leS. to the NEWS
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CONNALLY'S PROJECT

In the winter of 1947-48, the Communists in Italy were confident of victory in the April general elections. They were much better organized and financed than the other political parties. The polls indicated that they would **win.**

Then an amazing thing happened. An Italian-American barber living on Long Island became concerned. He persuaded his relatives and friends to write to their friends in Italy urging them to work and vote against the Communists. Next he persuaded the big Italian-American societies and other organizations to have their members do likewise.

It was estimated that five million American letters poured into Italy during the month before the election. Thanks to those letters, on April 18-19, 1948, the Christian Democrats decisively defeated the Communist Popular Front party.

Now 28 years later, Italy faces a similar crisis. The polls indicate that the Communist Party may win the big election on June 20 and 21. Fortunately, one American citizen has made it his personal mission to help the Italian anti-Communists. He is former Texas Governor John B. Connally, Jr. He will always be remembered for being shot by one of the bullets aimed at President John Kennedy in Dallas on November 22, 1963.

Connally has formed the Citizens Alliance for Mediterranean Freedom. He is urging the 25 million Italian-Americans to write and persuade their Italian relatives and friends to vote against the

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Comn:m:nists in the ,June el,3ction.

It is perhaps fortunate that Governor eonnally is not Italian, not Homan Catholic, apparently has no relatives in Italy, and has no official position in the United States GoYC!rnment. His advice to the Italian people cannot be attacked as biased by nationality or religion or politics.

If It<tly votes in a Gom.munist ir,over:nment, then the Italian Com ,;nmists would participat(o in 1JA'J:O ln:m.i, ::.ea, c:1nd aix plans end maneuvers for the defense of ru.rope from Communist invasion. n-.wre is no provision in NA,.rro' s chRrte-r to freeze out a member from sensi tjv£· deliberations. Communist control of Italy would l,e a sevt1re blow to tbe security and independence of the entire testern world.

In a recent a dress given at the Center for Strategic and lnternattonal Studies at Geo.rgeto·wn Unlversi ty, former A..ilnissador to Italy Clare Boothe Luco f0c11s d clearly in the interrelations ip ·betwf,en Italy, the Soviet l)utm::, am1 *l.!.:3.* foreign policy. '".r'here would be no Italian Communist }n·obh i, she satd, '.1if there were no ,oviet Union detcrmi.nerl to achieve lrngemony o-ver the Hiddle East i3lld the oil that is the l ifebloofl. of f.urope ts economy, determined to make the Mediterranean a Russian lake, determined to collapse NA'.110••• s There would he no Italian Communist problem if the Italian people did not feel that the Untted States has .no policy today that promises them any hope that they will not, in the end, be relentlessly drown into the orbit of Moscow. *11*

John Connally is to 1>B p:-::-al•:H?:rl :ifor d.-::voting ln.s energies and funds to the cause of saving Italy f1·om Comm1.mist control.

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