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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

● ROUTINE *b4*

Intelligence Information Cable

COUNTRY ITALY

DATE OF INFO.

DISTR. 14 DECEMBER 1964

SUBJECT

PROSPECTIVE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES

PLACE & DATE ACQ.

REF

IN 41058

SOURCE AND APPRAISAL:

EO 12958 3.4(b)(1)>25Yrs
(C)

1. THE SITUATION REMAINS VERY FLUID AS REGARDS THE CANDIDATE WHO IS MOST LIKELY TO BE ELECTED TO SUCCEED PRESIDENT ANTONIO SEGNI, RECENTLY RESIGNED, AND NO ONE IS IN A POSITION TO MAKE AN ACCURATE GUESS. GIUSEPPE SARAGAT, LEADER OF THE ITALIAN SOCIALIST DEMOCRATIC PARTY, AND OTHERS HAVE STATED THAT FORMER PREMIER AMINTORE FANFANI IS THE STRONGEST CANDIDATE, AND IF HE WINS ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY SUPPORT, HE COULD VERY WELL BE ELECTED. IF FANFANI IS ELECTED, THE EVENT WILL PROVOKE AN IMMEDIATE CRISIS IN THE GOVERNMENT; IT WILL FALL AND ELECTIONS WILL HAVE TO BE HELD. THIS COULD BE VERY DANGEROUS IN THE LIGHT OF THE RESULTS OF THE RECENT ADMINIS-

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TRATIVE ELECTIONS.

2. ATTILIO PICCIONI, MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO, AND CESARE MERZAGORA, ACTING PRESIDENT, REMAIN STRONG CONTENDERS.

3. THE DARK HORSE IN THE RACE AT THE MOMENT COULD BE BRUNETTO BUCCIARELLI-DUCCI, WHO WON THE SPEAKERSHIP OF THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES UNANIMOUSLY. PAOLO EMILIO TAVIANI, MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR, HAS INDICATED [REDACTED]

THAT HE DOES NOT WANT TO BE A CANDIDATE; GIUSEPPE SARAGAT HAS REQUESTED HIS FRIENDS, INCLUDING PIETRO NENNI, NOT TO CONSIDER HIM AS A CANDIDATE.

4. AMONG THE DOROTEI THERE ARE THREE POWERFUL POTENTIAL CANDIDATES: CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY SECRETARY MARIANO RUMOR; TREASURY MINISTER EMILIO COLOMBO; AND, MINISTER OF POST AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS, CARLO RUSSO. IT IS NOT YET CERTAIN WHETHER OR NOT RUSSO, A ONE-TIME CLOSE FRIEND OF FANFANI'S, WILL THROW HIS SUPPORT TO FANFANI.

5. [REDACTED] DISSEM: STATE.

END OF MESSAGE

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