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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Italy

DATE DISTR. 24 Oct. 1951

SUBJECT Radio Prague Broadcasts on Italian Developments

NO. OF PAGES 2

PLACE ACQUIRED 25X1A

DATE OF INFO. [REDACTED]



1. Radio Prague reportedly retransmits the news commentary, "Today in Italy" which it receives daily from Italy. At the Partito Comunista Italiano (PCI; Italian Communist Party) Directorate on Via Botteghe Oscure, Rome, there is an office where day-by-day information of all kinds is gathered, selected, drawn up, and put into a bulletin destined exclusively for certain organs controlled by the PCI. This bulletin includes information which is used by Radio Prague.
2. Persons who contribute as "producers of information and editors of information" are:
 - a. Alfredo Reichlin, born at Barletta on 26 May 1925, chief editor of Unita and director of the weekly Per Una Pace Stabile, Per Una Democrazia Popolare, lives at 71 Via Alessandria, Rome;
 - b. Gino Bardi, born on 12 June 1907, naturalized American citizen, although recently it seems that his American citizenship was annulled, director of the Telepress Agency, 38 Viale Giulio Cesare, lives at 4 Via Gavinana, Rome;
 - c. Emanuele Rocco, born in Rome on 25 August 1922, editor of Unita, fervent Communist, lives at 7 Via S. Valentino;
 - d. Gino Pallotta, Political Vice-Secretary of the PCI Section of Salaric, Rome, member of the Rome PCI Federation, president of the recently formed Italo-Rumanian Association, among other things he, assisted by his wife, has the task of gathering political information;
 - e. Francesco Longo, editor of Unita, assigned to the compiling of informational texts dealing with foreign policy only;
 - f. Luigi Longo, Junior, born in Tiflis, USSR, on 3 March 1923, married to a Russian citizen, Tamara Lisizian, member of the TASS Agency, lives in 16 Via Mingazzini, Rome;

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Document No. 04
 No Change in Class.
 Declassified
 Class. Changed To: TS S (C)
 Auth: HR 70-2
 Date: 2-7-82 By: 029

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- g. Ezio Taddei, born in Leghorn on 2 October 1895, Anarchist-Communist, informer of Unita and the PCI, lives at 21 Piazza Monte Vecchi, Rome; and
- h. Pier Luigi Battistrada, born in Ascoli Piceno on 18 July 1925, former student in Rome at Communist expense, lives in Prague where he was sent by the Central Directorate of the PCI to the Propaganda Center of the Cominform as editor and reporter in the Italian language, brother of PCI activists, Franco and Lucio-Manlio Battistrada.
3. The information is distributed daily by the PCI to organs of the Party and to the following organizations:
- a. Telepress agency, 38 Viale Giulio Cesare, Rome, has an authorized transmitter and a branch office in Prague. The copy for Telepress is consigned to Gino Bardi. The agency is a branch of the Agenzia Nazionale Stampa Associata (ANSA; National Associated Press Agency) which replaced the Stefani agency in 1942 and which was founded by PCI elements.
- b. TASS agency, 4 Via Maria Adelaide, Rome, is in contact with Radio Stampa, another off-shoot of ANSA. Copy is consigned to the editor.
- c. Soviet Embassy, Press Attache Mihail Rogov. It is not known how or by whom the bulletin is picked up or delivered at its destination.
4. The bulletin, once passed to the above organizations, is exploited for transmission behind the Iron Curtain with all possible means, including communications or integration of radio-transmitted news regularly issued by Telepress and Radio Stampa. TASS agency in particular uses Radio Stampa. In 1950 it spent 7,000,000 lire for such services.
5. The Soviet Embassy and the PCI directly provide news to Radio Prague by means of their own. The Soviet Embassy has powerful stations. The existence of a radio station in the PCI is still confirmed by reliable informants. The PCI also has available Communist radio amateurs, regularly registered or clandestine, who are in a position to furnish Prague with all interesting information.
6. Professore Gaetano Napolitano, who was bound to the interests of ANSA, opposed and succeeded in blocking the project for reconstruction of the Stefani agency when it was being taken up in Parliament. The PCI was the only political force in Italy which had any interest in keeping the ANSA alive. The PCI won with or without the help of Professor Napolitano. The PCI not only succeeded in stopping the rebirth of Stefani which would have absorbed ANSA but also created through ANSA two new agencies, Radio Stampa and Telepress. These two agencies today are instruments for normal and clandestine transmissions for the Communist cause, and therefore, against Italy.
1. [REDACTED] Comments: For further information [REDACTED]

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