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HEAD-UARTERS
2677TH REGIMENT
OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES (PROV.)
APO 512, U.S. ARMY

10 February 1945

DATE OF INFORMATION: 10 February 1945 CONFIDENTIAL

SUB-SOURCE : Piedmont
TO : Reports Office
THROUGH : Chief, SI

FROM : Crabbe

SUBJECT : Catholic political parties the Vatican

Sub-source stated that with the appointment of Jacques Maritain as French Ambassador to the Holy See one of the greatest problems has been presented to the Holy See, because Maritain, in spite of his authority and his absolute faith in the Catholic religion, is a well-known leftist, who advocates a close collaboration with progressive and radical elements, even Communists, for the purpose of counter-balancing Communist influence. Italian progressive-minded Catholics in the Christian Democratic Party very anxiously await Maritain's arrival in Rome, hoping for help and support from him. On the other hand, Maritain's presence in the Vatican will be an unexpected support to any progressive-minded Catholic movement throughout the world. The State Secretariat expects Maritain to be the focus of all such movements. The Pope himself does not want to hinder movements like Maritain's, but there is a fear that traditional elements which are very important to the Holy See will be shaken. The Vatican is afraid that if a development similar to the one in France should take place in Poland, Austria, Hungary, and especially in Spain, less important (and, to the Holy See, less loyal) radical Catholics would then be offered as representatives, thereby presenting a chain of very serious problems to the Vatican and its administration.

Jacques Maritain is said to be still in the United States, awaiting transportation.

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