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PCI NATIONAL CONVENTION ON THE FUTURE STATUS OF THE ARMED FORCES A NATIONAL CONVENTION OF THE PCI TO DISCUSS THE FUTURE STATUS OF THE ARMED FORCES IN ITALY WAS HELD RECENTLY IN

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UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01

TRIEST 00496 131539Z

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SUBJ: PCI NATIONAL CONVENTION ON THE FUTURE STATUS OF THE ARMED FORCES

A NATIONAL CONVENTION OF THE PCI TO DISCUSS THE FUTURE STATUS OF THE ARMED FORCES IN ITALY WAS HELD RECENTLY IN UDINE. ACCORDING TO PCI SPOKEMEN, THE CONVENTION WAS HELD IN THIS AREA BECAUSE OF THE HIGH CONCENTRATION OF ARMED FORCES DEPLOYED IN NORTH EAST ITALY, AND THE PROBLEMS THIS CAUSES BOTH FOR THE ARMY AND FOR THE LOCAL POPULATION. REMARKS MADE DURING AND AFTER THE CONFERENCE, PRIMARILY BY PCI SENATOR UGO PECCHIOLI AND CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES MEMBER ARNALDO BARACETTI, INCLUDED THE POINTS OF INTEREST QUOTED BELOW:

1. PEACE CAN BE PRESERVED ONLY IF A BALANCE OF FORCES IS MAINTAINED BETWEEN THE TWO POWER BLOCS. THUS, IT WOULD BE A DANGEROUS ERROR TO UNILATERALLY ALTER ANY UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02

TRIEST 00496 131539Z

ASPECT OF THE EQUILIBRIUM.

2. ITALY MUST ASSUME AN ATTITUDE OF LOYALTY IN RELATION TO THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE AND OPERATE TO ASSURE THAT THE ALLIANCE MAINTAINS ITS DEFENSIVE OBJECTIVES, BUT WITHOUT INTERFERENCE IN THE INTERNAL POLITICS OF INDIVIDUAL STATES.

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3. DISARMAMENT CANNOT BE ATTAINED BY UNILATERAL INITIATIVES, BUT ONLY BY BALANCED STEPS.

4. UNTIL A (DISARMAMENT) AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TWO POWER BLOCS IS REACHED, A REDUCTION IN THE MILITARY BUDGET IN ITALY SHOULD NOT BE EXPECTED.

5. IN THE PAST THE (ITALIAN) ARMED FORCES WERE INTENDED AS AN INSTRUMENT OF (POLITICAL) POWER. NOW THE ARMED FORCES ARE A STATE INSTITUTION AND AS SUCH ARE CALLED UPON TO DEFEND THE SECURITY OF THE COUNTRY AND DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS.

6. THE PCI IS OPPOSED TO THE CREATION OF BRANCHES OF POLITICAL PARTIES OR LABOR ORGANIZATIONS WITHIN THE ARMED FORCES.

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