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ITALIAN COMMUNIST DELEGATION TO VISIT MOSCOW

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TAGS: PINT, PFOR, IT, UR

SUBJECT: ITALIAN COMMUNIST DELEGATION TO VISIT MOSCOW

1. A JOURNALIST SOURCE HAS CONFIRMED THE ACCURACY OF A PRESS REPORT TO THE EFFECT THAT A HIGH LEVEL ITALIAN

COMMUNIST PARTY (PCI) DELEGATION WILL VISIT MOSCOW JUNE 29 THROUGH JULY 3 FOR TALKS WITH CPSU COUNTERPARTS. THE PCI

DELEGATION WILL BE LED BY SECRETARY MEMBER GIANCARLO PAJETTA (PRESIDENT OF PARTY COMMISSION FOR INTERNATIONAL

AFFAIRS) WHO WILL BE JOINED BY SECRETARIAT MEMBER PAOLO BUFALINI (RESPONSIBLE FOR GENERAL POLITICAL AFFAIRS) AND

BY DIRECTORATE MEMBER EMANUELE MACALUSO (FORMERLY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CHIEF OF THE PCI'S AGRICULTURAL SECTION). BOTH PAJETTA AND BUFALINI ARE ALSO MEMBERS OF THE

DIRECTORATE AND BUFALINI IN PARTICULAR IS REPORTED TO BE CLOSE TO BERLINGUER.

2. IN A CONVERSATION WITH OUR SOURCE, PAJETTA SIAD THAT THE TRIP HAS LONG BEEN SCHEDULED AND WILL REPRESENT

THE FIRST FULL HIGH LEVEL EXCHANGE BETWEEN DELEGATIONS
OF THE TWO PARTIES SINCE THE 25TH CPSU CONGRESS.

(SINCE THE CONGRESS, THERE HAVE, HOWEVER, BEEN SOME
MEETINGS BETWEEN INDIVIDUAL LEADERS OF THE TWO PARTIES.)

ACCORDING TO PAJETTA, THE SCOPE OF THE MEETING IS TO
REVIEW INTER-PARTY DEVELOPMENTS AT THE DISTANCE OF

ONE YEAR FROM THE BERLIN CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN COMMUNIST
PARTIES. THE ITALIAN DELEGATION DOES NOT KNOW PRECISELY
WHO WILL LEAD THE SOVIET SIDE IN THE TALKS, BUT THEY

EXPECT IT TO BE SUSLOV.

3. COMMENT. THE VISIT COMES AT AN AWKWARD TIME FOR
THE PCI JUST DAYS FOLLOWING THE NEW TIMES ATTACH ON

SPANISH COMMUNIST LEADER CARRILLO. HOWEVER, THE PCI
HAS APPARENTLY DECIDED TO GO THROUGH WITH THE MEETING

IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT IT HAS BEEN ON THE DRAWING
BOARD FOR SOME TIME. MEANWHILE, THE PCI HAS SOUGHT

TO REMAIN OUTSIDE THE DIRECT LINE OF FIRE BETWEEN THE
SOVIET AND SPANISH COMMUNISTS TAKING A DECISIVELY

PRUDENT APPROACH IN THE WAKE OF THE CONTROVERSY
SPARKED BY THE NEW TIMES ARTICLE. PAJETTA TOLD

OUR JOURNALIST SOURCE THAT JUNE 28 ISSUE OF L'UNITA
(PCI DAILY) WILL PUBLISH THE FULL TEXT OF NEW TIMES

ARTICLE TOGETHER WITH A COMMENTARY WHICH WILL ATTEMPT
TO REMOVE AMBIGUITY FROM THE CURRENT PCI POSITION.

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