

Basic Detail Report

Collecting signatures in favour of the

referendum about the divorce law

Date

1971-1971

Medium

gelatin silver print

Description

Extract from the Register Guard Newspaper Jan 21 1971: "Three anti-divorce organisations have been formed on a nation-wide scale. They say they are confident the people in a referendum will reject this Roman Catholic land's controversial, seven-week-old divorce law. One of the three groups, the Catholic Alliance, has applied to courts for permission to start collecting 500,000 voter signatures, a requisite for a national referendum. The other two plan to follow suit.... So far only one divorce has been granted. The calendars of civil courts were jammed before divorce became a law of the land. Hundreds of applicant are pending." Divorce was introduced in Italy by law of 1 December 1970. An abrogative referendum supported by Catholic organisations and by the Vatican was defeated on May 12, 1974. A constitutional issue had been also raised with regard to Italy's obligations under the Lateran Treaty, entered into in 1929, on whether it prohibited Italy from authorising divorce. Before 1970, there was no provision for divorce in Italian law, and the difficulty of ridding oneself of an unwanted spouse in the absence of any legal way to do so was a frequent topic of drama and humour, reaching its apotheosis in the 1961 film *Divorce, Italian Style*.

Dimensions

Overall: 30.2 x 21.1 cm (11 7/8 x 8 3/8 in.)

