

Basic Detail Report

At the funeral of Italian Communist

politician, Pietro Secchia, the pallbearers prepare to carry the coffin. They are, (L-R) Giancarlo Pajetta, Arturo Colombi, Emilio Sereni, and Armando Cossutta and Enrico Berlinguer

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. Arturo Colombi was an Italian politician, member of the Communist Party, a journalist and a trade unionist. Armando Cossutta was an Italian communist politician. Born in Milan, Cossutta joined the Italian Communist Party (PCI) in 1943, and took part in the Italian resistance movement as a partisan. After World War II, he became one of the leading members of the party, representing the most pro-Soviet Union tendency; his belief in

that country as the "Leading state" of communism led him to criticise Enrico Berlinguer. Emilio Sereni (1907 - 1977) was a writer and intellectual, a partisan, politician (with the Communist Party) and historian of Italian agriculture, having written the popular 'History of the Italian Agricultural Landscape'. Giancarlo Pajetta was an Italian communist politician. Pajetta was born in Turin and became a member of the Italian Communist Party during his youth. In 1948 he became a member of the National Secretariat of the PCI and rose to become highly respected in the party, and was not afraid to disagree with older members. 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 24.4 cm (7 2/8 x 9 5/8 in.)