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INTELLOFAX 4

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

*File
HOT*

COUNTRY Italy

DATE DISTR. 14 APR 51

SUBJECT Italian Communist Party
Activities in Northern Italy

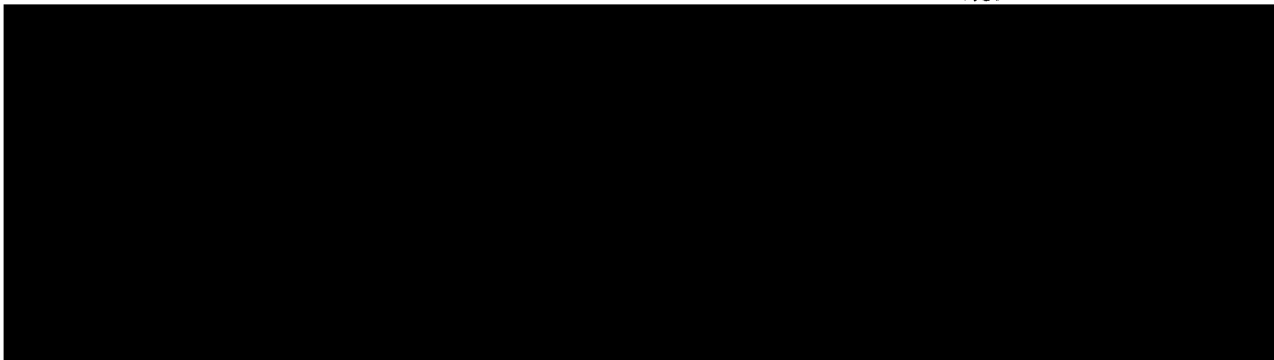
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NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

DATE OF INFO. February 1951

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO. 25X1X



1. The Partito Comunista Italiano (PCI; Italian Communist Party) has recently begun to circulate in Northern Italy a questionnaire designed to ascertain which of the members of the Party itself, as well as of its affiliated organizations such as the National Association of Italian Partisans, have had experience in partisan warfare in Yugoslavia. Source believes that, in the event of an attack on Yugoslavia by one of the Soviet satellite countries, Italian partisans would be used by the Cominform to threaten the Yugoslav rear lines and to force Marshal Tito's high command to disperse its troops in order to protect areas adjoining Italy.
2. Possibly in connection with the above activity, a Communist organizer, believed by Source to be a Soviet army officer, has been active in the Udine area during the last half of February. This officer first came to Source's attention in January or February 1950, when he was introduced at Communist meetings in Northern Italy as "the Colonel".
3. In the La Spezia area, measures are being taken by the PCI to strengthen Party discipline. Particular attention is being given to intellectuals within the Party, since the danger of deviation is felt to be most serious among the more intelligent PCI members. Two PCI leaders in La Spezia, Violante and Petracchi, both teachers in local institutions, were recently called to PCI headquarters in that city and compelled to sign documents which Source believes to have been testaments of loyalty to the Party line.
4. Recent strikes in the Government-owned arsenal at La Spezia, organized by the Party in protest against the visit of General Dwight D. Eisenhower to Italy, have resulted in weakening PCI control among the arsenal's workers. Several hundred workers have resigned from their PCI trade union because several of the organizers of the strikes remained on the job, earning regular wages, while rank and file workers participated in the strike.

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