

RADIO FREE EUROPE

1972 MAR 14 15:51

OUTGOING CIPHER

TO: 

MUN 20 14 MAR 72

TO: DURKEE INFO PETZALL YARROW HOVEY DUNNING REYMAN
FM: WALTER INFO COOK BEDE BERNARD BROWN KOHAK LYON
NOWAK PECHACEK/BELLUS ZAHARIEFF

141534:

RFE DAILY REPORT NO. 61

1. BULGARIA: NOTHING.

2. CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

3. HUNGARY: A RATHER STRIKING REMARK WAS BROADCAST YESTERDAY BY RADIO BUDAPEST IN ITS PROGRAM ENTITLED "168 HOURS" WHICH DEALS WITH CITIZENS' COMPLAINTS. AN OLD DOCTOR, WHO EVIDENTLY IS BEING FORCIBLY RETIRED, SAID "I AM GOING TO THE SOVIET CONSUL TO COMPLAIN AND ASK FOR HIS INTERVENTION WITH THE HUNGARIAN AUTHORITIES IN MY CASE; THIS IS SOMETHING THEY OUGHT TO DO BECAUSE OF MY PAST." THIS IS THE FIRST INSTANCE OF SUCH A BROADCAST IN HUNGARY TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, AND ACQUIRES GREATER INTEREST WHEN VIEWED IN THE CONTEXT OF PRAVDA'S 10 FEBRUARY ARTICLE SUGGESTING THAT THE "OLD VETERANS" BE GIVEN A GREATER ROLE IN HUNGARY.

4. POLAND: WE NOTE WITH INTEREST THE TOTAL ABSENCE THUS FAR, UNLIKE BEFORE PREVIOUS ELECTIONS, OF REGIME PRE-ELECTION PROPAGANDA AGAINST CROSSING OUT NAMES ON THE BALLOT. HOWEVER, THE REQUIRED FORM OF CROSSING OUT IS SO STRICT THAT IT IS QUITE POSSIBLE THAT MANY OF THEM CAN BE IGNORED "LEGALLY."

5. RUMANIA: NOTHING.

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6. OTHER: THE THIRTEENTH ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY (PCI) CONGRESS HAS OPENED ITS PROCEEDINGS WITH AN ADDRESS BY VICE-SECRETARY GENERAL ENRICO BERLINGUER, THE MAN WHO, IT IS WIDELY BELIEVED, WILL BE CHOSEN LUIGI LONGO'S SUCCESSOR AT PRESENT CONGRESS. THE UNIQUE CIRCUMSTANCE IN WHICH THE PCI CONGRESS IS MEETING JUST BEFORE A NATIONAL ELECTION IS CLEARLY COMPELLING THE PCI TO ADOPT RESTRAINED FORMULATIONS ON ITS RELATIONS WITH THE SOCIALIST CAMP AND ON ITS IDEOLOGICAL POSITIONS. CLEARLY AT THIS TIME THE PCI DOES NOT WISH TO GET EMBROILED IN DEBATES ON ITS RELATIONS WITH THE EAST AND HAS THUS OPTED FOR MINIMAL EXPOSURE OF SUCH ISSUES AND A CONCENTRATION ON DOMESTIC ISSUES. THE PCI WANTS TO BECOME RECOGNIZED BY THE ITALIAN ELECTORATE AS A RESPONSIBLE PARTY CAPABLE OF PARTICIPATING IN GOVERNMENT AND OF ENTERING INTO ALLIANCES WITH OTHER PARTIES OF THE LEFT. THUS BERLINGUER HAS TONED DOWN POSSIBLE ABRASIVE DOCTRINAIRE ASPECTS OF PCI INTERNAL POSITIONS AND HAS PRESENTED A CAMPAIGN PLATFORM WHICH CONDEMNS VIOLENCE AND DRUGS, DENIES PLANS TO INCREASE STATE OWNERSHIP IN THE ITALIAN ECONOMY AND STRESSES PCI INDEPENDENCE OF THE USSR AND THE DISINCLINATION TO COPY EXISTING "SOCIALIST" MODELS. IN LINE WITH THE EFFORT TO PUT TOGETHER A LEFT-WING COALITION BERLINGUER, SEEMINGLY CONCERNED BY THE ADVANCES MADE BY THE RIGHT WING IN ITALIAN POLITICS DURING THE LAST YEAR, IS AT PAINS TO ATTACK "THE FASCIST RIGHT" AND, IN HOPES OF PROFITING FROM THE DISUNITY IN THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY, ASSAULTS THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC CONSERVATIVES IN THE SAME BREATH. HE APPEALS FOR COLLABORATION WITH "LEFT-WING

CATHOLICS" AND CALLS FOR AN ADVANCE OF "THE ENTIRE LEFT" WITH THE EXCEPTION OF "BREAKAWAY GROUPS" (THE MANIFESTO GROUP) WHICH HE CONDEMNS. BERLINGUER CONDEMNED WHAT HE TERMED THE US EFFORT TO EXPLOIT THE SINO-SOVIET RIFT, AND IT IS NOTEWORTHY THAT THERE ARE NO DELEGATIONS FROM EITHER ALBANIA OR CHINA AT THE CONGRESS. THE CZECHOSLOVAK GREETING TO THE CONGRESS IS INSULTINGLY COOL. IN ADVANCING A SOCIALIST PROGRAM AND POINTING TO THE "ITALIAN CRISIS" AS ONE WHICH CALLS FOR REFORM AS THE ONLY ANTIDOTE FOR "FASCIST ATTACKS" BERLINGUER IS PLAINLY EMPLOYING THE PCI CONGRESS AS A FORUM FOR THE UPCOMING ITALIAN ELECTIONS.

CONCERNING THE FLORIDA DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY IN WHICH GEORGE WALLACE IS ALMOST SURE TO SHOW CONSIDERABLE STRENGTH, MOST OF THE ITEMS WE HAVE ON HAND POSIT AS THE ESSENTIAL REASON FOR HIS SUCCESS HIS MANIPULATION OF THE BUSING ISSUE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF LOCAL PREJUDICES. WHILE THIS IS NO DOUBT TRUE, THERE IS ALSO THE ELEMENT OF WALLACE'S ESSENTIAL "POPULIST" APPEAL, WHICH, WHILE HARD TO MEASURE, MUST ALSO CONTRIBUTE SUBSTANTIALLY TO HIS PROSPECTS. WE FEEL THAT IT WOULD BE A MISTAKE TO CONCENTRATE SOLELY ON THE "BUSING ISSUE" IN REPORTING ON THE CAMPAIGN AS THIS WOULD NOT ONLY BE SOMEWHAT MISLEADING IN WALLACE'S CASE, BUT WOULD TEND TO MAKE THE PRIMARY LOOK LIKE LITTLE MORE THAN A REFERENDUM ON BUSING. OTHER ASPECTS OF THE PRIMARY CAMPAIGN AS WELL AS OF WALLACE'S BROADER APPEAL SHOULD ALSO BE DISCUSSED.

END MSG