

INFORMATION REPORT

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CONFIDENTIAL

COUNTRY Italy

DATE DISTR. 25 OCT 50

SUBJECT Italian Communist Youth Federation Directive

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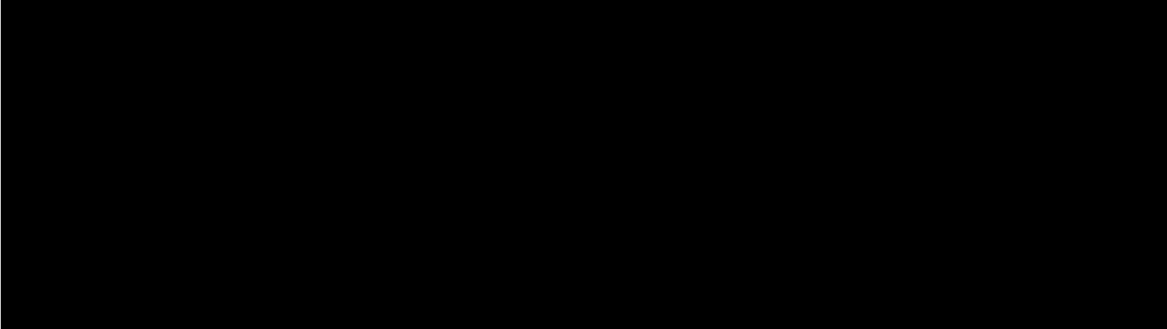
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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.



The following is a translation of a directive issued by the Federazione Giovanile Comunista Italiana (FGCI; Italian Communist Youth Federation) in the Turin Province, to all its subordinate sections.

1. The offensive which the ruling classes and the De Gasperi Government are mounting against the working class is becoming more reactionary in character. Its effects are being felt mainly by the young workers, who are being subjected to unemployment and general exploitation. The FGCI and its young members must face this situation and do all that they can to improve the standard of their work in the trade unions. Young workers must be attracted to our organizations en masse.
2. Up to now our city has been in a privileged position as regards industrial employment compared with other Italian cities. The offensive, however, is now under way, and it would be as well to examine closely the work which the Italian youth movement has accomplished in the trade unions, and eliminate the weaknesses which have been apparent in its recent activities. There have been some successes. The Assembly of Young Workers held on 4 November 1949 was attended by 300 young men and girls, and a debate was held on the living conditions of young people. The meeting of young chemical workers was also successful, and the full part played by the young workers in the big strikes was equally an achievement.
3. Our failures have been mainly on the organizational side. We have not been successful in strengthening the Youth Labor Commissions, the Category Union Youth Commissions, and the Factory Youth Commissions. Another of our principal weaknesses is a lack of initiative, and a tendency to work on too restricted a scale. We have not found suitable techniques for interesting new young workers, such as students, business men's sons, technicians and artisans, in our activities. The working youth must be placed in the forefront of our struggle, and the influence of the Confederazione Generale Italiana del Lavoro (CGIL; Italian General Confederation of Labor) must be increased. Furthermore, not enough emphasis has been laid on the contemporary problems which were brought up some years ago, and the more urgent questions of the moment are either relegated to second place or forgotten altogether.

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4. Another defect is revealed in the lack of continuity in the work of the Youth Commissions, a failing which will prevent them from becoming centers of activity in the trade union and factory. As a result of this we have failed to recruit new cadre members, and our control over young members of the Internal Commission, who should devote a lot of time to our work, has been generally ineffective.
5. In order to eliminate these weaknesses we propose to take the following action:
 - a. In general, concentrate on the serious struggles which will take place in our province, and find new ways in which the youth can share in them;
 - b. Make a detailed study of the aims and grievances of all young people who have joined our struggle, whether they are employed or unemployed; and
 - c. Develop mass action among young people through the medium of the trade unions, factory and other sports clubs, and the cultural societies.
6. Our first objective must be the formation of a strong Youth Labor Commission which will be mainly composed of young members of the Internal Commissions, and the leaders of the Factory Youth Commissions. Each member of the Youth Commission will be given one definite job to do. Other objectives are the establishment of Youth Commissions supporting the important trade unions, especially FIOM, FILC, and FIOP and the formation of four separate "study commissions" within the framework of the Central Youth Commission.
7. The functions of the "study commissions" will be, respectively, as follows:
 - a. Investigation of the problems of the young unemployed worker. This must be treated as a priority task. A complete census of unemployed youth must be made with the help of young workers who are employed. Unemployed youth centers must be formed to act as nuclei for future agitation;
 - b. The study of the economic and political problems which face young workers;
 - c. Investigation of the possibilities of mass movements based on sporting and cultural activities and on tourism; and
 - d. The study of specific provincial problems which must include the factories and the peasant classes.
8. The functions of the "study commission" responsible for (c) above can be amplified as follows; its role will be to:
 - a. Collaborate with the Labor Commission and the trade unions in the development of widescale mass activity, and thus "polarize" the youth of the trade unions;
 - b. Study the possibilities for penetrating and exploiting factory sports clubs. These exist at the FIAT, Michelin and Lancia plants. Football matches, athletic meetings and gymnastic competitions can be used to win over the young workers. Camps and tours can also be organized for workers and students. The "workman's Thursday scheme" must be adapted to include debates on the individual problems of young workers. Particular attention must be paid to the small and medium-sized industries. On this score each young member of the Internal Commission should set aside one

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hour of his working day in which to visit the smaller factories, with the object of forming initial contacts leading to the formation of internal Youth Commissions. When formed, these Commissions will maintain weekly contact with the Central Youth Commission responsible for the trade or industry concerned.

9. The organizational tasks set out above must be completed during the course of July and August 1950. This will enable us to call a meeting of the various Provincial Assemblies of Young Workers in preparation for the National Assembly, which will meet in October or November. In order to ensure the success of the above program, we ask for help of the local Chambers of Labor and the various trade unions, and move that a trade union liaison officer be "co-opted" to the Youth Commission.

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