

K.
July 20
VI/410

ITALY

THE ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY SET-UP.

SOURCE ROME: Regular RFE contributor.

DATE OF OBSERVATION: Current period.

EVALUATION COMMENT: A very valuable report, giving concrete data on Italy's CP organizational set-up and operations.

X X X

The following are the details of the Italian Communist Party set-up, and comments on the personnel and activities. A great deal of this material is not available for the public and has been difficult to obtain.

CORRESPONDENT'S NOTE: In exploiting this material care must be taken to avoid compromising sources in any way.

X X X

THE CENTRAL EXECUTIVE OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY.

Secretariat of the Central Committee Direction
The Direction
The Central Control Commission
The Central Committee.

The Central apparatus has the following departments /Sezioni/:

The Central Agrarian Department /Sezione/
The Central Administrative Department
The Central Cultural Department
The Central Party Training School
The Central Finance Department
The Central Women's Department
The Central Mass Propaganda Department
The Central Press and Propaganda Department
The Central Trade Unions Department

/more/

THE REGIONAL SET-UP:

The Regional Committee
The Regional Secretariat

THE PROVINCIAL SET-UP:

The Federal Executive Committee
The Federal Committee
The Secretariat

The Provincial apparatus is as follows:

The Work Commission
The Finance Department
The Cultural Department
The Party Training School
The Electoral Department
Local Concerns Department
The Women's Department
The Organization Department
The Cadre Department
The Press and Propaganda Department
The Trade Unions Department
The Mass Propaganda Department.

In the provinces, the Mass Propaganda Department has the following divisions:

Cooperative
Youth
Peace Partisans
Union of Italian Women /Unione delle Donne Italiane-
U.D.I./
National Association of Italian Partisans
/Associazione Nazionale Partigiani Italiani -A.N.P.I./
Veterans and Combatants.

/more/

3.

THE SECTION:

/The Territorial Section/

Section Committee
Secretariat

THE CELL:

Cell Committee
Persons in Charge.

In the Sectional Apparatus there are individuals in charge of the following branches:

Administration
Peasants
Culture
Women
Elections
Local Concerns
Italian Communist Youth Federation - F.G.C.I.
Mass Propaganda
Organization
Cadre
Press and Propaganda
Trade Unions
Recreation.

The person in charge of the Recreation Branch looks after sport, shows, A.P.I. /Italian Pioneers Association,/ trips and excursions.

x x x

THE ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF THE ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY.

The above scheme of the Italian Communist Party set-up includes all the executive and territorial units which have an official character in the Party. In addition, however, there are rather more clandestine formations set up on the basis of special decisions which may be made by the Central Committee or the Direction or the Secretariat. The Party Official Statute

/more/

only speaks of the essential bodies such as the Regional Committees and the Provincial Federations and territorial Sections. All others have been set up on specific orders of the Central Executive.

X X X

The Central Executive.

The Central Committee has 72 members and 15 deputy members. The present Committee was elected during the VIth Communist Party Congress in 1948. /The VIIth Congress should have taken place last year, but was indefinitely postponed in July 1954./

The Central Control Commission is also elected by the Congress and has 13 members. In practice it operates in cooperation with the Party Direction. The Direction has 18 members and four deputy members elected by the Central Committee and corresponds to the Politbureau of other Communist parties.

The Direction appoints the members of the Secretariat which at present has seven members. This is the real central executive of the Italian Communist Party and its chief bears the title of General Secretary.

The present General Secretary is Palmiro TOGLIATTI. The deputy-secretary is Luigi LONGO, and the other members are Giorgio AMENDOLA, Arturo COLOMBI, Eduardo d'ONOFRIO, Giancarlo PAJETTA and Mauro SCOCCIMARRO. /These are given in the order presented by the official communiqué published in the Communist daily "L'Unità"./ There are, in fact, two deputy-secretaries, because Giorgio AMENDOLA, as head of the Central Organization Department, may be considered one of the unofficial Big Three who "govern" the Party, these being TOGLIATTI, LONGO and AMENDOLA.

Officially there are various commissions, such as Finance, Press and Propaganda Commissions coming under the Central Committee, but their work is intermittent and generally takes place about the time of the Central Committee meetings. The regular work on the different sectors of the Party activities is carried out by the so-called Central Departments /Sezioni/ which are appointed by the Direction and come directly under the Secretariat.

In fact, one might say that the Italian Communist Party has its own "parliament" in the form of the Central

/more/

Committee, and its own "government" in the Direction, Secretariat and Central Departments. This shadow "government" is not known to the public, as no official communiqués are released concerning appointments of Departmental chiefs and staff. A fairly high degree of secrecy is maintained about the personnel of the Party organizational apparatus in the Regions and Regional and Provincial bodies as well as in the Central organization. Only members of the official Executive are known to the public. A certain amount of "detective" work has therefore been necessary to fill in the details of the Party structure.

The Central Departments /Sezioni/ and the Central Electoral Commission work directly with the Secretariat. There are fairly regular meetings of the Departmental chiefs with the Direction and Secretariat staff to discuss Party current affairs.

Some of the more important departments are presided over by members of the Secretariat. For example, as head of the Central Organizational Department, the Hon. AMENDOLA controls all provincial Party apparatus. The Central Cadre Department is headed by the Hon. d'ONOFRIO, who in the eyes of MOSCOW, is one of the most trustworthy members of the Central Executive of the Italian Communist Party. This Cadre Department controls directly the unofficial body of special zonal inspectors throughout Italy. These have been spoken of in previous reports and may be compared to political commissars operating inside the Party.

The Central Mass Propaganda Department is headed by another member of the Secretariat, the Hon. COLOMBI.

The Trade Unions Department has been headed by Giancarlo PAJETTA, another member of the Secretariat staff, since December 1954, and by Agostino NOVELLA, who is a "rising star" in the trade unions' sector. He was recently appointed General Secretary of the very important Union of the Engineering Industry, which suffered a series of setbacks during the shop-steward elections in Northern Italy. This position had previously been held by Senator ROVEDA, who is a member of the Central Committee.

Both PAJETTA and NOVELLA are among the extremists of the Italian Communist Party, and their appointments are, therefore, in accordance with the USSR line of tactics which stresses direct action in Western Europe through trade unions' activities and leaves the national parties to keep in with neutral currents through "moderate" political tactics.

/more/

The Central Control Commission is unique and has no paragon in the Provincial or Regional bodies, local Control Commissions dealing only with executive accounts on the occasion of regional or provincial congresses. The Central Commission, however, operates in close collaboration with the Cadre Department and takes action in any Party purges which are planned.

The local Control Commissions are appointed at hoc, and are presided over by at least one member of the Central Control Commission. For example, Giacomo FERRARI was sent from ROME to TURIN to carry out this task there. The local members are chosen from among the local zone inspectors or members of the Provincial Cadre Departments. These ad hoc Commissions are, therefore, directed in practice by the Central Executive, and the Regional or Provincial executives have little say. If, however, an important Party member heads these local executives, the position may be different. This happened at the TURIN Control Commission meetings held between April 14th and 26th, when the Regional Secretary of PIEMONTE, /fnu/ NEGARVILLE, who is an influential member of the Central Committee, raised objections to proposals put forward, and delayed their execution!

X X X

The Regional Executive.

The Regional Committees of the Italian Communist Party have been in existence only since 1953. Prior to that only the Regional Secretariats were in operation. The Committees generally have 20 or 21 members, who are elected by the Regional Congress. The Regional Secretary's Offices have three members only. These are appointed by the Regional Committee.

There are no regional departments /sezioni/ controlling the different branches of Party activity. The Zonal Inspectors are appointed by the Central Cadre Department. They are attached to the Regional Committees and operate throughout the entire region.

The regional bodies are very important from the Party budget point of view, as the financial organization is in regions and not provinces. From the point of view of general Party organization, however, the Provincial Federal apparatus is far more important, especially in big towns such as MILAN, GENOA and TURIN. This is why Pietro SECCHIA was appointed as the Lombardy Regional Secretary, not Provincial Secretary, last January after the Italian Communist

/more/

Party Congress, when he rather fell out of favor. This is also the reason why the Provincial Secretary's post in PIEMONTE became the theme of a tussle after the ROASIO-NEGARVILLE disagreements, leaving NEGARVILLE the outwardly more important but actually less influential job of Regional Secretary.

x x x

The Provincial Executive.

The Provincial Federal Executive Committee is generally composed of 16 members elected by the Provincial Congress. The Federal Executive Committee appoints the Federal Committee, which is the real provincial executive body and has five members, and it appoints the Federal Secretary, who is generally a member of the Federal Committee, and has a deputy. The Provincial Secretariat, therefore, consists of only two members, although there are quite a number of employees. The Federation is directed by the five-man Federal Committee.

The Provincial organization has its own Departments /Sezioni/ which correspond approximately to the Central Departments attached to the Party Direction. The heads of these local Departments are members of the Provincial Activities Commission, which works directly with the Federal Committee and the Provincial Secretariat.

The most important of the Provincial Departments is the Mass Propaganda Department. As is obvious from the structure, this Department has dealings with all the most important organizations of the Italian Communist Party, such as the Peace Movement, the Partisans' Union, the Women's Union and so forth. The trade unions come under the special Provincial Trade Unions Department, which corresponds to the Central Trade Unions Department.

Another definitely Provincial Department is the Local Concerns Department. This has a wide range of activity through a network of various assistance committees, economic organizations, so-called Defense Committees, etc. The Italian Communist Party aims to penetrate into every sphere of national life through these various organizations in which Communists generally mix with non-Communist elements.

The Zonal Inspectors in the provinces are appointed by the Central Party Executive and are attached to the Provincial Cadre Departments.

x x x

/more/

Territorial Units.

The basic territorial unit is the Section /Sezione - not to be confused with Department - Sezione./ The Section may be a district, factory, street, little town or village, and though some Sections bear the names of famous combatant Communists, they are all numbered to facilitate organizational work.

Every Section has its own Committee and Secretary, the latter being the most important position, of course. In addition, there are persons appointed in charge of the different branches of activity. Their appointments are made by the Federal Committee, but the Section Committee members are elected and their numbers vary according to the number of persons in the Section. The Secretary is appointed by the Committee, such an appointment being confirmed by the Federal Committee. The persons in charge of the various activities work in close collaboration with the Provincial Departments.

The smallest official territorial unit is the Party Cell which may be either purely territorial or executive in character.

Under Party regulations, any territorial Cell having more than 40 members must be made into a Section. The minimum number for the formation of a Party Cell is 20 members. In practice, however, the rules are applied a little differently, and there are many Cells with a membership of over 50.

Every Cell has its own elected Committee, but there is no Secretary, and all organizational work is directed by an official who is appointed in charge by the Federal Committee.

The term "Cell" is also applied to any small Party unit which deals with questions in industrial plants, offices and institutions where the Italian Communist Party is trying to carry out its policy. Such cells, which have a membership of three to five, are appointed by the Federal Committee and must not be confused with the territorial Cells. All these members come under the category of "persons-in-charge."

These "persons-in-charge," together with the more important officials and members of different executive bodies, form the Italian Communist Party's body of activists, which is estimated at about 400,000. It appears that the Central Executive does not consider many of these activists to be

/more/

sufficiently prepared for their task, and so a big effort is being made with regard to Party Training Schools. There is a lot of talk about cutting down the number of those classified as "persons-in-charge" and replacing quantity with quality.

x x x

Special Organizational Units.

In addition to all the above-mentioned and fairly well-known organizational bodies, the Italian Communist Party has a rather clandestine apparatus at its disposal. Among the most important are the para-military organizations, such as the so-called Information Service, and groups like the Political Action Groups /Gruppi Azione Politica - G.A.P.,/ and the Political Action Sections /Sezioni Azione Politica - S.A.P./ These last two were formed during the Fascist regime and were then known as "proletarian" organizations.

The structure of these para-military organizations is based on that of the partisans during the war. There has been little activity in this field during the last two or three years, but just recently the Party has started to re-organize some of the units in the provinces. The names of different partisan divisions and brigades have been quoted. This activity is under the direction of a special general staff which comes under the Central Party Executive.

Luigi LONGO is generally looked upon as the chief of these para-military formations, and he has a technical staff composed of former officers of the Italian Army, among whom are ex-Generals GUIDOTTI and MASINI.

The S.A.P. and C.A.P. are regarded as "special duty units," as are all territorial squads ready for action in strikes, public demonstrations etc. It is generally supposed that the Italian Communist Party still has its "extermination squads" ready to "liquidate" enemies and traitors.

There are also special units known as Technical Sections which are in charge of arms depots and auto-parks at the disposal of the Party.

All these bodies are independent of the Regional and Provincial Executives. Their directing staffs are appointed by the Central Executive. Appointments are made personally, and independent of the official position which the person involved may hold in the normal Party apparatus.

/more/

10.

A certain number of Italian Communist Party members went to the USSR or satellite countries after the war for sabotage training courses. These men form the nucleus of the sabotage squads which come under the same category of clandestine organizations.

The so-called Information Service has the task of gathering information which will be of service of the Italian Communist Party, or the USSR. For example there are special "postmen's groups" which are supposed to intercept the correspondence of "enemies."

The Embassies of the USSR and satellite countries frequently make use of this service to keep check on the political emigres and their organizations.

Recruitment for the para-military organization is extremely carefully done through the Regional Cadre Departments under the supervision of the Central Cadre Department, and only specially selected persons are admitted. It has been observed that some of the persons belonging to such bodies are not officially Communist Party members, but the average Party members do not know who belongs to such organizations!

End.