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Junio Valerio Borghese, president of the "Fronte Nazionale" (Front), is presented as the leading personality of the Italian extreme right and as the man who appears "to hold in his hand the strands of the complex web that ties the various points of strength and action of the right."

Borghese is a member of the cadet branch, a very poor one, of the Roman princely Borghese family. In 1958 he was made president of the MSI by that party's national leaders who hoped to use his prestige and personality to attract votes to the party. While a fine soldier, Borghese proved to be a poor politician, and little by little was put aside and eventually out of the MSI. After a rather long period of political inactivity, in 1968 he founded the Front with the purpose of banding together the political groups of the right and the veterans and military personnel voluntary associations. In spite of his many efforts, the success of this venture was very modest, mainly because of lack of funds, but also as a result of the contrasts existing within the extreme right groupuscules.

To attempt to vitalize the Front, between 1968 and the spring of 1969 Borghese held meetings of supporters in many Italian cities; but these meetings were nothing but reunions of old war buddies. There were rumors about contacts with industrialists, but if anything came from such contacts in the way of financial subsidies, these must have been very small.

An objective evaluation of Borghese's political activity and of the strength of his organization reveals the utter lack of effective political weight on the part of Borghese, even among the forces of the political extreme right.

It is exaggerated to present Borghese as the key man and the rallying personality for the forces of the parliamentary and extra-parliamentary right in Italy.

* (IN THE BOOK UNDER REVIEW

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