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PA	Acting
<i>PA/PA</i>	<i>DB</i>

T L Richardson Esq
British Embassy
RDME

Mr Young
Mr Osborne

Your reference

Our reference

Date
3 February 1982

Dear Tom,

SOVIET CONDEMNATION OF THE ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY

1. Thank you for your letter of 28 January on the above subject. I have also just seen the letter you foreshadowed (of 1 February from Michael Simpson-Orlebar to Alan Goodison) about the repercussions of this condemnation on the internal Italian political scene.
2. WED, Research Department and my own Department agree with you that "it is not yet proven that the PCI and the Soviet authorities are in full schism"; although they have been on bad terms for some time now, Soviet comment has nevertheless looked at Italian political affairs from the standpoint of the PCI. The PCI remains a member of the world Communist movement.
3. We doubt if there would be much interest in the Third World in the full Pravda/Unita texts. We have however put the first two main statements of the PCI on the imposition of martial law in Poland into our latest "Polish chronology" Brief which is now being cleared. We are also preparing a Background Brief on world reactions to martial law, which will certainly bring in the PCI. The French CP Congress may yield material for a Background Brief on the position of the main Western Communist Parties and the Soviet attitude to them.
4. Finally, in view of the importance of this question, we should be glad to have as much material as you can conveniently send us, especially since more serious divisions may develop within the PCI.
5. I am copying this letter to the recipients of yours, and to Prague, in view of the zeal with which the Czechoslovak party attacks the PCI.

Yours ever

K G MacInnes

K G MacInnes
Information Department

cc: Mr Broomfield, EESD
Mrs Colvin, Research Dept
Mr Gladstone, WED
Head of Chancery:- Moscow, Washington, Paris, Madrid, Belgrade, Bonn,
Warsaw, Prague