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(C) THE ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY (PCI): ODDS AND ENDS

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TAGS: PINT IT

SUBJ: (C) THE ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY (PCI): ODDS AND ENDS

1. C-ENTIRE TEXT.

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2. SUMMARY: REPORTING OFFICER MET AUGUST 7 WITH ANTONIO RUBBI, NEW CHIEF, PCI FOREIGN AFFAIRS SECTION. CONVERSATION WAS A GENERAL TOUR D'HORIZON TOUCHING LIGHTLY ON A VARIETY OF SUBJECTS, INCLUDING PCI CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETINGS IN JULY, PCI REORGANIZATION, CHINA, US-PCI RELATIONS, THE COSSIGA GOVERNMENT, AND THE VACATION PLANS OF VARIOUS

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PCI LEADERS. LOOKING AND SOUNDING A BIT LIKE SOMEONE WEARING A PAIR OF TIGHT NEW SHOES, RUBBI WAS CLEARLY FEELING

HIS WAY IN HIS NEW JOB, STEERING CLEAR OF SUBSTANCE. AT THE SAME TIME, HOWEVER, HE SEEMS MUCH BETTER INFORMED ABOUT INTERNAL PCI MATTERS THAN HIS DEPOSED PREDECESSOR, SERGIO SEGRE, PROBABLY BECAUSE OF HIS CLOSE TIES WITH PAJETTA.
END SUMMARY.

3. CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETINGS. ASKED WHAT THE SIGNIFICANCE WAS OF THE PCI CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETINGS IN EARLY JULY, RUBBI REPLIED WITH AFFIRMATION OF EXISTING PARTY POLICY. HE DISMISSED SENATOR TERRACINI'S OUTBURST AGAINST THE HISTORIC COMPROMISE POLICY AS MEANINGLESS, SINCE TERRASINI ALSO ENDORSED THE PARTY LINE. LOMBARDO RADICE, HE SAID, WAS THE SOLE ABSTAINER (BECAUSE OF PCI ATTITUDES TOWARDS DISSIDENTS IN EASTERN EUROPE) DURING THE ENTIRE PROCEEDINGS.

THE PRESS HAD EXAGGERATED DIVISIONS WITHIN THE PARTY, ACCORDING TO RUBBI, WHO ADMITTED, HOWEVER, THAT THERE WERE DIFFERENCES OF VIEWS AMONG THE LEADERS. WHY DID BERLINGUER REVERT TO THE HISTORIC COMPROMISE AND EUROCOMMUNISM THEMES BY NAME AFTER THEY HAD FALLEN INTO

DISUSE? RUBBI SAID THAT BERLINGUER FELT OBLIGED TO DO SO IN COPING WITH OPPOSITION TO THE POLICY WITHIN THE PARTY.

4. PCI REORGANIZATION. WITH REGARD TO THE RESTRUCTURING OF THE PARTY, RUBBI SAID THAT THE LEADERSHIP WAS NOW

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HOMOGENEOUS. THERE WERE NO REAL DISSENTERS FROM THE BERLINGUER LINE IN LEADERSHIP POSITIONS. AT THE SAME TIME THE LEADERSHIP WAS NOT SO HOMOGENEOUS AS TO INVITE CRITICISM. HE AGREED WITH THE REPORTING OFFICER THAT THE SOUTH AND RURAL AREAS WERE WELL REPRESENTED N THE

LEADERSHIP RANKS. HE COMPLAINED MILDLY THAT THOSE LEADERS FROM EMILIA, WHICH PROVIDED THE BULK OF THE MEMBERSHIP FOR THE PARTY, WERE USUALLY IN THE MINORITY. THE REORGANIZATION WAS JUST ABOUT COMPLETED, BUT SOME ADDITIONAL "TOUCHING UP" WAS STILL NEEDED.

5. HE SAID THAT THE REGIONAL SECRETARIES FROM LOMBARDY, PIEDMONT, THE VENETO AND PUGLIA WILL BE TRANSFERRED.

(COMMENT: CERVETTI, A BERLINGUER MAN, HAS ALREADY REPLACED BORGHINI IN LOMBARDY. IN EACH OF THE REGIONS

MENTIONED BY RUBBI, THE PCI DID BADLY IN THE JUNE ELECTIONS.)

6. AS FOR HIS OWN FOREIGN RELATIONS SECTION, RUBBI SAID HIS DEPUTY WAS STILL TO BE NAMED, BUT INDICATED THAT ANGELO OLIVA WAS THE STRONGEST CANDIDATE. RUBBI HAD LITTLE TO SAY ABOUT HIS PREDECESSOR OTHER THAN THAT SEGRE IS HEADING A SMALL SECTION ON EC AFFAIRS UNDER THE C.C. DEPARTMENT OF

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INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS. BUFALINI, WHO WAS REMOVED FROM THE SECRETARIAT IN JULY, HAS ALSO RECEIVED SOME RESPONSIBILITY IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS. HE IS TO TAKE OVER THE PRESIDENCY OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE STANDING COMMISSION ON PROBLEMS OF FOREIGN POLICY. (COMMENT: THE COMMISSION IS ONE OF FOUR MAJOR BODIES COMPOSED

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EXCLUSIVELY OF CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS.) HE ACKNOWLEDGED

THAT FOREIGN AFFAIRS NO LONGER HAD A SPOKESMAN IN THE SECRETARIAT, BUT, HE NOTED LAMELY, NEITHER DID CULTURAL AFFAIRS.

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7. RUBBI SAID THAT LINES OF RESPONSIBILITY AND AUTHORITY

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REMAIN TO BE WORKED OUT. HOWEVER, THE ELECTION RESULTS INDICATED THAT A MAJOR REORGANIZATION OF THE PARTY WAS REQUIRED. THEREFORE, THE FIVE NEW DEPARTMENTS (INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, PARTY PROBLEMS, PROPAGANDA AND INFORMATION, CULTURAL AFFAIRS, AND ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS) WERE CREATED TO COORDINATE THE ACTIVITIES OF WORKING GROUPS, SECTIONS AND STANDING COMMISSIONS.

8. CHINA. ACCORDING TO RUBBI, PCI RELATIONS WITH CHINA WERE IMPROVING. HE NOTED IN THIS CONNECTION THE ATTENDANCE OF THE CHINESE AMBASSADOR AT THE PCI 15TH PARTY CONGRESS AND THE VISIT BY L'UNITA CO-DIRECTOR PETRUCCIOLI AND RINASCITA JOURNALIST GHIARA TO BEIJING. THE PCI HAD ALSO INVITED TWO CHINESE JOURNALISTS TO ATTEND THE L'UNITA FESTIVAL SEPTEMBER 9-16 IN MILAN. RUBBI ALSO SAID THAT SERGIO SEGRE WOULD BE GOING TO BEIJING IN SEPTEMBER AS A MEMBER OF A GROUP OF ITALIAN PARLIAMENTARIANS INCLUDING DC DEPUTY GRANELLI AND PRI DEPUTY BETTAGLIA. ALL THINGS CONSIDERED, HE THOUGHT THINGS WERE MOVING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION. (COMMENT: RUBBI'S SANGUINE DESCRIPTION OF PCI-CHINESE RELATIONS IS AT VARIANCE WITH THE CHINESE VIEW OF THINGS. IN OUR RECENT MEETING WITH PRC AMBASSADOR CHANG, HE DECLINED TO TERM THE PETRUCCIOLI VISIT AS A STEP FORWARD. CHANG MADE CLEAR THAT THE PCI WAS TOO CLOSE TO HANOI AND MOSCOW FOR BEIJING'S COMFORT. ALSO SEGRE HAD INDICATED TO US THAT HE WAS BEING INVITED TO BEIJING AS A PCI FUNCTIONARY, BUT IN FACT HE IS A MEMBER OF A PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION OF WHICH THE PCI IS PART.)

9. US-PCI RELATIONS. RUBBI SAID THAT THE BROADENING OF US CONTACTS WITH THE PCI THROUGHOUT ITALY HAD BEEN NOTED BY THE PARTY. HE SAID THAT LOCAL PCI OFFICIALS INVARIABLY CHECKED WITH ROME PRIOR TO RECEIVING US REPRESENTATIVES. HE ASKED WHAT FURTHER COULD BE DONE TO IMPROVE US-PCI RELATIONS.

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TIONS. THE REPORTING OFFICER RESPONDED THAT THE US POSITION WAS CLEAR AND THAT WE HAD GREAT RESERVATIONS ABOUT THE PCI POSITION ON SUCH KEY ISSUES AS NATO. ALLIANCE EFFECTIVENESS AS A CREDIBLE DETERRENT WAS A FUNCTION OF THE COHESION OF THE ALLIANCE AND UNITY OF VIEWS OF ITS MEMBERS. PASSIVE ACCEPTANCE AND TOLERANCE OF THE ALLIANCE WAS HARDLY ENOUGH. ALSO, THERE WERE NUMEROUS SERIOUS QUESTIONS ABOUT THE PCI'S INTERNATIONAL TIES, AND ITS CHARACTER AS A DEMOCRATIC POLITICAL

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PARTY.

10. RUBBI THEN ASKED HOW BOTH SIDES COULD GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER BETTER. REPORTING OFFICER NOTED THE MISSION'S ENHANCED CONTACT PROGRAM, WHICH RUBBI HAD ALREADY REFERRED TO. ALSO THE REPORTING OFFICER SAID THAT HE WOULD WELCOME INCREASED OPPORTUNITIES TO DISCUSS SUCH TIMELY QUESTIONS AS POLITICAL/MILITARY ISSUES AND DEFENSE STRATEGY WITH APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS. AGREEMENT WAS REACHED TO DISCUSS THESE MATTERS FURTHER IN SEPTEMBER.

11. ASKED ABOUT THE NEW COSSIGA GOVERNMENT, RUBBI SAID THE PCI DID NOT CARE MUCH FOR IT. THE ONLY VIABLE GOVERNMENT WAS ONE THAT INCLUDED THE COMMUNISTS. COSSIGA, THE MAN, WAS MOST ENTERTAINING, HOWEVER. RUBBI SAID THAT COSSIGA LIKES GOOD COMPANY AND APPRECIATES A GOOD SENSE OF HUMOR. HE APPARENTLY IS ONE OF THE FAVORITES AMONG THE ITALIAN PARLIAMENTARIANS.

12. VACATION PLANS OF PCI LEADERS.

PAJETTA HAD BEEN IN HUNGARY FOR HIS VACATION AND RETURNED TO ROME ON AUGUST 8. RUBBI PLANNED TO JOIN HIS WIFE IN MOSCOW AND THEN PROCEED TO YALTA. AS FOR PRESS REPORTS OF BERLINGUER GOING TO EASTERN EUROPE, RUBBI SAID THAT HE IN FACT MIGHT JUST DO THAT TO GET AWAY FROM THE CROWDS.

13. PAESE SERA. IN DISCUSSING THE PRESS IN GENERAL AND THE CONFIDENTIAL

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REORGANIZATION OF THE PARTY, RUBBI NOTED THAT ANIELLO COPPOLA WAS GOING TO BE REPLACED AS DIRECTOR OF PAESE SERA. HE DID NOT NAME COPPOLA'S SUCCESSOR.

14. COMMENT: WHILE RUBBI'S GRASP OF INTERNATIONAL ISSUES SEEMS LESS SURE THAN THAT OF SEGRE, HE CLEARLY IS MUCH MORE PLUGGED INTO INTERNAL PARTY MATTERS. THE EX-FARM LABORER ORGANIZER, WHO STUDIED IN MOSCOW, IS A FAR DIFFERENT TYPE FROM HIS PREDECESSOR; HE IS PARTY FUNCTIONARY FIRST AND DIPLOMAT SECOND.

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(<https://tails.boum.org/>)



The Courage Foundation is an international organisation that supports those who risk life or liberty to make significant contributions to the historical record.
(<https://www.couragefound.org/>)

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