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SOVIET MESSAGE TO BERLINGUER ON N-BOMB ISSUE

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1. WE ARE SOMEWHAT SURPRISED AT HEARING THAT THE SOVIETS EXPRESSED DISPLEASURE TO BERLINGUER, DURING HIS RECENT VISIT TO MOSCOW, ABOUT THE ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY'S (PCI) POSITION ON THE N-BOMB. THIS IS ONE FOREIGN POLICY ISSUE ON WHICH THE PIC HAS ADOPTED A CLEAR POSITION.

2. THE PCI FIRST INDICATED ITS NEGATIVE POSITION ON THE N-BOMB WHEN IT SEGNEDED, TOGETHER WITH 27 OTHER COMMUNIST PARTIES INCLUDING THE SOVIET, THE FRENCH, AND THE SPANISH (BUT NOT THE YUGOSLAV AND THE ROMANIAN), A JOINT DECLARATION STRONGLY CONDEMNING THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE BOMB. THE DECLARATION APPEARED IN THE PCI DAILY L'UNITA ON AUGUST 8. THE PARTY'S STRONGEST UNILATERAL COMMENT ON THE N-BOMB CAME IN A STATEMENT BY THE DEPUTY CHIEF OF IT FOREIGN SECTION (RUBBI) DURING A DEBATE IN THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE OF THE ITALIAN CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES. COMMENTING ON A STATEMENT BY THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS IN WHICH IT WAS ANNOUNCED THAT THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT HAD NOT YET TAKEN A POSI-

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TION ON THE N-BOMB, RUBBI SAID: "AS FAR AS IT CONCERNS
US (I.E., THE COMMUNISTS), WE ARE EXPRESSING OUR FIRM

AND CLEAR OPPOSITION TO THE PLANNING FOR, PRODUCTION
AND SUBSEQUENT DEPLOYMENT IN EUROPE OF THE N-BOMB. THE

ARGUMENT ACCORDING TO WHICH THIS WEAPON WOULD SERVE THE
INTERESTS OF THE DEFENSE OF EUROPE IS NOT ONLY NOT
ACCEPTABLE, BUT IT IS EXTREMELY DANGEROUS." L'UNITA

ALSO PUBLISHED A SERIES OF COMMENTARIES ON THE N-BOMB,
ALL BUT ONE OF WHICH WERE NEGATIVE. THE SERIES SERVED
TO STIMULATE PUBLIC OPINION TO OPPOSE DEVELOPMENT OF THE BOMB.

3. WE DO NOT DOUBT THATT BREZHNEV WOULD HAVE CHOSEN TO

RAISE WITH BERLINGUER SOVIET CONCERN OVER THE PCI'S
STATED POSITIONS ON NATO AND THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY.

HOWEVER, GIVEN THE UNAMBIGUOUS STAND THAT THE PCI HAS
TAKEN ON THE N-BOMB, WE DO NOT BELIEVE THIS IS AN AREA

IN WHICH THE SOVIETS CAN COMPLAIN IN ANY MEASURE OVER
PCI BE HAVIOR. GARDNER

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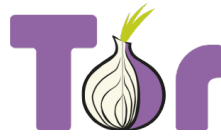
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