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CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT CONGRESS

1. With reference to our telegram Number 86 of 15 February, informing you of Sir Anthony Royle's visit to Italy for the Christian Democrat Congress, Sir Anthony commented afterwards to David Gladstone that although he had attended the Congress at the invitation of the Christian Democrats, they had paid little attention to him; apart from providing a car to and from the airport, he had been left entirely to his own devices.
2. This attitude Sir Anthony interpreted as indicating that the Italian Christian Democrats are inward looking, seeing themselves as a more progressive worker based party than the British Conservative Party, whom they regard as reactionary and with whom they see themselves as having little in common.
3. Sir Anthony's impression may perhaps be further borne out by the fact that the Italian Christian Democrats have shown no interest in joining in the British Conservative Party's initiative to form a counterweight to the European Socialists.

M A Savill (Miss)  
Western European Department

*Target, Miss*  
*May 1 see fl. copy*  
*Letter of 1 Nov. fl.*

*fl. copy*