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Italy file 58

APPROVED FOR RELEASE  
DATE: MAR 2002

1 June 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director/Intelligence

SUBJECT: Transmittal of Memorandum on "Suggested Lines  
for Briefing President Kennedy on Pending Visit  
of Premier Fanfani"

The purpose of this memorandum, which is personal rather than official, is to recommend that President Kennedy, in his pending conversations with Premier Fanfani, indicate willingness to provide moral, and if necessary, financial support to Pietro Nenni, in the effort to strengthen the autonomist wing of the Italian Socialists (PSI), and to prepare the bulk of his party for a complete break with the Communists (PCI). This would be the first and basic step in a shift of US policy in the direction of support for the apertura a sinistra, i. e. participation of the Nenni Socialists in the democratic political process, whether by benevolent abstention, active voting support or eventual sharing of governmental responsibility with the Christian Democrats (CD). If this shift is to be made, time is of the essence. International Communism is fully aware of the importance of the Italian prize, and, in order to secure it, is making an effort, the subtlety, force, and magnitude of which are recognized only by a handful of specialists in this country. We cannot afford to make a lesser effort.

Encl.

EO 12958 3.4(b)(1)-25Yrs  
(C)cc - Mr. Arthur Schlesinger, Jr.  
Mr. Robert Komer  
Mr. Samuel Belk~~SECRET~~

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