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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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6. Gronchi stated that the views of Luigi Gedda, Director of the Comitato Civico of Azione Cattolica were, in many respects, very close to those of his own. Gronchi further added that Gedda had placed his own organization at his (Gronchi's) disposition on all views which both held in common. Gronchi agreed that the implications of this policy within the Party would mean (a) the cutting of its ties with the large industrialist and proprietor groups with which it had been associated during and after the elections, and (b) a consequent reduction in the amount of funds at its disposition, and, further, that politically this would mean that rightist groups which had been ground-out during the last elections would again reappear on the political scene.
7. The PDC, he agreed, probably would decline in number of votes, in the future. He declared, however, that it would not decline in effectiveness, because, as demonstrated by the present situation, even an overwhelming political majority is not a definitive factor in the actual composition of the government, which continues to rest upon an alliance with, and participation in, the government by other parties.
8. Actually, Gronchi stated, it has gained the PDC little to have an overwhelming majority when, in practice, it is necessary to base the formation of their government upon a coalition policy in which the majority party finds it necessary to place elements of other parties in positions of such importance as the Ministry of War and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
9. Gronchi continued that he does not feel personally that the PDC will hold political control for the five-year period contemplated by the constitution, that is, until 1952. He stated that, if the international scene does not break, one can expect serious political developments by the summer or fall of 1949.
10. Gronchi stated categorically that the present Communist objective is to bring about an enlargement of the government in which they will participate with the PDC. Gronchi described Alcide De Gasperi as a true Giolittian. He stated that De Gasperi talks as little as possible, that he never opposes anyone, and that in cases where three or more of his colleagues are in disagreement, he always avoids a pronouncement and resorts to a delaying technique.
11. In reply to a query, Gronchi stated that following the last talk with source, during which the question of the Ministry of Interior had been reviewed, he personally had interested himself in the question of the substitution of the chief of police and had backed up Mario Scelba forcefully in this action. Gronchi spoke so firmly that he gave the impression that he actually had played an important part in bringing about Luigi Ferrarri's substitution. Gronchi added, however, that he was beginning to have a number of doubts with respect to Scelba, who, he felt, had become interested in his work as a policeman rather than as a Minister.

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