

Mr Harborne WE 144

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--- ITALIAN ELECTIONS-ASPECTS OF CAMPAIGN

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RECEIVED	MAY 13 1979	
DESK OFFICER	REGISTRY	
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SYNOPSIS. ITALIAN ELECTION CAMPAIGN IS TORPID, BUT ASPECTS OF IT MAY BE OF INTEREST. WITHIN CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT PARTY (DC), DIVISION BETWEEN RIGHT WING AND SECRETARY GENERAL ZACCAGNINI AND PM ANDREOTTI OVER PARLIAMENTARY RELATIONS WITH COMMUNISTS (PCI) HAS BEEN ACCENTUATED AND HAS CALLED INTO QUESTION ANDREOTTI'S FUTURE AS PRIME MINISTER. TERRORISTS' VIOLENT PARTICIPATION IN ELECTION CAMPAIGN HAS ENCOURAGED DC TO ASCRIBE TO PCI THIS TERRORISM'S IDEOLOGICAL PROGENITURE AND HAS PUT PCI ON DEFENSIVE. PARTIES AND ELECTORATE ARE NEGLECTING EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT ELECTIONS. PRACTICAL CONTENT OF MAJOR PARTY PLATFORMS, PUBLISHED ONLY HALF WAY THROUGH ELECTION CAMPAIGN, IS UNINSPIRING.

2. SOCIALIST (PCI) LEADER CRAXI HAS ADOPTED AS THEME OF HIS PARTY'S CAMPAIGN NOTION THAT SOCIALISTS ARE PREPARED TO ENTER QUOTE CONTRACT UNQUOTE WITH ELECTORATE TO PROMOTE STABLE GOVT FOR FIVE YEAR DURATION OF NEXT PARLIAMENT. IMPLICIT IN CRAXI'S PROPOSAL IS THAT, IF PCI, BLOCKED BY DC VETO FROM PARTICIPATING

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Perhaps a little over-optimistic
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IN GOVT IPSO FACTO REFUSES TO PARTICIPATE IN PARLIAMENTARY MAJORITY OF QUOTE NATIONAL UNITY UNQUOTE, SOCIALISTS WILL PROVIDE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS WITH COALITION PARTNER REQUIRED FOR PARLIAMENTARY MAJORITY (ALTHOUGH PSI WOULD INSIST ON QUOTE PARTY UNQUOTE WITH DC IN GOVT PARTICIPATION).

3. DCS POWERFUL AND NORMALLY DOCTRINAIRE ANTI-COMMUNIST RIGHT WING LED BY FANFANNI IS ATTRACTED BY PROSPECT OF RETURN TO SYSTEM OF DC-PSI COALITION GOVT OPPOSED BY COMMUNISTS WHICH CHARACTERIZED ITALY DURING SIXTIES AND IS REPELLED BY THOUGHT OF RENEWING DC-COMMUNIST ASSOCIATION IN PARLIAMENTARY MAJORITY WHICH SUPPORTED ANDREOTTIS GOVTS FROM 1976 TO 1979. FANFANNI APPEARS TO ABET SOCIALISTS DEMAND FOR ANDREOTTIS DEFENESTRATION AND TO FAVOUR, IF NECESSARY FOR THEIR SUPPORT, SOCIALIST PRIME MINISTER. DC SEC-GEN ZACCAGNINI, ELECTED IN 1975 AS REFORM LEADER AND MORO PROTEGE AFTER FANFANNIS DISASTROUS STEWARDSHIP OF PARTY IN 1974 DIVORCE REFERENDUM AND 1975 LOCAL ELECTIONS, AND ANDREOTTI OPPOSE FANFANNIS CURRENT POSITIONS AND ARE PROMOTING RETURN TO PARLIAMENTARY MAJORITY INCLUDING PCI UNDER ANOTHER ANDREOTTI PRIME MINISTERSHIP. FANFANNI LAST WEEKEND APPRENTLY WENT SO FAR TO SPEECH TO PROVINCIAL DC RALLY TO ASK FOR DC ABSOLUTE MAJORITY IN PARLIAMENT TO DESTROY ZACCAGNINIS AND ANDREOTTIS JUSTIFICATION OF DC-PCI COOPERATION:

QUOTE WHEN AN ABSOLUTE MAJORITY EXISTS THERE DOES NOT/NOT EXIST A ZACCAGNINI IN THE WORLD WHO CAN SAY TO THE (DC) PARTY: WE YIELD

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(TO THE COMMUNISTS) UNQUOTE. PCI HAS BEEN QUICK TO ATTACK DC RIGHT AS BETRAYERS OF MOROS ALLEGED LINE OF CONCILIATION BETWEEN DC AND PCI.

5. NEW WAVE OF TERRORIST ATTACKS AGAINST PERSONS AND PROPERTY ASSOCIATED WITH DC HAS ENCOURAGED DC TO ATTRIBUTE AGAIN TO PCI IDEOLOGICAL PROGENITURE OF LEFT WING TERRORISM; QUOTE THE IDEOLOGICAL ROOT OF TERRORISM IS IN THE LONG AND IRRESPONSIBLE INSTIGATION TO HATE DIFFUSED FOR YEAR BY THE PROPAGANDA CENTERS OF BOTH THE LEFTIST EXTREMISTS AND THE HISTORIC LEFT WHICH IN THE PAST HAVE AFFORDED CONSIDERATION, COMPLICITY AND PSYCHOLOGICAL AND IDEOLOGICAL COVER TO THE TERRORISM WHICH IS MARTYRIZING CHRISTIAN DEMOCRACY UNQUOTE. GOV'S RECENT DECISION TO EMPLOY ARMED FORCES TO GUARD SITES ATTRACTIVE AS TERRORIST TARGETS HAS BEEN PORTRAYED BY SOME AS ELECTORAL MANOEUVRE TO IMPRINT ON CONSCIOUSNESS OF ELECTORATE COURAGEOUS STATE OF SIEGE IN WHICH CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT LED GOVT AND STATE INSTITUTIONS AND CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT PARTY FIND THEMSELVES. PCI HAS REACTED DEFENSIVELY, ARGUING THAT CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT MISGOVERNMENT IS PRIMARY INSPIRATION OF TERRORISM AND THAT TRUE TARGET OF CURRENT ITALIAN TERRORISM AS PROFESSED BY TERRORIST PROPOGANDA IS DESTRUCTION OF PCI OR QUOTE BERLINGUERS COMMUNISM UNQUOTE AND ITS REPLACEMENT BY QUOTE PURE COMMUNISM UNQUOTE. PCI HAS ALSO POINTED OUT THAT IN 1978

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PCI MEMBER DENOUNCED ON INSTRUCTIONS OF PARTY TO JUDICIAL AUTHORITIES RED BRIGADES ACTIVITY WITHIN FACTORY IN GENOA AND WAS SUBSEQUENTLY MURDERED IN RED BRIGADES REPRISAL.

6. COINCIDENCE OF CAMPAIGN FOR EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT WITH THAT FOR ITALIAN PARLIAMENT HAS RENDERED FORMER OF MARGINAL INTEREST AT BEST. THERE ^{IS} NO/NO APPARENT EFFORT BY PARTIES TO DIFFERENTIATE BETWEEN TWO CAMPAIGNS AND ALMOST NO/NO REFERENCE WHATSOEVER TO EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT. LAPSE OF WEEK BETWEEN ITALIAN PARLIAMENT ELECTIONS ON JUNE 3-4 AND EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT ELECTIONS ON JUNE 10/13 WILL PRESUMABLY ENCOURAGE PARTIES TO CONCENTRATE THEIR ATTENTION ON EUROPEAN ISSUES AT THAT TIME.

7. DC ONLY PRESENTED ITS ELECTORAL PROGRAM ON MAY 15/16, MORE THAN HALF WAY THROUGH ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN AND ITS PRACTICAL CONTENT IS UNINSPIRING AND VAGUE. PCI PROGRAM PUBLISHED COUPLE OF WEEKS AGO IS MUCH MORE DETAILED AND COMPREHENSIVE RUNNING TO 16/16 TABLOID STYLE NEWSPAPER PAGES BUT IS REFLECTION OF MARCH 30-APRIL 3 PCI PARTY CONGRESS EMBROIDERED WITH ATTEMPT TO DEMONSTRATE THAT POSITIVE ACTIVITY OF LAST ITALIAN PARLIAMENT WAS ALMOST ENTIRELY DUE TO PCI. OFFICIAL PCI INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS PLATFORM REFERS ON NATO ONLY TO PCI RESPECT FOR ITALYS QUOTE TRADITIONAL INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCES UNQUOTE. IN INTERVIEW WITH CORRIERE DELLA SERA PUBLISHED MAY 6/6 PCI LEADER BERLINGUER, AS HE DID IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO 1976 ELECTIONS, WENT FAR BEYOND PARTYS

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OFFICIAL STATEMENT AS FOLLOWS:QUOTE I FEEL THAT ITALYS NOT/NOT
BELONGING TO THE WSAW PACT PROVIDES ABSOLUTE ASSURANCE THAT WE CAN
PROCEED ALONG THE ITALIAN PATH TO SOCIALISM WITHOUT ANY CONDITION-
ING..THE ATLANTIC PACT CAN ALSO BE A USEFUL SHIELD BEHIND
WHICH SOCIALISM CAN BE CONSTRUCTED IN LIBERTY..I DESIRE THAT ITALY
NOT/NOT LEAVE THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE ALSO FOR THIS REASON AND
NOT/NOT ONLY BECAUSE OUR DEPARTURE WOULD UPSET INNATL EQUILIBRIUM.
I FEEL MORE SECURE WHERE WE ARE UNQUOTE

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