

Enrico Berlinguer and Nicole Jotti at the funeral for the Italian Communist Party secretary, Pietro Secchia

Date

1973-1973

Medium

gelatin silver print

Description

Pietro Secchia was a politician and anti-Fascist, and was a high up and important member of the Italian Communist Party. From the late Sixties he devoted himself to international politics , he fought for the emancipation and independence of Africa. In January 1972 he flew to Chile, where he supported the progressive government of Salvador Allende : - he was the last western leader to visit the Latin American nation before the advent of the dictatorship of Augusto Pinochet . On his return to Italy he was seized by an illness that kept him between life and death for some months. Although he did not have the evidence to, he believed that he was poisoned by the CIA . He died in July 1973. 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: 18.3 x 24.5 cm (7 2/8 x 9 5/8 in.)