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PCI CONCLUDES CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, IT
SUBJECT: PCI CONCLUDES CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING

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SUMMARY. ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY (PCI) CENTRAL COMMITTEE (CC) CONCLUDED A THREE-DAY SESSION BY ADOPTING A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE REPORT AND CONCLUSIONS OF SECRETARY GENERAL BERLINGUER. THE DEBATE DURING THE CC SESSION, PARTICULARLY AS REFLECTED IN THE SPEECHES OF PARTY PRESIDENT LUIGI LONGO AND VETERAN DIRECTORATE MEMBER GIORGIO AMENDOLA, DEMON-
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STRATED THE BROAD OUTLINES OF THE DIVISIONS IN THE PARTY AT THIS CRUCIAL JUNCTURE IN ITS HISTORY. WHILE BERLINGUER'S CONCLUDING SPEECH TO THE SESSION HAS NOT YET BEEN PUBLISHED, THE PRESS INDICATES THAT IT WAS CAREFULLY WORDED AND DESIGNED TO ATTEMPT TO MINIMIZE THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE VARIOUS VIEWPOINTS EXPRESSED. THE CC APPROVED PERSONAL CHANGES WHICH, FROM OUR VANTAGE POINT. INDICATE A MOVE BY BERLINGUER TO STRENGTHEN HIS GRIP OVER THE PARTY ORGANIZATION. END SUMMARY.

1. THE PCI CONCLUDED ITS THREE-DAY HASTILY CONVENED CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING OCTOBER 21 FOLLOWING A WRAP-UP ADDRESS BY PARTY SECRETARY BERLINGUER AND

THE ADOPTION OF A RESOLUTION APPROVING BERLINGUER'S REPORT AND CONCLUSIONS. THE ADOPTION OF THE BLANDLY WORDED ORDER OF THE DAY ENDORSING BERLINGUER'S ACTIVITIES DOES NOT HIDE THE FACT THAT THIS WAS ONE OF THE MORE POLEMICAL CC MEETINGS IN THE PARTY'S POST-WAR HISTORY.

2. JUDGING FROM PRESS ACCOUNTS AND SUMMARIES OF SPEECHES PUBLISHED IN L'UNITA, THE DEBATE DEMONSTRATED THE BROAD OUTLINES OF THE DIVISIONS IN THE PARTY AT THIS CRUCIAL JUNCTURE IN ITS HISTORY. CLEARLY, THE LARGE MAJORITY OF THE SPEAKERS ECHOED THE CAUTIOUS, MIDDLE-OF-THE-ROAD POSITION SET FORTH IN BERLINGUER'S OPENING SPEECH OF OCTOBER 18 (REFTEL). THE EXTREMES, EACH OF WHICH HAD VOICES IN SUPPORT AND OPPOSITION, WERE REPRESENTED BY PARTY PRESIDENT LUIGI LONGO ON THE ONE HAND AND VETERAN DIRECTORATE MEMBER GIORGIO AMENDOLA ON THE OTHER HAND.

3. TAKING AMENDOLA FIRST, HE ESSENTIALLY REPEATED THE LINE HE HAS TAKEN PUBLICLY ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS IN RECENT WEEKS TO THE EFFECT THAT THE FULL ENERGY OF THE PCI SHOULD BE CONCENTRATED ON THE FIGHT AGAINST INFLATION. AMENDOLA ARGUED THAT ONCE THE FIGHT AGAINST INFLATION IS WON, OTHER PROBLEMS WILL PROBABLY FALL INTO LINE. IN STATING THAT IN THE LABOR MOVEMENT THERE IS A "LACK OF APPRECIATION FOR THE GRAVITY OF THE INFLATIONARY DANGER," AMENDOLA

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DIRECTLY CRITICIZED THAT SEGMENT OF SOCIETY WHICH HAS TRADITIONALLY PROVIDED THE MAJOR SUPPORT FOR THE PCI.

4. WHEREAS AMENDOLA ESSENTIALLY PUT THE INTERESTS OF ITALIAN SOCIETY FIRST, LONGO'S THESIS ESSENTIALLY HOLDS THAT THE INTERESTS OF THE PARTY SHOULD COME FIRST. HE TOLD THE CC MEMBERS THAT "FRANKLY (IT IS) USELESS TO AFFIRM--EVEN WITH THE BEST INTENTIONS--TO BE READY TO PUT ON A SECOND LEVEL THE INTERESTS OF THE PARTY IN ORDER TO PROVE THE NATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY OF THE COMMUNISTS". HE ADDED, "WE SHOULD NOT DELUDE OURSELVES THAT IF WE DO IT WE WOULD LOSE ONLY INFLUENCE AND PRESTIGE AMONG THE MASSES THAT GIVE US STRENGTH..."

4. TO THE EXTENT THAT PARTICIPATING CC MEMBERS ALIGNED THEMSELVES WITH ONE OF THE TWO EXTREMES, OUR IMPRESSION IS THAT MORE CAME DOWN ON THE SIDE OF LONGO. BUT THE VAST MAJORITY SEEMS TO HAVE STOOD FIRMLY ON THE MIDDLE COURSE SET BY BERLINGUER. WHILE THE TEXT OF BERLINGUER'S CONCLUDING

REMARKS HAVE NOT YET BEEN PUBLISHED, THEY ARE DESCRIBED TO HAVE REPRESENTED A SOPHISTICATED ATTEMPT TO HEW TO A MIDDLE COURSE WHILE AT THE SAME TIME TRYING TO RECONCILE THE EXTREMEM POSITIONS AS PRESENTED BY LONGO AND AMENDOLA.

5. BEFORE ADJOURNING, THE CC APPROVED CHANGES WHICH PROVIDE FOR THE DEPARTURE OF PIERO PIERALLI, ENZO TRIVELLI AND UGO PECCHIOLI FROM THE SECRETARIAT. THEY WERE REPLACED BY MARIO BIRARDI (PREVIOUSLY SARDIGNIAN REGIONAL SECRETARY) AND ANSELMO GOUTIER (PREVIOUSLY REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR TRENTINO/ALTO ADIGE) THE SECRETARIAT HAS THUS BEEN REDUCED FROM NINE TO EIGHT MEMBERS. GIANNI CERVETTI, TRIVELLI AND GIANFRANCO BORGHINI WERE ADDED TO THE DIRECTORATE (UP TO 36 MEMBERS) WHILE (SENATOR) PAOLO BUFALINI TOOK TRIVELLI'S POST AS CHIEF OF THE PRESS AND PROPAGANDA SECTION AND CERVETTI (A RISING STAR) TAKES PECCHIOLI'S PLACE AS CHIEF OF THE PARTY ORGANIZATION SECTION. OF THOSE WHO LEFT THE SECRETARIAT, PECCHIOLI MOVES TO CONFIDENTIAL

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THE LEADERSHIP OF A NEWLY CREATED CENTER FOR THE PROBLEMS OF THE STATE, TRIVELLI IS ASSIGNED AS THE NEW PARTY SECRETARY FOR PUGLIA, AND PIERALLI WILL BECOME THE RESPONSIBLE MEMBER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE PCI SENATE GROUP. OTHER LESSER SHIFTS WERE MADE WHICH WILL BE INCLUDED IN REVISED EDITION OF EMBASSY'S PAMPHLET ON PCI LEADERSHIP.

6. COMMENT. ALL IN ALL, CC CONCLUDED ON AS GOOD A TONE AS POSSIBLE FOR THE PCI LEADERSHIP UNDER THE PRESENTLY DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES. WHILE DIVERGENT VIEWPOINTS EMERGED, BERLINGUER'S MODERATE LINE OBVIOUSLY PREVAILED. NEVERTHELESS, PERHAPS AS NEVER BEFORE IN RECENT PARTY HISTORY, DIFFERENCES AMONG THE LEADERS WERE AIRED VIRTUALLY PUBLICLY. WHILE THE CC SESSION DID LITTLE TO HEAL THE RIFT THAT HAS BROKEN OUT, IT DID STRENGTHEN BERLINGUER'S HAND IN LEADING THE PARTY AT THIS CRUCIAL TIME BY SUPPORTING HIS POSITION AND MOVING INTO IMPORTANT ORGANIZATIONAL POSITIONS INDIVIDUALS (BUFALINI, CERVETTI) DEEMED PERSONALLY CLOSE TO HIM.VOLPE

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