

Enrico Berlinguer Secretary of the

Communist Party in the first row at a PCI congress

Date

1969-1979

Medium

gelatin silver print

Description

The Italian Communist Party (PCI) was founded as Communist Party of Italy on 21 January 1921 in Livorno, by seceding from the Italian Socialist Party (PSI). Amadeo Bordiga and Antonio Gramsci led the split. It changed its name in 1943 to PCI and became the second largest political party of Italy after World War II, attracting the support of about a third of the voters during the 1970s. Enrico Berlinguer was national secretary of the Italian Communist Party (Partito Comunista Italiano or PCI) from 1972 until his death. In 1973, having been hospitalised after a car accident during a visit to Bulgaria (now widely considered an attempt on his life on orders from Moscow), Berlinguer wrote three famous articles ("Reflections on Italy", "After the facts of Chile" and "After the Coup [in Chile]") for the intellectual weekly magazine of the party, Rinascita. In these he presented the strategy of the so-called Historic Compromise, a proposed coalition between the Italian Communist Party and the Christian Democrats to grant Italy a period of political stability, at a time of severe economic crisis and in a context in which some forces were allegedly manoeuvring for a coup d'état in Italy.

Dimensions

Overall: 24.4 x 30.9 cm (9 5/8 x 12 1/8 in.)

