

Basic Detail Report

Giulio Andreotti and Carlo De Benedetti

Date

1969-1979

Medium

gelatin silver print

Description

Giulio Andreotti was the 41st Prime Minister of Italy and leader of the Christian Democracy party. Over the course of a forty-year political career, being seen as a reassuring figure by the civil service, business community, and Vatican. In foreign policy, he guided Italy's European Union integration, and established closer relations with the Arab world. At the height of his prestige as a statesman, Andreotti was subjected to damaging criminal prosecutions. Charged with colluding with Cosa Nostra, courts found he had broken the links by the eighties, and ruled the case out of time. Carlo De Benedetti is an Italian industrialist, engineer and publisher. For a brief period in 1976 he was appointed CEO of FIAT. His resignation from Fiat was caused, according to De Benedetti, by his decision to lay off 65,000 workers, which was refused by Fiat head Gianni Agnelli; other sources say that he was suspected of trying to build up a takeover of power within the company, with the backing Swiss financial groups. In November 1976, De Benedetti acquired the CIR Group, thereby also obtaining control of the national newspaper La Repubblica and the newsmagazine L'Espresso. In 1978 he became CEO of the Italian manufacturer Olivetti, where he remained until his resignation in 1996. As president of Olivetti, since 1983, he quickly and ruthlessly reorganised the company, switching its focus from mechanical typewriters to computers.

Dimensions

Overall: 30.8 x 24.3 cm (12 1/8 x 9 4/8 in.)