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TOP PCI OFFICIAL DISCUSSES PARTY POLICY ON NATO AND

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DEFENSE

SUMMARY. IN AN INTERVIEW WITH MILAN DAILY CORRIERE DELLA SERA PCI DIRECTORATE-MEMBER SEN. UGO PECCHIOLO GAVE THE

PARTY'S VIEWS ON MATTERS RELATING TO DEFENSE, ARMAMENTS, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND THE NATO ALLIANCE. PECCHIOLO SPOKE IN FAVOR OF BALANCED ARMS REDUCTIONS, BETTER COORDINATION OF NATO FORCES,

AND STANDARDIZATION OF NATO ARMAMENTS, NOTING THAT REAL PROGRESS ON THE LATTER POINT WOULD FORCE THE USG TO BUY

MORE ARMS MANUFACTURED IN EUROPE. HE ADDED THAT HIS PARTY OPPOSES AWACS MAINLY BECAUSE IT IS AN AMERICAN-MADE SYSTEM AND FEELS THAT AN EQUALLY EFFECTIVE RADAR DEFENSE

SYSTEM COULD BE DESIGNED AND BUILT IN EUROPE. THE PCI IS TOTALLY AGAINST DEPLOYMENT OF THE NEUTRON BOMB IN

EUROPE. PECCHIOLI AFFIRMED THAT THE PCI, IF IT ENTERS THE GOVERNMENT, WILL PROTECT NATO MILITARY SECRETS

AND RECOGNIZE "ALL OF THE DUTIES WHICH THE ALLIANCE IMPLIES". END SUMMARY

1. IN AN INTERVIEW WITH GAETANO SCARDOCCHIA OF MILAN'S CORRIERE DELLA SERA PUBLISHED DECEMBER 17

SENATOR UGO PECCHIOLI, A MEMBER OF THE PCI DIRECTORATE AND THE PARTY SPOKESMAN ON MILITARY AND DEFENSE

QUESTIONS, RESTATED THE PCI'S READINESS TO RECOGNIZE ITALY'S COMMITMENT TO NATO WHILE WORKING FOR A

"BALANCED LOWERING OF THE LEVEL OF ARMAMENTS AND TOWARD THE ULTIMATE GOAL OF OVERCOMING (THE EXISTENCE)

OF OPPOSING BLOCKS". HE ADDED THAT THE PCI WOULD FAVOR CERTAIN "IMPROVEMENTS" IN THE STRUCTURE OF THE

ALLIANCE, INCLUDING BETTER COORDINATION OF NATO FORCES AND STANDARDIZATION OF ARMAMENTS. ACCORDING

TO PECCHIOLI, PROGRESS ON THE LATTER POINT WOULD FORCE THE USG TO BUY MORE EUROPEAN-BUILT ARMS AND

CORRECT/THE CURRENT IMBALANCE FAVORING THE US IN ARMS SALES WITHIN THE ALLIANCE. WHEN SCARDOCCHIA POINTED OUT THAT THE AMERICANS HELD A "CERTAIN TECH-

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NOLOGICAL SUPERIORITY" IN ARMS DEVELOPMENT, PECCHIOLI INSISTED THAT THIS WAS NOT SO, AND STATED THAT

THE EUROPEAN-MADE MRCA IS "THE EQUAL OF AMERICAN

FIGHTER-BOMBERS". HE ADDED THAT THE PCI OPPOSES

AWACS "ONLY BECAUSE IT IS DESIGNED AND CONSTRU TED
IN THE UNITED STAES". THE PCI WOULD FAVOR A

EUROPEAN-BUILT RADAR DEFENSE SYSTEM. SCARDOCCHIA
OBJECTED THAT THE PCI HAS ABASTANED ON THE PARLIAMENTARY

VOTE ON FUNDING FOR THE MRCA, BUT PECCHIOLI EXPLAINED
THAT THIS WAS BECAUSE/ THE DECISON WAS TAKEN WITHOUT
PARLIAMENT HAVING HAD ANY SAY IN THE MATTER".

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2. SCARDOCCHIA QUESTIONED PECCHIOLI CLOSELY ON THE
PCI'S ATTITUDE TOWARD THE NEUTRON BOMB, NOTING THE

FACT THAT THE PCI HAD, ALONG WITH 27 OTHER COMMUNIST
PARTIES INCLUDING THE COMMUNIST PART OF THE SOVIET

UNION, SIGNED AN APPEAL AGAINST THE NEUTRON BOMB WHILE
THE COMMUNIST PARTIES OF YUGOSLAVIA AND ROMANIA HAD

REFUSED TO JOIN IN THE INITIATIVE. PECCHIOLI RESPONDED
THAT "THE COMMITMENT OF LOYALTY TO NATO IS NOT IN

DISCUSSION" ON THIS ISSUE. "THE ONLY THING IN DIS-
CUSSION IS A MONSTROUS WEAPON, THE ADOPTION OF WHICH

WOULD UPSET THE BALANCE OF FORCES AND REOPEN THE ARMS
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RACE". HE DISMISSED YUGOSLAV AND ROMANIAN REFUSAL

TO JOIN IN THE APPEL BY STATING THAT THE YUGOSLAVS
HAD TO REMAIN ABOVE SUCH DEBATES IN ORDER TO PROTECT

THEIR STATUS AS A NON-ALIGNED NATION, WHILE ROMANIA

"IS A COUNTRY WHICH MAINTAINS AN ECCENTRIC POSITION
WITHIN THE WARSAW PACT". WHEN IT WAS SUGGESTED THAT
ENHANCED RADIATION WEAPONS MIGHT OFFSET THE SOVIET
UNION'S ADVANTAGE IN CONVENTIONAL ARMS, PECCHIOLI
INSISTED THAT THE PCI IS AGAINST THE GROWTH OF SOVIET
CONVENTIONAL ARMAMENTS. "WE WANT TO SEE THE REVERSAL

OF THIS TENDENCY", HE ADDED, "AND INSTEAD THE
NEUTRON BOMB RISKS UNLEASHING A NEW SPIRAL OF WAR".

AS AN AFTERTHOUGHT, PECCHIOLI ARGUED THAT "THE USSR
IS IN EUROPE AND ITS FRONTIER IS HERE, WHILE THE
UNITED STATES IS ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE OCEAN.
AND THE SEAS ARE FILLED WITH THE AMERICAN NAVY".

SCARDOCCHIA MADE REFERENCE TO RUMORS WHICH INDICATED
THAT THE US HAD OFFERED TO HALT WORK ON THE NEUTRON
BOMB IN RETURN FOR A REDUCTION OF SOVIET CONVENTIONAL

ARMAMENTS, TO WHICH PECCHIOLI REPLIED THAT THE PCI
DOES NOT HAVE "THE SORT OF TIES WITH THE SOVIETS

WHICH PERMIT US TO KNOW THEIR INTENTIONS IN THIS
AREA OR THE STATE OF THEIR NEGOTIATIONS WITH

THE AMERICANS".

3. IN RESPONSE TO A FINAL QUESTION, PECCHIOLI AFFIRMED
THE PCI'S READINESS TO MAINTAIN THE CONFIDENTIALITY

OF NATO CLASSIFIED MATERIAL WERE THE PARTY TO ENTER
THE GOVERNMENT. "WHEN WE SAY WE MUST STAY IN NATO",

HE STATED, "WE ARE SAYING THAT WE RECOGNIZE ALL OF THE
DUTIES WHICH THE ALLIANCE IMPLIES".

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4. COMMENT: THOUGH PRESSED HARD BY SCARDOCCHIA,
PECCHILI MANAGED TO LIMIT MOST OF HIS RESPONSES TO
VAGUE GENERALITIES. THE LOGIC OF HIS ANSWERS WAS
OFTEN FLAWED, AND HE DROPPED AN OCCASIONAL
NON/SEQUITUR, FACTORS WHICH THE AVERAGE ITALIAN READER
COULD EASILY HAVE MISSED. THE BASIC THRUST OF
HIS ARGUMENTS, THAT OF BEING OPPOSITION TO AMERICAN
INITIATIVES ON THE PRINCIPAL OF ENDING AMERICAN
"DOMINATION" AND RIGHTING "IMBALANCES" WITHIN THE
ALLIANCE, IS LIKELY TO BE VIEWED WITH APPROVAL BY
MANY ON THE LEFT OF THE ITALIAN POLITICAL SPECTRUM.

7. EMBASSY WILL SEND A FULL TRANSLATION OF
THE INTERVIEW TO THE DEPARTMENT BY AIR POUCH. GARDNER

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