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NSC Briefing Notice

29 July 1953

REASONS FOR PARLIMENTARY DEFEAT OF DE GASPERI'S PROPOSED
CABINET ON 28 JULY

Premier De Gasperi's proposed cabinet, which needed a majority of the 582 members of the Chamber of Deputies present on 28 July, failed to win such a vote because:

1. The minor democratic parties abstained from voting because, though generally supporting De Gasperi on major issues, they are as anti-clericals opposed on principle to an all-Christian Democratic cabinet with an increased representation of ministers closely connected with Catholic Action.
2. Of these minor parties the Social Democrats objected additionally to the rightist character of the proposed cabinet in view of the leftist trend shown in the election. They felt this demanded inclusion of Nenni Socialists in the cabinet.
3. The Nenni Socialists held firm in their opposition in the hope of being included in a subsequent cabinet if De Gasperi were defeated.
4. The Monarchists opposed him from essentially the same motives.
5. Communists and neo-Fascists both had an obvious interest in simply prolonging and intensifying the current instability.
6. A background factor weakening De Gasperi was the growing anti-American feeling among the Italian people resulting from:
 - a. rising defense costs at the expense of social welfare appropriations;
 - b. minor frictions occasioned by the presence of NATO "occupation" forces;

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- c. continuing US immigration and tariff restrictions; and
- d. the news leak concerning the September US-Yugoslav defense talks being held in the face of an unsolved Trieste problem.