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199/34

ITALIAN SOCIALIST REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

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SECURITY DIVISION
FILE
MINUTE SHEET

No. of sheet	Date	File No. of ans'd LTR.	From whom	Subject
4.				Extract from P.B.W. Naylor no. 39

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P O L I T I C A L

The Italian Socialist Revolutionary Party (P.S.R.I.)

Of the various Parties outside the Liberation Committee, that of the Socialist Revolutionary was the first to be formed in Naples, after the city had been liberated.

Its original headquarters at 12 Vice Pepe al Cavono, officially inaugurated on 17/12/43, were subsequently transferred to 33 Port'Alba, where they are at present.

This Party evidently intended to organise itself as a separate Left Wing section of the official Socialist Party, but on the occasion of the Bari Congress, the weekly, "Bandiera Rossa", (Red Flag) of the P.S.R.I. (the publication of which was started without authority at the time of the inauguration of the Party Headquarters) arrayed itself against all the Liberation Committees, and started a violent press campaign of a reprobatory nature.

On the occasion when strikes and meetings were organised in Naples by the other Left Wing Parties as a protest against the Crown, the attitude of the P.S.R.I. was interpreted as being philo-monarchist, since it did not take part in those demonstrations, but maintained that discussions should be put off in regard to the institutional question and to the responsibility of the Crown and the antifascist Groups in the advent of Fascism.

Such an interpretation was further confirmed by the attitude of the Party, by the relations of some of its members with Allied Offices and by the development of such a political movement, which, without any traditions behind it and without leaders worthy of the name, yet managed to swell its ranks so considerably.

After Togliatti's arrival in Italy, and especially after he had declared himself in favour of postponing the institutional question until the liberation of the whole of Italy, the P.S.R.I. endeavoured to get closer to the Communists. When, however, Togliatti advocated the collaboration of all political Parties with the Monarchy to intensify the war effort and consolidate national unity, the P.S.R.I. returned to its violent opposition also in the case of the new democratic Government.

On that occasion, a very violent article by Gaetano Salvemini was published in their weekly insulting Togliatti and harshly criticising Stalin as well as the other leaders of the United Nations, who had allowed and even encouraged the democratic ministerial combination with the Monarchy

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"Bandiera Rossa" (Red Flag) maintained all the time its attitude of an irreconcilable and anti-collaborationist sheet upholding the theses of a Government of technician taking part in it.

As regards Party programme, the P.S.R.I. reprinted, in October 1943, some propaganda pamphlets which had been drawn up, it alleged, during the clandestine period; these pamphlets stated that the Party was of the Left Wing, but contrary to proletarian dictatorship.

Subsequently, "Bandiera Rossa" started criticising the Allies, and the number of copies of the weekly, during that period, went up beyond all imagination. The Allies reply to the attack was to ban the publications of the weekly, and the P.S.R.I. then led a counter attack organising strikes, demonstrations etc.

The friction, however, was overcome later and the Party was allowed to publish "La Fiaccolla" in place of "Bandiera Rossa"; but the new weekly has not met, with as much favour as its forerunner.

The P.S.R.I. has its largest following in Campania and in the city of Naples, and there are many other branches in Southern Italy and Sicily, but connection with the Party headquarters is not efficient; any indication as to the number of members is altogether fanciful.

After the liberation of Rome, the Party tried to establish their headquarters there, but failed to do so; later on, the fusion of the Communist Movement in Italy and the P.S.R.I. was announced, but never materialised. There exists, however, a mixed commission for an understanding between the two parties. It appears that the Communist Movement in Italy (which is essentially Roman) is somewhat under the influence of the P.S.R.I.

Also the General Association of the Free Unions of workers is under the influence of the P.S.R.I. the Association is a Trade Union Organisation of artisans and other workers.

It should also be noted that the P.S.R.I. has always been definitely anti-Monarchist and an upholder of Sicilian separatism.

The chief exponents of the Party are:

- 1) Avv. Vincenzo De Luca, the present Secretary of the Party, a quiet, thoughtful man regarded as honest and able.
- 2) Avv. Rocco D'Ambra, ex Secretary of the Party and now jointly with De Luca, Editor of "La Fiaccolla", well known in Naples for his antifascist activities; he is the backbone of the Party. Although very young, he is considered able and cunning and knows his Naples inside out.
- 3) Ugo Bellanca, Professor of Philosophy, of Sicilian origin, separatist, secretary of the youth movement, represents the Left Wing tendency of the Party; reports say that he is a relative of the Sicilian separatist Finocchiaro Aprile.
- 4) Ugo Margiotta, ex anarchist, one time exile in Mexico and U.S.A. is a professional revolutionary who has resigned from the Party, but this resignation is not considered genuine in many Neapolitan political circles.
- 5) Mandolfi Antonio, a young Neapolitan commercial lawyer, secretary of the Campania Section; has an energetic and authoritative character.
- 6) D'Antona Giovanni, Clerk of the District Court of Naples, persecuted by Fascism he is the administrative secretary of the Party with philo-communist tendencies.
- 7) Cirmino Alfredo, an old anti-fascist, comes from the Socialist Party, and is one of the heads of the P.S.R.I. He is not considered to be of much personal value, but he is very careful and deliberate.

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Also the General Association of the Free Unions of workers is under the influence of the P.S.R.I. the Association is a Trade Union Organisation of artisans and other workers.

It should also be noted that the F.S.R.I. has always been definitely anti-Monarchist and an upholder of Sicilian separatism.

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