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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Italy

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1. Statistics recently compiled by the PCI Central Mass Organization Commission showed that there were approximately 11,500 PCI factory cells, and 17,300 factory committees. Yet only half of the PCI's worker members were organized in factory cells. There were over 11,000 industrial establishments (medium and small, for the most part) in which the Party had failed to penetrate, where its activities could not be conducted in the open, and front organizations had to be employed. Among large enterprises in which the Party had made little progress were Olivetti of Ivrea, the RIV ball bearing works near Turin, the textile works in the Udine area, and several works in and around Bari.
2. It was found that the political importance of the cell had to be constantly stressed. Party courses were intended to turn out activists who would bring home this vital truth, and pass on effectively to the base the decisions of the Party leaders.
3. There were now 375,000 Party "permanent" activists. An order had been issued that this number must be raised to 500,000.
4. Of the above figures, some 111,000 were heads of groups of 10, known as Collectors (Collettori). Only a few Federations have achieved the criterion of one collector to 10 members, including those of Rome, Turin, Genoa, and Reggio Emilia. In the Emilia as a whole, the proportion was 1 : 14, in Tuscany and the Marche 1 : 15, and in Sardinia 1 : 17.
5. The Party still laid great stress on the value of the collector system. The function of the collector was not only to see that dues were paid, but to keep his men up to the mark "politically", check on their reading matter, see that they attended meetings, and so on. Party Headquarters sent out its own inspectors from time to time to the Provinces to see that the collector system was working properly.

SECURITY INFORMATION

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6. Special efforts were being made to improve the political consciousness of the base of the Party in the Veneto Region and in southern Italy. There were certain difficulties, since many of the local organizers were corrupt or opportunist, and since those sent in from outside had trouble in winning the confidence of the local people.
7. One of the resolutions of the VII Party Congress had been to paralyze the activities of the breakaway unions". To achieve this, special attention was being paid to workers of no political party, and to the work of gradual persuasion. Party activists were constantly instructed to differentiate between the activities of the leaders of hostile parties and those of the rank and file members.
8. The Party is confident that it will be able to regain some of the ground which it lost at the recent local elections by taking advantage of mistakes committed by the Councillors of opposing parties. These mistakes, which will be encouraged if possible, will be denounced where possible by those who are technically independents.

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