ELECTED WITH THE VOTES OF THE PCI, ITALIAN SOCIALIST PARTY OF PROLETARIAN UNIT (PSIUP), AND DISSIDENT LEFT-WING DC. SHOULD NENNI BE ELECTED WITH PCI AND PSIUP VOTES, IT IS PROBABLE THAT THE CENTER LEFT GOVERNMENT COULD NOT CONTINUE.)

EO 12958
3.4(b)(1)>25Yrs
(C)

3. EVEN IF ANOTHER CANDIDATE OTHER THAN LEONE IS ELECTED AS PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC, THE SOCIALISTS LEADERS ARE STILL DETERMINED THAT THEY MUST GO INTO THE OPPOSITION. [REDACTED] COMMENT: THERE HAS BEEN SOME DISCUSSION OF PROPOSING THE NAME OF AN NON-PARLIAMENTARIAN SUCH AS MANLIO BROSIO, CURRENTLY HEAD OF NATO, AS A COMPROMISE SOLUTION BUT THIS PROPOSAL HAS LITTLE CHANCE OF SUCCEEDING.) WHILE IN OPPOSITION, THE PSI WILL NOT RETURN TO AN

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CLASSIFICATION — DISSEMINATION CONTROLS

EO 12958
3.4(b)(1)>25Yrs
(C)

CLASSIFICATION — DISSEMINATION CONTROLS

~~SECRET~~
(When Filled In)

IN 48078
PAGE 3

ALLIANCE WITH THE PCI BUT INSTEAD WILL WORK TO RECOUP THIER LOSS OF SUPPORT AMONG THE ITALIAN WORKING CLASS.

4. ACCORDING TO THE SOCIALISTS, THEY HAVE INSERTED THEIR BEST MEN INTO THE GOVERNMENT WITHOUT ANYTHING TO SHOW FOR IT AT THE GOVERNMENT LEVEL AND ONLY LOSSES AT THE PARTY LEVEL. THE DC PARTY LEADERS, EXCEPT FOR ALDO MORO, HAVE ONLY GIVEN LIP SERVICE TO THE CENTER LEFT EXPERIMENT. [REDACTED] COMMENT: THE SOCIALISTS ARE ALSO CONVINCED THAT ALDO MORO CANNOT CONTINUE AS THE PRIME MINISTER BECAUSE IT HAS BEEN PARTICULARLY APPARENT DURING THE RECENT BALLOTING FOR THE PRESIDENCY OF THE REPUBLIC THAT MORO HAS NOT BEEN ABLE TO UNITE THE DC PARTY AROUND A CENTER LEFT PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE.) BY RETURNING TO THE OPPOSITION, WHETHER IT OCCURS SHORTLY AFTER THE COMPLETION OF THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS OR ON SOME OTHER ISSUE OVER THE CENTER-LEFT PROGRAM, THE SOCIALISTS CLOSE TO NENNI BELIEVE THAT THEY CAN BETTER FIGHT THE COMMUNISTS, REGAIN SOME OF THEIR LOST SUPPORT AMONG THE VOTERS AND AGAIN HAVE THEIR BEST MEN AVAILABLE WITHIN THE PARTY TO REORGANIZE THEIR EFFORTS AMONG MASS ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS IN THE LABOR MOVEMENT] COOPERATIVES AND AMONG FARM WORKERS.

EO 12958
3.4(b)(1)-25Yrs
(C)

EO 12958 3.4(b)(1)-25Yrs
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- 5. [REDACTED]
- 6. [REDACTED] THE CONVOCATION OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS FOR 1630 HOURS LOCAL ROME TIME ON 23 DECEMBER AROUSED WIDESPREAD SPECULATION IN ROME THAT

CLASSIFICATION — DISSEMINATION CONTROLS

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EO 12958 3.4(b)(1)-25Yrs
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CLASSIFICATION — DISSEMINATION CONTROLS

~~SECRET~~
(When Filled In)

IN 48078

PAGE 4

EO 12958
3.4(b)(1)-25Yrs
(C)

THAT MORO PLANNED TO RESIGN, BUT [REDACTED] AT 1600 HOURS
 ON 23 DECEMBER [REDACTED] THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO CONSIDER ROUTINE ITEMS OF BUSINESS.
 [REDACTED] NENNI'S LETTER TO LONGO THANKED THE PCI FOR ITS VOTES BUT
 APPARENTLY DECLINED COMMUNIST SUPPORT. [REDACTED]
 [REDACTED] FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER BERNARDO MATTARELLA ALSO STATED IN THE EARLY
 AFTERNOON OF 23 DECEMBER THAT THE CABINET MEETING WAS NOT RELATED TO THE PRESIDENTIAL
 ELECTIONS.)

END OF MESSAGE

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