

cc Mr. Webb - Assessments Staff  
Mr. Jorcher. Cabinet Office. (51)



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You may wish to be aware of speculations about an election (even though the chances are unlikely)

Miss M A Savill  
WED  
FCO

Your reference (Development)  
Our reference M Savill.7  
Date 6 October 1980

WRJ 01A/2

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Dear Margaret,

Mr. [Name] of [Name]  
- to see also.

ITALIAN INTERNAL SITUATION

1. Our telegram no. 531. As expected, Craxi has been re-elected as Secretary of the PSI and has strengthened his power base. Signorile is no longer Vice Secretary - the post is apparently to be left vacant - but he remains a member of the Party Directorate.

per - [Name]

2. I enclose a full list of members of the new Directorate elected by the Central Committee on 3 October. It is enlarged from 25 to 36 members, and all the 11 new members (marked with an asterisk) except Spini are Craxi supporters, giving him a total of 24 votes in the Directorate. He can also count on 17 of the 19 Regional Secretaries and 86 of the 98 Federation Secretaries. This disposition of Party posts, which reflects more accurately the extent of support for Craxi in the party as a whole, should last until their Congress which is now scheduled for March 1981.

3. As you know from our telegram no. 528, Pertini was upset by the way in which the Cossiga Government fell. He is reported to have told the DC and PSI group leaders in the Chamber that if "sharpshooters" were again to cause the downfall of a Government by voting against their party in a secret ballot, he would consider dissolving the Chamber (not both Houses), which would necessitate an early election of Deputies. Article 88 of the Constitution gives him the power to do this. It is also theoretically possible that, if no solution of the present crisis could be found and elections therefore had to be held, they too might only apply to the Chamber.

4. It nevertheless remains true that even limited elections now would not be popular with the major parties and that the emergence of a new coalition is by far the most likely resolution of the crisis. But since speculation about elections is to be found in the Italian press, I thought you should have the essential background.

Yours ever  
Robert Culshaw  
R N Culshaw

cc: Mrs K Colvin,  
Research Dept

PSI DIRECTORATE

Bettino Craxi  
Michele Achilli  
Gennaro Acquaviva\*  
Aldo Aniasi  
Gaetano Arfe  
Paolo Babbini\*  
Antonio Canepa\*  
Nicola Capria  
Roberto Cassola\*  
Fabrizio Cicchitto  
Federico Coen  
Luigi Covatta  
Paris Dell'Unto\*  
Francesco De Martino  
Gianni De Michelis  
Rino Formica  
Giorgio Gangi\*  
Anselmo Guarraci  
Giuseppe La Ganga\*  
Lelio Lagorio  
Antonio Landolfi  
Salvatore Lauricella  
Riccardo Lombardi  
Enrico Manca  
Giacomo Mancini  
Claudio Martelli  
Biagio Marzo\*  
Ercoliano Monesi\*  
Paolo Pedrazzoli  
Nevol Querei  
Claudio Signorile  
Roberto Spano  
Valdo Spini\*  
Giuseppe Tamburrano\*  
Francesco Tempestini  
Paolo Vittorelli

\* equals new member