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INTERV. LONGO - VECCHIETTI - PARRI - ELEZIONI 1968

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E L E C T I O N S

Interview with Luigi LONGO - General Secretary of the ICP

Q.- Which are the new goals set to the forces of the left in regard to the new political situation which has been created after the elections of the 19th of May ?

R.- In order to define these goals we should consider well the whole importance and all the consequences emerging by the new situation which has been created by the advancement of the Italian Communist Party and of the United forces of the left. The vote of Italian citizens did not signify merely the defeat of the Unified Socialist Party but also represented a hard strike to the center-left co-alliance, it's formulas and it's politics. Therefore, these alliances do not ~~possess~~ possess any more the political or moral authority to direct the nation.

At present, the goal of all forces of the left, catholics and non-catholics, consists in destroying the old schemes with which the leaders of the Christian Democratic Party and of other parties of the Center-Left are still in the illusion of dominating the nation. The problem, however, that we are posing to ourselves and to all the forces of the left, lies in tearing down definitely and completely the artificial surroundings that for ~~xxx~~ twenty years kept Italy in such a division.

After the judgement of Luigi Longo, General Secretary of the Italian Communist Party, on the significances and perspectives opened to the country by the new and decisive advancement at the elections by the forces of the left wing, we are now listening to the deputy Tullio Vecchiotti, Secretary of the Socialist Party of Proletarian Unity.

Q.- Which, according to your opinion, should be the political goals in the future, posed to the left which resulted so strongly articulated during the last elections of the 19th of May ?

R.- I have already expressed my opinion at the press-conference that we held together with Longo and Parri, and therefore, I can only try to make clearer here our political position. The question now is to be able to receive all the impulses that come from the people, and from the special situation of our nation, and to interpret and develop them. We are facing some most basical problems, that is to say, a certain struggle in order to continue our development immediately after the elections, and that is also the struggle for the conditions of the working-class in a general sense. Concerning the freedom in the factories, our struggle will be until the final step of a satisfactory retirement-settlement, a problem of development of democracy in our society, and I must say, that the Italian society is a highly undemocratic one. We have noticed this fact also in the field of international politics. And as far as the withdrawal of Italy from the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation is concerned, we see in it a condition for the general renewal of our politics.

Q.- Do you think that by developing such a kind of struggle, an explosion can be produced that can bring into light all the contradictions of the interior world of catholics and also of the interior of The Unified Socialist Party ?

R.- I am convinced about it, because the crisis in the catholic world and also in the circles of the Unified Socialist Party is already a reality, and namely a reality that emerges from the fact of objective conditions of the development of capitalism and its bonds with imperialism, which hinders to keep the unity of the catholic world inside the Christian Democratic Party, as it has lasted for a long period of time.



It still hinders a social-democratic experience in Italy, and this happens at the same moment when such experiences fail also in foreign countries, and therefore we have to pose such a kind of a crisis to it's own level, to it's own political development, to it's own political conclusion, that means that we have to judge rightly such objective contradictions, like we have observed even during the ~~ke~~electoral campaign in some sectors of the catholic world, highly qualified in a political point of view, even though yet not so very important for it's quantity. We are now highly interested in the tendencies, that emerge from a new situation which has never been remarked after the second world war, in the symptomatic values, because many people deny the vote to the Christian-Democratic Party and moreover, place themselves to the left, in positions that coincide, more or less, depending on which political movement they belong.

Here is now the judgment of the Senator Ferruccio Parri on the contribution of the vote and on the juvenile protest, which resulted particularly to the victory of the left :

- Q.- Troubles and crisis in the Social-Democracy , as the electoral results themselves show, is particularly felt among the new generation of electors.
- R.- There is no doubt that among the new generation in general, is to be found a certain desire, a certain expectation, which were also the basis for the appeal that was initiated by myself and some friends of mine. And this is the search for an association, I would say, for a search of a liberation, a search which has very wide frontiers, as far as young people are concerned. The aims of the youth, in fact, are often not easily distinguishable, and not clearly definable, and often they put to themselves solutions that are beyond any political action, and solutions that give the impression of being fidelistic and doctrinal, but, at the same time, is representing their force in the country,

Force that we don't consider limited only to the students, but also to all the young people, that is, workers and youngsters with no a certain professional qualification. In these young people we find the vivid wish for a clearness and courage to face the society and its institutions, that they consider old-fashioned, and I must confess, that old persons like myself, have learned a lot by the young people, namely to see the society with other eyes than we have been used to, day-by day.

Q.- Anything else to add ?

R.- Yes, we were really used to our society. And now these young people come and open in a certain way our eyes and explain to us some truths, some situations that we old persons couldn't easily see in the whole. Nevertheless, we can bring on to young people also, our experience and our sense of political action, which they still do not possess. -