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CZECHOSLOVAKIA

ITALY

COMMUNIST PARTY /0600/  
Foreign Relations /0602/

ESPIONAGE RING UNCOVERED IN FOGGIA.

SOURCE ROME: Rome News Bureau from press information.

DATE OF OBSERVATION: Current Period.

EVAL. COMMENT: This is one more report which proves beyond any doubt how active the Communist espionage is. It is also confirmed here that there are schooling centers around PRAHA and BRNO, where the agents are trained /See RFE Item Nos 11126, 13788/52 and 431/54./ This also proves how "peace loving" the Communists are in fact.

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The Italian authorities' recent announcement of the arrest of members of an espionage organization operating in Southern Italy, in favor of Czechoslovakia, re-awakened public opinion's sense of the Communist danger.

During the course of a few months, this is the third espionage case which has come to light, and, like in the previous cases, the activities were directed by Czechoslovakia and carried out by Italian Communist agents.

In August of last year/1953/, the TESINI brothers - headed by a certain CASICCHIOLI, who was denounced by default, having escaped behind the Iron Curtain - were arrested in MODENA charged with espionage in favor of Czechoslovakia. It is useless to say that these men, who will be tried shortly, were Communist Party members.

The second case was discovered in TURIN in September 1953. This case concerned an espionage center headed by a certain DORIA who was arrested together with his agents, BRUSOTTI, FERRERO, SIGNORINO, CALDARI, VASCHETTI and Private BOZZALLA. Of course,

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all of them were members of the Communist Party. Their trial will be opened next month, i.e., in April, at the Court Martial of TURIN.

The investigations which uncovered these first two cases revealed that the agents are always levied from among Italian workers - almost all of them communists - who go to work in Czechoslovakia. It was also revealed that, after being linked to the espionage center, quite a number of these elements are "expelled" from the Communist Party as a precaution.

A third Espionage center discovered withing less than one year.

The news on the third espionage case was published only a few days ago. After long and patient investigations, the police of the counter-intelligence service in FOGGIA arrested some ten persons, including a woman. Also this time, all arrestees are Italian citizens and members of extreme leftist parties.

So far, the personal data of only five of the arrestees were published and are the following:

FISCARELLI Davide of NICOLA, mechanic from FOGGIA, - chief of the spy ring - member of the Communist Party; CASTIGLIOLI Osvaldo, of RAFFAELE, from FOGGIA, worker - communist sympathizer; DI PERNA Michele, of the late Giuseppe, from FOGGIA, typographical worker - Communist Party member; MELCHIONDA Giuseppe, of Pasquale, from FOGGIA, worker - Communist Party member.

A case of Counter Espionage.

The following particulars were published on the investigations preceding the arrest of the members of this espionage organization:

The first news was collected in August 1953 by the Public Security of BOLOGNA. This news proved the existence of an information system in the Puglia Province, paid by a foreign power. This system collected information regarding Italy's defence. The information collected by the Public Security was passed on to the counter-intelligence service, which immediately started its own investigations. The first results of these investigation enabled the counter-intelligence to locate FOGGIA and its Province as the center of the spies' activities. Further investigations identified the leader of the ring in the person of the Communist Davide FISCARELLI, born and domiciled



in FOGGIA, but also living in PRAGUE and a member of the Czech Communist Party since 1948.

FISCARELLI was carefully watched and thereby it was possible to discover his espionage activities. The ability with which he carried out his mission entrusted to him by the PRAGUE secret service left no doubt that he was a perfectly trained agent. In fact, it resulted that, being levied for the Czech secret service in 1952, FISCARELLI had taken a course in espionage lasting several months during which he was trained and examined in topography, arms and shooting, and fortifications. He was thoroughly taught the job of a spy and he was given detailed instructions as to his future duties in Italy. In April 1952, he was permanently hired as a spy. His first and main duty was to form a spy net composed of "trustworthy elements" whom he could easily find in the ranks of the Communist Party.

#### Training in Czechoslovakia.

FISCARELLI had left for Czechoslovakia to work there in 1947. In the following year he married a Czech girl, NOSTOVIKOVA Anna, by whom he had two children. Before attending the spy course, FISCARELLI, who belonged to the "Popular Democracy" Communist Association, had already excelled in PRAGUE as from 1949 as a member of a voluntary section in charge of watching the political activities of Italian workers emigrated to Czechoslovakia. During this period, he proved his excellent qualities as an informer and it seems that many Italian workers were arrested and interned in labor camps due to his denunciations.

FISCARELLI's first exploring and organizing mission in Italy took place in 1952. After his return to Czechoslovakia, he made his report to the Czech secret service through a certain Colonel KLOTA, who was not further identified. In October 1952 he returned to Italy with his wife and children, who went to live with his father's family. First he got in touch with Giuseppe CANTARINI, a communist since 1947, and successively, after obtaining the Czech secret service's approval, with CASTIGLIONI and MECHIONDA, both trustworthy Communist Party members since 1944.

Being instructed and directed by FISCARELLI, these men carried out their activities in the FOGGIA region, collecting military

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information, news on the location of airports, radar stations, military barracks, ammunition depots, the strength of the military units, information on the Navy and so forth. For this work they used pamphlets and forms supplied by the Czech Information Service.

When the Italian counter-intelligence service entered the scene, the members of the spy center continued their activities without realizing that they were already being closely watched. And when the counter-intelligence had collected all the necessary data to be able to denounce them as spies to the Martial Court in RAI, they were arrested on March 18th, 1954.

During the course of the investigations, it was also ascertained that there is a recruiting center in Czechoslovakia for Italian communist workers who had emigrated to that country. After taking training courses for spies, these communist workers are periodically sent to Italy in order to levy other elements and to collect military information.

End.