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### POLITICAL EXPERIMENT IN ITALY

The recently formed Government in Italy headed by Christian Democratic Party leader Amintore Fanfani is a coalition of Christian Democrats, Social Democrats, and Republicans which is dependent upon the parliamentary support, though not the ministerial participation, of the Socialists. The new Government represents a long advocated but previously untried experiment in Italian politics -- the broadening of the democratic base by encouraging the Socialist Left to break its remaining ties with the Communists and to collaborate with the ruling Center forces.

Membership of Cabinet - The present Cabinet consists of twenty-four ministers of whom seven were not in the previous Fanfani Cabinet, and almost half of whom are representatives of the center faction of the Christian Democratic Party which until shortly before its recent national congress at Naples was hesitant to accept a Center-Left policy. The former ministers for Foreign Affairs (Segni) and Defense (Andreotti) are retained in the new Cabinet to reassure both the Italian public and Italy's NATO allies that there will be no change in basic Italian foreign policy. The allotment of the major economic ministries to the Republicans and Social Democrats indicates that the new Government is disposed to give major impetus to more government planning and social-economic reforms.

Opposition to Experiment - Opposition within the Christian Democratic and Socialist parties to the Center-Left experiment is temporarily quiescent but has not been eliminated. Party Secretary Moro and Fanfani have won the support of a large majority of the Christian Democratic Party in their attempt to make the Center-Left experiment work. The experiment will, however, be under constant surveillance. If it fails to achieve results, or if it opens the way for policy changes which the right-wing or center faction of the party considers dangerous, the opposition can be expected to gather immediate strength.

Similarly, within the Socialist Party the fellow-traveling left wing has agreed (on what amounts to Communist

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Party instructions) to the proposed experiment, but these elements will also be watching closely. From the sidelines, Liberal Party Secretary Malagodi, one of the moderate Right's more articulate spokesmen, has kept up a stream of public attacks against the experiment. Malagodi's motives appear to be to establish the Liberal Party as the cathode of opposition sentiment and to attract Christian Democratic supporters who may become disillusioned by the attempt of their party to work with the Socialists.

Communist Party Reaction - The initial reaction of Italian Communist Party boss Togliatti was to view the Center-Left experiment in a somewhat favorable light. Speaking before the Party's Central Committee, Togliatti stated that the experiment might be advantageous since the political climate which he expected it to create could enable the Communist Party to expand and develop its activities more freely. More recently, however, Togliatti and other top Communist leaders have adopted a more cautious attitude and have criticized the Center-Left program as a bourgeois maneuver to split the unity of the workers' movement.

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