

(1) H of C
Minister

Ref. 388/79

It is worth noting that Sardinia
now has a lay President of the Giunta,
backed by the DC, PSI & minor parties,
with the Communists in opposition.
This is the first time this pattern has been adopted in

Dear Mark, a Regional Giunta.

New Regional Giunta

Restricted

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15 OCT 1979

REGISTRY
Action Taken

4th October, 1979

Mark Fellow

11/10

(RPNash Esq. WED,
Mrs K Colvin, Res. Dep.
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1. Yesterday, 106 days after the Regional elections, the Regional Council at last gave a vote of confidence to the Giunta proposed by President Alessandro GHINAMI, of the PSDI. Votes in favour came from the DC, PSI, PSDI, PRI and PLI, the sum of which amounts to 46 councillors out of a total of 80.
2. For the first time since regionalisation, i.e. over 30 years, a non-DC member of the Council has become President. On.le Ghinami is the main PSDI figure in Sardinia and has served as an Assessore in several past coalition governments. He stood for Parliament in the last elections but did not make it. He is more clear-minded and practical than most of the local politicians; his statements are usually delivered in plain Italian, rather than in the incomprehensible jargon of clichés and the circumlocution used by most of his colleagues. He has always been outspokenly and adamantly against the admission of the PCI to the Executive, and was against the indefinite protraction of the "Intesa".
3. In the present Giunta Ghinami is the only member of his own party; eight of the 12 assessori are DC and four are PSI; the PRI and the PLI are to support the Giunta from outside. Half the DC assessori are new to the task.
4. If we go back to early August when I last reported that Mario Puddu's Giunta had not been passed by the Council, and then on to the 23rd August, we find On.le Mario Puddu (DC) elected again, and trying to form a DC monocolore "Giunta di tregua", with "technicians", with PCI support by abstention. The PSDI was the most firmly against this solution which they regarded as a sort of "compromesso storico" incompatible with the electoral results, and Puddu resigned again... only to be re-elected a third time!!, on 14th September, for another attempt at the same solution. There followed days of unseemly squabbling within the DC ranks and chopping and charging of "technicians", but the smaller parties held out, and Mario Puddu resigned for the third time.
5. This brings us to the present situation (see paras. 1,2 and 3 above). President Chinami has been clear: he does not regard his government as a caretaker, but he feels that it is not logical for the two main posts of authority (Presidenza del Consiglio: PRI, and Presidenza della Giunta: PSDI) to be in the hands of two small parties. His Giunta, therefore, is to be regarded as a "giunta di transizione con una maggioranza solida ma non un assetto definitivo". He has also referred to it as a "Giunta di preparazione verso solidarietà più ampie, equilibri più stabili e larghi"; much will obviously depend on what happens on the national scene. In the meantime, it is hoped that the Ghinami Giunta will prove to be "le provisoire qui dure", at least for months if not years.

Yours ever
Nadine.
(N. Ekserdjian)

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