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Italy

[Redacted]

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

*File
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APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: MAR 2002

14 AUG 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: Political Factors Related to the Illness of
Italian President Antonio Segni

EO 12958 3.4(h)(1)>25Yrs
(S)

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We feel that, although this report reflects accurately the views of the Source, it does, nevertheless, betray a definite bias against the center-left government coalition and its leaders. For this reason we feel that portions of this report lack objectivity.

1.

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[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

2. On the afternoon of 7 August, Segni had a lengthy and exacerbating session in his office with Moro and Saragat as a follow-up of the above. It was during this session that Segni became indisposed and suffered a stroke, [Redacted]

[Redacted]

3. [Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

4. Should President Segni become permanently incapacitated, or should he resign, there are several political leaders who could aspire to the presidential candidacy.

a. It is certain that Saragat will run and run strongly. Selection of Saragat would be most unfortunate due to the fact that he is thoroughly erratic and undependable.

b. Former Prime Minister Amintore Fanfani would certainly be a candidate. He will try very hard to get the nomination, but he will encounter strong opposition from all parties and currents. In view of his unquestioned skill and back-door maneuvering, his candidacy cannot be discounted.

c. Given its current weak political position, and for prestige and face-saving factors, the Christian Democratic Party (DC) must insist that Segni's successor come from its own ranks. Since it does not have any candidate of great caliber to present, and since it may be unable to make its own candidate stick, the best choice would probably be represented by Attilio Piccioni, former party secretary, elder party statesman, astraddle the Dorotei-Morotei currents, but definitely of second rate caliber.

d. Perhaps the most able potential candidate is Paolo Rossi of the Italian Social Democratic Party (PSDI), who would make a fine president. Unfortunately it will be difficult for him to have the needed support, since he is from the PSDI and would have to buck Saragat, who is slaving for nomination. It is possible, however, that although Saragat hates Rossi, he might be induced to support Rossi's nomination if the DC and the Italian Socialist Party (PSI) backed Rossi as a compromise candidate.

e. Giovanni Leone, former Prime Minister, is a possible, but not likely candidate. He has been on the side-line and lacks strong party support, although he is, technically, a DC elder statesman.

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f. Cesare Merzagora, a possible compromise candidate is handicapped by the fact that he has no party affiliation and therefore will have no party backing as such.

[Redacted]

Thomas H. Karamessines
Acting Deputy Director for Plans

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Orig.: The Director of Central Intelligence

Special Assistant to the President
for National Security Affairs

The Director of Intelligence and Research
Department of State (copy for Secretary Rusk)

The Secretary of Defense,
The Honorable Robert S. McNamara

Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

Deputy Director for Intelligence

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