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Carpage (29)



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Telephone 01-

Your reference

T L Richardson Esq
ROME

*M. York 2/3
Shorbone*

Our reference

Date 19 March 1982

*1/3
2/3*

Dear Tom,

PCI/CPSU

<i>was call</i>	
23 MAR 1982	
SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
Action Taken	
<i>✓ DB</i>	

1. Thank you for your letter of 9 March.
2. We naturally look out for fresh evidence on Third World interest in the subjects on which we write, but our assessment is that there would be no detailed interest in the PCI/CPSU dispute in the Third World except former Italian territories, especially Ethiopia and Somalia.
3. A further point is that we do not want to obtain excessive or favourable publicity in the Third World for the PCI by disseminating its statements; the vague aspirations to "peace" and "Socialism" which they contain are just the sort of thing likely to evoke what for us would be an undesirable response in developing countries. As you noted in your letter of 28 January, it would be wrong for us to do the PCI's work for it by seeming to defend its democratic credentials.
4. We have just finished the draft of a Background Brief on "The Soviet Union and Western Communist Parties" (we eschew the word "Eurocommunism") in which the PCI has the lion's share; it takes the story as far as the Gus Hall speech which Pravda reproduced at length on 10 March. When we say that the PCI "remains part of the world Communist movement" we mean that, as Zagladin said in his Paese Sera interview on 8 February, there has been no final breach as there was with Yugoslavia in 1948 or China in 1960.
5. Our Background Brief format is not long enough for us to discuss fully what the "world Communist movement" amounts to in practice; this would be an interesting subject for a major study. We have however included some Eastern European reactions in the paper, though they are, except the Romanian, simply Soviet gramophone records. Space precluded an adequate treatment of the Yugoslav attitude, which in any case we are not particularly keen to highlight.

Your ever
Kent Thelner

K G MacInnes
Information Department

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/Copies



British Embassy
Via Via Condottaria 50/A 00187 Rome
Tel. 06/47801

Copies to: Chanceries: Moscow
Warsaw
Prague (with copy of Mr Richardson's letter)

Belgrade
Paris
Madrid

— Mr Gladstone, WED, FCO
Mr Broomfield, EESD, FCO
Mrs Colvin, RD, FCO

17 MAR 1967

... letter of 12 January...
... are surprised at your assessment that there would be little
... world interest in the full texts of this dispute. The PCI
... will grow in many parts of the third world - its leaders
... and in Africa and elsewhere - and the fact that Western
... Party has so unhesitatingly
... criticized Soviet policy, and socialism as practiced in Eastern
... should surely have some impact. I am glad to see that
... are making use of the dispute in your Political Chronology,
... Communist Policy and Tactics and a possible background brief; I
... hope that you will consider further ways of deploying any new
... material we can get.

1. There is no sign yet of the PCI backtracking; indeed their
... leadership is now engaged in a major effort to convince and
... reassure the party base about the present anti-Soviet line. The
... party may continue to practice to serve certain Soviet foreign
... policy interests (e.g. over disarmament) but the intricate web of
... contacts, and the militants' view of Moscow, can never be quite
... the same again. While I don't disagree with your concept that
... the PCI remains part of the world Communist movement, this rather
... begs the question of what the world Communist movement amounts to
... in practice, and how far individual Communist parties' interests
... reflect those of the Soviet Union.

2. Colvin, as Kathryn Colvin will know, has continued to publish
... numerous articles and letters on the rift with Moscow, including
... some statements by Berlinguer. None of them, however, has done
... more than restate the PCI's basic positions as set out in the
... attachments to my earlier letter. The exchanges between Knevezov
... and Binnacite have been just a replay of the same theme in a wider
... way. The only further text worth enclosing in translation with
... this letter is the PCI Directorate document of 9 February attacking
... the attitude of Comstock and his supporters in the party, a good
... example of "democratic centralism" in action, leading to the
... article of "democratic centralism" in action, leading to the
... article of "democratic centralism" in action, leading to the