

WS 4/16/48

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De Gasperi's Christian Democrats and the other moderates will probably win a majority in the Italian elections on 18 April, and Italy will continue under a government similar to the present coalition. Although bad weather on election day or Communist intimidation at the polls would improve the Communist position, available evidence indicates that the Communist-dominated Popular Front will fail to gain a plurality. If there is a turnout of approximately 90% of the 29 million eligible voters, the election is expected to give the Christian Democrats 39% of the total vote, the Popular Front 33%, the Moderate Socialists 8%, the Republicans 4%, the rightist National Bloc 7%, and the numerous minor parties the remaining 9%.

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