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## VIEWS OF ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY OFFICIAL

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PAGE 01 ROME 17841 021417Z

43

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 17841

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1  
TAGS: PINT, IT  
SUBJECT: VIEWS OF ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY OFFICIAL

SUMMARY. DURING A CONVERSATIO WITH EMBOFF, A MEMBER OF THE ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY'S (PCI) CENTRW COMMITTEE STATES THAT THE PARTY IS FACING GREATER DIFFICULTIES WITHIN ITS RANKS THAN AT ANY TIME IN RECENT YEARS. DISCONTENT AT THE BASE OF THE PARTY HAD RESULTED IN THE CONVENING OF A CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING EARLIER THAN HAD BEEN PALNNED. HE HAD MEASURED PRAISE FOR THE PERFORMANCE OF PRIME MINISTER ANDREOTTI AND HIS GOVERNMENT, ALTHOUGH HE SHARPLY CRITICIZED THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS FOR FAILING TO HAVE LEARNED THE LESSONS OF THE LAST FEW YEARS AND CONTINUING THE SAME WORN OUT POLICIES OF DAYS GONE BY. ON INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST AFFAIRS, SOURCE SAID THAT THE SOVIET COMMUNIST CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 ROME 17841 021417Z

PARTY (DPSU) HAS INITIATED FEW INTER-PARTY CONTACTS FOLLOWING THE RECENT CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN COMMUNIST PARTIES, A FACT WHICH REINFORCES THE PCI FEELING OF UNCERTAINTY WITHIN THE CPSU LEADERSHIP OF HOW TO DEAL WITH RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE NON-RULING PARTIES. THE PCI WILL CONTINUE TO EXPAND ITS INTERNATIONAL CONTACTS WITH PARTY SECRETARY BERLINGUER EXPECTED TO VISIT BUCHAREST, BUDAPEST, AND MOGADISCIO IN COMING MONTHS. THE WESTERN EUROPEAN COMMUNIST PARTIES ARE HAVING A SERIES OF SPECIALIZED CONFERENCES, THE NEXT ONE OF WHICH WILL BE TO DISCUSS ECONOMIC TOPICS AND WILL BE HELD IN BELGIUM AT THE END OF DECEMBER OR IN EARLY JANUARY. END SUMMARY.

1. IN A RECENT CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF, PCI FOREIGN SECTION CHIEF SERGIO SEGRE FLATLY STATED THAT THE PARTY IS FACING GREATER INTERNAL DIFFICULTIES THAN AT ANY TIME IN A NUMBER OF YEARS. (THIS SAME VIEW, WAS EXPRESSED BY PARTY LEADER GIORGIO AMENDOLA IN A RECENT DISCUSSION WITH A VISITING AMERICAN JOURNALIST.) ACCORDING TO SEGRE, THE LEVEL OF INTERNAL PARTY MALAISE, PARTICULARLY AT THE BASE, HAD CAUSED THE PARTY TO MOVE UP THE DATE OF ITS CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING (HELD OCT. 18-20) IN ORDER TO DISCUSS WAYS TO DEAL WITH THE PROBLEM. SEGRE DID NOT SEE ANY CHANGE IN THE PARTY'S TACTICS WHICH ARE, AS HE DESCRIBED THEM, TO WORK FOR THE HISTORIC COMPROMISE IN A MANNER WHICH WILL NOT CAUSE TRAUMA EITHER DOMESTICALLY OR INTERNATIONALLY. THE TACTICS NEEDED TO PURSUE THIS STRATEGY NECESSARILY INVOLVE SOME RISKS; THESE ARE NOW FACING THE PARTY AS CERTAIN SEGMENTS OF IT ARE QUESTIONING HOW THE PCI CAN PERMIT ITSELF TO BE THE DETERMINING FORCE FOR THE SURVIVAL OF A CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC ONE-PARTY GOVERNMENT.

2. SEGRE HAD MEASURED PRAISE FOR THE JOB THAT PRIME MINISTER ANDREOTTI AND HIS GOVERNMENT ARE DOING. THE GOVERNMENT WAS BORN OUT OF NECESSITY SINCE IT HAD BECOME CLEAR AFTER THE ELECTIONS THAT CONDITIONS WERE NOT MATURE FOR THE HISTORIC COMPROMISE, A GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL EMERGENCY, OR FOR A RETURN TO THE OLD CENTER-LEFT FORMULA. THE PCI HAS GENERALLY BEEN PLEASED

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ROME 17841 021417Z

WITH THE DEGREE OF COOPERATION BETWEEN ITSELF AND THE GOVERNMENT, ALTHOUGH ON THE RECENT AUSTERITY PACKAGE THE GOVERNMENT HAD FAILED TO TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION THE PCI'S WISHES WITH REGARDS TO THE RISE IN GASOLINE PRICES, LEAVING THE PARTY WITH NO OTHER ALTERNATIVE THEN TO SGHT FOR THEIR ROOL BACK IN THE SUBSEQUENT PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE. THE PARTY WOULD ALSO WORK TO MINIMIZE HARDSHIP OF INCREASES IN THE COSTS OF PUBLIC UTILITIES FOR THE POORER SEGMENTS OF THE POPULATION, BUT FELT THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD HELPED TO DEFUSE THE SITUATION A BIT BY DELAYING THE CONVENING OF THE COMMISSION WHICH WOULD DECIDE ON THE SIZE OF THE RAISES. WITH AN EYE TO THE FUTURE, SEGRE FELT THQT AS THE NEXT STEP IN THE WORKING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE PCI AND THE GOVERNMENT, A MORE FORMALIZED MECHANISM FOR CONSULTATIONS WOULD BE THE GOAL OF HIS PARTY. (BERLINGUER PROPOSED THIS AT THE RECENT CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING.)

3. SEGRE HAD SUBSTANTIALLY LESS KINDS WORDS FOR THE

DC AS A WHOLE ACCUSING IT OF REVERTING TO WORN OUT POLITICS, PRACTICES AND PREJUDICES. ADMITTING THAT THE PCI HAD BEEN DISAPPOINTED WITH THE JUNE ELECTORAL RETURNS WHICH HAD SEEN A DC RECOVERY TO ITS ;3) 9\* 1972, SEGRE LAMENTED THE CONTINUED SOLID FRONT OF THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS TOWARDS THE COMMUNISTS. AS FOR THE "CONFRONTO" WITH THE PCI WHICH THE DC CONTINUES TO TALK ABOUT, SEGRE SAID IT IS RATHER HARD TO HAVE IT IN PARLIAMENT WHEN ONLY A HANDFUL OF CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC DEPUTIES ARE ON HAND FOR SUCH CRUCIAL DEBATES AS THOSE FOR THE ANNUAL GOVERNMENTAL BUDGET.

4. ON THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST FRONT, SEGRE SAID THAT THE SOVIETS HAVE MAINTAINED A VERY LOW PROFILE SINCE THE CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN COMMUNIST PARTIES (CECP). THEY HAVE SUGGESTED NO NEW INITIATIVES, AND THERE HAS BEEN A GENERAL LACK OF CONTACT BETWEEN THEM AND THE NON-RULING PARTIES. ON THE OTHER HAND, HE NOTED THAT A CPI DELEGATION WHICH WAS RECENTLY IN THE USSR FOR A STUDY TOUR FOUND THAT IT WAS RECEIVED IN A MORE CORDIAL MANNER THAN OTHER DELEGATIONS IN RECENT YEARS. SEGRE  
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PAGE 04 ROME 17841 021417Z

REGRETTED THE FACT THAT THE SOVIETS HAD INTERPRETED SOME OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE FINAL CECP DOCUMENT IN A MANNER NOT ACCEPTABLE TO THE WESTERN COMMUNIST PARTIES. FINALLY, SEGRE EXPRESSED HIS CONVICTION THAT THE SOVIET BEHAVIOR BOTH DURING THE LENGTHY NEGOTIATING PERIOD FOR THE CECP AND THE MONTHS SINCE THE ACTUAL CONFERENCE REFLECTS A MEASURE OF INTERNAL DISSENSION WITHIN THE CPSU PARTICULARLY ON IDEOLOGICAL MATTERS AND ON HOW TO DEAL WITH NON-RULING PARTIES.

5. FOR ITS OWN PART, THE PCI WILL CONTINUE TO EXPAND ITS RELATIONS WITH OTHER COMMUNIST PARTIES AS WELL AS WITH SOCIALIST AND SOCIAL-DEMOCRATIC PARTIES. SEGRE HAD JUST RETURNED FROM FRANCE WHERE HE TALKED WITH BOTH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE COMMUNIST AND SOCIALIST PARTIES, AND PAJETTA HAD BEEN TO BELGRADE FOR TALKS THERE. BERLINGUER HAS BEEN CONSIDERING A TRIP TO BUCHAREST, BUT THE CURRENT ECONOMIC CRISIS IN ITALY, TOGETHER WITH HIS DESIRE NOT TO VISIT ROMANIA EITHER JUST BEFORE OR JUST AFTER A WARSAW PACT MEETING, HAS DELAYED SETTING A FINAL DATE. BERLINGUER ALSO INTENDS TO VISIT HUNGARY AND SOMALIA IN FUTURE MONTHS IF CIRCUMSTANCES AND HIS SCHEDULE PERMIT.

6. FINALLY, SEGRE STATED THAT THERE WILL BE A MEETING OF ECONOMIC EXPERTS OF THE WESTERN COMMUNIST PARTIES IN BELGIUM EITHER IN LATE DECEMBER OR EARLY JANUARY.

HE DESCRIBED THE MEETING AS ONE OF A SERIES ON  
VARIOUS SUBJECTS WHICH PROVIDE THE PARTIES WITH A CHANCE  
TO EXCHANGE VIEWS AND EXPERIENCES. A SIMILAR CON-  
FERENCE ON AGRICULTURAL MATTERS HAS ALREADY BEEN HELD  
IN ITALY, AND SEVERAL PLANNING SESSIONS TO PREPARE FOR  
THE ECONOMIC MEETINGS WILL BE HELD IN THE NEXT MONTH  
OR TWO.  
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