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PCI FOREIGN POLICY CONCERNS: CHINA, CAMP DAVID, EUROPE SUMMARY, IN FIRST MEETING WITH REPORTING OFFICER SEPTEMBER 28, ANTONIO RUBBI, COMMUNIST PARTY (PCI) DEPUTY, MEMBER OF PCI CENTRAL COMMITTEE, AND DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF PCI

Date: 1978 September 29, 00:00 (Friday)
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PCI - Italian Communist Party (/plusd
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Review 20 Mar 2014

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PAGE 01

ROME 18561 01 OF 02 291840Z

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 NEA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME SECTION 1 OF 2 ROME 18561
SHAPE FOR POLAD
E.O. 11652 GDS
TAGS: PINT, IT
SUBJECT: PCI FOREIGN POLICY CONCERNS: CHINA, CAMP DAVID, EUROPE
SUMMARY, IN FIRST MEETING WITH REPORTING OFFICER SEPTEMBER
28, ANTONIO RUBBI, COMMUNIST PARTY (PCI) DEPUTY, MEMBER
OF PCI CENTRAL COMMITTEE, AND DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF PCI
CONFIDENTIAL
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PAGE 02

ROME 18561 01 OF 02 291840Z

FOREIGN AFFAIRS SECTION, CONFIRMED THAT GIANCARLO PAJETTA
IS PRESENTLY IN YUGOSLAVIA TO CHECK ON HUO-KUO FENG'S VISIT;
SAID THAT THE ALGERIANS WERE BOTH NEGATIVE AND PESSIMISTIC
ABOUT THE CAMP DAVID ACCORD'S; AND INDICATED THAT THE PCI
WAS ONE OF THE FEW PARTIESWHOLEHEARTEDLY FOR THE
EUROPEAN ELECTIONS. HE SHOWED CONSIDERABLE IMPATIENCE
WITH THE FRENCH IN THIS REGARD. END SUMMARY.

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1. RELATIONS WITH THE CHINESE. RUBI CONFIRMED THAT
GIANCARLO PAJETTA IS PRESENTLY IN YUGOSLAVIA TO FIND OUT
WHAT THE CHINESE MAY HAVE TOLD THE YUGOSLAVS DURING
HOU KUO-FENG'S RECENT VISIT TO BELGRADE. THEY HAD HAD
NO INDICATIONS, HE SAID, THAT THE CHINESE WERE PREPARED
TO RESUME PARTY NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE PCI. HOWEVER, RUBBI
SAID THE PCI HAD NEVER VOTED FOR ANY OF THE EXCOMMUNICATION MOTIONS AGAINST THE CHINESE, AND FOR
THAT REASON
THE ITALIANS WERE APPRECIATED BY PEKING. HE SAID THE
PCI WAS FAVORABLE TOWARDS THE CHINESE APPEARANCE ON
THE EUROPEAN SCENE. HOWEVER, HE PERSONALLY AND THE
PARTY GENERAL WERE CONCERNED BY CHINESE EFFORTS TO

GAIN WESTERN ARMS (ROME 18373 AND 17248).

.2. ACCORDING TO RUBBI, THE PCI "KNOWS" THAT THE CHINESE HAVE SIGNED AGREEMENTS WITH THE BRITISH AND THE FRENCH FOR DELIVERY OF ARAMAMENTS. HE SAID A CHINESE MILITARY MISSION WAS RECENTLY IN ITALY FOR THE SAME REASON. SUCH BEHAVIOOR, H SAID, PUZZLED THE ITALIAN COMMUNISTS WHO WEE IN THESE MOVES AN EFFORT BY PEKING TO FORGE A SINO-EUROPEAN BLOC.SUCH AN ARRANGMENT, RUBBI SAID, COULD THREATEN THE PRESENT EAST-WEST DETENTE. PRECIPITIOUS ACTION WOULD ONLY INVITE A REACTION FROM THE OTHER SIDE--IN THIS CASE THE SOVIET UNION. HE LIKENED THESE PCI COCERNS TO US CONCERNS FOR SIMILAR

CONFIDENTIAL
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PAGE 03

ROME 18561 01 OF 02 291840Z

REASONS RE PCI ACCESSION TO POWER IN ITALY.
3.CAMP DAVID AND THE ALGERIANS. IN THE PAST FEW DAYS AN ALGERIAN FLN DELEGATION HAS MET WITH A PCI DELEGATION HEADED BY BERLINGUER. THE ALGERIANS, WHO RUBBI SAID WERE CONSIDERED BY THE PCI S THE WISEST AND THE MOST EXPERIENCED PEOPLE IN ALL OF THE NORTH AFRICAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN COUNTRIES, WERE NEGATIVE AND PESSIMISTIC ABOUT TE CAMP DAVID ACCORDS. THE REASONS WERE SEVERAL: THE ACCORDS WERE NOT VIABLE WITHOUT THE ACTIVE SUPPORT OF OTHER ARAB COUNTRIES, AND THE ALGERIANS SAW SADAT'S MOVE AS GRANDSTAND GESTURE TO NEUTRALIZE HIS GROWING DOMESTIC PROBLEMS. THE ALGERIANS ALSO SEE THE CAMP DAVID ACCORDS AS A STRATEGIC MOVE BY THE US TO FACE SADAT AND EGYPT SOUTH AND ENCOURAGE HIM TO PLAY A ROLE AS AN AFRICAN RATHER THAN AS MIDDLE EATERN LEADER.
4. IN RESPONSE TO REPORTING OFFICER'S OBSERVATIONS THAT PAJETTA HAD RECENTLY BEEN SHARPLY CRITICAL OF THE CAMP DAVID ACCORDS, RUBBI SAID THAT PAJETTA'S PRIMARY CONCERN WAS THAT CAMP DAVID WAS A"HALF PEACE" THAT COULD BECOME

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A HALF WAR. THE PCI, HE SAID, HAS NOTHING AGAINST STEPBY-STEP DIPLOMACY AS LONG AS THEY WERE TAKEN WITHIN A

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PAGE 01

ROME 18561 02 OF 02 010056Z

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 NEA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 ROME 18561

GLOBAL STRUCTURE WHICH ENVISAGED AN OVERALL SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEMS, I.E. LEBANON, THE PALESTINIAN QUESTION, AND THE ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS. REPORTING OFFICER PROVIDED RUBBI WITH ALL PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS OF CAMP DAVID INCLUDING TEXTS OF THE LETTERS EXCHANGED AMONG PRESIDENT CARTER, SADAT, AND BEGIN.

5. EUROPEAN ELECTIONS. ASKED ABOUT THE RECENT MEETING IN BRUSSELS ON SEPTEMBER 22 OF THE WEST EUROPEAN COMMUNIST

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PAGE 02

ROME 18561 02 OF 02 010056Z

PARTIES, RUBBI SAID LITTLE PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE. HE QUICKLY POINTED OUT THAT AN ABSENCE OF AGREEMENT ON OVERALL OBJECTIVES IN A EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT DIVIDED OTHER PARTIES AS WELL. HOWEVER, HE SAID THAT OTHER PARTIES AT LEAST HAVE BEEN ABLE TO AGREE ON SOME GENERAL PRINCIPLES--SUCH AN AGREEMENT CONTINUES TO ELUDE THE COMMUNISTS. RUBBI WAS PARTICULARLY EXASPERATED WITH THE FRENCH WHO EVEN IN INTER-PARTY CONSULTATIONS, HE SAID, DEFENDED FRENCH WINE AS VIGOROUSLY AS ANY "PETIT FRENCH BOURGEOISIE."

6. MISCELLANEOUS. ASKED ABOUT A POSSIBLE BERLINGUER TRIP TO PARIS TO MEET WITH MARCHAIS, RUBBI PROFESSED TO KNOW NOTHING ABOUT IT. (THERE ALSO HAS BEEN SOME TALK

ABOUT A POSSIBLE BERLINGUER VISIT TO THE SOVIET UNION FOLLOWING THE PARIS STOP BUT THAT ALL REMAINS TO BE CONFIRMED.) IN AN ASIDE REGARDING BERLINGUER, RUBBI NOTED THAT MOST OF THE PCI LEADERS WERE QUITE YOUNG. BERLINGUER IS 56 AND RUBBI SAID HE HAS BEEN DE FACTO SECRETARY FOR TEN YEARS, I.E. FILLING IN FOR THE AILING LUIGI LONGO BEFORE HIS RETIREMENT. RUBBI AGREED THAT BERLINGUER HAD MADE A BRILLIANT CAREER HAVING JOINED THE PARTY IN 1944, BECOMING ITS SECRETARY GENERAL 25 YEARS LATER. HE SAID THAT BERLINGUER'S PATH TO THE TOP HAD BEEN AS YOUTH LEADER OF THE PCI WHERE HE HAD SERVED ALSO AS PRESIDENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF YOUTH GROUPS. AMONG OTHERS IN THAT GROUP OVER WHICH BERLINGUER PRESIDED WERE MARCHAIS AND HONECKER.

7. COMMENT: RUBBI WAS OPEN AND RESPONSIVE DURING THIS FIRST MEETING. FOR THE MOST PART THE CONVERSATION WAS KEPT TO GENERALITIES WITH LITTLE SUBSTANTIVE CONTENT.

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PAGE 03

ROME 18561 02 0F 02 010056Z

BUT THE MEETING WAS SUCCESSFUL IN THAT IT BROKE THE ICE. RUBBI, LIKE HIS BOSS SEGRE, DID NOT SEEM TO BE WELL INFORMED ABOUT HIGH-LEVEL PARTY MATTERS BUT SHOWED HIMSELF TO HAVE A FIRM GRIP ON PARTY POLICY REGARDING SUCH DISPARATE SUBJECTS AS THE MIDDLE EAST, EUROPEAN ELECTIONS, CHINA AND STRATEGIC ARMS NEGOTIATIONS. GARDNER

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