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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
OFFICE OF NATIONAL ESTIMATES

28 June 1952

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

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SUBJECT: The Italian Political Outlook through the National  
Elections<sup>1/</sup>

CONCLUSIONS<sup>2/</sup>

The 1951-1952 local elections have indicated a sharp trend away from the democratic center, particularly toward the right. Although largely by virtue of a 1951 electoral law permitting "linked lists" the government actually increased its control over local administrations, the popular vote for the Christian Democratic Party declined sharply.

De Gasperi will probably attempt to overcome these losses by broadening the government's political base and by taking legal action against the neo-fascist right and possibly against the extreme left.

He will probably seek to broaden his government by renewed alliance with the right-wing Socialists and the Liberals. We believe that an electoral coalition of these center parties would obtain a narrow majority of votes in the national elections, which will probably be held in the spring of 1953. If, as seems likely, a new electoral law is passed, their parliamentary majority may be somewhat larger.

<sup>1/</sup> The Special Assistant, Intelligence, Department of State, concurs in this estimate. It has been prepared in collaboration with OIR.

<sup>2/</sup> This is an interim estimate pending completion of NIE-71, "The Probable Outlook for Italy."

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However, even though such a center government will probably be reconstituted, the trend toward increased right-wing electoral strength will probably lead to a subsequent shift in the government toward the right.

SHERMAN KENT  
Assistant Director  
National Estimates

Attachment: DISCUSSION