

# Berlinguer Proposes An 'Emergency Pact' To Replace Communist Demands For Emergency Gov't

After a two-hour meeting with designated Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti Feb. 8, the Italian Communist Party secretary general announced that his party was dropping its demands for "an emergency government" with direct Communist participation. Although cabinet posts remain a future goal, the Communist Party leader, Enrico Berlinguer, stated that, "taking into account other parties' positions, we are willing to . . . agree to an emergency pact, a negotiated program sanctioned by the formation of a clear parliamentary majority."

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Berlinguer's statements accepting Andreotti's proposal for Communist entry into a "parliamentary majority" and not into a political majority at cabinet level, cut through the Christian Democracy-Communist Party impasse of the past week allowing Andreotti to move ahead into the formation of a new government. The parliamentary majority will increase Communist participation in state affairs by passing from the present abstention formula to the party's actually voting for government programs. Thus, it could satisfy both the Communists' demand for greater responsibility, and Christian Democratic demands that the Communists not be allowed into the "political" majority that an emergency government would entail.

With the deadlock broken, Andreotti has reinitiated consultations with other parties aimed at forming a new cabinet. These include the Socialist Party and the very small Liberal, Social Democratic, and Republican parties which have formed part of the six-party programmatic accord supporting Andreotti's government. Knowledgeable sources report that Vatican

backing was key for the leadership to give Andreotti a "free hand" to get an agreement with the Communist Party. Although the new ministers are still being chosen, the Italian press has reported rumors that the Communists asked for the dismissal of the British agent in the Treasury Ministry, Gaetano Stammati, together with the industry, labor, and justice ministers.

The final option left open to attempt to sabotage the formation of a government is the tiny Liberal Party which barely holds 1.3 percent of the votes, but which, as a right-wing "constitutional" (i.e., not fascist) party could cause trouble on the right flank of the Christian Democracy. Following Berlinguer's statements the Liberal Party president announced that his party will not sign any pact with the Communist Party. Such an operation, however, is most likely doomed to failure. The Communist press is already warning that right-wing forces in the Christian Democratic Party are "trying to use the Liberals in the same way that China uses Albania."

## A British Ultimatum

*From Corriere della Sera, Feb. 8:*

In a semi-private speech delivered in London last Saturday, Roy Jenkins, president of the European Economic Community (and former British Home Secretary-ed.), posed the Eurocommunist issue in the following way: if the PCI's presence in the Italian government becomes more direct, then "Italy, under suspicion of moving away from democratic pluralism," will end up moving away from the EEC. "If membership to the EEC," said Jenkins, "is based on a system of pluralistic democracy, then it can be deducted that any move away from pluralism must also correspond to moving away from the Community"...With this Jenkins has aligned himself with the U.S. State Department thesis, giving it an even more precise interpretation.