

SUBJECT: Alleged Role in Coup Plans of Valerio Junio Borghese

1. On 4 March 1969 an Italian Naval Intelligence Officer, who is in contact with one of my officers, told him the following:

He spoke of recent preliminary meetings of a number of personal influential friends of his who had discussed a coup. This officer stated that these unidentified friends were well established in both the Italian Government and private industry but had no formal organization and were bound by long standing personal friendships. The Italian officer asked the writer if a CIA rep would sit down and at least listen to the group and their proposed solution to Italian problems. He said that the group wanted a reliable reading on the position the U.S. Government would take in the event of a coup; i.e., would we oppose it and stick with the Center-Left Government. The American officer told his Italian colleague that CIA could not speak for the U.S. Government nor could CIA endorse such vague embryonic plans or ideas. The Italian refused to budge on revealing identities and replied negatively to the query whether Rodolfo Pacciardi and remnants of the Nuova Repubblica were involved.

2. On 4 April 1969 the Italian officer again raised the same subject stating that he would be meeting his coup plotting comrades anew and still needed some indication of U.S. Government reaction. He said that he and his friends were too practical to expect U.S. Government support and all they wanted to hear was that the U.S. Government would be neutral in the event of a coup. The Italian officer was told that CIA could not be responsive until we had some specific details on who were involved and what was planned. At this point the Italian stated that the primary personality involved was Valerio Junio Borghese. (The Italian to whom we were talking is a colleague of Borghese's from WW II and served with him in the ~~ex~~-Flotila Mas at La Spezia.)

3. On 25 May 1969 we learned from the above noted Italian intelligence officer that Borghese already had a contact with an unidentified U.S. intelligence official in Naples. Borghese, in talking to the Italian Naval Intelligence officer, alleged that he had friends in influential places in Washington, including the State Department. The Italian Naval Intelligence Officer went on to say that Borghese's movement had the respect and support of a wide range of Government officials and even politicians that begin with the right wing of the PSI and extend to the left wing of the MSI. The same source stated that when a coup did take place, it would be a combination of military men and the economic leadership of the country.

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4. In addition to the above, our files indicate that the Italian Ministry of Interior had a report in September 1969 of meetings taking place between Valerio Borghese, President of the Fronte Nazionale, and several Genovese industrialists: Alberto Calami, Sabastiano Calami, Giacomo Cambiaso, and Giacomo Berrino.

5. Our files also contain a record of conversation between Charles Stout, Second Secretary of the American Embassy and Prince Valerio Borghese on 26 January 1970. It is clear from the miscellaneous papers in our files that Borghese and his activities have been under some surveillance by Italian security officials for many years.

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