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5X 4279
27 July 1964

Subject: Dr. MICCIOLI, (fnu) Director of the "Associazione Italia - URSS" Rome, Italy,
member of the Italian CP

DPoB? ITALY

SIT ITALY

OSCC

Source : K

1 ITALY, Rome

Date : 27 July 1964

See contact with Source
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SOURCE METHODS EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

1. Mid-May 1964 Source in company of his friend, visited the premises of the Associazione Italia-URSS in Rome, 47 Piazza della Repubblica where he had a talk with the librarian of the located there library of Soviet publications. Having found only a few Soviet Ukrainian books and journals, Source used that as topic to be discussed not only with the librarian but the Subject himself, as well. Suggesting that they should have a separate Ukrainian department in their library Source found quite a positive response on the part of Subject who promised to think the matter over and at least to order more Soviet Ukrainian books. On this occasion he stressed that this will be done not through Mezhdunarodnaya Kniga but from Kiev directly because—as he put it; " we prefer to deal directly with individual republics instead of going through the central red tape in Moscow".

Subject informed Source about two forthcoming 19-days guided tours to the Soviet Union (on 1 July and 1 August 1964) and suggested that Source himself could go on one of them. He mentioned also that some time this year they were expecting some Soviet scientists, cinematographers and other cultural activists for whom the Associazione will organize public lectures and meetings. On the whole, Subject seemed to be quite willing to maintain contact with Source and asked him to come again.

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2. 16 July 1964 Source had a longer talk with Subject again.

Among other things Source suggested that the Associazione should show a greater interest in individual soviet republics and accordingly also inform Italian public about them. In Source's view imperialistic and chauvinistic Russian

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features of the Soviet communism and in particular Soviet nationalities policy directed against non-Russianians, were harmful to the communist/idea itself and were bound to compromise it completely. Italian communists should not identify their cause with that kind of communism but try to eliminate Russian imperialistic elements and fight for national communist states of all nations inside the USSR.

Subject agreed with Source and made some similar statements to the same effect. He mentioned also some of his own experiences with Sovs to substantiate his assertions. Thus, Subject said, "in the beginning the Associazione was to conduct all its business only through Moscow and not through capitals of individual republics". Pretty soon they discovered that there was a tremendous mess and red tape in Moscow, often they had to wait for months for ~~xxx~~ an answer, not rarely there was no reply at all. Finally the Associazione decided to categorically ask Moscow to allow them to communicate directly with individual republics, and only "after a long fight we obtained such permission". "Now we can write directly to Kiev or Minsk". Subject added that in the meantime he made quite a few friends in Kiev.

Subject agreed that - as he put it - "Russians indeed have distorted communist idea". "We (Italian communists) criticize them very strongly for that and try to discuss these problems with them. We point out to many negative features of their system, such as for instance their heavy bureaucratic machine which hampers the whole socio-economic development of the Soviet Union. We point out to lack of freedom for circulation of other than their own ideas in the Soviet Union which causes an anomaly in mental and cultural development of Soviet peoples".

"The latter - Subject stressed - are already mature and there is no need to separate and isolate them from the rest of the world. Russians want to build communism by hiding reality but this is silly".

Referring again to the Associazione Subject said that "when the

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Association was being organized Moscow demanded that it remain only a station of their own propaganda in Italy. We vehemently protested telling them that Italian people can not be fooled around and cheated. At one time there were dishonest people who misinformed us when telling us about the USSR. Now, however, either we will present the Soviet Union so as it is or there will be no Associazione at all. And the Russians had to give in."

Subject complained about the lack of freedom for art and literature in the Soviet Union. As an example he mentioned the following story : "Recently we (Associazione) proposed to Soviets to organize in Moscow an exposition of Italian painters. They agreed to. But when we presented them with the list of our painters and paintings to be exhibited , they (in Moscow) crossed out all those whom they considered 'unsuitable' , mainly all abstractionists and formalists. We replied that we want to exhibit Italian present art so as it really is, in all its variations and styles , and if they don't want to accept it so, then there will be no exposition at all . Indeed, there was no exposition."

Subject was also very critical of the Soviet society and its typical representatives. He said: " The so widely praised by Russians, Soviet psychological type - homo sovieticus - is nothing but a real misery. I met and talked with thousand of various Soviet people , of different occupations, from different places, and I learned very well their psychology. Its main features are; panic-like fear of 'nachalstvo', of superiors; humility extending to abasement. General apathy for everything, no creative prospective for the future, frightening mental infantilism . They extol what they are doing as though really something yet unheard of whereas we, here in the West, often regard these things as primitive. We invite them to our conferences, they come and tell us such simplicities and with such a 'scholarly' pomposity that we feel ashamed in front of our scholars. On ce, after one of those conferences, we gathered in the Associazione and in presence of a representative of the Soviet Embassy and one of those 'professors' himself, criticized the level of his perfor-

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mance at the conference. In consequence, all further already planned conferences with the same 'professor' were cancelled by the representative of the Embassy".

According to Subject "Soviets in the Embassy are trying usually to adjust their 'psychology' to our normal, Italian. But I have discovered that they quickly return to it as soon as they come back home. "

3. Subject told Source that they were expecting in September Bolshoi in Italy in exchange for Della Scala for Moscow. He also promised to tell Source about other arrivals of Sovs to Italy that will be sponsored by Associazione.

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