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ITALY

ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY TACTICS.

SOURCE ROME: Regular RFE Contributor

DATE OF OBSERVATION: Current period

EVALUATION COMMENT: Attention Political Editors

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In spite of the official Party line of offering to collaborate with the Christian Democrats, the Italian Communist Party does not appear to be abandoning any plans to show "force".

Efforts to force the local organizations to take large-scale strike action to express opposition to the "Fascist menace" in Italy, were made at meetings held in TURIN on February 5 and 6 1955, by the Hon. Giuseppe Di VITTORIO; and by the Hons. LONGO and NOVELLA at a rather confidential meeting of Party leaders and C.G.I.L. /Communist-controlled trade union/ leaders, which was held in PIEMONTE on February 19.

At both meetings, the local leaders, especially the Party Regional Secretary of PIEMONTE, Senator NEGARVILLE, raised considerable opposition to the strike plan. In the end, the Central Executive representatives had to give in, and any strike action was postponed until April or May. However, the Hons. LONGO and NOVELLA recommended the local leaders to check their strength and prepare the ground for eventual action.

On March 13 1955, the Italian Communist daily "L'Unita" announced that ROASIO had been appointed Federal Secretary in TURIN, thus leaving his present center in REGGIO EMILIA. NEGARVILLE remains Regional Secretary but it is obvious that the Party Direction is sending the "Strong Man" ROASIO to TURIN because things are not satisfactory in that area. From this, it can be gathered that the internal unrest within the Italian Communist Party is far from being at an end.

On February 14 1955, the Italian Communist Party direction sent a circular letter to all Regional and Federal Secretaries recommending them to fight the "slandorous statements of the imperialist press" concerning the latest changes in MOSCOW. According to the Party, such "slander" undermines the

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confidence which the working -classes in the West have in their local and national Communist Parties and in the MOSCOW Communists. The circular states that these changes are the firm and iron reply to, and a stern warning against, the encirclement policy of the "American imperialists and their satellites." These changes help to strengthen the Communist Party in the Soviet Union.

The circular ends with the recommendation to strengthen all Communist Party organizations to face further struggle in view of "eventual aggravation of the general international situation."

End.