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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

SECURITY INFORMATION

COUNTRY	Free Territory of Trieste	REPORT NO.	CS-5265
SUBJECT	Pro-Cominform Communist Party - Vidali Speech on 27 January	DATE DISTR.	20 March 1953
DATE OF INFO.	27 January 1953	NO. OF PAGES	4
PLACE ACQUIRED	(2 February 1953)	REQUIREMENT NO.	RD
		REFERENCES	

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.  
 THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.  
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SOURCE: From two fairly reliable individuals (C) with good contacts in pro-Cominform Communist Party circles in Trieste. Appraisal of Content: 2.

On 27 January 1953, Vittorio Vidali, Secretary of the pro-Cominform Communist Party of Trieste, addressed a general meeting of activists and card-carrying Party members.<sup>1</sup> His remarks concerning the IV Party Congress were reported in Il Lavoratore on 24 January 1953. A summary of his other remarks follows.

Vidali's Proposal for Solution of the Trieste Issue<sup>2</sup>

1. No action has been taken on the Party's proposed solution of the Trieste question. If the Party does not fight with all its might and if the Party's proposal is not publicized, the Free Territory of Trieste (FTT) will be divided within a few months according to the wishes of the Anglo-American imperialists.
2. The various political parties which the Party approached for unity of action against the barter have not responded, nor will they. It is evident that their objective is to isolate the Party to fight this arduous and crucial problem alone.
3. The Party must not be cowardly and it must not fear being accused of wanting Trieste returned to Italy. At the present time, more than ever, a barter is being prepared. The Christian Democrats have said that it would be worth more to show a newsreel in southern Italy of a symbolic entry of Bersaglieri into Trieste than any election campaign because the people of southern Italy do not know the Party's problems and do not understand them.

Need for Revolutionary Vigilance<sup>3</sup>

4. An article entitled "Gestapo in Trieste" was recently published in L'Unita. It is true, another Gestapo is working in Trieste. The opposition is using all kinds of intimidations and means to split the Party. The Gestapo works in the

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ARCHIVAL RECORD

following manner: a Party member is called into their police offices. He is asked to inform on the Party, just a small item, once a month will do. Then a group of Party members, including the informer, will be put in jail. The informer will be released immediately. He is offered between 30,000 and 40,000 lire a month. His assignment is to recruit other Party members when he hears them say something derogatory about the Party. He is told that he has nothing to fear because, if the Americans win in a future war, he will be a hero and, if the Russians win, no one will be the wiser.

5. The imperialists in Trieste corrupt and make prostitutes of the best Party members in order to make them their servants and slaves. Excuse the expression, but frankly, these individuals are . . . (obscene). How ridiculous the opposition's chatter is: if the Russians win, no one will be the wiser! They ought to know that murder will out. Revolutionary vigilance committees have been operating for 35 years all over the world and sooner or later traitors are unmasked and repudiated. Remember the Slansky trial and the famous murderer-doctors in Russia. The facts indicate that spies are uncovered every so often. It may take years, but the facts come to light. Therefore, all Party members are urged to exercise revolutionary vigilance.

#### Anonymous Letters<sup>4</sup>

6. The imperialists try to frighten the Party by sending letters signed "Green International". Members of the Party's Central Committee and I have received such letters. In the letters it is stated that they are working among us to form a Green International. They do not know that the Party has been plagued by these intrigues since its formation. They are afraid of the Party and are trying to split it.
7. These stupid letters, it appears, have been sent by one of those in the employ of the reaction's intelligence service which, in turn, is part of the imperialistic complex. This means that maximum revolutionary vigilance must be exercised in order to uncover the enemies in the Party's ranks.

#### II Socialist International<sup>5</sup>

8. On 1 March 1953, delegates of the II Socialist International will be in Trieste to get information, on the spot, relative to the division of the FTI and to observe developments. This International is paid, directed, and supported by the enemies of the masses and therefore no faith should be placed in their findings. These delegates are in agreement with the decisions of London and the governments in the Atlantic Pact.

#### Rosenberg Case<sup>6</sup>

9. Some Party members do not understand the Party line relative to the Rosenberg case. They think it is only the concern of the American people because the Rosenbergs are far away on another continent. But this is no reason not to fight for the lives of two innocent people. It is a symbolic fight for the respect of democratic liberty. It is necessary to fight even in Europe and to have a greater sense of humanity, dignity and political morality.

#### Sindacati Uniti<sup>7</sup>

10. This year there has been a great decrease of membership in the Sindacati Uniti (SU) and other unions. The Party's enemies are constantly trying to crush the working class, and an immediate remedy against this activity must be found

although it is granted that many factors enter into the problem. Many are convinced by the Anglo-Americans not to join a union. But there is an underground movement which is trying by all means to crush the unity of the working class. It is the Party's job to rectify this situation.

11. In order to strengthen the Trieste working class, members must be recruited into the SU or into non-Party unions if they will not join ours because the Trieste working class is one of the least united in Europe. This is bad because if the Party wants to help the working classes in other friendly parties, it must first unite its own working class.

#### Italian Election Law

12. Next to nothing has been done to support the marvelous fight by the Italian people against the fraudulent election law. This magnificent fight should be supported because if democratic liberties are taken away in Italy, they will be taken away in Trieste. There are many martyrs languishing in Italian prisons for having fought against this law. The Party must also fight to assist the progressive forces in affirming themselves so that it may enjoy the fruits of Italian victories. If something concrete is not done, the Party should be ashamed of itself.

#### Relations with the PCI<sup>8</sup>

13. There are too many members in the Party who do not yet understand the importance of a close liaison between the Party in Trieste and the Partito Comunista Italiano (PCI; Italian Communist Party). Although some Party members say that the Party is linked to the Italian people as much as it would be to the Chinese if the latter were in need, it is not true because the Chinese are far away and the Party cannot help them materially but only morally.
14. The Party should be interested above all in what is happening in Italy and Yugoslavia, and should support those individuals who are fighting against a rebirth of fascism. Italy is a bordering country of Trieste as is Yugoslavia and it is our duty, as internationalist Communists, to support the people there. The PCI, under the guidance of the beloved Togliatti, is always ready to come to the aid of the Party in Trieste. Therefore, the fight of the Italian proletariat should be followed closely and participated in actively, even by going on strike, and concretely taking action.<sup>9</sup>

#### Relations with the Independents and Resistance in Yugoslavia<sup>10</sup>

15. Recall that many Party members during the pre-election period insisted on the necessity of uniting lists of candidates with the independents. It would have been a catastrophe for the Party, and above all, it would have been dishonest and politically immoral if it had swallowed the bait.
16. It should never be forgotten how much the pro-Cominformists in Yugoslavia have suffered. The magnificent heroes who, despite persecution and Titoist terror, fought and are fighting for Marxist-Leninist principles, cannot be betrayed. If the Party had united with the independents, it would have been a "rotten shame" and an unforgivably dishonest act.
17. The Party should be ashamed for not having actively supported the clandestine struggle in Yugoslavia. It should have been the duty of the Party to found an organization to aid these unfortunate martyrs. Funds should be collected in order to give concrete aid to these individuals suffering political persecution in Yugoslavia.

Party Press

18. The crude truth about the Party press is that many sections have not yet turned in money from sales. Hundreds of thousands of lire have not been turned in or accounted for. In addition to this, the Party is in debt one million lire. It is very difficult to keep the Party press alive, and you know where the primary fault lies for these disastrous economic conditions. The sections should take care of these matters, or the Party will suffer. In order to report pre-congressional news Il Lavoratore will again be issued in eight pages. A warm appeal is made to all collectors, distributors, group leaders, and cell committees to do their best to increase the sale of Party press material.

Washington Comments

1. Vidali gave a similar speech on the same day. See CS-3537.
2. See CS-4938 for recent information concerning Vidali's proposal for solving the Trieste issue.
3. See CS-3622, paragraph 4, CS-3537, paragraph 13c, and CS-3645 for information on the Party's revolutionary vigilance campaign.
4. Possibly identical with the anonymous letters reported in CS-4673 and CS-3740.
5. Vidali said approximately the same thing in another speech on the same day. See CS-3537, paragraph 5.
6. See CS-3636 for more information on the Party's campaign to save the Rosenbergs.
7. CS-3537, paragraph 13 reported that Vidali stated that increasing membership in the labor unions was to be an immediate Party objective.
8. See CS-3537, paragraph 7, and CS-1301 for the Party's relations with the PCI.

Field Comments

9. An article written in a similar vein by Antonio Cattonar was published in Il Lavoratore on 31 January 1953 under the headline: "La Nostra Partecipazione alle Lotte del Movimento Democratico Italiano."
10. An article written in a similar vein by Maria Bernetic was published in Il Lavoratore on 31 January 1953 under the headline "La Nostra Solidarieta ai Popoli della Jugoslavia".
11. Washington Comment: See CS-4558 for a report given to the Executive Committee of the Party by Mario Colli and Stane Bidovec on the Party press.