

Armed guards stand outside the building for

the Golpe Borghese trial

Date

1971-1979

Medium

gelatin silver print

Description

The Golpe Borghese was a failed Italian coup d'état allegedly planned for the night of 7 or 8 December 1970. It was named after Junio Valerio Borghese, an Italian World War II commander of the X^a MAS unit, the "Black Prince", convicted of fighting with Nazi Germany but not of war crimes, but still a hero in the eyes of many post-War Italian fascists. The coup attempt became publicly known when the left-wing journal Paese Sera ran the headline on the evening of March 18, 1971 : Subversive plan against the Republic: far-right plot discovered. This involved hundreds of neo-fascist militants, helped by 187 members of the Corpo Forestale dello Stato. The plan included the kidnapping of the Italian President Giuseppe Saragat, the murder of the head of the police Angelo Vicari, and the occupation of the Quirinale, the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Defense and Italian public television broadcaster RAI. Certain Army dissidents also planned to occupy Sesto San Giovanni, at that time a workers' town and a stronghold of the Italian Communist Party. Apparently some militants briefly entered the Ministry of the Interior, but Borghese suspended the coup a few hours before its final phase. Three trials were started for conspiracy against the Italian state.

Dimensions

Overall: 20.3 x 30.4 cm (8 x 12 in.)