

UNCLASSIFIED

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Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1980ROME16711

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a
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PAGE 01 ROME 16711 281557Z
ACTION OCS-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ADS-00 SSO-00 PA-02 OPR-02 /023 W
-----018005 281611Z /66

O 000015Z
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9726
INFO AMCONSUL FLORENCE
AMCONSUL GENOA
AMCONSUL MILAN
AMCONSUL NAPLES
AMCONSUL PALERMO
AMCONSUL TRIESTE
AMCONSUL TURIN
FAA WASHDC

UNCLAS ROME 16711

FAA

E.O. 12065: N/A
TAGS: OGEN, EAIR
SUBJECT: CRASH OF ITAVIA IH - 870 FLIGHT FROM BOLOGNA
TO PALERMO AT APPROX. 21:00.

REF: SEPTTEL ROME 6/28/80

PER TELECOM EMBASSY HAS CONFIRMATION FROM ITALIAN
AUTHORITIES THAT NO REPEAT NO AMERICAN CITIZENS ON
FLIGHT IH - 870. GARDNER

NNN

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: ERIC W. FLEISHER
DATE/CASE ID: 23 SEP 2002 200102359

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Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1980ROME16725

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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PAGE 01 ROME 16725 301114Z
ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ADS-00 FAA-00 DOTE-00 OCS-06 CA-01
OC-06 CCO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00
COME-00 SY-05 SYE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 PA-02 OPR-02
/053 W

-----029947 301127Z /17

O 301111Z JUN 80
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9733
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMCONSUL FLORENCE
AMCONSUL PALERMO

UNCLAS ROME 16725

PASS FAA AND NTSB
BRUSSELS FOR FAA

E.O. 12065:N/A
TAGS: EAIR, IT
SUBJECT: CIVAIR: CRASH OF ITAVIA IH-870 (DC-9) OVER
TYRRHENIAN SEA

REF: (A) STATE 170021; (B) ROME 16709; (C) ROME 16711;
(D) 10 FAM 521.7B

1. IN ADDITION TO INFORMATION SENT REFS B AND C,
FOLLOWING DATA PROVIDED IN ACCORDANCE FORMAT SET OUT IN
REF D:

- (1) ACCID
- (2) TYPE AND MODEL: MCDONNELL-DOUGLAS DC-9-10;
- NATIONALITY: ITALIAN; REGISTRATION MARK: ITIGI

PAGE 02 ROME 16725 301114Z

- (3) OWNER AND OPERATOR: ITAVIA

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: ERIC W. FLEISHER
DATE/CASE ID: 23 SEP 2002 200102359

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CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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(4) PILOT: GATTI

(5) DATE AND TIME (GMT) OF ACCIDENT: JUNE 27, 1980
AT ABOUT 2257

(6) LAST POINT OF DEPARTURE: BOLOGNA; POINT OF INTENDED
LANDING: PALERMO.

(7) POSITION OF AIRCRAFT (AT TIME OF ACCIDENT): ABOUT
135 KILOMETERS SOUTH OF ISLAND OF PONZA OR NEAR 39-40N
AND 12-55E.

(8) CREW: 4; PASSENGERS: 77; DECEASED: 81.

(9) NATURE OF ACCIDENT: CAUSE NOT YET ESTABLISHED.
AIRCRAFT TOTALLY DEMOLISHED. PILOT HAD JUST RECEIVED
PERMISSION TO DESCEND FROM 29,000 FEET TO 27,000 FEET.
EXACT ALTITUDE AT TIME OF ACCIDENT NOT PRECISELY KNOWN.

(10) ACCIDENT INQUIRY BOARD ALREADY HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED
BY DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION, MINISTRY OF
TRANSPORT. CHAIRMAN IS DR. CARLO LUZZATI, AIRPORT DIRECTOR
AT ALGERO, SARDINIA. DIRECTOR OF CIVILAVIA AIR
NAVIGATION SERVICE, MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT INDICATED THAT
ITALIAN AUTHORITIES DESIRED THE PARTICIPATION OF THE NTSB
AND MCDONNELL-DOUGLAS IN THE ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION.
EMBASSY HAS NOT RECEIVED AS YET A FORMAL REQUEST FOR
NTSB PARTICIPATION.

(11) CHARACTERISTICS OF ACCIDENT AREA: OVER TYRRHENIAN
SEA.

PAGE 03

ROME 16725 301114Z

(12) REMARKS: BODIES AND DEBRIS, INCLUDING TAIL CONE,
HAVE BEEN FOUND MORE THAN 20 MILES APART BETWEEN THE
ISLANDS OF PONZA AND USTICA. THE AIRCRAFT, S/N 45724,
MANUFACTURED IN 1966, HAD 29,544 HOURS AND 45,932 LANDINGS
AS OF JUNE 26. SKY CONDITION REPORTED AS CLEAR.
AUTHORITIES HAVE NOT SPECULATED WITH US ON CAUSE OF
ACCIDENT. PRESS HAS SPECULATED, APPARENTLY WITHOUT ANY
SUPPORTING EVIDENCE, THAT ACCIDENT WAS CAUSED BY AN
EXPLOSION OR A MID-AIR INCIDENT. GARDNER

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Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002.

DOC_NBR: 1980ROME16978

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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PAGE 01 ROME 16978 021351Z
ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ADS-00 FAA-00 DOTE-00 COME-00
CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 /031 W
-----048474 021402Z /42

O 021350Z JUL 80
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9859
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

UNCLAS ROME 16978

PASS FAA AND NTSB ELECTRONICALLY
BRUSSELS FOR FAA

E.A.12065: N/A
TAGS: EAIR, IT
SUBJECT: CIVAIR: ITAVIA DC-9 CRASH

REF: STATE 171402

1. AFTER EMBASSY ADVISED ITALIAN AUTHORITIES THAT WRITTEN REQUEST (IN FORM OF TELEX IF DESIRED) FOR NTSB SERVICES WAS NECESSARY, MFA OFFICIAL ADVISED US ON JULY 2 THAT HE WAS SENDING EMBASSY A NOTE VERBALE CONTAINING SUCH A REQUEST. HE SAID THAT EMBASSY PROBABLY WOULD NOT RECEIVE NOTE FOR ANOTHER DAY OR TWO AND ASKED THAT WE TRANSMIT REQUEST ON BASIS TELEPHONED STENOGRAPHIC TEXT. TRANSLATION OF THAT TEXT FOLLOWS IN PARA 2.

2. BEGIN TEXT. (COURTESY OPENING). FOLLOWING THE IN-FLIGHT ACCIDENT OF THE MCDONNELL-DOUGLAS DC-9 AIRCRAFT, REGISTRATION I-TIGI, WHICH OCCURRED ON JUNE 27 NORTH OF THE ISLAND OF USTICA OVER OPEN SEA, THE RESPONSIBLE ITALIAN AUTHORITIES CONSIDER IT USEFUL TO HAVE AVAILABLE FOR THE ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION

PAGE 02 ROME 16978 021351Z

EXPERT AND QUALIFIED TECHNICIANS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. (COURTESY CLOSE). END TEXT.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: ERIC W. FLEISHER
DATE/CASE ID: 23 SEP 2002 200102359

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DOC_NBR: 1980ROME16978

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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3. CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN EMBASSY/FAA AND ITALIAN OFFICIALS INDICATE THAT THIS RATHER VAGUE TEXT IS INTENDED TO BE A REQUEST FOR NTSB SERVICES AND MFA OFFICER WHO DICTATED THE TEXT STATED THAT SUCH WAS THE INTENTION OF THE ITALIAN AUTHORITIES.

4. BEFORE WE RECEIVED MFA TEXT BY TELEPHONE WE ADVISED CIVILAVIA BY TELEX (ON BASIS REFTEL) THAT NTSB HAD APPOINTED ACCREDITED US REPRESENTATIVE WHO IS PREPARED TO COME TO ITALY AFTER SUFFICIENT WRECKAGE IS RECOVERED.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: PROVIDE GUIDANCE FOR RESPONSE TO MFA AND CIVILAVIA. ADVISE ASAP IF TEXT OF REQUEST CONSIDERED INSUFFICIENT. GARDNER

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Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1980ROME20544

CHANNEL: n/a
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PAGE 01 ROME 20544 211252Z POSS DUPE
ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ADS-00 SYE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10
NSAE-00 EB-08 FAA-00 DOTE-00 FBIE-00 DODE-00
DCT-02 ANAE-00 /038 W

-----019670 211615Z /40

R 200758Z AUG 80
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1723
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

UNCLAS ROME 20544

BRUSSELS FOR FAA

E.O. 12065: N/A
TAGS: EAIR, IT
SUBJ: POSSIBLE LINK BETWEEN BOLOGNA AND ITALIAN
AIRLINER EXPLOSIONS JUNE 27

1. ITALIAN AUTHORITIES ARE INVESTIGATING THE POSSIBILITY OF A LINK BETWEEN THE DC-9 CRASH IN USTICA AND THE BOMBING OF THE BOLOGNA RAILROAD STATION. THE DC-9 FLIGHT ORIGINATED IN BOLOGNA AND AT ONE POINT THERE WAS A REPORT THAT RIGHT WING MARCO AFFATIGATO HAD BEEN ABOARD AND BLEW UP THE PLANE. AFFATIGATO LATER TURNED UP BUT WAS ONCE AGAIN CONSIDERED A PRIME SUSPECT FOR THE BOLOGNA RAILROAD DISASTER. AS YET, HOWEVER, THERE IS NOTHING FIRM LINKING THE TWO INCIDENTS.

2. FAA REP WILL FOLLOW INVESTIGATION AND REPORT CONCLUSIONS REACHED BY ITALIAN AUTHORITIES AS SOON AS THEY ARE KNOWN. PAGANELLI

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Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1980STATE171402

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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PAGE 01 STATE 171402
ORIGIN EB-08

INFO OCT-00 EUR-12 ADS-00 SSO-00 FAA-00 DOTE-00 COME-00
CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 INRE-00 /030 R

DRAFTED BY EB/OA/AVP:GCCOUEY:SR
APPROVED BY S/ RSSTEVEN

-----021714 290640Z /12

O 290617Z JUN 80 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ROME NIACT IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 171402

E.O. 12065: N/A

TAGS:EAIR, IT, CASC

SUBJECT: CIVAIR ITAVIA DC-9 AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT JUNE 27, 1980

REF: ROME 16709

1. MCDONNELL -DOUGLAS ENGINEERS STEVE LUND AND FRED KAIZUC-
KA ARRIVING ROME ON PAN AM FLIGHT NO. 110 AT 0900 MONDAY
JUNE 30 TO ASSIST IN INVESTIGATION OF SUBJECT ACCIDENT.
NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD (NTSB) HAS APPOINTED
ACCREDITED US REPRESENTATIVE WHO WILL GO TO ITALY AFTER
SUFFICIENT WRECKAGE IS RECOVERED. AT SATURDAY EVENING JUNE
28 THE DEPARTMENT HAS NOT RPT NOT RECEIVED A FORMAL REQUEST
FROM ITALIAN CIVAIR AUTHORITIES FOR ASSISTANCE FROM NTSB. CHRISTOPHER

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Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1980STATE305237

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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PAGE 01 STATE 305237
ORIGIN EB-08

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INFO OCT-00 EUR-12 ADS-00 FAA-00 DOTE-00 /020 R

DRAFTED BY EB/OA/AVP:GCCOUEY:HVV
APPROVED BY EB/OA/AVP:TCCOLWELL
EUR/WE:EJBEIGEL (INFO.)
NTSB/AI-30:WRHENDRICKS (SUBS.)

-----008931 160451Z /15

R 151528Z NOV 80
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ROME

UNCLAS STATE 305237

EMBASSY FOR RANDOLPH REED

E.O. 12065: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, IT

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: ITAVIA IH-870 DC-9 ACCIDENT, TYRRHENIAN
SEA, JUNE 27, 1980

REFS: ROME 16978 AND PREVIOUS

PLEASE PASS FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO:

- DR. CARLO LUZZATTI
- C/O RICCARDO PERESEMPIO
- MINISTERO DEI TRASPORTI
- DIREZIONE GENERALE AVIAZIONE CIVILE
- SERVIZIO NAVIGAZIONE AEREA
- VIA CRISTOFORO COLOMBO 420
- ROMA

BEGIN TEXT.

PAGE 02 STATE 305237

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD (NTSB) HAS COMPLETED
EVALUATION OF RADAR DATA ON SUBJECT ACCIDENT WHICH YOU


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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: WILLIAM J. GEHRON
DATE/CASE ID: 25 FEB 2003 200102359

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DOC_NBR: 1980STATE305237

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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FORWARDED TO IT. PLEASE ADVISE NTSB OF DATE PREFERRED FOR
REVIEW MEETING IN WASHINGTON. END TEXT. MUSKIE


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Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1981MOSCOW11783

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a
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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 11783 211443Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 INR-10 SS-15 CIAE-00 EB-08 DODE-00
NEA-06 NSC-05 NSAE-00 PM-09 PA-01 DOTE-00 FAA-00
SP-02 SPRS-02 /071 W

-----267035 211446Z /44

P 211441Z AUG 81
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6131
USICA WASHDC PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

[REDACTED] MOSCOW 11783

SECSTATE FOR EURE/SOV

USICA FOR EU

E.O. 12065: GDS 8/21/87 (SHERROD MCCALL) OR-M
TAGS: MOPS, SOPN, UR, IT, US
SUBJECT: TASS DISPATCH ON DOWNED ITAVIA PASSENGER
PLANE

REF: ROME 19830-C

1. ([REDACTED] -ENTIRE TEXT)

2. AUGUST 20 EVENING TASS WIRE CARRIED ITEM ON
MYSTERIOUS CRASH OF ITAVIA DC-9 PASSENGER PLANE JUNE 28,
1980. ACCORDING TO THE DISPATCH "THE PLANE WAS SHOT
BY A MISSILE OR COLLIDED WITH AN AIR FORCE PLANE.
THIS HYPOTHESIS ... HAS BEEN STATED BY CARLO LUZZATI,
CHAIRMAN OF THE SPECIAL GOVERNMENTAL COMMISSION
INVESTIGATING THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DC-9 INCIDENT."
ITEM STATES THAT LIFE JACKETS BEARING U.S. NAVY
MARKINGS WERE SUBSEQUENTLY FOUND NEAR WRECKAGE AREA
AND THAT ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS "PLANES OF THE

PAGE 02 MOSCOW 11783 211443Z

U.S. NAVY CARRYING SUPERSENSITIVE ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT
MAKE REGULAR INTELLIGENCE FLIGHTS IN THE AREA OF

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Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

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DOC_NBR: 1981MOSCOW11783

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

10

TYRRHENIAN SEA, IN PARTICULAR, IN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO LIBYA." TASS SUBSEQUENTLY QUOTES AN ITALIAN CIVILIAN PILOT AS HAVING TOLD "PAESE SERA" THAT NATO INTERCEPTORS FLY ABOUT THE MEDITERRANEAN "WITHOUT ANY ADVANCE NOTICE OR CONTROL BY CIVIL AUTHORITIES," AND THAT "AMERICAN AND NATO PILOTS, FAR FROM DISPLAYING CAUTION, CONVERSELY, 'TRAIN' IN PURSUING AIRLINERS MAKING SCHEDULED FLIGHTS AND SIMULATE ATTACKS ON THEM."
2. TASS ITEM WAS CARRIED IN AUGUST 21 EDITIONS OF "TRUD" AND "SOTSIALISTICHESKAYA INDUSTRIYA."
3. TASS DISPATCH MAY BE BASED ON CURRENT QUOTES FROM ITALIAN PRESS OR IT MIGHT BE USING MATERIAL DATING BACK TO TIME OF INCIDENT. IN EITHER CASE, THE REFERENCE TO AMERICAN MILITARY FLIGHTS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN FITS IN WELL WITH THE CURRENT SOVIET EFFORT TO DEPICT OUR RECENT DOWNING OF THE TWO LIBYAN PLANES AS FURTHER EVIDENCE OF U.S. "MILITARISM" AND INTERNATIONAL LAWLESSNESS. MATLOCK

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Date Printed:
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DOC_NBR: 1981STATE225689

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PAGE 01 STATE 225689
ORIGIN EB-08

INFO OCT-00 ADS-00 EUR-12 COME-00 DOTE-00 FAA-00 /020 R

DRAFTED BY EB/OA/AVP:KMILLIKEN:HW
APPROVED BY EB/OA/AVP:TCCOLWELL
NTSB:WHENDRICKS
EUR/WE:JCREAGON

-----344207 250008Z /71

P 242214Z AUG 81
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 225689

E.O. 12065: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, IT

SUBJECT: ITAVIA DC-9 I-TIGA AIR ACCIDENT

1. PLEASE RELAY FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO CARLO LUZZATTI,
PRESIDENT, COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY, ITAVIA DC-9 I-TIGA AIR
ACCIDENT.

2. BEGIN TEXT. BECAUSE THE TWA ACCIDENT IN THE IONIAN
SEA OCCURRED ALMOST 7 YEARS AGO, THE NTSB FILES CONCERNING
THIS ACCIDENT ARE IN STORAGE. IT WILL TAKE APPROXIMATELY
THREE WEEKS TO RETRIEVE THEM. THE REPORT WHICH YOU HAVE
REQUESTED WILL BE FORWARDED AT THAT TIME BY THE MOST
EXPEDITIOUS METHOD. SINCERELY, WILLIAM R. HENDRICKS,
CHIEF, AVIATION ACCIDENT DIVISION. END TEXT. HAIG

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Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1982ROME14140

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a
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PAGE 01 ROME 14140 151438Z
ACTION EB-08

INFO	OCT-00	COPY-01	ADS-00	INR-10	EUR-12	SS-10	CIAE-00
	DODE-00	NSC-01	NSAE-00	COME-00	SY-05	HA-06	L-03
	PM-09	PA-01	MCT-02	CAB-05	DOTE-00	STR-14	FAA-00
	ICAE-00	SPRS-02	/089 W				

-----371710 151635Z /53

R 151433Z JUN 82
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8080
INFO AMCONSUL PALERMO
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT
COMSIXTHFLT

██████████ ROME 14140

E.O. 12065: N/A
TAGS: EAIR, MILI, IT
SUBJECT: RECENT ALLEGED AIR INCIDENTS

1. SEVERAL RECENT REPORTS HAVE ALLEGED INTERFERENCE, PRESUMABLY BY MILITARY AIRCRAFT, WITH ITALIAN CIVIL AIRCRAFT OPERATING OVER THE AREA BETWEEN ROME, SICILY AND SARDINIA. ITALIAN POLITICIANS, PILOTS AND JOURNALISTS HAVE RAISED THE ISSUE OF CIVILIAN AIR TRAVEL SAFETY IN THE REGION; ITALIANS TEND TO SUSPECT INVOLVEMENT OF U.S. MILITARY AIRCRAFT IN THESE INCIDENTS. PUBLICATION OF INFORMATION WHICH SHOWS NO U.S. OR NATO INVOLVEMENT HAS DEFUSED THESE CHARGES, BUT HAS NOT LESSENED THE APPREHENSION OVER FLIGHT SAFETY IN THE AREA.

2. UNDERLYING THESE FEARS ARE THE UNRESOLVED QUESTIONS SURROUNDING THE JUNE 1980 CRASH OF A DC-9 NEAR THE ISLAND OF USTICA IN WHICH 81 PEOPLE WERE KILLED; THAT CRASH IS STILL "UNDER INVESTIGATION". SUSPICION

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PAGE 02 ROME 14140 151438Z

IS WIDESPREAD THAT THE PLANE WAS SHOT DOWN BY A MISSILE. THESE RECENT INCIDENTS, WITHIN THE SPACE OF A MONTH, HAVE LED TO HEIGHTENED SENSI-

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DOC_NBR: 1982ROME14140

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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TIVITY OVER THE ACTIVITIES OF U.S. MILITARY AIRCRAFT IN THE TYRRHENIAN SEA. THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE IS CONFRONTED WITH PARLIAMENTARY INTERPELLATIONS AND CALLS FOR TIGHTER CONTROLS ON NATO AND SIXTH FLEET EXERCISES.

3. FOR DEPARTMENT'S INFORMATION, FOLLOWING IS A BRIEF REVIEW OF THE RECENT INCIDENTS:

-- MAY 15:

--- THE PILOT OF A DC-9 FLYING FROM MILAN TO PALERMO REPORTED ENCOUNTERING A NEARBY MYSTERIOUS FLASH AND VIBRATIONS/EXPLOSION BETWEEN THE ISLANDS OF PONZA AND USTICA. THE PILOT ASSUMED THAT A ROCKET, MISSILE OR SUPERSONIC AIRCRAFT HAD PASSED HIM. UNFORTUNATELY, THE U.S.-ITALIAN JOINT EXERCISE "DISTANT DRUM 82" WAS UNDERWAY IN THE SAME AREA AT THAT TIME, AND SUSPICION IMMEDIATELY FOCUSED ON AN ITALIAN OR U.S. MILITARY AIRCRAFT AS THE SOURCE OF THE "EXPLOSION". IN FACT, RECORDS SHOWED THAT U.S. AND ITALIAN MILITARY AIRCRAFT WERE WELL BELOW THE ALTITUDE OF THE DC-9, AND THAT ALL ORDINANCE DELIVERED DURING THE EXERCISE WAS AIR-TO-SURFACE; THE EXERCISING AIRCRAFT CARRIED NO ROCKETS OR MISSILES. AS YET, THERE IS NO EXPLANATION FOR THE INCIDENT.

-- MAY 14 (BUT REPORTED MAY 19):

--- THE PILOT OF AN AIR TAXI FROM TURIN TO PALERMO

PAGE 03 ROME 14140 151438Z

ALLEGED THAT HE WAS INTERCEPTED AND FOLLOWED AT CLOSE DISTANCE BY A FIGHTER PLANE. HOWEVER, RECORDS SHOW THAT ALL U.S. AIRCRAFT IN THE AREA WERE BACK ABOARD THEIR HOME CARRIER AT THE TIME OF THE INCIDENT. AGAIN, NO EXPLANATION.

-- JUNE 2:

--- ROME CIVIL AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL WARNED AN AIR TAXI ON ITS WAY FROM ROME TO SARDINIA THAT IT WAS ABOUT TO ENTER A NOTIFIED SIXTH FLEET EXERCISE AREA OUTSIDE OF ROME'S RADAR RANGE, AND THAT THE SAFETY OF THE FLIGHT COULD NOT BE ASSURED. PERHAPS

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CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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FRIGHTENED BY THE PRECEDING TWO EVENTS, THE PILOT DECIDED TO TURN BACK. RECALLING PREVIOUS INCIDENTS, PRESS REPORTS STRESSED THE DANGER FROM MILITARY AIRCRAFT WHILE SLIGHTING THE FACT THAT THE PILOT HAD ENCOUNTERED NO OTHER PLANES. ALL SIXTH FLEET AIRCRAFT WERE BACK ON BOARD WELL BEFORE THE PILOT DECIDED TO ABORT HIS FLIGHT. (WE BELIEVE IT LIKELY THAT THIS INCIDENT REFLECTS CONTINUING UNHAPPINESS OF ITALIAN CIVIL AIR CONTROLLERS, AND THEIR EFFORTS TO OBTAIN MORE MONEY AND BETTER EQUIPMENT BY DRAMATIZING THEIR ROLE.)

4. COMMENT: THESE ALLEGED INCIDENTS, IN ADDITION TO EVOKING GENUINE CONCERN FOR THE SAFETY OF CIVIL AIR TRAFFIC OVER THE TYRRHENIAN SEA, HAVE ALSO PROVIDED THE OPPORTUNITY FOR EXPLOITATION OF BIASES AGAINST THE U.S. MILITARY PRESENCE IN ITALY. THOUGH WE AND THE ITALIAN MINISTRY OF DEFENSE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO DEMONSTRATE THUS FAR TO THOSE WHO WILL LISTEN THAT THERE WAS NO U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN THESE INCIDENTS, THE CONCERN AND SUSPICION MAY REMAIN. BRIDGES

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Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1982ROME21575

CHANNEL: n/a
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PAGE 01 ROME 21575 231001Z
ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 EUR-12 L-03 CAB-05 DOTE-00
FAA-00 JUSE-00 /029 W

-----036662 231753Z /53

R 231000Z SEP 82
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1221

UNCLAS ROME 21575

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: EAIR, IT
SUBJECT: CIVAIR: ITAVIA DC-9 CRASH INTO TYRRHENIAN
SEA, JUNE 27, 1980

REF: STATE 248861

1. CIVIL AVIATION OFFICIAL INVESTIGATING ITAVIA DC-9
CRASH INFORMS US THAT OFFICIAL GOI REPORT ON THE
SUBJECT CRASH HAS NOT BEEN COMPLETED.
2. WE WILL FORWARD COPY OF REPORT TO DEPARTMENT AS SOON
AS IT IS AVAILABLE. RABB

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Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1983STATE268142

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a
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PAGE 01 STATE 268142
ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 INR-10 OIC-02 CIAE-00 EB-08
EA-10 DODE-00 IO-15 NSAE-00 MCT-02 /060 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/WE:EJBEIGEL:MS
APPROVED BY EUR/WE - ROBERT PECK
EA/C:SYOUNG
EUR/P:CSYLVESTER
EB/AVP:SKEITER
EUR/SOV:RWINDSOR

-----232063 210044Z /72

P R 202245Z SEP 83
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BEIJING PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI 4699

STATE 268142

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O 12356 NA
TAGS:PREL, EAIR, UR, US, KS, IT
SUBJECT:SOVIET ALLEGATION REGARDING 1980 CIVILIAN AIRLINER
CRASH NEAR SICILY
REF: BEIJING 14144 (REPEATED TO ROME)

1. DEPARTMENT HAS NO OTHER REPORTS OF SOVIET APPROACH ALONG
LINES REFTEL. IN ANY EVENT, BEIJING AND OTHER ADDRESSEES
MAY DRAW UPON FOLLOWING UNCLASSIFIED BACKGROUND INFO-
RMATION SHOULD THIS SUBJECT AGAIN BE MENTIONED.

PAGE 02 STATE 268142

2. IN JUNE 1980 A DC-9 BELONGING TO ITAVIA, A DOMESTIC
ITALIAN AIRLINE, CRASHED INTO THE TYRRHENIAN SEA SOUTHWEST
OF NAPLES ABOUT SIXTY KILOMETERS FROM ITS DESTINATION. ALL

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Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1983STATE268142

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

16

81 PERSONS ABOARD THE BOLOGNA-PALERMO FLIGHT PERISHED. IN A STATEMENT TO THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES IN DECEMBER, FOLLOWING AN INVESTIGATION IN WHICH THE NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD PARTICIPATED, THE ITALIAN TRANSPORTATION MINISTER SAID THAT THE CAUSE OF THE CRASH COULD NOT BE DETERMINED WITH CERTAINTY BUT THAT IT WAS THE RESULT OF AN EXPLOSION QUOTE EITHER FROM INSIDE OR OUTSIDE UNQUOTE. WHILE THERE WAS PUBLIC SPECULATION THAT THE AIRCRAFT MIGHT HAVE BEEN HIT BY A MISSILE THAT HAD MISTAKEN IT FOR A TARGET DRONE, NO MILITARY SERVICE, EITHER ITALIAN OR OTHERWISE, ADMITTED TO ANY OPERATION IN THE AREA OF THE FATAL FLIGHT. A 1982 BBC DOCUMENTARY ON THE EPISODE ALSO SPECULATED THAT A LIBYAN MILITARY AIRCRAFT MIGHT HAVE BEEN INVOLVED. THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ITALIAN OFFICIAL INVESTIGATION PANEL WAS REPORTED AS SAYING THAT THERE WAS NO PROOF THE AIRCRAFT HAD BEEN HIT BY A MISSILE. NO ITALIAN OFFICIAL REPORT HAS EVER BEEN ISSUED.

3. BY COINCIDENCE A SIMILAR INCIDENT OCCURRED IN MAY 1982 WHEN THE PILOT OF AN ALITALIA DC-9 EN ROUTE FROM MILAN TO PALERMO REPORTED A MID-AIR QUOTE EXPLOSION UNQUOTE NEAR THE AIRLINER AS IT APPROACHED ITS DESTINATION. THIS OCCURRED WHEN A MULTINATIONAL MILITARY EXERCISE WAS TAKING PLACE IN THE TYRRHENIAN SEA. THERE WERE NO CASUALTIES ON THE AIRCRAFT.

4. FOR ROME: 82 ROME 21575 INDICATES THAT THE OFFICIAL INVESTIGATION OF -THE 1980 CRASH WAS NOT YET CONCLUDED

PAGE 03 STATE 268142

AS OF A YEAR AGO. PLEASE ADVISE IF THERE HAS BEEN ANY CHANGE IN THIS SITUATION.

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16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1987ROME13608

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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PAGE 01 ROME 13608 041735Z
ACTION EUR-00

INFO LOG-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 INR-10 CIAE-00 EB-08 NSAE-00
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O 041726Z JUN 87
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5034
DEPT OF TRANS WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO USEUCOM AIDES VAIHINGEN GE
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK//N2//
FAA WASHDC
HQ USAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE

ROME 13608

TRANSPORTATION PASS NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: EAIR, PTER, PREL, IT, US
SUBJECT: APPEAL FOR HELP IN EXAMINING BLACK BOX
RECOVERED FROM USTICA AIR CRASH

REFS: (A) 86 USDAO ROME 24446 (B) 86 USDAO ROME 26278

1. [REDACTED] - ENTIRE TEXT.
2. THIS IS AN ACTION MESSAGE. SEE PARAS 8 AND 9.
3. ON JUNE 4 ITALIAN INVESTIGATING MAGISTRATE VITTORIO BUCCARELLI APPROACHED EMBOFF TO REQUEST U.S. ASSISTANCE IN THE INVESTIGATION WHICH HE IS CONDUCTING INTO THE AUGUST 27, 198U, CRASH OF AN ITAVIA DC-9 IN THE MEDITERRANEAN OFF THE ISLAND OF USTICA. BUCCARELLI EXPLAINED THAT ITALIAN AUTHORITIES WITH THE AID OF A FRENCH MINI-SUB HAD JUST RECOVERED THE AIRCRAFT'S BLACK BOX FROM WHERE IT HAD LAIN ON THE SEA FLOOR UNDER MORE

PAGE 02 ROME 13608 041735Z

THAN 3, UUU METERS OF WATER. NO ITALIAN LABORATORY IS CAPABLE OF PROPERLY EXAMINING THE CONTENTS OF THE BOX

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16 Apr 2002

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HANDLING: n/a

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WHICH HAVE SUFFERED FROM SUCH A LONG EXPOSURE TO THE SEA. "COULD A U.S. LABORATORY UNDERTAKE THE JOB?" HE ASKED. HE ALSO INQUIRED WHETHER THE U.S. AUTHORITIES MIGHT HAVE ANY ADVICE ON HOW BEST TO PRESERVE THE BOX UNTIL IT CAN BE EXAMINED. CURRENTLY THE AUTHORITIES ARE KEEPING IT IN A VAT OF SEA WATER.

4. BUCCARELLI NOTED THAT THERE WERE LEGAL COMPLICATIONS IN THIS CASE. FOUL PLAY WAS SUSPECTED IN THIS CRASH. ANY EVIDENCE DEVELOPED BY A U.S. LABORATORY WOULD THUS HAVE TO BE SHARED WITH ITALIAN INVESTIGATORS IN A WAY WHICH WOULD ALLOW IT TO BE USED AS EVIDENCE IN ANY ITALIAN COURT PROCEEDINGS WHICH MIGHT ENSUE. BUCCARELLI SAID THAT HE WOULD, THEREFORE, PREFER THAT ITALIAN TECHNICAL EXPERTS BE PRESENT IN THE LABORATORY AS THE BLACK BOX CONTENTS ARE EXAMINED.

5. COMMENT: THE USTICA CRASH HAS BEEN THE SUBJECT OF MUCH SPECULATION IN THE ITALIAN PRESS AS THE NEXT OF KIN OF THE 81 VICTIMS HAVE KEPT UP PRESSURE ON THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT FOR A COMPLETE INVESTIGATION INTO THE CAUSES OF THIS TRAGEDY. SINCE THE AIRCRAFT PLUNGED INTO THE SEA WITHOUT WARNING FROM A HIGH ALTITUDE WHILE ON A ROUTINE FLIGHT FROM BOLOGNA TO PALERMO, THE SUSPICION HAS BEEN STRONG FROM THE START THAT THIS AFFAIR WAS NO ACCIDENT. AT FIRST, SPECULATION CENTERED ON THE POSSIBILITY THAT A BOMB MAY HAVE BEEN PLACED ON BOARD. THEN IT WAS RECALLED THAT A NATO NAVAL EXERCISE HAD BEEN GOING ON NEARBY AT THE TIME OF THE INCIDENT, CAUSING SOME JOURNALISTS TO WONDER WHETHER THE AIRPLANE MIGHT HAVE BEEN STRUCK BY A SURFACE-TO-AIR MISSILE FROM ONE OF

PAGE 03 ROME 13608 041735Z

THESE SHIPS. MORE RECENTLY, HOWEVER, THE HYPOTHESIS THAT THE DC-9 HAD BEEN HIT BY AN AIR-TO-AIR MISSILE FIRED BY A LIBYAN FIGHTER HAS BEEN BRUITED ABOUT. THE WRECKAGE OF A LIBYAN MIG-21, REPORTEDLY WITH ONLY ONE OF ITS NORMAL COMPLIMENT OF TWO AIR-TO-AIR MISSILES, WAS FOUND ON A MOUNTAIN IN CALABRIA SHORTLY AFTER THE USTICA INCIDENT.

6. COMMENT CONTINUED: U.S. OFFICIALS WHO HAVE CONSIDERED THE EVIDENCE LEAN TOWARD THE THEORY THAT A BOMB WAS PLACED ON BOARD THE PLANE, PERHAPS IN A SUITCASE STOWED IN THE LUGGAGE

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7. EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT TRY TO BE AS RESPONSIVE AS POSSIBLE TO THE ITALIANS' APPEAL FOR ASSISTANCE WITH THEIR INVESTIGATION.

8. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE ADVISE WHETHER A U.S. LABORATORY, PERHAPS THE ONE RUN BY THE U.S. NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD, COULD ASSIST ITALIAN INVESTIGATORS IN THE EXAMINATION OF THE ITAVIA BLACK BOX.

9. ADDITIONAL ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE ADVISE AS WELL BEST MEANS FOR ITALIANS TO PRESERVE THE BLACK BOX UNTIL IT CAN BE PROPERLY EXAMINED. RABB

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Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1987ROME13786

CHANNEL: n/a
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PAGE 01 ROME 13786 060817Z
ACTION EB-08

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-----115546 060823Z /22

O 060816Z JUN 87
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5129
DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION WASHINGTON DC, IMMEDIATE
INFO FAA WASHDC
USDEL VENICE

ROME 13786

TRANSPORTATION PASS NTSB

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: EAIR, PTER, PREL, IT, US
SUBJ: BLACK BOX RECOVERED FROM USTICA AIR CRASH

REF: (A) ROME 13608 (B) ENGELKEN-CORRIE TELCON
6/5/87

1. ENTIRE TEXT
2. EMBASSY APPRECIATES NTSB'S SWIFT AND FAVORABLE RESPONSE (REF B) TO ITALIAN INVESTIGATORS' APPEAL FOR HELP IN EXAMINING THE BLACK BOX (FLIGHT VOICE RECORDER) RECOVERED FROM THE WRECKAGE OF USTICA AIR CRASH (REF A). INVESTIGATING MAGISTRATE BUCCARELLI AND AT LEAST ONE ITALIAN TECHNICIAN WOULD LIKE TO ACCOMPANY THE BLACK BOX TO THE UNITED STATES IN THE FIRST PART OF THE COMING WEEK. EMBASSY WILL ADVISE BUCCARELLI'S TRAVEL PLANS AS SOON AS WE LEARN OF THEM.
3. THE ITALIAN PRESS ON JUNE 6 REPORTS THE

PAGE 02 ROME 13786 060817Z

DISCOVERY OF THE BLACK BOX. ONCE IT IS LEARNED THAT THE DEVICE WILL BE EXAMINED IN THE UNITED

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Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

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DOC_NBR: 1987ROME13786

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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STATES, EMBASSY AND DEPARTMENT MAY RECEIVE
QUESTIONS FROM THE PRESS. WE PLAN TO RESPOND
AS FOLLOWS:

Q. IS IT TRUE THAT ITALIAN INVESTIGATORS HAVE
ASKED THE ASSISTANCE OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT
IN EXAMINING THE FLIGHT VOICE RECORDER RECOVERED
FROM THE WRECKAGE OF AN ITALIAN DC-9 WHICH
CRASHED OFF USTICA IN 1980?

A. ITALIAN OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH THE
U.S. GOVERNMENT ABOUT THIS VOICE RECORDER.
THE NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD IS
READY TO ASSIST ITALIAN INVESTIGATORS IN
DECIPHERING THE TAPES CONTAINED IN THIS DEVICE.
RABB

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Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1988PALERM01054

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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PAGE 01 PALERM 01054 01 OF 02 171227Z
ACTION EUR-00

INFO	LOG-00	ADS-00	INR-10	SS-00	CIAE-00	DODE-00	H-01
	NEA-06	NSCE-00	NSAE-00	HA-09	L-03	TRSE-00	PM-10
	PA-01	OMB-01	INRE-00	ACDA-12	USIE-00	SP-02	SNP-01
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R 170730Z NOV 88
FM AMCONSUL PALERMO
TO AMEMBASSY ROME
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 7355

SECTION 01 OF 02 PALERMO 1054

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: PREL PINR, IT, LY
SUBJECT: MEETING WITH SICILIO PRESIDENT ON LIBYAN TRIP

REFS: (A) PALERMO 1053; (B) ROME 25714; (C) ROME 17550

1. [REDACTED] - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SICILIANPY REGIONAL PRESIDENT RINO NICOLOSI RECEIVED COQGUL GENERAL NQOVEMBER 16 TO DISCUSS HIS NOVEMBER 13-15 VISIT TO LIBYA. NICOLOSI MAINTAINED THAT HIS SOLE PUKVOSE IN ACCEPTING QADHAFI'S INVITATION WAS TO FREE THE 13 FISHERMEN ARRESTED THREQE MONTHS AGO FOR VIOLATING LIBYAN TERRITORIAL WATERS (REF A). CONCERNED ABOUT POSSIBLE NEGATIVE INTERPRETATIONS ON HIS TRIP, HE TOOK A GROUP OF NEWSPAPERMEN WITH HIM. NICOLOSI WAS ANXIOUS THAT WE UNDERSTAND THAT HE HAD UNDERTAKEN THE TRIP WITH THE FULL SUPPORT OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND THAT THE ITALIAN AMBASSADOR TO LIBYA HAD7BEEN AT HIS SIDE EVERY MINUTE OF HIS MEETINGS WITH THE LIBYANS.

MEETING WITH QADHAFI:
-----Q-----

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3. THQE FIRST PART OF NICOLOSI'S MEETING WITH QADHAFI HAD BEEN WITHOUG REPORTERS PRESENT. DURING THIS PHASE THEY HAD

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: WILLIAM J. GEHRON
DATE/CASE ID: 25 FEB 2003 200102359
CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL REASON: 1.6(6)
DECLASSIFY AFTER: 17 NOV 2013

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Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1988PALERM01054

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

22

DISCUSSED ONLY THE FINAL DETAILS OF THE RELEASE OF THE FISHER-
MEN. THE PRESS WAS THEN INVITED IN TO ASK THEIR QUESTIONS.

NICOLOSI WAS UPSET THAT THE REPORTER FROM MILAN [REDACTED]

B6

[REDACTED] INSISTED ON BRINGING UP THE ISSUE OF THE CRASH
OF THE DC-9 NEAR USTICA. NEVERTHELESS, NICOLOSI GAVE IMPORTANCE
TO QADHAFI'S STATEMENT THAT IT WAS AN "AMERICAN MISSILE" WHICH
HIT THE PLANE -- A DELIBERATELY AMBIGUOUS ANSWER QIN NICOLOSI'S
VIEW IN QHAT IT DID NOT SPECIFICALLY SAY THAT THE AMERICANS
HAD LAUNCHED THE MISSILE. ACCORDING TO NICOLOSI, QADHAFI TOLD
THE REPORTER THAT ITALIAN MAGISTRATES IN ROME HAD DOCUMENTA-
TION PROVING THE AMERICAN PROVENANCE OF THE MISSILE [REDACTED]

B1

[REDACTED] IN ANY CASE, NICOLOSI REGARDED IT AS BAD
LUCK THAT HIS MISSION OF MERCY HAD COINCIDED WITH ALLEGATIONS
BY AN ITALIAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL THAT THE MISSILE HAD BEEN
LIBYAN, THUS PROVOKING THE EMBARRASSING QUESTIOQ AND ANSWER.

U.S.-LIBYAN RELATIONS:

4. FOLLOWING THE PRESS CONFERENCE, QADHAFI GAVE AN INTERVIEW
TO A REPORTER FROM CATANIA DAILY "LA SICILIA." ACCORDING TO
NICOLOSI, QADHAFI SAID THAT HE EXPECTED IMPROVED RELATIONS
UNDER THE NEW AMERICAN ADMINISTRATION PARTLY BECAUSE THE U.S.
HAS MADE SO MANY MISTAKES IN ITS POLICY TOWARDS LIBYA THAT
THERE ARE NO MORE LEFT TO MAKE AND PARTLY BECAUSE PRESIDENT-
ELECT BUSH HAS SO MUCH EXPERIENCE IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS.
(WE WILL REPORT ON INTERVIEW AS SOON AS IT IS PUBLISHED.)

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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JALLUD'S AND ANDREOTTI'S VISITS:

5. AS TO JALLUD'S PROSPECTIVE VISIT TO ROME, NICOLOSI WAS
UNDER THE IMPRESSION THAT IT WOULD TAKE PLACE IN NOVEMBER
ALTHOUGH HIS ADVISER BELIEVED IT HAD BEEN POSTPONED UNTIL
DECEMBER. NICOLOSI THOUGHT THAT THE DATE OF FOREIGN MINISTER
ANDREOTTI'S TRIP DEPENDED MORE ON THE TIMING OF FORMER PRIME
MINISTER CRAXI'S VISIT THAN ON ANY LIBYAN EVENT BECAUSE ANDREOTTI
DID NOT WANT TO BE UPSTAGED BY CRAXI.

SICILIAN-LIBYAN RELATIONS:

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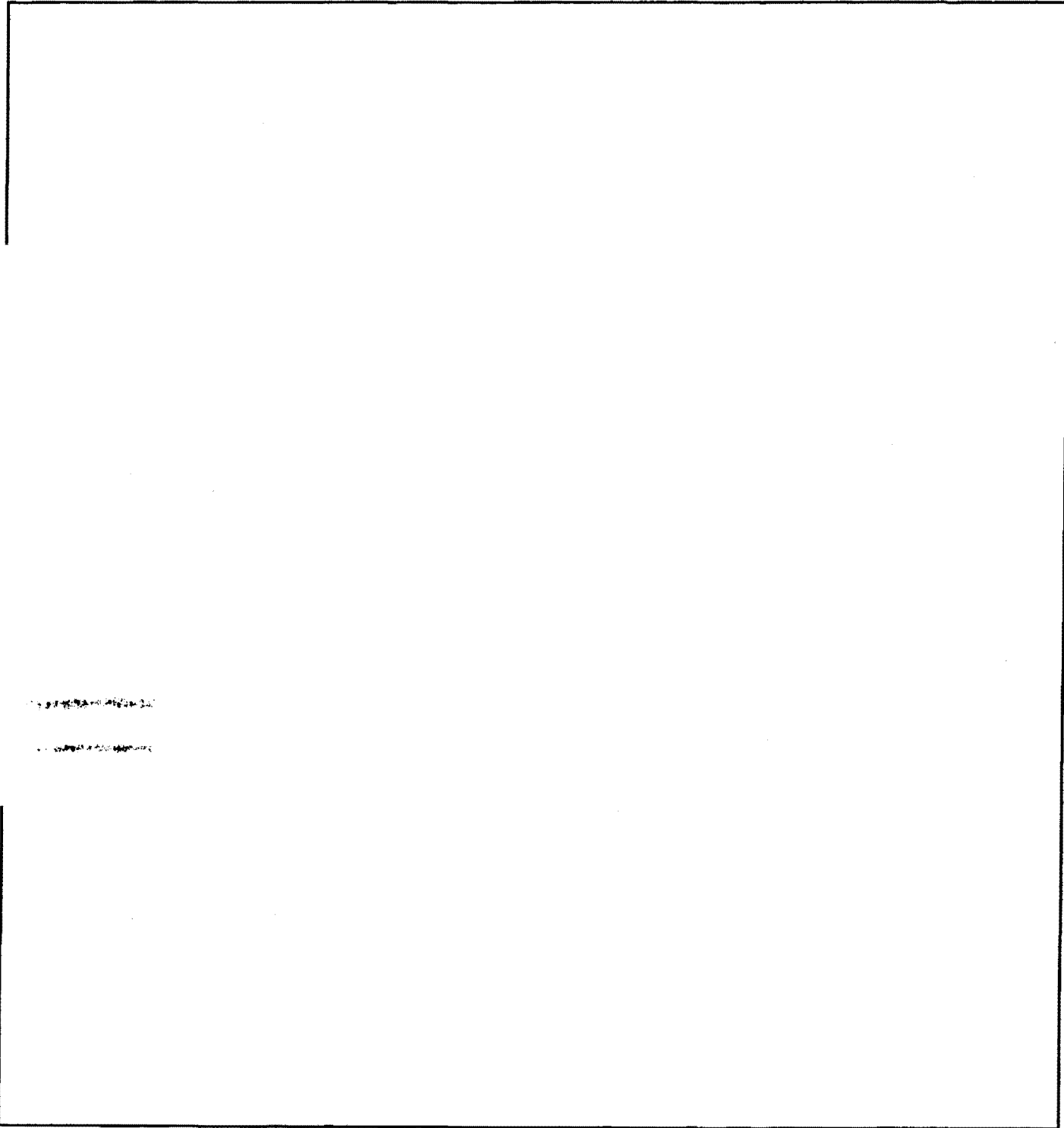


Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1988PALERM01054

CHANNEL: n/a
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Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

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HANDLING: n/a

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END COMMENT.

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Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1988PALERM01095

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a
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PAGE 01 PALERM 01095 260156Z
ACTION EUR-00

INFO LOG-00	ADS-00	INR-07	SS-00	CIAE-00	EB-00	DODE-00
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R 231410Z NOV 88
FM AMCONSUL PALERMO
TO AMEMBASSY ROME
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 7371

████████████████████ PALERMO 1095

ROME ALSO FOR USIS

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: PREL PINR LY, IT
SUBJECT: JOURNALIST PROVIDES ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND ON LIBYAN
- TRIP

REFS: (A) PALERMO 1054; (B) PALERMO 1053

1. ON NOVEMBER 23 WE SPOKE WITH ██████████
████████████████████ TRIP TO LIBYA ACCOMPANY-
ING SICILIAN REGIONAL PRESIDENT RINO NICOLOSI. THE PURPOSE OF
THE TRIP WAS TO FREE SICILIAN FISHERMEN CAPTURED ALLEGEDLY
POACHING IN THE GULF OF SIDRA (SEE REFS). IT WAS ██████████
QUESTION ABOUT THE DC-9 CRASH IN USTICA THAT PROMPTED QADHAFI'S
HIGHLY PUBLICIZED RESPONSE THAT AN AMERICAN MISSILE HIT THE
PLANE. WE ASKED ██████████ ABOUT THIS AND OTHER ASPECTS OF THE
TRIP.

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B6
B6

LIBYA AND THE QADHAFI REGIME

2. ██████████ AND THE REST OF NICOLOSI'S DELEGATION SPENT THREE
████████████████████
████████████████████

B6

PAGE 02 PALERM 01095 260156Z

DAYS IN TRIPOLI, ALTHOUGH THEY ORIGINALLY UNDERSTOOD THAT THE
RELEASE OF THE FISHERMEN WOULD TAKE ONE DAY. THE DELAY, IN
████████████████████ WAS DUE TO DISAGREEMENT ON HOW TO HANDLE THE

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Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

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SITUATION BETWEEN "MODERATES" LIKE LIBYAN AMBASSADOR TO ITALY ABDURRAHMAN SHALGAM AND FORMER LIBYAN CONSUL IN PALERMO AFED GADDUR, AND "HARDLINERS" LIKE TRIPOLI "ADMINISTRATOR" ABU MAGID IL GHUD (PHONETIC). QADHAFI'S CONCESSION ON THE FISHERMEN REPRESENTED A LINE SOMEWHERE BETWEEN THE OPPOSED POSITIONS OF HIS ADVISORS AND INDICATED A DEGREE OF OPENNESS TOWARD ITALY. HOWEVER, DURING THE PRESS CONFERENCE IN QADHAFI'S TENT, THE LIBYAN LEADER SAID THAT HE WOULD NOT HAVE GRANTED THE FISHERMEN'S RELEASE TO ITALIAN AUTHORITIES. ONLY BECAUSE SICILIANS ARE "HALF ARAB AND HALF EUROPEAN" WAS HE WILLING TO TALK TO NICOLOSI. IN FACT, QADHAFI HELD A TETE-A-TETE MEETING (WITHOUT THE ITALIAN AMBASSADOR TO LIBYA) IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING THE PRESS

B6

THE USTICA AIR DISASTER

3. DURING THE PRESS CONFERENCE [REDACTED] IRRITATED BOTH NICOLOSI AND SHALGAM BY ASKING ABOUT THE DOWNED DC-9. ALTHOUGH NICOLOSI LATER TOLD US QADHAFI'S ANSWER COULD HAVE BEEN INTERPRETED AS REFERRING TO A MISSILE OF AMERICAN PROVENANCE FIRED BY ANOTHER NATION, [REDACTED] SAID HE DETECTED NO AMBIGUITY ABOUT QADHAFI'S MEANING. IN FACT QADHAFI TOLD [REDACTED] HE WOULD SHOW HIM A SECRET FILE ON THE MATTER IF HE REMAINED IN TRIPOLI ANOTHER 24 HOURS. [REDACTED] AGREED BUT WAS LATER TAKEN TO THE AIRPORT WITH THE REST OF THE GROUP. AMBASSADOR SHALGAM INSISTED THAT QADHAFI HAD ALLUDED ONLY TO THE INQUIRY CONDUCTED IN ROME BY MAGISTRATE VITTORIO BUCARELLI, NOT TO HITHERTO UNDISCLOSED

B6

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B6

PAGE 03 PALERM 01095 260156Z

LIBYAN INFORMATION ON THE CRASH.


QADHAFI

4. ASKED IF QADHAFI SEEMED RATIONAL DURING THE PRESS CONFERENCE [REDACTED] REFERRED TO THE ABOVE INCIDENT AND SAID QADHAFI'S MIND HAD TO BE "VACUUM PACKED" TO MAKE SUCH A STATEMENT AND PRETEND HE HAD EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT IT. HE DESCRIBED QADHAFI AS A STRANGE COMBINATION OF COARSE AND OTHER-WORLDLY THE LIBYAN LEADER'S THEATRICAL COSTUME AND PROPS (HIS LOW, HOARSE VOICE WAS AMPLIFIED BY SPEAKERS CONCEALED THROUGHOUT THE TENT) VEILED BUT DID NOT CONCEAL QADHAFI'S CRUDE AND

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16 Apr 2002


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CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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ESSENTIALLY CHILDISH NATURE.
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Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

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CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a
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PAGE 01 ROME 03223 01 OF 02 141200Z
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 FM AMEMBASSY ROME
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9924
 INFO USIA WASHDC PRIORITY 0395
 SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
 JCS WASHDC PRIORITY
 AMEMBASSY BONN
 AMEMBASSY LONDON
 AMEMBASSY PARIS
 USMISSION USNATO
 USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
 CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
 CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE
 USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT//INTAFF/PIO//
 DIA WASH DC
 AMCONSUL MILAN
 AMCONSUL NAPLES
 AMCONSUL PALERMO
 AMCONSUL FLORENCE POUCH
 AMCONSUL GENOA POUCH

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 ROME 03223

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
 TAGS: MOPS, EAIR, IT, LY
 SUBJECT: USTICA AIR CRASH: FURTHER ALLEGATIONS
 - OF U.S. RESPONSIBILITY

REF: 88 ROME 27060 DTG 021800Z DEC 88 (NOTAL)

PAGE 02 ROME 03223 01 OF 02 141200Z

1. LAST DECEMBER SAW ONE OF THE PERIODIC FLARE-UPS
OF CONTROVERSY SURROUNDING THE CRASH OF AN ITAVIA

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16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1988ROME03223

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

24

DC-9 OFF THE ISLAND OF USTICA ON JUNE 28, 1980 (SEE REFTEL) THE STORY HAD BEEN LARGELY DORMANT FOR THE LAST TWO MONTHS, BUT THE LATEST (FEB. 19) ISSUE OF THE WEEKLY "L'ESPRESSO" CARRIES A STORY ALLEGING THAT FIGHTERS FROM THE USS SARATOGA DOWNED THE ITALIAN COMMERCIAL AIRLINER.

2. "L'ESPRESSO" ATTRIBUTES THIS RECONSTRUCTION OF EVENTS TO ITALIAN AIR FORCE PERSONNEL STATIONED AT THE TRAPANI AIR BASE IN SICILY. "L'ESPRESSO" RECOUNTS THAT, UNTIL A FEW HOURS BEFORE THE CRASH, THE SIXTH FLEET HAD BEEN IN A STATE OF HIGHEST ALERT, BECAUSE AIR FORCE ONE, CARRYING THEN-PRESIDENT CARTER, WAS FLYING IN THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION. "AMERICAN RADAR OPERATORS" SOUNDED AN ALARM BECAUSE AWACS PLANES HAD PICKED UP TWO FIGHTERS THAT HAD VIOLATED ITALIAN AIR SPACE, FLYING OVER THE SEA WEST OF SICILY, PROBABLY HEADING TOWARD NAPLES OR ROME. THE AMERICANS ADVISED THE ITALIAN AIR FORCE SOUTHERN AIR REGION OPERATIONS CENTER (ROC) LOCATED AT MARTINAFRANCA IN APULIA.

3. ACCORDING TO THE "L'ESPRESSO" STORY, THE MARTINAFRANCA OPERATIONS CENTER DID NOT ALERT TRAPANI (THE ITALIAN BASE CLOSEST TO THE INTRUDERS), LEADING U.S. FORCES TO TAKE MATTERS INTO THEIR OWN HANDS. TWO F-14'S FROM THE SARATOGA, THEN "OFF THE COAST OF NAPLES," TOOK OFF TO INTERCEPT. (THE ARTICLE ADDS THAT U.S. RULES OF ENGAGEMENT CALL FOR OPENING FIRE IF THE PLANE TO BE INTERCEPTED IS IN ATTACK MODE.) THE F-14'S SUPPOSEDLY ENCOUNTERED AND

PAGE 03 ROME 03223 01 OF 02 141200Z

ENGAGED TWO LIBYAN MIG-23'S.

4. ONE OF THE MIGS, PILOTED BY EZZEDIN KAAL, DESCRIBED AS ONE OF LIBYA'S BEST-KNOWN AND MOST ABLE PILOTS, SUPPOSEDLY HEADED SOUTH, WITH ONE OF THE F-14'S IN PURSUIT ON ITS WESTERN SIDE. THE MIG'S ROUTE WAS PARALLEL TO AND NOT FAR FROM AMBER 13, A CIVILIAN AVIATION CORRIDOR, AND THE ITAVIA DC-9 WAS AHEAD OF IT AT ABOUT "ONE O'CLOCK." THE LIBYAN PILOT POSITIONED HIS AIRCRAFT UNDER THE DC-9. THE PILOT OF THE F-14, WHO "PROBABLY DID NOT SEE THE DC-9 BECAUSE HE WAS CONCENTRATING ON HIS TARGET,"

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[REDACTED]

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16 Apr 2002

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CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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ALLEGEDLY VEERED TO THE EAST AND FIRED A HEAT-SEEKING MISSILE, WHICH FOLLOWED "THE MOST POWERFUL SOURCE OF HEAT, THAT OF THE DC-9, AND EXPLODED CLOSE TO THE FRONT OF THE AIRCRAFT."
(COMMENT: THE ARTICLE DOES NOT NOTE THE APPARENT CONTRADICTION IN THAT STATEMENT.)

5. WRECKAGE FROM THE DC-9 SUPPOSEDLY HIT AND DAMAGED THE MIG, AND THE PILOT HEADED TOWARD SOUTH-EAST, "PERHAPS TO ATTEMPT AN EMERGENCY LANDING IN CALABRIA," BUT CRASHED IN THE SILA MOUNTAINS, "HIS GAS TANKS EMPTY, HAVING BEEN PIERCED BY WRECKAGE FROM THE DC-9." THE U.S. PILOT, "PROBABLY IN SHOCK," DID NOT FOLLOW.

6. "L'ESPRESSO" NOTES THAT THE PEOPLE AT TRAPANI RELIED IN PART ON INFORMATION COLLECTED CONFIDENTIALLY FROM U.S. PIB-OTS. IT ALSO POINTS OUT THAT THE "TRAPANI INVESTIGATION" MESHES WITH OTHER

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

PAGE 01 ROME 03223 02 OF 02 141157Z
ACTION EUR-00

INFO	LOG-00	ADS-00	INR-07	SS-00	CIAE-00	NEA-04	NSCE-00
	NSAE-00	SSO-00	PM-10	PA-02	FAAE-00	DOTE-00	INRE-00
	SP-02	C-01	PRS-01	SCT-02	P-02	/031 W	
-----276701							141221Z /24

O 1146Z FEB 88
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9925
INFO USIA WASHDC PRIORITY 0396
SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
JCS WASHDC PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USNATO
USCINCEUR VAHINGEN GE
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT//INTAFF/PIO//
DIA WASH DC
AMCONSUL MILAN

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Date Printed:
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DOC_NBR: 1988ROME03223

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

24

AMCONSUL NAPLES
AMCONSUL PALERMO
AMCONSUL FLORENCE POUCH
AMCONSUL GENOA POUCH

UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 ROME 03223

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: MOPS, EAIR, IT, LY
SUBJECT: USTICA AIR CRASH: FURTHER ALLEGATIONS

MATERIAL, SUCH AS THE CIAMPINO AIRPORT (ROME) RADAR RECORDING AND ALLEGED DISCREPANCIES BETWEEN AUTOPSY DATA AND THE "OFFICIAL" DATE OF THE CRASH OF THE LIBYAN MIG IN THE SILA MOUNTAINS. THE ARTICLE EVEN UNCLASSIFIED

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ACCUSES THE ITALIAN INTELLIGENCE SERVICES OF HAVING STAGED A MOCK CRASH TO SUPPORT THE CONTENTION THAT THE MIG CRASHED THREE WEEKS AFTER THE USTICA INCIDENT.

7. COMMENT: ASIDE FROM ATTRIBUTING THE RECONSTRUCTION OF EVENTS TO ITALIAN AIR FORCE PERSONNEL FROM TRAPANI, THE "L'ESPRESSO" ARTICLE DOES NOT BREAK MUCH NEW GROUND. (REFTEL REVIEWS THE DIZZYING ARRAY OF HYPOTHESES THAT HAVE BEEN ADVANCED REGARDING THE USTICA CRASH.) THE ARTICLE IS LIKELY TO SPUR RENEWED QUESTIONS ABOUT A U.S. ROLE, BUT WE CAN USE EXISTING GUIDANCE, TO THE EFFECT THAT NO SIXTH FLEET ASSETS WERE OPERATING IN THE AREA AT THE TIME OF THE USTICA CRASH, TO COUNTER "L'ESPRESSO'S" ALLEGATIONS. IN FACT, WE PLAN TO SEND A LETTER TO THE EDITOR, RECALLING THAT, AS WE HAVE ALREADY SAID MANY TIMES, NO SIXTH FLEET ASSETS WERE INVOLVED.
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16 Apr 2002

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HANDLING: n/a
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PAGE 01 ROME 24349 01 OF 02 261507Z
ACTION EUR-00

INFO LOG-00 ADS-00 INR-10 SS-00 CIAE-00 EB-00 NSAE-00
COME-00 L-03 FAAE-00 DOTE-00 STR-17 INRE-00 JUSE-00
DS-01 SCT-02 E-01 /034 W

-----327402 261521Z /43

R 261458Z OCT 88
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO AMEMBASSY LONDON
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5896
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL PALERMOPOUCH
AMCONSUL NAPLES
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
SECDEF WASHDC
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
DIA WASH DC
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT// INTAFF//
HQUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE

SECTION 01 OF 02 ROME 24349

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PREL, MOPS, EAIR, PTER, IT, UK, FR, LY
SUBJECT: THE USTICA AIR CRASH: REQUEST FOR INFORMATION
FROM THE BRITISH AUTHORITIES

1. (S -ENTIRE TEXT)

2. THE USTICA AIR CRASH IS ONCE AGAIN IN THE NEWS IN ITALY. ACCORDING TO THE ITALIAN MEDIA, BRITISH EXPERTS ASSISTING ITALIAN INVESTIGATORS HAVE FOUND EVIDENCE CONCLUSIVELY PROVING THAT THE ITAVIA DC-9 WHICH CRASHED ON JUNE 27, 1980, NEAR THE ISLAND OF USTICA HAD BEEN STRUCK BY AN AIR-TO-AIR MISSILE.

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3. THE CRASH HAS BEEN A FAVORITE MYSTERY OF ITALIAN JOURNALISTS SINCE IT HAPPENED.. THE STRANGE CIRCUMSTANCES

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: ERIC W. FLEISHER
DATE/CASE ID: 24 SEP 2002 200102359

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Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1988ROME24349

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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OF THE ACCIDENT HAVE INVITED ENDLESS SPECULATION.
(THE DC-9 PLUNGED ABRUPTLY INTO THE SEA WHILE FLYING AT
ITS CRUISING ALTITUDE ON A ROUTINE DOMESTIC RUN FROM
BOLOGNA TO PALERMO. THE WEATHER WAS GOOD, AND THE
PILOT GAVE NO DISTRESS SIGNAL.)

4. THE INVESTIGATORS' FIRST HYPOTHESIS, A STRUCTURAL
FAILURE CAUSED BY A DEFECT IN THE AIRCRAFT'S
PRESSURIZATION SYSTEM, WAS RULED OUT EARLY ON. PRESS
SPECULATION THEN CENTERED ON THE POSSIBILITY THAT A
BOMB HAD BEEN PLACED ON BOARD. LATER STILL CHARGES
APPEARED THAT THE DC-9 HAD BEEN SHOT DOWN BY A MISSILE.
JOURNALISTS ALLEGED THAT NATO NAVAL EXERCISES HAD BEEN
UNDERWAY IN THE AREA AND WONDERED WHETHER THE AIRCRAFT
MIGHT NOT HAVE FALLEN VICTIM TO AN ANTI-AIRCRAFT MISSILE
FIRED BY ONE OF THE SHIPS OR THEIR FIGHTER AIR COVER.
OTHER WRITERS ATTEMPTED TO LINK THE INCIDENT TO THE
DISCOVERY ON A MOUNTAIN IN CALABRIA NINE DAYS LATER OF
A WRECKED LIBYAN MIG. HAD THE MIG DOWNED THE DC-9? OR
HAD ITALIAN INTERCEPTORS PURSUING THE INTRUDER SHOT
DOWN THE CIVILIAN AIRLINER BY MISTAKE?

5. THE RELATIVES OF THE 80 PERSONS WHO PERISHED IN THE
CRASH CAMPAIGNED FOR YEARS TO HAVE THE CASE REOPENED,
CHARGING THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD DELIBERATELY COVERED
UP THE FACTS. FINALLY, IN 1986, PRESIDENT COSSIGA
PRODDED THE GOVERNMENT TO SPEND THE MONEY TO RECOVER THE
WRECKAGE OF THE DC-9 FROM THE SEA BOTTOM AND ANSWER ONCE
AND FOR ALL THE MANY QUESTIONS ABOUT THE INCIDENT.

6. A FRENCH MINI-SUB HAS BEEN AT WORK ON THE WRECKAGE

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SINCE 1987. IT RECOVERED THE FLIGHT VOICE RECORDER,
WHICH WAS DECODED AT THE NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY
BOARD LABORATORY IN WASHINGTON IN SUMMER 1987. (THE
COCKPIT CONVERSATION, HOWEVER, PROVIDED LITTLE USEFUL
INFORMATION.) THE SUB ALSO RECOVERED MANY PIECES OF
THE DOWNED AIRCRAFT.

7. THE MOST RECENT DEVELOPMENT IN THE CASE CAME WHEN THE
ITALIAN JUDGE HEADING THE INQUEST SENT A SAMPLE OF THE
WRECKAGE TO THE ROYAL ARMAMENT RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT
(RARDE) LABORATORY IN BRITAIN. BRITISH TECHNICIANS
REPORTEDLY DISCOVERED TRACES OF EXPLOSIVES, INCLUDING

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CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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T-4, ON MANY OF THE PIECES OF THE WRECK. THEY ALSO REPORTEDLY FOUND HOLES IN PORTIONS OF THE FUSELAGE, WHICH APPEARED TO INDICATE THAT THE AIRCRAFT HAD BEEN STRUCK BY SHRAPNEL FROM A MISSILE WHICH HAD EXPLODED CLOSE TO IT. ACCORDING TO THE ITALIAN PRESS, THE EXPLOSIVES DISCOVERED BY THE BRITISH ARE USED ONLY IN "SIDEWINDER," "SPARROW," AND "MATRA 530" AIR TO AIR MISSILES.

8. EMBASSY IS AWARE THAT REPEATED CHECKS WITH THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT HAVE SHOWN THAT THERE WERE NO U.S. SHIPS OR AIRCRAFT OPERATING NEAR THE DC-9 AT THE TIME OF THE INCIDENT. WE DO NOT KNOW, HOWEVER, WHAT THE ITALIAN JUDICIAL INVESTIGATIVE REPORT WILL SAY. (PUBLICATION IS EXPECTED BY THE END OF THE YEAR.) THE JUDGE CONDUCTING THE PROBE IS MAINTAINING SECRECY AND REFUSING TO DISCUSS THE MATTER WITH ANYONE.

9. SHOULD THE INVESTIGATING JUDGE'S REPORT CONCLUDE THAT THE AIRLINER WAS IN FACT SHOT DOWN, A TREMENDOUS

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ACTION EUR-00

INFO LOG-00 ADS-00 INR-10 SS-00 CIAE-00 EB-00 NSAE-00
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-----327432 261521Z /43

R 261458Z OCT 88
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO AMEMBASSY LONDON
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5897
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL PALERMOPOUCH
AMCONSUL NAPLES
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
SECDEF WASHDC
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
DIA WASH DC
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT// INTAFF//
HQUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE

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Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1988ROME24349

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: PREL, MOPS, EAIR, PTER, IT, UK, FR, LY
SUBJECT: THE USTICA AIR CRASH: REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

PUBLIC UPROAR WOULD BE SURE TO FOLLOW IN ITALY. THE ITALIAN MILITARY INEVITABLY WOULD HAVE ITS REPUTATION DAMAGED. DEPENDING ON THE DETAILS IN THE REPORT, THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR ITALY'S AIR DEFENSES COULD BE ACCUSED OF FAILING TO PROTECT A CIVILIAN AIRCRAFT IN ITALY'S HOME WATERS OR OF ACTUAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE SHOOT DOWN. IN EITHER CASE THE ITALIAN MILITARY WOULD FACE A STORM OF CRITICISM FOR NOT HAVING COME CLEAN ABOUT ITS FAILURE AT THE TIME OF THE ACCIDENT IN 1980.

10. IF THE REPORT WERE TO CONCLUDE THAT THE DC-9 HAD

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BEEN STRUCK BY U.S. MANUFACTURED ORDNANCE, THE U.S. COULD ALSO FIND ITSELF CONFRONTED WITH A SUDDEN PUBLIC RELATIONS PROBLEM. WE WOULD LIKE TO THINK THAT THE ITALIANS WOULD WARN US IN ADVANCE IF SUCH AN ADVERSE CONCLUSION WERE LIKELY BUT CAN NOT BE SURE OF IT. TO AVOID CHARGES THAT HIS REPORT HAD BEEN ALTERED UNDER POLITICAL PRESSURE, THE JUDGE MAY CHOOSE TO EXERCISE HIS LEGAL RIGHTS AND SHARE HIS CONCLUSIONS WITH NO ONE. SIMILARLY, TO AVOID CHARGES THAT WE ARE TRYING TO INFLUENCE THE OUTCOME OF THE INVESTIGATION, WE ARE RELUCTANT TO DISCUSS THE CASE WITH THE JUDGE, EVEN WERE HE WILLING. IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO GAIN AN IDEA OF WHERE THINGS ARE HEADING AND THUS BE PREPARED FOR THE OUTCOME, IF THE BRITISH WERE ASKED DISCREETLY WHAT CONCLUSIONS MIGHT REALLY BE DRAWN FROM THE RESULTS OF THEIR LABORATORY TESTS ON THE WRECKAGE.

11. ACTION REQUESTED: REQUEST EMBASSY LONDON MAKE A DISCREET APPROACH TO THE APPROPRIATE BRITISH OFFICIAL TO INQUIRE ABOUT THE TESTS ON THE DC-9.

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16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1988ROME24833

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a
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PAGE 01 ROME 24833 022021Z
ACTION EUR-00

INFO LOG-00 ADS-00 INR-10 SS-00 CIAE-00 EB-00 NSAE-00
PM-10 PA-01 INRE-00 SP-02 C-01 SCT-02 P-02
T-01 /029 W

-----062066 022116Z /72

P 021945Z NOV 88
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6211
INFO SECDEF WASHDC
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
DIA WASH DC
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT
HQUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE
AMCONSUL MILAN
AMCONSUL PALERMO
AMCONSUL NAPLES

ROME 24833

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: MOPS, PREL, EAIR, PTER, IT
SUBJECT: USTICA AIR CRASH: TV REPORTS EXPERTS AS
SAYING ITALIAN AIR FORCE SHOT DOWN DC-9

REF: ROME 24349 DTG 261458Z OCT 88

1. (U) TELEVISION JOURNAL "TG1 SETTE" NOVEMBER 1
SAID THAT EXPERTS INVESTIGATING THE CRASH OF THE
ITAVIA DC-9 NEAR USTICA ON JUNE 27, 1980, HAD
CONCLUDED THAT MOST PROBABLY THE AIRCRAFT WAS SHOT
DOWN BY AN AIR-TO-AIR MISSILE FIRED FROM A NATO
FIGHTER DURING AN EXERCISE. ACCORDING TO THE "TG1
SETTE" STORY, WIDELY REPORTED IN THE PRESS NOV. 2, THE

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FIGHTER (ALMOST CERTAINLY AN ITALIAN F104S) PROBABLY
TOOK OFF FROM GROSSETO AND FIRED ITS MISSILE AT A
TARGET DRONE. THE DRONE WAS SAID TO HAVE BEEN

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DOC_NBR: 1988ROME24833

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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LAUNCHED BY AN "ENGLISH AIRCRAFT" (ALSO DESCRIBED IN THE PRESS AS AN V"AIRORAFT OF ENGLISH MANUFACTURE") THAT HAD TAKEN OFF FROM THE BASE AT DECIMOMANNU IN SARDINIA.

2. (U) THE ITAVIA DC-9 WAS IN AN AREA THAT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE CLEAR OF CIVILIAN TRAFFIC, THE STORY CONTINUED, BUT A TWO-HOUR DELAY IN DEPARTURE FROM BOLOGNA PLACED IT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE EXERCISE. THE EXPERTS CONCLUDED THAT THE MISSILE (MOST LIKELY A SIDEWINDER) STRUCK THE DRONE AND THE NOSE OF THE PLANE.

3. (U) OTHER EVIDENCE POINTING TO THE SAMEZ CONCLUSION, THE REPORT CONTINUED, WERE FRAGMENTS OF A DRONE (MANUFACTURED BY BEECH AIRCRAFT) FOUND AT BAIA DOMIZIA AND IN THE STRAIT OF MESSINA. IDENTIFYING MARKS ON ONE OF THE FRAGMENTS HAD BEEN REMOVED. ACCORDING TO THE STORY, A MARCONI RADAR (MADE IN BRITAIN) AT CIAMPINO MILITARY AIRPORT IN ROME WAS POWERFUL ENOUGH TO "SEE" WHAT OCCURRED AT THAT DISTANCE, AND PROVIDED THE EXPERTS WITH EVIDENCE BOTH THAT AN EXERCISE WAS TAKING PLACE IN THE TYRRHENIAN SEA AT THAT TIME AND HOW EVENTS UNFOLDED.

4. (U)* THE ITAF HAS ALWAYS DENIED THAT ANY EXERCISE TOOK PLACE THAT DAY. IN AN INTERVIEW IN CONSERVATIVE "IL GIORNALE" NOV. 2, THE THEN-CHIEF OF THE AIR FORCE STAFF, GEN. BARTOLUCCI, CALLED THE CHARGES "SCANDALOUS" AND FALSE. HE ALSO DENIED AGAIN THAT ANY EXERCISE HAD TAKEN PLACE IN THE AREA ON THAT DAY.

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5. (C) COMMENT: THE HYPOTHESIS THAT AN ITALIAN FIGHTER PLANE MISTAKENLY MIGHT HAVE SHOT DOWN THE DC-9 IS NOT NEW. WE HAVE NO INDEPENDENT KNOWLEDGE OF THE EXPERTS' CONCLUSIONS CITED BY TGI (OF THE STATE-OWNED RAI-1 NETWORK) OR THE ACCURACY OF THEIR ALLEGED ASSERTION THAT AN EXERCISE TOOK PLACE IN THE AREA THAT DAY, SOMETHING REPEATEDLY DENIED BY THE ITAF. THE TELEVISION REPORT GAVE LITTLE HINT OF WHO MIGHT HAVE BEEN THE SOURCE FOR THE STORY, AND DID NOT INCLUDE COMMENTS FROM THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE. (THE DEFENSE MINISTRY RELEASED A STATEMENT NOVEMBER 2 SAYING THAT ALL INFORMATION

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REQUESTED BY THE MAGISTRATE HAD BEEN PROVIDED, AND WHICH STATED AGAIN THAT NO EXERCISE WAS TAKING PLACE AT THAT TIME. THE STATEMENT ALSO REITERATED THAT NO SHIPS OR PLANES FROM THE U.S. SIXTH FLEET WERE IN THE AREA AT THAT TIME AND THAT THE TWO AIRCRAFT CARRIERS OF THE FRENCH MEDITERRANEAN FLEET WERE IN THEIR BASE AT TOULON.) SHOULD THE TGI REPORT PROVE ACCURATE, AND THE INVESTIGATING MAGISTRATE IN HARGE OF THQ CASE AGREE WITH THE CONCLUSIONS OF THE EXPERTS, THE ITAF WILL BE IN FOR WITHERING CRITICISM. COMING SO SOON AFTER THE RAMSTEIN TRAGEDY, WE WOULD EXPECT THAT TRAINING EXERCISES ALSO WOULD COME UNDER FIRE, PARTICULARLY AT DECIMOMANNU, WHERE THERE IS ALREADY DISCONTENT OVER THE LEVEL OF MILITARY ACTIVITY. RABB

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Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1988ROME25087

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a
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PAGE 01 ROME 25087 041825Z
ACTION EB-00

INFO LOG-00 ADS-00 INR-10 EUR-00 SS-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00
COME-00 SSO-00 L-03 FAAE-00 DOTE-00 STR-17 INRE-00
JUSE-00 DS-01 SCT-02 E-01 /034 W

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O 041822Z NOV 88
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6353
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL NAPLES
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY BONN
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
DIA WASH DC
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT
HQUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE
AMCONSUL PALERMO POUCH)

ROME 25087

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: MOPS, EAIR, PREL, PTER, IT
SUBJECT: USTICA AIR CRASH: THE POT BEGINS TO BOIL

REF: (A) ROME 25833 (NOTAL) (B) ROME 24349 (NOTAL)

1. (U) THE LONG SIMMERING CONTROVERSY OVER THE MYSTERIOUS JUNE 1980 CRASH OF AN ITAVIA DC-9 AIRLINER NEAR THE ISLAND OF USTICA IS COMING TO A BOIL. STRENUOUS AND INDIGNANT DENIALS BY SENIOR ITALIAN AIR FORCE OFFICERS OF THE "G 1 SETTE" REPORT (REF A) THAT THE JET WAS SHOT DOWN ACCIDENTALLY BY AN ITALIAN AIR FORCE F-104S ENGAGED IN A TARGET EXERCISE WITH A DRONE HAVE NOT SUCCEEDED IN PUTTING THE ACCUSATION TO REST. TO THE CONTRARY, TREASURY MINISTER AMATO (SOCIALIST)

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GAVE THE STORY NEW CREDENCE IN COMMENTS TO JOURNALISTS ON NOVEMBER 3. AMATO, WHO AS THEN PRIME MINISTER

Page - 62 EXTEND CLASSIFICATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: ERIC W. FLEISHER
DATE/CASE ID: 24 SEP 2002 200102359
CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL REASON: 1.6(6) UNCLASSIFIED
DECLASSIFY AFTER: 4 NOV 2013

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Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1988ROME25087

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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CRAXI'S UNDERSECRETARY HAD THE GOVERNMENT BRIEF FOR FOLLOWING THE USTICA CASE IN 1986-7 REPORTEDLY STATED THAT HE FOUND THE TG-1 STORY CREDIBLE. MOREOVER, HE ADDED THAT IT WOULD BE QUITE POSSIBLE FOR SOMEONE TO HIDE THE TRUTH FROM THE POLITICAL LEVEL, IF SUCH A MISDEED HAD OCCURRED AND SOMEONE HAD BEEN DETERMINED TO COVER IT UP.

2. (U) THE CABINET WAS SCHEDULED TO REVIEW THE USTICA INVESTIGATION ON NOVEMBER 4. (IT LAST CONSIDERED THE MATTER ON JUNE 24.) THE MEETING WAS POSTPONED, HOWEVER, TO ALLOW DEFENSE MINISTER ZANONE MORE TIME TO CHECK AGAIN WITH THE SENIOR MILITARY COMMANDS.

3. (C) COMMENT: IT IS NOT CLEAR WHETHER THE POT WILL BOIL OVER AT THE NEXT CABINET MEETING OR WHEN THE JUDGE INVESTIGATING THE INCIDENT PUBLISHES HIS FINDINGS IN ABOUT ONE MONTH. IT APPEARS MORE AND MORE LIKELY, HOWEVER, THAT THE USTICA AFFAIR WILL DAMAGE THE REPUTATION OF THE ITALIAN AIR FORCE AND THE CAREERS OF SOME AIR FORCE OFFICERS ALREADY BATTERED BY THE RAMSTEIN AIR SHOW DISASTER. THE POLITICIANS ARE MAKING IT CLEAR THAT THEY WILL LOOK FOR BLOOD, IF IT TURNS OUT THAT CAREER MILITARY OFFICERS CONCEALED ANY OF THE TRUTH ABOUT THE INCIDENT FROM THE RESPONSIBLE CIVILIAN AUTHORITIES. DEPUTY LELIO LAGORIO (SOCIALIST), WHO AS DEFENSE MINISTER IN 1980 RELIED ON THE ADVICE HE RECEIVED FROM THE MILITARY AT THE TIME TO DENY AIR FORCE INVOLVEMENT IN THE INCIDENT, HAS DECLARED THAT ANY OFFICER WHO LIED TO HIM SHOULD BE PUNISHED. POLITICIANS ALL ACROSS THE POLITICAL SPECTRUM WERE QUICK TO SUPPORT HIM.

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4. (C)

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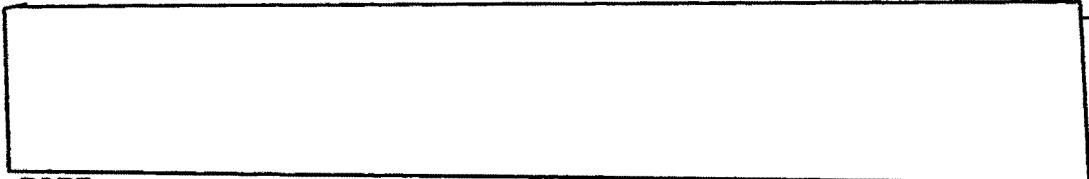
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Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

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Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

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CHANNEL: n/a
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PAGE 01 ROME 25210 01 OF 02 071831Z
ACTION EB-00

INFO	LOG-00	ADS-00	INR-10	EUR-00	SS-00	CIAE-00	NSAE-00
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	JUSE-00	DS-01	SCT-02	E-01	/034 W		

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O 071823Z NOV 88
 FM AMEMBASSY ROME
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6403
 AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
 INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
 AMEMBASSY PARIS
 USMISSION USNATO
 AMCONSUL NAPLES
 USCINCEUR VAHINGEN GE
 DIA WASH DC
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 CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
 CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE
 AMCONSUL PALERMO

SECTION 01 OF 02 ROME 25210

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
 TAGS: MOPS, EAIR, PREL, PTER, IT
 SUBJECT: USTICA AIR CRASH: POLEMICS GET HOTTER

REFS: (A) ROME 25087 DTG 041822Z NOV 88 (NOTAL);
 (B) ROME 24833 DTG 021945Z NOV 88 (NOTAL);
 (C) ROME 24349 DTG 261458Z OCT 88 (NOTAL)

1. (U) THE ALREADY HEATED CONTROVERSY OVER THE JUNE 1980 CRASH OF AN ITAVIA DC-9 NEAR THE ISLAND OF USTICA NOTCHED UP A STEP FURTHER OVER THE WEEKEND WHEN ADMIRAL MARIO PORTA, CHIEF OF THE ITALIAN DEFENSE GENERAL STAFF, SAID THE ARMED FORCES WERE HAVING A HARD TIME "REINING IN THE FUROR" THEY FELT OVER BEING ACCUSED OF

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SHOOTING DOWN THE AIRLINER. PORTA DENOUNCED THE "TG SETTE" REPORT THAT SPARKED THE CONTROVERSY ANEW LAST

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CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

28

WEEK, WHICH ACCUSED THE AIR FORCE OF ACCIDENTALLY SHOOTING DOWN THE AIRLINER DURING AN EXERCISE WITH A DRONE, AQ THE WORK OF AN "AMATEUR FOR AN AUDIENCE OF INCOMPETENTS." PORTA'S OUTBURST, WIDELY REPORTED IN THE MEDIA, CAME AT A CEREMONY SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5, AT THE AIR ACADEMY IN POZZUOLI WHICH WAS ALSO ATTENDED BY DEFENSE MINISTER VALERIO ZANONE AND AIR FORCE CHIEF OF STAFF FRANCO PISANO.

2. (U) PORTA'S REMARKS FOLLOWED STATEMENTS BY TREASURY MINISTER GIULIANO AMATO, SOCIALIST, AND OTHER POLITICIANS IMPLYING THAT SOMEONE, PRESUMABLY HIGH UP IN THE MILITARY HIERACHY, HAD BEEN COVERING UP THE TRUTH. AMATO TOLD LEFTIST INDEPENDENT "LA REPUBBLICA," IN AN INTERVIEW PUBLISHED NOV. 5, THAT SOMEONE HAD KNOWN THE TRUTH FOR EIGHT YEARS AND HAD KEPT IT WELL HIDDEN. HE WAS NOT MAKING SPECIFIC ACCUSATIONS, AMATO SAID, BUT THERE WAS NO OTHER EXPLANATION. ANOTHER SOCIALIST MINISTER, RINO FORMICA, WHO SEVERAL YEARS AGO HYPOTHESIZED THAT A MISSILE BROUGHT DOWN THE DC-9, TOLD THE PRESS THAT "WALLS OF SILENCE" HAD BEEN BUILT AROUND THE CASE.

3. (C) STATEMENTS BY AMATO AND OTHER SOCIALISTS DO NOT SEEM AIMED AT ZANONE;

[REDACTED]

B1

AMATO WAS PUT IN CHARGE OF INVESTIGATING THE USTICA DISASTER DURING CRAXI'S GOVERNMENT WHILE ANOTHER SOCIALIST, LELIO LAGORIO, WAS DEFENSE MINISTER WHEN THE CRASH OCCURRED

4. (C)

[REDACTED]

B1

ASKED ABOUT PORTA'S STATEMENTS, ZANONE SAID THE MILITARY'S DISCOMFORT WAS UNDERSTANDABLE. HE DECLARED HIS FAITH IN THE LOYALTY OF THE MILITARY AND REITERATED THAT THE ARMED FORCES HAD FULLY COOPERATED WITH THE INVESTIGATING MAGISTRATE AND WOULD DO SO IN THE FUTURE.

B1

[REDACTED] COULD ONLY REFER TO THE INFORMATION

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Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

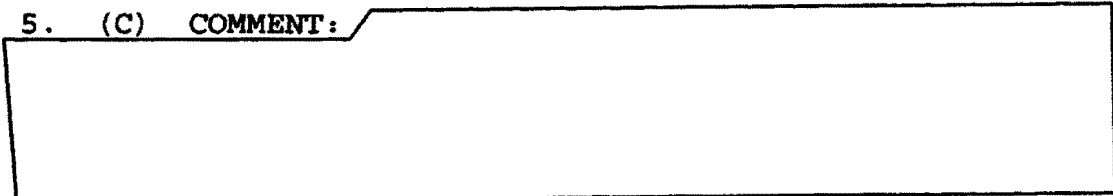
DOC_NBR: 1988ROME25210

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

28

THAT HAD BEEN PUT AT HIS DISPOSAL; IF THE MAGISTRATE
TURNED UP ANY NEW EVIDENCE HE WOULD NOT HESITATE TO
INVESTIGATE IT IN HIS RESPONSIBILITY AS DEFENSE
MINISTER. SIMILARY, ASKED ABOUT A STATEMENT BY PISANO
THAT EXCLUDED THE POSSIBLITY THAT ITALIAN ARMED FORCES
HAD DOWNED THE JET BUT DID NOT EXCLUDE THE HYPOTHETICAL
INVOLVEMENT BY THE ALLIES, ZANONE SAID THAT WHAT THE
ITALIAN MOD HAS SAID ABOUT THE LACK OF ALLIED
ACTIVITIES ON THE DAY IN QUESTION WAS BASED ENTIRELY
ON INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE ALLIES. THIS REMARK
HAS ELICITED RENEWED SPECULATION IN THE PRESS
THAT AN ALLIED PLANE WAS RESPONSIBLE IN SOME WAY FOR
THE DC-9 TRAGEDY.

5. (C) COMMENT:



B1

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PAGE 01 ROME 25210 02 OF 02 071832Z
ACTION EB-00

INFO LOG-00 ADS-00 INR-10 EUR-00 SS-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00
COME-00 SSO-00 L-03 FFAE-00 DOTE-00 STR-17 INRE-00
JUSE-00 DS-01 SCT-02 E-01 /034 W
-----373113 071959Z /43

O 071823Z NOV 88
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6404
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USNATO
AMCONSUL NAPLES
USCINCEUR VAHINGEN GE
DIA WASH DC
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE
AMCONSUL PALERMO

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Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1988ROME25210

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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SECTION 02 OF 02 ROME 25210

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: MOPS, EAIR, PREL, PTER, IT
SUBJECT: USTICA AIR CRASH: POLEMICS GET HOTTER

B1

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A28

Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1988ROME25475

CHANNEL: n/a
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PAGE 01 ROME 25475 01 OF 02 101623Z
ACTION EUR-00

INFO	LOG-00	ADS-00	INR-10	SS-00	CIAE-00	EB-00	H-01
	NEA-06	NSCE-00	NSAE-00	COME-00	SSO-00	HA-09	L-03
	TRSE-00	PM-10	PA-01	FAAE-00	DOFE-00	OMB-01	STR-17
	INRE-00	ACDA-12	USIE-00	JUSE-00	SP-02	SNP-01	C-01
	PRS-01	DS-01	SCT-02	E-01	P-02	T-01	/082 W

-----237157 101643Z /45

O 101617Z NOV 88
 FM AMEMBASSY ROME
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6545
 AMEMBASSY BONN
 AMEMBASSY LONDON
 AMEMBASSY PARIS
 USMISSION USNATO
 AMCONSUL NAPLES
 USCINCEUR VAHINGEN GE
 DIA WASH DC
 USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT
 CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
 CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE
 AMCONSUL PALERMO

SECTION 01 OF 02 ROME 25475

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
 TAGS: MOPS, EAIR, PREL, PTER, IT
 SUBJECT: USTICA AIR CRASH: DE MITA OPENS INQUIRY

REF: ROME 25210 DTG 071823Z NOV 88 AND PREVIOUS

1. (U) SUMMARY. PRIME MINISTER DE MITA DECIDED NOVEMBER 9 TO NAME A COMMISSION OF INQUIRY TO LOOK INTO THE CRASH OF AN ITAVIA DC-9 NEAR THE ISLAND OF USTICA IN 1980. THE GOVERNMENTAL INQUIRY WILL BE IN ADDITION TO THE ON-GOING INQUIRY BY AN INVESTIGATING MAGISTRATE. DEFENSE MINISTER ZANONE STATED FORCEFULLY

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THE SAME DAY THAT THE ITALIAN ARMED FORCES, ACCUSED BY ONE TELEVISION NETWORK OF HAVING ACCIDENTALLY SHOT

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: ERIC W. FLEISHER
 DATE/CASE ID: 24 SEP 2002 200102359

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Date Printed:
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DOC_NBR: 1988ROME25475

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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DOWN THE PLANE WITH A MISSILE DURING AN EXERCISE, COULD NOT HAVE CAUSED THE DISASTER. PRESS SPECULATION HAS TURNED AGAIN TO THE POSSIBILITY OF A "FOREIGN" MISSILE, ALLIED OR OTHERWISE, BEING THE CAUSE OF THE CRASH. END SUMMARY.

2. (U) PRIME MINISTER CIRIACO DE MITA DECIDED DURING A COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING NOVEMBER 9 THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD OPEN ITS OWN INQUIRY INTO THE MYSTERIOUS CRASH OF AN ITAVIA DC-9 NEAR THE ISLAND OF USTICA IN JUNE, 1980. THE MEETING CAME IN THE WAKE OF MEDIA REPORTS THAT THE PLANE MAY HAVE BEEN ACCIDENTALLY SHOT DOWN BY THE ITALIAN AIR FORCE (ITAF) DURING AN EXERCISE WITH A DRONE, AND FOLLOWED MORE THAN A WEEK OF POLEMICS INVOLVING POLITICIANS, SENIOR FIGURES IN THE MILITARY, AND JOURNALISTS.

3. (U) THE COMMISSION OF TECHNICAL EXPERTS AND FORMER JUDGES WILL WORK INDEPENDENTLY OF THE ON-GOING INVESTIGATION BEING UNDERTAKEN BY THE INVESTIGATING MAGISTRATE IN CHARGE OF THE USTICA CASE, VITTORIO BUCARELLI. BUCARELLI NOVEMBER 9 RELEASED A STATEMENT TO THE PRESS IN WHICH HE SAID THE HYPOTHESIS OF THE TELEVISION JOURNAL "TG SETTE" THAT THE PLANE WAS DOWNED ACCIDENTALLY BY A NATO FIGHTER (ALMOST SURELY ITALIAN) DURING AN EXERCISE WITH A DRONE WAS "ONLY ONE HYPOTHESIS AMONG MANY." THE MAGISTRATE ADDED THAT THE COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS WORKING WITH HIM CONSIDERED ANY SPECULATION ABOUT THE CAUSE OF THE CRASH PREMATURE, AND STATED THAT THEY HAD ALWAYS RECEIVED THE MAXIMUM COLLABORATION OF THE ITALIAN AIR FORCE. BUCARELLI

PAGE 03 ROME 25475 01 OF 02 101623Z

SAID HIS REPORT SHOULD BE MADE PUBLIC SOMETIME IN LATE DECEMBER.

4. (U) DEFENSE MINISTER ZANONE, SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTER THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING, STATED FORCEFULLY THAT THE ITALIAN ARMED FORCES "CANNOT HAVE CAUSED" THE DISASTER. ZANONE SAID INFORMATION HE HAD GATHERED REGARDING INVENTORIES OF MISSILES AND DRONES, AND FLIGHT OPERATIONS SHOWED THERE WAS NO POSSIBILITY THAT THE ITAF HAD BEEN INVOLVED. ATTENTION IN THE PRESS HAS AGAIN TURNED TO THE POSSIBILITY OF A "FOREIGN" MISSILE, ALLIED OR

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OTHERWISE, AS HAVING BEEN THE CULPRIT.

5. (U) ACCORDING TO CENTRIST "LA STAMPA" NOVEMBER 10, AT LEAST ONE MINISTER, SOCIALIST RINO FORMICA, MINISTER OF LABOR, WAS UNHAPPY AT THE WAY THE PRIME MINISTER HAD CONDUCTED THE MEETING. ACCORDING TO "LA STAMPA," DE MITA CUT OFF DISCUSSION ON THE SUBJECT OF USTICA AFTER HIS DECISION TO FORM THE COMMISSION OF INQUIRY. "LA STAMPA" SAID THAT FORMICA LEFT THE MEETING IN A HUFF AND REPORTED HIM AS SAYING AFTERWARDS, "...AT THE END EVERYBODY WILL BE ABSOLVED AS IF NOTHING HAS HAPPENED." EVEN IF ITALY BECAME THE NUMBER ONE INDUSTRIAL COUNTRY IN THE WORLD, FORMICA SAID, "IT WOULD ALWAYS REMAIN THE COUNTRY OF MYSTERIES."

5. (C) COMMENT. IN CONTRAST TO HIS SOMEWHAT MORE CAUTIOUS STATEMENTS LAST WEEK, ZANONE'S DEFENSE OF THE ARMED FORCES YESTERDAY WAS UNEQUIVOCAL (HE DID NOT, FOR EXAMPLE, TAKE REFUGE IN THE SUBJUNCTIVE, WHICH IN ITALIAN LEAVES A LOT OF ROOM FOR AN ESCAPE HATCH). THERE HAD BEEN TALK OF A MINISTRY OF DEFENSE INQUIRY,



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PAGE 01 ROME 25475 02 OF 02 101624Z
ACTION EUR-00

INFO	LOG-00	ADS-00	INR-10	SS-00	CIAE-00	EB-00	H-01
	NEA-06	NSCE-00	NSAE-00	COME-00	SSO-00	HA-09	L-03
	TRSE-00	PM-10	PA-01	FAAE-00	DOTE-00	OMB-01	STR-17
	INRE-00	ACDA-12	USIE-00	JUSE-00	SP-02	SNP-01	C-01
	PRS-01	DS-01	SCT-02	E-01	P-02	T-01	/082 W
							-----237214 101643Z /45

O 101617Z NOV 88
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6546
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USNATO
AMCONSUL NAPLES
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
DIA WASH DC
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

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Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1988ROME25475

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE
AMCONSUL PALERMO

SECTION 02 OF 02 ROME 25475

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: MOPS, EAIR, PREL, PTER, IT
SUBJECT: USTICA AIR CRASH: DE MITA OPENS INQUIRY

BUT THE FACT THAT THE INQUIRY WILL BE INSTEAD A GOVERNMENTAL ONE PROBABLY IS TO ZANONE'S ADVANTAGE, ALLOWING HIM TO DISTANCE HIMSELF A BIT FROM THE CONTROVERSY. ZANONE'S COMMENTS ON THE POSSIBLE INVOLVEMENT OF ALLIED OR OTHER FOREIGN AIRCRAFT IN THE DISASTER WERE MORE EQUIVOCAL. HE DID SAY THAT THE ITALIAN INTELLIGENCE SERVICES HAD NO INFORMATION CONTRADICTING THE DENIALS OF THE U.S., FRANCE, THE UK,

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LIBYA AND OTHER COUNTRIES THAT THEIR FORCES WERE INVOLVED. NONETHELESS, ZANONE'S FORCEFUL DEFENSE OF THE ITAF HAS FED FURTHER THE SPECULATION IN THE MEDIA ABOUT THE NATIONALITY OF THE "FOREIGN" MISSILE THAT ALLEGEDLY BROUGHT DOWN THE JET.

6. (C) THE MEDIA SEEM TO HAVE ACCEPTED AS FACT THE THEORY, BASED ON LEAKS ALLEGEDLY COMING FROM THE BRITISH EXPERTS WHO EXAMINED PARTS OF THE WRECKAGE, THAT A MISSILE HIT THE PLANE. THE ITALIAN LOVE OF A MYSTERY, ESPECIALLY RAMPANT IN THE PRESS, HAS BEEN MUCH IN EVIDENCE LATELY. DESPITE BUCARELLI'S WARNING THAT ANY SPECULATION IS PREMATURE, THE PRESS HAS REPORTED ANY NUMBER OF THEORIES ABOUT WHO MIGHT HAVE GUNNED DOWN THE DC-9, ACCIDENTALLY OR ON PURPOSE: THE ALLIES, LIBYANS, TERRORISTS. THERE HAS EVEN BEEN SPECULATION THAT DRUG TRAFFICKERS OR THE ITALIAN INTELLIGENCE SERVICE MAY BE LINKED TO THE DISASTER. THE ONLY SURE THING SEEMS TO BE THAT THE MYSTERY OF USTICA WILL NOT BE RESOLVED ANYTIME SOON, IF EVER. HOLMES

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Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1988ROME25714

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PAGE 01 ROME 25714 151047Z
ACTION EUR-00

INFO	LOG-00	ADS-00	INR-10	SS-00	CIAE-00	EB-00	NEA-04
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	FAAE-00	DOT-00	STR-17	INRE-00	USIE-00	JUSE-00	SP-02
	C-01	PRS-01	SCT-02	E-01	P-02	/055 W	

-----060560 151052Z /10

O 151046Z NOV 88
 FM AMEMBASSY ROME
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6659
 INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
 AMEMBASSY LONDON
 AMEMBASSY PARIS
 USMISSION USNATO
 AMCONSUL NAPLES
 USCINCEUR VAHINGEN GE
 DIA WASH DC
 USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT
 CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
 CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE
 AMCONSUL PALERMO

UNCLAS ROME 25714

E.O. 12356: N/A
 TAGS: MOPS, EAIR, PREL, PTER, IT, US, LY
 SUBJECT: USTICA AIR CRASH: QADHAFI ACCUSES U.S.

REF: (A) ROME 25475 DTG 101617Z NOV 88
 - (B) ROME 25267 DTG 081347Z NOV 88
 - (C) CINCUSNAVEUR 091824Z NOV 88 (NOTAL)
 - (D) CINCUSNAVEUR 271126Z JUN 88 (NOTAL)

1. DURING WHAT LEADING CENTRIST "CORRIERE DELLA SERA"
 NOVEMBER 15 DESCRIBED AS AN "ENCOUNTER-SHOW" WITH
 ITALIAN JOURNALISTS THE PREVIOUS DAY, LIBYAN LEADER
 QADHAFI DENIED ANY LIBYAN INVOLVEMENT IN THE 1980

[REDACTED]

PAGE 02 ROME 25714 151047Z

CRASH OF AN ITAVIA DC-9 NEAR THE ISLAND OF USTICA AND
 SAID THAT AN AMERICAN MISSILE SHOT DOWN THE PLANE.

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Date Printed:
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DOC_NBR: 1988ROME25714

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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2. QADHAFI'S COMMENTS CAME DURING A MEETING WITH JOURNALISTS WHO ACCOMPANIED THE PRESIDENT OF THE SICILIAN REGIONAL GOVERNMENT, RINO NICOLOSI, TO LIBYA TO TRY TO ARRANGE THE RELEASE OF 11 SICILIAN FISHERMEN BEING HELD IN LIBYA FOR VIOLATING THE COUNTRY'S TERRITORIAL WATERS. ALSO ATTENDING WAS THE ITALIAN AMBASSADOR TO LIBYA, GIORGIO REITANO.

3. AS REPORTED IN "CORRIERE" AND OTHER LEADING DAILIES, QADHAFI SAID THAT AN AMERICAN MISSILE WAS THE CAUSE OF THE PLANE CRASH. HE CLAIMED TO HAVE DOCUMENTATION THAT EXPLAINED THE REASONS WHY THE U.S. HAD SHOT DOWN THE AIRLINER. HE SAID HE WOULD PROVIDE IT TO THE JOURNALISTS, BUT DID NOT FOLLOW THROUGH.

4. QADHAFI DENIED THAT LIBYA HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE CRASH, AND SAID THAT A LIBYAN MIG FOUND IN CALABRIA SOME 20 DAYS AFTER THE USTICA INCIDENT HAD CRASHED THERE "IN A DIFFERENT PERIOD."

5. ACTION REQUEST: IF ASKED BY THE PRESS, EMBASSY INTENDS TO DENY QADHAFI'S ASSERTIONS, BASED ON GUIDANCE WE HAVE RECEIVED PREVIOUSLY (REFS C AND D) THAT NO SHIPS OR AIRCRAFT OF THE SIXTH FLEET WERE OPERATING IN THE TYRRHENIAN SEA AT THE TIME OF THE CRASH. IF DEPARTMENT HAS ADDITIONAL MATERIAL OR GUIDANCE FOR EMBASSY, PLEASE SEND BY IMMEDIATE CABLE.
HOLMES

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Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1988ROME26055

CHANNEL: n/a
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PAGE 01 ROME 26055 181745Z
ACTION EUR-00

INFO LOG-00 ADS-00 INR-07 CIAE-00 EB-00 NSAE-00 PA-02
DOTE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 SP-02 PRS-01 /012 W
-----367715 182255Z /72

R 181546Z NOV 88
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6821
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION USNATO
AMCONSUL NAPLES
AMCONSUL PALERMO
USCINCEUR VAHINGEN GE
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE
DIA WASH DC

UNCLAS ROME 26055

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: MOPS, EAIR, PREL, PTER, IT
SUBJECT: USTICA AIR CRASH: DE MITA NAMES COMMISSION
MEMBERS

REF: (A) ROME 25475 DTG 101617Z NOV 88
(B) ROME 25714 DTG 151046Z NOV 88

1. PRIME MINISTER DE MITA NOVEMBER 17 NAMED THE SEVEN MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENTAL COMMISSION THAT WILL INVESTIGATE THE MYSTERIOUS CRASH OF AN ITAVIA DC-9 AIRLINER NEAR THE ISLAND OF USTICA IN JUNE, 1980.

2. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, THE COMMISSION WILL BE HEADED BY CARLO MARIA PRATIS, FORMERLY AN ATTORNEY

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WITH THE COURT OF CASSATION. OTHER COMMISSION MEMBERS ARE FORMER AIR FORCE GENERAL EMANUELE ANNONI; FORMER

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CHANNEL: n/a
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ARMY GENERAL ALESSANDRO D'ALESSANDRO; FORMER ADMIRAL
UGO PIZZARELLI; UNIVERSITY TEACHERS CARLO BUONGIORNO
AND LUIGI PASCALE; AND EGIDIO ORTONA, FORMER
AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED STATES (1967-75). (ACCORDING
TO THE PRESS, THE THREE FORMER MILITARY OFFICERS ALL
RETIRED FROM ACTIVE DUTY BEFORE THE CRASH OF THE DC-9.)
HOLMES

[REDACTED]

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Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1988ROME27060

CHANNEL: n/a
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PAGE 01 ROME 27060 01 OF 03 021823Z
ACTION EUR-00

INFO LOG-00 ADS-00 INR-07 SS-00 CIAE-00 NEA-06 NSCE-00
NSAE-00 SSO-00 PM-10 INRE-00 SP-02 C-01 SCT-02
P-02 /030 W

-----052602 021932Z /46

O 021800Z DEC 88
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7334
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
SECDEF WASHDC
JCS WASHDC
VRUFHNA/USMISSION USNATO 9919
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE
DIA WASH DC
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMCONSUL MILAN
AMCONSUL NAPLES
AMCONSUL FLORENCE POUCH
AMCONSUL GENOA POUCH
AMCONSUL PALERMO POUCH

SECTION 01 OF 03 ROME 27060

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: MOPS, EAIR, PTER, IT
SUBJECT: USTICA AIR CRASH: AN UPDATE

REF: (A) ROME 26386 DTG 250907Z NOV 88 (NOTAL)
- (B) ROME 25714 DTG 151046Z NOV 88 (NOTAL)

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.

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2. SUMMARY. THE MYSTERY SURROUNDING THE CRASH OF AN

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: ERIC W. FLEISHER
DATE/CASE ID: 24 SEP 2002 200102359

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HANDLING: n/a

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ITAVIA DC-9 NEAR THE ISLAND OF USTICA IN JUNE, 1980 CONTINUES TO FIGURE PROMINENTLY IN THE NEWS HERE. THOUGH NO BOMBSHELLS HAVE EXPLODED LATELY, INCREMENTAL REVELATIONS KEEP SPECULATION ALIVE WHILE ITALY AWAITS THE REPORT OF THE INVESTIGATING MAGISTRATE IN CHARGE OF THE CASE. THE HYPOTHESIS-OF-THE-DAY HAS VARIOUSLY INVOLVED THE ITALIAN AIR FORCE, THE U.S. SIXTH FLEET, THE FRENCH, THE GERMANS, THE LIBYANS, ITALIAN INTELLIGENCE, PERSONS LINKED TO THE P-2 SCANDAL AND OTHERS, ALONE OR IN COMBINATION. IN A WINDFALL FOR CONSPIRACY BUFFS, THE USTICA CRASH HAS EVEN BEEN LINKED, ALBEIT TANGENTIALLY, WITH THE MYSTERIOUS CRASH IN 1973 OF A PLANE ALLEGEDLY USED BY ITALIAN INTELLIGENCE, SAID TO HAVE BEEN SABOTAGED BY THE ISRAELI MOSSAD IN RETALIATION FOR THE RELEASE BY ITALY OF FIVE PALESTINIAN TERRORISTS TO LIBYA. END SUMMARY.

3. A POSSIBLE CONNECTION BETWEEN THE USTICA TRAGEDY AND THE DISCOVERY 20 DAYS LATER OF A CRASHED LIBYAN MIG IN THE MOUNTAINS OF CALABRIA GAINED NEW CURRENCY THIS WEEK. LAWYERS FOR THE FAMILIES OF THE VICTIMS REPORTED RECEIVING AN ENVELOPE SAID TO CONTAIN A PHOTOCOPY OF A LETTER WRITTEN IN 1984 FROM AN OFFICIAL OF THE CARABINIERI (NATIONAL POLICE) TO THE THEN-SECOND-IN-COMMAND OF ITALIAN MILITARY INTELLIGENCE (SISMI), PIETRO MUSUMECI. THE LETTER PURPORTEDLY REFERRED TO A REPORT BEARING ON THE DOWNING OF THE DC-9 BY AN AMERICAN FIGHTER, AS WELL AS THE AUTOPSY REPORT ON THE LIBYAN PILOT.

4. THE LETTER WAS QUICKLY BRANDED FALSE BY THE CARABINIERI. THE LAWYERS DID NOT EXCLUDE THAT
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POSSIBILITY -- OR THE POSSIBILITY THAT SOMEONE HAD SENT THE LETTER IN AN ATTEMPT TO THROW THE INVESTIGATION OFF TRACK. NONETHELESS, THE EPISODE RENEWED SPECULATION THAT AN AMERICAN (OR POSSIBLY FRENCH) FIGHTER HAD HAD AN ENCOUNTER WITH THE LIBYAN PLANE, AS A RESULT OF WHICH BOTH THE DC-9 AND THE MIG WERE SHOT DOWN.

5. THE NOVEMBER 30 "TG" NEWS BROADCAST OF LEFTIST, STATE-OWNED RAI THREE TELEVISION CLAIMED THAT THE AIR FORCE INTELLIGENCE SERVICE "DID EVERYTHING POSSIBLE" TO OBSCURE THE FACTS OF THE LIBYAN PILOT'S DEATH. CORRESPONDENT ITALO MORETTI ALSO SAID THAT THE HASTY

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DOC_NBR: 1988ROME27060

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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RETURN OF THE PLANE AND REMAINS OF THE PILOT TO LIBYA WAS THE RESULT OF PRESSURE FROM THE CHIEF OF ITALIAN MILITARY INTELLIGENCE AND AN OFFICIAL OF FIAT, WHICH AT THE TIME WAS PARTLY OWNED BY LIBYA. (LEFTIST INDEPENDENT "LA REPUBBLICA" REPORTED NOVEMBER 30 THAT THE AUTOPSY REPORT MIGHT HAVE BEEN ALTERED TO MAKE IT SEEM THAT THE LIBYAN PILOT DIED MORE THAN TWO WEEKS AFTER THE USTICA CRASH, RATHER THAN AT ABOUT THE SAME TIME).

6. MORETTI ALSO SAID THAT THE NETWORK HAD ASKED THE PENTAGON IF THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT HAD EVER REQUESTED TAPES OF RADAR REGISTRATIONS FROM THE AIRCRAFT CARRIER SARATOGA, AT THE PORT IN NAPLES AT THE TIME OF THE USTICA CRASH. MORETTI SAID THE PENTAGON HAD PROMISED A RESPONSE. (MORETTI'S REQUEST SEEMS A MOOT ONE TO US, SINCE CINCUSNAVEUR HAS ALREADY SAID PUBLICLY THAT THE GOI NEVER ASKED FOR TAPES OF THE RADAR REGISTRATIONS, AND THAT IN ANY CASE NO SUCH TAPES EXIST).

7. ALSO NOVEMBER 30, INDEPENDENT TELEVISION NETWORK

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PAGE 01 ROME 27060 02 OF 03 022101Z
ACTION EUR-00

INFO LOG-00 ADS-00 INR-07 SS-00 CIAE-00 EB-00 NEA-06
NSCE-00 NSAE-00 SSO-00 PM-10 INRE-00 SP-02 C-01
SCT-02 P-02 /030 W

-----060620 022147Z /61

O 021800Z DEC 88
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7335
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
SECDEF WASHDC
JCS WASHDC
USMISSION USNATO
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE
DIA WASH DC
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1988ROME27060

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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AMCONSUL MILAN
AMCONSUL NAPLES
AMCONSUL FLORENCE POUCH
AMCONSUL GENOA POUCH
AMCONSUL PALERMO POUCH

SECTION 02 OF 03 ROME 27060

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: MOPS, EAIR, PTER, IT
SUBJECT: USTICA AIR CRASH: AN UPDATE

RETEQUATTRO (CHANNEL FOUR) HELD A ROUNDTABLE OF JOURNALISTS AND POLITICIANS TO DISCUSS THE VARIOUS USTICA HYPOTHESES, BUT THE ONLY NEW INFORMATION TO EMERGE CONCERNED THE FRENCH.

PAGE 02 ROME 27060 02 OF 03 022101Z

8. ACCORDING TO RETEQUATTRO, FERMER, THE FRENCH SALVAGE COMPANY THAT RECOVERED WRECKAGE OF THE DC-9, IS CONTROLLED BY "WELL-KNOWN FRONT COMPANIES" OF FRENCH INTELLIGENCE. RETEQUATTRO ALSO DISPLAYED A PHOTOGRAPH OF AN OBJECT FROM THE WRECKAGE SAID TO HAVE BEEN TAKEN BY THE FRENCH SUBMERSIBLE. ACCORDING TO THE NETWORK, THE PHOTO WAS IMMEDIATELY SENT BY THE SALVAGE CREW TO PARIS WITH THE CENTER PORTION MARKED BY A CIRCLE. THE RETEQUATTRO CORRESPONDENT DID NOT KNOW WHAT THE OBJECT COULD BE (IT LOOKED RATHER LIKE A WHEEL, OR PERHAPS A TURBINE BLADE) BUT SAID THE FACT THAT IT HAD BEEN GIVEN SUCH ATTENTION BY THE FRENCH HAD TO MEAN SOMETHING -- THE IMPLICATION BEING THAT JUST MAYBE THE FRENCH KNEW MORE THAN THEY WERE TELLING. A REPORTER FOR LEADING CENTRIST "CORRIERE DELLA SERA" TAKING PART IN THE BROADCAST REMARKED THAT HE HAD ALWAYS THOUGHT IT STRANGE THAT THE FRENCH SALVAGE TEAM HAD FOUND THE WRECKAGE SO EASILY, AND WORRIED OUT LOUD THAT "SOMEONE" MIGHT HAVE "CLEANED UP" THE AREA AROUND THE WRECKAGE BEFORE THE SALVAGE OPERATION GOT UNDERWAY....

9. MEANWHILE, THE USTICA MYSTERY ALSO FOUND ITS WAY INTO THE 15-YEAR-OLD CONTROVERSY OVER THE CRASH OF THE "ARGO 16", A C-47 ALLEGEDLY USED BY ITALIAN INTELLIGENCE TO REPATRIATE FIVE PALESTINIAN TERRORISTS TO LIBYA AFTER THEY WERE CAUGHT PLANNING AN ATTACK ON AN EL AL AIRLINER

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CHANNEL: n/a
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WITH A MISSILE AT ROME'S FIUMICINO AIRPORT. ACCORDING TO MEDIA REPORTS, THE INVESTIGATING MAGISTRATE IN CHARGE OF THE CASE, CARLO MELLONI OF VENICE, BELIEVES THE ISRAELI MOSSAD SABOTAGED THE PLANE TO TEACH ITALY A LESSON (THE THEORY IS NOT NEW).

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10. USTICA CAME UP AFTER MELLONI ORDERED THE ARREST AND INTERROGATION OF FORMER AIR FORCE GENERAL PIETOR PICCIO IN THE ARGO 16 CASE. ACCORDING TO MELLONI, PICCIO (WHO HAS SINCE BEEN RELEASED) ALSO HAD SOMETHING TO SAY ABOUT USTICA. AT THE TIME OF THE DC-9 CRASH, PICCIO WAS COMMANDER OF THE THIRD AIR FORCE REGION, IN SOUTHEASTERN ITALY. HE HAD NEVER BEEN QUESTIONED ABOUT USTICA. ACCORDING TO "LA REPUBBLICA" NOVEMBER 30, PICCIO "MAY HAVE TOLD" MELLONI THAT ITALIAN RADAR NOT ONLY WAS NOT FOLLOWING THE DC-9, BUT WAS INCAPABLE OF TRACKING THE LIBYAN MIG, IF THERE WAS ONE. IN HIS REPORT ON USTICA, MORETTI OF "TG3" REPORTED RUMORS THAT AN OFFICIAL FROM PICCIO'S OFFICE "POUNCHED" ON THE CRASH SITE OF THE MIG, AND WAS JOINED THERE BY AN INTELLIGENCE OFFICER AND MILITARY DOCTOR.

11. TO COMPLICATE MATTERS FURTHER, STILL OTHER INVESTIGATORS MAY INVOLVE THEMSELVES IN THE USTICA CASE. A PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED TO INVESTIGATE A SERIES OF UNEXPLAINED TERRORIST BOMBINGS DATING BACK TO THE 1969 ATTACK ON A BANK IN MILAN'S PIAZZA FONTANA INDICATED THAT IT MAY BE TAKING A LOOK AT THE USTICA FILE. THE COMMITTEE IS CHAIRED BY REPUBLICAN SENATOR LIBERO GUALTIERI, A FIRM FRIEND OF THE UNITED STATES (HE BITTERLY CRITICIZED THE GOI'S DECISION TO RELEASE ACHILLE LAURO HIJACKING MASTERMIND ABU ABBAS), WHO, NEVERTHELESS, HAS INDICATED GREAT FASCINATION WITH CONSPIRACY THEORIES IN PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS WITH EMBOFFS. GUALTIERI HAS ALREADY MADE CLEAR HIS SUSPICION THAT ITALIAN SECURITY SERVICES OFFICIALS WERE RESPONSIBLE IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER FOR MANY OF THE BOMBINGS WHICH SHOCKED ITALIANS IN THE 1970'S AND EARLY 1980'S, AND

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PAGE 01 ROME 04320 281749Z
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-----040503 281842Z /44

P 281743Z FEB 89
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
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JCS WASHDC
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CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT//INTAFF/PIO//
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AMCONSUL MILAN
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AMCONSUL PALERMO
AMCONSUL FLORENCE
AMCONSUL GENOA

UNCLAS ROME 04320

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: MOPS, EAIR, IT, LY
SUBJECT: USTICA AIR CRASH: GOVERNMENT COMMISSION ASKS
. FOR MORE TIME; CALABRIAN PROSECUTOR RULES
. OUT THE "LIBYAN CONNECTION"

REF: ROME 3223 DTG 141146Z FEB 89

PAGE 02 ROME 04320 281749Z

1. THE GOVERNMENT COMMISSION APPOINTED BY PRIME
MINISTER DE MITA HAS REQUESTED AND BEEN GRANTED AN

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ADDITIONAL TWO MONTHS TO CONTINUE ITS INVESTIGATION INTO THE CRASH OF AN ITAVIA DC-9 AIRLINER NEAR THE ISLAND OF USTICA IN JUNE 1980 . THE MAGISTRATE IN CHARGE OF THE JUDICIAL INVESTIGATION OF THE USTICA DISASTER, VITTORIO BUCARELLI, WAS REPORTED ALSO TO BE DELAYING HIS REPORT, WHICH HAD BEEN EXPECTED THIS MONTH.

2. IN A SEPARATE DEVELOPMENT, THE PRESS REPORTED FEBRUARY 28 THAT THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY OF CROTONE, IN CALABRIA, HAS CONCLUDED POSITIVELY THAT THERE IS NO CONNECTION BETWEEN THE USTICA DISASTER AND THE CRASH OF A LIBYAN MIG IN THE MOUNTAINS OF CALABRIA IN THE SAME PERIOD. THE PROSECUTOR'S INVESTIGATION, THE SECOND UNDERTAKEN BY HIS OFFICE, WAS OPENED AFTER TWO PATHOLOGISTS WHO TOOK PART IN THE AUTOPSY OF THE LIBYAN PILOT REPORTEDLY TOLD BUCARELLI THAT THE PILOT HAD DIED AT THE SAME TIME AS THE DC-9 DISAPPEARED, THOUGH THEY PREVIOUSLY HAD SIGNED AN AUTOPSY REPORT STATING THE PILOT DIED JULY 18.

3. ACCORDING TO CENTRIST "LA STAMPA" FEBRUARY 28, THE CROTONE PROSECUTOR'S INTERVIEW WITH THE PATHOLOGISTS UNCOVERED "CONTRADICTIONS" IN THEIR TESTIMONY. "LA STAMPA" SAID THEY WERE UNABLE TO EXPLAIN WHY THEY HAD CHANGED THEIR MINDS ABOUT THE DATE OF DEATH WITHIN 24 HOURS OF SIGNING THE AUTOPSY REPORT; COULD NOT REMEMBER THE NAME OF THE PERSON IN THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE TO WHOM THEY SAID THEY HAD SENT THEIR SECOND, DIVERGENT REPORT; OR WHY THEY TOOK SO LONG TO MAKE THEIR SECOND OPINION PUBLIC. RABB

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PAGE 01 ROME 04802 061740Z
ACTION PM-10

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P 061737Z MAR 89
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0773
INFO USIA WASHDC 0563
SECDEF WASHDC
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CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT
DIA WASH DC
AMCONSUL MILAN
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AMCONSUL PALERMO
AMCONSUL FLORENCE
AMCONSUL GENOA

UNCLAS ROME 04802

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: MOPS EAIR IT LY
SUBJECT: USTICA AIR CRASH;
MORE ON THE "LIBYAN CONNECTION"

REF: ROME 4320 DTG 281743Z FEB 89

RELATIVES MEET WITH LIBYAN REP

PAGE 02 ROME 04802 061740Z

1. A DELEGATION FROM THE ASSOCIATION OF RELATIVES OF
THE VICTIMS OF THE CRASH OF AN ITAVIA DC-9 NEAR THE

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ISLAND OF USTICA IN JUNE 1980 MET MARCH 1 WITH THE HEAD OF THE LIBYAN PEOPLES' BUREAU IN ROME, ABDULRAHAM SHALGAM. FOLLOWING THE MEETING, ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT DARIA BONFIETTI TOLD THE PRESS THAT, ACCORDING TO SHALGAM, NEITHER INVESTIGATING MAGISTRATE VITTORIO BUCARELLI NOR THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT HAD YET ASKED FOR QADHAFI'S ALLEGED PROOF OF U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN THE DISASTER. THIS, TO HER, DENOTED ATTEMPTS AT COVERING UP THE TRUTH. SHE ANNOUNCED THAT THE ASSOCIATION WOULD TAKE ADDITIONAL STEPS WITH PRESIDENT COSSIGA AND PM DE MITA.

2. IN ITS COVERAGE MARCH 3, LEADING CENTRIST CORRIERE DELLA SERA ALSO SUGGESTED THAT THERE HAD BEEN ATTEMPTS TO DELAY OR DERAILED THE INVESTIGATION INTO THE CRASH. THE PAPER REPORTED THAT THE ORIGINAL, HANDWRITTEN RADAR PLOTTING JOURNALS RECORDING THE USTICA CRASH HAD RECENTLY BEEN DENIED TO THE INVESTIGATIVE EXPERTS BY THE LICOLA RADAR CENTER BECAUSE OF "LACK OF PROPER AUTHORIZATION." IN ADDITION, ONE OF BUCARELLI'S INVESTIGATORS TOLD THE PAPER HE BELIEVED HIS TELEPHONE WAS BUGGED.

LIBYAN MIG CRASH

3. DESPITE THE EARLIER CLAIM BY THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY OF CROTONE THAT THERE WAS NO CONNECTION BETWEEN THE DC-9 DISASTER AND THE CRASH OF A LIBYAN MIG IN CALABRIA IN THE SUMMER OF 1980 (REPTTEL), THE

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TWO PATHOLOGISTS WHO PERFORMED THE AUTOPSY ON THE MIG'S PILOT REPEATED THEIR CLAIM IN CORRIERE DELLA SERA THAT THEY HAD SUBMITTED AN AMENDED AUTOPSY REPORT TO THE CLERK OF THE COURT IN CROTONE THE DAY AFTER TURNING IN THEIR INITIAL FINDINGS. THE FINDINGS OF THE INITIAL AUTOPSY REPORT SAID THAT THE PILOT HAD DIED THE SAME DAY AS THE AUTOPSY, JULY 18. THE SECOND REPORT, ACCORDING TO THE PATHOLOGISTS, PLACED THE PILOT'S DEATH "AT LEAST" 15 DAYS PREVIOUSLY, MUCH CLOSER TO THE DATE OF THE DC-9 CRASH.

4. THE PATHOLOGISTS ALSO REITERATED THAT, THE DAY AFTER THEY SUBMITTED THE AMENDED REPORT, A CAPTAIN OF

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THE CARABINIERI (NATIONAL PARAMILITARY POLICE) SET UP AN APPOINTMENT FOR THEM IN HIS OFFICE WITH AN UNIDENTIFIED INDIVIDUAL WHO HAD TRIED TO CONVINCE THE TWO TO RETRACT THEIR AMENDED REPORT. THEY SAID THEY HAD ALREADY REPORTED THIS TO BOTH BUCARELLI AND CROTONE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY COSTA. ACCORDING TO CORRIERE DELLA SERA, THE UNKNOWN INDIVIDUAL'S "BEHAVIOR AND AUTHORITATIVE MANNER" COULDEWELL IDENTIFY HIM AS AN ITALIAN SECRET SERVICE OFFICER.
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PAGE 01 ROME 05722 01 OF 02 162004Z
ACTION EB-00

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SECTION 01 OF 02 ROME 05722

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
 TAGS: MOPS, EAIR, IT, NATO, US, LY
 SUBJECT: USTICA AIR CRASH: EXPERTS REPORTEDLY
 ACCEPT MISSILE THESIS

REF: ROME 4802 DTG 061737Z MAR 89 AND PREVIOUS

1. (U) SUMMARY. A PANEL OF TECHNICAL EXPERTS
 APPOINTED BY THE MAGISTRATE IN CHARGE OF THE
 INVESTIGATION INTO THE CRASH OF AN ITAVIA DC-9 NEAR

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EXTEND CLASSIFICATION

THE ISLAND OF USTICA IN JUNE 1980 HAS REPORTEDLY
 CONCLUDED THAT THE PLANE WAS BROUGHT DOWN BY A MISSILE

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CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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BUT COULD NOT IDENTIFY WHO FIRED THE MISSILE. THE REVELATION THAT THE ORIGINAL LOG OF RADAR PLOTTINGS FROM THE RADAR STATION AT LICOLA WAS DESTROYED IN 1984 HAS ADDED TO SPECULATION IN SOME QUARTERS ABOUT A COVER-UP OF THE FACTS. AN ALLEGED INCIDENT BETWEEN ANOTHER DC-9 AND MILITARY AIRCRAFT OVER THE TYRHENNIAN SEA MARCH 13 MEANWHILE HAS ADDED FUEL TO THE CONTROVERSY ABOUT THE SAFETY OF ITALIAN SKIES. END SUMMARY.

2. (U) PRESS REPORTS THIS WEEK INDICATED THAT THE PANEL OF TECHNICAL EXPERTS APPOINTED BY INVESTIGATING MAGISTRATE VITTORIO BUCARELLI WILL TURN OVER THE RESULTS OF THEIR INVESTIGATION THIS WEEK. REPORTEDLY, THE PANEL HAS CONCLUDED THAT THE DC-9 WAS STRUCK BY A MISSILE. THE PANEL IS SAID TO HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO SHED ANY LIGHT ON THE IDENTITY OF THE PLANE THAT MUST HAVE FIRED THE MISSILE. CENTRIST "LA STAMPA" REPORTS MARCH 16, HOWEVER, THAT TWO OF THE SIX EXPERTS ARE RESISTING A FIRM CONCLUSION THAT A MISSILE (AS OPPOSED, APPARENTLY, TO SOME OTHER KIND OF EXTERNAL EXPLOSION) WAS RESPONSIBLE, ABSENT MORE CONCLUSIVE EVIDENCE.

3. (U) BUCARELLI TOLD THE PRESS MARCH 15 THAT THE PANEL HAD NOT YET TURNED OVER ITS FINDINGS. HE SAID HE EXPECTED THE REPORT IN A FEW DAYS. BUCARELLI ADDED THAT HE WAS CONTEMPLATING LEGAL ACTION AGAINST THOSE JOURNALISTS WHO APPEARED TO HAVE HAD ACCESS TO THE REPORT FOR BREACHING JUDICIAL SECRECY.

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4. (U) LEADING CENTRIST "CORRIERE DELLA SERA" REPORTED MARCH 15 THAT THE ORIGINAL LOG OF RADAR PLOTTINGS TAKEN JUNE 27, 1980 BY THE RADAR CENTER AT LICOLA, NEAR NAPLES, WAS DESTROYED IN 1984. (COPIES HAD BEEN FURNISHED EARLIER TO THE PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE IN PALERMO, AND SUBSEQUENTLY TO THE PANEL OF EXPERTS.) "LA STAMPA" REPORTS MARCH 16 THAT ITALIAN AIR FORCE (ITAF) PRACTICE IS TO DESTROY THE REGISTRATIONS EVERY YEAR; STILL, THE PAPER ASKS, WHO ORDERED THEIR DESTRUCTION KNOWING THAT AN INVESTIGATION WAS UNDER WAY?

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5. (U) ACCORDING TO LEFTIST INDEPENDENT "LA REPUBBLICA" MARCH 16, WHILE THE SCIENTIFIC LABS OF THE ITAF REPORTED SOON AFTER THE INCIDENT THE DISCOVERY OF TRACES OF THE PLASTIC EXPLOSIVE T4 IN FRAGMENTS FROM THE WRECKAGE, IT WAS NOT UNTIL 1985 THAT EXPERTS AT A NATIONAL RESEARCH CENTER (CNR) LAB IN QAPLES ALSO ISOLATED TNT, AFTER A REEXAMINATION OF THE REMAINS OF TWO VICTIMS. T4 USED ALONE, THE PAPER SAYS, WAS THQ EXPLOSIVE OF CHOICE IN (RIGHT-WING) TERRORIST BOMBS USED IN ITALY AT THAT TIME, WHILE THE COMBINATION OF T4 AND TNT IS ONLY USED IN HIGH-EXPLOSIVE ORDINANCE, SUCH AS AIR-TO-AIR MISSILES. "LA REPUBBLICA" QUOTES ANTONIO MALORNI OF THE CNR LAB AS SAYING THAT T4 IS MUCH MORE DIFFICULT TO DETECT THAN TNT. THE PAPER TERMS THE DIFFERENCE IN THE FINDINGS OF THE ITAF AND THE CNR LAB "PECULIAR" AND SAYS IT AND THE LICOLA REVELATION ADD TO THE MYSTERY SURROUNDING BUCARELLI'S "INTERMINABLE" INVESTIGATION.

6. (U) THE MEDIA ALSO REPORT A NEW INCIDENT BETWEEN

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ACTION EB-00

INFO LOG-00 ADS-00 INR-07 EUR-00 SS-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00
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INFO SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
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CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT//INTAFF/PIO//
DIA WASH DC

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AMCONSUL MILAN
AMCONSUL NAPLES
AMCONSUL PALERMO

SECTION 02 OF 02 ROME 05722

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: MOPS, EAIR, IT, NATO, US, LY
SUBJECT: USTICA AIR CRASH: EXPERTS REPORTEDLY

CIVILIAN AND MILITARY TRAFFIC OVER THE TYRHENNIAN SEA. ACCORDING TO "CORRIERE" MARCH 16, AN ATI DC-9 FLYING FROM BOLOGNA TO PALERMO MARCH 13 FOUND ITSELF "IN THE MIDDLE OF MANEUVERS OF A FOREIGN FLEET, ALMOST CERTAINLY AMERICAN, THAT HAD NOT BEEN NOTIFIED" TO THE ITALIAN MOD. A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ITALIAN PILOTS

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ASSOCIATION SAID THE INCIDENT CALLED FOR NEW AND DECISIVE ACTION TO ASSURE THE SECURITY OF CIVIL AVIATION.

7. (C) THE LATEST REVELATIONS HAVE ADDED FUEL TO THE FIRE OF THOSE WHO SUSPECT A COVER-UP BY THE ITAF, PROBABLY IN CAHOOTS WITH OTHER AUTHORITIES. AN EASY INFERENCE FROM THE T4-TNT STORY IS THAT THE ITAF DELIBERATELY DID NOT FIND THE EASILY DETECTABLE TRACES OF TNT SO THAT THE THESIS OF A TERRORIST BOMB WOULD BE ACCEPTED. THE LICOLA MYSTERY, COMBINED WITH PREVIOUS REPORTS OF "8-MINUTE GAPS" IN THE MARSALA RADAR REGISTRATIONS AND THE ALLEGED UNCOOPERATIVENESS OF OTHERS IN THE MILITARY DOESN'T HELP THE MILITARY'S IMAGE, DESPITE DEFENSE MINISTER ZANONE'S REPEATED STATEMENTS (INCLUDING YESTERDAY) THAT THE ITALIAN MILITARY WEREN'T INVOLVED. IF THE PRESS REPORTS OF THE TECHNICAL EXPERTS' FINDINGS ARE ACCURATE, THE SEARCH FOR THE CULPRIT -- OR CULPRITS -- IN THE ITALIAN MILITARY OR ELSEWHERE (INCLUDING THE U.S. SIXTH FLEET AND OTHER NATO FORCES) WILL TAKE OFF AGAIN.

8. (C) COMMENT. HOW FAR THAT SEARCH CAN GET IS ANOTHER, BIG QUESTION.

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IRONICALLY, AS ITALIAN TV CHANNEL 2 SAID LAST NIGHT, IF
BUCARELLI FOLLOWS THROUGH ON HIS THREAT, THE ONLY
PEOPLE EVER TO GO TO JAIL AS A RESULT OF THE USTICA
DISASTER MAY BE A COUPLE OF NEWSPAPER REPORTERS.
HOLMES

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PAGE 01 ROME 05878 171812Z
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FM AMEMBASSY ROME
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AMCONSUL NAPLES
AMCONSUL PALERMO

ROME 05878

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: MOPS, EAIR, IT, US,
SUBJECT: CONTROVERSY OVER CROWDED SKIES AND MILITARY
MANEUVERS IN THE TYRHENNIAN SEA

REF: (A) ROME 5722 DTG 161622Z MAR 89
(B) ROME 1259 DTG 191800Z JAN 89

1. (U) COMPLAINTS FROM THE PILOT OF AN ITALIAN DC-9
AIRLINER THAT FIGHTER AIRCRAFT HAD POSED A "GRAVE
DANGER" TO HIS AIRLINER WHILE EXERCISING OVER THE

PAGE 02 ROME 05878 171812Z

EXTEND CLASSIFICATION

TYRHENNIAN SEA MARCH 13 HAVE RENEWED COOTROVERSY IN
ITALY ABOUT THE BEHAVIOR OF THE U.S. NAVY IN THE

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TYRHENNIAN, WHICH HAD MOST RECENTLY SURFACED IN JANUARY.

2. (U) AS REF A REPORTED, THE PILOT OF THE ATI DC-9 ENROUTE FROM BOLOGNA TO PALERMO MARCH 13 FILED A COMPLAINT WITH ITALIAN CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITIES AFTER THE INCIDENT. THE PILOT IS REPORTED TO HAVE SAID THAT THE FIGHTERS CAME WITHIN ONE MILE (HORIZONTALLY) AND 300 METERS (VERTICALLY) OF THE AIRLINER. THE PILOT ALSO COMPLAINED THAT NO NOTICE TO AIRMEN (NOTAM) HAD BEEN FILED TO ALERT PILOTS TO THE EXERCISES.

3. (U) IN A MARCH 17 REPORT ON THE INCIDENT (WHICH IT TERMED A "NEAR MISS"), LEADING CENTRIST "CORRIERE DELLA SERA" CHARACTERIZES THE U.S. NAVY AS "INTRANSIGENT" AND UNWILLING TO GIVE NOTICE OF MANEUVERS THAT ARE NATIONAL (RATHER THAN NATO) IN SCOPE. THE "CORRIERE" ARTICLE SAYS THE U.S. NAVY'S EXPLANATION THAT MANEUVERS IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS DO NOT NEED NOTIFICATION EQUATES THE TYRHENNIAN TO THE GULF OF SIRTE.

4. (C)



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PAGE 01 ROME 06001 01 OF 02 210825Z
ACTION EB-00

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 JCS WASHDC IMMEDIATE
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 AMEMBASSY LONDON
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 AMCONSUL MILAN
 AMCONSUL NAPLES
 AMCONSUL PALERMO

SECTION 01 OF 02 ROME 06001

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
 TAGS: MOPS, EAIR, IT, NATO, US, LY, FR
 SUBJECT: USTICA AIR CRASH: EXPERTS SAY MISSILE
 DOWNED DC-9

REF: ROME 5722 DTG 161622Z MAR 89 AND PREVIOUS

1. (U) A PANEL OF TECHNICAL EXPERTS APPOINTED BY
 INVESTIGATING MAGISTRATE VITTORIO BUCARELLI HAS
 CONCLUDED THAT THE ITAVIA DC-9 THAT CRASHED NEAR THE

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ISLAND OF USTICA ON JUNE 27, 1980, WAS BROUGHT DOWN
BY A MISSILE FIRED BY AN UNKNOWN FIGHTER AIRCRAFT.

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DOC_NBR: 1989ROME06001

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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THE PANEL OFFICIALLY TURNED IN ITS REPORT, THE SUBSTANCE OF WHICH HAD ALREADY BEEN REPORTED IN THE PRESS (SEE REFTTEL), ON MARCH 17.

(U) A BRIEF STATEMENT RELEASED BY THE PANEL SAID THAT ALL THE INFORMATION AT THEIR DISPOSAL LEADS TO THE CONCLUSION THAT THE CRASH OF THE JET WAS CAUSED BY THE EXPLOSION OF A MISSILE NEAR THE FRONT PART OF THE PLANE. THE NUMBER AND TYPE OF FRAGMENTS FOUND IN WRECKAGE FROM THE PLANE AND THE TYPES OF INJURIES SUSTAINED BY THE VICTIMS ARE CONSISTENT WITH THE MISSILE HYPOTHESIS, THE STATEMENT ADDS.

3. (U) THE EXPERTS SAID THAT THE RADAR AT ROME-FIUMICINO HAD REVEALED THE PRESENCE OF ANOTHER AIRCRAFT IN THE AREA AT THE TIME OF THE CRASH. THIS AIRCRAFT WAS THE SIZE OF A FIGHTER AND AFTER THE "INCIDENT" MOVED OUT OF THE AREA. ACCORDING TO THE PANEL, THERE IS REASON TO BELIEVE "THAT THIS AIRCRAFT WAS INVOLVED IN THE INCIDENT, BUT THERE IS INSUFFICIENT INFORMATION TO SPECIFY THE ROLE (AGGRESSOR OR TARGET)."

4. (U) DEFENSE MINISTER VALERIO ZANONE REACTED TO THE REPORT BY ORDERING THE AIR FORCE CHIEF OF STAFF GENERAL FRANCO PISANO TO BEGIN A "TECHNICAL-ADMINISTRATIVE INVESTIGATION" TO DETERMINE WHY ITALIAN RADARS DID NOT "SEE" WHAT HAPPENED THE EVENING OF JUNE 27 AND TO DETERMINE IF ANYONE HAD CAUSED THE DISAPPEARANCE OF ANY RELEVANT INFORMATION THAT WOULD HAVE ASSISTED THE INVESTIGATION. (THERE HAS BEEN CONTINUING CONTROVERSY OVER GAPS IN THE RADAR REGISTRA-

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TIONS FROM SOME STATIONS AND MOST RECENTLY THE DESTRUCTION IN 1984 OF THE ORIGINAL LOG OF RADAR PLOTTINGS TAKEN THE DAY IN QUESTION AT THE RADAR STATION IN LICOLA.)

5. (U) CENTRIST "LA STAMPA" MARCH 19 PRINTED AN INTERVIEW WITH ZANONE IN WHICH THE DEFENSE MINISTER REPEATED HIS ASSERTION MADE LAST YEAR THAT, BASED ON ALL THE INFORMATION AT HIS DISPOSAL, THE ITALIAN ARMED FORCES COULD NOT HAVE CAUSED THE DISASTER. ZANONE ADMITTED THAT AT THE TIME OF THE CRASH, AND TO SOME EXTENT TODAY, THE RADAR COVERAGE IN THE AREA WAS NOT

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CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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COMPLETE, ESPECIALLY AT LOWER ALTITUDES. IN ANSWER TO A QUESTION, ZANONE NOTED THAT THE NATO COMMAND, THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT AND THE U.S. SIXTH FLEET ALSO HAVE SAID THAT NONE OF THEIR FORCES WERE ENGAGED IN ACTIVITY IN THE TYRHENNIAN SEA THE DAY OF THE CRASH.

6. (C) COMMENT. A LIBERAL PARTY (PLI) COLLEAGUE OF ZANONE TOLD EMBOFF THAT THE PERCEPTION IS THAT ZANONE'S TASK NOW IS TO FIND A POLITICALLY ACCEPTABLE EXPLANATION FOR THE DISASTER. THAT WILL NOT BE AN EASY TASK, SINCE EVEN IF IT IS POSSIBLE SO LONG AFTER THE EVENT TO CATEGORICALLY CLEAR THE ITALIAN ARMED FORCES FROM HAVING PULLED THE TRIGGER, THEY MUST STILL EXPLAIN WHY THEY WERE UNABLE TO TELL WHAT WAS GOING ON IN THEIR OWN BACKYARD. THE "AGGRESSOR" AND "TARGET" AIRCRAFT MENTIONED BY THE EXPERTS IS A REFERENCE TO ONE OF THE MORE POPULAR THEORIES ABOUT THE CRASH, THAT THE DC-9 WAS CAUGHT IN THE CROSSFIRE OF AN AIR BATTLE BETWEEN TWO FIGHTERS (ONE OF THEM POSSIBLY THE LIBYAN MIG THAT WAS FOUND, CRASHED, IN THE MOUNTAINS OF SOUTHERN ITALY



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ACTION EB-00

INFO LOG-00	ADS-00	INR-07	EUR-00	SS-00	CIAE-00	NSAE-00
COME-00	SSO-00	L-03	PM-10	FAAE-00	DOTE-00	STR-17
INRE-00	JUSE-00	DS-01	SCT-02	E-01	/041 W	
				-----342640	210858Z	/25

O 210825Z MAR 89
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1400
INFO SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK IMMEDIATE
USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0715
JCS WASHDC IMMEDIATE
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE
DIA WASH DC

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16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1989ROME06001

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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AMCONSUL MILAN
AMCONSUL NAPLES
AMCONSUL PALERMO

[REDACTED] SECTION 02 OF 02 ROME 06001

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: MOPS, EAIR, IT, NATO, US, LY, FR
SUBJECT: USTICA AIR CRASH: EXPERTS SAY MISSILE

20 DAYS LATER). SPECULATION IN THE PAST HAS VARIOUSLY
IDENTIFIED ONE OF THE AIRCRAFT AS ITALIAN, AMERICAN
OR FRENCH. DESPITE THE CLEAR ASSURANCES FROM U.S.
SOURCES THAT NO AMERICAN AIRCRAFT OR OTHER UNITS WERE
IN THE AREA AT THE TIME, WE SHOULD NOT BE SURPRISED
TO SEE CONTINUED PUBLIC SPECULATION ABOUT A U.S. ROLE

[REDACTED]
PAGE 02 ROME 06001 02 OF 02 210826Z

IN THE DISASTER, AS LONG AS THE USTICA CRASH REMAINS
A MYSTERY. HOLMES

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A42

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DOC_NBR: 1989ROME06185

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a
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PAGE 01 ROME 06185 221909Z
ACTION EB-00

INFO	LOG-00	ADS-00	INR-07	EUR-00	SS-00	CIAE-00	NSAE-00
	COME-00	L-03	PM-10	FAAE-00	DOTE-00	STR-17	INRE-00
	JUSE-00	DS-01	SCT-02	E-01	/041 W		

-----066351 221936Z /49

P 221802Z MAR 89
 FM AMEMBASSY ROME
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1476
 INFO SECDEF WASHDC
 CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
 USIA WASHDC 0743
 JCS WASHDC
 USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT
 USMISSION USNATO
 AMEMBASSY BONN
 AMEMBASSY PARIS
 AMEMBASSY LONDON
 USCINCEUR VAHINGE GE
 CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE
 DIA WASH DC
 AMCONSUL MILAN
 AMCONSUL NAPLES
 AMCONSUL PALERMO

UNCLAS ROME 06185

E.O. 12356: N/A
 TAGS: MOPS, EAIR, IT, NATO, US
 SUBJECT: USTICA AIR CRASH: THE SHORT-LIVED MUSKIE
 ANGLE AND OTHER MYSTERIES

REF: (A) ROME 6001 DTG 210825Z MAR 89
 (B) ROME 6018 DTG 211202Z MAR 89 (NOTAL)

1. FOLLOWING ON PRESS SPECULATION THE PREVIOUS DAY THAT
 THE ITAVIA DC-9 THAT CRASHED IN JUNE, 1980 NEAR THE

PAGE 02 ROME 06185 221909Z

ISLAND OF USTICA MIGHT HAVE BEEN SHOT DOWN BY FIGHTER
 PLANES ESCORTING THE PLANE OF THEN-SECRETARY OF STATE

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CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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MUSKIE (REF B), ROME'S CENTRIST "IL MESSAGGERO" MARCH 22 QUOTES MUSKIE AS STATING THAT HIS PLANE WAS NOWHERE NEAR THE TYRHENNIAN SEA AT THE TIME THE DC-9 DISAPPEARED. THE PAPER ALSO QUOTES A STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESPERSON, NANCY BACK, AS SAYING RECORDS CONFIRM THAT NEITHER MUSKIE'S PLANE NOR THAT OF PRESIDENT CARTER COULD HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN THE INCIDENT.

2. THE MUSKIE ANGLE TO THE SEARCH FOR AN EXPLANATION FOR THE DOWNING OF THE DC-9 AROSE MARCH 21 AFTER IT WAS REVEALED THAT A PLANE WITH THE IFF CODE "56" (FOR A VIP) WAS TRAVELING SOME 230 MILES SOUTH OF THE DC-9 ON A EAST-TO-WEST ROUTE. IT WAS NOTED THAT A NATO SUMMIT HAD BEEN HELD IN ANKARA AT THE TIME; HAD MUSKIE TRAVELED FIRST TO PORTUGAL TO SEE CARTER BEFORE GOING ON TO THAILAND? HAD U.S. "ESCORT FIGHTERS" ENGAGED IN AN AIR BATTLE WITH SOMEONE (A LIBYAN MIG?), DURING WHICH THE DC-9 WAS ACCIDENTALLY SHOT DOWN?

3. ALSO ACCORDING TO "MESSAGGERO" MARCH 22, THE RADAR STATION AT MARSALA WAS TRACKING "AT LEAST THREE" FIGHTERS AT THE TIME THE DC-9 WAS HIT BY A MISSILE. THE RADAR STATION AT LICOLA IDENTIFIED ALL PLANES IN THE AREA WITH THE SIGN "F" (FOR "FOIEND"). DEFENSE MINISTER ZANONE, THE PAPER SAYS, HAS REPEATED HIS DENIAL THAT ANY ITALIAN MILITARY PLANES WERE IN THE AIR; SHOULD ONE THEN CONCLUDE THAT "56" WAS CARRYING AMERICANS OR SOMEONE FROM NATO? MUSKIE DENIES BEING THERE; WHO WAS THE VIP ABOARD THE PLANE?

4. THE PAPER GOES ON: "THE AMERICAN AIRCRAFT CARRIER

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SARATOGA WAS IN THE PORT OF NAPLES THAT NIGHT WITH ITS RADAR TURNED ON AND THEREFORE HAD TO HAVE SEEN ALL THE PLANES. IF THAT PLANE (WITH IFF CODE "56") WASN'T ITALIAN, WHY HAS THE UNITED STATES NEVER BOTHERED TO FURNISH OUR GOVERNMENT WITH INFORMATION THAT WOULD HELP IDENTIFY THAT AIRCRAFT...AND THE FIGHTERS" THAT WERE FLYING THAT EVENING? RABB

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A43

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CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a
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PAGE 01 ROME 06345 01 OF 02 240932Z
ACTION EUR-00

INFO LOG-00 ADS-00 INR-07 SS-00 CIAE-00 EB-00 NSAE-00
COME-00 L-03 FAAE-00 DOTE-00 STR-17 INRE-00 JUSE-00
E-01 /028 W

-----247742 242234Z /63

R 240929Z MAR 89
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1553
INFO SECDEF WASHDC
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
USIA WASHDC 0766
JCS WASHDC
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE
DIA WASH DC
AMCONSUL MILAN
AMCONSUL NAPLES
AMCONSUL PALERMO

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 ROME 06345

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: MOPS, EAIR, IT, NATO, J
SUBJECT: USTICA AIR CRASH: ZANONE COMMENTS;
ALSO, THE MISSILE: SOVIET-MADE?

REF: ROME 6185 DTG 221802Z MAR 89

1. IN A LETTER PUBLISHED IN LEFTIST INDEPENDENT
"LA REPUBBLICA" MARCH 23, DEFENSE MINISTER ZANONE
RESPONDS TO SOME OF THE QUESTIONS RAISED BY WELL-KNOWN

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COMMENTATOR GIORGIO BOCCA ABOUT THE ACTIONS OF THE
MINISTRY AND THE ARMED FORCES REGARDING THE USTICA

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CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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INCIDENT. EMBASSY'S INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF ZANONE'S
LETTER FOLLOWS:

BEGIN TEXT:

IN AN ARTICLE ABOUT THE USTICA DISASTER PUBLISHED
MARCH 21 IN "REPUBBLICA," GIORGIO BOCCA JUSTLY CALLS
FOR A SEARCH FOR THE TRUTH ABOUT THE MYSTERY, WHICH
HAS GONE ON FOR ALMOST NINE YEARS, BUT HE ALSO MAKES
AFFIRMATIUNS ABOUT THE BEHAVIOR OF THE MINISTRY OF
DEFENSE THAT MAKE IT OPPORTUNE TO REMEMBER THE FACTS
OF THE MATTER.

FIRST OF ALL, NO COMMITTEE (OF INQUIRY) HAS BEEN
CREATED IN THE AIR FORCE. I HAD BEEN SAYING FOR MONTHS
THAT AS SOON AS THE EXPERTS ASSEMBLED BY THE INVESTI-
GATING MAGISTRATE MADE PUBLIC THEIR CONCLUSIONS
ABOUT THE WRECKAGE OF THE AIRCRAFT, I WOULD ORDER THE
CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE AIR FORCE TO IMMEDIATELY BEGIN
A TECHNICAL-ADMINISTRATIVE INQUIRY TO ASCERTAIN THE
REASONS FOR WHICH IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE TO KNOW WHAT
HAPPENED THE EVENING OF JUNE 27, 1980.

IT IS NOT TRUE THAT "THE INVESTIGATION HAS BEEN PUT
IN THE HANDS OF THE INVESTIGATEE"; THE INQUIRY THAT
I HAVE ORDERED THE CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE AIR FORCE
TO UNDERTAKE IS PART OF THE DUTIES OF THAT OFFICE.

AS TO THE "WALL" THAT THE AIR FORCE IS SUPPOSED TO HAVE
PUT UP AGAINST THE SEARCH FOR THE TRUTH, THE FACT
IS THAT THE ARMED FORCES HAVE ALWAYS RESPONDED TO REQUESTS

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MADE BY THE MAGISTRATE. THE INQUIRY OF THE CHIEF OF
STAFF OF THE AIR FORCE WILL CHECK IF, FROM 1980 TO NOW,
ALL THE STANDING NORMS AND PROCEDURES HAVE BEEN RESPECTED
WITH THE NECESSARY DILIGENCE AND IF DYSFUNCTIONS OR
LAPSES MAY HAVE BEEN FOUND IN THE ORGANIZATION OF THE
SERVICES OR USE OF EQUIPMENT.

MOREOVER, ONE CANNOT ASCRIBE TO THE AIR FORCE, AS
BOCCA DOES, A LAPSE IN REGARD TO THE VOICES OF THE
PILOTS RECORDED BY THE EQUIPMENT ON BOARD. (EMBASSY
NOTE: ACCORDING TO RECENT PRESS ACCOUNTS, THE COCKPIT
VOICE RECORDER REVEALED THAT THE LAST UTTERANCE FROM

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CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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THE COCKPIT WAS A BROKEN WORD -- "GUAR....," PROBABLY "GUARDA" OR "LOOK" IN ENGLISH -- FOLLOWED 0.2 SECONDS LATER BY A LOUD BANG. TWO SECONDS AFTER THIS LAST WORD, THE VOICE RECORDER WENT DEAD.) THE ARMED FORCES HAVE IN FACT NEVER BEEN IN POSSESSION OF THE BLACK BOX, WHICH WAS RECOVERED WITH THE WRECKAGE ONLY IN '87 AND WAS IMMEDIATELY SEQUESTERED BY JUDICIAL AUTHORITIES.

WE COME NOW TO THE MOST IMPORTANT QUESTION. ONLY THE MAGISTRATE'S INVESTIGATION CAN DETERMINE THE ORIGIN OF THE MISSILE THAT HIT THE ITAVIA AIRLINER. FOR MY PART, I CAN ONLY REPEAT WHAT I KNOW: THAT MISSILE COULD NOT HAVE BEEN ITALIAN. THIS WAS DEMONSTRATED BY DATA OFFICIALLY COLLECTED BY THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE LAST SUMMER: NO ITALIAN AIRPLANE CAPABLE OF FIRING MISSILES WAS IN FLIGHT AT THE TIME OF THE INCIDENT; NO MISSILE IN INVENTORY BETWEEN 1979 AND 1981 IS MISSING.

SINCE NOVEMBER, A COMMISSION APPOINTED JOINTLY BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS (PRIME MINISTER)



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ACTION EUR-00

INFO LOG-00 ADS-00 INR-07 SS-00 CIAE-00 EB-00 NSAE-00
COME-00 L-03 FAAE-00 DOTE-00 STR-17 INRE-00 JUSE-00
E-01 /028 W

-----247761 242235Z /63

R 240929Z MAR 89
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1554
INFO SECDEF WASHDC
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
USIA WASHDC 0767
JCS WASHDC
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USCINCEUR VAHINGEN GE
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE
DIA WASH DC

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CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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AMCONSUL MILAN
AMCONSUL NAPLES
AMCONSUL PALERMO

UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 ROME 06345

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: MOPS, EAIR, IT, NATO, US
SUBJECT: USTICA AQR CRASH: ZANONE COMMENTS;

AND THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE AND HEADED BY THE FORMER
PRESIDENT OF THE SUPREME COURT (COURT OF CASSATION)
CARLO MARIA PRATIS HAS BEEN WORKING ON THE INTERNATIONAL
ASPECTS OF THE INVESTIGATION. THE WORK OF THE
COMMISSION DOES NOT INTERFERE WITH THAT OF THE
MAGISTRATE; THE RESULTS WILL BE AVAILABLE BY THE END

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OF APRIL.

I DO NOT THEREFORE AGREE WITH THE TOO-WIDESPREAD
ATTITUDE TO IMPUTE OMISSIONS OR WORSE TO THOSE WHO
EVEN UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES HONESTLY CARRY OUT
THEIR DUTIES. (SIGNED, VALERIO ZANONE).

END TEXT OF ZANONE LETTER.

2. "IL PICCOLO" OF TRIESTE MEANWHILE MARCH 23 CARRIES
AN ANALYSIS BY PAOLO GALLI (A PSEUDONYM, ACCORDING TO
ONE EMBASSY CONTACT) WHICH CONCLUDES THAT THE ONLY
MISSILE THAT COULD HAVE HIT THE DC-9 WAS AN AA-8 APHID
PRODUCED BY THE SOVIET UNION AND EXPORTED TO VARIOUS
COUNTRIES. GALLI CITES SEVERAL FACTORS WHICH LEAD
TO THIS CONCLUSION:

-- SINCE THE MISSILE HIT THE FRONT PART OF THE PLANE,
NOT THE ENGINES, IT MUST HAVE HAD "PASSIVE RADAR," NOT
INFRARED (IR) GUIDANCE;

-- THE ANALYSIS CARRIED OUT IN THE UK ESTABLISHED THAT
THE WARHEAD CONTAINED 3-5 KILOS OF EXPLOSIVE, AND NO
MISSILES IN NATO'S INVENTORY HAVE WARHEADS THAT SMALL;

-- IR-GUIDED MISSILES WITH WARHEADS OF ABOUT 5 KILOS
NEED TO BE LAUNCHED WITHIN 6-7 KILOMETERS OF THE TARGET

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(WHICH MIGHT HAVE ALERTED THE ITALIAN AIR FORCE), WHILE
RADAR-GUIDED MISSILES WITH SIMILAR WARHEADS CAN BE
LAUNCHED FROM "AT LEAST" 15 KILOMETERS AWAY;

-- THE ONLY AIR-TO-AIR MISSILE WITH A 5-KILOGRAM
WARHEAD IS THE AA-8, WHICH CAN BE GUIDED BY IR OR

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RADAR SYSTEMS AND LAUNCHED BY A MIG-23. (EMBASSY NOTE:
OUR COPY OF "JANE'S WEAPONS SYSTEMS 1988-89" GIVES
THE AA-8'S WARHEAD AS 6 KILOS, WITH A PROBABLE RANGE OF
6 KILOMETERS.)

THE AUTHOR ALSO DISCUSSES THE SOUTH AFRICAN KUKRI
AIR-TO-AIR MISSILE, BUT NOTES THAT IT HAS ONLY A 2-KILO
WARHEAD AND IS NOT ONLY IR-GUIDED BUT MUST BE LAUNCHED
WITHIN 2-4 KILOMETERS OF THE TARGET.

3. IN SOMEWHAT RELATED FASHION, ROME'S CENTRIST "IL
TEMPO" MARCH 23 CHARACTERIZES THE ORIGIN OF THE MISSILE
AS SOVIET- OR SOUTH AFRICAN-MANUFACTURED (THOUGH "IL
TEMPO" OFFERS NO EXPLANATION WHY). "IL TEMPO" TAKES
THE OCCASION TO LAUNCH A NEW, HYPOTHETICAL SCENARIO FOR
THE USTICA CRASH. ACCORDING TO THE PAPER, LIBYAN LEADER
QADHAFI, WHO AT THE TIME FACED SEVERE INTERNAL OPPOSITION
"OFTEN" WENT TO SWITZERLAND OR PARIS (FOR HEALTH OR OTHER
REASONS). PERHAPS, THE PAPER SPECULATES, REGIME OPPONENT
IN THE LIBYAN AIR FORCE WENT GUNNING FOR QADHAFI AS HE
RETURNED FROM ONE OF THESE TRIPS AND, MISTAKING THE
DC-9 FOR QADHAFI'S PLANE, PROVOKED THE TRAGEDY.

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CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a
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PAGE 01 ROME 09761 01 OF 02 092040Z
ACTION EUR-00

INFO	LOG-00	ADS-00	INR-07	SS-00	CIAE-00	EB-00	NEA-06
	NSAE-00	COME-00	SSO-00	L-03	PM-10	PA-01	FAAE-00
	DOT-00	STR-17	INRE-00	JUSE-00	SP-02	C-01	PRS-01
	DS-01	SCT-02	E-01	P-02	T-01	/055 W	

-----233725 092119Z /61

O 091626Z MAY 89
 FM AMEMBASSY ROME
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3490
 INFO SECDEF WASHDC
 CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
 USIA WASHDC 1101
 JCS WASHDC
 USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT
 USMISSION USNATO
 AMEMBASSY BONN
 AMEMBASSY PARIS
 AMEMBASSY LONDON
 USCINCEUR VAHINGEN GE
 CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE
 DIA WASH DC
 AMEMBASSY CAIRO
 AMCONSUL MILAN
 AMCONSUL NAPLES
 AMCONSUL PALERMO

SECTION 01 OF 02 ROME 09761

CAIRO FOR MCELHANEY

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
 TAGS: MOPS, EAIR, IT, US, NATO
 SUBJECT: USTICA AIR CRASH: GOVERNMENT COMMISSION
 REPORT NEAR COMPLETION

REF: (A) ROME 6345 DTG 240929Z MAR 89

EXTEND CLASSIFICATION

PAGE 02 ROME 09761 01 OF 02 092040Z

(B) ROME 6001 DTG 210825Z MAR 89

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48

1. (C) SUMMARY. A COMMISSION APPOINTED BY PRIME MINISTER DE MITA HAS REPORTEDLY CLOSED ITS INVESTIGATION OF THE USTICA DISASTER WITHOUT IDENTIFYING A "GUILTY PARTY." [REDACTED] TOLD THE EMBASSY THAT THE COMMISSION'S REPORT WOULD BE A "BOMBSHELL" BECAUSE ITS CONCLUSIONS WILL BE "UNEXPECTED," BUT THAT THE REPORT HAD NO RPT NO IMPLICATIONS FOR THE U.S. END SUMMARY.

B1

2. (U) THE COMMISSION APPOINTED BY PRIME MINISTER DE MITA TO INVESTIGATE THE CRASH OF THE ITAVIA DC-9 NEAR THE ISLAND OF USTICA IN 1980 HAS REPORTEDLY BEEN UNABLE TO IDENTIFY ANY "GUILTY PARTIES." ACCORDING TO LEADING CENTRIST "CORRIERE DELLA SERA" MAY 9, THE HEAD OF THE COMMISSION, FORMER JUDGE CARLO MARIA PRATIS, IS NOW PUTTING THE FINAL TOUCHES ON THE REPORT, WHICH IS EXPECTED TO BE SUBMITTED SOON.

3. (U) WHILE NO OFFICIAL WORD HAS COME FROM THE COMMISSION, "CORRIERE" SAYS WORD HAS LEAKED OUT THAT NO PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE ON THE INTERNATIONAL FRONT IN IDENTIFYING WHO MIGHT HAVE SHOT DOWN THE PLANE, BEYOND THE "PREDICTABLE DENIALS" OF THE U.S., FRANCE, THE FRG AND LIBYA. ACCORDING TO THE PAPER, THE THREE MILITARY MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION (ONE GENERAL OFFICER FROM EACH OF THE THREE ARMED SERVICES) "HAVE EVEN RAISED DOUBTS" ABOUT THE CONCLUSION REACHED BY ANOTHER PANEL OF EXPERTS, WORKING FOR INVESTIGATING MAGISTRATE VITTORIO BUCARELLI, THAT THE AIRLINER WAS DOWNED BY AN AIR-TO-AIR MISSILE (REF B).

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4. (U) ACCORDING TO THE "CORRIERE" ACCOUNT, STILL ANOTHER INVESTIGATION, THE "TECHNICAL INQUIRY" UNDERTAKEN BY AIR FORCE CHIEF OF STAFF PISANO AT THE DIRECTION OF DEFENSE MINISTER ZANONE TO DETERMINE IF THERE HAD BEEN NEGLIGENCE OR OTHER MISHANDLING IN THE CASE ON THE PART OF THE ARMED FORCES, ALSO HAS UNCOVERED NO WRONG-DOING. THE PAPER CONCLUDES THAT IT IS DIFFICULT TO SAY NOW HOW BUCARELLI'S OWN INVESTIGATION WILL TURN OUT.

5. (U) LAWYERS FOR THE FAMILIES OF THE VICTIMS OF THE CRASH MEANWHILE HAVE PRESENTED THE PROSECUTORS OF

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HANDLING: n/a

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ROME, NAPLES AND MARSALA WITH A LIST OF DOZENS OF PERSONS WHO, ACCORDING TO THE ATTORNEYS, SHOULD BE INDICTED FOR NEGLIGENCE AND/OR OBSTRUCTING THE INVESTIGATION. THE LIST INCLUDES THE CHIEF OF THE DEFENSE GENERAL STAFF AT THE TIME OF THE CRASH, MARIO TORISI, AND THE THEN AIR FORCE CHIEF OF STAFF, LAMBERTO BARTOLUCCI, AS WELL AS SEVERAL OTHER FORMER TOP OFFICIALS IN THE AIR FORCE AND ITALIAN MILITARY INTELLIGENCE. (BARTOLUCCI A FEW WEEKS AGO WAS QUOTED IN THE PRESS AS SAYING THERE WERE MANY "UNCONTROLLED SHIPS" IN THE MEDITERRANEAN, AND HYPOTHESIZED THAT A "PIRATE SHIP" OF SOME SORT MIGHT HAVE BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR SHOOTING DOWN THE DC-9.)

6. (C)

B1

[REDACTED]

LAST WEEK THAT THE COMMISSION HAD WORKED OUT THE REMAINING DETAILS OF ITS REPORT, WHICH NEEDED ONLY FINAL EDITING. THE SOURCE SAID THE REPORT WOULD BE A "BOMBSHELL" BECAUSE ITS CONCLUSIONS WOULD BE "UNEXPECTED." WHILE VAGUE ABOUT THE FINAL CONCLUSIONS, HE SAID THE REPORT WOULD HAVE NO RPT NO

[REDACTED]

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ACTION EUR-00

INFO	LOG-00	ADS-00	INR-07	SS-00	CIAE-00	EB-00	NEA-06
	NSAE-00	COME-00	SSO-00	L-03	PM-10	PA-01	FAAE-00
	DOTE-00	STR-17	INRE-00	JUSE-00	SP-02	C-01	PRS-01
	DS-01	SCT-02	E-01	P-02	T-01	/055 W	
-----221560 092119Z /61							

O 091626Z MAY 89
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3491
INFO SECDEF WASHDC
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
USIA WASHDC 1102
JCS WASHDC
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE

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16 Apr 2002

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CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

48

CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE
DIA WASH DC
AMQTM BASSY CAIRO 6424
QAMCONSUL MQLAN 6653
AMCONSUL NAPLES
AMCONSUL PALERMO

SECTION 02 OF 02 ROME 09761

CAIRO FOR MCELHANEY

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: MOPS, EAIR, IT, US, NATO
SUBJECT: USTICA AIR CRASH: GOVERNMENT COMMISSION

IMPLICATIONS FOR THE U.S. HE ALLUDED TO DIFFERENCES
OF OPINION ON THE COMMISSION BUT DID NOT SAY IF THESE

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WOULD BE REFLECTED IN THE REPORT. FINALLY, HE OFFERED
HIS PERSONAL OPINION THAT IT WAS A BOMB, RATHER THAN A
MISSILE, THAT CAUSED THE CRASH AND, NO DOUBT REFLECTING
THE DIFFICULTY OF MAKING SENSE OF THE CONFUSING AND
CONTRADICTORY CLAIMS GENERATED BY THE USTICA CASE,
JOKED THAT "IT WAS PROBABLY MARTIANS" WHO DOWNED
THE PLANE.

7. (C) COMMENT. IF "CORRIERE" HAS THE STORY RIGHT,
THE COMMISSION'S REPORT MAY BE MORE A GRAVE DISAPPOINTMENT
THAN A "BOMBSHELL." THE COMMISSION WAS PROMISED FULL
ACCESS TO ALL INFORMATION IN THE HANDS OF THE GOVERNMENT,
INCLUDING ANY SECRET INTELLIGENCE. ITS MISSION, IN
POPULAR EYES, WAS TO IDENTIFY WHO PULLED THE TRIGGER
AND SHOT DOWN THE AIRLINER. "CORRIERE" EXPRESSES ALARM
THAT THE USTICA INVESTIGATION WILL BE QUICKLY CONSIDERED
TO THE ARCHIVES AS THE COMMISSION HAS BEEN UNABLE TO
FIND THE GUILTY. WE DOUBT THAT WILL BE THE CASE.
UNLESS THE COMMISSION HAS BEEN ABLE TO DEFINITELY
RULE OUT A MISSILE AS THE CAUSE OF THE DISASTER (WHICH
WOULD PUT IT COMPLETELY AT ODDS WITH BUCARELLI'S PANEL
OF EXPERTS), THE SHADOW OF USTICA WILL STILL HAUNT THE
ITALIAN ARMED FORCES, ESPECIALLY THE AIR FORCE.
SIMILARLY, UNLESS THE COMMISSION HAS BEEN ABLE TO
PINPOINT THE GUILTY PARTY (MEANING THAT "CORRIERE" HAS
IT ALL WRONG), FIGHTERS FROM THE U.S. SIXTH FLEET WILL

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STILL BE SUSPECTS IN SOME EYES.

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ABSENT A "SMOKING

GUN," THE USTICA ENIGMA WILL BE AROUND AND IN THE
HEADLINES FOR AWHILE.

RABB

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HANDLING: n/a

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PAGE 01 ROME 10250 01 OF 02 151700Z
ACTION EUR-00

INFO	LOG-00	ADS-00	INR-07	SS-00	CIAE-00	EB-00	NEA-06
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-----235757 151706Z /47

O 151614Z MAY 89
 FM AMEMBASSY ROME
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3734
 SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
 INFO JCS WASHDC
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 USIA WASHDC 1151
 USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT
 USMISSION USNATO
 AMEMBASSY BONN
 AMEMBASSY PARIS
 AMEMBASSY LONDON
 USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
 CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE
 DIA WASH DC
 AMEMBASSY CAIRO
 AMCONSUL MILAN
 AMCONSUL NAPLES
 AMCONSUL PALERMO POUCH)

SECTION 01 OF 02 ROME 10250

CAIRO FOR MCELHANEY

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
 TAGS: MOPS, EAIR, NATO, IT, US
 SUBJECT: USTICA AIR CRASH: THE BOMB HYPOTHESIS RETURNS

REF: ROME 9761 DTG 091626Z MAY 89

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1. (U) SUMMARY. PRESS REPORTS INDICATE THAT THE COMMISSION NOMINATED BY PRIME MINISTER DE MITA TO

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HANDLING: n/a

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INVESTIGATE THE CRASH OF AN ITAVIA DC-9 NEAR THE ISLAND OF USTICA IN 1980 HAS CONCLUDED THAT A BOMB, RATHER THAN AN AIR-TO-AIR MISSILE, BROUGHT DOWN THE AIRLINER. AT THE LEAST, OTHER MEDIA REPORTS INDICATE, THE COMMISSION HAS PUT THE MISSILE HYPOTHESIS IN DOUBT, IN STARK CONTRADICTION TO THE CONCLUSION REACHED EARLIER THIS YEAR BY A PANEL OF TECHNICAL EXPERTS APPOINTED BY THE INVESTIGATING MAGISTRATE. THE COMMISSION ALSO REPORTEDLY DECIDED THAT THE MILITARY WAS GUILTY OF AT MOST "VENIAL SINS" IN THE USTICA CASE AND THAT THE ITALIAN RADAR NET AT THE TIME WAS WOEFULLY INADEQUATE. THE COMMISSION'S REPORT IS CERTAIN TO SPARK CONTROVERSY; ATTENTION HAS ALREADY FOCUSED ON THE ROLE PLAYED BY THE COMMISSION'S THREE MILITARY MEMBERS. END SUMMARY.

2. (U) ACCORDING TO ROME'S CENTRIST "IL TEMPO," IN REPORTS PUBLISHED MAY 14 AND 15, THE COMMISSION APPOINTED BY PRIME MINISTER DE MITA IN NOVEMBER 1988 TO INVESTIGATE THE USTICA DISASTER HAS REPORTEDLY COME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT A BOMB ON BOARD, RATHER THAN AN AIR-TO-AIR MISSILE, WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CRASH OF THE DC-9 AIRLINER NEAR THE ISLAND OF USTICA IN 1980. THE COMMISSION TURNED IN ITS REPORT TO DE MITA ON MAY 12.

3. (U) OTHER PAPERS SUGGEST THAT THE COMMISSION HAS COME TO AN "OPEN VERDICT," NEITHER ACCEPTING NOR REJECTING THE VARIOUS HYPOTHESES THAT HAVE BEEN PUT FORWARD -- BOMB, MISSILE, STRUCTURAL FAILURE. "IL TEMPO" QUOTES THE HEAD OF THE COMMISSION, FORMER JUDGE

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CARLO MARIA PRATIS, AS DECLINING COMMENT UNTIL THE PRIME MINISTER HAS MADE THE REPORT PUBLIC. DE MITA MAY DO THAT AS EARLY AS THIS FRIDAY, MAY 19, AFTER THE NEXT MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS.

4. (U) THE COMMISSION'S APPARENT CONCLUSION IN FAVOR OF THE BOMB HYPOTHESIS IS IN STARK CONTRAST TO THE ONE REACHED BY THE PANEL OF TECHNICAL EXPERTS APPOINTED BY THE MAGISTRATE IN CHARGE OF THE CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION INTO THE USTICA DISASTER, VITTORIO BUCARELLI. THAT PANEL CONCLUDED, AFTER FOUR YEARS OF LABOR, THAT ONLY AN AIR-TO-AIR MISSILE COULD HAVE CAUSED THE CRASH.

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CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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5. (U) ACCORDING TO "IL TEMPO," THE COMMISSION REACHED ANOTHER CONCLUSION THAT PUTS IT AT LOGGERHEADS WITH BUCARELLI'S PANEL OF EXPERTS, BY ASSERTING THAT THERE WERE NO TRACES OF FIGHTER PLANES IN THE VICINITY OF THE AIRLINER WHEN IT CRASHED. BUCARELLI'S PANEL IDENTIFIED WHAT IT SAID WERE SOME 20 RADAR TRACES IN THE VICINITY AS AIRCRAFT, 7 OR 8 OF WHICH, THE PANEL CLAIMED, WERE PROBABLY FIGHTERS.

6. (U) ACCORDING TO LEADING CENTRIST "CORRIERE DELLA SERA" MAY 14, THE DE MITA COMMISSION ALSO CONCLUDED THAT WHATEVER ERRORS THE ITALIAN ARMED FORCES MIGHT HAVE COMMITTED IN CONNECTION WITH THE USTICA CASE (INCLUDING, EVIDENTLY, THE "8-MINUTE GAP" ON THE TAPE OF RADAR REGISTRATIONS AT MARSALA) WERE MINOR -- "VENIAL SINS," IN THE WORDS OF THE PAPER. THE COMMISSION ALSO REPORTEDLY REJECTED ANY CONNECTION BETWEEN THE CRASH OF THE DC-9 AND THE LIBYAN MIG FOUND CRASHED IN CALABRIA 20 DAYS LATER, AND REAFFIRMED THE WIDESPREAD CONTENTION THAT THE ITALIAN RADAR NET AT

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ACTION EUR-00

INFO	LOG-00	ADS-00	INR-07	SS-00	CIAE-00	EB-00	NEA-06
	NSAE-00	COME-00	SSO-00	L-03	PA-01	FAAE-00	DOTE-00
	STR-17	INRE-00	JUSE-00	SP-02	PRS-01	DS-01	SCT-02
	E-01	T-01	/042 W				

-----236021 151707Z /47

O 151614Z MAY 89
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3735
SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO JCS WASHDC
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
USIA WASHDC 1152
SHH/USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE

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HANDLING: n/a

49

CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE
DIA WASH DC
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMCONSUL MILAN
AMCONSUL NAPLES
AMCONSUL PALERMO POUCH)

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CAIRO FOR MCELHANEY

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: MOPS, EAIR, NATO, IT, US
SUBJECT: USTICA AIR CRASH: THE BOMB HYPOTHESIS RETURNS

THE TIME WAS WOEFULLY INADEQUATE.

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7. (U) "IL TEMPO" CALLS THE CONCLUSIONS OF THE SEVEN "WISE MEN" OF THE DE MITA COMMISSION "CLAMOROUS" AND SAYS THEY ARE CERTAIN TO BE "INCENDIARY." IT WILL BE IMPORTANT, THE PAPER SAYS MAY 15, TO SEE WHAT INFLUENCE THE THREE MILITARY MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION HAD IN THE COMMISSION'S DELIBERATIONS. IN ITS MAY 14 STORY, "IL TEMPO" SAID THERE HAD BEEN BITTER BATTLES INSIDE THE COMMISSION AND THAT THE THREE MILITARY OFFICERS FIRMLY INSISTED ON DEBUNKING THE CREDIBILITY OF THE MISSILE HYPOTHESIS. "AND THEY SUCCEEDED," THE PAPER SAID, "EVEN IF IN THE PRATIS REPORT THE IDEA OF A BOMB ON BOARD REMAINS ONLY A 'HYPOTHESIS.' CLEARLY A COMPROMISE SOLUTION."

8. (C) COMMENT. THE COMMISSION'S CONCLUSION THAT THE AIRLINER WAS PROBABLY DOWNED BY A BOMB (WHICH HAS BEEN CONFIRMED TO US PRIVATELY BY ONE MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION) WILL NOT SETTLE THE MATTER. THOUGH THE MEMBERS OF THE DE MITA COMMISSION WERE CHOSEN IN PART FOR THEIR EXPERTISE AND IN PART FOR THEIR UNASSAILABLE REPUTATIONS, THE FACT THAT THREE OF THE SEVEN "WISE MEN" ARE GENERAL OFFICERS IN THE ARMED FORCES WILL DOUBTLESS RAISE SUSPICIONS AMONG SOME THAT THIS REPORT IS THE LATEST IN A LONG LINE OF COVER-UP ATTEMPTS, AS WILL THE FACT THAT THEY HAVE COME TO CONCLUSIONS SO FAR AFIELD FROM THOSE REACHED BY THE TECHNICAL EXPERTS WHO WORKED FOR

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BUCARELLI. ALREADY "CORRIERE DELLA SERA," IN ITS MAY 14 STORY, QUESTIONS WHY THE COMMISSION DIDN'T ASK THE PENTAGON FOR TAPES OF THE RADAR REGISTRATIONS MADE JUNE 27, 1980 BY THE CARRIER SARATOGA (IN PORT IN NAPLES AT THE TIME). "AS IS KNOWN," THE PAPER CONTINUES, "THE AMERICANS DON'T TRUST THE (ITALIAN) RADAR COVERAGE AT ALL." THIS AVENUE, THE PAPER SAYS, HAS BEEN IGNORED FOR CONFIDENTIAL

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NINE YEARS, "EVEN THOUGH IT WOULD OFFER BETTER EXPLANATIONS THAN OBTAINED BY FORMAL CORRESPONDENCE WITH EMBASSIES." BUCARELLI MAY, WHEN HE FINALLY MAKES PUBLIC THE RESULTS OF HIS CONTINUING INVESTIGATION, STICK BY THE OPINIONS OF HIS PANEL OF EXPERTS AND THEIR CONCLUSION THAT A MISSILE CAUSED THE CRASH. FINALLY, A PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE WILL ALSO IN DUE COURSE BE LOOKING INTO THE USTICA CASE. RABB

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16 Apr 2002

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ACTION EUR-00

INFO	LOG-00	ADS-00	INR-07	SS-00	CIAE-00	EB-00	NEA-06
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	SCT-02	E-01	P-02	T-01	/056 W		

-----164351 251413Z /49/23

R 231535Z MAY 89
 FM AMEMBASSY ROME
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4132
 INFO SECDEF WASHDC
 JCS WASHDC
 CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
 USIA WASHDC 1208
 USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT
 USMISSION USNATO
 AMEMBASSY BONN
 AMEMBASSY PARIS
 AMEMBASSY LONDON
 USCINCEUR VAHINGEN GE
 CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE
 DIA WASH DC
 AMEMBASSY CAIRO
 AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
 AMCONSUL MILAN
 AMCONSUL NAPLES
 AMCONSUL PALERMO

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(TEXT THRUOUT)

CAIRO FOR MCELHANEY

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
 TAGS: MOPS, EAIR, PTER, NATO, IT, US, GE, FR, LY, UK, IS
 SUBJECT: USTICA AIR CRASH: GOVERNMENT COMMISSION FAILS

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TO UNRAVEL THE MYSTERY

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Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

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HANDLING: n/a

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REF: (A) ROME 10250 DTG 151614Z MAY 89 (NOTAL)
- (B) ROME 9761 DTG 091626A MAY 89 (NOTAL)
-

1. (U) SUMMARY. IN A REPORT MADE PUBLIC MAY 22, THE COMMISSION APPOINTED BY PRIME MINISTER DE MITA TO INVESTIGATE THE CRASH OF AN ITAVIA DC-9 NEAR THE ISLAND OF USTICA IN JUNE 1980 CONCLUDED THAT AN EXPLOSION CAUSED THE DISASTER. THE COMMISSION DID NOT EXCLUDE THE POSSIBILITY THAT A BOMB, RATHER THAN A MISSILE, DOWNED THE AIRLINER. THE COMMISSION'S REPORT SAID THERE WAS NO EVIDENCE THAT THE ITALIAN ARMED FORCES HAD DONE ANYTHING TO COVER UP THE FACTS OF THE INCIDENT AND THAT THERE WERE NO PLANES OR SHIPS OF THE ITALIAN ARMED FORCES IN THE AREA AT THE TIME. THE COMMISSION SAID THAT NATO, THE U.S., FRANCE, FRG, UK AND ISRAEL ALSO DENIED ANY INVOLVEMENT; LIBYA HAD RESPONDED TO REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION WITH "EVASIVE ANSWERS." AT THE SAME TIME, THE COMMISSION SAID THERE WAS NO CONNECTION BETWEEN THE DC-9 DISASTER AND A LIBYAN MIG THAT WAS DISCOVERED IN SOUTHERN ITALY 20 DAYS AFTER THE DISASTER. LAWYERS FOR THE FAMILIES OF THE CRASH VICTIMS CALLED THE COMMISSION'S CONCLUSIONS "BAFFLING." END SUMMARY.

2. (U) AS EXPECTED, THE COMMISSION APPOINTED BY PRIME MINISTER DE MITA TO INVESTIGATE THE USTICA DISASTER, WHOSE REPORT WAS MADE PUBLIC MAY 22, HAS RELAUNCHED THE HYPOTHESIS THAT A BOMB COULD HAVE CAUSED THE CRASH OF THE AIRLINER. THE COMMISSION DID NOT, HOWEVER, RULE OUT THE POSSIBILITY OF A MISSILE, AS SOME HAD EXPECTED.

3. (U) THE COMMISSION'S MAJOR FINDINGS, IN BRIEF, ARE

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AS FOLLOWS:

- THE INCIDENT WAS CAUSED BY AN "EXPLOSIVE OBJECT";
- EVEN CONSIDERING THAT THE TECHNICAL INVESTIGATION MADE ON BEHALF OF THE INVESTIGATING MAGISTRATE CONCLUDED THAT A MISSILE WAS THE CAUSE OF THE EXPLOSION, "ONE CANNOT EXCLUDE THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE INCIDENT WAS CAUSED BY A BOMB ON BOARD";
- IN 1980, SECURITY CONTROLS AT THE BOLOGNA AIRPORT (WHERE THE PLANE DEPARTED) WERE "RATHER PRECARIOUS";

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-- THE INCIDENT WAS NOT CAUSED BY A MISSILE LAUNCHED IN
- ERROR BY THE ITALIAN ARMED FORCES;

-- AT THE TIME OF THE INCIDENT, THE RADARS AT MARSALA
- AND LICOLA DID NOT RECORD THE PRESENCE OF ANOTHER
- PLANE IN FLIGHT WITHIN A RANGE OF 40 NAUTICAL MILES;

-- THERE IS NO EVIDENCE TO SUBSTANTIATE "INSINUATIONS"
- THAT THE AIR FORCE TRIED TO COVER UP EVIDENCE; THE
- RADAR RECORDS AT LICOLA WERE DESTROYED FOLLOWING
- NORMAL PROCEDURE (THOUGH IF THE OFFICER WHO DESTROYED
- THEM HAD HAD MORE "FORESIGHT" HE WOULD HAVE SAVED
- THEM) AND THE FACT THAT THE JUDICIAL AUTHORITIES DID
- NOT RETAIN THEM DEMONSTRATES THEY DID NOT CONTAIN
- INFORMATION SIGNIFICANTLY DIFFERENT FROM THE
- TYPEWRITTEN TRANSCRIPT OF THE RECORDS WHICH WERE KEPT
- BY THE JUDGE; THE 8-MINUTE GAP IN THE MARSALA RADAR
- THAT PRESSURE WAS APPLIED TO RADAR OPERATORS TO KEEP
- SILENT (THE OFFICER IN CHARGE "VIGOROUSLY DENIES" THE
- ALLEGATION);

-- SEARCH AND RESCUE EFFORTS WERE TIMELEY AND EFFICIENT;



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ACTION EUR-00

INFO	LOG-00	ADS-00	INR-07	SS-00	CIAE-00	EB-00	NEA-06
	NSAE-00	COME-00	L-03	PM-10	PA-01	FAAE-00	DOTE-00
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R 231535Z MAY 89
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4133

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INFO SECDEF WASHDC
JCS WASHDC
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
USIA WASHDC 1209
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY BONN
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DIA WASH DC
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMCONSUL MILAN
AMCONSUL NAPLES
AMCONSUL PALERMO

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C O R R E C T E D COPY (TEXT THROUGHOUT)

CAIRO FOR MCELHANEY

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: MOPS, EAIR, PTER, NATO, IT, US, GE, FR, LY, UK, IS
SUBJECT: USTICA AIR CRASH: GOVERNMENT COMMISSION FAILS

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- THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE HAS COLLABORATED ACTIVELY IN
- THE INVESTIGATION; NO INFORMATION WAS HELD BACK AS A
- STATE SECRET, EVEN BY THE INTELLIGENCE SERVICES;

- ACCORDING TO THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE, THERE WERE NO
- NATO EXERCISES TAKING PLACE AT THE TIME;

- THE U.S., FRANCE, FRG, UK AND ISRAEL SAY THEY HAD NO
- AIR OR NAVAL UNITS IN THE AREA AT THE TIME;

- ONLY "EVASIVE ANSWERS" HAVE BEEN OBTAINED FROM LIBYAN
- AUTHORITIES;

- THERE IS NO CONNECTION BETWEEN THE USTICA TRAGEDY AND
- THE LIBYAN MIG FOUND IN CALABRIA, WHICH CRASHED THERE
- 20 DAYS AFTER THE DC-9 CRASH.

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CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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4. (U) IN A LETTER TO THE FAMILIES OF THE VICTIMS, DE MITA SAID IT WAS THE INTENT OF THE GOVERNMENT TO DO EVERYTHING IT COULD TO GET TO THE TRUTH OF THE MATTER AND ADDED THAT "THE FINAL WORD" WOULD REST WITH THE JUDICIAL AUTHORITIES INVESTIGATING THE MATTER AND, EVENTUALLY, THE PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE THAT IS LOOKING INTO THE TERRORIST "MASSACRES" OF THE 1970S AND EARLY 1980S.

5. (U) REACTING TO THE REPORT, A LAWYER FOR THE FAMILIES TOLD THE PRESS THE COMMISSION'S CONCLUSIONS WERE "BAFFLING" AND SAID "PERHAPS IT HAS BEEN FORGOTTEN THAT THE TECHNICAL EXPERTS (WHO WORKED FOR INVESTIGATING MAGISTRATE VITTORIO BUCARELLI) CAME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT A MISSILE CAUSED THE TRAGEDY ON THE BASIS OF

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CERTAIN, SCIENTIFIC RULES, CONFIRMED BY INNUMERABLE AND UNEQUIVOCAL FACTS."

6. (C) A MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION TOLD US EARLIER (REF B) THAT THE COMMISSION'S REPORT WOULD BE A "BOMBSHELL"; FOR THE FAMILIES, AND PLENTY OF OTHERS, THE REPORT PLAYS MORE LIKE A "BOMB" ON BROADWAY. CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC (DC) SENATOR NICOLO LIPARI, PRESIDENT OF THE "COMMITTEE FOR THE TRUTH ABOUT USTICA," IS QUOTED BY ANSA WIRE SERVICE MAY 23 AS TERMING THE REPORT "VISIBLY CONTRADICTORY" COMPARED TO THE CONCLUSIONS OF BUCARELLI'S EXPERTS AND CALLED FOR AN INDEPENDENT PARLIAMENTARY INVESTIGATION. LIBERAL GIUSEPPE FASSINO SAYS THE REPORT HAS THROWN EVERYTHING INTO CONFUSION BUT CONFIRMS "THE ABSOLUTE NECESSITY" TO IMPROVE THE NATIONAL DEFENSE RADAR NET. COMMUNIST (PCI) SENATOR LUCIO LIBERTINI SAYS THE COMMISSION REPORT SHOWS THAT "FEAR OF THE TRUTH HAS PREVAILED" OVER RESPECT FOR THE VICTIMS' FAMILIES. ACCORDING TO SENATOR GUIDO POLLICE OF THE SMALL, FAR-LEFT DEMOCRATIC PROLETARIAN PARTY (DP), THE "MILITARY" COMMISSION HAS COVERED UP THE TRUTH TO PROTECT THE INVOLVEMENT OF NATO FORCES IN THE TRAGEDY.

7. (C) COMMENT. THE REPORT WILL CERTAINLY NOT SATISFY THOSE -- AND THERE ARE MANY -- WHO SEE A CONSPIRACY BEHIND THE USTICA DISASTER, AND WHO WILL TRY TO POKE HOLES IN SOME OF THE COMMISSION'S FINDINGS, MANY OF WHICH ARE IN STARK CONTRADICTION TO THE CONCLUSIONS OF

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CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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BUCARELLI'S EXPERTS. ACCORDING TO LEADING CENTRIST
"CORRIERE DELLA SERA" MAY 23, THE ONLY EFFECT OF THE
REPORT WILL BE TO HASTEN THE DAY WHEN THE INVESTIGATION
IS CONSIGNED TO THE ARCHIVES, "WHICH IS THE OBJECTIVE OF
ALL THE PEOPLE, BIG AND SMALL, WHO HAVE BEEN COVERING UP
THIS MASSACRE." THAT IS UNLIKELY TO HAPPEN ANYTIME SOON;
THERE ARE OTHER INVESTIGATORS AT WORK. WHETHER THEY CAN

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ACTION EUR-00

INFO	LOG-00	ADS-00	INR-07	SS-00	CIAE-00	EB-00	NEA-06
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	SCT-02	E-01	P-02	T-01	/056 W		

-----167132 251500Z /49/23

R 231535Z MAY 89
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4134
INFO SECDEF WASHDC
JCS WASHDC
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
USIA WASHDC 1210
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE
DIA WASH DC
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMCONSUL MILAN
AMCONSUL NAPLES
AMCONSUL PALERMO

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Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

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CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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████████████████████ SECTION 03 OF 03 ROME 10974

C O R R E C T E D COPY (TEXT THROUGHOUT)

CAIRO FOR MCELHANEY

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: MOPS, EAIR, PTER, NATO, IT, US, GE, FR, LY, UK, IS

SUBJECT: USTICA AIR CRASH: GOVERNMENT COMMISSION FAILS
████████████████████
████████████████████

PAGE 02 ROME 10974 03 OF 03 251454Z

GET CLOSER TO THE TRUTH IS THE BIG UNKNOWN. USTICA HAS
BECOME, AS LEFTIST INDEPENDENT "LA REPUBBLICA" PUTS IT,
"AN INFINITE MYSTERY ON THE EDGE OF THE ABSURD."

RABB
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Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

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HANDLING: n/a

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PAGE 01 ROME 12422 122134Z
ACTION EUR-00

INFO	LOG-00	ADS-00	INR-07	SS-00	CIAE-00	EB-00	DODE-00
	NEA-06	NSAE-00	COME-00	L-03	PA-01	FAAE-00	DOTI-00
	STR-18	INRE-00	JUSE-00	PRS-01	DS-01	SCT-02	E-01
	P-02	/042 W					

-----330557 141225Z /48

R 121650Z JUN 89
 FM AMEMBASSY ROME
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4919
 SECDEF WASHDC
 JCS WASHDC
 CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
 USIA WASHDC 1319
 DIA WASHDC
 USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT
 USMISSION USNATO
 AMEMBASSY BONN
 AMEMBASSY PARIS
 AMEMBASSY LONDON
 USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
 CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE
 AMEMBASSY CAIRO
 AMCONSUL MILAN
 AMCONSUL NAPLES
 AMCONSUL PALERMO

ROME 12422

CAIRO FOR MCELHANEY

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
 TAGS: MOPS, EAIR, PTER, IT, NATO
 SUBJECT: USTICA AIR CRASH: ROME PROSECUTOR ACCUSES
 MILITARY

REF: ROME 10974 DTG 231535Z MAY 89

PAGE 02 ROME 12422 122134Z

1. ROME ASSISTANT PROSECUTOR GIORGIO SANTACROCE, THE
MAGISTRATE WHO INITIALLY PRESIDED OVER THE INVESTIGATION

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DOC_NBR: 1989ROME12422

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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INTO THE CRASH OF AN ITAVIA DC-9 NEAR THE ISLAND OF USTICA IN 1980, HAS REPORTEDLY ASKED THE CURRENT INVESTIGATING MAGISTRATE, VITTORIO BUCARELLI, TO COMPEL 23 MILITARY OFFICERS, NCOS AND AIRMEN WHO WERE ON DUTY AT THE MARSALA AND LICOLA RADAR CENTERS AT THE TIME OF THE INCIDENT TO GIVE TESTIMONY IN THE CASE. ACCORDING TO SANTACROCE, THE 23 MAY HAVE COMMITTED THE FOLLOWING CRIMES: GIVING FALSE TESTIMONY, AIDING AND ABETTING, AND AGGRAVATED DESTRUCTION OF EVIDENCE.

2. SANTACROCE'S RECOMMENDATION, IF TAKEN UP BY BUCARELLI, WOULD BE ROUGHLY EQUIVALENT TO REQUIRING THE 23 TO TESTIFY BEFORE A GRAND JURY. ACCORDING TO CENTRIST LA STAMPA JUNE 11, SOURCES AT THE JUSTICE MINISTRY SAY IT IS ALMOST CERTAIN THAT BUCARELLI WILL ACCEPT SANTACROCE'S SUGGESTION. ONLY BUCARELLI WOULD HAVE THE POWER TO ISSUE ANY ANY INDICTMENTS THAT MIGHT RESULT FROM THIS OR OTHER DEVELOPMENTS IN THE CASE.

3. SANTACROCE HAS REPORTEDLY FURTHER REQUESTED THAT BUCARELLI RECONVENE THE BOARD OF TECHNICAL EXPERTS HE APPOINTED TO STUDY THE USTICA CRASH TO DETERMINE THE TYPE AND "NATIONALITY" OF MISSILE THAT BROUGHT DOWN THE AIRLINER. ACCORDING TO LA STAMPA, THIS INQUIRY WILL INEVITABLY LENGTHEN THE 10-YEAR-OLD INVESTIGATION.

4. ACCORDING TO LEADING CENTRIST CORRIERE DELLA SERA JUNE 12, DEFENSE MINISTER ZANONE REACTED TO SANTACROCE'S SLAP IN THE FACE" BY "FIRMLY REJECTING" THE ACCUSATIONS. ZANONE SAID HE WOULD TAKE "APPROPRIATE" STEPS TO DEFEND

PAGE 03 ROME 12422 122134Z

THE HONOR OF THE ARMED FORCES. (NOTE: ZANONE A COUPLE OF WEEKS AGO HINTED THAT THOSE WHO BESMIRCHED THE HONOR OF THE ARMED FORCES OVER USTICA MIGHT FIND THEMSELVES FACING A LIBEL SUIT.) THE LAWYERS FOR THE FAMILIES OF THE CRASH VICTIMS CALLED SANTACROCE'S MOVE WELCOME BUT INADEQUATE.

5. (C) COMMENT. THOUGH SANTACROCE'S SUGGESTION OF WRONG-DOING ON THE PART OF SEVERAL MILITARY OFFICERS WAS CHARACTERIZED BY LA STAMPA AS THE FIRST TIME SUSPICION HAS "OFFICIALLY" FALLEN ON THE ARMED FORCES, SANTACROCE HAS NO POWER TO ACTUALLY COMPEL TESTIMONY OR INDICT ANYONE IN THE USTICA CASE. THE INVESTIGATING MAGISTRATE,

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CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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BUCARELLI, APPEARS TO BE ACTING WITH DELIBERATION AND GIVES NO CLUE WHEN HE WILL FINALLY BREAK HIS SILENCE ON THE CASE OR ISSUE INDICTMENTS (IF HE ISSUES ANY AT ALL). THE REAL EFFECT OF SANTACROCE'S ACTIONS, FOR THE TIME BEING, WILL BE TO ADD INCREMENTALLY TO THE CLOUD OF SUSPICION THAT HAS HOVERED OVER THE ITALIAN AIR FORCE FOR MOST OF THE PAST YEAR. HOLMES

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PAGE 01 ROME 12690 151543Z
ACTION EUR-00

INFO	LOG-00	ADS-00	INR-07	SS-00	CIAE-00	EB-00	NEA-04
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	JUSE-00	DS-01	SCT-02	E-01	/036 W		
					-----133661	161248Z	/41

R 151534Z JUN 89
 FM AMEMBASSY ROME
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5034
 INFO SECDEF WASHDC
 JCS WASHDC
 CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
 USIA WASHDC 1350
 DIA WASH DC
 USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT
 USMISSION USNATO
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 AMEMBASSY PARIS
 AMEMBASSY LONDON
 USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
 CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE
 AMEMBASSY CAIRO
 AMCONSUL MILAN
 AMCONSUL NAPLES
 AMCONSUL PALERMO

UNCLAS ROME 12690

CAIRO FOR MCELHANEY

E.O. 12356: N/A
 TAGS: MOPS, EAIR, PTER, IT, NATO
 SUBJECT: USTICA AIR CRASH: 16 OFFICERS CALLED TO
 TESTIFY AND CHARGES IT WAS A SIDEWINDER

REF: ROME 12422 DTG 121650Z JUN 89

PAGE 02 ROME 12690 151543Z

1. VITTORIO BUCARELLI, THE MAGISTRATE PRESIDING OVER
THE INVESTIGATION INTO THE CRASH OF AN ITAVIA DC-9 NEAR

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CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

52

THE ISLAND OF USTICA IN 1980, HAS ORDERED 16 MILITARY OFFICERS AND NCOS WHO WERE ON DUTY AT THE MARSALA AND LICOLA RADAR CENTERS AT THE TIME OF THE INCIDENT TO GIVE TESTIMONY IN THE CASE. THE NAMES OF THE OFFICERS AND NCOS HAVE NOT BEEN RELEASED. ACCORDING TO LEADING CENTRIST CORRIERE DELLA SERA JUNE 14, THE RESPONSE OF THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE HAS BEEN LIMITED TO A COMMUNIQUE STATING THAT THE MINISTRY AWAITS APPROPRIATE NOTIFICATION CONCERNING POSSIBLE CHARGES AGAINST THEIR EMPLOYEES.

2. ACCORDING TO LEADING CENTRIST CORRIERE DELLA SERA JUNE 14, THE 16 CALLED TO TESTIFY INCLUDE A LIEUTENANT COLONE AND FOUR WARRANT OFFICERS ASSIGNED TO THE RADAR CENTER A LICOLA AND THREE CAPTAINS AND SEVEN NCOS FROM THE RADAR CENTER AT MARSALA. THE SIXTEENTH PERSON CALLED TO TESTIFY IS THE COMMANDER AT THE LICOLA CENTER WHO ORDERED THE ORIGINAL RADAR RECORDS DESTROYED. THIS PERSON IS PRESENTLY UNIDENTIFIED SINCE IT HAS NOT YET BEEN DETERMINED WHO GAVE THIS ORDER. ACCORDING TO BUCARELLI, THE 16 MAY HAVE COMMITTED THE FOLLOWING CRIMES: GIVING FALSE TESTIMONY AND AIDING AND ABETTING.

3. IT IS PRESUMED THAT BUCARELLI'S ACTION IS IN RESPONSE TO THE REQUEST MADE TO HIM BY ROME ASSISTANT PROSECUTOR GIORGIO SANTACROCE THAT 23 MILITARY OFFICERS, NCOS, AND AIRMEN WHO WERE ON DUTY AT THE MARSALA AND LICOLA RADAR CENTERS AT THE TIME OF THE INCIDENT GIVE TESTIMONY IN THE CASE. BUCARELLI'S QUICK RESPONSE IS A SURPRISE, HOWEVER. CENTRIST LA STAMPA JUNE 13 STATED THAT SOURCES AT THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE WERE "SURE" THAT BUCARELLI

PAGE 03 ROME 12690 151543Z

WOULD ULTIMATELY AGREE TO SANTACROCE'S REQUEST, BUT THAT HE WOULD NOT DO SO RIGHT AWAY.

4. BUCARELLI HAS NOT ACTED ON SANTACROCE'S REQUEST THAT HE RECONVENE THE BOARD OF TECHNICAL EXPERTS HE APPOINTED TO STUDY THE USTICA CRASH TO DETERMINE THE TYPE AND "NATIONALITY" OF MISSILE THAT BROUGHT DOWN THE AIRLINER. THE LEFTIST GREEN "RAINBOW" COALITION CLAIMS TO KNOW THE ANSWER, HOWEVER. ACCORDING TO LEADING CENTRIST CORRIERE DELLA SERA JUNE 14, THE COALITION HAS ANNOUNCED THAT PAOLO MIGGIANO OF THE OPPOSITION RADICAL PARTY'S DEFENSE RESEARCH INSTITUTE HAS DETERMINED THAT EITHER A

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SIDEWINDER AIM-9L OR A MATRA R-550 MAGIC BROUGHT DOWN TH
ITAVIA DC-9. THE NEXT QUESTION IS: WHO HAD THESE
MISSILES IN 1980 AT THE TIME OF THE CRASH? ACCORDING TO
CORRIERE, THE STUDY RELEASED BY THE GREEN "RAINBOW"
COALITION STATES THAT IN 1980 THE U.S. NAVY SHOULD HAVE
RECEIVED 3500 SIDEWINDER AIM-9L MISSILES FOR VARIOUS
AIRCRAFT, INCLUDING 24 A6E INTRUDERS OF THE SARATOGA
WHICH WAS OFF NAPLES AT THE TIME OF THE CRASH. THE STUDY
ALSO NOTES THAT, ALTHOUGH THE ITALIANS HAVE ALWAYS
CLAIMED THAT IN 1980 THEIR F104S HAD ONLY SIDEWINDER
AIM-9B MISSILES, THEY HAVE OFTEN BEEN IMPRECISE ABOUT TH
EXACT DESIGNATIONS.
HOLMES

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PAGE 01 ROME 12858 190919Z
ACTION EUR-00

INFO	LOG-00	ADS-00	INR-07	SS-00	CIAE-00	EB-00	NEA-04
	NSAE-00	COME-00	L-03	PM-10	FAAE-00	DOTE-00	STR-18
	INRE-00	JUSE-00	DS-01	SCT-02	E-01	/046 W	
-----334151 200357Z /22							

R 190914Z JUN 89
 FM AMEMBASSY ROME
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5107
 INFO SECDEF WASHDC
 JCS WASHDC
 CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
 USIA WASHDC 1375
 DIA WASH DC
 USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT
 USMISSION USNATO
 AMEMBASSY BONN
 AMEMBASSY PARIS
 AMEMBASSY LONDON
 USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
 CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE
 AMEMBASSY CAIRO
 AMCONSUL MILAN
 AMCONSUL NAPLES
 AMCONSUL PALERMO

UNCLAS ROME 12858

CAIRO FOR MCELHANEY

E.O. 12356: N/A
 TAGS: MOPS, EAIR, PTER, IT, NATO
 SUBJECT: USTICA AIR CRASH: REACTION TO BUCARELLI'S
 ACTION

REF: ROME 12690 DTG 151534Z JUN 89

PAGE 02 ROME 12858 190919Z

1. THE ORDER BY VITTORIO BUCARELLI, THE MAGISTRATE
PRESIDING OVER THE INVESTIGATION INTO THE CRASH OF AN

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CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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ITAVIA DC-9 NEAR THE ISLAND OF USTICA IN 1980, THAT 16 MILITARY OFFICERS AND NCOS WHO WERE ON DUTY AT THE MARSALA AND LICOLA RADAR CENTERS AT THE TIME OF THE INCIDENT GIVE TESTIMONY IN THE CASE, HAS PROMPTED VARIOUS REACTIONS. ACCORDING TO CONSERVATIVE "IL GIORNALE" JUNE 16, THE AIR FORCE CHIEF OF STAFF, FRANCO PISANO, HAS ISSUED A STATEMENT TO THE MILITARY AND CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES OF THE AIR FORCE ASKING THEM TO KEEP THEIR "SERENITY AND FAITH. PISANO HAS REPORTEDLY STATED THAT THE ARMED FORCES HAVE ALWAYS COLLABORATED WITH THE USTICA INVESTIGATION.

2. THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY (DC) HAS ALSO EXPRESSED ITS SUPPORT OF THE MILITARY. ACCORDING TO ANS NEWS SERVICE JUNE 14, SENATOR SILVIO COCCO, LEADER OF TH DC MEMBERS OF THE INTERPARLIAMENTARY COMMISSION ON "STRAGI" (LITERALLY "SLAUGHTER") AND TERRORISM, HAS STATED THAT THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS ARE DETERMINED TO AVOID ANY USE OF THE USTICA CASE TO ATTACK THE ARMED FORCES IN WHOM THEY MAINTAIN THEIR TRUST, AND WITH WHOM THEY REMAIN IN SOLIDARITY. COCCO REPORTEDLY STATED THAT BUCARELLI'S ACTION MAKES THE USTICA INVESTIGATION MORE COMPLEX AND DELICATE.

3. ACCORDING TO ROME DAILY "IL MESSAGGERO" JUNE 16, MARIO DE CRESCENZO, THE COMMANDER AT THE LICOLA RADAR CENTER AT THE TIME RADAR RECORDS OF THE INCIDENT WERE DESTROYED, HAS STATED THAT HE SENT COPIES OF THE RADAR RECORDS TO THE CHIEFS OF STAFF AND TO ANOTHER MILITARY AGENCY, WHICH HE DOES NOT IDENTIFY. REPORTEDLY THIS IS THE FIRST TIME DE CRESCENZO HAS REVEALED THAT THESE

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COPIES OF THE RADAR RECORDS EXIST.

4. ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE POLITICAL SPECTRUM, SIX DEPUTIES FROM THE RADICAL PARTY HAVE PRESENTED PRIME MINISTER DE MITA WITH AN OFFICIAL INQUIRY. ACCORDING TO LEFTIST INDEPENDENT "LA REPUBBLICA" JUNE 16, THE DEPUTIES HAVE REQUESTED AN EXPLANATION AS TO WHY THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE HAS NOT TAKEN ANY MEASURES AGAINST THE OFFICERS AND NCOS ORDERED TO TESTIF BY BUCARELLI. THE DEPUTIES HAVE ALSO REQUESTED TO SEE THE PERSONNEL FILES OF THESE OFFICERS AND NCOS.HOLMES

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PAGE 01 ROME 13784 01 OF 02 301833Z
ACTION EUR-00

INFO	LOG-00	ADS-00	INR-07	SS-00	CIAE-00	EB-00	H-01
	NEA-06	NSCE-00	NSAE-00	HA-09	L-03	TRSE-00	PM-10
	PA-01	DOTE-00	OMB-01	INRE-00	JUSE-00	SP-02	SNP-01
	PRS-01	DS-01	SCT-02	P-02	T-01	/048 W	
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R 301707Z JUN 89
 FM AMEMBASSY ROME
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5656
 INFO SECDEF WASHDC
 JCS WASHDC
 CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
 USIA WASHDC 1463
 DIA WASH DC
 FAA WASHDC
 USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT
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 AMEMBASSY BONN
 AMEMBASSY PARIS
 AMEMBASSY LONDON
 USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
 CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE
 AMEMBASSY CAIRO
 AMCONSUL MILAN
 AMCONSUL NAPLES

SECTION 01 OF 02 ROME 13784

CAIRO FOR MCELHANEY

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
 TAGS: MOPS, EAIR, PTER, IT, NATO
 SUBJECT: USTICA: CHARGES OF A COVERUP & THE MIG THEORY
 RETURNS

REF: A)ROME 13504 DTG 271332Z JUN 89 B)ROME 13244 DTG

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1. (U) PRESIDENT FRANCESCO COSSIGA MET ON JUNE 29 WITH THE FAMILIES OF THE 81 VICTIMS OF THE CRASH OF AN ITAVIA DC-9 NEAR THE ISLAND OF USTICA IN 1980. ACCORDING TO CENTRIST "LA STAMPA" JUNE 30, COSSIGA TOLD THE VICTIMS' FAMILIES THAT "NO ONE SHOULD DELUDE HIMSELF THAT THIS EVENT WILL BE FORGOTTEN AND THAT SILENCE WILL FALL UPON IT."

2. (U) LEFTIST INDEPENDENT "LA REPUBBLICA" JUNE 30 REPORTS THAT, DURING THE MEETING, COSSIGA LIKENED THE USTICA AFFAIR TO "A STRANGER ENTERING A HOME AND KILLING THE MISTRESS OF THE HOUSE. THE HUSBAND ASKS TO KNOW WHO KILLED HER. BUT INSTEAD OF TELLING HIM WHO KILLED HER, THE CLUES THAT COULD IDENTIFY HIM ARE WIPED OUT. WELL, THE ONE WHO HID THE TRUTH IS MORE GUILTY THAN THE ONE WHO COMMITTED THE HOMICIDE." SENATOR PAOLO CABRAS (DC), MEMBER OF THE INTERPARLIAMENTARY COMMISSION LOOKING INTO THE USTICA CASE, AND SENATOR NICOLO LIPARI (DC), PRESIDENT OF THE "COMMITTEE FOR THE TRUTH ON USTICA," BOTH THANKED PRESIDENT COSSIGA FOR HIS STATEMENTS. IT SHOULD BE REMEMBERED THAT COSSIGA WAS PRIME MINISTER AT THE TIME OF THE CRASH OF THE DC-9.

3. (U) MINISTER OF LABOR RINO FORMICA, WHO WAS MINISTER OF TRANSPORTATION AT THE TIME OF THE CRASH OF THE DC-9, TESTIFIED BEFORE THE INTERPARLIAMENTARY COMMISSION ON "STRAGI" (LITERALLY SLAUGHTER) AND TERRORISM ON JUNE 29. ACCORDING TO ANSA WIRE SERVICE JUNE 29, FORMICA STATED THAT "WHEN ONE WASTES TIME, ONE HAS ALL THE TIME NECESSARY TO SUPPRESS PROOF AND MEN...NINE YEARS HAVE PASSED SINCE THE USTICA TRAGEDY

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AND THERE HAS PROBABLY BEEN A WAY TO SUPPRESS PROOF AND PROBABLY EVEN MEN." CENTRIST "LA STAMPA" JUNE 30 REPORTS THAT FORMICA TOLD THE COMMISSION THAT NO GROUP OF EXPERTS IN THE WORLD WILL BE ABLE TO EXPLAIN TODAY WHAT HAPPENED TO THE DC-9. ACCORDING TO "LA STAMPA", FORMICA STATED THAT ONLY THE "SECRET SERVICES" KNOW WHAT HAPPENED AND THEY HAVE BEEN UNABLE OR UNWILLING TO GIVE AN EXPLANATION, OR ELSE, AT THE TIME THEY COVERED THE MATTER UP.

4. (U) FINANCIAL DAILY "IL SOLE-24 ORE" JUNE 30 REPORTS THAT FORMICA TOLD THE INTERPARLIAMENTARY

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COMMISSION THAT GENERAL RANA, CHIEF OF THE ITALIAN AERONAUTIC REGISTRY AT THE TIME OF THE CRASH, TOLD HIM THAT THERE WERE ELEMENTS IN THE RADAR RECORDS POINTING TO THE HYPOTHESIS THAT A MISSILE DOWNED THE ITAVIA DC-9. ACCORDING TO LEFTIST INDEPENDENT "LA REPUBBLICA" JUNE 30 FORMICA ALSO TOLD THE INTERPARLIAMENTARY COMMISSION THAT AMERICAN EXPERT JOHN MACIDULL (SEE REFTEL A) CONFIRMED GENERAL RANA'S MISSILE HYPOTHESIS. "LA REPUBBLICA" REPORTS THAT FORMICA TOLD THE COMMISSION THAT IN NOVEMBER 1980 HE INFORMED THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND THE PRESIDENTS OF BOTH HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT OF RANA'S HYPOTHESIS.

5. (U) ACCORDING TO LEADING CENTRIST "CORRIERE DELLA SERA" JUNE 29, A CLASSIFIED REPORT BY THE COMMISSION APPOINTED BY PRIME MINISTER DE MITA TO INVESTIGATE THE USTICA CRASH STATES THAT ON THE DAY OF THE CRASH OF THE ITAVIA DC-9, A NATO EXERCISE CALLED "NATINAD-DEMON JAM" WAS TAKING PLACE OVER ITALIAN TERRITORY, INVOLVING 27 ITALIAN AND GERMAN FIGHTER JETS AND THE ITALIAN NAVY. "CORRIERE" STATES THAT THE GOVERNMENT REPORT SAYS THAT A LIBYAN MIG 23 FLEW UNDISTURBED FOR ONE HOUR AMIDST THE NATO FIGHTERS AND THAT ITS PRESENCE MAY HAVE BEEN PICKED

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ACTION EUR-00

INFO	LOG-00	ADS-00	INR-07	SS-00	CIAE-00	EB-00	H-01
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	PA-01	DOT-00	OMB-01	INRE-00	JUSE-00	SP-02	SNP-01
	PRS-01	DS-01	SCT-02	P-02	T-01	/048 W	

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R 301707Z JUN 89
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5657
INFO SECDEF WASHDC
JCS WASHDC

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HANDLING: n/a

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CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
USIA WASHDC 1464
DIA WASH DC
FAA WASHDC
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMCONSUL MILAN
AMCONSUL NAPLES

SECTION 02 OF 02 ROME 13784

CAIRO FOR MCELHANEY

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: MOPS, EAIR, PTER, IT, NATO
SUBJECT: USTICA: CHARGES OF A COVERUP & THE MIG THEORY

UP BY A RADAR CENTER AT OTRANTO, BUT THAT THESE RADAR
RECORDS HAVE BEEN DESTROYED.

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6. (C) COMMENT: THE REPORTED REMARKS BY COSSIGA AND
FORMICA HAVE UNDERCUT THE FINDINGS OF THE PRIME
MINISTER'S COMMISSION ON THE USTICA TRAGEDY. THEY HAVE
GIVEN NEW IMPETUS TO THE ARGUMENTS OF THOSE ALLEGING A
COVERUP OF THE ENTIRE USTICA AFFAIR. WITH THEIR OWN
REPUTATIONS ON THE LINE, BOTH MEN ADOPTED DEFENSIVE
POSITIONS TO PROTECT THEMSELVES SHOULD NEW EVIDENCE
EMERGE DURING THE PARLIAMENTARY COMMISSION
HEARINGS. SECCHIA

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PAGE 01 ROME 13835 01 OF 02 031634Z
ACTION EUR-00

INFO	LOG-00	ADS-00	INR-07	SS-00	OIC-02	CIAE-00	EB-00
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	TRSE-00	PM-10	PA-01	OMB-01	INRE-00	SP-02	SNP-01
	PRS-01	SCT-02	P-02	T-01	/068 W		

-----135104 040658Z /25

R 031519Z JUL 89
 FM AMEMBASSY ROME
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5696
 INFO SECDEF WASHDC
 JCS WASHDC
 CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
 USIA WASHDC 1466
 DIA WASH DC
 FAA WASHDC
 USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT
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 AMEMBASSY PARIS
 AMEMBASSY LONDON
 USCINCEUR VAHINGEN GE
 CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE
 AMEMBASSY CAIRO
 AMCONSUL MILAN
 AMCONSUL NAPLES

SECTION 01 OF 02 ROME 13835

CAIRO FOR MCELHANEY

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
 TAGS: MOPS, EAIR, PTER, IT, NATO
 SUBJECT: CHARGES AND COUNTERCHARGES PROLIFERATE ON USTICA

REF: A)ROME 13784 DTG 301707Z JUN 89

PAGE 02 ROME 13835 01 OF 02 031634Z

1. (U) SUMMARY: THERE HAS BEEN A SWIFT WAVE OF CRITICAL REACTION TO THE STATEMENTS MADE BY MINISTER

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DOC_NBR: 1989ROME13835

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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FORMICA BEFORE THE INTERPARLIAMENTARY COMMISSION LOOKING INTO THE USTICA CASE. THE OFFICE OF PRESIDENT COSSIGA HAS "CLARIFIED" THE REPORTED REMARKS MADE BY COSSIGA TO THE FAMILIES OF THE VICTIMS OF THE USTICA TRAGEDY, WHICH IMPLIED AN OFFICIAL COVERUP MIGHT BE UNDERWAY. THE PARLIAMENT HAS ASKED THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE TO REPORT ON THE ROLE OF THE "SECRET SERVICES" IN THE USTICA AFFAIR AND AGENCE FRANCE PRESS HAS NOW ENTERED THE FRAY WITH ALLEGATIONS ABOUT RADAR TAPES OF THE INCIDENT. END SUMMARY.

2. (U) WE REPORTED REFTTEL THE JUNE 29 STATEMENTS MADE BY RINO FORMICA MINISTER OF TRANSPORTATION AT THE TIME OF THE CRASH OF AN ITAVIA DC-9 NEAR THE ISLAND OF USTICA IN 1980, BEFORE THE INTERPARLIAMENTARY COMMISSION ON STRAGI (LITERALLY SLAUGHTER) AND TERRORISM. CRITICAL REACTION TO FORMICA HAS BEEN SWIFT.

3. ACCORDING TO CENTRIST "LA STAMPA" JULY 2, FRANCO MAZZOLA, UNDERSECRETARY IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE IN 1980, HAS CONTRADICTED FORMICA'S ASSERTION BEFORE THE COMMISSION THAT IN 1980 HE TOLD THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE THAT THE CHIEF OF THE ITALIAN AERONAUTIC REGISTRY TOLD HIM THAT THERE WERE ELEMENTS IN THE RADAR RECORDS POINTING TO THE HYPOTHESIS THAT A MISSILE HAD DOWNED THE DC-9. CENTRIST "LA STAMPA" JULY 2 REPORTS THAT MAZZOLA HAS STATED, "FORMICA DID NOT SPEAK TO ME ABOUT HIS SUSPICIONS CONCERNING THE PLANE TRAGEDY. AND I EXCLUDE THAT HE SPOKE TO PRESIDENT COSSIGA." COSSIGA WAS PRIME MINISTER AT THE TIME OF THE USTICA INCIDENT.

4. (U) ROMEO FERRUCCI, ATTORNEY FOR THE FAMILIES OF THE

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VICTIMS, HAS ALSO ATTACKED FORMICA FOR HIS STATEMENT BEFORE THE INTERPARLIAMENTARY COMMISSION THAT TIME HAS BEEN WASTED DURING THE INVESTIGATION INTO THE USTICA TRAGEDY. ACCORDING TO ROME DAILY "IL MESSAGGERO" JULY 1 FERRUCCI STATED "THE FIRST ONE TO WASTE TIME, ASSUMING GRAVE RESPONSIBILITIES IN THIS MUDDLED AFFAIR, HAS BEEN MINISTER FORMICA HIMSELF."

5. (U) THE SPOKESMAN FOR THE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE, AMBASSADOR LUDOVICO ORTONA, CLARIFIED THE REPORTED STATEMENTS MADE BY PRESIDENT COSSIGA JUNE 29 TO THE FAMILIES OF THE VICTIMS OF THE ITAVIA DC-9 INCIDENT,

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CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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AMEMBASSY LONDON
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMCONSUL MILAN
AMCONSUL NAPLES

SECTION 02 OF 02 ROME 13835

CAIRO FOR MCELHANEY

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: MOPS, EAIR, PTER, IT, NATO
SUBJECT: CHARGES AND COUNTERCHARGES PROLIFERATE ON USTICA

REPORTS THAT CINTI ALSO ASKED FAZZINO IF A MISSILE HAD
DOWNED THE DC-9 AND THAT FAZZINO REPLIED THAT IT WAS

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EITHER A MISSILE OR A BOMB PLACED IN THE FRONT RIGHT
BAGGAGE COMPARTMENT. THE ARTICLE GOES ON TO STATE THAT
WHEN THE REMAINS OF THE DC-9 WERE RECOVERED, THE FRONT
RIGHT BAGGAGE COMPARTMENT WAS INTACT.

7. (U) INVESTIGATIONS INTO THE USTICA AFFAIR
PROLIFERATE. THE PRESIDENT OF THE PARLIAMENTARY
COMMITTEE THAT CONTROLS THE SECRET SERVICES HAS NOW ASKED
MINISTER OF DEFENSE ZANONE TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ON THE
ACTIVITY OF THE SECRET SERVICES WITH RELATION TO THE
USTICA INCIDENT.

8. (U) LEADING CENTRIST "CORRIERE DELLA SERA" JULY 2
REPORTS ON AN AGENCE FRANCE PRESS REPORT WHICH REPORTEDLY
STATES THAT RECORDS MISTAKENLY NOT SEIZED BY THE ITALIAN
MILITARY SHOW THAT AT THE TIME AND PLACE OF THE USTICA
CRASH THERE ARE TRACES OF THREE AIRCRAFT,
THAT OF THE DC-9 ON A NORTH-SOUTH AXIS, THAT OF AN
AIRCRAFT COMING FROM THE EAST THAT APPROACHES THE DC-9 AS
IF TO "COVER" ITSELF, AND THAT OF AN "INTERCEPTOR" THAT
COMES FROM THE WEST. ROME CENTRISIT "IL TEMPO" JULY 3
REPORTS THAT THE ROME MAGISTRATES INVESTIGATING THE
USTICA CASE HAVE "THROWN COLD WATER" ON THE AGENCE FRANCE
PRESS REPORT BY STATING THAT DOCUMENTS AND RECORDS
CONCERNING THE RADAR MADE AT CIAMPINO MILITARY AIRPORT ON
THE DATE OF THE USTICA TRAGEDY HAVE FOR SOME TIME BEEN

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PART OF THE EVIDENCE GATHERED IN THE CASE AND THAT
THEREFORE THE RECORDS AGENCE FRANCE PRESS ALLEGES
TO ARE NOT "NEW EVIDENCE".

9. (C) COMMENT: THE SWIFT ATTACK ON FORMICA AND THE
ALACRITY SHOWN BY PRESIDENT COSSIGA'S OFFICE IN ISSUING
A CLARIFICATION OF HIS REPORTED JUNE 29 REMARKS
UNDERSCORE THE FIERCELY POLEMICAL NATURE WHICH THE USTICA
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CONTROVERSY HAS ASSUMED IN ITALY. COSSIGA IN PARTICULAR
SEEMS TO HAVE RECOGNIZED THAT PRESS REPORTS SHOWED HIM
GOING TOO FAR IN SYMPATHIZING WITH THE FAMILIES OF THE
VICTIMS AND IMPLICITLY UNDERCUTTING THE EFFORTS OF
GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS. FINDING THE PRECISE BALANCE
IS PROVING EXTREMELY DIFFICULT IN A DEBATE DOMINATED
BY THE EXTREMES.
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CHANNEL: n/a
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PAGE 01 ROME 13963 052054Z
ACTION EUR-00

INFO	LOG-00	ADS-00	INR-07	SS-00	CIAE-00	EB-00	H-01
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	PRS-01	DS-01	SCT-02	P-02	T-01	/047 W	

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R 051720Z JUL 89
 FM AMEMBASSY ROME
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5754
 INFO SECDEF WASHDC
 JCS WASHDC
 CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
 USIA WASHDC 1475
 DIA WASH DC
 FAA WASHDC
 USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT
 USMISSION USNATO
 AMEMBASSY BONN
 AMEMBASSY PARIS
 AMEMBASSY LONDON
 USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
 CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE
 AMEMBASSY CAIRO
 AMCONSUL MILAN
 AMCONSUL NAPLES
 AMCONSUL PALERMO

UNCLAS ROME 13963

CAIRO FOR MCELHANEY

E.O. 12356: N/A
 TAGS: MOPS, EAIR, PTER, IT, NATO
 SUBJECT: USTICA: STATEMENTS BY AMBASSADOR SECCHIA AND
 ITALIAN DEFENSE MINISTER ZANONE

PAGE 02 ROME 13963 052054Z

REF: A)ROME 13835 DTG 031519Z JUL 89 B)ROME 13784 DTG
301707Z JUN 89

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1. THE ITALIAN PRESS HAS GIVEN PROMINENT COVERAGE TO THE REMARKS CONCERNING THE CRASH OF AN ITAVIA DC-9 NEAR THE ISLAND OF USTICA IN 1980 MADE BY AMBASSADOR SECCHIA DURING A PRESS CONFERENCE ON JULY 3. LEADING CENTRIST "CORRIERE DELLA SERA" JULY 4 REPORTS THAT THE AMBASSADOR STATED THAT "THE U.S. RECENTLY GAVE THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT, AT ITS REQUEST, ALL THE INFORMATION CONCERNING THE ACTIVITY OF OUR AIRCRAFT DURING THE TRAGIC OCCURRENCE."

2. LEFTIST INDEPENDENT "LA REPUBBLICA" JULY 4 REPORTS THAT AMBASSADOR SECCHIA STATED THAT HOURS BEFORE THE TIME OF THE TRAGEDY, ALL AMERICAN AIRCRAFT WERE ON LAND OR ON AIRCRAFT CARRIERS. "LA REPUBBLICA" FURTHER REPORTS THAT SECCHIA STATED THAT THERE ARE NO RECORDS THAT THE U.S. LAUNCHED ANY MISSILES AND THAT AT THE TIME OF THE USTICA INCIDENT THERE WERE NO AMERICAN SHIPS CARRYING SURFACE-TO-AIR MISSILES WHICH WOULD HAVE BEEN CAPABLE OF STRIKING THE DC-9. THE "LA REPUBBLICA" ARTICLE ALSO REPORTS ON THE AMBASSADOR'S DENIAL THAT SECRETARY OF STATE MUSKIE WAS FLYING OVER THE TYRRHENIAN SEA AT THE TIME OF THE USTICA INCIDENT. THE ARTICLE CITES AMBASSADOR SECCHIA'S STATEMENT THAT AT THE TIME OF THE INCIDENT, MUSKIE WAS IN KUALA LAMPUR.

3. AN INTERVIEW CONCERNING THE USTICA AFFAIR WITH MINISTER OF DEFENSE VALERIO ZANONE APPEARED IN CENTRIST "LA STAMPA" JULY 5. ACCORDING TO "LA STAMPA", ZANONE CRITICIZED PRESIDENT COSSIGA FOR HIS RECENT REMARKS ON USTICA (SEE REFTELS), STATING THAT SOMEONE WHO HAS THE

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DUTY OF DEALING WITH THE USTICA CASE AS A GOVERNMENT RESPONSIBILITY SHOULD NOT MAKE CONJECTURES OR SUPPOSITIONS ABOUT THE CASE. "LA STAMPA" REPORTS THAT ZANONE STATED: 1) THAT HE PASSED ALL INFORMATION HE COULD GATHER ON USTICA TO THE JUDICIARY AND TO PARLIAMENT; 2) THAT FROM THE EVIDENCE GATHERED THE DISASTER WAS NOT CAUSED BY THE ITALIAN ARMED FORCES; 3) THAT HE FOUND THE AIR FORCE AND THE ENTIRE DEFENSE ADMINISTRATION TO BE LOYALLY COLLABORATIVE; AND 4) THAT HE THEREFORE CONSIDERS UNJUST THE ACCUSATIONS OF A COVERUP. ACCORDING TO "LA STAMPA", ZANONE ALSO DISAGREED WITH THE REMARKS MADE RECENTLY BY FORMER TRANSPORTATION MINISTER

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FORMICA BEFORE AN INTERPARLIAMENTARY COMMISSION LOOKING
INTO THE USTICA CASE THAT TIME HAS BEEN WASTED IN
RESOLVING THE USTICA MATTER (SEE REFTELS). ZANONE
REPORTELY STATED THAT HE HAS BEEN DEALING WITH THE USTICA
AFFAIR FOR SEVEN YEARS AND THAT TIME HAS NOT BEEN WASTED.
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PAGE 01 ROME 14153 01 OF 02 071545Z
ACTION EUR-00

INFO	LOG-00	ADS-00	INR-07	SS-00	CIAE-00	EB-00	H-01
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	PM-10	PA-02	DOTE-00	OMB-01	INRE-00	JUSE-00	SP-02
	SNP-01	PRS-01	DS-01	SCT-02	P-02	T-01	/047 W

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O 071537Z JUL 89
 FM AMEMBASSY ROME
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5869
 INFO SECDEF WASHDC
 JCS WASHDC
 CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
 USIA WASHDC 1494
 DIA WASH DC
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 CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE
 AMEMBASSY CAIRO
 AMCONSUL MILAN
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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 ROME 14153

CAIRO FOR MCELHANEY

E.O. 12356: N/A
 TAGS: MOPS, EAIR, PTER, IT, NATO
 SUBJECT: USTICA: NEW THEORY EMERGES, FORMER DEFENSE
 MINISTER TESTIFIES, AND GREENS WANT EXPLANATION OF
 AMBASSADOR SECCHIA'S STATEMENTS ON USTICA

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REF: A)ROME 13963 DTG 051720Z JUL 89

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1. ACCORDING TO INDEPENDENT LEFTIST "LA REPUBBLICA" JULY 7, LIBERO GUALTIERI (PRI), PRESIDENT OF THE INTERPARLIAMENTARY COMMISSION ON STRAGI (LITERALLY SLAUGHTER) AND TERRORISM WHICH IS LOOKING INTO THE CRASH OF AN ITAVIA DC-9 NEAR THE ISLAND OF USTICA IN 1980, HAS STATED THAT THE COMMISSION HAS DETERMINED THAT IT SHOULD EXAMINE THE QUESTIONS SURROUNDING THE CRASH OF A LIBYAN MIG IN THE SILA MOUNTAINS OF CALABRIA IN THE SUMMER OF 1980.

2. OFFICIALLY, THE LIBYAN MIG CRASHED TWO WEEKS AFTER THE USTICA INCIDENT, BUT THERE HAS BEEN SPECULATION THAT THE MIG CRASH OCCURRED EARLIER, POSSIBLY ON THE SAME DAY AS THE USTICA CRASH, AND THAT THERE IS A CONNECTION BETWEEN THE TWO EVENTS.

3. "LA REPUBBLICA" JULY 7 PUBLISHED A NEW HYPOTHESIS OF WHAT HAPPENED TO THE ITAVIA DC-9. "LA REPUBBLICA" BASES ITS THEORY ON "VARIOUS SHREDS OF EVIDENCE THAT SEEM TO FIT WELL TOGETHER". ACCORDING TO "LA REPUBBLICA", IN THE SPRING OF 1980, AMERICAN INTELLIGENCE AGENTS TRIED TO ORGANIZE A COUP AGAINST LIBYA'S COLONEL QUADDAFI. IN JUNE OF THAT YEAR, THE U.S. AGENTS REALIZED THAT THE COUP MIGHT NOT SUCCEED AND INVITED ONE OF THEIR COLLABORATORS, MILITARY OFFICER EZZEDIN KOAL, JET FIGHTER INSTRUCTOR, TO FLEE LIBYA WITH A MIG 23 AND FLY TO THE U.S. BASE AT SIGONELLA WHERE U.S. GOVERNMENT PERSONNEL WOULD BE AWAITING HIM. "LA REPUBBLICA" ARTICLE STATES THAT THE U.S. WAS MORE INTERESTED IN THE MIG THAN IN KOAL.

4. ACCORDING TO THE "LA REPUBBLICA" HYPOTHESIS, THE

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LIBYANS FOUND OUT ABOUT KOAL'S DEFECTION AND SENT TWO MIGS TO FOLLOW HIM. THE ARTICLE STATES THAT ITALY DID NOT ALLOW KOAL TO LAND AT SIGONELLA FOR FEAR OF RUINING ITS GOOD RELATIONSHIP WITH LYBIA. THE HYPOTHESIS PUT FORTH BY "LA REPUBBLICA" IS THAT WHEN KOAL WAS FLYING OVER USTICA, ONE OF THE LIBYAN MIGS FOLLOWING HIM FIRED A MISSILE, KOAL HID BEHIND THE ITAVIA DC-9, AND THE MISSILE STRUCK THE ITAVIA JET. THE HYPOTHESIS CONCLUDES WITH KOAL CRASHING INTO THE SILA MOUNTAINS OF CALABRIA, EITHER BECAUSE HE RAN OUT OF FUEL OR BECAUSE HIS PLANE HAD BEEN HIT BY MACHINE GUN FIRE FROM THE TWO MIGS THAT WERE AFTER HIM.

5. LELIO LAGORIO (PSI), MINISTER OF DEFENSE AT THE TIME

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OF THE USTICA DISASTER, TESTIFIED ON JULY 6 BEFORE THE INTERPARLIAMENTARY COMMISSION LOOKING INTO THE USTICA CASE. ACCORDING TO CENTRIST "LA STAMPA" JULY 7, LAGORIO TOLD THE COMMISSION THAT HE DID NOT CONTACT THE ITALIAN SECRET SERVICES CONCERNING THE USTICA MATTER BECAUSE AT THE TIME OF THE INCIDENT THEY WERE "INEFFICIENT AND LACKED INTERNATIONAL CREDIBILITY". "LA STAMPA" REPORTS THAT LAGORIO SAID THAT HE TURNED THE DEFENSE ESTABLISHMENT "INSIDE OUT LIKE A GLOVE" AND THAT THE RESPONSE WAS ALWAYS THAT ON THE DAY OF THE USTICA CRASH, THERE WERE NO ITALIAN PLANES IN FLIGHT, THERE WERE NO ITALIAN SHIPS IN THE WATERS OFF USTICA, AND THERE WERE NO TRAINING EXERCISES AT THE SALTO DI QUIRRA SHOOTING RANGE. IN RESPONSE TO FORMER MINISTER OF TRANSPORTATION FORMICA'S STATEMENT TO THE SAME COMMISSION THAT HE HAD TOLD LAGORIO THAT A MISSILE MIGHT HAVE HIT THE DC-9, THE "LA STAMPA" ARTICLE REPORTS THAT LAGORIO STATED THAT THE MISSILE THEORY WAS ONLY A "RUMOUR" THAT HE CONSIDERED "UNBELIEVABLE".



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ACTION EUR-00

INFO	LOG-00	ADS-00	INR-07	SS-00	CIAE-00	EB-00	H-01
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	PM-10	PA-02	DOTE-00	OMB-01	INRE-00	JUSE-00	SP-02
	SNP-01	PRS-01	DS-01	SCT-02	P-02	T-01	/047 W
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O 071537Z JUL 89
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5870
INFO SECDEF WASHDC
JCS WASHDC
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
USIA WASHDC 1495
DIA WASH DC
FAA WASHDC
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CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMCONSUL MILAN
AMCONSUL NAPLES
AMCONSUL PALERMO

UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 ROME 14153

CAIRO FOR MCELHANEY

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: MOPS, EAIR, PTER, IT, NATO
SUBJECT: USTICA: NEW THEORY EMERGES, FORMER DEFENSE

6. ACCORDING TO ANSA WIRE SERVICE JULY 7, TWO DEPUTIES

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FROM THE GREEN RAINBOW COALITION PARTY, FRANCESCO RUTELLI AND EDO RONCHI, HAVE PRESENTED AN INQUIRY TO THE MINISTERS OF DEFENSE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS CONCERNING AMBASSADOR SECCHIA'S RECENT STATEMENTS ON USTICA. RUTELLI AND RONCHI WANT TO KNOW WHETHER THE U.S. AIRCRAFT CARRIER SARATOGA WAS IN THE GULF OF NAPLES ON JUNE 27, 1980 (THE DAY OF THE USTICA INCIDENT), AND IF IT WAS, THEY WANT THE MINISTERS TO ASK THE AMBASSADOR FOR HIS DEFINITION OF THE "OPERATIVE ZONE" OF AN AIRCRAFT CARRIER AND FOR THE DEFINITION USED BY THE U.S. NAVY.

7. COMMENT: IF QUERIED ON THE GREENS' PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY, WE INTEND TO REFER THE MFA AND MOD TO DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE ATWOOD'S MAY 15 LETTER TO AMBASSADOR PETRIGNANI AS THE DEFINITIVE US POSITION ON THE USTICA TRAGEDY.
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PAGE 01 ROME 14414 01 OF 02 111853Z
ACTION ACDA-12

INFO	LOG-00	ADS-00	INR-07	EUR-00	SS-00	OIC-02	AF-00
	CIAE-00	H-01	IO-19	NEA-06	NSCE-00	ARA-00	NSAE-00
	L-03	PM-10	EAP-00	PA-01	NRRC-01	INRE-00	OES-09
	SP-02	DOEE-00	SNP-01	PRS-01	SDEL-04	SART-01	P-02
	T-01	/083 W					

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R 111845Z JUL 89
 FM AMEMBASSY ROME
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6010
 INFO SECDEF WASHDC
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 AMEMBASSY LONDON
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 CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE
 AMEMBASSY CAIRO
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 AMCONSUL NAPLES

SECTION 01 OF 02 ROME 14414

CAIRO FOR MCELHANEY

E.O. 12356: N/A
 TAGS: MOPS, EAIR, PTER, IT, NATO
 SUBJECT: REMARKS BY ITALIAN CHIEF OF STAFF ON THE ROLE OF
 THE MILITARY IN THE AGE OF DISARMAMENT

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REF: ROME 13504 DTG 271332Z JUN 89

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: ERIC W. FLEISHER
 DATE/CASE ID: 25 SEP 2002 200102359

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1. ON THE OCCASION OF THE FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CENTER FOR HIGHER DEFENSE STUDIES, ADMIRAL MARIO PORTA, CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE ARMED FORCES, DELIVERED A SPEECH ON JUNE 27 ENTITLED "THE ROLE OF THE ARMED FORCES AND THE STATE OF THE MILITARY IN AN AGE OF NEGOTIATIONS ON DISARMAMENT".

2. ADMIRAL PORTA ASSERTED THE FOLLOWING MAJOR POINTS:

-THE COLD WAR BETWEEN EAST AND WEST IS ABOUT TO END, GIVING WAY TO A CLIMATE OF GREATER COMPREHENSION AND RECIPROCAL TRUST.

-DIALOGUE AND NEGOTIATION WILL BE THE CENTRAL ASPECTS OF THE NEAR FUTURE.

-THE ROLE OF THE ARMED FORCES WILL BE MODIFIED, BUT WILL REMAIN DETERMINANT.

-THE DANGER OF SURPRISE ATTACKS WILL PROGRESSIVELY DIMINISH; AS WILL THE RISK OF MAJOR INVASIONS OF TERRITORY.

-WITH THE POSITIVE PROGRESS OF NEGOTIATED AGREEMENTS, MILITARY EQUIPMENT WILL BE ESTABLISHED AT REDUCED LEVELS AND LIMITED TO DEFENSIVE NEEDS. TO COUNTERBALANCE REDUCED SIZE, THE MILITARY WILL NEED TO ACHIEVE A MORE FAVORABLE QUALITY/QUANTITY RATIO, A GREATER DEGREE OF PROFESSIONALISM OF PERSONNEL, A HIGHER TECHNOLOGICAL LEVEL OF EQUIPMENT, AND GREATER CORRELATION BETWEEN MILITARY AND CIVIL DEFENSE.

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-THE QUALITY OF EQUIPMENT WILL CONTINUALLY BECOME MORE IMPORTANT, AND THE WEST, TO BALANCE ITS GEO-STRATEGIC DISADVANTAGE, WILL HAVE TO MAINTAIN ITS FAVORABLE TECHNOLOGICAL GAP, FAVORING RESEARCH, INNOVATION, AND MODERNIZATION OF ARMS SYSTEMS.

-THE IMPORTANCE OF THE "MAN FACTOR", ALREADY SO IMPORTANT, WILL ASSUME EVEN MORE IMPORTANCE, AND WITH IT, THE CENTRAL POSITION OF THE "HUMAN SIDE" AND THE PROBLEMS OF THE "MILITARY CONDITION", BECAUSE OF THE GROWING NEED TO ADEQUATELY SUSTAIN THE MOTIVATION, THE COMPENSATION AND THE QUALIFICATION OF PERSONNEL.

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3. IN HIS SPEECH, ADMIRAL PORTA WARNED THAT IF THE "OPEN DISSENSION ON EVERYTHING WHICH CONCERNS DEFENSE" AND THE "CONTINUOUS AND INDISCRIMINATE ATTACKS AGAINST MILITARY ORGANIZATIONS SHOULD INCREASE AND SPREAD", THE RESULT WILL BE INDIFFERENCE AND LOSS OF MORALE AMONG MILITARY PERSONNEL. IN RECENT MONTHS, THERE HAVE BEEN CHARGES THAT THE THE ARMED FORCES ENGAGED IN A COVERUP OF THE CRASH OF AN ITAVIA DC-9 NEAR THE ISLAND OF USTICA IN 1980, IN WHICH 81 PASSENGERS WERE KILLED. LAST MONTH, TWENTY-THREE MILITARY PERSONNEL WERE INDICTED IN THE CASE ON CHARGES OF GIVING FALSE TESTIMONY, AIDING AND ABETTING, AND DESTRUCTION OF EVIDENCE. (SEE REFTEL)

4. COMMENT: PORTA'S SPEECH DREW PREDICTABLY SHARP RESPONSES FROM THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN CRITICAL OF THE MILITARY IN RECENT MONTHS. ALTHOUGH HIS SPEECH WAS CAREFULLY PREPARED, PORTA'S FRUSTRATION (AND THROUGH HIM THAT OF MANY MILITARY OFFICERS) CAME THROUGH UNMISTAKEABLY. MANY OFFICERS HAVE TOLD US HOW FED UP THEY ARE WITH WHAT THEY SEE AS AN "OPEN SEASON" ON THINGS MILITARY DURING THE PAST YEAR.

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ACTION ACDA-12

INFO - LOG-00	ADS-00	INR-07	EUR-00	SS-00	OIC-02	AF-00
CIAE-00	H-01	IO-19	NEA-06	NSCE-00	ARA-00	NSAE-00
L-03	PM-10	EAP-00	PA-01	NRRC-01	INRE-00	OES-09
SP-02	DOEE-00	SNP-01	PRS-01	SDEL-04	SART-01	P-02
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FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6011
INFO SECDEF WASHDC
JCS WASHDC
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
USIA WASHDC 1511
DIA WASH DC
FAA WASHDC
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT
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AMEMBASSY BONN

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16 Apr 2002

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USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMCONSUL MILAN
AMCONSUL NAPLES

████████████████████ SECTION 02 OF 02 ROME 14414

CAIRO FOR MCELHANEY

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: MOPS, EAIR, PTER, IT, NATO

SUBJECT:REMARKS BY ITALIAN CHIEF OF STAFF ON THE ROLE OF

5. COMMENT CONTINUED: PORTA'S SPEECH WAS ALSO CLEARLY
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████████████████████

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DESIGNED TO PROVIDE A FURTHER RATIONALE FOR THE
MODERNIZATION OF THE ITALIAN ARMED FORCES. MANY MILITARY
OFFICERS WE TALK TO BLAME THE FAILURE OF MOD ZANONE TO
OBTAIN GOVERNMENT AGREEMENT TO HIS 30 TRILLION LIRE
DEFENSE MODERNIZATION PLAN ON THE FACT THAT ZANONE'S
SMALL LIBERAL PARTY PROVIDED HIM A WEAK POLITICAL BASE.
MANY OFFICERS HOPE ANDREOTTI WILL GIVE THE DEFENSE
PORTFOLIO IN THE NEW GOVERNMENT TO A CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT,
WHO THEY BELIEVE WILL HAVE THE CLOUT TO PRESS THEIR
INTERESTS MORE EFFECTIVELY IN A NEW FIVE PARTY
COALITION.SECCHIA
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DOC_NBR: 1989ROME14470

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ACTION EUR-00

INFO	LOG-00	ADS-00	INR-07	SS-00	CIAE-00	EB-00	H-01
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O 121423Z JUL 89
 FM AMEMBASSY ROME
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6032
 INFO SECDEF WASHDC
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 CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
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 DIA WASH DC
 FAA WASHDC
 USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT
 USMISSION USNATO
 AMEMBASSY BONN
 AMEMBASSY PARIS
 AMEMBASSY LONDON
 USCINCEUR VAHINGEN GE
 CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE
 AMEMBASSY CAIRO
 AMCONSUL MILAN
 AMCONSUL NAPLES
 AMCONSUL PALERMO

UNCLAS ROME 14470

CAIRO FOR MCELHANEY

E.O. 12356: N/A
 TAGS: MOPS, EAIR, PTER, IT, NATO
 SUBJECT: USTICA: AUTOPSY REPORT INDICATES LIBYAN MIG
 PILOT CRASHED 3 WEEKS AFTER USTICA & YET ANOTHER MISSILE

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THEORY

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REF: A)ROME 14153 DTG 071537Z JUL 89 B)ROME 13504 DTG
271332Z JUN 89 C)ROME 13244 DTG JUN 89

1. LOCAL WEEKLY "IL CROTONESE" JULY 7 PUBLISHED THE TEXT OF THE REPORT OF THE AUTOPSY PERFORMED ON THE BODY OF THE PILOT OF THE LIBYAN MIG THAT CRASHED IN THE SILA MOUNTAINS OF CALABRIA IN THE SUMMER OF 1980. THE AUTOPSY WAS PERFORMED ON JULY 23, 1980 AND SETS THE DATE OF DEATH AS JULY 18, 1980. THE CAUSE OF DEATH IS IDENTIFIED AS SERIOUS INJURIES CAUSED BY THE CRASH.

2. THE AUTOPSY REPORT REFUTES THEORIES LINKING THE CRASH OF THE LIBYAN MIG TO THE CRASH OF AN ITAVIA DC-9 NEAR THE ISLAND OF USTICA. THE DC-9 CRASHED ON JUNE 28, 1980, 20 DAYS BEFORE THE DATE OF THE LIBYAN MIG CRASH. IN THE PAST, THERE HAVE BEEN ALLEGATIONS THAT THE FORENSIC EXAMINERS WERE COERCED INTO SETTING THE DATE OF DEATH AS JULY 18 IN ORDER TO COVER UP A CONNECTION BETWEEN THE LIBYAN MIG AND THE USTICA CRASH. THERE HAVE BEEN REPORTS THAT A SECOND AUTOPSY REPORT WAS PREPARED, CONTRADICTING THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE FIRST ONE. THE "IL CROTONESE" ARTICLE STATES THAT NO SECOND AUTOPSY REPORT EXISTS SINCE NONE WAS EVER REQUESTED BY THE INVESTIGATING MAGISTRATE AND NONE WAS EVER PRESENTED TO HIM. THE AUTOPSY REPORT DOES STATE THAT THE BODY WAS "IN A VERY ADVANCED STATE OF DECOMPOSITION". IT IS THIS PHRASE WHICH HAS BEEN USED IN THE PAST TO JUSTIFY CLAIMS THAT THE MIG ACTUALLY CRASHED MUCH EARLIER, PERHAPS ON JUNE 28, THE SAME DAY AS THE ITAVIA DC-9.

3. LEFTIST WEEKLY "L'ESPRESSO" HAS CONTINUED ITS COVERAGE OF THE USTICA AFFAIR IN ITS JULY 16 EDITION,

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WITH A FEATURE ARTICLE PROPOSING A NEW HYPOTHESIS OF WHAT HAPPENED TO THE ITAVIA DC-9. ACCORDING TO "L'ESPRESSO", IN 1980 LIBYA WAS AT WAR WITH CHAD. AN AIRPLANE, PROBABLY FRENCH, CARRYING ARMS TO CHAD, PLANNED TO FLY OVER ITALIAN TERRITORY. THE FRENCH ADVISED THE ITALIAN SECRET SERVICES WHICH TOLD THE MILITARY AIR CONTROL SERVICE TO ALLOW THE PLANE TO PASS. HOWEVER, A SPLINTER GROUP OF THE ITALIAN SECRET SERVICES, ALLIGNED WITH THE MASONIC P-2 LODGE, NOTIFIED LIBYA OF THE FRENCH ACTION AND LIBYA SENT SEVERAL MIGS TO INTERCEPT THE FRENCH PLANE. AT THIS POINT, "L'ESPRESSO" PROPOSES TWO EXPLANATIONS. THE FIRST IS THAT A LIBYAN MIG SHOT AT THE

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FRENCH PLANE AND HIT THE DC-9 BY MISTAKE. THE SECOND THEORY IS THAT U.S. RADAR STATIONS PICKED UP THE PRESENCE OF THE MIGS AND THE US. NOTIFIED THE ITALIAN AIR FORCE WHICH DID NOTHING IN RESPONSE. AT THAT POINT, THE U.S. DECIDED TO TAKE ACTION AND SENT FIGHTERS TO INTERCEPT THE MIGS. ONE OF THE MIGS HID BEHIND THE DC-9 AND A MISSILE FIRED BY A U.S. FIGHTER STRUCK THE ITAVIA JET INSTEAD OF THE LIBYAN MIG. THE LIBYAN MIG WAS ALSO DAMAGED BY THE EXPLOSION AND CRASHED IN THE MOUNTAINS OF CALABRIA. SECCHIA

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ACTION EUR-00

INFO	LOG-00	ADS-00	INR-07	SS-00	CIAE-00	EB-00	NEA-04
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R 281855Z SEP 89
 FM AMEMBASSY ROME
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9391
 INFO SECDEF WASHDC
 JCS WASHDC
 FAA WASHDC
 CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
 USIA WASHDC 1943
 DIA WASH DC
 USDOCO SOUTH NAPLES IT
 USMISSION USNATO
 AMEMBASSY BONN
 AMEMBASSY PARIS
 AMEMBASSY LONDON
 USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
 CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE
 AMCONSUL MILAN
 AMCONSUL NAPLES
 AMCONSUL PALERMO

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 ROME 20481

E.O. 12356: N/A
 TAGS: MOPS, EAIR, PTER, IT, NATO
 SUBJECT: NEW TESTIMONY IN USTICA CASE CONTRADICTS
 OFFICIAL ITALIAN AIR FORCE POSITION

REF: A)ROME 15643 DTG 281418Z JUL 89 B)ROME 13504 DTG
 271332Z JUN 89

1. IN JUNE 1989, TWENTY-THREE MILITARY OFFICERS, NCOS,
 [REDACTED]

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AND CONSCRIPTS WHO WERE ON DUTY AT THE MARSALA AND LICOLA
 RADAR CENTERS AT THE TIME OF THE CRASH OF AN ITAVIA DC-9

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CHANNEL: n/a
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OFF THE ISLAND OF USTICA IN 1980, WERE INDICTED AND ACCUSED OF GIVING FALSE TESTIMONY, AIDING AND ABETTING, AND AGGRAVATED DESTRUCTION OF EVIDENCE. (SEE REFTEL B).

2. TESTIMONY IN THEIR CASE BEGAN SEPTEMBER 25. LEADING LEFTIST "LA REPUBBLICA" SEPTEMBER 26 REPORTS THAT ON THE FIRST DAY, THE WITNESSES TESTIFIED BEFORE INVESTIGATING MAGISTRATE VITTORIO BUCARELLI, ROME ASSISTANT PROSECUTOR GIORGIO SANTACROCE, AND THREE LAWYERS REPRESENTING THE INTERESTS OF THE FAMILIES OF THE VICTIMS OF THE CRASH: ALFREDO GALASSO, ROMEO FERRUCCI, AND OSVALDO FASSARI.

3. ON SEPTEMBER 26, DURING THE SECOND DAY OF TESTIMONY, A WITNESS GAVE TESTIMONY WHICH CONTRADICTS THE POSITION WHICH THE ITALIAN AIR FORCE HAS MAINTAINED FOR NINE YEAR WITH REGARD TO THE USTICA CASE. THE AIR FORCE HAS ALWAYS STATED THAT THE RADAR CENTER AT MARSALA PICKED UP NO TRACE OF THE ITAVIA DC-9 BEFORE IT EXPLODED SINCE THE AUTOMATIC RADAR HAD BEEN TURNED OFF IN PREPARATION FOR A SIMULATED TRAINING EXERCISE. THE SIX MEMBERS OF THE MILITARY WHO TESTIFIED SEPTEMBER 25 MAINTAINED THE SAME POSITION.

4. ACCORDING TO CONSERVATIVE DAILY "LA STAMPA" SEPTEMBER 27, NCO LUCIANO CARICO TESTIFIED THAT ON THE EVENING THE ITAVIA DC-9 WENT DOWN, HE WAS MONITORING THE MANUAL RADAR, THE ONLY ONE WORKING AT THE MARSALA RADAR CENTER SINCE THE AUTOMATIC RADAR HAD BEEN TURNED OFF IN PREPARATION FOR THE EXERCISE. HE IDENTIFIED THE DC-9 ON THE SCREEN, BUT SUDDENLY THE IMAGE FADED AND FINALLY DISAPPEARED. "LA STAMPA" REPORTS THAT CARICO TESTIFIED

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THAT HE IMMEDIATELY NOTIFIED AN OFFICER, LT. GIORDANO, AND THAT THEY CALLED THE AIRPORT AT PUNTA RAISA AND THE ROME CIVILIAN AIRPORT, FIUMICINO.

5. AFTER CARICO'S TESTIMONY, OTHERS TESTIFIED, UPHOLDING HIS VERSION OF THE EVENTS OF THAT NIGHT AT THE MARSALA RADAR CENTER. "LA STAMPA" CITES THE TESTIMONY OF MARSHAL VANTAGGIO WHO STATED THAT HE ARRIVED AT THE MARSALA RADAR ROOM AT APPROXIMATELY 10 P.M. TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SIMULATED EXERCISE AND FOUND THE CENTER IN GREAT CONFUSION WITH EVERYONE SAYING THAT A CIVILIAN PLANE HAD BEEN LOST. ACCORDING TO LEADING LEFTIST DAILY, "LA

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REPUBBLICA" SEPTEMBER 26, NCO CLAUDIO BELLUOMINI TESTIFIED THAT HE ALSO ARRIVED AT MARSALA SHORTLY AFTER 10 P.M. AND FOUND THE PLACE IN GREAT CONFUSION AND THAT THE EXERCISE DID NOT TAKE PLACE.

6. ANOTHER THEORY AS TO WHAT CAUSED THE EXPLOSION OF TH DC-9 HAS ALSO EMERGED FROM THE MOST RECENT TESTIMONY. LEADING CENTRIST "CORRIERE DELLA SERA" SEPTEMBER 27 REPORTS THAT MARSHAL SALVATORE LOTI TESTIFIED THAT THE SAME NIGHT THE DC-9 EXPLODED, THE MARSALA CENTER RECEIVED FROM THE MILITARY AIRPORT AT CIAMPINO A FLIGHT PLAN FOR A VIP PLANE FOR THE ROUTE TRIPOLI-WARSAW. IT WAS TO FOLLOW THE SAME FLIGHT PLAN THE ITAVIA DC-9 WAS FOLLOWING. "CORRIERE" REPORTS THAT LOTI TESTIFIED THAT A FEW MINUTES BEFORE THE USTICA DISASTER AND BEFORE IT WAS TO ENTER ITALIAN AIR SPACE, THE VIP PLAN VEERED OFF COURSE TOWARD MALTA. THE THEORY THAT HAS EMERGED IS THAT LIBYAN LEADER QHADDAFI WAS ABOARD THE VIP PLANE, HE WAS WARNED OF AN ATTACK ON HIS PLANE, HIS PLANE VEERED OFF COURSE, AND THE PLANE WAITING TO ATTACK QHADDAFI'S PLANE, HIT THE DC-9 IN ERROR. HYPOTHESES ABOUT THE NATIONALITY OF THE AGGRESSOR" PLANE HAVE BEGUN. LEADING CENTRIST "CORRIER

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ACTION EUR-00

INFO	LOG-00	ADS-00	INR-07	SS-00	CIAE-00	EB-00	NEA-04
	NSAE-00	COME-00	L-03	PA-02	DOTE-00	STR-18	INRE-00
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R 281855Z SEP 89
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9392
INFO SECDEF WASHDC
JCS WASHDC
FAA WASHDC
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
USIA WASHDC 1944
DIA WASH DC
USDOCSOUTH NAPLES IT
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY PARIS

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AMEMBASSY LONDON
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE
AMCONSUL MILAN
AMCONSUL NAPLES
AMCONSUL PALERMO

UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 ROME 20481

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: MOPS, EAIR, PTER, IT, NATO
SUBJECT: NEW TESTIMONY IN USTICA CASE CONTRADICTS

DELLA SERA" SEPTEMBER 28 STATES THAT IN 1980, THE YEAR OF THE USTICA TRAGEDY, LIBYA HAD TWO MAIN ADVERSARIES, FRANCE AND THE U.S.

7. LEADING LEFTIST "LA REPUBBLICA" SEPTEMBER 28 QUOTES

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THE LIBYAN AMBASSADOR TO ROME AS STATING THAT "THE ITALIAN JUDICIARY FINALLY SEEMS TO HAVE TAKEN THE RIGHT ROAD TO REACHING THE TRUTH" ON THE USTICA CASE. "LA REPUBBLICA" REPORTS THAT AMBASSADOR SHALGAM STATED THAT THE FACTS WHICH HAVE EMERGED IN THE LAST FEW DAYS GIVEN CREDIT TO THE HYPOTHESIS OF A U.S. ROLE IN THE AFFAIR. "LA REPUBBLICA" FURTHER STATES THAT SHALGAM NEITHER CONFIRMED NOR DENIED THE PRESENCE OF QHADDAFI ABOARD THE VIP PLANE REPORTED BY THE WITNESSES ON DUTY AT THE MARSALA RADAR CENTER. ACCORDING TO CENTRIST "LA STAMPA" SEPTEMBER 28, THE LIBYAN AMBASSADOR SAID THAT "FROM THE BEGINNING WE HAVE SAID THAT WE HAD INFORMATION ABOUT THE INVOLVEMENT OF THE U.S. ARMED FORCES. WE LEARNED ABOUT U.S. MILITARY MOVEMENTS AT THAT MOMENT AND IN THAT AREA. THERE WAS THE AIRCRAFT CARRIER SARATOGA".

8. ACCORDING TO LEADING LEFTIST "LA REPUBBLICA" SEPTEMBER 28, MARTINAZZOLI WILL TESTIFY ON THE USTICA AFFAIR TODAY, SEPTEMBER 28, BEFORE THE DEFENSE COMMITTEE OF THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES. "ANSA" WIRE SERVICE REPORT SEPTEMBER 27, REPORTS HE HAS BEEN CALLED TO TESTIFY ON THE USTICA AFFAIR BEFORE THE SENATE ON OCTOBER 3.

9. "LA REPUBBLICA" REPORTS THAT PRIME MINISTER ANDREOTTI HAS REACTED TO THE RECENT EVENTS ON USTICA BY STATING

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THAT IF MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT ARE RESPONSIBLE, THERE
WILL BE NO COVERUP.

10. LEADING CENTRIST "CORRIERE DELLA SERA" SEPTEMBER 26
REPORTS THAT THE LAWYER DEFENDING THE ACCUSED MILITARY
PERSONNEL HAS REQUESTED THAT INVESTIGATING MAGISTRATE
BUCARELLI SET UP ANOTHER EXPERTS' GROUP TO STUDY THE
CAUSE OF THE CRASH. TWO GROUPS HAVE ALREADY BEEN FORMED
[REDACTED]

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TO INVESTIGATE THE CAUSE OF THE USTICA INCIDENT. ONE
GROUP OF EXPERTS APPOINTED EARLIER BY BUCARELLI CONCLUDED
IN MARCH THAT THE PLANE WAS BROUGHT DOWN BY A MISSILE,
BUT COULD NOT IDENTIFY WHO FIRED THE MISSILE. IN MAY
1989, A COMMISSION APPOINTED BY THEN PRIME MINISTER DE
MITA CONCLUDED THAT AN EXPLOSION CAUSED THE DISASTER AND
DID NOT EXCLUDE THE POSSIBILITY THAT A BOMB, RATHER THAN
A MISSILE, DOWNED THE AIRLINER.
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ACTION EUR-00

INFO	LOG-00	ADS-00	INR-07	SS-00	OIC-02	CIAE-00	EB-00
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	STR-18	INRE-00	JUSE-00	SP-02	PRS-01	DS-01	SCT-03
	E-01	/059 W					

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R 131635Z OCT 89
 FM AMEMBASSY ROME
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0068
 INFO SECDEF WASHDC
 JCS WASHDC
 FAA WASHDC
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 USIA WASHDC 2030
 DIA WASH DC
 USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT
 USMISSION USNATO
 AMEMBASSY BONN
 AMEMBASSY PARIS
 AMEMBASSY LONDON
 AMEMBASSY VALLETTA
 USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
 CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE
 AMCONSUL MILAN
 AMCONSUL NAPLES
 AMCONSUL PALERMO

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 ROME 21636

E.O. 12356: N/A
 TAGS: MOPS, EAIR, PTER, IT, NATO
 SUBJECT: USTICA INVESTIGATIVE SAGA CONTINUES:
 POSSIBLE BREAKTHROUGHS?

REF: A) ROME 20756 DTG 031158Z OCT 89, B) ROME
 20481 DTG 281855Z SEP 89 AND PREVIOUS

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1. INVESTIGATION INTO THE 1980 USTICA TRAGEDY TOOK
A NEW TURN THIS WEEK AS THE JOINT PARLIAMENTARY

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INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE BEGAN CALLING A HOST OF BIG-NAME WITNESSES. THE COMMITTEE HAS HEARD RETIRED GENERAL LAMBERTO BARTOLUCCI -- AIR FORCE CHIEF OF STAFF AT THE TIME OF THE CRASH -- AND CURRENT AIR FORCE CHIEF OF STAFF FRANCO PISANO, AND WILL HEAR IN COMING DAYS FORMER AIR FORCE CHIEF OF STAFF FROM 1983-86 BASILIO COTTONE; FORMER ASSISTANT AIR FORCE CHIEF OF STAFF (UNDER BARTOLUCCI) FRANCO FERRI; CURRENT CHIEF OF AIR FORCE INTELLIGENCE ZENO TASCIO; CURRENT HEAD OF NAVAL INTELLIGENCE ANTONINO GERACI; GENERAL ROMOLO MANGANI (FORMER COMMANDER OF THE RADAR DISTRICT COVERING USTICA); AND ABOUT 60 OTHER MILITARY AND POLITICAL EXPERTS, INCLUDING CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE ARMED FORCES ADMIRAL PORTA. THE HEARINGS THUS FAR HAVE TAKEN PLACE BEHIND CLOSED DOORS TO PERMIT DISCUSSION OF MILITARY SECRETS, BUT SOME (NON-CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC) MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE HAVE CALLED FOR OPEN HEARINGS, WHICH THEY ARGUE ARE LESS SUSCEPTIBLE TO COVER-UPS.

2. THE PRESS REPORTED OCTOBER 13 THAT AIR FORCE CHIEF OF STAFF PISANO CONTRADICTED THE TESTIMONY HE GAVE EARLIER THIS YEAR. HIS FIRST TESTIMONY REVEALED THAT THERE WERE NO OTHER PLANES NEAR THE DOOMED ITAVIA DC-9; BUT HE NOW CLAIMS THERE WAS A "FRIENDLY" AIRCRAFT WITHIN FIVE MILES OF THE DC-9 WHEN IT WENT DOWN IN JUNE 1980. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, PISANO COULD NOT SAY IF THIS PLANE WERE MILITARY OR CIVILIAN; SOME PAPERS ARE REPORTING

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THAT THE PLANE WAS TRAVELING IN THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION OF THE DC-9 AND CHANGED COURSE SHARPLY FOR CORSICA AFTER THE DC-9 WENT DOWN -- SPAWNING SPECULATION THAT THE PLANE COULD HAVE BEEN A FRENCH FIGHTER HEADED FOR A FRENCH AIR BASE IN CORSICA. (NOTE: PISANO'S TESTIMONY ALSO CONTRADICTS AN OCT. 3 STATEMENT BY THE DEFENSE MINISTER BEFORE THE SENATE -- SEE PARA. 4. END NOTE.) THE OTHER NOTABLE ASPECT OF PISANO'S TESTIMONY WAS THAT HE STUCK TO THE OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT POSITION THAT THE FIRST RADAR FACILITY TO REPORT THE CRASH WAS CIAMPINO (NEAR ROME) AND NOT MARSALA, AS NCO CARICO CONTENDED. (CARICO IS THE NCO WHOSE DRAMATIC

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TESTIMONY ON SEPTEMBER 26 CONTRADICTING THE OFFICIAL VERSION REIGNITED PUBLIC INTEREST IN THE CASE; SEE REF. B.) PISANO TESTIFIED FOR TWELVE HOURS ON OCT. 12 AND IS EXPECTED TO RETURN TODAY (OCT. 13) FOR FURTHER TESTIMONY.

3. PISANO'S TESTIMONY FOLLOWED THAT OF BARTOLUCCI WHO APPEARED ON OCT. 11. BARTOLUCCI'S TESTIMONY WAS ROUNDLY CRITICIZED BY NON-DC PARTY MEMBERS AS BEING UNFORTHCOMING AND MARKED BY TOO MANY LAPSES IN MEMORY. HOWEVER, DC PARLIAMENTARIANS WHO HAD BEEN QUOTED IN THE PRESS ON OCT. 12 AS BEING "FULLY SATISFIED" WITH BARTOLUCCI'S TESTIMONY, QUALIFIED THEIR COMMENTS FOR THE OCT. 13 PAPERS, SAYING THAT THEY WERE IMPRESSED WITH THE MANNER IN WHICH HE TESTIFIED BUT WERE STILL EVALUATING THE SUBSTANCE OF HIS STATEMENT. WHILE LITTLE NEW INFORMATION HAS EMERGED IN THE PRESS FROM BARTOLUCCI'S TESTIMONY, HE APPARENTLY CALLED INTO QUESTION EARLIER REPORTS THAT A LIBYAN PLANE CARRYING VIPS WAS IN THE AREA

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ACTION EUR-00

INFO LOG-00 ADS-00 INR-07 SS-00 OIC-02 CIAE-00 EB-00
IO-19 NSCE-00 NSAE-00 COME-00 L-03 PA-02 DOTE-00
STR-18 INRE-00 JUSE-00 SP-02 PRS-01 DS-01 SCT-03
E-01 /059 W

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R 131635Z OCT 89
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0069
INFO SECDEF WASHDC
JCS WASHDC
FAA WASHDC
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
USIA WASHDC 2031
DIA WASH DC
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY LONDON

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AMEMBASSY VALLETTA
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE
AMCONSUL MILAN
AMCONSUL NAPLES
AMCONSUL PALERMO

UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 ROME 21636

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: MOPS, EAIR, PTER, IT, NATO
SUBJECT: USTICA INVESTIGATIVE SAGA CONTINUES:

AT THE TIME OF THE TRAGEDY; ACCORDING TO
BARTOLUCCI, IT WAS NOT READILY CLEAR THAT THE
LIBYAN PLANE WAS CARRYING VIPS, AS THE PRESS HAD

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REPORTED.

4. TWO OTHER DEVELOPMENTS OF NOTE OCCURED ON THE
USTICA QUESTION IN THE LAST SEVERAL DAYS. ON
OCT.3, MINDEF MARTINAZZOLI STATED BEFORE THE SENATE
THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD AWAIT THE RESULTS OF THE
INVESTIGATION BY MAGISTRATE BUCARELLI, THAT THERE
WOULD BE NO COVER-UP, THAT THERE WERE NO PLANES IN
THE VICINITY OF THE DC-9 WHEN IT WENT DOWN, AND
THAT THE GOVERNMENT WILL NOT CREATE ANY ADDITIONAL
INVESTIGATIVE BODIES BEYOND THE EXISTING
MAGISTRATE'S INVESTIGATION AND THE JOINT
PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE. SECOND, MASSIMO BLASI,
COORDINATOR OF AN EXPERT GROUP APPOINTED BY
MAGISTRATE BUCARELLI, TOLD THE PRESS THAT CONTRARY
TO AN EARLIER DEFENSE MINISTRY REPORT, THE PLANE
COULD NOT HAVE BEEN SHOT DOWN WITH A SIDEWINDER
MISSILE BECAUSE THE EXPLOSIVES RESIDUE FOUND ON THE
WRECKAGE (T4 AND TNT) DOES NOT MATCH THAT USED IN
SIDEWINDERS. HE ALSO SAID A SIDEWINDER EXPLOSION
WOULD HAVE MADE SMALLER HOLES IN THE FUSELAGE THAN
WERE FOUND ON THE DC-9. HOLMES

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ACTION EUR-00

INFO	LOG-00	ADS-00	INR-07	SS-00	CIAE-00	EB-00	NEA-04
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	STR-18	SVC-00	INRE-00	JUSE-00	SP-02	PRS-01	SCT-03
	E-01	P-02	/053 W				

-----105103 261228Z /45

R 260855Z OCT 89
 FM AMEMBASSY ROME
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0668
 INFO SECDEF WASHDC
 JCS WASHDC
 FAA WASHDC
 CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
 USIA WASHDC 2122
 DIA WASH DC
 USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT
 USMISSION USNATO
 AMEMBASSY BONN
 AMEMBASSY PARIS
 AMEMBASSY LONDON
 AMEMBASSY VALLETTA
 USCINCEUR VAHINGEN GE
 HQUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE
 AMCONSUL MILAN
 AMCONSUL NAPLES
 AMCONSUL PALERMO POUCH

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 ROME 22610

E.O. 12356: N/A
 TAGS: MOPS, EAIR, PTER, IT, NATO
 SUBJECT: USTICA: THE QHADAFI THEORY RETURNS

REF: ROME 22283 DTG 201741Z OCT 89

1. LEADING CENTRIST DAILY "CORRIERE DELLA SERA" OCTOBER

PAGE 02 ROME 22610 01 OF 02 261107Z

25 REPORTS THAT DURING THE HEARINGS BEFORE THE
INTERPARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE ON STRAGI (LITERALLY

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Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1989ROME22610

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

70

"SLAUGHTER") AND TERRORISM THAT IS LOOKING INTO THE USTICA CASE, THE COMMITTEE ANNOUNCED THAT IT HAD OBTAINED DOCUMENTS FROM THE AIR FORCE INTELLIGENCE UNIT WHICH STATE THAT THE SIMULATED EXERCISE THAT WAS TAKING PLACE AT THE MARSALA RADAR CENTER ON THE NIGHT OF THE USTICA DISASTER BEGAN AT EXACTLY 9:00 P.M. (APPROXIMATELY ONE MINUTE AFTER THE USTICA DISASTER) AND ENDED AT 9:25 P.M. OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS WHICH HAD BEEN OBTAINED EARLIER BY THE INVESTIGATING MAGISTRATE STATED THAT THE EXERCISE BEGAN AT 9:04 P.M. AND ENDED AT 9:12 P.M. WHEN MARSALA WAS NOTIFIED OF THE USTICA DISASTER. "CORRIERE" POINTS OUT THAT IT IS INTERESTING THAT THE RADAR RECORDS OF THAT NIGHT FROM THE LICOLA RADAR CENTER ALSO STOPPED RECORDING AT EXACTLY 9:00 P.M. LICOLA WAS NOT INVOLVED IN THE SIMULATED EXERCISE.

2. ACCORDING TO CONSERVATIVE DAILY "LA STAMPA" OCTOBER 25, THE COMMITTEE ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT IT OBTAINED DOCUMENTS DATED SEPTEMBER 25, 1986 FROM SISMI, THE ITALIAN MILITARY INTELLIGENCE SERVICE, WHICH STATE THAT ON THE EVENING OF THE USTICA DISASTER THERE WERE LIBYAN MILITARY PLANES FLYING IN THE AREA WHERE THE DC-9 WENT DOWN. LEADING CENTRIST "CORRIERE DELLA SERA" OCTOBER 25 REPORTS THAT THE COMMITTEE ALSO OBTAINED THE ORIGINAL TEXT OF A PRESS RELEASE BY THE OFFICIAL LIBYAN NEWS AGENCY, JANA, WHICH STATES THAT ON THE EVENING THE USTICA TRAGEDY TOOK PLACE, QHADAFI WAS ON A PLANE, BUT THE PRESS RELEASE DOES NOT STATE IN WHAT AREA HIS PLANE WAS FLYING OR WHAT ROUTE IT WAS FOLLOWING.

3. "CORRIERE DELLA SERA" OCTOBER 25 REPORTS THAT DC
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

PAGE 03 ROME 22610 01 OF 02 261107Z

DEPUTY GIUSEPPE ZAMBERLETTI ANNOUNCED DURING THE INTERPARLIAMENTARY HEARINGS THAT AN EXAMINATION OF THE BLACK BOX FROM THE MIG THAT CRASHED INTO THE SILA MOUNTAINS OF CALABRIA IN JULY (#) METERS.

4. THE FORMER HEAD OF THE AIR FORCE INTELLIGENCE UNIT, ZENO TASCIO, TESTIFIED BEFORE THE INTERPARLIAMENTARY COMMISSION ON OCTOBER 24. ACCORDING TO LEADING LEFTIST "LA REPUBBLICA" OCTOBER 25, TASCIO TESTIFIED THAT THERE ARE PICTURES OF THE PILOT OF THE MIG THAT CRASHED IN CALABRIA, BUT THAT HE DOES NOT KNOW IF THEY ARE STILL IN

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16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1989ROME22610

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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THE POSSESSION OF SIOS. "REPUBBLICA" FURTHER REPORTS THAT TASCIO TESTIFIED THAT HE HIMSELF TOOK PICTURES OF THE MIG ON THE NIGHT OF THE CRASH, BUT THAT HE DID NOT SEE THE BODY OF THE PILOT.

5. ACCORDING TO CONSERVATIVE DAILY "LA STAMPA" OCTOBER 24, THE ATTORNEYS REPRESENTING THE INTERESTS OF THE FAMILIES OF THE VICTIMS OF THE USTICA CRASH HAVE ASKED INVESTIGATION MAGISTRATE BUCARELLI TO INDICT THE FIVE LEADING MILITARY OFFICERS AT THE TIME OF THE USTICA INCIDENT ON THE GROUNDS OF "UNPREMEDITATED DISASTER", MANSLAUGHTER ON MULTIPLE CHARGES, PERJURY, AND ASSAULTING THE INTEGRITY AND THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE STATE. THE FIVE MILITARY OFFICERS ARE: 1)THE FORMER CHIEF OF THE DEFENSE GENERAL STAFF MARIO TORRISI, 2)THE CHIEF OF AIR FORCE STAFF LAMBERTO BARTOLUCCI, 3)THE FORMER COMMANDER OF THE RADAR CENTER AT MARTINA FRANCA ROMOLO MANGANI, AND 4)THE FORMER COMMANDERS OF THE RADAR CENTERS AT

NOTE: (#) OMISSIONS. CORRECTION WILL FOLLOW.

NNNN

PAGE 01 ROME 22610 02 OF 02 261108Z
ACTION EUR-00

INFO	LOG-00	ADS-00	INR-07	SS-00	CIAE-00	EB-00	NEA-04
	NSCE-00	NSAE-00	COME-00	L-03	PM-10	PA-02	DOTE-00
	STR-18	INRE-00	JUSE-00	SP-02	PRS-01	SCT-03	E-01
	P-02	/053 W					

-----105106 261230Z /45

R 260855Z OCT 89
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0669
INFO SECDEF WASHDC
JCS WASHDC
FAA WASHDC
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
USIA WASHDC 2123
DIA WASH DC
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY LONDON

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Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1989ROME22610

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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AMEMBASSY VALLETTA
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
HQUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE
AMCONSUL MILAN
AMCONSUL NAPLES
AMCONSUL PALERMO

UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 ROME 22610

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: MOPS, EAIR, PTER, IT, NATO
SUBJECT: USTICA: THE QHADAFI THEORY RETURNS

LICOLA AND MARSALA, DE ANGELIS AND SALME. BUCARELLI HAS
NOT RESPONDED TO THIS REQUEST.

PAGE 02 ROME 22610 02 OF 02 261108Z

6. COMMENT. THE ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE COMMITTEE THAT IT
OBTAINED SISMI DOCUMENTS THAT STATE THAT LIBYAN PLANES
WERE FLYING IN THE AREA THE NIGHT OF THE DISASTER PUT
TOGETHER WITH THE OFFICIAL LIBYAN PRESS RELEASE THAT
QHADAFI WAS ON A PLANE THE NIGHT THE DC-9 WENT DOWN HAVE
RE-LAUNCHED THE THEORY THAT A MYSTERY PLANE TRIED TO
SHOOT DOWN QHADAFI'S PLANE AND THE MISSILE HIT THE ITAVIA
DC-9 IN ERROR.
SECCHIA

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Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1989ROME25758

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a
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PAGE 01 ROME 25758 071731Z
ACTION EUR-00

INFO	LOG-00	ADS-00	INR-05	SS-00	OIC-02	CIAE-00	EB-00
	H-01	IO-19	NSCE-00	NSAE-00	COME-00	SSO-00	L-03
	TRSE-00	PM-10	PA-01	DOTE-00	STR-18	NRRC-01	INRE-00
	ACDA-12	JUSE-00	SP-02	PRS-01	DS-01	SCT-03	E-01
	P-02	T-01	SB-02	/085 W			

-----322676 071758Z /40 38

O 071728Z DEC 89
 FM AMEMBASSY ROME
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2548
 SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
 FAA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
 INFO JCS WASHDC
 CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
 USIA WASHDC 2429
 DIA WASH DC
 USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT
 USMISSION USNATO
 AMEMBASSY BONN
 AMEMBASSY PARIS
 AMEMBASSY LONDON
 AMEMBASSY VALLETTA
 USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
 CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE
 AMCONSUL MILAN
 AMCONSUL NAPLES
 AMCONSUL PALERMO

ROME 25758

STATE FOR EUR/WE, DOD FOR OSD/ISP, FAA FOR BUCKHORN, APA

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
 TAGS: MOPS, EAIR, PTER, IT, NATO
 SUBJECT: USTICA: REPORTS JOHN MACIDULL OF FAA WILL
 TESTIFY & NEW REQUESTS FOR TESTIMONY

PAGE 02 ROME 25758 071731Z

REF: A)ROME 24811 DTG 241949Z NOV 89, B)ROME 13504 DTG
271332Z JUN 89, C)ROME 13244 DTG 221440Z JUN 89

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Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1989ROME25758

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

74

1. (C) THIS IS AN ACTION MESSAGE. SEE PARAS 5 & 6.
2. (U) REPORTS IN THE ITALIAN PRESS SAY THAT JOHN MACIDULL IS SCHEDULED TO TESTIFY BEFORE THE INTERPARLIAMENTARY COMMISSION ON "STRAGI" (LITERALLY SLAUGHTER) AND TERRORISM LOOKING INTO THE USTICA AFFAIR. MACIDULL WAS THE DIRECTOR OF THE U.S. NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD AT THE TIME OF THE USTICA AFFAIR WHO, AT THE REQUEST OF THE GOI, STUDIED THE RADAR RECORDS OF THE NIGHT OF THE INCIDENT MADE AT ROME'S FIUMICINO AIRPORT (SEE REFTELS B & C). DAILY "IL TEMPO" DECEMBER 1 STATES THAT MACIDULL HAS TOLD THE COMMISSION THAT HE IS UNABLE TO COME TO ITALY TO TESTIFY DURING THE NEXT TWO MONTHS.

3. (U) ACCORDING TO LEADING CENTRIST DAILY "CORRIERE DELLA SERA" NOVEMBER 28, ROME ASSISTANT PROSECUTOR GIORGIO SANTACROCE, THE MAGISTRATE WHO INITIALLY PRESIDED OVER THE USTICA INVESTIGATION, HAS ASKED THE CURRENT INVESTIGATING MAGISTRATE, VITTORIO BUCARELLI, TO COMPEL TWO OTHER OFFICERS TO GIVE TESTIMONY IN THE CASE. THEY ARE COLONEL AURELIO MANDES, THE FORMER COMMANDER OF THE LICOLA RADAR CENTER AND PIETRO TESSITORE, AN NCO WHO WAS STATIONED AT LICOLA. "CORRIERE" STATES THAT SANTACROCE BELIEVES THAT THESE TWO OFFICERS MAY HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN THE DESTRUCTION OF THE LICOLA RADAR RECORDS CONCERNING THE USTICA AFFAIR.

4. (U) THE COMMUNIST PARTY NEWSPAPER, "L'UNITA" NOVEMBER 29, REPORTS THAT ENRICO BROGNERI, AN ATTORNEY

PAGE 03 ROME 25758 071731Z

FROM CATANZARO, A CITY IN CALABRIA, HAS ASKED INVESTIGATING MAGISTRATE BUCARELLI TO PERMIT HIM TO TESTIFY DURING THE HEARINGS HE IS CONDUCTING REGARDING THE USTICA INVESTIGATION. ACCORDING TO "UNITA", BROGNERI STATES THAT ON THE NIGHT THE ITAVIA DC-9 WENT DOWN OFF THE ISLAND OF USTICA, HE SAW A LIBYAN MIG FLYING AT LOW ALTITUDE AND THAT THIS WAS CERTAINLY THE MIG THAT TWO WEEKS LATER WAS DISCOVERED HAD CRASHED INTO THE SILO MOUNTAINS IN CALABRIA. BUCARELLI HAS NOT REPLIED TO BROGNERI'S REQUEST.

5. (C) COMMENT.

B1

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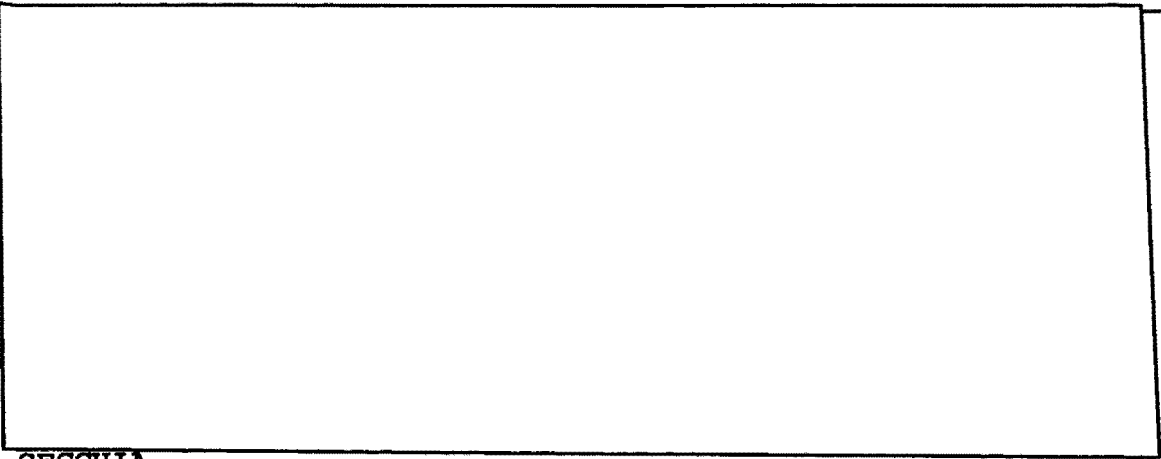
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16 Apr 2002

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DOC_NBR: 1989ROME25758

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

74

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Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1990ROME00472

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a
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PAGE 01 ROME 00472 091743Z
ACTION EUR-00

INFO	LOG-00	ADS-00	INR-05	SS-00	CIAE-00	EB-00	DODE-00
	NEA-06	NSCE-00	NSAE-00	SSO-00	AMAD-01	PM-10	PA-01
	DOT-00	INRE-00	SP-02	PRS-01	DS-01	SCT-03	/030 W
					-----023061	091834Z	/44 38

O 091739Z JAN 90
 FM AMEMBASSY ROME
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3611
 SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
 FAA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
 INFO JCS WASHDC
 CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
 USIA WASHDC 2590
 DIA WASH DC
 USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT
 USMISSION USNATO
 AMEMBASSY BONN
 AMEMBASSY PARIS
 AMEMBASSY LONDON
 AMEMBASSY VALLETTA
 USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
 CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE
 AMCONSUL MILAN
 AMCONSUL NAPLES
 AMCONSUL PALERMO POUCH

ROME 00472

STATE FOR EUR/WE, DOD FOR OSD/ISP

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
 TAGS: MOPS, EAIR, PTER, IT, NATO
 SUBJECT: USTICA: QHEDAFI ACCUSES U.S. OF HAVING SHOT DOWN
 DC-9

PAGE 02 ROME 00472 091743Z

REF: A)ROME 26019 DTG 131433Z DEC 89, B)STATE 396613 DTG
 131944Z DEC 89, C)ROME 24811 DTG241949Z NOV 89, D)ROME
 22610 DTG260855Z OCT 89

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Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1990ROME00472

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

82

1. (U) SUMMARY. DURING A PRESS CONFERENCE IN LIBYA JANUARY 5, LIBYAN LEADER MOAMMAR QHEDAFI ACCUSED THE U.S. OF TRYING TO SHOOT DOWN HIS PLANE IN 1980 AND IN ERROR STRIKING A CIVILIAN ITAVIA AIRLINES DC-9 OFF THE COAST OF USTICA. END SUMMARY.

2. (U) CENTRIST DAILY "LA STAMPA" JANUARY 6 REPORTS THAT DURING A PRESS CONFERENCE HELD IN LIBYA JANUARY 5, LIBYAN STRONGMAN MOAMMAR QHEDAFI STATED THAT ON JUNE 27, 1980 THE U.S. TRIED TO SHOOT DOWN HIS PERSONAL PLANE, THINKING HE WAS ON BOARD, AND IN ERROR STRUCK AN ITAVIA DC-9 THAT WENT DOWN OFF THE COAST OF USTICA, KILLING THE 81 PASSENGERS ON BOARD. ACCORDING TO LEADING CENTRIST DAILY "CORRIERE DELLA SERA" JANUARY 6, QHEDAFI STATED THAT HIS PLANE WAS FLYING TOWARD ITALY FOR REPAIRS.

3. (U) "CORRIERE" REPORTS THAT QHEDAFI SAID THAT IN ADDITION TO THE DC-9, THE U.S. ALSO SHOT DOWN A LIBYAN JET. THE PRESS HAS REPORTED THAT THIS MAY BE A REFERENCE TO THE LIBYAN JET THAT CRASHED INTO THE SILA MOUNTAINS OF CALABRIA IN SOUTHERN ITALY THE SUMMER OF 1980. OFFICIALLY, THE MIG CRASHED TWO WEEKS AFTER THE USTICA DISASTER, BUT THERE HAS BEEN SPECULATION THAT THE MIG AND THE DC-9 CRASHED ON THE SAME NIGHT AND THAT THERE IS SOME CONNECTION BETWEEN THE TWO INCIDENTS (SEE REFTEL D).

4. (U) "CORRIERE DELLA SERA" JANUARY 8 STATES THAT IN RESPONSE TO QHEDAFI'S STATEMENTS, THE OFFICE OF ITALY'S PRIME MINISTER ISSUED A NOTE STATING THAT IN NOVEMBER OF 1988, WHEN THE LIBYAN AMBASSADOR TO ITALY FIRST MADE

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PAGE 03

ROME 00472 091743Z

DECLARATIONS ACCUSING THE US. OF INVOLVEMENT IN THE USTICA INCIDENT, THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT ASKED LIBYA FOR WHATEVER INFORMATION OR EVIDENCE IT HAS CONCERNING THE USTICA CASE, BUT LIBYA HAS STILL NOT RESPONDED TO THE ITALIAN REQUEST.

5. (U) LEADING LEFTIST DAILY "LA REPUBBLICA" JANUARY 8 SAYS THAT QHEDAFI'S ACCUSATIONS DO NOT SEEM LEGITIMATE SINCE HE FIRST MADE THEM LAST YEAR AND NOT RIGHT AFTER THE USTICA DISASTER, WHICH WOULD HAVE BEEN MORE LOGICAL WERE THEY TRUE. "REPUBBLICA" FURTHER STATES THAT UNLESS HE PRESENTS SOME EVIDENCE, QHEDAFI'S REMARKS ALONE DO NOT ASSIST IN DISCOVERING THE TRUE CAUSE OF THE USTICA CRASH.

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16 Apr 2002

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DOC_NBR: 1990ROME00472

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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6. (LOU) COMMENT. THE THEORY THAT THE U.S. SHOT DOWN THE ITAVIA DC-9 BY MISTAKE WHILE TRYING TO SHOOT DOWN A PLANE ON WHICH QHEDAFI WAS A PASSENGER HAS APPEARED IN THE ITALIAN PRESS AT VARIOUS TIMES (SEE REFTEL D). HOWEVER, THIS IS THE FIRST TIME QHEDAFI HIMSELF HAS COMMENTED ON THE USTICA MATTER. QHEDAFI'S STATEMENTS RECEIVED WIDE COVERAGE BY THE ITALIAN PRESS, BUT MOST NEWSPAPERS REMARKED ON QHEDAFI'S FAILURE TO PRESENT ANY EVIDENCE TO SUBSTANTIATE HIS ACCUSATIONS.SECCHIA

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Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1990ROME00730

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a
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PAGE 01 ROME 00730 121510Z
ACTION EUR-00

INFO	LOG-00	ADS-00	INR-05	SS-00	CIAE-00	EB-00	DODE-00
	NSAE-00	L-03	PM-10	PA-02	DOTE-00	INRE-00	USIE-00
	JUSE-00	MOFM-04	SP-02	PRS-01	DS-01	SCT-03	/031 W
					-----335411	131224Z	/23

R 121506Z JAN 90
 FM AMEMBASSY ROME
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3728
 INFO SECDEF WASHDC
 FAA WASHDC
 INFO JCS WASHDC
 CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
 USIA WASHDC 2618
 DIA WASH DC
 USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT
 USMISSION USNATO
 AMEMBASSY BONN
 AMEMBASSY PARIS
 AMEMBASSY LONDON
 AMEMBASSY VALLETTA
 USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
 CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE
 AMCONSUL MILAN
 AMCONSUL NAPLES
 AMCONSUL PALERMO

UNCLAS ROME 00730

STATE FOR EUR/WE, DOD FOR OSD/ISP

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
 TAGS: MOPS, EAIR, PTER, IT, NATO
 SUBJECT: USTICA: LIBYAN AMBASSADOR WON'T APPEAR BEFORE
 ITALIAN PARLIAMENT WITHOUT U.S. AND FRENCH AMBASSADORS

REF: ROME 00472 DTG 091739Z JAN 90

PAGE 02 ROME 00730 121510Z

1. "ANSA" WIRE SERVICE JANUARY 9 REPORTS THAT A GROUP OF
PARLIAMENTARIANS OF THE LEFT-WING PROLETARIAN DEMOCRACY

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Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

[REDACTED]
DOC_NBR: 1990ROME00730

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

84

PARTY CALLED ON THE LIBYAN AMBASSADOR TO ITALY, ABDULRAHMAN SHALGAM, TO DISCUSS THE USTICA CASE AND THE DECLARATIONS ABOUT USTICA MADE RECENTLY BY COLONEL MOAMAR QHEDAFI (SEE REFTTEL).

2. "ANSA" REPORTS THAT THE LIBYAN AMBASSADOR TOLD THE DELEGATION THAT HE WILL NOT APPEAR BEFORE THE INTERPARLIAMENTARY COMMISSION ON "STRAGI" (LITERALLY SLAUGHTER) AND TERRORISM THAT IS LOOKING INTO THE USTICA CASE BECAUSE SUCH AN APPEARANCE WOULD BE INCOMPATIBLE WITH HIS DIPLOMATIC STATUS. ACCORDING TO "ANSA", AMBASSADOR SHALGAM SAID THAT IF HE IS ASKED TO APPEAR BEFORE THE COMMISSION, THE U.S. AND FRENCH AMBASSADORS SHOULD ALSO BE ASKED TO APPEAR SINCE THE ARMED FORCES OF THEIR NATIONS WERE INVOLVED IN MILITARY MANEUVERS NEAR THE SITE OF THE USTICA TRAGEDY. SECCHIA

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Art4

Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1990ROME00995

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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PAGE 01 ROME 00995 171855Z
ACTION EUR-00

INFO	LOG-00	ADS-00	INR-05	SS-00	CIAE-00	EB-00	NSAE-00
	COME-00	SSO-00	L-03	AMAD-01	PM-10	DOT-00	STR-18
	INRE-00	JUSE-00	SCT-03	E-01	/041 W		

-----141401 171904Z /45 38

O 171850Z JAN 90
 FM AMEMBASSY ROME
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3871
 SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
 INFO JCS WASHDC
 FAA WASHDC
 CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
 USIA WASHDC 2646
 DIA WASH DC
 USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT
 USMISSION USNATO
 AMEMBASSY BONN
 AMEMBASSY PARIS
 AMEMBASSY LONDON
 AMEMBASSY VALLETTA
 USCINCEUR VAHINGEN GE
 CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE
 AMCONSUL MILAN
 AMCONSUL NAPLES
 AMCONSUL PALERMO

ROME 00995

STATE FOR EUR/WE, DOD FOR OSD/ISP

E.O. 12356:DECL:OADR
 TAGS:MOPS, EAIR, PTER, IT, NATO
 SUBJECT: USTICA: CHARGES U.S. PLANES INVOLVED IN USTICA
 INCIDENT

REF: A)ROME 0642 DTG 111708Z JAN 90, B)89 STATE 396613

PAGE 02 ROME 00995 171855Z

DTG 131944Z DEC 89, C)89 ROME 24811 DTG 241949Z NOV 89

UNCLASSIFIED

Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1990ROME00995

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

85

1. (C) SUMMARY. ITALIAN PRESS REPORTS THAT U.S. MILITARY AIRCRAFT WERE IN FLIGHT IN THE AREA OF THE USTICA DISASTER. EMBASSY WILL USE PRESS GUIDANCE PER REFTELS A & B ON AN IF ASKED BASIS. END SUMMARY.
2. (U) LEADING CENTRIST DAILY "CORRIERE DELLA SERA" JANUARY 17 REPORTS THAT COLONEL GUGLIELMO LIPPOLIS, COMMANDER OF THE RESCUE CENTER AT THE MARTINAFRANCA RADAR STATION AT THE TIME OF THE USTICA DISASTER, TESTIFIED JANUARY 16 BEFORE THE INTERPARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE LOOKING INTO THE USTICA AFFAIR. ACCORDING TO "CORRIERE", LIPPOLIS TESTIFIED THAT ONE AND A HALF HOURS AFTER THE USTICA DISASTER, THE CIAMPINO RADAR CENTER REPORTED THAT THERE WERE AMERICAN PLANES IN FLIGHT IN THE AREA WHERE THE USTICA DISASTER OCCURRED. "CORRIERE" REPORTS THAT LIPPOLIS SAID THAT LITTLE ATTENTION WAS PAID TO THIS REPORT BECAUSE "AT THAT TIME THERE WERE ALWAYS ABOUT FIFTY MILITARY PLANES IN FLIGHT IN THAT AREA: FRENCH, AMERICAN, EVEN THE BRITISH RAF."
3. (U) CENTRIST "LA STAMPA" JANUARY 17 STATES THAT LIPPOLIS TOLD THE INTERPARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE THAT AFTER STUDYING THE REMAINS OF THE DC-9, HE BELIEVES A BOMB CAUSED THE USTICA TRAGEDY.
4. (U) LEFTIST WEEKLY "L'ESPRESSO" JANUARY 21 REPORTS THAT A CLASSIFIED LETTER DATED AUGUST 1984 FROM THE ROME OPERATIONS CENTER OF THE "CARABINIERI" (PARA-MILITARY POLICE), CITES A DOCUMENT WHICH STATES THAT A U.S. AIR FORCE MISSILE BROUGHT DOWN THE DC-9. "L'ESPRESSO" DOES NOT STATE WHOM THE LETTER WAS ADDRESSED TO OR THE SOURCE OF THE DOCUMENT. "L'ESPRESSO" ALSO STATES THAT THE
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

PAGE 03 ROME 00995 171855Z

PILOTS AT THE MILITARY BASE AT TRAPANI-BIRGLI CONDUCTED AN INVESTIGATION AND DISCOVERED THAT THE NIGHT OF THE USTICA DISASTER, TWO F14 TOMCATS TOOK OFF FROM THE AIRCRAFT CARRIER "SARATOGA" TO INTERCEPT TWO LIBYAN MIGS WHICH HAD ENTERED ITALIAN AIR SPACE. "L'ESPRESSO" PROVIDES NO FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THIS INVESTIGATION.

5. (C) COMMENT. IF ASKED TO COMMENT ON THESE ALLEGATIONS, EMBASSY WILL RESPOND BY DRAWING FROM REFTEL B AND STATE THAT NO U.S. MILITARY EXERCISES WERE UNDERWAY NOR WERE ANY SHIPS OR AIRCRAFT IN THE VICINITY AT THE TIME OF THE INCIDENT.
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Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1990ROME01217

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a
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PAGE 01 ROME 01217 01 OF 02 191914Z
ACTION EUR-00

INFO LOG-00 ADS-00 INR-05 CIAE-00 EB-00 NSAE-00 AMAD-01
PM-10 PA-02 DOTE-00 INRE-00 SP-02 PRS-01 DS-01
SCT-03 /025 W

-----002101 210116Z /60 38

R 191816Z JAN 90
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4022
SECDEF WASHDC
USIA WASHDC 2661
FAA WASHDC
INFO JCS WASHDC
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
DIA WASH DC
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY VALLETTA
USCINCEUR VAHINGEN GE
CINCSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE
AMCONSUL MILAN
AMCONSUL NAPLES
AMCONSUL PALERMO POUCH

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 ROME 01217

STATE FOR EUR/WE, DOD FOR OSD/ISP, FAA FOR BUCKHORN, APA

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: MOPS, EAIR, PTER, IT, NATO
SUBJECT: USTICA: MACIDULL INTERVIEW ON ITALIAN T.V.

REF: A)ROME 0642 DTG 111708Z JAN 90 B)89 ROME 25758 DTG
071728Z DEC 89 C)ROME 24811 DTG 241949Z NOV 89

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1. SUMMARY. ITALIAN STATE TELEVISION PRESENTED A
PROGRAM ON THE USTICA DISASTER JANUARY 9 WHICH DISCUSSED

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16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1990ROME01217

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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THE POSSIBILITY THAT A U.S. MISSILE DOWNED THE ITAVIA DC-9 AND FEATURED AN INTERVIEW WITH U.S. NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD EXPERT JOHN MACIDULL. END SUMMARY.

2. ON JANUARY 9 ITALIAN STATE TELEVISION PRESENTED A DOCUMENTARY PROGRAM ON THE DOWNING OF AN ITAVIA DC-9 OFF THE COAST OF USTICA IN JUNE 1980. THE PROGRAM INCLUDED A THOROUGH PRESENTATION OF THE STEPS TAKEN BY THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT IN THE TEN YEARS SINCE THE USTICA TRAGEDY TO DISCOVER THE CAUSE OF THE CRASH. THE PROGRAM ALSO EXPLORED POSSIBLE CAUSES FOR THE CRASH, INCLUDING THE HYPOTHESIS THAT A U.S. MISSILE HAD DOWNED THE DC-9.

3. DURING THE PROGRAM IT WAS NOTED THAT AT THE TIME OF THE USTICA INCIDENT, THE U.S.S. "SARATOGA" WAS IN PORT AT NAPLES. THE NETWORK CLAIMED IT HAD OBTAINED THE "SARATOGA'S" LOG FROM THE PENTAGON AND THAT AN ENTRY HAD BEEN MADE IN THE LOG AT THE TIME OF THE USTICA DISASTER STATING THAT "ALL WAS SECURE". THE PROGRAM SHOWED FOOTAGE OF ADMIRAL TORRISI, CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE ITALIAN ARMED FORCES AT THE TIME OF THE USTICA INCIDENT, TELLING JOURNALISTS THAT THE "SARATOGA'S" RADAR MUST HAVE BEEN TURNED ON, EVEN THOUGH IT MAY HAVE BEEN COVERING AN AREA OTHER THAN THE ONE IN WHICH THE ACCIDENT HAD OCCURRED (SEE REFTEL C).

4. THE CHARGE WAS MADE THAT THE U.S. MAY HAVE TRIED TO EXAMINE THE REMAINS OF THE DC-9. IT CLAIMED THERE IS A REPORT FROM THE ITALIAN INTELLIGENCE SERVICES DATED SEPTEMBER 22, 1986 STATING THAT THE U.S. NAVAL ATTACHE IN [REDACTED]

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ITALY HAD REQUESTED A SUBMARINE CAPABLE OF PHOTOGRAPHING THE REMAINS OF THE ITAVIA DC-9 UNDER THE SEA. THE PROGRAM WENT ON TO REPORT THAT THE U.S. EMBASSY IN ROME AND THE BAGNOLI MILITARY BASE BOTH HAD DENIED THIS REPORT

5. THE DOCUMENTARY ENDED WITH AN INTERVIEW WHICH THE NETWORK CLAIMED JOHN MACIDULL HAD GIVEN THEM IN WASHINGTON. ITALIAN T.V. DESCRIBED MR. MACIDULL AS AN EX-NAVY PILOT AND RADAR EXPERT WHOM NASA HAD CALLED IN TO LOOK INTO THE CHALLENGER DISASTER. DURING THE INTERVIEW, MACIDULL STATED THAT HE HAD ASKED THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT FOR THE POSSIBLE MARGIN OF ERROR OF THE RADAR TRACES OF THE USTICA CASE THAT HE HAD BEEN GIVEN TO EXAMINE. HE SAID THAT FROM THE MARGIN OF ERROR FURNISHED BY THE GOI

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HE COULD CONCLUDE THAT THE SECOND PLANE WHICH APPEARED IN THE RADAR TRACES WAS MANY MILES AWAY FROM THE DC-9 WHEN THE LATTER VEERED OFF COURSE, THEREBY ELIMINATING THE POSSIBILITY OF A COLLISION BETWEEN THE TWO AIRCRAFT.

6. IN RESPONSE TO WHETHER THE RADAR TRACES COULD BE THOSE OF A MILITARY AIRCRAFT, MACIDULL RESPONDED THAT RADAR TRACES COULD INDICATE THE TYPE OF PLANE IN QUESTION, BUT NOT ITS NATIONALITY. MACIDULL SAID HE COULD NOT SAY IF IT HAD BEEN A MILITARY AIRCRAFT FROM ANALYZING THE RADAR TRACES. ASKED BY THE ITALIAN JOURNALIST CONDUCTING THE INTERVIEW IF ONE OF THE PLANES COULD HAVE BEEN A "DRONE", MACIDULL RESPONDED THAT THERE ARE NO DRONES THAT CAN FIRE MISSILES.

7. AT THE END OF THE INTERVIEW, THE JOURNALIST PRESENTING THE PROGRAM STATED THAT MR. MACIDULL'S STATEMENTS HAD BEEN INCORPORATED INTO THE DOSSIER BEING PREPARED BY THE INTERPARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE ON THE

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ACTION EUR-00

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CHANNEL: n/a
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CINCSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE
AMCONSUL MILAN
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AMCONSUL PALERMO POUCH

UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 ROME 01217

STATE FOR EUR/WE, DOD FOR OSD/ISP, FAA FOR BUCKHORN, APA

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: MOPS, EAIR, PTER, IT, NATO
SUBJECT: USTICA: MACIDULL INTERVIEW ON ITALIAN T.V.

USTICA CRASH.
SECCHIA
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AMCONSUL MILAN
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AMCONSUL PALERMO

UNCLAS ROME 03279

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STATE FOR EUR/WE, DOD FOR OSD/ISP

E.O. 12356:DECL: N/A
TAGS:MOPS, EAIR, PTER, IT, NATO
SUBJECT: USTICA: MARSALA RADAR CENTER OBSERVED
DISAPPEARANCE OF TRACE OF DC-9

REF: A)ROME 1542 (DTG 241833Z JAN 90), B)ROME 89 20685
[REDACTED]

PAGE 02 ROME 03279 180922Z

(DTG 021622Z OCT 89)

1. SUMMARY. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, THE EXPERTS
EXAMINING THE RADAR RECORDS FROM THE MARSALA RADAR CENTER
HAVE FINISHED THEIR EXAMINATION. THEY HAVE DETERMINED

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THAT THE MARSALA CENTER OBSERVED THE RADAR TRACE OF THE ITAVIA DC-9 DISAPPEAR FROM THE SCREEN THE NIGHT OF THE TRAGEDY. END SUMMARY.

2. LEADING CENTRIST DAILY "CORRIERE DELLA SERA" FEBRUARY 9 REPORTS THE RESULTS OF AN EXAMINATION OF THE MARSALA RADAR RECORDS OF THE NIGHT OF THE USTICA DISASTER CONDUCTED BY A BOARD OF EXPERTS. THESE EXPERTS WERE NOMINATED BY THE MAGISTRATE INVESTIGATING THE USTICA CASE. ACCORDING TO "CORRIERE", THE EXPERTS HAVE DETERMINED THAT THE MARSALA SCREEN LIGHTED UP TWICE THE NIGHT OF THE CRASH WITH THE "ALARM SIGNAL" INDICATING THAT THE RADAR TRACE OF THE DC-9 WAS BECOMING FAINT. "CORRIERE" REPORTS THAT THE EXPERTS' EXAMINATION ALSO SHOWS THAT THREE OPERATORS AT MARSALA RESPONDED TO THE ALARM SIGNAL BY PROGRAMMING THE SYSTEM TO ZOOM IN ON THE DC-9 TO DISCOVER THE CAUSE FOR THE ALARM.

3. THE EXPERTS' CONCLUSIONS CONFIRM THE TESTIMONY GIVEN BY NCO LUCIANO CARICO IN OCTOBER 89 (SEE REFTTEL B) BEFORE INVESTIGATING MAGISTRATE BUCARELLI. CARICO TESTIFIED THAT ON THE EVENING THE ITAVIA DC-9 WENT DOWN, WHILE HE WAS MONITORING THE MANUAL RADAR AT MARSALA, HE IDENTIFIED THE DC-9 ON THE SCREEN, BUT THE IMAGE SUDDENLY FADED AND FINALLY DISAPPEARED. CARICO TESTIFIED THAT HE IMMEDIATELY NOTIFIED HIS SUPERIOR.

4. CARICO'S TESTIMONY WAS THE FIRST BY A MEMBER OF THE ARMED FORCES TO CONTRADICT THE OFFICIAL ITALIAN AIR FORCE

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POSITION, WHICH HAS ALWAYS BEEN THAT THE RADAR CENTER AT MARSALA PICKED UP NO TRACE OF THE ITAVIA DC-9 BEFORE IT EXPLODED. THE CLAIM THAT NOTHING WAS SIGHTED HINGED ON THE FACT THAT THE AUTOMATIC RADAR HAD BEEN TURNED OFF IN PREPARATION FOR A SIMULATED TRAINING EXERCISE.

5. INDEPENDENT DAILY "IL MESSAGGERO" FEBRUARY 9 REPORTS THAT THE MARSALA SCREEN ALSO LIGHTED UP ANOTHER TIME AND THE TRACES OF TWO OTHER PLANES WHICH INTERSECTED THE FLIGHT PATH OF THE ITAVIA DC-9 WERE OBSERVED. "MESSAGGERO" STATES THAT WITH THIS EVIDENCE THE "MYSTERY" OF USTICA IS CLOSE TO BEING SOLVED.

6. COMMENT. THIS SEEMS LIKE EXAGGERATED OPTIMISM. HOWEVER, THE RESULT OF THE EXPERTS' EXAMINATION OF THE RADAR TAPES IS ANOTHER IMPORTANT STEP IN THE USTICA INVESTIGATION PROCESS. SECCHIA

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AMCONSUL MILAN
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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 ROME 03781

STATE FOR EUR/WE, DOD FOR OSD/ISP, USIA FOR EU-SPIKES

E.O. 12356:DECL:OADR
TAGS:MOPS, EAIR, PTER, IT, NATO
SUBJECT: USTICA: INTERPARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE REPORT

REF: A)ROME 3279 (DTG 161110Z FEB 90), B)89 ROME 13835
(DTG 31519Z JUL 89), C)89 ROME 13784 (DTG 301707Z JUN 89)

[REDACTED]

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1. SUMMARY. THE PRESIDENT OF THE INTERPARLIAMENTARY
COMMITTEE LOOKING INTO THE CRASH OF AN ITAVIA DC-9 OFF

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THE ISLAND OF USTICA IN 1980 HAS PREPARED A REPORT BASED ON THE COMMITTEE HEARINGS. THE REPORT HAS COME UNDER ATTACK BY OTHER COMMITTEE MEMBERS, BY MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT, AND BY MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT. END SUMMARY.

2. "ANSA" FEBRUARY 15 REPORTED THAT LIBERO GUALTIERI (PRI), PRESIDENT OF THE INTERPARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE LOOKING INTO THE CRASH OF AN ITAVIA DC-9 OFF THE ISLAND OF USTICA IN 1980, HAS PREPARED A REPORT BASED ON THE COMMITTEE HEARINGS. GUALTIERI HAS PROPOSED TO HIS FELLOW COMMITTEE MEMBERS THAT THE DOCUMENT HE HAS PREPARED BE USED AS A FIRST REPORT TO PARLIAMENT OF THE WORK DONE BY THE COMMITTEE. ACCORDING TO LEADING CENTRIST DAILY "CORRIERE DELLA SERA" FEBRUARY 17 THE COMMITTEE WILL DISCUSS THE REPORT ON FEBRUARY 27. GUALTIERI'S REPORT REACHES NO CONCLUSIONS ABOUT WHAT CAUSED THE EXPLOSION OF THE DC-9. ACCORDING TO LEADING LEFTIST DAILY "LA REPUBBLICA" FEBRUARY 16, GUALTIERI STATES IN HIS REPORT THAT THE ROLE OF THE INTERPARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE WAS NOT TO DISCOVER WHAT CAUSED THE USTICA DISASTER SINCE THAT ROLE BELONGS TO THE JUDICIARY. "REPUBBLICA" REPORTS THAT GUALTIERI SAID THE COMMITTEE SHOULD DETERMINE WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT TOOK THE REQUIRED ACTIONS FOLLOWING THE INCIDENT. GUALTIERI'S CONCLUSION IS THAT THE GOVERNMENT DID NOT PERFORM ITS DUTY AND THAT, IN FACT, SOME MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT WERE OPENLY OBSTRUCTIONIST.

3. ACCORDING TO "LA REPUBBLICA", GUALTIERI'S REPORT SETS FORTH THE INAPPROPRIATE ACTIONS WHICH SEEM TO HAVE BEEN TAKEN IN RELATION TO THE INVESTIGATION FOLLOWING THE USTICA CRASH AND WHICH EMERGED FROM THE TESTIMONY BEFORE

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THE COMMITTEE. TWO POLITICIANS COME UNDER ATTACK IN GUALTIERE'S REPORT. "REPUBBLICA" REPORTS THAT GUALTIERI FINDS THE TESTIMONY GIVEN BY LELIO LAGORIO (PSI), DEFENSE MINISTER AT THE TIME OF USTICA, "STRANGE AND UNEXPLAINABLE". LAGORIO TOLD THE COMMITTEE THAT HE DID NOT ASK THE INTELLIGENCE SERVICES TO LOOK INTO THE USTICA AFFAIR BECAUSE THEY WERE DISORGANIZED. LEADING CENTRIST DAILY "CORRIERE DELLA SERA" FEBRUARY 16 STATES THAT GUALTIERI'S REPORT CRITICIZES RINO FORMICA (PSI), TRANSPORTATION MINISTER AT THE TIME OF USTICA AND PRESENTLY FINANCE MINISTER (SEE REPTELS B AND C). ACCORDING TO "CORRIERE" GUALTIERI CRITICIZES FORMICA FOR

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NOT HAVING INFORMED PARLIAMENT OF HIS CONVERSATION SHORTLY AFTER THE USTICA DISASTER WITH GENERAL RANA, PRESIDENT OF THE AERONAUTIC REGISTRY, WHO TOLD HIM THAT THE RADAR RECORDS SHOWED THAT A MISSILE HAD DOWNED THE DC-9.

4. ACCORDING TO "ANSA" WIRE SERVICE FEBRUARY 15, THE GUALTIERI REPORT STATES THAT IT IS STILL NECESSARY TO OBTAIN FROM THE U.S. ALL THE RADAR RECORDS FROM THE NIGHT OF THE USTICA TRAGEDY MADE BY U.S. AIRCRAFT PRESENT IN NAPLES AND BY THE NORAD STRATEGIC COMMAND.

5. THE GUALTIERI REPORT HAS QUICKLY COME UNDER ATTACK. LEADING CENTRIST DAILY "CORRIERE DELLA SERA" FEBRUARY 17 REPORTS THAT FORMICA HAS WRITTEN LETTERS TO THE PRESIDENTS OF THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES AND THE SENATE, RESPECTIVELY NILDE IOTTI (PCI) AND GIOVANNI SPADOLINI (PRI), EXPRESSING "SURPRISE AND BITTERNESS" AT THE WAY HE IS ATTACKED IN THE GUALTIERI REPORT. CENTRIST DAILY "LA STAMPA" FEBRUARY 17 REPORTS THAT PSI SECRETARY BETTINO CRAXI HAS CALLED THE GUALTIERI REPORT AN ATTACK BY THE REPUBLICAN PARTY (GUALTIERI IS A REPUBLICAN) AGAINST THE

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ACTION EUR-01

INFO LOG-00 ADS-00 INR-05 CIAE-00 EB-01 NSAE-00 AMAD-01
PM-01 PA-02 INRE-00 SP-01 PRS-01 SCT-03 /016 W
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USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
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UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 ROME 03781

STATE FOR EUR/WE, DOD FOR OSD/ISP, USIA FOR EU-SPIKES

E.O. 12356:DECL:OADR
TAGS:MOPS, EAIR, PTER, IT, NATO
SUBJECT: USTICA: INTERPARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE REPORT

SOCIALIST PARTY. SOME MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE HAVE
DISTANCED THEMSELVES FROM THE REPORT. "LA STAMPA" QUOTES
THE VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE COMMITTEE ANTONIO BELLOCCHIO

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(PCI) AS HAVING SAID THAT GUALTIERI PREPARED THE REPORT
ON HIS OWN, NOT ON BEHALF OF THE COMMITTEE.
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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 ROME 04445

STATE FOR EUR/WE, DOD FOR OSD/ISP, USIA FOR EU-SPIKES

E.O. 12356:DECL:OADR
TAGS:MOPS, EAIR, PTER, IT, NATO
SUBJECT: USTICA: PROOF THERE WAS ALSO A MIG?

REF: ROME 3279 (DTG 161110Z FEB 90)

1. SUMMARY. TRANSCRIPTS OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATIONS

[REDACTED]

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BETWEEN RADAR CENTERS THE NIGHT OF THE USTICA DISASTER
COULD POINT TO A MIG IN FLIGHT NEAR THE DC-9. END

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SUMMARY.

2. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, TRANSCRIPTS OF TELEPHONE CALLS MADE BETWEEN RADAR CENTERS IN SOUTHERN ITALY ON THE NIGHT AN ITAVIA DC-9 CRASHED OFF THE COAST OF USTICA IN THE SUMMER OF 1980 INDICATE THAT A MIG WAS IN FLIGHT IN ITALIAN AIR SPACE AT THE SAME TIME AS THE ITAVIA JET. THESE TRANSCRIPTS WERE REQUESTED BY INVESTIGATING MAGISTRATE VITTORIO BUCARELLI.

3. ACCORDING TO LEADING CENTRIST "CORRIERE DELLA SERA" MARCH 1, THE TRANSCRIPTS RECORD A TELEPHONE CALL FROM A RADAR CENTER THAT HAS NOT YET BEEN IDENTIFIED TO THE MARSALA RADAR CENTER. AT THE SAME TIME AS THE USTICA EXPLOSION, THE CALLER FROM THE UNIDENTIFIED CENTER ASKS WHETHER HE SHOULD RECORD THE TRACE OF THE MIG. THE SPEAKER AT MARSALA TELLS HIM NOT TO. "CORRIERE" STATES THAT IT IS NOW UP TO THE JUDICIARY TO DETERMINE WHERE THIS PHONE CALL WAS MADE AND WHO ANSWERED AT MARSALA.

4. LEADING LEFTIST DAILY "LA REPUBBLICA" MARCH 1, HOWEVER, REPORTS THAT THE CALL CAME FROM THE SIRACUSA RADAR CENTER LOCATED IN SICILY. "REPUBBLICA" REPORTS THAT THIS PHONE CALL WAS MADE A FEW SECONDS BEFORE THE USTICA DISASTER AND THAT AT THAT TIME THE MIG IN QUESTION WAS 370 KILOMETERS FROM USTICA. THUS, THE MIG WOULD HAVE PLAYED NO PART IN THE CRASH OF THE ITAVIA JET. "REPUBBLICA" STATES THAT THIS INFORMATION IS IMPORTANT, HOWEVER, IN THAT IT DEMONSTRATES THAT THE OFFICERS ON DUTY AT THE SIRACUSA CENTER DID NOT TELL THE INVESTIGATING MAGISTRATE THE TRUTH SINCE THEY NEVER MENTIONED THIS TELEPHONE CALL TO MARSALA DURING THEIR

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TESTIMONY BEFORE THE MAGISTRATE. "REPUBBLICA" REPORTS THAT THE AIR FORCE HAS ALWAYS MAINTAINED THAT THE SIRACUSA RADAR STATION OBSERVED NOTHING ON THE NIGHT OF THE USTICA CRASH BECAUSE IT WAS NOT WORKING, ALTHOUGH AN OFFICER TESTIFIED BEFORE THE RECENT INTERPARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE HEARINGS ON USTICA THAT THE CENTER WAS IN FACT IN OPERATION.

5. ACCORDING TO "LA REPUBBLICA" MARCH 1, CARLO TAORMINA, THE ATTORNEY REPRESENTING A NUMBER OF THE AIR FORCE OFFICERS INDICTED IN THE USTICA CASE, HAS STATED THAT THIS PHONE CALL WAS NOT BETWEEN THE SIRACUSA AND MARSALA RADAR CENTERS, BUT BETWEEN MARSALA AND THE MARTINAFRANCA

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CENTER AND WAS PART OF A SIMULATED EXERCISE, "SYNADEX", THAT WAS BEING CONDUCTED AT MARSALA.

6. CENTRIST DAILY "LA STAMPA" MARCH 1 REPORTS THAT THE TRANSCRIPTS OF THE TELEPHONE CALLS INDICATE THAT THE SIMULATED EXERCISE "SYNADEX" WAS STOPPED AT 9:13 P.M., NOT AT 9:23 (ONE MINUTE AFTER THE USTICA TRAGEDY) AS AIR FORCE CHIEF OF STAFF FRANCO PISANO TOLD THE INTERPARLIAMENTARY COMMISSION LOOKING INTO THE USTICA CASE.

7. "LA REPUBBLICA" REPORTS THAT EXPERTS HAVE RE-EXAMINED THE RADAR PLOTS MADE AT ROME'S MILITARY AIRPORT, CIAMPINO, THE NIGHT OF THE USTICA INCIDENT. "REPUBBLICA" STATES THAT THESE ARE THE SAME PLOTS EXAMINED BY AMERICAN EXPERT JOHN MACIDULL WHO STATED THAT THEY INDICATED A JET THAT WAS MOVING FROM WEST TO EAST. ACCORDING TO "REPUBBLICA", THE EXPERTS HAVE CONCLUDED THAT IN THE CASE OF TWO OF THE PLOTS THE OBJECT REFERRED TO WAS MOVING AT



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ACTION EUR-01

INFO LOG-00 ADS-00 INR-05 CIAE-00 EB-01 NSAE-00 PM-01
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AMCONSUL MILAN
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STATE FOR EUR/WE, DOD FOR OSD/ISP, USIA FOR EU-SPIKES

E.O. 12356:DECL:OADR
TAGS:MOPS, EAIR, PTER, IT, NATO
SUBJECT: USTICA: PROOF THERE WAS ALSO A MIG?

THE SAME SPEED AS THE WIND AND THUS IT COULD NOT HAVE
BEEN A JET.
HOLMES
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R 061449Z APR 90
 FM AMEMBASSY ROME
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 USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
 CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE
 AMCONSUL MILAN
 AMCONSUL NAPLES
 AMCONSUL PALERMO

UNCLAS ROME 07067

STATE FOR EUR/WE, DOD FOR OSD/ISP, USIA FOR EU-SPIKES

E.O. 12356:DECL:OADR
 TAGS:MOPS, EAIR, PTER, IT, NATO
 SUBJECT: USTICA: REPORT THERE WAS A U.S. PLANE IN THE
 AREA AND ANOTHER STUDY SAYS IT WAS A BOMB

PAGE 02 ROME 07067 061639Z

REF: ROME 4683 (DTG 071459Z MAR 90) AND PREVIOUS

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DOC_NBR: 1990ROME07067

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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1. SUMMARY. WEEKLY "L'EUROPEO" REPORTS THERE WAS A U.S. PLANE IN THE AREA OF THE CRASH OF AN ITAVIA DC-9 OFF THE COAST OF USTICA IN THE SUMMER OF 1980. PRESS REPORTS INDICATE THAT A STUDY CONDUCTED BY THE U.K.'S ROYAL ARMAMENT RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ESTABLISHMENT SUGGESTS THAT A BOMB CAUSED THE CRASH. END SUMMARY.

2. CENTRIST WEEKLY "L'EUROPEO" 15 APRIL REPORTED THAT RADAR RECORDS FROM THE MARSALA RADAR CENTER INDICATE THAT ON THE NIGHT AN ITAVIA DC-9 CRASHED OFF THE COAST OF USTICA IN THE SUMMER OF 1980, AN AMERICAN BEECHCRAFT SUPERKING AIR 200 TOOK OFF FROM SIGONELLA AIR BASE. ACCORDING TO "L'EUROPEO", THE BEECHCRAFT FLEW OVER REGGIO CALABRIA IN SOUTHERN ITALY 15 SECONDS AFTER THE ITAVIA DC-9 CRASHED. "L'EUROPEO" REPORTS THAT THE BEECHCRAFT IS USED AS A PASSENGER PLANE OR FOR SURVEILLANCE. "EUROPEO" CLAIMS THAT THE BEECHCRAFT IDENTIFIED ITSELF AS AIRCRAFT N71206, BUT THAT THE PLANE REGISTERED WITH THAT NUMBER WAS NOT A BEECHCRAFT, BUT A CESSNA 182 WHICH WAS DESTROYED IN A CRASH IN DECEMBER 1978, A YEAR AND A HALF BEFORE THE USTICA INCIDENT. WAS THERE A REASON FOR THE BEECHCRAFT TO USE THE REGISTRATION NUMBER OF A NONEXISTENT PLANE, ASKS "EUROPEO"?

3. THE ARTICLE STATES THAT THE LETTER "N" BEFORE AN AIRCRAFT REGISTRATION NUMBER SIGNIFIES THAT THAT PLANE IS AN AMERICAN CIVILIAN PLANE. NONETHELESS, "EUROPEO" ARGUES THAT IN THIS CASE "N" PROBABLY STOOD FOR "NAVY", OBVIOUSLY "U.S. NAVY". "EUROPEO" ADMITS THAT THIS DOES NOT MEAN THAT THE BEECHCRAFT WAS THE PLANE THAT SHOT DOWN THE ITAVIA DC-9, ESPECIALLY SINCE A BEECHCRAFT CANNOT BE ARMED WITH AN AIR-TO-AIR MISSILE AND SINCE IT WAS NOT

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TRAVELLING TOWARD USTICA, BUT TOWARD CALABRIA. HOWEVER, SPECULATES "EUROPEO", THE BEECHCRAFT COULD HAVE PLAYED A "LOGISTICAL SUPPORT" ROLE TO ANOTHER PLANE THAT MIGHT ALSO HAVE TAKEN OFF FROM SIGONELLA. "EUROPEO" STATES THAT SINCE THE U.S. AND ITALIAN AUTHORITIES HAVE LIED FOR TEN YEARS BY CLAIMING THAT THERE WERE NO FOREIGN MILITARY PLANES IN THE AREA THE NIGHT OF THE USTICA CRASH, THEY COULD ALSO BE LYING ABOUT A SECOND PLANE TAKING OFF FROM SIGONELLA.

4. ACCORDING TO LEADING LEFTIST DAILY "LA REPUBBLICA" MARCH 11, SENATOR MANFREDO BOSCO (DC), A MEMBER OF THE INTERPARLIAMENTARY COMMISSION LOOKING INTO THE USTICA

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CASE, ANNOUNCED THAT A STUDY CONDUCTED BY THE U.K.'S ROYAL ARMAMENT RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ESTABLISHMENT CONCLUDED THAT A BOMB CAUSED THE CRASH OF AN ITAVIA DC-9 OFF THE COAST OF USTICA IN THE SUMMER OF 1980. THE BRITISH STUDY WAS COMPLETED IN 1988, BUT THE COMMISSION JUST RECEIVED THE ITALIAN TRANSLATION.

5. LEADING CENTRIST DAILY "CORRIERE DELLA SERA" MARCH 8 REPORTS THAT THE STUDY SAYS THAT THERE WAS AN INTERNAL EXPLOSION ON THE DC-9. THIS IS DETERMINED FROM THE TYPES OF HOLES FOUND ON THE WRECKAGE, FROM FRAGMENTS OF METAL FOUND IN THE PASSENGER SEATS, AND FROM THE CONDITION OF A DOLL THAT WAS FOUND AMONG THE WRECKAGE OF THE DC-9.
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 CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE
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SECTION 01 OF 07 ROME 12051

E.O. 12356:DECL:OADR
 TAGS:MOPS, KPRP, EAIR, PTER, NATO, IT
 SUBJECT: THE USTICA SCANDAL: WINNERS AND LOSERS

REF: ROME 7067 (DTG 061449Z APR 90) AND PREVIOUS

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1. (C) SUMMARY. AN ITAVIA AIRLINES DC-9 CRASHED OFF THE ISLAND OF USTICA JUST NORTH OF SICILY IN THE SUMMER

Page - 413 ~~EXTEND CLASSIFICATION~~

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: ERIC W. FLEISHER
 DATE/CASE ID: 1 OCT 2002 200102359
 CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL REASON: 1.6(6) UNCLASSIFIED

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OF 1980. DURING THE PAST TEN YEARS, VARIOUS COMMISSIONS APPOINTED BY THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT HAVE ATTEMPTED TO DETERMINE THE CAUSE OF THE TRAGEDY, WHICH TOOK THE LIVES OF EIGHTY-ONE PEOPLE. WHEN STRUCTURAL DAMAGE WAS DISMISSED AS THE CAUSE, VARIOUS INTERPRETATIONS AS TO ORIGINS OF THE CRASH WERE SET FORTH. MANY HAVE CLAIMED THAT THE AIRCRAFT WAS HIT BY A MISSILE.

2. AT VARIOUS TIMES IT HAS BEEN SPECULATED THAT THE MISSILE BELONGED TO THE U.S., ITALY, FRANCE, LIBYA, OR ISRAEL. THOSE WHO SUPPORT THIS THEORY MAINTAIN THAT THE DC-9 WAS HIT INSTEAD OF THE REAL TARGET-- AN AIRCRAFT CARRYING LIBYAN LEADER QADDAFI. OTHERS MAINTAIN THAT THE ITAVIA DC-9 WAS BROUGHT DOWN BY A BOMB, PLACED ON BOARD BY A TERRORIST GROUP OR BY THE MAFIA (THE PLANE WAS HEADED TOWARDS PALERMO, SICILY).

3. (C) HEAVY PRESSURE HAS BEEN EXERTED BY THE ASSOCIATION FORMED BY THE VICTIMS' FAMILIES, AND THE ITALIAN PRESS FINDS THE USTICA CASE TO BE AN ENDLESS SOURCE OF INSPIRATION.

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4. (C) THE USTICA CASE HAS TURNED INTO A FULL-FLEDGED SCANDAL THAT UP TO NOW HAS PLAGUED SUCCESSIVE ITALIAN GOVERNMENTS. IT HAS BECOME A THORN IN THE SIDE OF THE ARMED FORCES, ESPECIALLY THE AIR FORCE, WHICH HAS BEEN UNABLE TO EXPLAIN THE REASONS FOR THE DISASTER. CHARGES OF A COVERUP HAVE BEEN LEVELLED AGAINST THE ITALIAN MILITARY ON MANY OCCASIONS. THE CAREERS OF MANY SENIOR MILITARY LEADERS HAVE BEEN AFFECTED. VARIOUS POLITICIANS HAVE CHARGED THE GOVERNMENT WITH A COVERUP OF WHAT

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ACTUALLY HAPPENED AS THE CASE HAS INCREASINGLY TAKEN ON A PURELY POLITICAL CAST.

5. (C) AT VARIOUS TIMES THE UNITED STATES HAS BEEN DRAGGED INTO THE CASE-- WITH THE MISSILE THEORY, AND AS A RESULT OF THE FACT THAT AMERICAN SPECIALISTS LOOKED INTO THE CAUSE OF THE DISASTER. THE IMPORTANT AMERICAN ANGLE, HOWEVER, IS THE DAMAGE THAT THE CASE HAS WROUGHT ON THE ITALIAN MILITARY, WHO HAVE BEEN HARSHLY CRITICIZED FOR FAILING TO MAINTAIN CONTROL OVER THE AMERICAN MILITARY PRESENCE IN ITALY. THIS CRITICISM HAS STEMMED FROM THE FACT THAT THE ITALIANS HAVE BEEN OBLIGED TO ASK THE AMERICANS FOR THE WHEREABOUTS OF AMERICAN SHIPS AND AIRCRAFT, IN ITALY, AT THE TIME OF THE DISASTER. THAT FACT HAS TRANSLATED INTO CALLS FROM THE POLITICIANS FOR BETTER ACCOUNTING, ON THE ITALIAN SIDE, OF U.S. MILITARY ACTIVITIES IN ITALY.

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ACTION EUR-01

INFO	LOG-00	ADS-00	INR-05	SS-01	OIC-02	CIAE-00	EB-01
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SECTION 02 OF 07 ROME 12051

E.O. 12356:DECL:OADR
TAGS:MOPS, KPRP, EAIR, PTER, NATO, IT
SUBJECT: THE USTICA SCANDAL: WINNERS AND LOSERS

6. (C) WHAT IS THE LIKELY OUTCOME OF THE USTICA CASE?

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ALTHOUGH IT IS PROBABLE THAT THIS ISSUE MAY REMAIN IN THE
NEWSPAPERS FOR SOME TIME DUE

B1

TOO MUCH TIME HAS PASSED SINCE THE CRASH FOR MUCH
NEW EVIDENCE TO BE DISCOVERED WHICH WILL EXPLAIN THE
CAUSE OF THE EXPLOSION. IF, AS MANY HAVE CHARGED, THERE
WAS A COVERUP, THE PERPETRATORS OF THIS COVERUP HAVE HAD
TEN YEARS TO SANDBAG ANY INVESTIGATION THOROUGHLY. THE
GOI IS MOST ANXIOUS TO SEE THE CASE PERMANENTLY PUT TO
REST

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FOR OUR PART, WE WILL CONTINUE TO
AVOID INVOLVING OURSELVES IN WHAT HAS BECOME ONE OF
ITALY'S MAJOR, ENDLESS, POLITICAL IMBROGLIOS.END SUMMARY.

THE BACKGROUND

7. (U) ON JUNE 27, 1980, A REGULARLY SCHEDULED ITAVIA
AIRLINES FLIGHT FROM BOLOGNA TO PALERMO EXPLODED IN
MID-AIR AND CRASHED INTO THE TYRRHENIAN SEA, OFF THE
COAST OF THE SMALL ISLAND OF USTICA, NEAR SICILY. WHAT
CAUSED THE TRAGEDY? ALMOST TEN YEARS LATER, EVEN THOUGH
THE REMAINS OF THE PLANE WERE RECOVERED FROM THE SEA BY
THE FRENCH FIRM INFREMER, IT SEEMS LITTLE PROGRESS HAS
BEEN MADE IN FINDING AN ANSWER. RUMORS OF A COVERUP BY

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CHANNEL: n/a
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THE GOVERNMENT ABOUND. SO MUCH HAS THE CASE TAKEN ON A LIFE OF ITS OWN THAT "USTICA" HAS BECOME A HOUSEHOLD WORD. IT IS ONE OF THE MOST SERIOUS SCANDALS BESETTING THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT AND IT CONSISTENTLY PROVIDES THE GRIST FOR ITALY'S SCANDAL-CONSCIOUS PRESS.

8. (U) THE USTICA CASE HAS INVOLVED NUMEROUS GOVERNMENT

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COMMISSIONS. THE JUDICIARY HAS BEEN INVESTIGATING FOR A DECADE. IN JUNE 1989, INVESTIGATING MAGISTRATE VITTORIO BUCARELLI SIGNED INDICTMENTS AGAINST 23 MILITARY OFFICERS, NCOS, AND CONSCRIPTS ON DUTY AT SOUTHERN ITALIAN RADAR CENTERS AT THE TIME OF THE INCIDENT. THE 23 HAVE BEEN ACCUSED OF GIVING FALSE TESTIMONY, COMPLICITY, AND AGGRAVATED DESTRUCTION OF EVIDENCE. IN MARCH 1989, A PANEL OF TECHNICAL EXPERTS APPOINTED BY BUCARELLI CONCLUDED THAT THE DC-9 WAS BROUGHT DOWN BY A MISSILE FIRED BY AN UNKNOWN FIGHTER AIRCRAFT. IN CONTRAST, A GOVERNMENT COMMISSION APPOINTED BY FORMER PRIME MINISTER DE MITA CONCLUDED IN MAY 1989 THAT AN EXPLOSION CAUSED THE CRASH, ALTHOUGH THE POSSIBILITY WAS NOT EXCLUDED THAT A BOMB, RATHER THAN A MISSILE, DOWNED THE AIRLINER. LAST MONTH, A SECOND PANEL OF EXPERTS APPOINTED BY INVESTIGATING MAGISTRATE BUCARELLI PRESENTED THEIR REPORT TO HIM. THIS GROUP OF EXPERTS COULD NOT AGREE ON THE CAUSE OF THE CRASH. TWO OF THE GROUP (WHO HAD ALSO BEEN MEMBERS OF THE ORIGINAL PANEL APPOINTED BY BUCARELLI THAT HAD DETERMINED A MISSILE WAS THE CAUSE OF THE CRASH) STATED THE NEW EVIDENCE THEY HAD SEEN CONVINCED THEM A BOMB ABOARD THE DC-9 CAUSED THE EXPLOSION. THE OTHER THREE EXPERTS ON THE PANEL SAID THAT A MISSILE CAUSED THE CRASH. AN INTERPARLIAMENTARY COMMISSION INVESTIGATING THE USTICA CASE SINCE JUNE 1989 HAS JUST SENT A REPORT ON ITS HEARINGS, DRAFTED BY THE COMMISSION PRESIDENT, TO THE TWO CHAMBERS OF PARLIAMENT. IN THE MEANTIME, THE FAMILY MEMBERS OF THE CRASH VICTIMS HAVE FORMED AN ASSOCIATION THAT IS IN CONTACT WITH THE PRESS, HAS MET WITH THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC, AND HAS SOUGHT TO PUT PRESSURE ON THE GOVERNMENT TO RESOLVE THE MYSTERY SURROUNDING THE CRASH.

THE THEORIES

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SECTION 03 OF 07 ROME 12051

E.O. 12356:DECL:OADR
 TAGS: MOPS, KPRP, EAIR, PTER, NATO, IT
 SUBJECT: THE USTICA SCANDAL: WINNERS AND LOSERS

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9. (U) SINCE THE CAUSE OF THE CRASH HAS NEVER BEEN DETERMINED AND CONTINUES SHROUDED IN BOTH MYSTERY AND CONFUSION, SPECULATION ABOUT THE CAUSES HAS BECOME A PRIME SUBJECT OF DISCUSSION IN BOTH THE ITALIAN PRESS AND AMONG SOME MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT. THE POSSIBILITY THAT A STRUCTURAL DEFECT CAUSED THE CRASH WAS DISMISSED RIGHT AFTER THE TRAGEDY BY A GROUP OF MCDONNELL-DOUGLAS TECHNICIANS (MCDONNELL-DOUGLAS BUILT THE DC-9) WHO CAME TO ITALY TO EXAMINE THE REMAINS OF THE AIRCRAFT. TECHNICIANS FROM THE ITALIAN AERONAUTIC REGISTRY REPORTEDLY ALSO EXAMINED THE REMAINS OF THE PLANE AND CONFIRMED THE CONCLUSION REACHED BY MCDONNELL-DOUGLAS.

10. (U) THE MOST WIDELY ACCEPTED THEORY IS THAT A MISSILE STRUCK THE AIRLINER. IT HAS BEEN SUGGESTED THAT THE MISSILE MIGHT HAVE BEEN ITALIAN, AMERICAN, FRENCH, LIBYAN, OR PERHAPS ISRAELI. EACH COUNTRY, IT IS REASONED, HAS MISSILES AND DEPLOYS MILITARY FORCES IN THE REGION. THE PRESS HAS REPORTED AN AMERICAN EXPERT EMPLOYED BY THE FAA EXAMINED RADAR RECORDS FROM THE NIGHT OF THE CRASH AND CONCLUDED THAT A MISSILE HAD DOWNED THE AIRLINER. THE LIBYAN GOVERNMENT HAS STATED THAT QADDAFI'S OWN AIRCRAFT WAS FLYING IN AREA THE NIGHT OF THE TRAGEDY. PREDICTABLY, QADDAFI HAS ACCUSED THE U.S. OF HITTING THE ITAVIA AIRCRAFT WHILE TRYING TO SHOOT HIS OWN AIRCRAFT OUT OF THE SKY. BOTH THE FRENCH AND THE ISRAELIS AT VARIOUS TIMES HAVE BEEN CREDITED WITH ATTEMPTING TO SHOOT DOWN QADDAFI, AND MISSING. ADDING FUEL TO THE FIRE, TWO WEEKS AFTER THE USTICA DISASTER A LIBYAN MIG CRASHED INTO THE SILA MOUNTAINS IN CALABRIA NOT TOO FAR FROM THE SCENE OF THE CRASH. THERE HAS BEEN A GREAT DEAL OF SPECULATION THAT THE TWO EVENTS ARE

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LINKED. STRETCHING THE FACTS, THERE ARE THOSE WHO ARGUE THAT THE LIBYAN MIG REALLY CRASHED TWO WEEKS BEFORE IT WAS "OFFICIALLY" DISCOVERED. THEREFORE, IT COULD HAVE

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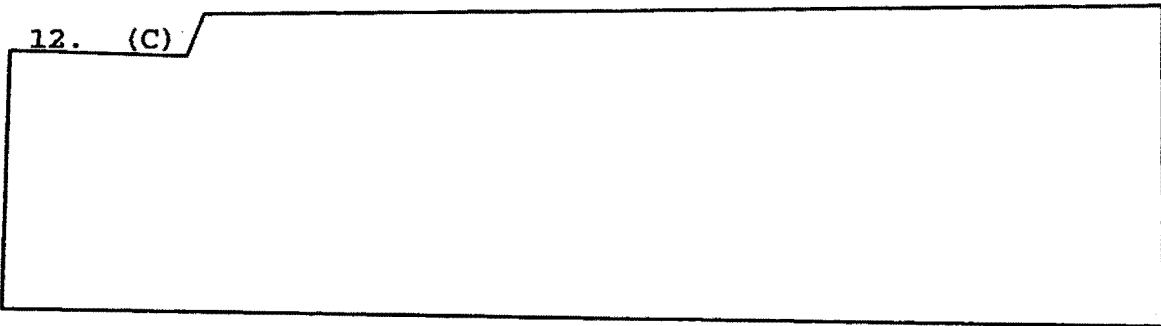
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COLLIDED WITH THE ITAVIA DC-9 AND CAUSED THE CRASH. AS EVIDENCE OF A COVERUP, SOME SAY THAT THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT ACTED IN GREAT HASTE IN RETURNING THE REMAINS OF THE LIBYAN PILOT AND THE REMAINS OF THE PLANE TO QADDAFI. SOME HAVE EMBROIDERED THAT PLOT WITH CLAIMS THAT THE LIBYAN MIG WAS ON A SPECIAL MISSION FOR QADDAFI, OR THAT THE PILOT WAS ANTI-QADDAFI AND WAS TRYING TO DEFECT TO THE WEST.

11. (U) THERE IS ALSO THE "BOMB" HYPOTHESIS. BECAUSE IT SEEMS TO BE CLEAR THAT THERE WAS AN EXPLOSION IN THE AIRCRAFT, A BOMB MAY HAVE BEEN PLACED ON BOARD THE DC-9, POSSIBLY BY A TERRORIST GROUP. SOME, NOTING THAT THE FLIGHT WAS DESTINED FOR PALERMO, SICILY, HAVE ARGUED THAT E BOMB COULD HAVE BEEN BROUGHT ON BOARD BY SOMEONE AIMING TO TO "RUB OUT" A MAFIA BOSS ON BOARD THE FLIGHT. OF COURSE, THE BOSS WOULD HAVE BEEN TRAVELLING UNDER AN ASSUMED NAME.

THE REAL ISSUE

12. (C)



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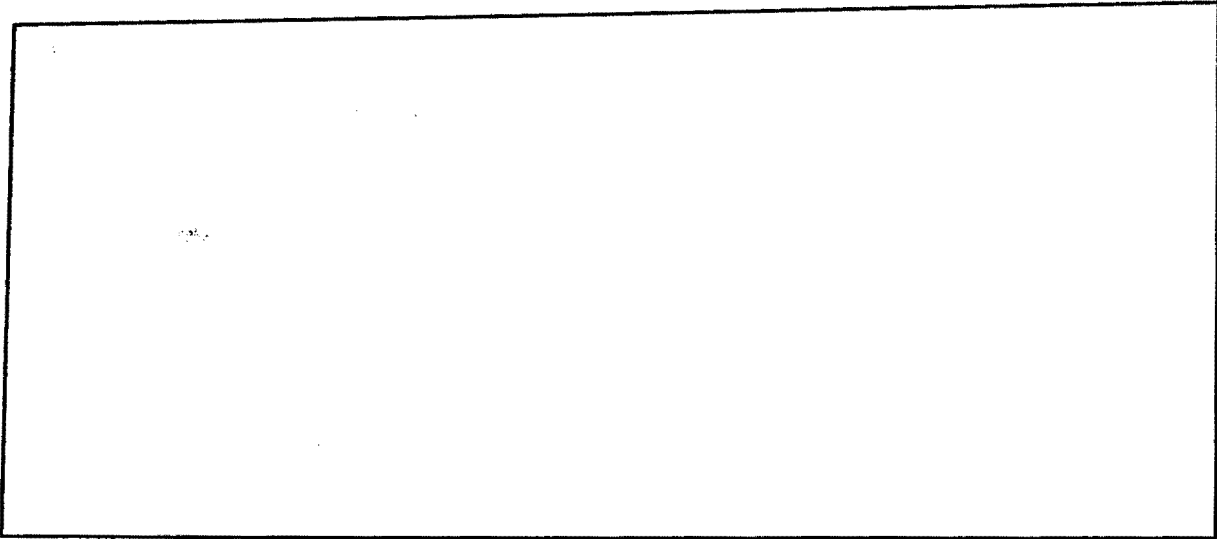
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SECTION 04 OF 07 ROME 12051

E.O. 12356:DECL:OADR
 TAGS:MOPS, KPRP, EAIR, PTER, NATO, IT
 SUBJECT: THE USTICA SCANDAL: WINNERS AND LOSERS



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[REDACTED]

WHY HAS IT BECOME A SCANDAL?

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13. (C) WHY HAS USTICA BECOME SUCH A "HOT POTATO" FOR THE GOI, REFUSING TO DIE AN HONORABLE DEATH IN THE PRESS, IN PARLIAMENT, AND ELSEWHERE? [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] ANOTHER REASON IS THE PUBLIC'S PREDISPOSITION TO SUSPECT THAT THERE ARE SOME, PROBABLY IN THE GOVERNMENT OR MILITARY, WHO DON'T WANT THE TRUTH TO BE KNOWN. THIS "COVERUP" THEORY HAS EMERGED BECAUSE OF THE MANY CONTRADICTIONS IN THE TESTIMONY RENDERED BEFORE THE INVESTIGATING MAGISTRATE AND BEFORE THE INTERPARLIAMENTARY COMMISSION ESTABLISHED TO STUDY THE CASE. IN MANY INSTANCES, EVIDENCE REQUESTED BY THE MAGISTRATE (IN THE ITALIAN LEGAL SYSTEM IT IS THE MAGISTRATE WHO GATHERS THE EVIDENCE, NOT THE ATTORNEYS) HAS BEEN MISPLACED. ON OTHER OCCASIONS, VARIOUS JUDICIAL OFFICIALS HAVE CLAIMED THAT IT WAS DESTROYED "IN THE NORMAL COURSE OF BUSINESS". WHEN RADAR RECORDS FROM THE NIGHT OF THE CRASH WERE REQUESTED, IT TURNED OUT THAT ALL MILITARY RADAR CENTERS IN SOUTHERN ITALY WERE EITHER NOT

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FUNCTIONING OR TURNED OFF WHILE THE RADAR OPERATORS WERE PARTICIPATING IN ROUTINE TRAINING EXERCISES. "WHO WAS WATCHING OUR AIR SPACE?" CRIED THE NEWSPAPERS.

THE LOSERS

14. (C) THE MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT HAS BEEN HARSHLY CRITICIZED FOR THE USTICA DISASTER. IT HAS DAMAGED BOTH THEIR REPUTATION AND THAT OF THE ITALIAN INTELLIGENCE SERVICES. USTICA HAS FOSTERED THE IMAGE THAT THE ARMED FORCES, ESPECIALLY THE AIR FORCE IN THIS CASE, ARE EITHER INCOMPETENT OR DECEITFUL. TO DATE, [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] TO EXPLAIN THE CRASH DESPITE TEN YEARS OF INVESTIGATION. DURING THE INVESTIGATION, IN MANY INSTANCES EVIDENCE WAS NOT TURNED OVER PROMPTLY TO THE JUDICIARY OR WAS SIMPLY FOUND TO BE MISSING. THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE INTELLIGENCE SERVICES HAS ALSO COME INTO QUESTION. LELIO LAGORIO (PSI),

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MINISTER OF DEFENSE AT THE TIME OF THE USTICA TRAGEDY, TOLD THE INTERPARLIAMENTARY COMMISSION LOOKING INTO THE CASE THAT HE DID NOT CONTACT THE ITALIAN SECRET SERVICES ON USTICA BECAUSE THEY WERE "INEFFICIENT" AND "LACKED INTERNATIONAL CREDIBILITY". RINO FORMICA (PSI), MINISTER OF TRANSPORTATION AT THE TIME OF THE CRASH, TOLD THE INTERPARLIAMENTARY COMMISSION THAT "ONLY THE SECRET SERVICES KNEW WHAT HAPPENED AND THEY HAVE BEEN UNABLE OR UNWILLING TO GIVE AN EXPLANATION."

15. (C) USTICA HAS CLOUDED OR EVEN DAMAGED THE CAREERS OF VARIOUS HIGH-LEVEL MILITARY OFFICIALS.

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[REDACTED] HAS NOTED ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS THAT THE USTICA CASE HAS BEEN USED BY OPPONENTS

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INFO	LOG-00	ADS-00	INR-05	SS-01	OIC-02	CIAE-00	EB-01
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	JUSE-00	FBIE-00	SP-01	MMP-01	PRS-01	SCT-03	E-01
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R 221612Z JUN 90
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0223
INFO SECDEF WASHDC
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Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1990ROME12051

CHANNEL: n/a
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AMCONSUL MILAN
AMCONSUL NAPLES
AMCCONSUL PALERMO POUCH

SECTION 05 OF 07 ROME 12051

E.O. 12356:DECL:OADR
TAGS:MOPS, KPRP, EAIR, PTER, NATO, IT
SUBJECT: THE USTICA SCANDAL: WINNERS AND LOSERS

OF THE MILITARY TO QUESTION ITS COMPETENCE. PORTA

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REACTED TO THE PRESS TREATMENT OF THE USTICA AFFAIR, CLAIMING IT WAS A CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE ARMED FORCES AND CATEGORICALLY REJECTING THE THEORY THAT THE DC-9 WAS SHOT DOWN BY A MISSILE. SHORTLY BEFORE HIS RETIREMENT, PORTA WAS REPORTED TO HAVE SAID, "THE MISSILE HYPOTHESIS IS IMPROBABLE. BUT IN MY RETIREMENT I WILL BE READY TO ACCEPT PROOF OTHERWISE, JUST AS I AM READY TO BELIEVE SOMEONE WHO TELLS ME THAT DONKEYS FLY." IN FEBRUARY OF THIS YEAR, THE PRESS SPECULATED THAT AIR FORCE CHIEF OF STAFF GENERAL FRANCO PISANO WAS ABANDONED AS A CANDIDATE TO REPLACE PORTA AS CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE ARMED FORCES BECAUSE OF THE AIR FORCE'S MISCUES IN THE USTICA AFFAIR.

AS PISANO WAS A SUCCESSFUL AIR FORCE OFFICER WHO IN THE NORMAL ROTATION WOULD HAVE FOLLOWED A NAVY MAN (PORTA) TO THE TOP POSITION. IN DECEMBER OF 1989, IT WAS RUMORED THAT GENERAL ZENO TASCIO, CHIEF OF THE AIR FORCE INTELLIGENCE SERVICES AT THE TIME OF THE USTICA TRAGEDY, AND ONE OF THE LEADING CANDIDATES FOR A PRESTIGIOUS COMMAND IN NORTHERN ITALY, WAS PASSED OVER BECAUSE OF HIS CONTROVERSIAL TESTIMONY BEFORE THE INTERPARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE LOOKING INTO THE CASE.

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16. (C) IF THERE IS SOMETHING LEFT TO UNCOVER IN THE CASE WHICH WOULD EMBARRASS THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT, THE

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CAREERS OF A NUMBER OF POLITICIANS COULD BE AFFECTED. AS IS USUALLY THE CASE IN ITALIAN POLITICS, MANY OF THOSE WHO WERE IN GOVERNMENT TEN YEARS AGO ARE STILL IN GOVERNMENT TODAY. PRESIDENT FRANCESCO COSSIGA (DC) WAS PRIME MINISTER WHEN THE USTICA CRASH OCCURRED. IN JUNE 1989 HE MET WITH THE FAMILIES OF THE CRASH VICTIMS AND SAID THAT "NO ONE SHOULD DELUDE HIMSELF THAT THIS EVENT WILL BE FORGOTTEN AND THAT SILENCE WILL FALL UPON IT."

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THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORTATION WHEN THE THE CRASH OCCURRED IN 1980 AND NOW FINANCE MINISTER, RINO FORMICA (PSI), WAS CRITICIZED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE INTERPARLIAMENTARY COMMISSION LOOKING INTO USTICA AFTER HE TESTIFIED BEFORE THE COMMISSION. COMMISSION PRESIDENT GUALTIERI CHARGED THAT FORMICA DID NOT INFORM PARLIAMENT OF HIS CONVERSATION SHORTLY AFTER THE USTICA DISASTER WITH GENERAL RANA, HEAD OF THE ITALIAN AERONAUTIC REGISTRY, WHO ALLEGEDLY TOLD HIM THAT RADAR RECORDS SHOWED THAT A MISSILE HAD DOWNED THE DC-9. FORMICA ALSO GAVE SOME TESTIMONY BEFORE THE INTERPARLIAMENTARY COMMISSION WHICH SUPPOSEDLY COMPROMISED A FELLOW SOCIALIST, DEPUTY LELIO LAGORIO, MINISTER OF DEFENSE AT THE TIME OF THE USTICA INCIDENT. FORMICA TOLD THE COMMISSION THAT HE HAD TOLD LAGORIO IN 1980 THAT A MISSILE MIGHT HAVE HIT THE DC-9. WHEN CONFRONTED BY THE COMMISSION WITH FORMICA'S TESTIMONY, LAGORIO REPLIED THAT THE MISSILE THEORY WAS ONLY A RUMOR WHICH HE CONSIDERED "UNBELIEVABLE".

THE AMERICAN ANGLE

17. (C) THE USTICA ISSUE IS OF CONCERN TO THE U.S. BECAUSE OF ITS LONG-TERM EFFECTS ON OUR MILITARY TO MILITARY RELATIONS. WHEN THE INVESTIGATION INTO THE USTICA CASE WAS INITIATED, THE ITALIAN ARMED FORCES TURNED TO THE U.S. FOR INFORMATION ON THE WHEREABOUTS OF AMERICAN SHIPS AND PLANES IN THE TYRRHENIAN SEA AND IN OTHER LOCATIONS IN ITALY ON THE NIGHT OF THE CRASH. ALTHOUGH A LOGICAL STEP, IT FED A WIDER CRITICISM OF THE ITALIAN MILITARY AND THE GOVERNMENT THAT AMERICAN FORCES

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ACTION EUR-01

INFO	LOG-00	ADS-00	INR-05	SS-01	OIC-02	CIAE-00	EB-01
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R 221612Z JUN 90
 FM AMEMBASSY ROME
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 INFO SECDEF WASHDC
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[REDACTED] SECTION 06 OF 07 ROME 12051

E.O. 12356:DECL:OADR
 TAGS:MOPS, KPRP, EAIR, PTER, NATO, IT
 SUBJECT: THE USTICA SCANDAL: WINNERS AND LOSERS

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CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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HERE ARE GIVEN FREE REIN TO DO AS THEY WISH-- SO MUCH SO
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PAGE 02 ROME 12051 06 OF 07 221658Z

THAT ITALY HAS TO ASK AMERICANS FOR INFORMATION ABOUT
ACTIVITIES IN ITALIAN TERRITORY. SOME PARLIAMENTARIANS
CHARGED THAT ITALY HAD SURRENDERED ITS SOVEREIGNTY AND
WAS "SUBSERVIENT" TO THE U.S.

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THE USN HAS ASSURED THE ITALIANS THAT OUR EXERCISES AVOID
INTERFERENCE IN COMMERCIAL AIR TRAFFIC OPERATIONS.
SUPPLYING INFORMATION TO THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE EARLY ON
IN THE INVESTIGATION OF USTICA AS TO THE WHEREABOUTS OF
U.S. ASSETS WAS HELPFUL IN DEFLECTING CHARGES THAT A U.S.
AIRCRAFT WAS INVOLVED CHARGES THAT IT WAS A U.S.
MISSILE HAVE BEEN STRONGLY DENIED. RECENTLY, THERE HAVE
BEEN CHARGES IN THE PRESS THAT THE U.S. WAS REMISS IN
PROVIDING INFORMATION TO THE ITALIANS ABOUT USTICA.

OUTCOME

18. (C) WHAT WILL BE THE LIKELY OUTCOME OF THE USTICA
CASE? ON THE LEGAL SIDE, THE PANEL OF EXPERTS MOST
RECENTLY APPOINTED BY INVESTIGATING JUDGE BUCARELLI TO
DETERMINE THE CAUSE OF THE CRASH REACHED NO UNANIMOUS
CONCLUSION, MAKING IT AN ODDS ON BET THAT THE CASE WILL
HAVE NO DENOUEMENT ANY TIME SOON. IN THE WAKE OF THAT
FINDING, IT NOW APPEARS THE INDICTMENTS AGAINST THE 23
MILITARY OFFICERS AND NCOS WILL HAVE TO BE DISMISSED.

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HOWEVER, THE PRESS, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] IS NOT LETTING GO OF USTICA.

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RECENTLY, THE STATE TELEVISION NETWORK AND VARIOUS NEWSPAPERS HAVE REPORTED THAT RADAR RECORDS FROM THE NIGHT OF THE CRASH DISCOVERED AT THE POGGIO BALLONE STATION (NEAR GROSSETO IN TOSCANA) HAVE NOT YET BEEN SCRUTINIZED. REPORTEDLY, ON JUNE 30, THESE RECORDS WILL BE EXAMINED BY THE PANEL OF EXPERTS WHICH JUST SUBMITTED A DIVIDED DECISION ON THE CAUSE OF THE CRASH TO BUCARELLI. THE PRESIDENT OF THE INTERPARLIAMENTARY COMMISSION LOOKING INTO THE USTICA CASE HAS SAID THAT THE JUDICIARY SHOULD DISCOVER THE CAUSE OF THE CRASH WHILE THE COMMISSION SHOULD DETERMINE WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT TOOK THE NECESSARY ACTION IN THE WAKE OF THE INCIDENT. THAT SAID, MANY WHO COULD HAVE GIVEN USEFUL TESTIMONY HAVE DIED DURING THE PAST DECADE. MUCH EVIDENCE HAS BEEN LOST AND THOSE WHO MAY HAVE WANTED TO DESTROY EVIDENCE HAVE CERTAINLY HAD MORE THAN ENOUGH TIME TO DO SO.

19. (C) WE DOUBT THAT THE CASE WILL EVER REACH AN OUTCOME WHICH WILL EXPLAIN WHY THE PLANE CRASHED.

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WE EXPECT THAT THE CASE WILL CONTINUE TO BE THE FOCUS OF ACCUSATIONS AGAINST THE MILITARY, FOREIGN AGENTS, AND OTHER ENTITIES. AND IN ALL LIKELIHOOD, IT WILL BE SOME TIME BEFORE THE CASE IS RELEGATED TO THE ANNALS OF THE PARLIAMENT AND THE COURTS. FOR OUR PART, WE WILL CONTINUE TO AVOID ANY INVOLVEMENT IN THE CASE. AS NECESSARY, WE WILL INFORM THE PRESS OF THE STEPS THAT WERE TAKEN BY THE USG TO RESPOND TO QUESTIONS ABOUT POSSIBLE INVOLVEMENT OF U.S. ASSETS. OTHERWISE, WE WILL REFRAIN FROM ANY ACTIONS THAT

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INFO	LOG-00	ADS-00	INR-05	SS-01	OIC-02	CIAE-00	EB-01
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[REDACTED] SECTION 07 OF 07 ROME 12051

E.O. 12356:DECL:OADR
 TAGS:MOPS, KPRP, EAIR, PTER, NATO, IT
 SUBJECT: THE USTICA SCANDAL: WINNERS AND LOSERS

WOULD SERVE TO PULL US INTO THIS SEAMLESS WEB CALLED

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USTICA.
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Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1990ROME12228

CHANNEL: n/a
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PAGE 01 ROME 12228 261814Z
ACTION EUR-01

INFO	LOG-00	ADS-00	INR-05	SS-01	CIAE-00	EB-01	NEA-01
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 AMCONSUL NAPLES
 AMCONSUL PALERMO POUCH

UNCLAS ROME 12228

E.O. 12356: N/A
 TAGS: MOPS, EAIR, PTER, NATO IT
 SUBJECT: USTICA: HEAD OF ITALIAN INTELLIGENCE SERVICE
 ACCUSES U.S., U.K., AND FRANCE OF LYING

REF: ROME 11934 (DTG 211457Z JUN 90)

1. ADMIRAL FULVIO MARTINI, HEAD OF THE ITALIAN
 INTELLIGENCE SERVICES ("SISMI"), TESTIFIED ON JUNE 20

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BEFORE THE INTERPARLIAMENTARY COMMISSION LOOKING INTO THE
CRASH OF AN ITALIAN AIRLINER OFF THE COAST OF THE SMALL

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ISLAND OF USTICA IN SOUTHERN ITALY IN JUNE 1980.
ACCORDING TO LEADING LEFTIST DAILY "LA REPUBBLICA" JUNE 21, MARTINI TOLD THE COMMISSION THAT IN 1986 THE ITALIAN INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY ASKED EIGHT NATIONS FOR ANY INFORMATION THEY HAD ABOUT THE TRAGEDY. LEADING CENTRIST DAILY "CORRIERE DELLA SERA" JUNE 21 REPORTED THAT THE COUNTRIES WERE THE U.S., BRITAIN, FRANCE, ISRAEL, GREECE, LIBYA, YUGOSLAVIA, AND MALTA. ACCORDING TO "CORRIERE", ALL EXCEPT LIBYA REPLIED THAT THEY HAD NO INFORMATION. LIBYA REPORTEDLY REPLIED THAT IT HAD INSTITUTED A COMMISSION TO LOOK INTO THE INCIDENT.

2. "CORRIERE DELLA SERA" JUNE 21 REPORTED THAT MARTINI TOLD THE COMMISSION THAT HE IS NOT CONVINCED THAT THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITIES OF THE U.S., FRANCE, AND BRITAIN TOLD THE ITALIAN INTELLIGENCE SERVICE THE TRUTH WHEN THEY SAID THEY HAD NO INFORMATION ABOUT THE INCIDENT. ACCORDING TO "CORRIERE", MARTINI SAID THAT HE BELIEVES THAT THESE COUNTRIES DID NOT PROVIDE A TRUTHFUL RESPONSE BECAUSE IF THEY HAD BEEN INVOLVED IN SHOOTING DOWN THE DC-9, THAT IS WHAT THEIR ANSWER WOULD HAVE BEEN (THAT THEY KNEW NOTHING). MARTINI REPORTEDLY SAID THAT HE BELIEVES GREECE AND ISRAEL HAD NO "INTEREST". (COMMENT. IT IS NOT CLEAR IF MARTINI MEANT TO SAY THAT ISRAEL AND GREECE HAD NO REASON TO HAVE PLANES IN FLIGHT AT THE TIME OF THE ACCIDENT OR IF HE MEANT THAT THEY HAD NO INTEREST IN LYING TO THE ITALIAN INTELLIGENCE SERVICES. END COMMENT.) MARTINI IS SCHEDULED TO CONTINUE HIS TESTIMONY BEFORE THE INTERPARLIAMENTARY COMMISSION ON JUNE 27.

3. ACCORDING TO LEADING LEFTIST DAILY "LA REPUBBLICA"

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AND CENTRIST DAILIES "IL GIORNALE" AND "IL MESSAGGERO" JUNE 22, THE FRENCH AND U.S. EMBASSIES IN ROME REPLIED TO PRESS QUERIES BY REITERATING THEIR PREVIOUS PUBLIC POSITION THAT THERE WERE NO FRENCH OR U.S. MILITARY AIRCRAFT IN THE AREA OF USTICA ON THE NIGHT OF THE TRAGEDY. IN ADDITION, A U.S. EMBASSY SPOKESPERSON IS QUOTED AS STATING THAT THE U.S. RESPONDED TO ALL ITALIAN OFFICIAL REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION BY PROVIDING ALL PERTINENT DATA AVAILABLE TO THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT. (COMMENT: THE ABOVE ACCURATELY DESCRIBES OUR PUBLIC AFFAIRS ACTIONS. END COMMENT.)

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4. LEFTIST DAILY "LA REPUBBLICA" JUNE 21 REPORTED THAT THE PRESIDENT OF ITALY, FRANCESCO COSSIGA, MET JUNE 20 WITH FAMILY MEMBERS OF THE VICTIMS OF THE CRASH. ACCORDING TO "REPUBBLICA", COSSIGA TOLD THE VICTIMS' RELATIVES THAT "ANY ONE WHO BELIEVES THAT HE CAN BENEFIT POLITICALLY FROM THE USTICA SCANDAL IS A DETESTABLE HUMAN BEING." (COMMENT. THE USTICA CASE HAS PLAGUED SUCCESSIVE ITALIAN GOVERNMENTS FOR TEN YEARS. COSSIGA WAS DOUBTLESSLY REFERRING TO THE MANY POLITICIANS WHO HAVE USED THE SCANDAL AGAINST POLITICAL FOES WHO WERE IN GOVERNMENT AT THE TIME OF THE CRASH. END COMMENT.) "REPUBBLICA" REPORTED THAT COSSIGA SAID THAT NO ONE NEEDS TO REMIND HIM THAT HE WAS PRIME MINISTER WHEN THE CRASH OCCURRED, ALTHOUGH HE ONLY HELD THAT POSITION FOR TWO MONTHS. COSSIGA REPORTEDLY ALSO SAID THAT RIGHT AFTER THE CRASH EVERYONE THOUGHT IT WAS AN ORDINARY PLANE CRASH CAUSED BY STRUCTURAL FAILURE. "CORRIERE DELLA SERA" JUNE 21 REPORTED THAT COSSIGA ALSO TOLD THE DELEGATION OF FAMILY MEMBERS THAT HE WILL DO ALL IN HIS POWER SO THAT THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CRASH WILL BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE AND ESPECIALLY SO THAT THE TRUTH WILL COME OUT.
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PAGE 01 ROME 12456 281824Z
ACTION EUR-01

INFO	LOG-00	ADS-00	INR-05	SS-01	CIAE-00	EB-01	NSCE-00
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 FM AMEMBASSY ROME
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 AMCONSUL MILAN
 AMCONSUL NAPLES
 AMCONSUL PALERMO POUCH

[REDACTED] ROME 12456

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
 TAGS: MOPS, EAIR, PTER, NATO, IT
 SUBJECT: USTICA: INTELLIGENCE CHIEF AGAIN SUGGESTS
 U.S. OR FRENCH MISSILE DOWNED CIVILIAN AIRCRAFT

REF: ROME 12228
 1. (U) CONTINUING HIS TESTIMONY BEFORE AN
 INTERPARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE, ITALIAN INTELLIGENCE
 SERVICE ("SISMI") DIRECTOR ADMIRAL FULVIO MARTINI
 MARCH 27 REITERATED HIS "WORKING HYPOTHESIS" THAT
 EITHER A FRENCH OR AMERICAN MISSILE COULD HAVE SHOT

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DOWN THE AERITALIA PLANE THAT A DECADE AGO CRASHED
 MYSTERIOUSLY IN THE TYHRENNIAN SEA. IN CONTRAST TO

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HIS EARLIER STATEMENTS JUNE 20 BEFORE THE COMMITTEE, MARTINI, ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, HAS ELIMINATED BOTH THE BRITISH AND LIBYANS FROM THE LIST OF POSSIBLE CULPRITS IN THE AFFAIR-- THE BRITISH BECAUSE THEY HAD NO NAVAL PRESENCE IN THE AREA-- AND THE LIBYANS BECAUSE THEIR MIGS COULD NOT REACH THE TYRHENNIAN SEA AND THEN RETURN TO BASE IN LIBYA WITHOUT REFUELING.

2. (U) ALL MAJOR ROME NEWSPAPERS GAVE MARTINI'S COMMENTS HEAVY COVERAGE, INCLUDING FRENCH AND U.S. EMBASSY "DENIALS" OF HIS ALLEGATIONS. MARTINI IS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT: "THE FACT IS, IF THERE IS A MISSILE, THEN THERE IS A PLANE FROM WHICH IT WAS LAUNCHED, AND RADAR THAT GUIDED IT. THE ONLY COUNTRIES IN THE AREA OF THE TYRHENNIAN SEA WHICH HAVE A MILITARY PRESENCE CAPABLE OF SUCH AN OPERATION ARE THE U.S. AND FRANCE." MARTINI, ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, SAID THAT IT WAS "NONSENSICAL" THAT THE AMERICAN SIXTH FLEET COULD CONCEIVABLY HAVE TURNED OFF ITS RADAR (WHEN IN PORT). HE ADDED THAT THE COMPANY CHARGED WITH RETRIEVING THE REMAINS OF THE CIVILIAN AIRCRAFT-- "IFREMER"-- HAS "CLOSE TIES" WITH THE FRENCH SECRET SERVICES.

3. (U) ASKED WHY THE LIBYANS HAVE REFRAINED FROM BLAMING THE FRENCH OR THE AMERICANS, MARTINI RESPONDED THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN COUNTRIES ARE NEVER BLACK OR WHITE-- THEY ARE SOONER "GRAY". THE FRENCH SUPPORTED THE CHADIANS AGAINST THE LIBYANS, BUT AT THE SAME TIME THE LIBYANS HAD FRENCH MIRAGES TO WAGE WAR AGAINST CHAD. SIMILARLY, THE AMERICANS, WHO HAD BROKEN ALL

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RELATIONS WITH QADDAFI, STILL HAD ABOUT FIVE THOUSAND WORKERS IN LIBYA. GOING ONE STEP FURTHER, MARTINI IS REPORTED TO HAVE SAID THAT QADDAFI CONTINUED PAYING HIS ROYALTIES TO "SMALL PETROLEUM COMPANIES" IN TEXAS. THEREFORE, EVEN GEORGE BUSH'S ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN WAS IN PART FINANCED BY QADDAFI, THROUGH PETRODOLLARS.

4. (C) COMMENT. OUR CONSISTENT POLICY THROUGHOUT THE SEVERAL YEARS THAT THIS SCANDAL HAS GRIPPED THE ITALIAN POLITICAL WORLD HAS BEEN TO REITERATE THAT WE HAVE SUPPLIED ALL AVAILABLE INFORMATION TO THE GOI,

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AND THAT NO U.S. PLANES OR SHIPS WERE IN THE AREA AT THE TIME OF THE ACCIDENT, NOR WERE ANY U.S. MISSILES FIRED. WE WILL CONTINUE TO ADHERE TO THAT PRESS GUIDANCE, AS ANY CHANGE IN OUR PUBLIC LINE WOULD IMMEDIATELY BE TAKEN HERE AS SUGGESTING SOME CHANGE IN OUR POSITION. THAT SAID, IT IS UNACCEPTABLE THAT A GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL OF MARTINI'S RANK HAS POINTED THE FINGER AT THE UNITED STATES, EVEN IF IT IS ONLY HIS "WORKING HYPOTHESIS." THE AMBASSADOR, WHEN HE RETURNS TO ROME JUNE 30, INTENDS TO CONTACT THE PRIME MINISTER TO UNDERLINE OUR DISPLEASURE WITH THE SISMI CHIEF'S STATEMENTS.
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ACTION EUR-01

INFO LOG-00 ADS-00 INR-05 SS-01 CIAE-00 EB-01 NSCE-00
NSAE-00 COME-00 SSO-01 L-03 DOTE-00 STR-18 INRE-00
JUSE-00 DS-01 E-01 /032 W

-----163206 031259Z /41

P 031111Z JUL 90
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0506
INFO SECDEF WASHDC
USIA WASHDC 3637
JCS WASHDC
DIA WASHDC
FAA WASHDC
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY VALLETTA
USCINCEUR VAHINGEN GE
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE
AMCONSUL MILAN
AMCONSUL NAPLES
AMCONSUL PALERMO POUCH

ROME 12565

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: MOPS, EAIR, PTER, NATO, IT
SUBJ: USTICA: AMBASSADOR "DISAPPOINTED" BY
- INTELLIGENCE CHIEF'S SPECULATION

REF: ROME 12456

1. ENTIRE TEXT
2. THE AMBASSADOR ASKED THE PRIME MINISTER'S
DIPLOMATIC ADVISOR JULY 8 TO CONVEY TO ANDREOTTI

PAGE 02 ROME 12565 031117Z

EXTEND CLASSIFICATION

HIS DISAPPOINTMENT OVER SPECULATION LINKING THE U.S.
MILITARY TO THE USTICA PLANE CRASH. IN A SUNDAY

Page - 436

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: ERIC W. FLEISHER
DATE/CASE ID: 1 OCT 2002 200102359
CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL REASON: 1.6(6) UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1990ROME12565

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

98

TELEPHONE CALL, THE AMBASSADOR EXPLAINED THAT HE HAD JUST RETURNED FROM NAPLES AND THAT THIS WAS, THEREFORE, HIS FIRST OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT ON SISMI CHIEF ADMIRAL MARTINI'S REMARKS. THE AMBASSADOR REITERATED THAT THE U.S. HAD SUPPLIED THE GOI ALL THE INFORMATION AVAILABLE, THAT NO U.S. SHIP OR PLANE HAD BEEN IN THE AREA AT THE TIME OF THE CRASH AND THAT NO MISSILE HAD BEEN FIRED.

3.

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Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1990ROME13264

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a
RELEASED IN FULL

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PAGE 01 ROME 13264 131411Z
ACTION EUR-01

INFO	LOG-00	ADS-00	INR-05	SS-01	CIAE-00	EB-01	NSAE-00
	COME-00	SSO-01	L-03	PA-02	DOTE-00	STR-18	INRE-00
	JUSE-00	SP-01	PRS-01	DS-01	SCT-03	E-01	/039 W
					-----067064	131416Z	/48

O 131356Z JUL 90
 FM AMEMBASSY ROME
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0917
 SECDEF WASHDC
 CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK//PAO//POLAD//
 INFO JCS WASHDC
 USIA WASHDC 3695
 DIA WASHDC
 FAA WASHDC
 USMISSION USNATO
 AMEMBASSY BONN
 AMEMBASSY PARIS
 AMEMBASSY LONDON
 AMEMBASSY VALLETTA
 USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
 CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE
 AMCONSUL MILAN
 AMCONSUL NAPLES
 USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT
 AMCONSUL PALERMO POUCH

UNCLAS ROME 13264

E.O. 12356: N/A
 TAGS: MOPS, EAIR, PTER, NATO, IT
 SUBJECT: USTICA: TESTIMONY THAT U.S. TOOK PICTURES OF
 - - PLANE WRECKAGE

REF: ROME 12768 (DTG 051748Z JUL 90)

1. SUMMARY: ITALIAN PRESS JULY 12 GAVE PROMINENT

PAGE 02 ROME 13264 131411Z

COVERAGE TO YESTERDAY'S TESTIMONY FROM GIULIANO AMATO.
AMATO TESTIFIED THAT IN 1986 INVESTIGATIVE JUDGE

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Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1990ROME13264

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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BUCARELLI TOLD HIM THAT HE HAD UNDERWATER PICTURES OF THE ITAVIA (USTICA) WRECK TAKEN BY "AMERICANS." BUCARELLI'S DENIAL PROMPTED AMATO TO DECLARE THAT HE WAS NOT IN THE HABIT OF LYING. END SUMMARY.

2. GIULIANO AMATO, WHO IS CURRENTLY PSI VICE-SECRETARY AND WAS UNDER SECRETARY TO THE PRIME MINISTER WHEN THAT POST WAS OCCUPIED BY BETTINO CRAXI, TESTIFIED JULY 11 BEFORE THE INTERPARLIAMENTARY COMMISSION LOOKING INTO THE JUNE 1980 AIRLINE CRASH OFF THE ISLAND OF USTICA. HIS COMMENTS CENTERED ON HIS OWN INVESTIGATORY EFFORTS FOUR YEARS AGO. AMATO POINTED THE FINGER AT JUDGE BUCARELLI AND AT THE ITALIAN AIR FORCE, WHOM HE SAID PROVIDED HIM WITH FALSE INFORMATION REGARDING THE TECHNICAL ABILITY OF ITALIAN MILITARY RADAR EQUIPMENT. ALTHOUGH AMATO MADE IT CLEAR HE WAS NEVER CONVINCED THAT THE ITALIAN AIR FORCE COULD RECEIVE ONLY RADAR INFORMATION FROM MILITARY AIRCRAFT, HE TESTIFIED HE WAS UNABLE TO GET ANY OTHER ANSWER FROM TOP RANKING AIR FORCE BRASS.

3. DISCUSSION OF PHOTOGRAPHS ALSO AFFORDED THE PRESS A CHANCE TO HAMMER AWAY AT ANOTHER FAVORITE RUMOR...REPORTED TIES BETWEEN "IFREMER," THE FRENCH COMPANY WHICH CARRIED OUT THE RECOVERY OPERATION OF THE WRECK, AND THE FRENCH SECRET SERVICE. IN JUDGE BUCARELLI'S DENIAL OF AMATO'S STATEMENT, HE MAINTAINED THAT THE ONLY PHOTOGRAPHS HE HAD EVER SEEN WERE THOSE TAKEN BY "IFREMER" DURING THE INQUIRY JUST PRIOR TO THE RECOVERY OPERATION. AMATO INSISTS THAT THE PICTURES UNDER DISCUSSION WERE IN EXISTENCE EVEN BEFORE THE CONTRACT HAD BEEN AWARDED TO "IFREMER."

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

PAGE 03 ROME 13264 131411Z

4. AMATO'S TESTIMONY IS YET MORE FUEL IN A DISCUSSION WHICH BECOMES EVER MORE EMOTIONAL. IN AN ELEVEN PAGE STATEMENT RELEASED ON JULY 6, PRESIDENT COSSIGA EXPRESSED HIS "ANGER THAT GOVERNMENT, PARLIAMENT AND PUBLIC OPINION HAD BEEN LED ASTRAY AT THE TIME OF THE TRAGEDY." COSSIGA'S COMMENTS EXPLAIN WHY THIS INVESTIGATION WON'T GO AWAY:


"THIS IS NOT SIMPLY A POLITICAL OR LEGAL CASE. IT IS EXCEPTIONAL IN THAT IT INVOLVES THE CREDIBILITY OF PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS BECAUSE IT PUTS IN DOUBT THE CAPACITY OF THE STATE TO RENDER JUSTICE."

5. COMMENT: AMATO'S STATEMENT FITS RIGHT IN WITH

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Date Printed:
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DOC_NBR: 1990ROME13264

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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WHAT THE ITALIAN RUMOR MILL HAS BEEN GRINDING OUT FOR YEARS. WITHIN A WEEK AFTER THE CRASH TEN YEARS AGO MCDONNELL DOUGLAS HAD CONDUCTED AN INVESTIGATION AND DECLARED THAT THE DISASTER WAS NOT THE RESULT OF ANY DEFECT IN THEIR DC-9. THE MEDIA SEEMS TO ASSUME THAT PHOTOGRAPHS WERE TAKEN AS A PART OF THE INVESTIGATION, MOST PROBABLY WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF U.S. NAVY INTELLIGENCE.

6. SHOULD WE BE APPROACHED ON THE QUESTION OF PICTURES, WE WILL REFER THE PRESS TO MCDONNELL DOUGLAS. SECCHIA


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Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1990ROME13999

CHANNEL: n/a
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PAGE 01 ROME 13999 251550Z
ACTION EUR-01

INFO	LOG-00	ADS-00	INR-05	SS-01	OIC-02	CIAE-00	EB-01
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	PM-01	PA-02	DOE-00	NRRC-01	INRE-00	ACDA-13	SP-01
	PRS-01	SCT-03	P-02	T-01	SB-01	/060 W	

-----215337 251623Z /43-41

O 251536Z JUL 90
 FM AMEMBASSY ROME
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1367
 SECDEF WASHDC
 INFO JCS WASHDC
 USIA WASHDC 3750
 DIA WASHDC
 FAA WASHDC
 USMISSION USNATO
 AMEMBASSY VALLETTA
 USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
 CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE
 AMEMBASSY PARIS
 AMEMBASSY LONDON
 AMCONSUL MILAN
 AMCONSUL NAPLES
 AMCONSUL PALERMO POUCH

UNCLAS ROME 13999

E.O. 12356: N/A
 TAGS: PINR, NATO, IT, UR
 SUBJECT: USTICA: COMMISSION PLANS TRIP TO THE U.S.
 AND A NEW INVESTIGATOR TAKES OVER.

1. JULY 25 NEWSPAPERS ANNOUNCED PLANS BY THE
 PARLIAMENTARY INVESTIGATORY COMMISSION TO SCHEDULE A
 TRIP TO THE U.S. IN SEPTEMBER. THE MEDIA ASSUMES THAT
 THE COMMISSION WANTS TO HEAR TESTIMONY FROM JOHN
 MACIDULL (DESCRIBED AS AN NTSB EXPERT AND INITIAL

PAGE 02 ROME 13999 251550Z

PROPONENT OF THE MISSILE THEORY), JOHN TRANSUE (EX-
 PENTAGON CONSULTANT), ADMIRAL JAMES FLATLEY (COMMANDER

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DOC_NBR: 1990ROME13999

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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OF THE SARATOGA AT THE TIME OF THE USTICA CRASH), AND THE MCDONNELL DOUGLAS EXPERTS WHO CONDUCTED THE FIRST INVESTIGATION AND "WHO CONCLUDED THAT THE AIRPLANE WAS HIT BY A MISSILE."

2. THE USTICA SAGA SEEMS TO HAVE GOTTEN A FRESH WIND. AS OF 7/23/90, AND AS HE REQUESTED, JUDGE BUCARELLI IS NO LONGER IN CHARGE OF THE INVESTIGATION. HIS REPLACEMENT IS JUDGE ROSARIO PRIORE, WELL KNOWN IN ITALY AND IN U.S. COUNTERTERRORISM CIRCLES AS BEING ONE OF THE MORE EFFECTIVE MAGISTRATES DURING THE "YEARS OF LEAD." HE WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ARREST AND PROSECUTION OF MANY RED BRIGADES MEMBERS. ALTHOUGH PRIORE MAY HAVE THE ABILITY, STYLE AND REPUTATION TO BRING THE USTICA INVESTIGATION TO AN ORDERLY CONCLUSION, HE WILL HAVE TO BE PROMPT ABOUT IT. NEXT OCTOBER 24, IF THE CASE IS STILL UNRESOLVED, THE NEW PENAL CODE REQUIRES IT TO PASS TO YET ANOTHER REVIEWING JUDGE.
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Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1990ROME17182

CHANNEL: n/a
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PAGE 01 ROME 17182 01 OF 02 140153Z
ACTION EUR-01

INFO	LOG-00	ADS-00	INR-05	SS-01	OIC-02	CIAE-00	EB-01
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	PA-01	DOTÉ-00	NRRC-01	INRE-00	ACDA-13	JUSE-00	SP-01
	PRS-01	SCT-03	P-02	T-01	SB-01	/058 W	

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R 131452Z SEP 90
 FM AMEMBASSY ROME
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3278
 INFO SECDEF WASHDC
 JCS WASHDC
 USIA WASHDC 3963
 DIA WASHDC
 FAA WASHDC
 CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
 USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
 USCINCEUR USNMR SHAPE BE
 USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT
 USMISSION USNATO
 AMCONSUL NAPLES

SECTION 01 OF 02 ROME 17182

STATE PASS DOJ OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

E.O. 12356: N/A
 TAGS: MOPS, EAIR, PTER, NATO, IT
 SUBJECT: USTICA: INVESTIGATION WILL MOVE TO U.S.

REF: A)ROME 12768, B)ROME 14831

1. (U) THE ITALIAN BUREAUCRACY IS BACK AT WORK FOLLOWING
 AUGUST VACATIONS. FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A MONTH THERE IS
 MOVEMENT IN THE ONGOING INVESTIGATIONS INTO THE CRASH OF
 AN ATAVIA JET TEN YEARS AGO OFF THE ISLAND OF USTICA.
 ACCORDING TO THE ITALIAN WIRE SERVICE AND THE ROME PRESS,

PAGE 02 ROME 17182 01 OF 02 140153Z

MAGISTRATE ROSARIO PRIORE ANNOUNCED SEPTEMBER 7 THAT THE
BOARD OF INVESTIGATORY EXPERTS WOULD RECONVENE ON

Page - 490

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: WILLIAM J. GEHRON
 DATE/CASE ID: 25 FEB 2003 200102359
 CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL REASON: 1.6(6)
 DECLASSIFY AFTER: 13 SEP 2015

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Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1990ROME17182

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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SEPTEMBER 25. PRIORE ALSO MADE OFFICIAL MODIFICATIONS IN THE BOARD'S CAST OF CHARACTERS AS ORIGINALLY NAMED BY PRIORE'S PREDECESSOR, VITTORIO BUCARELLI. SINCE TAKING ON THE JOB FOLLOWING BUCARELLI'S RESIGNATION AT THE END OF JULY, PRIORE HAS TAKEN STEPS TO RESPOND TO SUGGESTIONS BY THE VICTIMS' FAMILIES AND TO INFUSE THE INVESTIGATION WITH FRESH ENTHUSIASM. THE ASSOCIATION OF FAMILIES HAD LOBBIED HEAVILY AGAINST HAVING EXPERTS (THE 2 BRITISH AND 1 GERMAN) FROM COUNTRIES THEY VIEW AS POTENTIALLY "INVOLVED"; PRIORE'S TWO NEWEST APPOINTMENTS ARE FROM A NON-NATO COUNTRY, SWEDEN.

2. (U) ALSO CONFIRMED BY VARIOUS PRESS SOURCES IS PRIORE'S INTENTION TO MOVE THE INVESTIGATION TO THE UNITED STATES IN ORDER TO QUESTION CERTAIN AMERICAN OFFICIALS. "IL MESSAGERO," ROME'S CENTRIST DAILY, STATED THAT "THE MAGISTRATE HAS ALREADY FORWARDED TO AMERICAN AUTHORITIES A ROGATORY REQUEST TO INTERROGATE CERTAIN OFFICIALS WHO, IN 1980, WERE SERVING IN NAPLES WORKING WITH THE NATO ALLIANCE." PRIORE IS SAID TO BE INTERESTED IN PARTICULAR IN HEARING THE TESTIMONY OF RETIRED ADMIRAL JAMES FLATLEY. AN INTERVIEW WITH FLATLEY ON ITALIAN TV, SOON AFTER THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CRASH, GRABBED NEWSPAPER HEADLINES (REF A). FLATLEY'S COMMENTS HAVE GIVEN RISE TO PRESS SPECULATION THAT PRIORE WILL ACQUIRE SARATOGA RADAR TAPES FROM THE NIGHT OF JUNE 27, 1980 WHILE HE IS IN THE UNITED STATES.

3. (U) UNDER ITALY'S NEW PENAL CODE, THE INVESTIGATORY BOARD HAS ONLY UNTIL OCTOBER 24 TO COMPLETE ITS STUDY. PRIORE CLEARLY INTENDS TO GIVE IT

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HIS BEST SHOT; TO FACILITATE THE WORK OF THE EXPERTS HE HAS ORDERED THE REMAINS OF THE DC-9, CURRENTLY IN STORAGE IN NAPLES, TO BE TRANSFERRED TO ROME. "LA REPUBBLICA," ROME'S LEFTIST DAILY, STATES THAT "THE PALACE OF JUSTICE IS WAITING TO KNOW IF THE UNITED STATES WILL CONSENT TO THE ROGATORY."

4. (U) EMBASSY (DOJ) RECEIVED THE ABOVE MENTIONED LETTERS ROGATORY YESTERDAY, SEPTEMBER 12. IN THEM, PRIORE ASKS TO TAKE "FLATLEY'S STATEMENT AS WELL AS THOSE OF OTHERS WHO ARE KNOWLEDGABLE." (PRIORE ALSO MAKES REFERENCE TO A JULY 12 ROGATORY REQUESTING THE

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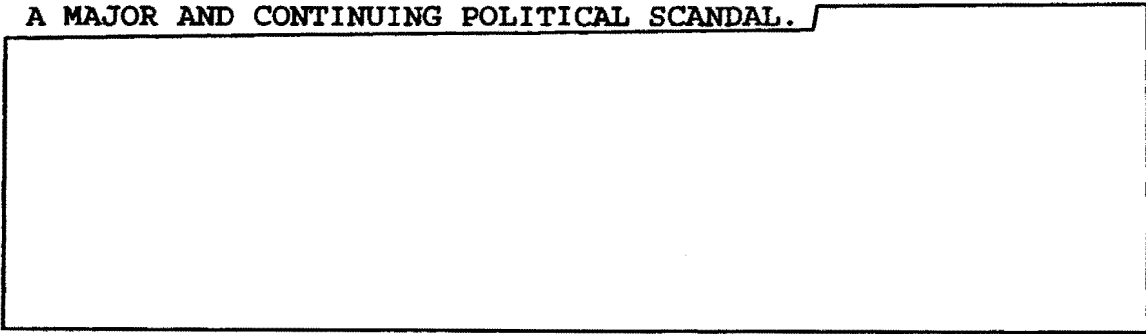
CHANNEL: n/a
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U.S. TO RELEASE ANY RELEVANT RADAR TAPES IN ITS POSSESSION. DOJ NEVER RECEIVED THIS; WE BELIEVE HE MAY BE REFERRING TO A JULY 26 INTERPOL REQUEST REGARDING RADAR TAPES SENT TO EMBASSY LEGATT.) EMBASSY (DOJ) WILL FORWARD REQUESTS IMMEDIATELY TO DOJ OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS (DREW ARENA), WASHDC. THIS MOST RECENT ROGATORY IS CAUTIOUSLY WORDED AND COMPLETELY IN ORDER FROM A LEGAL STANDPOINT.

5. (C) COMMENT. PRIORE APPEARS TO BE A SERIOUS PLAYER WHO WANTS TO BRING THE USTICA CASE TO A CLOSE, AT LEAST AS FAR AS THE COURTS ARE CONCERNED. THAT SAID, WE DOUBT THAT HE IS IN A POSITION TO WRESTLE DOWN WHAT HAS BECOME A MAJOR AND CONTINUING POLITICAL SCANDAL.

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PAGE 01 ROME 17182 02 OF 02 140153Z
ACTION EUR-01

INFO LOG-00	ADS-00	INR-05	SS-01	OIC-02	CIAE-00	EB-01
H-01	IO-19	NSCE-00	NSAE-00	L-03	TRSE-00	PM-01
PA-01	DOTE-00	NRRC-01	INRE-00	ACDA-13	JUSE-00	SP-01
PRS-01	SCT-03	P-02	T-01	SB-01	/058 W	

-----356660 161349Z /49 38

R 131452Z SEP 90
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3279
INFO SECDEF WASHDC
JCS WASHDC
USIA WASHDC 3964
DIA WASHDC
FAA WASHDC
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
USCINCEUR USNMR BE
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

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Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

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DOC_NBR: 1990ROME17182

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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USMISSION USNATO
AMCONSUL NAPLES

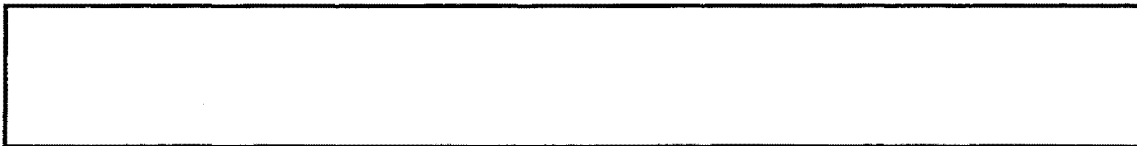
██████████ SECTION 02 OF 02 ROME 17182

STATE PASS DOJ OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: MOPS, EAIR, PTER, NATO, IT

SUBJECT: USTICA: INVESTIGATION WCLL MOVE TO UQS.



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Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1990ROME19012

CHANNEL: n/a
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PAGE 01 ROME 19012 111941Z
ACTION EUR-01

INFO LOG-00 ADS-00 INR-05 CIAE-00 EB-01 DODE-00 NEA-01
NSAE-00 PM-01 PA-02 DOTE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 SP-01
PRS-01 /013 W

-----027441 122024Z /72

R 111913Z OCT 90
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4404
SECDEF WASHDC
INFO JCS WASHDC
USIA WASHDC 4067
DIA WASHDC
FAA WASHDC
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY VALLETTA
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL MILAN
AMCONSUL NAPLES
AMCONSUL PALERMO POUCH

UNCLAS ROME 19012

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: PINR, NATO, IT, UR
SUBJECT: USTICA UPDATE: FOCUS SHIFTS TO LIBYAN MIG

REF: A)ROME 18433, B)ROME 12051

1. SUMMARY. RECENT MEDIA COVERAGE HAS FOCUSED ON
INCONSISTENCIES FOUND IN EARLIER INQUIRIES INTO THE
CALABRIA CRASH OF A LIBYAN MIG TWO WEEKS AFTER AN
ITAVIA JET CRASHED OFF THE ISLAND OF USTICA JUNE 27,
1980. THE DISAPPEARANCE FROM THE CROTONE ARCHIVES OF

PAGE 02 ROME 19012 111941Z

AN AUTOPSY REPORT ON THE MIG'S PILOT HAS AGAIN FUELED
SPECULATION THAT THERE IS A CONNECTION BETWEEN THE TWO

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Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1990ROME19012

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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INCIDENTS. END SUMMARY.

2. FOLLOWING THE SUBMISSION OF THEIR PRELIMINARY REPORT (REF. A), THE INTERPARLIAMENTARY COMMISSION CONVENED ON OCTOBER 10 TO SCHEDULE FURTHER HEARINGS. FIRST UP WILL BE THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE, VIRGINIO ROGNONI, WHO WAS MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR IN 1980, AND THE CHIEF OF POLICE, VINCENZO PARISI, WHO WAS NUMBER TWO IN SISDE AT THE TIME. SISDE IS THE THE INTELLIGENCE SERVICE ATTACHED TO THE MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR.

3. DURING THE FOUR DAY PERIOD PRIOR TO THE CONVOCAION OF THE COMMISSION, ROME PAPERS WERE BUSY WITH THE LIBYAN MIG CONNECTION. MAGISTRATE PRIORE'S TRAVELS TO THE SITE OF THE CRASH ALTERNATED WITH DESCRIPTIONS OF A SHEPHERD AND A FARMWOMAN, LONG AGO EYEWITNESSES. NOT VERY FAR BEHIND THE FLURRY OF JUDICIAL ACTIVITY AND REPORTING IS THE SUSPICION THAT THE ITALIAN INTELLIGENCE SERVICES (SISDE AND SISMI, THE MILITARY INTELLIGENCE SERVICE) ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR 10 YEARS OF INEFFECTIVE INVESTIGATIONS. SENATOR GUALTIERI, THE PRESIDENT OF THE COMMISSION, IS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT "ACCORDING TO PARISI, THE GAME OF DISINFORMATION PLAYED A KEY ROLE IN WHAT HAPPENED, WHETHER TO THROW THE INVESTIGATION OFF TRACK OR TO DAMAGE CERTAIN INSTITUTIONS INTERNALLY. THIS IS A CONCLUSION WITH WHICH WE CAN AGREE."

4. "LA REPUBBLICA," A LEFTIST DAILY, RAN A SHORT PIECE OCTOBER 11 HIGHLIGHTING THE INTERNAL POLITICAL

PAGE 03 ROME 19012 111941Z

STRUGGLE TO GUIDE THE PROGRAM OF HEARINGS WHICH BEGIN NEXT WEEK. ACCORDING TO THE NEWSPAPER, THE LEFT IS CALLING FOR EVERY MINISTER SINCE 1980 TO BE CALLED TO TESTIFY. THE ARTICLE ENDS ON A MORE REALISTIC NOTE. "ROGNONI WILL BE ASKED IF HE INTENDS TO TAKE ACTION AGAINST THOSE MILITARY PERSONNEL WHO ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR GRAVE NEGLIGENCE OR DERELICTION OF DUTY."
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Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1990ROME21086

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a
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PAGE 01 ROME 21086 131040Z
ACTION EUR-01

INFO LOG-00 ADS-00 CIAE-00 DOTE-00 DS-01 EB-01 INRE-00
INR-05 NEA-01 NSAE-00 PA-02 PRS-01 SCT-03 SP-01
/016W

-----20AE12 131040Z /12

R 131040Z NOV 90
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5704
SECDEF WASHDC
INFO RUEKJCS/JCS WASHDC
USIA WASHDC 4226
DIA WASHDC
FAA WASHDC
USMISSION USNATO 0647
AMEMBASSY VALLETTA
USCINCEUR VAHINGEN GE
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL MILAN
AMCONSUL NAPLES
AMCONSUL PALERMO POUCH

UNCLAS ROME 21086

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: PINR, NATO, PREL, IT
SUBJECT: USTICA UPDATE: FOCUS STAYS ON LIBYAN MIG

REF: A) ROME 19012

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PAGE 02 ROME 21086 131040Z

1. SUMMARY. THIS PAST MONTH'S MEDIA COVERAGE HAS CONTINUED TO FOCUS ON THE CALABRIA CRASH OF A LIBYAN MIG TWO WEEKS AFTER THE ITAVIA AIRLINES JET CRASHED OFF THE ISLAND OF USTICA JUNE 27, 1980. THE PRESS IS CURRENTLY SUGGESTING THAT UNDER THE DIRECTION OF MAGISTRATE PRIORE, THE INVESTIGATION HAS DEMONSTRATED THAT THE TWO CRASHES ARE PROBABLY CONNECTED, AND MAY ACTUALLY HAVE OCCURRED ON THE SAME DAY. END SUMMARY.

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Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

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DOC_NBR: 1990ROME21086

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2. THE INVESTIGATION HAS RECEIVED STEADY COVERAGE SINCE OUR LAST UPDATE, OCTOBER 11. JUDGE PRIORE HAS CONCENTRATED ON DIGGING UP MORE HARD EVIDENCE, EVEN AFTER TEN YEARS, AND AMAZINGLY ENOUGH HAS ACTUALLY FOUND SOME. THREE WAS THE MAGIC NUMBER; ON HIS THIRD TRIP TO CALABRIA, MIG WRECKAGE MISSING SINCE JUST AFTER THE CRASH MIRACULOUSLY REAPPEARED IN THE CALABRIAN COUNTRYSIDE AT A POINT OTHER THAN WHAT HAD BEEN PRESUMED TO BE THE CRASH SITE. PRIORE HAS ALSO ORDERED THAT BIDS BE TAKEN TOWARD THE RECOVERY OF THE ITAVIA FLIGHT RECORDER FROM THE SEA BOTTOM AND THAT TECHNICAL STUDIES BE MADE ON THE AUDIO AVAILABLE ON THE RECOVERED COCKPIT VOICE RECORDER TO DETERMINE WHETHER FURTHER CLUES CAN BE FOUND.

3. PRIORE HIRED THREE MORE INVESTIGATIVE EXPERTS, IN ADDITION TO THE EXISTING PANEL, JUST TO LOOK INTO A POSSIBLE CONNECTION BETWEEN THE JET AND THE LIBYAN MIG CRASHES. THE MEDIA DAILY OFFERS A REVIEW COURSE IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS: SPRING AND SUMMER 1980. THE PRESS HAS TAKEN THE VIEW THAT THE USTICA CRASH WAS A
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PAGE 03 ROME 21086 131040Z
TRAGIC CONSEQUENCE OF TANGLED RELATIONS AT THE TIME BETWEEN LIBYA AND THREE EUROPEAN COUNTRIES: FRANCE, GREAT BRITAIN AND ITALY. SUSPICION HAS ALSO BEEN THROWN ON THE ITALIAN SECRET SERVICES WHOSE RIGHT ARM CLAIMED TO BE IGNORANT OF WHAT THE LEFT WAS DOING. A RECENTLY TAPED INTERVIEW WITH COLONEL QADHAFI REGARDING THE EVENTS OF 1980 APPEARED ON ITALIAN TELEVISION NOVEMBER 1. QADHAFI REITERATED THE HYPOTHESIS THAT THE ITAVIA JET WAS SHOT DOWN ACCIDENTALLY DURING AN ATTEMPT TO ELIMINATE QADHAFI HIMSELF. HE THANKED THE ITALIAN SECRET SERVICES FOR SAVING HIM FROM THE COUP WHICH HE SAID WAS PLOTTED BY THE FRENCH AND THE U.S., WITH ITALIAN COOPERATION.

4. ANOTHER INTERVIEW, WHICH RECEIVED GREATER PRESS COVERAGE, DISTANCED US FROM THE IMBROGLIO. VINCENZO PARISI, WHO IS CURRENTLY NATIONAL CHIEF OF POLICE, TESTIFIED BEFORE THE INTERPARLIAMENTARY COMMISSION IN OCTOBER. AT THE TIME OF THE USTICA CRASH, AND UNTIL 1987, HE WAS THE SECOND IN COMMAND OF SISDE (THE ITALIAN DOMESTIC SECURITY SERVICE). ACCORDING TO "CORRIERE DELLA SERA," THE LEADING CENTRIST NEWSPAPER,

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16 Apr 2002

[REDACTED]
DOC_NBR: 1990ROME21086

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

114

PARISI DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT THE UNITED STATES BEARS ANY RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE USTICA CRASH, "NOT AT ALL. I EXCLUDE IT (THE POSSIBILITY)." HE IMPLICITLY PLACED THE BLAME ON FRANCE AND LIBYA. PARISI TESTIFIED THAT HE IS CERTAIN THE USTICA CRASH WAS THE RESULT OF A MISSILE, AN ACT OF INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM CENTERED AMIDST THE WAR IN CHAD AND INTERNATIONAL ESPIONAGE EFFORTS TO PULL OFF A COUP IN TRIPOLI.
SERWER

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
PAGE 04

ROME 21086 131040Z

[REDACTED]
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A97

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16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1990ROME22483

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a
RELEASED IN FULL

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PAGE 01 ROME 22483 040818Z
ACTION EUR-01

INFO	LOG-00	ADS-00	CIAE-00	COME-00	DOTE-00	EB-01	E-01
	INRE-00	INR-05	JUSE-00	L-03	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	PA-02
	PM-01	PRS-01	SP-01	SSO-00	SS-01	/017W	
				-----25C210	040818Z	/11	

O 030810Z DEC 90
 FM AMEMBASSY ROME
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6602
 SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
 INFO RUEKJCS/JCS WASHDC
 USIA WASHDC 4318
 DIA WASHDC
 FAA WASHDC
 USMISSION USNATO 0663
 AMEMBASSY VALLETTA
 USCINCEUR VAHINGEN GE
 CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE
 AMEMBASSY PARIS
 AMEMBASSY LONDON
 AMCONSUL MILAN
 AMCONSUL NAPLES
 AMCONSUL PALERMO POUCH

UNCLAS ROME 22483

E.O. 12356: N/A
 TAGS: PINR, NATO, PREL, IT,
 SUBJECT: USTICA : MAGISTRATE IN U.S. TO QUESTION
 RETIRED ADMIRAL FLATLEY.

[REDACTED]

PAGE 02 ROME 22483 040818Z
REF: A) ROME 21086

1. SUMMARY. ONLY TWO ITALIAN DAILIES INFORMED READERS THAT THE USTICA INVESTIGATION HAD GONE ON THE ROAD. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, JUDGE PRIORE WILL QUESTION RETIRED ADMIRAL FLATLEY IN NEW YORK DECEMBER 3, 1990.

2. FLATLEY WAS THE ADMIRAL ON BOARD THE SARATOGA, THE

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Date Printed:
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CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

116

U.S. CARRIER IN THE BAY OF NAPLES JUNE 27, 1980, THE NIGHT THE ITAVIA JET MYSTERIOUSLY CRASHED OFF THE ISLAND OF USTICA. FLATLEY'S NAME HAS BEEN IN THE NEWS HERE SINCE HE WAS INTERVIEWED ON ITALIAN TV SOON AFTER THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CRASH. IT WAS DURING THAT INTERVIEW THAT HE SAID THE SARATOGA RADAR TAPE HAD SHOWN SOME ACTIVITY ON THE NIGHT IN QUESTION. THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE FACILITATED JUDGE PRIORE'S REQUEST TO TAKE RETIRED ADMIRAL FLATLEY'S TESTIMONY IN THE U.S. EMBASSY DOJ ATTACHE CONFIRMED THAT THE HEARING WAS SCHEDULED FOR 9:00AM DECEMBER 3, BUT IN WASHINGTON RATHER THAN NEW YORK.

3. ALTHOUGH "IL GIORNALE," ITALY'S LEADING CONSERVATIVE DAILY, REPORTED ONLY THAT PRIORE WOULD INTERROGATE FLATLEY, "IL TEMPO," ROME'S CENTRIST DAILY, OUTLINED PRIORE'S HOPES FOR THE OUTCOME AS WELL. "IL TEMPO," IN FACT SAID THAT "IT IS (PRIORE'S) INTENTION TO BRING BACK A COPY OF THE (SARATOGA) RADAR TAPE; IT COULD THEN BE ANALYZED IN SPECIAL ITALIAN MILITARY LABS, AND IN THE BRITISH R.A.R.D. LAB."

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

PAGE 03 ROME 22483 040818Z

4. COMMENT. EMBASSY WOULD VERY MUCH APPRECIATE ANY DETAILS USG CAN SUPPLY TO US ON THE RESULTS OF PRIORE'S ACTIVITIES IN THE U.S. WE WOULD UNDERLINE THAT THIS CASE CARRIES CONSIDERABLE POLITICAL OVERTONES; ADVANCE NOTICE OF ANY POSSIBLE AFTERSHOCKS FROM PRIORE'S TRIP WOULD BE WELCOME. END COMMENT.
SECCHIA

[REDACTED]

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AGS

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16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1990ROME23338

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a
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PAGE 01 ROME 23338 141719Z
ACTION EUR-01

INFO LOG-00 ADS-00 CIAE-00 DOTE-00 EB-01 INRE-00 INR-05
JUZE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 PA-02 PM-01 PRS-01
SP-01 SS-01 /016W

-----2AEEDB 142233Z /63

R 141431Z DEC 90
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7131
SECDEF WASHDC
INFO RUEKJCS/JCS WASHDC
USIA WASHDC 4395
DIA WASHDC
FAA WASHDC
USMISSION USNATO 0673
AMEMBASSY VALLETTA
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL MILAN
AMCONSUL NAPLES
AMCONSUL PALERMO (POUCH)

UNCLAS ROME 23338

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: PINR, NATO, PREL, IT,
SUBJECT: USTICA UPDATE: U.S. TRIP CREATES NO STIR.

REF: A) ROME 22483

PAGE 02 ROME 23338 141719Z

1. SUMMARY. THE USTICA INVESTIGATION CONTINUED TO RECEIVE STEADY MAGAZINE AND NEWSPAPER COVERAGE DURING THE PAST MONTH DESPITE A DEARTH OF NEW REVELATIONS. INVESTIGATING JUDGE PRIORE'S POTENTIALLY EXPLOSIVE TRIP TO THE U.S. WENT FLAT WHEN RETIRED ADMIRAL FLATLEY SAID HIS EARLIER TESTIMONY HAD BEEN MISUNDERSTOOD. END SUMMARY.

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DOC_NBR: 1990ROME23338

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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2. FLATLEY WAS THE COMMANDING OFFICER ON BOARD THE SARATOGA, THE U.S. CARRIER IN THE BAY OF NAPLES JUNE 27, 1980, THE NIGHT THE ITAVIA JET MYSTERIOUSLY CRASHED OFF THE ISLAND OF USTICA. FLATLEY'S NAME HAS BEEN IN THE NEWS HERE SINCE HE WAS INTERVIEWED ON ITALIAN TV SOON AFTER THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CRASH. IT WAS DURING THAT INTERVIEW THAT HE SAID THE SARATOGA RADAR TAPE HAD SHOWN SOME ACTIVITY ON THE NIGHT IN QUESTION. ACCORDING TO THE ITALIAN WIRE SERVICE, FLATLEY TESTIFIED IN WASHINGTON DECEMBER 3 THAT HIS STATEMENTS HAD BEEN EXAGGERATED AND THAT HE HAD BEEN MISUNDERSTOOD. CONSIDERING THE FLAP HIS PREVIOUS COMMENTS CAUSED, THERE WAS SURPRISINGLY LITTLE COVERAGE OF THIS ADMITTEDLY DULL DENOUEMENT.

3. THE FOCUS, IF THERE'S BEEN ONE THIS MONTH, HAS BEEN THE RECOVERY AND ANALYSIS OF THE WRECKAGE FROM THE ITAVIA JET AND THE LIBYAN MIG. THE REMAINS OF BOTH PLANES ARE NOW STORED IN A HANGER NEAR ROME, PREPARED FOR CAREFUL EXAMINATION BY EXPERTS. WHAT IS LEFT AT THE BOTTOM OF THE SEA WILL BE RECOVERED FOR A COST OF 10-15 BILLION LIRE (9-14 MILLION USD); THE

PAGE 03 ROME 23338 141719Z
NAME OF A CONTRACTOR IS TO BE ANNOUNCED SHORTLY. IFREMER, THE FRENCH FIRM WHO HANDLED THE ORIGINAL RECOVERY JOB IS STILL THE BUTT OF CRITICISM (ONLY 25% OF THE CRAFT WAS RECOVERED) AND SPECULATION (THE PRESS COMMONLY LINKS IFREMER WITH THE FRENCH INTELLIGENCE AGENCY).

4. COMMENT. USTICA IS A FULL BLOWN COMPLEX POLITICAL SCANDAL. MAGAZINE ARTICLES ARE ENTITLED "STAR DUST" AND "THE VALLEY OF THE LIES" TO PUT THE READING AUDIENCE IN THE MOOD. WHEN TEN YEAR OLD WRECKAGE FROM THE LIBYAN MIG WAS ONLY RECENTLY DISCOVERED IN A SPOT OTHER THAN WHAT HAD BEEN PRESUMED TO BE THE CRASH SITE, AN OBSERVANT JOURNALIST NOTED THE "MIG EQUALS GLADIO" PAINTED ON A ROCK NEARBY. THE ITALIAN PENCHANT FOR UNENDING POLITICAL RECRIMINATION IS IN FULL SWING; THE GOOD NEWS IS THAT THE U.S. IS WELL OUT OF THE CONVERSATION FOR THE TIME BEING. END COMMENT.
SECCHIA

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Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1991ROME11770

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a
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PAGE 01 ROME 11770 270851Z
ACTION EUR-01

INFO	LOG-00	ADS-00	AMAD-01	CIAE-00	COME-00	DOTE-00	EB-01
	E-01	FAAE-00	INRE-00	INR-01	JUSE-00	L-03	NEA-01
	NSAE-00	PA-02	PRS-01	SP-01	SS-01	STR-18	USIE-00
	/032W						

-----76F0EB 270855Z /12

R 270850Z JUN 91
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5117
INFO SECDEF WASHDC
JCS WASHDC
USIA WASHDC 5491
USMISSION USNATO 0883

UNCLAS ROME 11770

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: PINR, NATO, PREL, IT
SUBJECT: USTICA INVESTIGATION: GETTING TO THE BOTTOM

REF: ROME 23338 (DTG 141431Z DEC 90)

1. NEWSPAPER COVERAGE OF THE USTICA INVESTIGATION IS AGAIN PICKING UP STEAM FOLLOWING A HIATUS DURING THE GULF CRISIS. RECOVERY OF THE REMAINING PIECES OF THE ITAVIA JET WHICH MYSTERIOUSLY CRASHED OFF THE ISLAND OF USTICA JUNE 27, 1980, BEGAN IN EARNEST IN APRIL 1991 AND HAS EARNED STEADY MEDIA COVERAGE AS THE WORK

[REDACTED]

PAGE 02 ROME 11770 270851Z
PROGRESSES. EVERY ITALIAN DAILY JUNE 26 (THE EVE OF THE TRAGEDY'S 11TH ANNIVERSARY) CARRIED THE NEWS THAT THE PARLIAMENTARY COMMISSION STUDYING THE DISASTER HAD JUST RECEIVED A REPORT THAT "ALMOST EVERYTHING THAT HAD BEEN MISSING OF THE DC9" HAD BEEN SPOTTED AT THE BOTTOM OF THE SEA.

2. WITH THIS NEWEST REVELATION, IFREMER, THE FRENCH FIRM WHICH HANDLED THE ORIGINAL RECOVERY JOB, HAS FINALLY EARNED THE CRITICISM IT'S BEEN TAKING FOR TEN YEARS. THE WRECKAGE LOCATED BY THE BRITISH FIRM

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DOC_NBR: 1991ROME11770

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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CURRENTLY UNDER CONTRACT IS SAID TO BE IN A LOCATION WHICH IFREMER HAD DENIED SHOWED ANY PROMISE OF REMAINS; A VIDEO WHICH IFREMER USED TO SUPPORT ITS FINDINGS SHOWS A BARREN SANDY BOTTOM ON THE SPOT WHERE THE REST OF THE ILL-FATED JET HAS BEEN FOUND. IFREMER INITIALLY RECOVERED ONLY 25% OF THE DC9. THERE IS BOUND TO BE A REVIVAL OF PRESS SPECULATION THAT LINKS IFREMER TO THE FRENCH INTELLIGENCE AGENCY.

3. INVESTIGATING MAGISTRATE ROSARIO PRIORE APPEARS TO BE MAKING PROGRESS. EVER SINCE THE INQUIRY WAS PLACED IN HIS HANDS JULY 1990, THE MEDIA HAS BEEN INCREASINGLY OPTIMISTIC THAT THERE WILL SOMEDAY BE ANSWERS. THE MOST OMINOUS PIECE OF NEWS REPORTED JUNE 26 WAS THAT, IN LIGHT OF THE DISCOVERY (AND THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE JET CAN LARGELY BE RECONSTRUCTED) LEGAL DEADLINES FOR FINDINGS WILL HAVE TO BE DELAYED. THE INVESTIGATION WILL NEVER BE FINISHED BY THE DECEMBER 31 DEADLINE IMPOSED BY THE NEW ITALIAN PENAL CODE; "A FURTHER POSTPONEMENT WILL HAVE TO BE OBTAINED THROUGH PROPOSAL AND PASSAGE OF A PARLIAMENTARY BILL." THERE IS NO

PAGE 03 ROME 11770 270851Z
DOUBT THAT THE USTICA QUESTION WILL BE WITH US A WHILE LONGER, AND THAT THE U.S. MILITARY IN ITALY WILL REMAIN A SUSPECT RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PLANE CRASH MORE THAN A DECADE AGO.
SECCHIA

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A104

Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1991ROME12804

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a
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PAGE 01 ROME 12804 121644Z
ACTION EUR-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-13	ADS-00	AMAD-01	CIAE-00	COME-00	CFE-01
	DOTE-00	DS-00	EB-01	E-01	FAAE-00	H-01	IMMC-01
	INRE-00	INR-01	IO-19	JUSE-00	L-03	NRRC-01	NSAE-00
	NSCE-00	OIC-02	PA-01	PM-01	PRS-01	P-01	SB-01
	SCT-03	SP-01	SS-01	STR-18	TRSE-00	T-01	/075W

-----7CB830 121712Z /44

R 121644Z JUL 91
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5679
INFO SECDEF WASHDC
JCS WASHDC
USIA WASHDC 5588
USMISSION USNATO 0901
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
COMSIXTHFLT

ROME 12804

E.O. 12356: DECL OADR
TAGS: PINR, NATO, PREL, IT
SUBJECT: USTICA PRESS UPDATE 7/12/91

REF: ROME 12679 (DTG 111752Z JUL 91)

1. (U) PRESS COVERAGE OF THE LATEST TWIST IN THE
USTICA SAGA (REFTEL) WAS AGAIN EXTENSIVE TODAY. MUCH
OF THE COVERAGE WAS A REHASHING OF OLD NEWS, THOUGH THE

[REDACTED]

PAGE 02 ROME 12804 121644Z
TONE OF MOST ARTICLES TODAY WAS CONSIDERABLY MORE
DOUBTFUL OF THE SURFACE-TO-AIR MISSILE THEORY THAN
YESTERDAY. IT WAS NOTED BY SEVERAL PAPERS THAT IF THE
PLANE HAD BEEN HIT BY A SAM IT WOULD HAVE DISINTEGRATED
IN THE AIR, NOT ON IMPACT WITH THE SEA. FURTHERMORE,
THE MISSILE REMAINS (IF THAT IS WHAT THEY ARE) HAVE
BEEN TENTATIVELY IDENTIFIED AS THE FIRST PHASE OF A
BOOSTER FOR THE MISSILE, WHICH APPARENTLY FALLS OFF
2000 METERS FROM THE LAUNCH SITE. IF THIS WERE THE
CASE, THEN THE SHIP WHICH FIRED THE MISSILE WOULD HAVE
TO HAVE BEEN AS CLOSE AS 2000 METERS FROM WHERE THE

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[REDACTED]

Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1991ROME12804

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

124

PLANE FELL WHEN IT LAUNCHED THE MISSILE: A HIGHLY UNLIKELY SCENARIO.

2 (U) THE PRESS REVEALED TODAY THAT THE FRENCH SALVAGE COMPANY IFREMER HAD PHOTOGRAPHED THE MISSILE REMAINS IN 1987 AND IDENTIFIED THEM AS "ENGINE MILITAIRE" IN THEIR REPORT. THE HEAD OF IFREMER SAID THAT HIS COMPANY DID NOT DECIDE WHICH REMAINS WERE TO BE SALVAGED BUT ONLY FOLLOWED ORDERS FROM ITALIAN SUPERVISORS. FURTHER, HE CLAIMS THAT THE SALVAGE CONTRACT ENDED BEFORE ALL OF THE WRECKAGE WAS RECOVERED AND THAT THE ITALIANS HAD REFUSED HIS OFFER TO EXTEND THE CONTRACT.

3. (U) ONE PRESS ACCOUNT IDENTIFIED THE ALLEGED MISSILE REMAINS AS AN ANTI-SUBMARINE BUOY WITHOUT FURTHER ELABORATION.

4. (U) THE USTICA MYSTERY IS NOW BACK IN THE PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE INVESTIGATING THE CRASH AND IS LIKELY TO PROVIDE FODDER FOR POLITICAL BATTLES FOR THE

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

PAGE 03 ROME 12804 121644Z
FORESEEABLE FUTURE.

5. (C) COMMENT: OUR SUGGESTION (REPTTEL) THAT WE BE PREPARED TO RESPOND TO FORMAL QUESTIONING REMAINS VALID. AS FAR AS WE KNOW, THE MISSILE SECTION IS STILL SCHEDULED TO BE RECOVERED JULY 15. THUS THE POSSIBILITY STILL EXISTS THAT THE INVESTIGATING MAGISTRATE MAY UPON FURTHER EXAMINATION MAKE FORMAL INQUIRIES TO THE USG REGARDING THE MISSILE. SECCHIA

[REDACTED]

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Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1991ROME13193

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a
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PAGE 01 ROME 13193 191205Z
ACTION EUR-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-13	ADS-00	AMAD-01	CIAE-00	CFE-01	H-01
	IMMC-01	INRE-00	INR-01	IO-19	L-03	NRRC-01	NSAE-00
	NSCE-00	OIC-02	PA-02	PM-01	PRS-01	P-01	SB-01
	SP-01	SS-01	TRSE-00	T-01	/053W		
					-----7F8142	191212Z	/43

R 191203Z JUL 91
 FM AMEMBASSY ROME
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5935
 INFO SECDEF WASHDC
 JCS WASHDC
 USIA WASHDC 5621
 USMISSION USNATO 0906
 CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
 COMSIXTHFLT

UNCLAS ROME 13193

E.O. 12356: DECL OADR
 TAGS: PINR, NATO, PREL, IT
 SUBJECT: USTICA UPDATE: RECOVERY OF FLIGHT DATA RECORDER

REF: ROME 13123 (DTG 181442Z JUL 91)

ACCORDING TO JULY 19 PRESS ACCOUNTS THE FLIGHT DATA
 RECORDER OF THE ITAVIA DC 9 WAS RECOVERED ON JULY 18.
 THE BLACK BOX WILL BE SENT TO LONDON ON MONDAY, JULY
 22, FOR ANALYSIS BY THE BRITISH ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION

PAGE 02 ROME 13193 191205Z
 BRANCH AND BY SPECIALISTS FROM MACDONNELL DOUGLAS.
 ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS THE RESULTS OF THE ANALYSIS
 SHOULD BE AVAILABLE THE SAME DAY. INVESTIGATORS DO NOT
 EXPECT THE SOLUTION TO THE USTICA MYSTERY WILL BE FOUND
 IN THE BLACK BOX. SECCHIA

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A108

Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1991ROME13711

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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PAGE 01 ROME 13711 291259Z
ACTION EUR-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-13	ADS-00	AMAD-01	CIAE-00	CFE-01	H-01
	IMMC-01	INRE-00	INR-01	IO-19	L-03	NRRC-01	NSAE-00
	NSCE-00	OIC-02	PA-02	PM-01	PRS-01	P-01	SB-01
	SP-01	SS-01	TRSE-00	T-01	/053W		
				-----82DEAL	291343Z	/49	

P 291256Z JUL 91
 FM AMEMBASSY ROME
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6240
 INFO SECDEF WASHDC
 JCS WASHDC
 USIA WASHDC 5649
 USMISSION USNATO 0915
 CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
 COMSIXTHFLT

UNCLAS ROME 13711

E.O. 12356: DECL OADR
 TAGS: PINR, NATO, PREL, IT
 SUBJECT: USTICA UPDATE: SUBMARINE SONAR DETECTORS, NOT
 MISSILES, RECOVERED FROM CRASH SITE

REF: STATE 244578 (DTG 251811Z JUL 91) AND PREVIOUS

1. ACCORDING TO JULY 28 PRESS ACCOUNTS THE FRAGMENTS
 RECOVERED FROM THE WRECKAGE OF THE PLANE THAT HAD
 RECEIVED SENSATIONAL PRESS COVERAGE BECAUSE THEY WERE

[REDACTED]

PAGE 02 ROME 13711 291259Z
 INITIALLY BELIEVED TO BE MISSILE PARTS, ARE IN FACT
 SONAR BUOYS USED IN TRACKING SUBMARINES DURING MILITARY
 EXERCISES. SPECULATION OF U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN THE
 DOWNING HAS WANED.

2. THE RESULTS OF THE ANALYSIS OF THE FLIGHT DATA
 RECORDER ARE EXPECTED THIS WEEK. SECCHIA

[REDACTED]

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16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1991ROME14048

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

129

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B2, B1, 1.5(D)

PAGE 01 ROME 14048 020918Z
ACTION EUR-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-13	ADS-00	AID-01	AMAD-01	CIAE-00	CFE-01
	HA-09	H-01	IMMC-01	INRE-00	INR-01	IO-19	L-03
	NRRC-01	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01	PA-01	PM-01
	PRS-01	P-01	SB-01	SCT-03	SNP-01	SP-01	SS-01
	TRSE-00	T-01	/067W				

-----84AC96 020952Z /38

R 020829Z AUG 91
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6493
INFO SECDEF WASHDC
JCS WASHDC
USIA WASHDC 5675
USMISSION USNATO 0923
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
COMSIXTHFLT

ROME 14048

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: PINR, PREL, NATO, IT
SUBJECT: USTICA: GOI OFFICIAL COMMENTS ON
PERSISTENCE OF ISSUE

1. C--ENTIRE TEXT.
2. DURING A RECENT MEETING, PRESIDENTIAL CHIEF OF CABINET SERGIO BERLINGUER (PROTECT) TOLD THE

PAGE 02 ROME 14048 020918Z
 AMBASSADOR THAT "THE STORIES (ABOUT THE USTICA CRASH)
 THAT ARE BEING PRINTED REGULARLY ARE SO FAR-FETCHED
 THAT THEY BORDER ON THE RIDICULOUS."
 "THESE REPORTERS ARE BEING PAID OR
 ENCOURAGED TO CONTINUE THESE STORIES BY THREE GROUPS:

B2
B1

- (1) THE INSURANCE COMPANY WHICH HAS DELAYED ALL PAYMENT. IF THIS WAS THE ACT OF FOREIGN POWER, THE GOVERNMENT MUST PAY. IF IT WAS AN ACCIDENT (AS ORIGINALLY THOUGHT), THE INSURANCE COMPANY MUST PAY. AFTER TEN YEARS YOU KNOW THAT THE MONEY (THE

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CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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INSURANCE COMPANY) HAS NOT PAID OUT HAS MORE THAN
DOUBLED.

(2) THE FAMILIES OF THE VICTIMS.

(3) THE AIRLINE OWNERS."

3. [REDACTED] "WE KNOW FOR SURE THAT IS WHAT
IS HAPPENING." SECCHIA

B1

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A110

Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1991ROME14738

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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PAGE 01 ROME 14738 131056Z
ACTION EUR-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-13	ADS-00	CIAE-00	CFE-01	DOPE-00	EB-01
	FAAE-00	H-01	IMMC-01	INRE-00	INR-01	IO-19	L-03
	NRRC-01	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	PA-02	PM-01	PRS-01
	P-01	SB-01	SP-01	SS-01	TRSE-00	T-01	/053W
				-----88757F	131101Z	/10	

P 131055Z AUG 91
 FM AMEMBASSY ROME
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6951
 INFO SECDEF WASHDC
 JCS WASHDC
 USIA WASHDC 5730
 USMISSION USNATO 0942
 CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
 COMSIXTHFLT

UNCLAS ROME 14738

E.O. 12356: DECL OADR
 TAGS: PINR, NATO, PREL, IT
 SUBJECT: USTICA UPDATE: RESULTS OF FLIGHT DATA RECORDER
 ANALYSIS - NO SMOKING GUN

REF: ROME 13711 (DTG 291256Z JUL 91) AND PREVIOUS

1. ACCORDING TO AUGUST 10 PRESS ACCOUNTS THE ANALYSIS
 OF THE FLIGHT DATA RECORDER TAPES RECOVERED IN JULY
 FROM THE WRECKAGE OF THE PLANE DOES NOT REVEAL ANY

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

PAGE 02 ROME 14738 131056Z
 SIGNIFICANT INFORMATION WHICH WOULD HELP SOLVE THE
 MYSTERY OF USTICA. INFORMATION RECOVERED FROM THE
 FLIGHT DATA RECORDER WOULD SEEM TO PRECLUDE A CRASH DUE
 TO STRUCTURAL OR MECHANICAL PROBLEMS ON THE PLANE,
 SUGGESTING RATHER THAT THE DOWNING RESULTED FROM SOME
 SORT OF EXPLOSION.

2. THE FLIGHT DATA RECORDER STOPPED RECORDING AT 20:56
 LOCAL TIME, ALMOST FOUR MINUTES BEFORE THE FLIGHT
 DISAPPEARED FROM THE RADAR AT CIAMPINO AIRPORT IN
 ROME. BY CALCULATING THE SPEED AT WHICH THE PLANE CAME

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Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

[REDACTED]
DOC_NBR: 1991ROME14738

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

130

DOWN, INVESTIGATORS HOPE TO DETERMINE THE EXTENT OF
DAMAGE TO THE PLANE AS A RESULT OF THE EXPLOSION. THE
INVESTIGATION CONTINUES. BRIMS

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PAGE 01 ROME 16499 121025Z
ACTION INR-01

INFO LOG-00 ADS-00 CIAE-00 EUR-01 INRE-00 NSAE-00 PA-02
PM-01 PRS-01 SP-01 /007W
-----939A28 121120Z /10

P 121023Z SEP 91
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7985
INFO SECDEF WASHDC
JCS WASHDC
USIA WASHDC 5851
USMISSION USNATO 0974
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
COMSIXTHFLT

UNCLAS ROME 16499

E.O. 12356: DECL OADR
TAGS: PINR, NATO, PREL, IT
SUBJECT: USTICA UPDATE: NEW CHARGES OF USN INVOLVEMENT;
SIX MORE INDIVIDUALS CHARGED IN COVERUP

REF: ROME 14738 (DTG 131055Z AUG 91) AND PREVIOUS

1. THE CONTROVERSY SURROUNDING THE UNEXPLAINED DOWNING OF AN ITAVIA DC-9 TEN YEARS AGO OFF THE ISLAND OF USTICA IS REGAINING MOMENTUM AFTER THE TRADITIONAL AUGUST BREAK IN ITALY. SEPTEMBER 11 PRESS ACCOUNTS REVIVED SPECULATION OF U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN THE USTICA

PAGE 02 ROME 16499 121025Z
INCIDENT BY CLAIMING THAT TWO U.S. AIRCRAFT CARRIERS WERE OPERATING IN THE MEDITERRANEAN AT THE TIME OF THE CRASH. ACCORDING TO THE ARTICLE, THE FORRESTAL WAS "OFFICIALLY" IN THE PORT OF PALERMO, WHEREAS THE SARATOGA WAS IN THE PORT OF NAPLES.

2. THE USTICA ISSUE WAS REVIVED YESTERDAY BY THE RECOVERY OF MORE PIECES OF THE AIRCRAFT FROM THE BOTTOM OF THE SEA -- PIECES WHICH WILL CONCLUSIVELY PROVE THAT THE PLANE WAS SHOT DOWN BY A MISSILE, ACCORDING TO THE PAPER -- AND BY THE FILING OF CHARGES AGAINST SIX

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ITALIAN GOVERNMENT/MILITARY PERSONNEL FOR PERJURY, COVERING UP EVIDENCE, OR LIBEL. THE SIX INDIVIDUALS CHARGED WERE: MAJOR ANTONIO TROMBETTA, EX COMMANDER OF THE AIR RESCUE CENTER, AND CAPTAIN PORFIRIO MASSARI, EX HEAD OF THE RADAR CONTROL ROOM AT CIAMPINO AIRPORT, BOTH FOR PERJURY; GENERAL GIORGIO SANTUCCI, FORMER DEFENSE ATTACHE AT THE ITALIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON, AND CURRENT COMMANDER OF THE II AIR REGION, FOR LIBEL; COLONEL GIORGIO PARISI, OF SISMI, ROBERTO ZULIANI, OF THE PARAMILITARY CARABINIERI FORCE, AND GUGLIELMO SINIGAGLIA, A FORMER MEMBER OF THE LEGIONARY FORCES, ALL FOR LIBEL AND AIDING AND ABETTING THE COVERUP.

3. ACCORDING TO SEVERAL PRESS ACCOUNTS, THE LIBEL CHARGE AGAINST GENERAL SANTUCCI IS BASED ON HIS ASSERTIONS IN A LETTER THAT GENERAL RANA, HEAD OF THE ITALIAN AIRCRAFT REGISTRY IN 1980, REMOVED A COPY OF THE CIAMPINO RADAR READINGS FROM THE INVESTIGATIVE FILE AND TOOK IT TO WASHINGTON TO HAVE IT DECODED BY THE FAA. RANA DIED BEFORE HE COULD RESPOND TO THE

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PAGE 03 ROME 16499 121025Z
ACCUSATIONS IN THE LETTER, AND HIS FAMILY HAS PROVED THAT HE WAS IN ITALY AT THE TIME SANTUCCI SAID RANA WAS IN THE U.S. WITH THE INCRIMINATING DOCUMENTS. THE PERJURY AND COVERUP CHARGES AGAINST THE OTHER DEFENDANTS ARE BASED ON THE THEORY THAT THE DEFENDANTS ALL KNOW THE CAUSE OF THE CRASH BUT WERE INSTRUCTED BY THEIR SUPERIORS NOT TO REVEAL THE INFORMATION.

4. COMMENT: WE WILL BE STICKING TO ESTABLISHED GUIDANCE (I.E. NO U.S. SHIPS OR PLANES WERE IN THE AREA AT THE TIME OF THE CRASH) FOR BACKGROUND, ONLY IF ASKED, WE WILL DRAW ON GUIDANCE PROVIDED IN THE ATWOOD-PETRIGNANI LETTER. SECCHIA

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PAGE 01 ROME 18180 01 OF 02 051528Z
ACTION EUR-01

INFO	LOG-00	ADS-00	AID-01	AMAD-01	CIAE-00	ANHR-01	CSCE-01
	HA-09	H-01	INRE-00	INR-01	L-03	NSAE-00	NSCE-00
	OMB-01	PA-02	PM-01	PRS-01	P-01	SCT-03	SNP-01
	SP-01	SS-01	TRSE-00	T-01	/032W		

-----9D0F76 051529Z /38

P 051525Z OCT 91
 FM AMEMBASSY ROME
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8936
 INFO SECDEF WASHDC
 JCS WASHDC
 USIA WASHDC 5967
 USMISSION USNATO 1002
 CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
 COMSIXTHFLT

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 ROME 18180

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
 TAGS: MOPS, PREL, IT
 SUBJECT: USTICA: MEDIA REPORTS OF U.S. NAVAL
 AIRCRAFT IN AIR AT TIME OF CRASH

1. ACCORDING TO OCTOBER 5 FRONT-PAGE PRESS REPORTS,
 JUDICIAL AUTHORITIES INVESTIGATING THE USTICA TRAGEDY
 UNCOVERED SEVERAL WEEKS AGO TRANSCRIPTS OF
 CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS AT
 CIAMPINO AIRPORT (ROME) AND THE AIRPORT AT LAMEZIA

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

PAGE 02 ROME 18180 01 OF 02 051528Z
 TERME (CALABRIA) IN WHICH THE FLIGHT OF AN AIRCRAFT
 CALLED "NAVY 61206" WAS DISCUSSED; ACCORDING TO THE
 PRESS, IT WAS NOT YET POSSIBLE TO DETERMINE WHAT TYPE
 OF AIRCRAFT "NAVY 61206" WAS. THE PRESS REPORTED
 THAT "NAVY 61206" TOOK OFF FROM SIGONELLA, CIRCLED
 THE REGION OF CALABRIA AND THEN LANDED AGAIN AT
 SIGONELLA DURING THE SAME HOUR IN WHICH THE ITAVIA
 COMMERCIAL AIRLINER CRASHED NEAR USTICA.

2. MEDIA REPORTS ALSO NOTED THAT A U.S. TRANSPORT
 AIRCRAFT -- "JULIET MIKE (AKA "JIMMY") 169" -- HAD

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CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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REQUESTED PERMISSION TO TAKE OFF FROM SIGONELLA ONE HALF HOUR AFTER THE USTICA CRASH. THE PRESS QUOTED THE ALLEGED TRANSCRIPT OF A CONVERSATION BETWEEN AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS AT CIAMPINO AND CATANIA, NOTING THAT "JIMMY 169" -- FLYING FROM SIGONELLA TO TORREJON. -- REFUSED TO ACCEPT A ROUTING THAT WOULD HAVE AVOIDED THE CRASH SITE. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, THE AIRCRAFT WAITED ON THE GROUND AT SIGONELLA UNTIL IT WAS GRANTED A MORE DIRECT ROUTE TO SPAIN (WHICH ONE PAPER CLAIMED WOULD HAVE PERMITTED "JIMMY 169" TO OVERFLY THE CRASH SITE).

3. THE MEDIA NOTED THE APPARENT DISCREPANCY BETWEEN THIS ALLEGED NEW EVIDENCE OF U.S. AIR ACTIVITY IN THE USTICA AREA AND U.S. PUBLIC STATEMENTS DENYING THAT ANY U.S. AIRCRAFT WERE PRESENT IN AREA AT THE TIME OF THE CRASH. THE PRESS NOTED THAT THE PENTAGON HAD REITERATED THIS STATEMENT AS LATE AS FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4. THE PRESS ALSO CITED A JANUARY 1989 LETTER FROM THEN DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE TAFT TO THEN ITALIAN

PAGE 03 ROME 18180 01 OF 02 051528Z
AMBASSADOR PETRIGNANI IN WHICH TAFT SAID THAT THERE WERE NO U.S. SHIP OR PLANES IN THE AREA AT THE TIME OF THE CRASH. (COMMENT: TO THE BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE, THIS IS THE FIRST MENTION IN THE PRESS OF THE TAFT-PETRIGNANI CORRESPONDENCE ON THE ISSUE. END COMMENT.)

4. THE PRESS ALSO REVIVED EARLIER REPORTS OF THE ALLEGED PRESENCE OF A U.S. AIRCRAFT CARRIER NEAR USTICA AT THE TIME OF THE CRASH (SEE ROME 13123, DTG 181442Z JULY 91). THEY QUOTED THE TRANSCRIPT OF A CONVERSATION BETWEEN OFFICIALS AT CIAMPINO AIRPORT AND THE AIR RESCUE CENTER AT MARTINAFRANCA IN WHICH A REFERENCE IS MADE TO "INTENSE" AMERICAN AIR TRAFFIC IN THE VICINITY OF THE USTICA CRASH. ONE OF THE OFFICIALS SUBSEQUENTLY SAID THAT THE ALLEGED LEVEL OF U.S. AIR ACTIVITY IMPLIED THE PRESENCE OF A U.S. AIRCRAFT CARRIER. THE TWO OFFICIALS ALSO DISCUSSED PLACING A CALL TO THE U.S. EMBASSY REGARDING THE CRASH. (COMMENT: AS NOTED IN ROME 13123, WE HAVE NO WAY OF VERIFYING WHETHER A CALL WAS EVER PLACED TO THE EMBASSY THAT NIGHT. END COMMENT.)

5. COMMENT: THE PRESS HAS BEEN QUICK TO PLAY UP THE

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CHANNEL: n/a
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AMERICAN ANGLE TO THE STORY, IN PARTICULAR NOTING THE APPARENT DISCREPANCY BETWEEN U.S. PUBLIC STATEMENTS AND THE CONCLUSIONS BEING DRAWN FROM THIS ALLEGED NEW EVIDENCE. ONE PAPER HAS GONE SO FAR AS TO CONTEND THAT THE U.S. HAS LIED ABOUT AND COVERED UP ITS ROLE IN THE TRAGEDY. HOWEVER, WHILE PLAYING UP DISCREPANCIES, COINCIDENCES AND INNUENDO, NONE OF THE

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

PAGE 04 ROME 18180 01 OF 02 051528Z
MEDIA HAVE YET COME OUT FLATLY ACCUSING THE U.S. OF HAVING SHOT DOWN THE AIRLINER. GIVEN PAST EXPERIENCE, IT IS TOO EARLY TO TELL WHETHER THE PRESS WAS ACCURATELY REPORTING NEW EVIDENCE OR WHETHER THE INFORMATION REPORTED OCTOBER 5 WILL SUBSEQUENTLY BE QUALIFIED. IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO KNOW, HOWEVER, WHETHER THE PENTAGON HAD ANY INFORMATION REGARDING FLIGHTS "NAVY 61206" OR "JIMMY 169" WHICH PURPORTEDLY FLEW OUT OF SIGONELLA ON JUNE 27, 1980, THE NIGHT OF THE CRASH. END COMMENT. SERWER

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

PAGE 01 ROME 18180 02 OF 02 051529Z
ACTION EUR-01

INFO	LOG-00	ADS-00	AID-01	AMAD-01	CIAE-00	ANHR-01	CSCE-01
	HA-09	H-01	INRE-00	INR-01	L-03	NSAE-00	NSCE-00
	OMB-01	PA-02	PM-01	PRS-01	P-01	SCT-03	SNP-01
	SP-01	SS-01	TRSE-00	T-01	/032W		

-----9D0F80 051529Z /38

P 051525Z OCT 91
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8937
INFO SECDEF WASHDC
JCS WASHDC
USIA WASHDC 5968
USMISSION USNATO 1003
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
COMSIXTHFLT

UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 ROME 18180

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CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

132

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: MOPS, PREL, IT
SUBJECT: USTICA: MEDIA REPORTS OF U.S. NAVAL
AIRCRAFT IN AIR AT TIME OF CRASH

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PAGE 01 ROME 18362 081758Z
ACTION EUR-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-13	ADS-00	CIAE-00	CFE-01	DPR-01	CSCE-01
	H-01	IMMC-01	INRE-00	INR-01	IO-19	L-03	NRRC-01
	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	PA-02	PM-01	PRS-01	P-01
	SB-01	SCT-03	SP-01	SS-01	TRSE-00	T-01	/057W

-----9E0586 082026Z /65

P 081750Z OCT 91
 FM AMEMBASSY ROME
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9032
 INFO SECDEF WASHDC
 JCS WASHDC
 USIA WASHDC 5991
 USMISSION USNATO 1008
 CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
 COMSIXTHFLT
 USCINCEUR VAHINGEN GE//ECPA//ECJ5//
 CNO WASHDC//O6/O9C//
 COMFAIRMED NAPLES IT

UNCLAS ROME 18362

E.O. 12356: DECL OADR
 TAGS: PINR, NATO, PREL, IT
 SUBJECT: USTICA: PRESS IDENTIFIES U.S. AIRCRAFT;
 MINISTER OF DEFENSE COMMENTS

REF: A) ROME 18286 (DTG 071756Z OCT 91), B) 90
 ROME 7067 (DTG 061449Z APR 90) AND PREVIOUS

PAGE 02 ROME 18362 081758Z

1. OCTOBER 8 PRESS ARTICLES IDENTIFIED THE USN AIRCRAFT ALLEGEDLY FLYING IN THE AREA WHERE THE ITAVIA DC-9 MYSTERIOUSLY CRASHED IN JUNE OF 1980. ACCORDING TO SEVERAL NEWSPAPERS, THE PLANES WERE A BEECHCRAFT UC12B SUPER KING AIR, SERIAL NUMBER BJ16, USN REGISTRATION NUMBER 161206, AND A GRUMMAN C2A TRANSPORT PLANE. THE FIRST PLANE WAS IDENTIFIED AS A TWIN PROPELLOR, MANUFACTURED FOR THE USN AND USED, AMONG OTHER THINGS, FOR RADAR PATROLS, HIGH ALTITUDE

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CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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PHOTOGRAPHY, AND DELIVERING LIFE SAVING EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES TO SHIP WRECK SURVIVORS. THE SECOND PLANE WAS DESCRIBED AS AN "EXECUTIVE" JET OF THE USN MODIFIED TO TRAIN RADAR OPERATORS OR FOR TRANSPORTATION OF PERSONNEL AND SUPPLIES. ONE JOURNALIST NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT NO-ONE REALLY KNEW TO WHAT USE THE PLANES WERE PUT ON THE NIGHT OF THE CRASH. IN ONE ARTICLE THERE IS MENTION OF THE POSSIBLE PRESENCE IN THE AREA OF A SIKORSKY HH53 SUPERFLY HELICOPTER, IDENTIFIED IN A RECORDED TELEPHONE CALL TRANSCRIPT AS "HENRY CHARLIE 141".

2. MINISTER OF DEFENSE ROGNONI, COMMENTING TO THE PRESS ON THE LATEST PRESS REPORTS, STATED THAT THE TAPE RECORDINGS WHICH HAD RECENTLY BEEN "DISCOVERED" WERE PASSED TO THE INVESTIGATING JUDGE A LONG TIME AGO. HE ADDED THAT ALL AVENUES HAD TO BE USED TO REACH THE TRUTH, AND THAT FROM HIS FIRST DAY IN OFFICE HE HAD BEEN

PAGE 03 ROME 18362 081758Z
AVAILABLE TO ASSIST THE INVESTIGATION IN ANY WAY HE COULD.

3. FYI: A PREVIOUS EMBASSY MESSAGE (REF B) REPORTED THAT THE WEEKLY NEWS MAGAZINE "L'EUROPEO" PUBLISHED AN ARTICLE ON THE ALLEGED FLIGHT OF THE C-12 BEECHCRAFT IN ITS 15 APRIL 1990 EDITION. THIS WOULD NOT BE THE FIRST TIME, DURING THE LONG HISTORY OF THE USTICA AFFAIR, THAT "FACTS" HAVE BEEN REDISCOVERED AND REINTERPRETED BY THE PRESS. END FYI.

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PAGE 01 ROME 18408 091205Z
ACTION INR-01

INFO LOG-00 ADS-00 AMAD-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 EB-01 EUR-01
H-01 INRE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 PM-01 P-01 SP-01
SSO-00 SS-01 T-01 /010W

-----9E4E16 091208Z /46

O 091153Z OCT 91
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9064

ROME 18408

STATE ALSO FOR P

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PINR, NATO, PREL, IT
SUBJECT: USTICA: QUESTIONS TO BE RAISED BY
AMBASSADOR BIANCHIERI

1. -- ENTIRE TEXT.

2. THE FOLLOWING IS INFORMAL EMBASSY
TRANSLATION OF TEXT PROVIDED TO US BY MFA OF
POINTS ON WHICH AMBASSADOR BIANCHIERI WILL BE
SEEKING CLARIFICATION IN HIS MEETING TODAY WITH
U/S KANTER ON THE USTICA MATTER.

3. BEGIN TEXT:

--AN AIRCRAFT WITH THE CALL SIGNAL "NAVY 61206"

PAGE 02 ROME 18408 091205Z
ON JUNE 27, 1980, THE NIGHT OF THE USTICA CRASH
MADE REPEATED APPROACHES TO THE AIRPORT OF
LAMETIA (COSENZA) BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 18:35
ZULU AND 20:05 ZULU, TAKING OFF AND LANDING AT
THE BASE OF CATANIA-SIGONELLA. (THE SUBJECT
CRASH TOOK PLACE AT 18:59 ZULU);

--AN AIRCRAFT WITH THE CALL SIGNAL JM 169
REQUESTED, AND OBTAINED, FROM THE SAME AIR BASE,
PERMISSION TO DEPART WITHOUT A FLIGHT PLAN FOR

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HANDLING: n/a

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THE SPANISH AIR BASE AT TORREJON ON THE SAME
NIGHT, AT APPROXIMATELY 19:30 ZULU;

--IN THE HOURS FOLLOWING THE DISASTER THE OFFICE
OF THE 3RD ROC OF MARTINA FRANCA AND OTHER BASES
OF THE AIR FORCE ATTEMPTED TO VERIFY THE
PRESENCE OF INTENSE MILITARY TRAFFIC AND OF A
POSSIBLE AIRCRAFT CARRIER, SPOTTED BY
ROME-CIAMPINO (AIRPORT).

THE AIRCRAFT IDENTIFIED IN POINTS 1 AND 2, AND
THE TRAFFIC AND AIRCRAFT CARRIER IN POINT 3,
APPEAR LIKELY TO BE AMERICAN. END TEXT.

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PAGE 01 ROME 19453 01 OF 04 251444Z
ACTION EUR-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-13	ADS-00	AMAD-01	CIAE-00	CFE-01	DODE-00
	CSCE-01	H-01	IMMC-01	INRE-00	INR-01	IO-19	L-03
	NRRC-01	NSAE-00	OIC-02	PA-01	PM-01	PRS-01	P-01
	SB-01	SP-01	SSO-00	SS-01	TRSE-00	T-01	USIE-00

/053W

-----A495EC 251449Z /45

O 251443Z OCT 91
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9745
INFO WHITEHOUSE WASHDC IMMEDIATE

SECTION 01 OF 04 ROME 19453

STATE FOR EUR/WE (NIGRO); WHITE HOUSE FOR NSC
(WAYNE)

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: OVIP (BUSH, GEORGE), NATO, IT
SUBJECT: NATO SUMMIT: THE PRESIDENT'S BILATERAL
- MEETING WITH PM ANDREOTTI

REFS: (A) ROME 16667, (B) ROME 17537, (C) ROME
- 17685, (D) ROME 18167, (E) ROME 19404

1. [REDACTED] - ENTIRE TEXT.
2. THE ONLY SUBSTANTIVE U.S.-ITALIAN EVENT LIKELY
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

PAGE 02 ROME 19453 01 OF 04 251444Z
TO BE SCHEDULED FOR THE NATO SUMMIT IN ROME IS THE
PRESIDENT'S MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER GIULIO
ANDREOTTI, OVER BREAKFAST AT THE AMBASSADOR'S
RESIDENCE, NOVEMBER 7. (WE ASSUME THAT SECRETARY
BAKER AND FOREIGN MINISTER DE MICHELIS WILL TAKE
PART IN THIS MEETING.) BESIDES A BRIEF BACKGROUND
NOTE, WE ADDRESS BELOW PRIMARILY MATTERS TO BE
DISCUSSED DURING THE NATO SUMMIT AND SECONDARILY
OTHER INTERNATIONAL AND SOME BILATERAL MATTERS.

EXTEND CLASSIFICATION

GENERAL BACKGROUND ON ITALY

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CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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3. ITALIAN GDP GROWTH HAS SLOWED TO AN ANTICIPATED 1.4 PERCENT IN 1991 DUE TO THE GLOBAL SLOWDOWN. ITALY'S BUDGET DEFICIT (MORE THAN 10 PERCENT OF GDP) AND PUBLIC DEBT (OVER 100 PERCENT OF GDP) ARE THE ECONOMY'S MOST PRESSING PROBLEMS. REFLECTING THESE WEAKNESSES, ITALY'S FINANCIAL RATING HAS BEEN DOWNGRADED BY MOODY'S AND STANDARD AND POOR'S. WITH WARNINGS FROM THE IMF, OECD AND EC, A HEALTHY CONCERN ABOUT THE NATION'S FINANCIAL STRUCTURE IS SPREADING. THE FOUR-PARTY COALITION GOVERNMENT, HOWEVER, HAS NOT YET DEMONSTRATED THE WILL TO ADOPT THE NECESSARY TOUGH DOMESTIC MEASURES. BEHIND THE GOVERNMENT'S INHIBITION, IN PART, IS THE COALITION PARTIES' DESIRE NOT TO ALIENATE VOTERS PRIOR TO THE NATIONAL ELECTIONS NOW SCHEDULED FOR NEXT MAY, IN WHICH IT IS LIKELY THE GOVERNING COALITION WILL SUFFER LOSSES (AND MAY NOT GAIN A MAJORITY IN PARLIAMENT). THE COUNTRY IS GENERALLY REGARDED AS

PAGE 03 ROME 19453 01 OF 04 251444Z
LESS THAN WELL-PREPARED FOR EC92, AND THERE IS WIDESPREAD CRITICISM OF THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT FOR ITS FAILURE TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE PUBLIC SERVICES, STOP THE SPREAD OF ORGANIZED CRIME, AND GET CONTROL OF THE PUBLIC SECTOR DEFICIT. (FOR FURTHER BACKGROUND ON U.S.-ITALIAN RELATIONS, PLEASE SEE REFTELS, A SERIES OF BACKGROUND REPORTS SUBMITTED OVER THE LAST MONTH.)

EUROPEAN SECURITY DEBATE

4. THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT FULLY SUPPORTS GREATER EUROPEAN COOPERATION IN SECURITY AND DEFENSE ISSUES THROUGH ESTABLISHMENT OF A BRIDGE BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AND NATO. IT WAS ITALY DURING ITS EC PRESIDENCY IN SEPTEMBER, 1990, THAT PROPOSED FOLDING THE WEU INTO THE COMMUNITY. THE ITALIANS HAVE ABANDONED THAT PROPOSAL IN ITS SIMPLEST FORM BUT CONTINUE TO ADVOCATE AN EXPANDED EUROPEAN DEFENSE EFFORT COMPLIMENTARY TO THE TRIED AND TESTED NATO ALLIANCE.

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HANDLING: n/a

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ITALIANS WANT BOTH THE CONVENTIONAL AND NUCLEAR PRESENCE OF THE U.S. IN EUROPE TO PREVENT ANY UNRAVELING OF EUROPEAN INTEGRATION EFFORTS. IN RECENT DISCUSSIONS WITH SECRETARY CHENEY, BOTH ANDREOTTI AND DEFENSE MINISTER ROGNONI STRESSED:

--THAT NATO IS THE BASIS OF EUROPEAN SECURITY; AND

PAGE 04 ROME 19453 01 OF 04 251444Z

--THAT EUROPEAN EFFORTS SHOULD BE COORDINATED AND NOT CONFLICT WITH NATO.

5. THE RECENT ANGLO-ITALIAN PAPER ON EUROPEAN SECURITY SYNTHESIZED THE TWO COUNTRIES' VIEWS ON EUROPEAN DEFENSE COORDINATION. IT WAS CONCEIVED BY THE ITALIANS TO BE A GENERAL EXPOSITION OF VIEWS BEGINNING FROM THE PREMISE THAT NATO WILL REMAIN THE BASIS OF WESTERN SECURITY FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE. ANDREOTTI OPPOSES TAMPERING WITH NATO IN THE NEAR TERM, AND HE BELIEVES THAT IT WILL TAKE YEARS TO BUILD THE POLITICAL CONSENSUS FOR JOINT

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ACTION EUR-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-13	ADS-00	AMAD-01	CIAE-00	CFE-01	DODE-00
	CSCE-01	H-01	IMMC-01	INRE-00	INR-01	IO-19	L-03
	NRRC-01	NSAE-00	OIC-02	PA-01	PM-01	PRS-01	P-01
	SB-01	SP-01	SSO-00	SS-01	TRSE-00	T-01	USIE-00

/053W

-----A4961E 251450Z /45

O 251443Z OCT 91
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9746
INFO WHITEHOUSE WASHDC IMMEDIATE

SECTION 02 OF 04 ROME 19453

STATE FOR EUR/WE (NIGRO); WHITE HOUSE FOR NSC

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142

(WAYNE)

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: OVIP (BUSH, GEORGE), NATO, IT
SUBJECT: NATO SUMMIT: THE PRESIDENT'S BILATERAL
MEETING WITH PM ANDREOTTI

DEFENSE EFFORTS IN THE EC CONTEXT. CURRENTLY, THE
ITALIANS ARE WORKING TO FASHION A COMPROMISE
BETWEEN THEIR OWN PROPOSAL AND FRENCH-GERMAN IDEAS
IN THE RUNUP TO THE EC SUMMIT AT MAASTRICHT.

PAGE 02 ROME 19453 02 OF 04 251445Z
FOUR POWER NUCLEAR MEETING

6.

B1

NATO LIAISON WITH EASTERN EUROPE

7. ANDREOTTI TOLD CHENEY OCTOBER 21 THAT ITALY
SUPPORTED AN ENHANCED ROLE FOR NATO IN REACHING OUT
TO FORMER MEMBERS OF THE WARSAW PACT AND IN
GUARANTEEING THEIR SECURITY. THE ITALIANS WELCOMED
THE BAKER-GENSCHER PROPOSAL,

B1

RATHER THAN A COUNCIL, ITALY HAS PROPOSED
THAT NATO SIGN AGREEMENTS WITH EACH EAST EUROPEAN

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DOC_NBR: 1991ROME19453

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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PAGE 03 ROME 19453 02 OF 04 251445Z
COUNTRY, AND UNDER THAT UMBRELLA BEGIN THE
COOPERATIVE ENDEAVORS WE ALSO SUPPORT. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] LIKE THE
FRENCH, THE ITALIANS BELIEVE THAT THE CSCE AS WELL
AS NATO SHOULD PLAY A LARGER ROLE IN BRINGING THE
EAST EUROPEANS CLOSER TO THE WEST.

CROTONE

8. THE ITALIANS HAVE INDICATED THEIR READINESS IN
LIGHT OF CONGRESSIONAL SPENDING STRICTURES TO BE
HELPFUL IN FINDING A WAY TO CONTINUE CONSTRUCTION
OF THE NATO-FUNDED AIR BASE AT CROTONE, ITALY. IN
THE OCTOBER 21 DISCUSSIONS WITH CHENEY, BOTH
ANDREOTTI AND ROGNONI EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS TO LOOK
AT ALTERNATIVES. SHOULD NEW PROPOSALS BE
FORMULATED, THE ITALIANS WOULD LIKE TO HAVE
SOMETHING TO SAY TO THE DPC IN DECEMBER. [REDACTED]

B1

MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROCESS

9. ANDREOTTI WILL BE INTERESTED IN OBTAINING THE
PRESIDENT'S VIEWS ON THE MIDDLE EAST PEACE
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

PAGE 04 ROME 19453 02 OF 04 251445Z
CONFERENCE AND ON THE PROSPECTS FOR FURTHER
PROGRESS. BOTH ANDREOTTI AND DE MICHELIS HAVE
STRONGLY SUPPORTED U.S. EFFORTS THUS FAR. IN EARLY
[REDACTED]

B1

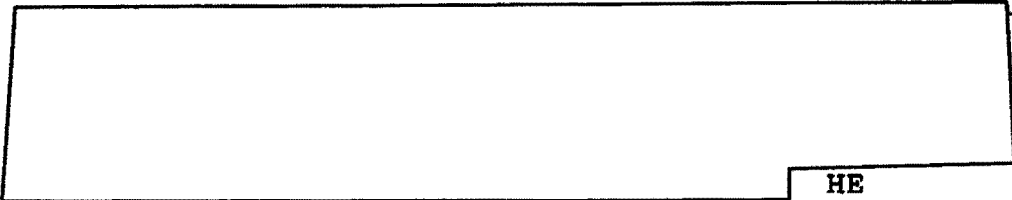
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16 Apr 2002

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UNDERTOOK A VISIT TO ISRAEL SEPTEMBER 4-5 TO



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PAGE 01 ROME 19453 03 OF 04 251446Z
ACTION EUR-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-13	ADS-00	AMAD-01	CIAE-00	CFE-01	DODE-00
	CSCE-01	H-01	IMMC-01	INRE-00	INR-01	IO-19	L-03
	NRRC-01	NSAE-00	OIC-02	PA-01	PM-01	PRS-01	P-01
	SB-01	SP-01	SSO-00	SS-01	TRSE-00	T-01	USIE-00

/053W

-----A49674 251452Z /45

O 251443Z OCT 91
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9747
INFO WHITEHOUSE WASHDC IMMEDIATE

SECTION 03 OF 04 ROME 19453

STATE FOR EUR/WE (NIGRO); WHITE HOUSE FOR NSC
(WAYNE)

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: OVIP (BUSH, GEORGE), NATO, IT
SUBJECT: NATO SUMMIT: THE PRESIDENT'S BILATERAL
- MEETING WITH PM ANDREOTTI

BALANCE ITALY'S LONGSTANDING, GOOD RELATIONS WITH
THE ARAB OIL PRODUCERS. FINALLY, TO AVOID
COMPLICATING U.S. MIDDLE EAST PEACE EFFORTS, DE
MICHELIS HAS NOT PRESSED HIS INITIATIVE FOR A
CONFERENCE FOR SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN THE
MEDITERRANEAN, MODELLED ON CSCE.



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10. THE ITALIANS REMAIN INTERESTED IN EUROPEAN PARTICIPATION IN THE PEACE PROCESS. FOREIGN MINISTRY CONTACTS HAVE ASKED ABOUT THE VENUE FOR THE FOLLOW-ON TALKS.

URUGUAY ROUND

11. THE MEETING WITH ANDREOTTI OFFERS THE PRESIDENT AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY TO PUSH FOR ITALY TO BE GENEROUS IN THE FINAL PHASE OF THE ROUND. ITALY IS NOT OPPOSED TO INCREASED EC NEGOTIATING FLEXIBILITY AND WANTS THE NEGOTIATIONS TO SUCCEED, [REDACTED]

B1

AID TO SOVIETS/EASTERN EUROPE

12. ITALY COMMITTED ITSELF EARLY TO ASSIST THE SOVIET UNION, BY MAKING AVAILABLE APPROXIMATELY \$6.4 BILLION IN CREDITS OVER FIVE YEARS. SUBSEQUENTLY, HOWEVER, DOMESTIC BUDGET REALITIES HAVE MODERATED ITALIAN CALLS FOR MASSIVE WESTERN ASSISTANCE TO THE SOVIETS AS WELL AS THE EAST EUROPEANS AND HAVE LIMITED ADDITIONAL ITALIAN

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
PAGE 03 ROME 19453 03 OF 04 251446Z
CONTRIBUTIONS. THE ITALIANS WILL BE EAGER TO KNOW CURRENT U.S. THOUGHTS.

ALBANIA

13. FOLLOWING A LARGE REFUGEE INFLUX EARLIER THIS YEAR, ITALY HAS COMMITTED ITSELF TO NEARLY \$200 MILLION IN EMERGENCY AID FOR ALBANIA THUS FAR, PLUS SUBSTANTIAL ADDITIONAL DEVELOPMENT AID. ITALY WOULD LIKE OTHER WESTERN COUNTRIES TO SHARE THE BURDEN. THE ITALIAN MILITARY IS IN ALBANIA

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DISTRIBUTING AID; THEY HELPED US DELIVER SOME OF
OUR OWN RELIEF SUPPLIES, AND MAY BE ASKED TO DO THE
SAME FOR MUCH OTHER WESTERN ASSISTANCE.

YUGOSLAVIA SANCTIONS

14. ITALY HAS A LARGE AID PROGRAM (OVER \$350
MILLION OVER THREE YEARS) WITH YUGOSLAVIA AND CLOSE
ECONOMIC TIES. IT FAVORS SANCTIONS AGAINST THOSE
WHO ARE FOUND RESPONSIBLE FOR CONTINUING THE
VIOLENCE OR CAUSING A BREAKDOWN OF NEGOTIATIONS,

[REDACTED]

DE MICHELIS HAS
BEEN TAKING THE LEAD IN RESISTING DOMESTIC PRESSURE
TO RECOGNIZE THE INDEPENDENCE OF THESE TWO

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REPUBLICS AHEAD OF A NEGOTIATED SOLUTION WITHIN THE
EC.

GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE

15. WE SEEM TO HAVE MADE SOME PROGRESS IN
CONVINCING THE ITALIANS OF THE NEED TO BASE
DECISIONS ON SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE AND A HARD
BALANCING OF THE COSTS AND BENEFITS, BUT WE NEED TO
CONTINUE OUR EFFORT.

RELATIONS WITH IRAN

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PAGE 01 ROME 19453 04 OF 04 251447Z
ACTION EUR-01

INFO LOG-00 ACDA-13 ADS-00 AMAD-01 CIAE-00 CFE-01 DODE-00

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NRRC-01	NSAE-00	OIC-02	PA-01	PM-01	PRS-01	P-01
SB-01	SP-01	SSO-00	SS-01	TRSE-00	T-01	USIE-00

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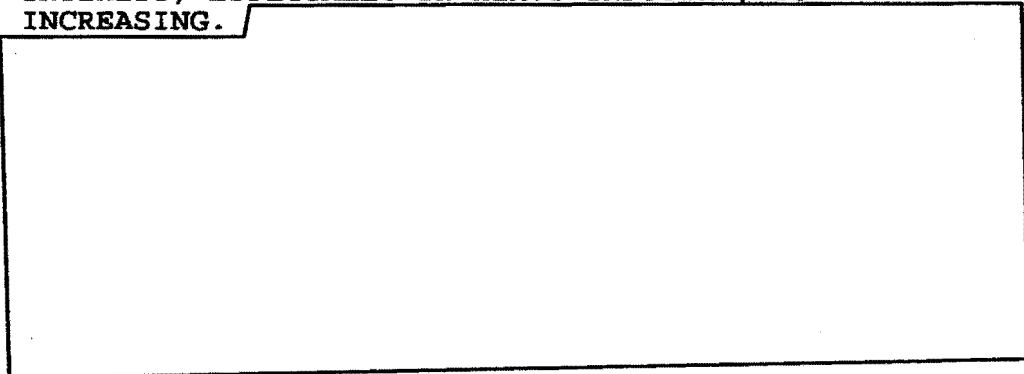
O 251443Z OCT 91
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9748
INFO WHITEHOUSE WASHDC IMMEDIATE

SECTION 04 OF 04 ROME 19453

STATE FOR EUR/WE (NIGRO); WHITE HOUSE FOR NSC
(WAYNE)

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: OVIP (BUSH, GEORGE), NATO, IT
SUBJECT: NATO SUMMIT; THE PRESIDENT'S BILATERAL
- MEETING WITH PM ANDREOTTI

16. ANDREOTTI MAY GO TO IRAN IN NOVEMBER. HIS
GOVERNMENT SUPPORTS INCREASED ECONOMIC AND
POLITICAL RELATIONS WITH IRAN. ITALIAN COMMERCIAL
INTEREST, ESPECIALLY IN HEAVY INDUSTRY, IS
INCREASING.



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ENTERPRISE FOR THE AMERICAS

17. [Redacted]

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DE MICHELIS RECENTLY ANNOUNCED THAT ITALY WILL
PARTICIPATE, BUT THE ITALIAN TREASURY WILL NOT
PROVIDE ADDITIONAL FUNDS. THE FOREIGN MINISTRY IS
TRYING TO REPROGRAM EXISTING RESOURCES.

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SPACE COOPERATION

18. OUR COOPERATION ON SPACE IS STRONG. THE ITALIAN SPACE AGENCY (ASI) AND NASA CONCLUDED RECENTLY A DRAFT AGREEMENT FOR LOGISTICS MODULES AND A LABORATORY TO SPACE STATION FREEDOM. THE ITALIANS MAY MENTION A HIGH-LEVEL CONFERENCE IN WASHINGTON NEXT DECEMBER ON U.S.-ITALIAN SPACE COOPERATION; THEY HOPE FOR THE VICE PRESIDENT'S PARTICIPATION.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
PAGE 03 ROME 19453 04 OF 04 251447Z

ALLEGATIONS OF U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN DOWNING AIRLINER

19. ON JUNE 27, 1980 AN ITAVIA AIRLINE DC-9 CRASHED INTO THE TYRRHENIAN SEA OFF THE ISLAND OF USTICA, NEAR SICILY. THE CAUSE OF THE DOWNING HAS NEVER BEEN EXPLAINED. FUELED BY PRESS SPECULATION, CONTROVERSIAL AND POLITICALLY SENSITIVE THEORIES OF U.S. MILITARY INVOLVEMENT IN THE DOWNING HAVE CIRCULATED WIDELY. THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT HAS RECENTLY MADE ADDITIONAL REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION FROM THE U.S. AND THE AMBASSADOR HAS PUBLICLY PLEDGED FULL U.S. COOPERATION TO ASSIST THE OFFICIAL INVESTIGATION IN ANY WAY WE CAN.

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PAGE 01 ROME 19745 301823Z
ACTION EUR-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-13	ADS-00	AMAD-01	CIAE-00	CFE-01	DODE-00
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	NRRC-01	NSAE-00	OIC-02	PA-01	PM-01	PRS-01	P-01
	SB-01	SP-01	SSO-00	SS-01	TRSE-00	T-01	USIE-00

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O 301823Z OCT 91
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9930
WHITEHOUSE WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO DEPT JUSTICE WASHDC
DIRFBI WASHDC 0251

ROME 19745

STATE FOR EUR/WE (NIGRO); WHITE HOUSE FOR NSC
(WAYNE)

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: OVIP (BUSH, GEORGE), NATO, IT
SUBJECT: NATO SUMMIT: BRIEFING MEMO FOR
- PRESIDENT'S BILATERAL WITH PM ANDREOTTI

REF: (A) ROME 19453 (B) ROME 19631 (C) STATE
357111 (D) ROME 19744

1. [REDACTED] - ENTIRE TEXT.
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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2. THE EMBASSY BELIEVES IT IS IMPORTANT TO FLAG
TWO BILATERAL ITEMS FOR THE PRESIDENT BEFORE HIS
MEETING WITH PM ANDREOTTI: THE USTICA CASE (REF A,
PARA 19) AND THE AL-JAWARY CASE (OTHER REFTELS).

3. THE USTICA CASE IS ONE THAT ANDREOTTI MAY
RAISE. ALTHOUGH THE DISAPPEARANCE OF THE ITAVIA
DC-9 OVER THE TYRRHENIAN SEA OCCURRED 11 YEARS AGO,
THE UNSOLVED CAUSE OF THE CRASH CONTINUES TO
EXERCISE THE PUBLIC, THE MEDIA AND THE HIGHEST

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LEVELS OF THE GOVERNMENT, JUST AS THE CAUSE OF THE PAN AM 103 CRASH ENGAGES US. THE PRESIDENT SHOULD BE READY TO ASSURE ANDREOTTI THAT THE U.S. REMAINS PREPARED TO ASSIST THE ITALIAN AUTHORITIES BY PROVIDING INFORMATION ABOUT THE WHEREABOUTS OF U.S. SHIPS AND PLANES ON THE NIGHT OF THE DISASTER.

4. THE AL-JAWARY CASE, WHICH IS IMPORTANT TO US, IS ONE THAT THE PRESIDENT SHOULD RAISE, IF WE HAVE NOT YET OBTAINED A FAVORABLE COURT OR GOVERNMENT RULING ON OUR REQUEST FOR AL-JAWARY'S EXTRADITION.

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ACTION EUR-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-13	ADS-00	AID-01	AMAD-01	CIAE-00	CFE-01
	DOEE-00	ANHR-01	CSCE-01	HA-09	H-01	IMMC-01	INRE-00
	INR-01	IO-19	L-03	NRRC-01	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02
	PA-01	PM-01	PRS-01	P-01	SB-01	SCT-03	SDEL-01
	SNP-01	SP-01	SS-01	TRSE-00	T-01	TSKY-01	/070W

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O 041437Z NOV 91
 FM AMEMBASSY ROME
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0029
 INFO SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
 JCS WASHDC
 USIA WASHDC 6099
 USMISSION USNATO 1057
 CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
 COMSIXTHFLT
 USCINCEUR VAHINGEN GE//ECPA//ECJ5
 CNO WASHDC
 COMFAIRMED NAPLES IT
 USNMR SHAPE BE

SECTION 01 OF 02 ROME 19898

DEPT ALSO FOR P
USIA FOR EU, P/G

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PARM, NATO, PREL, IT

PAGE 02 ROME 19898 01 OF 02 041438Z
SUBJECT: MEETING WITH ITALIAN DEFENSE MINISTER

REF: ROME 19340

1. [REDACTED] - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SUMMARY: ITALIAN MINISTER OF DEFENSE ROGNONI
 CAME TO PAVIA ON OCTOBER 30 TO ACT AS MY ESCORT
 DURING USIS SPONSORED VISIT. DURING THE FOUR HOURS
 THAT WE SPENT TOGETHER, WE DISCUSSED THE PREVIOUS
 DAY'S WEU MEETING IN BONN, THE REVIEW OF THE

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AL JAWARY CASE AND CURRENT ITALIAN CONCERNS WITH THE
EVER SURFACING USTICA ISSUE. END SUMMARY.

3. ITALIAN DEFENSE MINISTER VIRGINIO ROGNONI
TRAVELED TO HIS HOME TOWN OF PAVIA (50 MILES FROM
MILAN) TO PERSONALLY WELCOME ME ON OCTOBER 30. I WAS
IN PAVIA TO TAKE PART IN A CEREMONY AT WHICH 14TH
CENTURY FRESCOS WHICH HAD BEEN REMOVED FROM ITALY AND
HAD BECOME PART OF THE COLLECTION OF THE PHILADELPHIA
FINE ART MUSEUM WERE RETURNED TO THEIR ORIGINAL HOME.

4. I USED THIS OPPORTUNITY TO ASK MINISTER ROGNONI
ABOUT THE MEETING OF THE WEU ON OCT. 29.
SPECIFICALLY, I PRODDED HIM ON THE POSSIBILITY OF
COMPROMISE BETWEEN THE ITALIAN-BRITISH PROPOSAL AND
THE FRANCO-GERMAN PROPOSAL.

[REDACTED] HE
BELIEVED THAT PROGRESS HAD INDEED BEEN MADE. HE
STRESSED THAT THE TWO PROPOSALS HAVE MANY POINTS IN
COMMON. MOST IMPORTANTLY, THE REALIZATION OF THE

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NEED FOR A COMMON DEFENSE OF EUROPE IN CONSULTATION
WITH THE U.S. HOWEVER, THE FRENCH ARE STILL WARY OF
THE U.S.'S PRIMORDIAL ROLE IN EUROPEAN DEFENSE.
ROGNONI OBSERVED THAT "THE FRENCH STILL WANT TO DRESS
AND SPEAK LIKE DE GAULLE, WITHOUT HAVING DE GAULLE."

5. [REDACTED] GIVEN
THE TIGHT BUDGET SITUATION IN ALL COUNTRIES, THERE IS
NO POSSIBILITY OF INCREASES IN TROOP LEVELS.
THEREFORE, EXISTING UNITS WOULD HAVE TO BE
"DOUBLE-HATTED" THAT IS, TO BE ABLE TO SERVE IN A
NATO OR EUROPEAN ROLE AS EVENTS WARRANTED. THE
MINISTER THEN CLARIFIED BY STATING THAT FRANCE WOULD
NOT PARTICIPATE IN AN INTEGRATED NATO EFFORT WHILE
THE U.S. AND CANADA WOULD NOT BE PART OF AN EUROPEAN
EFFORT. IF, FOR EXAMPLE, THERE HAD BEEN AN
INTERVENTION FORCE SENT TO YUGOSLAVIA, IT WOULD HAVE
BEEN A EUROPEAN AND NOT A NATO FORCE. FURTHER

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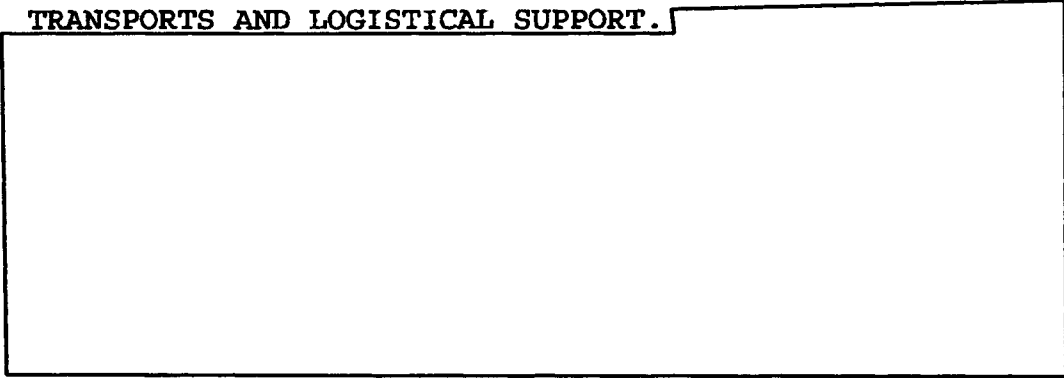
Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

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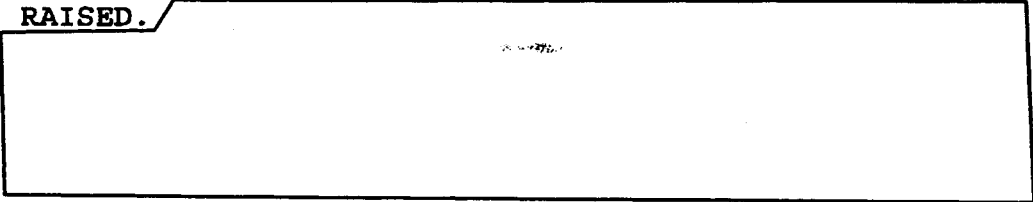
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EXPLAINING, HE SAID THAT A EUROPEAN FORCE MIGHT BE CALLED UPON TO UNDERTAKE MILITARY ACTION IN AN AREA NOT COVERED BY NATO OR IN EASTERN EUROPE. I ASKED HOW THE WEU WOULD MOVE THESE TROOPS WITHOUT U.S. TRANSPORTS AND LOGISTICAL SUPPORT.



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6. I ASKED THE MINISTER IF THE ISSUE OF THE INCREASED IMPORTANCE OF NATO'S SOUTHERN FLANK WAS RAISED.



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ACTION EUR-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-13	ADS-00	AID-01	AMAD-01	CIAE-00	CFE-01
	DOEE-00	ANHR-01	CSCE-01	HA-09	H-01	IMMC-01	INRE-00
	INR-01	IO-19	L-03	NRRC-01	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02
	PA-01	PM-01	PRS-01	P-01	SB-01	SCT-03	SDEL-01
	SNP-01	SP-01	SS-01	TRSE-00	T-01	TSKY-01	/070W

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O 041437Z NOV 91
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0030
INFO SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
JCS WASHDC
USIA WASHDC 6100
USMISSION USNATO 1058
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK

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USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE//ECPA//ECJ5
CNO WASHDC
COMFAIRMED NAPLES IT
USNMR SHAPE BE

SECTION 02 OF 02 ROME 19898

DEPT ALSO FOR P
USIA FOR EU, P/G

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PARM, NATO, PREL, IT

PAGE 02 ROME 19898 02 OF 02 041439Z
SUBJECT: MEETING WITH ITALIAN DEFENSE MINISTER

[REDACTED]

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7. I ALSO USED MY MORNING WITH ROGNONI TO BRING UP THE AL JAWARY CASE AND THE CURRENT RESURFACING OF THE USTICA AFFAIR. I TOLD THE MINISTER THAT IF TERRORIST QAL JAWARY, WHOSE CASE IS CURRENTLY UNDER REVIEW BY

[REDACTED] CORRADO CARNEVALE WAS RELEASED, THERE WOULD BE STRONG REACTION IN THE UNITED STATES.

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HE DID PROMISE, HOWEVER, TO MENTION THE PROBABLE U.S. REACTION TO ITALIAN JUSTICE MINISTER MARTELLI IMMEDIATELY UPON RETURN TO ROME.

8. MOVING ONTO USTICA, I TOLD THE MINISTER THAT WE HAVE DECIDED NOT TO GO FORWARD IMMEDIATELY WITH A RESPONSE TO THE REQUEST BY AMBASSADOR BIANCHIERI. WE WERE PRESENTLY PREPARING A MORE COMPLETE LETTER, BUT IT HAD BEEN SOMEWHAT DELAYED BECAUSE OF THE NUMBER OF KEY PEOPLE WHO WERE NOW ATTENDING THE MADRID CONFERENCE. I STATED THAT WE HOPED TO PUT TOGETHER A SERIES OF QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS THAT THE U.S. WOULD USE WITH THE PRESS. THE MINISTER REMARKED THAT WE WOULD HAVE TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF EVERYTHING IN THE AREA ON THE EVENING OF 1980, NOT JUST AIRCRAFT. I TOLD HIM THAT THERE HAD BEEN 21 FLIGHTS OF AIRCRAFT FROM THE USS SARATOGA, BUT THEY HAD TAKEN PLACE FROM SIGONELLA, NOT FROM NAPLES WHERE THE CARRIER WAS THEN

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PAGE 03 ROME 19898 02 OF 02 041439Z
QMOORED AND HAD LANDED BEFORE THE USTICA CRASH. I
TOLD HIM THAT WE INTENDED TO ATTACK THE ISSUE HEAD-ON
AND TO COORDINATE CLOSELY AMONG THE THREE USG
AGENCIES INVOLVED. HE CONCURRED THAT WE NEEDED A
STRONG STATEMENT FROM EMBASSY ROME.

9. COMMENT: I EXPRESSED MY PERSONAL APPRECIATION TO
THE MINISTER FOR THE FACT THAT HE TOOK FOUR HOURS
(EXCLUDING TRAVEL TIME) OUT OF HIS SCHEDULE TO BE
WITH ME IN PAVIA. MORE IMPORTANTLY, THIS GESTURE
UNDERLINES THE DEGREE OF IMPORTANCE THE ITALIAN
GOVERNMENT, AND SPECIFICALLY THE CURRENT MINISTER OF
DEFENSE, PLACES ON IN-DEPTH COMMUNICATION AND
CONSULTATIONS ON DEFENSE ISSUES.
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16 Apr 2002

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PAGE 01 NAPLES 03512 071407Z
ACTION EUR-01

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	H-01	INRE-00	INR-01	ITC-01	JUSE-00	LAB-04	L-03
	ADS-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OMB-01	OPIC-08	PA-01	PM-02
	PRS-01	P-01	SNP-00	SP-00	SS-00	STR-17	TRSE-00
	T-01	USIE-00	/066W				

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FM AMCONSUL NAPLES//DP1//
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1925
AMEMBASSY ROME
INFO AMCONSUL MILAN
AMCONSUL FLORENCE
AMCONSUL GENOA
AMCONSUL PALERMO
NATO EC COLLECTIVE

NAPLES 3512

SECTION 02 OF 03
ROME PLS PASS AMCONSULS FLORENCE, GENOA, PALERMO
E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: ECON, MARR, PINR, PGOV, IT
SUBJ: SOUTHERN ITALIAN ATTITUDES ON NATO AND THE MEDITERRANEAN AREA
THREAT IS GONE.

PEACE MOVEMENTS--NO LONGER THE FACTOR THEY ONCE WERE

PAGE 02 NAPLES 03512 071407Z

PAGE 02 RUFNSAA5090

9. THE ITALIAN PEACE MOVEMENT THAT COULD SO EASILY RALLY TENS OF THOUSANDS OF DEMONSTRATORS ON OCCASION IN THE LATE 1960S AND 1970S HAS LONG SINCE CEASED TO HAVE BROAD POPULAR SUPPORT. IN RECENT YEARS, ANTI-MILITARY DEMONSTRATIONS HAVE BEEN VERY LIMITED BOTH IN NUMBER OF EVENTS AND IN THE NUMBER PARTICIPANTS. FOR EXAMPLE, THE ANNOUNCEMENT IN MID-OCTOBER THAT SOME U.S. F-16S WOULD BE TEMPORARILY DEPLOYED IN GOIA DEL COLLE IN SOUTH ITALY DREW PROTESTS FROM THE LOCAL PDS WHICH CIRCULATED PROTEST FLYERS AND DISCUSSED THE DEPLOYMENT IN THE CITY COUNCIL. HOWEVER, THEIR EFFORTS FAILED TO AROUSE ANY NOTICEABLE PUBLIC REACTION AND THERE WERE NO DEMONSTRATIONS, ACCORDING TO OUR CONTACTS IN THE AREA. EVEN THE

Page - 773

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: ERIC W. FLEISHER
DATE/CASE ID: 3 OCT 2002 200102359

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Date Printed:
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DOC_NBR: 1992NAPLES03512

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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FORMERLY ACTIVE LOCAL PEACE MOVEMENT FAILED TO JOIN THE PDS EFFORT.
10. THE WANING ITALIAN ENTHUSIASM FOR THE RADICAL LEFT WAS ALSO REFLECTED IN THE NATIONAL PARLIAMENT ELECTION LAST APRIL WHEN MOST LEFTIST GROUPS DECIDED TO NOT RUN SLATES OF CANDIDATES. ONLY A FEW FAR LEFTIST CANDIDATES WERE ELECTED, AND THE ONCE NOTABLE GROUP OF INDEPENDENT LEFTISTS IN PARLIAMENT WAS NO MORE. NAPLES' GRAND OLD MAN OF THE FAR LEFT, MARCO PANELLA (FOUNDER OF THE RADICAL PARTY) RAN A LIST OF CANDIDATES BEARING HIS OWN NAME RATHER THAN TRYING TO REVIVE THE RADICAL PARTY AND ITS OLD IDEALS. INSTEAD, THE PANELLA

PAGE 03 RUFNSAA5090
LIST PLATFORM BASED ITS CAMPAIGN ON POLITICAL REFORM PROPOSALS WHILE ATTACKING THE "CORRUPT" POLITICAL ESTABLISHMENT. SIMILARLY, IN TUNE WITH THE SHIFT IN PUBLIC SENTIMENTS, THE GREENS IN SOUTH ITALY RAN ON MORE MODERATE PLATFORMS THAN IN THE PAST, AND FOCUSED ON ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL REFORM, AND ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES. THE GREENS HIGHLIGHTED THEIR SUPPORT FOR ANTI-ORGANIZED CRIME MEASURES

PAGE 03 NAPLES 03512 071407Z
(WHAT A CHANGE--MOST OF THE GREENS BECAME PROPONENTS OF "LAW AND ORDER").

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES--PREDICTABLE HEADACHES FOR MILITARY DEPLOYMENTS

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PAGE 04 RUFNSAA5090
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USTICA -- GHOSTS FROM THE PAST THREATEN THE FUTURE

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THROUGHOUT THE YEARS, THIS ISSUE BECAME FRONT PAGE NEWS AGAIN IN
1992. THE KEY PROBLEM IS THAT THE LACK OF CONCRETE EVIDENCE ON THE
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LEFTISTS AND A GENERAL ITALIAN PUBLIC THIRST FOR CONSPIRACIES. A
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PAGE 05 RUFNSAA5090
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FURTHER INFLAMED WHEN JOURNALISTS HIGHLIGHTED ILL-CONCEIVED
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SECRETARY OF DEFENSE RICHARD CHENEY ON OCTOBER 25. TRUST IN THE U.S.
MILITARY WAS LESSENERED IN SOUTHERN ITALY BY NEGATIVE NEWS ARTICLES
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IN AREAS PERCEIVED TO HAVE CONGESTED AIRSPACE.

YUGOSLAVIA AND THE ARAB STATES -- CLOSE TO SOUTH ITALY

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NOTE: NOT PASSED TO ABOVE ADDRESSEE(S)

PAGE 01 NAPLES 03512 02 OF 03 071729Z
ACTION EUR-01

INFO	LOG-00	AGRE-00	AID-01	CEA-01	CIAE-00	COME-00	CTME-00
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	PRS-01	P-01	SNP-00	SP-00	SS-00	STR-17	TRSE-00
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AMEMBASSY ROME
INFO AMCONSUL MILAN
AMCONSUL FLORENCE
AMCONSUL GENOA
AMCONSUL PALERMO
NATO EC COLLECTIVE

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FOR SECTION INFO

ROME PLS PASS AMCONSULS FLORENCE, GENOA, PALERMO

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: ECON, MARR, PINR, PGOV, IT
SUBJ: SOUTHERN ITALIAN ATTITUDES ON NATO AND THE MEDITERRANEAN AREA
THREAT IS GONE.

PEACE MOVEMENTS--NO LONGER THE FACTOR THEY ONCE WERE

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9. THE ITALIAN PEACE MOVEMENT THAT COULD SO EASILY RALLY TENS OF THOUSANDS OF DEMONSTRATORS ON OCCASION IN THE LATE 1960S AND 1970S HAS LONG SINCE CEASED TO HAVE BROAD POPULAR SUPPORT. IN RECENT YEARS, ANTI-MILITARY DEMONSTRATIONS HAVE BEEN VERY LIMITED BOTH IN NUMBER OF EVENTS AND IN THE NUMBER PARTICIPANTS. FOR EXAMPLE, THE ANNOUNCEMENT IN MID-OCTOBER THAT SOME U.S. F-16S WOULD BE TEMPORARILY DEPLOYED IN GOIA DEL COLLE IN SOUTH ITALY DREW PROTESTS FROM THE LOCAL PDS WHICH CIRCULATED PROTEST FLYERS AND DISCUSSED THE DEPLOYMENT IN THE CITY COUNCIL. HOWEVER, THEIR EFFORTS FAILED TO AROUSE ANY NOTICEABLE PUBLIC REACTION AND THERE WERE NO DEMONSTRATIONS, ACCORDING TO OUR CONTACTS IN THE AREA. EVEN THE FORMERLY ACTIVE LOCAL PEACE MOVEMENT FAILED TO JOIN THE PDS EFFORT.

10. THE WANING ITALIAN ENTHUSIASM FOR THE RADICAL LEFT WAS ALSO REFLECTED IN THE NATIONAL PARLIAMENT ELECTION LAST APRIL WHEN MOST LEFTIST GROUPS DECIDED TO NOT RUN SLATES OF CANDIDATES. ONLY A FEW FAR LEFTIST CANDIDATES WERE ELECTED, AND THE ONCE NOTABLE GROUP OF INDEPENDENT LEFTISTS IN PARLIAMENT WAS NO MORE. NAPLES' GRAND OLD MAN OF THE FAR LEFT, MARCO PANELLA (FOUNDER OF THE RADICAL PARTY) RAN A LIST OF CANDIDATES BEARING HIS OWN NAME RATHER THAN TRYING TO REVIVE THE RADICAL PARTY AND ITS OLD IDEALS. INSTEAD, THE PANELLA LIST PLATFORM BASED ITS CAMPAIGN ON POLITICAL REFORM PROPOSALS WHILE ATTACKING THE "CORRUPT" POLITICAL ESTABLISHMENT. SIMILARLY, IN TUNE WITH THE SHIFT IN PUBLIC SENTIMENTS, THE GREENS IN SOUTH ITALY RAN ON MORE MODERATE PLATFORMS THAN IN THE PAST, AND FOCUSED ON ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL REFORM, AND ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES. THE GREENS HIGHLIGHTED THEIR SUPPORT FOR ANTI-ORGANIZED CRIME MEASURES (WHAT A CHANGE--MOST OF THE GREENS BECAME PROPONENTS OF "LAW AND ORDER").

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USTICA -- GHOSTS FROM THE PAST THREATEN THE FUTURE

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YUGOSLAVIA AND THE ARAB STATES -- CLOSE TO SOUTH ITALY

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INFO AMCONSUL MILAN
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NATO EC COLLECTIVE

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ROME PLS PASS AMCONSULS FLORENCE, GENOA, PALERMO

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: ECON, MARR, PINR, PGOV, IT

SUBJ: SOUTHERN ITALIAN ATTITUDES ON NATO AND THE MEDITERRANEAN AREA
UNCOVERED IN ITALY IN THE 1980S.

16. SOUTHERN ITALIANS ALSO VIEW THE MIDDLE EAST AS AN AREA OF
IMMEDIATE CONCERN FOR THEIR NATIONAL SECURITY. RADICAL ARAB STATES
COULD JEOPARDIZE SOME VITAL SEA ROUTES OR COULD PROMOTE TERRORIST
ACTIVITY IN SOUTH ITALY. (NOTE: STATISTICS CITED TO US BY UNION

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LEADERS IN CAMPANIA INDICATE THAT 90 PERCENT OF THE IMMIGRANTS IN THE MEZZOGIORNO ARE MUSLIMS. FURTHERMORE, POLICE REPORTS IN NAPLES INDICATE THAT THE PLO AND THE IRANIAN REGIME, INTER ALIA, HAVE SUPPORTERS IN THE REGION.) AS THE MAYOR OF REGGIO CALABRIA REMARKED, THE ARAB STATES ARE TOO CLOSE FOR ITALIANS TO IGNORE, AND (WITH SOME EXAGGERATION) "ON A CLEAR DAY YOU CAN SEE LIBYA FROM SOME AREAS OF SOUTH ITALY."

17. SOUTHERN ITALIAN POLITICIANS AND BUSINESSMEN HAVE ALSO COMMENTED TO US THAT YUGOSLAVIA, ALBANIA AND THE MIDDLE EAST HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO BECOME IMPORTANT MARKETS FOR ITALIAN GOODS AND SERVICES. SOME OF THE BUSINESS ORGANIZATION LEADERS WE HAVE TALKED TO IN CITIES SUCH AS BARI, TARANTO, AND BRINDISI IN THE FAR SOUTH HAVE HAD OVERLY OPTIMISTIC EXPECTATIONS OF HOW MUCH THESE NEW MARKETS COULD DO FOR REVIVING THE STAGNANT MEZZOGIORNO ECONOMY. THEY CITE THESE EXPECTED INTERNATIONAL TRADE BENEFITS AS ANOTHER OF THE REASONS FOR ITALIAN SUPPORT FOR NATO AND WESTERN EFFORTS TO INTERVENE IN YUGOSLAVIA.

BUT NO ENTHUSIASM FOR NATO "OUT-OF-THE-AREA" ADVENTURES

18. SOUTHERN ITALIAN CONCERNS ABOUT YUGOSLAVIA AND ALBANIA AND THE MIDDLE EAST/NORTH AFRICA DO NOT NECESSARILY TRANSLATE INTO SUPPORT FOR NATO INVOLVEMENT IN AREAS BEYOND ITS TRADITIONAL TERRITORIAL AREA OF OPERATION. POLITICIANS HAVE CITED THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT'S WILLINGNESS TO ASSIGN FIVE BRIGADES TO NATO'S RAPID REACTION FORCE AS PROOF OF A NATIONAL COMMITMENT TO BROADER NATO RESPONSIBILITIES. ITALY HAD ALSO OFFERED A 1300 MAN FORCE TO THE UN FOR USE IN YUGOSLAVIA. (THE UN, HOWEVER, REJECTED THIS OFFER). SEVERAL OF OUR CONTACTS, HOWEVER, QUESTIONED THE WISDOM OF BOTH OF THESE DECISIONS. DC AND PSI POLITICIANS SAID THAT THEIR PARTIES WERE SPLIT ON THESE DECISIONS. ONE REGIONAL DC PARTY OFFICIAL WORRIED THAT IF ANY LARGE ITALIAN LOSSES WERE INCURRED IN MILITARY INTERVENTIONS

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OUTSIDE OF WESTERN EUROPE, THE PUBLIC WOULD BEGIN TO QUESTION THE VALUE OF NATO INVOLVEMENT IN "FOREIGN" AREAS. ALL PDS REGIONAL OFFICIALS WITH WHOM WE TALKED OPPOSED "OUT-OF-THE-AREA" NATO DEPLOYMENTS.

19. ITALIAN REACTIONS TO THE ALLIED ENGAGEMENT IN THE IRAQ WAR IS ANOTHER INDICATOR OF THE DIVISIONS INHERENT IN THE SOUTHERN ITALIANS' YES-MAYBE ENDORSEMENT OF BROADER NATO RESPONSIBILITIES. THE DESERT STORM CAMPAIGN AGAINST IRAQ DREW MIXED REVIEWS IN SOUTH ITALY DESPITE BROAD CONSENSUS THAT SADDAM HUSSEIN WAS AN AGGRESSOR WHO NEEDED TO BE DEALT WITH. MOST OF THE DC, THE PSI AND THE SMALLER LAY PARTIES SUPPORTED THE WAR, BUT WE HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT THE PUBLIC WAS SPLIT. THE PDS AND OTHER PARTIES ON THE LEFT WERE, AS WAS EXPECTED, OPPOSED. SEVERAL DC CONTACTS AND A MEMBER OF

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ALESSANDRIA MUSSOLINI'S ITALIAN SOCIAL MOVEMENT TOLD US THAT THE US HAD ERRED IN NOT SEIZING ALL OF IRAQ AND IMPOSING A PERMANENT SOLUTION.

NO CRYSTAL BALL FOR THE FUTURE OF WESTERN DEFENSE DOCTRINES

20. THE EVOLUTION IN SOUTHERN ITALIAN VIEWS ON SECURITY POLICY, OBSCURED PARTIALLY BY A LACK OF OPEN PUBLIC DEBATE, PRESENTLY REFLECTS A CHARACTERISTIC ITALIAN DESIRE TO "KEEP THEIR OPTIONS OPEN." THERE IS A GENERALIZED PUBLIC FEELING THAT SECURITY MECHANISMS MUST CHANGE IN EUROPE IN THE POST-COLD WAR ERA, BUT NOT MUCH CONSENSUS ON HOW. THE SOUTHERN ITALIANS EXPECT SUCH CHANGES TO INCLUDE AN ENHANCED EUROPEAN ROLE IN ITS DEFENSE AS PART OF THE CREATION OF A MORE UNIFIED EUROPE. ONE MEANS FOR ACCOMPLISHING THIS WOULD BE WITHIN THE WEU (WESTERN EUROPEAN UNION), AN AVENUE THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT RECENTLY EXPLORED IN ITS STATUS AS PRESIDENT OF THE WEU.

21. HOWEVER, THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT AND THE PARLIAMENTARIANS

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WE HAVE TALKED TO MAY BE EXCEEDING THE PUBLIC TOLERANCE FOR CHANGE, AT LEAST IN THE SOUTH. WE HAVE DETECTED IN OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH ITALIANS RANGING FROM PREFECTS AND REGIONAL GIUNTA PRESIDENTS TO PARTY RANK AND FILE A VAGUE RELUCTANCE TO EMBRACE A EUROPEAN DEFENSE FORCE OR ORGANIZATION. FIRST, THERE IS A PREFERENCE TO NOT RISK THE OLD TRIED AND PROVEN ATLANTIC ALLIANCE, ALTHOUGH MANY OF OUR INTERLOCUTORS WOULD ADJUST ITS STRUCTURE AND DOCTRINE TO ENHANCE THE EUROPEAN ROLE. SECOND, A NUMBER OF OUR CONTACTS HAVE EXPRESSED A RELUCTANCE TO COMMIT ITALY TO A NEW STRUCTURE THAT MIGHT BE UNDULY INFLUENCED BY A FRANCO-GERMAN AXIS. AT PRESENT, THE PREFERENCE OF MANY SOUTHERNERS WOULD BE TO PLAY BOTH ANGLES, BUILDING EUROPEAN SECURITY COOPERATION WHILE ENGAGING IN ADEQUATE DIALOGUE TO AVOID UNDOING NATO. ULTIMATELY, FACED WITH TIGHT ECONOMIC CONSTRAINTS, MANY ITALIANS IN THE MEZZOGIORNO MAY WELL BASE THEIR VIEWS ON SECURITY POLICY ON PERCEIVED COSTS AND BENEFITS OF A NEW EUROPEAN SECURITY STRUCTURE AS COMPARED TO NATO, RATHER THAN PURELY ON PERCEIVED DANGERS.

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TO AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE

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FOR AMBASSADOR AND DCM FROM EUR/WE - JAMES H. MADDEN

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: PREL, PGOV, MARR, IT
SUBJECT: OFFICIAL-INFORMAL

REF: ROME 12867

1. PER REFTEL, EMBASSY ROME REQUESTED INFORMATION ON REMARKS MADE BY DOD SPOKESMAN SATTERFIELD TO AN ITALIAN JOURNALIST THAT WERE LATER QUOTED IN ITALIAN MEDIA.
2. THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS PROVIDED, AND IS KEYED TO THE CITATIONS IN THE ANSA JULY 11 DISPATCH (AS RELATED

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REFTEL).

3. CITATION: (QUOTE) HE CONFIRMED THAT THE INDICATOR "MK30" IS FOUND ON THE STANDARD MISSILE. (UNQUOTE)

CLARIFICATION: THE REPORTER ASKED IF THE MARKING "MK 30" IS USED WITH THE STANDARD MISSILE. SATTERFIELD SAID THAT A MK 30 SUSTAINER IS USED WITH THE EXTENDED RANGE STANDARD MISSILE. SATTERFIELD ALSO SAID THAT WITHOUT SEEING THE CANNISTER IN QUESTION, HE COULD NOT COMMENT ON ANY MARKINGS.

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4. CITATION: (QUOTE) HE REPEATED HOWEVER THAT "NO MILITARY SHIP OR AIRPLANE OF THE U.S." WAS OPERATING IN THE ZONE IN WHICH THE ITAVIA DC-9 FELL ON THE NIGHT OF JUNE 27, 1980. (UNQUOTE)

CLARIFICATION: SATTERFIELD REPEATED NAVY GUIDANCE STATING THAT NO AIRCRAFT CARRIER NOR SURFACE SHIP WERE OPERATING IN THE AREA ON THE DAY THE PLANE CRASHED.

5. CITATION: (QUOTE) SATTERFIELD FURTHER SAID THAT IT IS PRACTICALLY IMPOSSIBLE TO COMMENT ON THE FINDING OF THE REMAINS OF THE AIRPLANE AND OTHER OBJECTS ON THE SEA FLOOR UNTIL THERE IS MORE PRECISELY DOCUMENTED INFORMATION. (UNQUOTE)

CLARIFICATION: SATTERFIELD WAS ASKED IF THE OBJECT FOUND WAS PART OF A STANDARD MISSILE. SATTERFIELD STATED THE THE U.S NAVY OR OTHER DEFENSE OFFICIALS (AS OF THAT DATE) HAD NOT BEEN ASKED TO EXAMINE THE PART FOUND (ACCORDING TO
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OUR FPAO AT U.S. NAVAL FORCES EUROPE). THEREFORE IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO COMMENT. SATTERFIELD DID NOT USE THE PHRASE "REMAINS OF THE AIRPLANE," AS NONE WAS CITED AS HAVING BEEN FOUND.

6. CITATION: (QUOTE) STANDARD MISSILES IN USE IN THE AMERICAN NAVY ARE WHITE AND GREY, WHILE THOSE OF OTHER COUNTRIES ARE OTHER COLORS. MOREVER BESIDES THE INDICATOR MK 30; EVERY COUNTRY THAT USES THEM ADDS ANOTHER IDENTIFICATION CODE. "WE SPEAK FOR THE AMERICAN NAVY, NOT FOR OTHER COUNTRIES." (UNQUOTE)

CLARIFICATION: THE REPORTER INQUIRED REGARDING THE COLOR OF NAVY MISSILES. SATTERFIELD REPLIED THAT MISSILES ABOARD SURFACE VESSELS WERE GENERALLY WHITE OR GREY. THE REPORTER STARTED ASKING ABOUT COLORS USED BY OTHER NATIONS' NAVIES, AND ANY CODES THAT MIGHT BE USED. SATTERFIELD RESPONDED BY SAYING "WE SPEAK FOR THE AMERICAN NAVY."

7. CITATION: (QUOTE) SATTERFIELD ADDED THAT THE STANDARD MISSILE IS IN USE BY THE U.S. NAVY SINCE 1969 AND HAS BEEN USED MANY TIMES DURING THE PAST 20 YEARS IN MILITARY EXERCISES IN THE MEDITERRANEAN. (UNQUOTE)

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DOC_NBR: 1991STATE237427

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CLARIFICATION: SATTERFIELD TOLD THE REPORTER THAT THE STANDARD MISSILE BECAME OPERATIONAL IN 1969. THE REPORTER THEN ASKED HOW MANY TIMES IT HAD BEEN USED IN EXERCISES IN THE LAST 20 YEARS. SATTERFIELD REPLIED THAT THERE WAS NO

WAY TO VERIFY THAT INFORMATION IN ONE DAY. THE REPORTER

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PAGE 04 STATE 237427 191946Z
ASKED IF HE COULD SAY THAT IT HAD NEVER BEEN USED. SATTERFIELD REPLIED THAT HE COULD NOT RESPOND TO THIS QUESTION AT THIS TIME.

8. CITATION: (QUOTE) THE REPORTER ASKED WHETHER THAT WAS DONE WITH OR WITHOUT EXPLOSIVE. SATTERFIELD REPLIED, "IT DEPENDS ON THE EXERCISES." (UNQUOTE)

CLARIFICATION: THE REPORTER ASKED IF THE MISSILES WERE ARMED WITH EXPLOSIVES DURING ALL EXERCISES. SATTERFIELD REPLIED AS QUOTED.

9. DOD PUBLIC AFFAIRS DESK OFFICERS SUCH AS SATTERFIELD ROUTINELY USE STANDARD REFERENCE MATERIAL TO PROVIDE INFORMATION REGARDING OUR MISSILE SYSTEMS. THROUGHOUT THE EXCHANGE WITH THE ITALIAN REPORTER, SATTERFIELD RESPONDED WITH INFORMATION IN THE PUBLIC RECORD REGARDING THE STANDARD MISSILE AND NAVAL OPERATIONS, IN THE SAME MANNER AS HE WOULD HAVE REPLIED TO AN AMERICAN REPORTER.

10. SATTERFIELD'S REMARKS TO THE ITALIAN REPORTER NOTWITHSTANDING, WE BELIEVE THAT YOU SHOULD CONTINUE TO USE THE SAME LANGUAGE THAT YOU HAVE BEEN USING (PER 89 STATE 204245) TO REPLY TO PRESS AND OTHER PUBLIC INQUIRIES. EAGLEBURGER

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Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1991STATE244578

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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PAGE 01 STATE 244578 251812Z
ORIGIN EUR-01

INFO LOG-00 ADS-00 AMAD-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INRE-00 INR-01
NSAE-00 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-01 /007R

DRAFTED BY: EUR/WE:LJNIGRO-DOD/OSD/ISP:GLAZARUS:LJN

APPROVED BY: EUR:RCALDWELL

EUR/WE:JHMADDEN

PA:RJBOUCHER

EUR/P:GGARLAND

EUR/RPM:MTAYLOR

-----81DE2D 251812Z /38

P 251811Z JUL 91
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 244578

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: OPRC IT

SUBJECT: USTICA PRESS GUIDANCE

REF: A) ROME 13431, B) 89 STATE 204245

1. REGARDING YOUR REQUEST FOR CLARIFICATION OF PRESS GUIDANCE ON THE USTICA CONTROVERSY (REF A), THE LANGUAGE CONTAINED IN REF B IS STILL APPLICABLE. ALL U.S. NAVY SHIPS AND AIRCRAFT OPERATING IN THE MEDITERRANEAN ARE UNDER THE OPERATIONAL CONTROL OF THE COMMANDER OF THE U.S. SIXTH FLEET. ACCORDINGLY, THE PHRASE "NO U.S. NAVY SHIPS" AND "NO SIXTH FLEET SHIPS" ARE ONE AND THE SAME.

PAGE 02 STATE 244578 251812Z

2. IN ADDITION, THE LETTER DATED JANUARY 24, 1989 FROM DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE TAFT TO AMBASSADOR PETRIGNANI STATED (QUOTE) ALL MILITARY COMMANDERS IN THE AREA HAVE BEEN QUERIED...AND ALL INFORMATION AVAILABLE INDICATES THAT THE UNITED STATES DID NOT HAVE SHIPS OR AIRCRAFT OPERATING IN THE TYRRENIAN SEA AT THE TIME OF THE CRASH (UNQUOTE).

3. REGARDING IDENTIFICATION OF MATERIALS UNLESS WE ARE CONTACTED OFFICIALLY BY THE GOVERNMENT OF ITALY AND ASKED

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: ERIC W. FLEISHER
DATE/CASE ID: 3 OCT 2002 200102359

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16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1991STATE244578

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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TO ASSIST IN EXAMINING ANY MATERIAL FOUND ON THE OCEAN
FLOOR, WE CHOOSE NOT TO RESPOND TO PRESS SPECULATION OVER
ANY "MISSILE" AND ITS POSSIBLE MARKINGS.
EAGLEBURGER

[REDACTED]

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A139

Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1991STATE398364

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a
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PAGE 01 STATE 398364 062320Z
ORIGIN EUR-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-13	AMAD-01	CIAE-00	CFE-01	CSCE-01	HA-09
	H-01	IMMC-01	INRE-00	INR-01	IO-19	L-03	ADS-00
	NEA-01	NRRC-01	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01	PA-01
	PM-01	PRS-01	P-01	SB-01	SNP-01	SP-01	SS-01
	TRSE-00	T-01	/065R				

DRAFTED BY: EUR/WE:LJNIGRO:LJN
APPROVED BY: EUR:JHMADDEN
EUR/RPM:SCAINE
DOD/OSD/ISP:GLAZARUS

PA:RBOUCHER

-----B4824F 062320Z /38

O R 062320Z DEC 91
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE
INFO SECDEF WASHDC 4789
JCS WASHDC 6616
USIA WASHDC 8388
USCINCEUR VAHINGEN GE//J-5//
USNMR SHAPE BE

STATE 398364

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: PREL, NATO, PINR, IT
SUBJECT: USTICA: UPDATING PRESS GUIDANCE

PAGE 02 STATE 398364 062320Z
REF: ROME 20689

DEPARTMENT APPROVES EMBASSY ROME'S RESPONSE TO PUBLIC
INQUIRIES REGARDING THE USTICA CONTROVERSY AS PROPOSED
REFTEL, WITH THE FOLLOWING MODIFICATIONS:

-- IN PARA 11: CORRECT FLIGHT NUMBER IS 161206 VICE
16206. DELETE LAST TWO SENTENCES, BEGINNING WITH "THE
PLANE'S FLIGHT PATH...

-- IN PARA 15: MODIFY SECOND SENTENCE TO READ: "ALTHOUGH
THE U.S. NAVY NO LONGER HAS FLIGHT RECORDS, BASED ON THE

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Date Printed:

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DOC_NBR: 1991STATE398364

CHANNEL: n/a

HANDLING: n/a

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REPORTED ITALIAN TRANSCRIPTS..."

-- IN PARA 17: MODIFY THE SECOND SENTENCE TO READ
"...MODIFIED 'KING AIR 200,' COULD NOT HAVE TRAVELLED TO
THE CRASH SITE IN 24 MINUTES FROM ITS DEPARTURE TIME FROM
SIGONELLA." DELETE THE REMAINDER OF THE SENTENCE.

-- IN PARA 17: DELETE THE LAST SENTENCE AND SUBSTITUTE

WITH: "THE UNARMED CARGO PLANE TOOK OFF AT 1935 HOURS
LOCAL TIME AND ACCORDING TO ITALIAN INFORMATION PROCEEDED
TO TORREJON. THAT UNARMED TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT, WHOSE
DESIGNATED PERMANENT IDENTIFICATION NUMBER IS 159362, IS
STILL ASSIGNED TO VR-24 AT SIGONELLA AND CONTINUES TO USE
THE CALL SIGN "JULIET MIKE." THE FLIGHT PLAN WAS
DESTROYED LONG AGO, PER NORMAL MILITARY PROCEDURES."

-- IN PARA 22: CORRECT FLIGHT NUMBER IS 161206 VICE 16206.

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-- IN PARA 30: DELETE FIRST SENTENCE, BEGINNING: "WE
CANNOT SPECULATE..."

-- IN PARA 35: DELETE LAST SENTENCE, BEGINNING: "IN
FACT, AT THE..."

-- IN PARA 58: DELETE LAST SENTENCE, BEGINNING: "NOR HAS
HE EVER..."

-- IN PARA 62: DELETE LAST SENTENCE, BEGINNING: "AS A
RULE..."

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(A140)

Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1992ROME00993

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: 1/2
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ACTION EUR-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-13	AID-01	AMAD-01	CIAE-00	CFE-01	CSCE-01
	HA-09	H-01	IMMC-01	INRE-00	INR-01	IO-19	L-03
	ADS-00	NEA-01	NRRC-01	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01
	PA-01	PM-01	PRS-01	P-01	SB-01	SCT-03	SNP-01
	SP-01	SS-01	TRSE-00	T-01	/069W		

-----04DA83 171746Z /38

O 171741Z JAN 92
 FM AMEMBASSY ROME
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2875
 INFO SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
 JCS WASHDC
 USIA WASHDC 6407
 USMISSION USNATO 1146
 CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
 COMSIXTHFLT
 USCINCEUR VAHINGEN GE//ECPA//ECJ5//
 CNO WASHDC//O6/O9C//
 COMFAIRMED NAPLES IT
 USNMR SHAPE BE
 AMCONSUL MILAN

SECTION 01 OF 02 ROME 00993

STATE ALSO FOR P
USIA FOR EU, P/G

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

PAGE 02 ROME 00993 01 OF 02 171746Z

TAGS: PINR, NATO, PREL, IT
 SUBJECT: USTICA UPDATE: 13 ITALIAN MILITARY
 OFFICERS, INCLUDING FORMER CHIEFS OF STAFF,
 IMPLICATED IN COVERUP OF USTICA AFFAIR

EXTEND CLASSIFICATION

REF: A) 91 ROME 22483 (DTG 131738Z DEC 91) AND
PREVIOUS

1. (C) SUMMARY: ACCORDING TO JANUARY 16 PRESS
 ACCOUNTS, IN DECEMBER 1991, 13 ITALIAN MILITARY
 OFFICERS, INCLUDING TWO FORMER CHIEFS OF STAFF,

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CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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WERE EITHER CHARGED OR IMPLICATED IN A COVERUP INVOLVING THE MYSTERIOUS DOWNING OF AN ITALIAN AIRLINER IN JUNE OF 1980 NEAR THE ISLAND OF USTICA. THE ARTICLES LINK SOME OF THE OFFICERS TO A WORKING GROUP ALLEGEDLY FORMED AT EMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE DOWNING AND IMPLY THAT THE OFFICERS PARTICIPATED IN A COVERUP IN COLLABORATION WITH U.S. OFFICIALS. SOME POLITICIANS, PRIMARILY ON THE LEFT, SPECULATE THAT IF THERE WAS A COVERUP BY THE MILITARY, IT HAD TO BE DIRECTED BY THE GOVERNMENT, PROBABLY TO PROTECT SOME "GREATER POWER." WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE AND CAREER MILITARY OFFICERS ARE FRUSTRATED AND BITTER OVER WHAT THEY VIEW AS AN ESSENTIALLY POLITICALLY DRIVEN SCANDAL WHICH CONTINUES TO IMPACT NEGATIVELY ON THE MILITARY. END SUMMARY.

2. (U) ON JANUARY 16 THE ITALIAN PRESS REPORTED THAT LEGAL ACTION HAD BEEN TAKEN AGAINST 13

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ITALIAN MILITARY OFFICERS IN CONNECTION WITH AN ALLEGED COVERUP INVOLVING THE DOWNING OF THE ITAVIA AIRLINE NEAR THE ISLAND OF USTICA IN 1980. MINISTER OF DEFENSE ROGNONI APPEARED BEFORE THE PARLIAMENTARY COMMISSION INVESTIGATING THE DOWNING ON THE 15TH TO REPORT THAT IN DECEMBER 1991, FOUR OFFICERS HAD BEEN CHARGED AND NINE OTHERS IMPLICATED IN A COVERUP IN THE USTICA CASE. NONE OF THE CASES INVOLVE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CRASH ITSELF. THE NINE OFFICERS NOT CHARGED WERE SERVED WITH LEGAL NOTICE THAT THEY WERE THE TARGETS OF AN INVESTIGATION IN CONNECTION WITH CRIMES RELATING TO EVENTS FOLLOWING THE USTICA DOWNING.

3. (U) THE FOUR OFFICERS CHARGED AND THE POSITIONS THEY HELD AT THE TIME OF THE CRASH ARE: GENERAL LAMBERTO BARTOLUCCI, DEFENSE CHIEF OF STAFF; GENERAL FRANCO FERRI, DEPUTY CHIEF OF DEFENSE STAFF; GENERAL ZENO TASCIO, HEAD OF THE SECOND AIR DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR INTELLIGENCE SERVICES; AND GENERAL CORRADO MELILLO, HEAD OF THE THIRD AIR DEPARTMENT. OF THESE FOUR, ONLY GENERAL TASCIO IS STILL ON ACTIVE DUTY. GEN.

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CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

165

BARTOLUCCI AND GEN. FERRO HAVE BEEN ACCUSED OF
ACTS AGAINST CONSTITUTIONAL BODIES AND HIGH
TREASON BECAUSE OF THEIR STATUS AS MILITARY
OFFICERS AT THE TIME THE ALLEGED CRIMES WERE
COMMITTED. GEN. TASCIO IS CHARGED WITH THESE
CRIMES AND SUPPRESSING, FALSIFYING, OR
DESTROYING DOCUMENTS RELATING TO STATE SECURITY,

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ABUSE OF STATE RECORDS, PERJURY BY A PUBLIC
OFFICIAL, DESTRUCTION OR HIDING OF OFFICIAL
RECORDS. GEN. MELILLO IS CHARGED WITH PRODUCING
FRAUDULENT RECORDS, ABUSE OF OFFICE, AND FOR
BEING AN ACCESSORY AFTER THE FACT.

4. (U) THE OTHER NINE OFFICERS WERE EITHER
INVOLVED IN THE INVESTIGATION FOLLOWING THE
CRASH OR WERE WORKING IN RADAR STATIONS AT THE
TIME OF THE CRASH. THEY ARE CHARGED WITH
DESTROYING EVIDENCE OR WILLIFULLY PUBLISHING
FALSE INFORMATION IN REPORTS FOLLOWING THE
CRASH. ALL BUT THREE OF THESE OFFICERS HAVE
ALSO RETIRED.

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ACTION EUR-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-13	AID-01	AMAD-01	CIAE-00	CFE-01	CSCE-01
	HA-09	H-01	IMMC-01	INRE-00	INR-01	IO-19	L-03
	ADS-00	NEA-01	NRRC-01	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01
	PA-01	PM-01	PRS-01	P-01	SB-01	SCT-03	SNP-01
	SP-01	SS-01	TRSE-00	T-01	/069W		

-----04DAB0 171748Z /38

O 171741Z JAN 92
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2876
INFO SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
JCS WASHDC
USIA WASHDC 6408
USMISSION USNATO 1147

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DOC_NBR: 1992ROME00993

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
COMSIXTHFLT
USCINCEUR VAHINGEN GE//ECPA//ECJ5//
CNO WASHDC//06/09C//
COMFAIRMED NAPLES IT
USNMR SHAPE BE
AMCONSUL MILAN

SECTION 02 OF 02 ROME 00993

STATE ALSO FOR P
USIA FOR EU, P/G

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

PAGE 02 ROME 00993 02 OF 02 171747Z
TAGS: PINR, NATO, PREL, IT
SUBJECT: USTICA UPDATE: 13 ITALIAN MILITARY
OFFICERS, INCLUDING FORMER CHIEFS OF STAFF,
IMPLICATED IN COVERUP OF USTICA AFFAIR

5. (U) THE IMPLICATION OF SUCH HIGH-RANKING OFFICERS RECEIVED WIDE PRESS COVERAGE AND HAS GENERATED CONSIDERABLE DEBATE WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT AND AMONG THE POLITICAL PARTIES. PREDICTABLY, THE LEFT WING HAS JUMPED INTO THE FRAY. ACHILLE OCHETTO, THE HEAD OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF THE LEFT (FORMER COMMUNIST PARTY) WENT AS FAR AS SUGGESTING THAT IF THERE WAS ANY COVERUP BY THE MILITARY OFFICERS IT HAD TO HAVE BEEN DIRECTED BY POLITICAL "MASTERS" AT THE TIME TO PROTECT "GREATER POWERS." THE LATTER IS A REFERENCE TO THE U.S. WHICH IS STILL CONSIDERED A PRIME SUSPECT BY MANY IN ITALY.

6. (U) A FEW ARTICLES MENTIONED THE "WORKING GROUP" THAT WAS ALLEGEDLY FORMED AT EMBASSY ROME THE DAY AFTER THE CRASH. THE LEFT WING PAPER, "L'UNITA", SPECULATED THAT THE PARTICIPATION OF GENERAL TASCIO IN THAT TASK FORCE -- AS ALLEGED BY SOME WITNESSES INTERVIEWED IN THE U.S. BY JUDGE PRIORE -- WAS EVIDENCE OF U.S. COMPLICITY IN THE COVERUP.

7. (C) COMMENT: A MEDIA CONTACT OF EMBASSY PRESS OFFICER CLAIMS THAT JUDGE PRIORE'S

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CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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COLLEAGUES ARE SAYING THAT THE NOTIFICATIONS

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WERE ISSUED IN THE HOPE THAT THEY WOULD LEAD TO
AN EXPLANATION OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE
IMPLICATED OFFICERS, THE U.S. EMBASSY, AND OTHER
USG EMPLOYEES INVOLVED AFTER THE CRASH. IN
PARTICULAR, SOURCE CLAIMED THAT THE JUDGE WAS
INTERESTED IN WHAT INFORMATION WAS PASSED ON TO
THE USG AND WHAT THE ROLE OF THE WORKING GROUP
AT THE EMBASSY WAS.

8. (C)

THE JUDGE APPARENTLY WAS VERY
PLEASED WITH THE QUANTITY AND QUALITY OF
INFORMATION HE WAS ABLE TO GATHER IN A SHORT
VISIT TO THE U.S. AND THE EASE WITH WHICH HE WAS
ABLE TO COMPLETE HIS INVESTIGATION. HE IS SAID
TO WANT THE SAME COOPERATION IN ITALY AND
THOUGHT THIS WOULD BE ONE WAY TO GET IT. IN A
CONVERSATION WITH EMBASSY LEGATT, JUDGE PRIORE
DOWNPLAYED PRESS SPECULATION THAT THE RECENT
CHARGES AROSE DIRECTLY FROM HIS WORK IN THE
U.S., NOTING IN A JOKING MANNER, THAT HE HAD NOT
INTERVIEWED ANY ITALIAN OFFICERS WHILE HE WAS
THERE.

9. (C) USTICA CONTINUES TO PREOCCUPY AND TO
WEIGH HEAVILY ON THE MILITARY. THE MINISTER OF
DEFENSE, AS THE GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL ANSWERABLE
FOR MILITARY ACTIVITIES BOTH PAST AND PRESENT,
IS RELIABLY REPORTED TO BE FED UP WITH THIS

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ESSENTIALLY POLITICALLY DRIVEN SCANDAL.

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CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1992ROME01087

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: B1, 1.5(D)
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PAGE 01 ROME 01087 01 OF 02 211645Z
ACTION EUR-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-13	AID-01	AMAD-01	CIAE-00	CFE-01	CSCE-01
	HA-09	H-01	IMMC-01	INRE-00	INR-01	IO-19	L-03
	ADS-00	NEA-01	NRRC-01	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01
	PA-01	PM-01	PRS-01	P-01	SB-01	SCT-03	SNP-01
	SP-01	SS-01	TRSE-00	T-01	/069W		

-----05985C 211645Z /38

O 211642Z JAN 92
 FM AMEMBASSY ROME
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2934
 INFO SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
 JCS WASHDC
 USIA WASHDC 6415
 USMISSION USNATO 1148
 CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
 COMSIXTHFLT
 USCINCEUR VAHINGEN GE//ECPA//ECJ5//
 CNO WASHDC//O6/O9C//
 COMFAIRMED NAPLES IT
 USNMR SHAPE BE
 AMCONSUL MILAN

SECTION 01 OF 02 ROME 01087

STATE ALSO FOR P
USIA FOR EU, P/G

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

EXTEND CLASSIFICATION

PAGE 02 ROME 01087 01 OF 02 211645Z
 TAGS: PINR, NATO, PREL, IT
 SUBJECT: USTICA UPDATE: LATEST THEORIES POINT TO
 FRENCH INVOLVEMENT IN CRASH; FRENCH ADMIRAL
 POINTS THE FINGER AT U.S./ITALY

REF: A) ROME 993 (DTG 171741Z JAN 92) AND
PREVIOUS

1. (U) SUMMARY: THE THEORY OF FRENCH
 INVOLVEMENT IN THE MYSTERIOUS DOWNING OF AN
 ITAVIA AIRLINES DC-9 NEAR THE ISLAND OF USTICA

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DOC_NBR: 1992ROME01087

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

166

IN 1980 HAS BEEN REVIVED BY THE PRESS FOLLOWING THE RELEASE OF SOME RADAR RECORDINGS AND "NEW" EVIDENCE OBTAINED BY THE INVESTIGATING JUDGE. ACCORDING TO THIS THEORY, A LIBYAN MIG BEING CHASED BY A FRENCH FIGHTER JET HID BEHIND THE CIVILIAN AIRCRAFT. THE FRENCH AIRCRAFT FIRED A MISSILE OR MISSILES WHICH HIT BOTH AIRCRAFT. THE LIBYAN MIG, NOT SERIOUSLY DAMAGED, WAS ABLE TO MAKE AN EMERGENCY LANDING ON THE NEARBY TYRREHNIAN COAST. THE ITALIAN ARMY PICKED UP THE MIG AND TRANSPORTED IT TO A MOUNTAIN SITE WHERE IT WAS DUMPED AND MADE TO LOOK LIKE A CRASH. THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT IS NOT COMMENTING OFFICIALLY, THOUGH A FORMER HIGH-RANKING OFFICER RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN SAYS THAT IF THERE WAS AN EXCHANGE OF FIRE IN THE AIR, THEN IT INVOLVED THE U.S. OR ITALIAN AIR FORCE. END SUMMARY.

2. (U) ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS JANUARY 18

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AND 19, RECENTLY DISCOVERED EVIDENCE POINTS TO FRENCH RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE DOWNING OF THE ITAVIA AIRLINES DC-9 NEAR THE ISLAND OF USTICA IN JUNE OF 1980. AN ACCOUNT IN THE DAILY, "LA REPUBBLICA", JANUARY 18 STATES THAT IN THE SUMMER OF 1980 THE FRENCH AND THE LIBYANS WERE AT ODDS OVER LIBYAN INVOLVEMENT IN CHAD. DURING THIS PERIOD THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT AGREED TO ALLOW SEVERAL LIBYAN MIGS RETURNING HOME FROM YUGOSLAVIA TO REFUEL AT THE PRATICA DI MARE AIRPORT NEAR ROME. AT AN UNSPECIFIED TIME AFTER THE TAKEOFF FROM ROME, A FRENCH FIGHTER BEGAN TO FOLLOW THE MIG. ACCORDING TO THE ARTICLE, THE FRENCH WERE AFRAID THE MIGS MIGHT TRY TO STOP FRENCH MILITARY AIRCRAFT ON THEIR WAY TO AID LIBYAN REBELS. THE MIG EVENTUALLY TOOK REFUGE BEHIND THE ITAVIA JET, AND THEN WAS FIRED UPON BY THE FRENCH FIGHTER.

3. (U) THE "REPUBBLICA" ARTICLE REPORTED THAT THE ITAVIA JET CRASHED DIRECTLY INTO THE OCEAN, BUT THE MIG WAS ABLE TO MAKE AN EMERGENCY LANDING ON THE NEARBY TYRREHNIAN COAST. THE MIG WAS THEN PICKED UP BY THE ITALIAN ARMY,

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CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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TRANSPORTED TO A REMOTE SITE IN THE SILA MOUNTAINS, AND DUMPED IN A SIMULATED CRASH SCENARIO. THE ARTICLE SPECULATES THAT THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT WANTED TO HIDE THE MIG SO AS NOT TO HAVE TO EXPLAIN ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH LIBYA.

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4. (U) PROOF OF THE FRENCH INVOLVEMENT, ACCORDING TO "LA REPUBBLICA", COMES FROM RADAR RECORDINGS MADE AT THE GROSSETO RADAR STATION WHICH SHOWED A LARGE NUMBER OF FRENCH FIGHTER JETS TAKING OFF FROM CORSICA AND THE SOUTH OF FRANCE IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE DOWNING OF THE ITAVIA JET HEADED TOWARDS THE SOUTHERN TYRREHNIAN. ALSO, A PEASANT FROM THE AREA NEAR WHERE THE MIG WAS FOUND IS REPORTED TO HAVE TURNED OVER TO INVESTIGATING JUDGE PRIORE RECENTLY A PIECE OF THE WRECKAGE CONTAINING HOLES CAUSED BY AN EXPLOSION. THIS PIECE OF WRECKAGE WOULD BE PROOF THAT THE MIG WAS SHOT

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ACTION EUR-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-13	AID-01	AMAD-01	CIAE-00	CFE-01	CSCE-01
	HA-09	H-01	IMMC-01	INRE-00	INR-01	IO-19	L-03
	ADS-00	NEA-01	NRRC-01	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01
	PA-01	PM-01	PRS-01	P-01	SB-01	SCT-03	SNP-01
	SP-01	SS-01	TRSE-00	T-01	/069W		

-----059873 211646Z /38

O 211642Z JAN 92
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2935
INFO SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
JCS WASHDC
USIA WASHDC 6416
USMISSION USNATO 1149
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK

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16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1992ROME01087

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

166

COMSIXTHFLT
USCINCEUR VAHINGEN GE//ECPA//ECJ5//
CNO WASHDC//O6/O9C//
COMFAIRMED NAPLES IT
USNMR SHAPE BE
AMCONSUL MILAN

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STATE ALSO FOR P
USIA FOR EU, P/G

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

PAGE 02 ROME 01087 02 OF 02 211645Z
TAGS: PINR, NATO, PREL, IT
SUBJECT: USTICA UPDATE: LATEST THEORIES POINT TO
FRENCH INVOLVEMENT IN CRASH; FRENCH ADMIRAL
POINTS THE FINGER AT U.S./ITALY

DOWN.

5. (U) WHEN ASKED BY "LA REPUBBLICA" ABOUT THE NEW ALLEGATIONS, THE FRENCH EMBASSY IN ROME REFUSED TO COMMENT. THE ARTICLE WONDERED WHY THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT WAS UNWILLING TO SPEAK WHEN THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE HAD OFFERED ITS FULL COOPERATION AND HAD EVEN ALLOWED THE DEPOSITIONS OF AMERICAN CITIZENS IN CONNECTION WITH THE CASE.
6. (U) ADMIRAL PIERRE LACOSTE, A FORMER HEAD OF THE FRENCH SECRET SERVICES, WHO AT THE TIME OF THE USTICA INCIDENT WAS IN CHARGE OF THE FRENCH FLEET IN THE MEDITERRANEAN, IS REPORTED TO HAVE SAID ON JANUARY 18 THAT "IF ON THE EVENING OF THE USTICA TRAGEDY ANY FRENCH AIRCRAFT WERE INVOLVED, EVEN INDIRECTLY, IN AN AIR DUEL OR SIMPLY IN A TRAGIC ACCIDENT, I WOULD HAVE KNOWN. I PRESUME, BUT IT IS ONLY A THEORY, THAT IF IT WAS A SHOOTING DOWN, IF THERE REALLY WERE AN AIR DUEL, IT HAD TO HAVE INVOLVED U.S. OR ITALIAN PLANES." THE "REPUBBLICA" ARTICLE THEN NOTES THAT THE ADMIRAL'S COMMENT AND THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT'S BEHAVIOR IS A REPLAY OF OFFICIAL FRENCH BEHAVIOR FOLLOWING THE GREENPEACE

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HANDLING: n/a

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"RAINBOW WARRIOR" INCIDENT IN NEW ZEALAND.

7. (C) COMMENT:

B1

8. (C) SOME OF THE RECENTLY REPORTED DEVELOPMENTS INVOLVE A WORKING GROUP ALLEGEDLY FORMED AT THE EMBASSY FOLLOWING THE CRASH. IN ORDER TO PREPARE OURSELVES FOR WHAT WILL INEVITABLY BE A MORE IN-DEPTH INVOLVEMENT BY THE EMBASSY, WE HAVE ASKED THE DEPARTMENT SEPTEL TO FORWARD THE HISTORICAL FILES ON USTICA TO ROME. SECCHIA

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A143

Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1992ROME09299

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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PAGE 01 ROME 09299 01 OF 02 271724Z
ACTION EUR-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-15	AID-01	AMAD-01	CIAE-00	CFE-01	C-01
	DS-00	HA-09	H-01	IMMC-01	INRE-00	INR-01	IO-19
	L-03	ADS-00	NEA-01	NRRC-01	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02
	PM-01	P-01	SB-01	SCT-03	SNP-01	SP-01	SS-01
	TRSE-00	T-01	/068W				

-----374931 272304Z /38

R 271721Z MAY 92
 FM AMEMBASSY ROME
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8228
 SECDEF WASHDC
 INFO JCS WASHDC
 USIA WASHDC 7016
 USMISSION USNATO
 CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
 COMSIXTHFLT
 USCINCEUR VAHINGEN GM//ECPA//ECJ5//
 CNO WASHDC//06/09C//
 COMFAIRMED NAPLES IT
 USNMR SHAPE BE

SECTION 01 OF 02 ROME 09299

STATE ALSO FOR P
USIA FOR EU, P/G

E.O. 12356: N/A

PAGE 02 ROME 09299 01 OF 02 271724Z
 TAGS: PINR, NATO, PREL, IT
 SUBJECT: USTICA: THE BOMB THEORY RESURFACES; A US
 AIRCRAFT FUEL TANK IS RECOVERED FROM THE AREA OF THE
 WRECKAGE - A CLUE?

REF: A) ROME 1596 (DTG 290952Z JAN 92) AND PREVIOUS

1. (U) SUMMARY: AFTER A LULL OF SEVERAL MONTHS THE
 CONTROVERSY SURROUNDING THE MYSTERIOUS DOWNING OF AN
 ITAVIA AIRLINES DC-9 NEAR THE ISLAND OF USTICA IS
 ONCE AGAIN IN THE HEADLINES. THE THEORY THAT A BOMB
 EXPLOSION ON BOARD THE PLANE CAUSED ITS DOWNING,

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HANDLING: n/a

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RESURFACED IN APRIL AND WAS FOLLOWED IN MAY BY REPORTS OF THE DISCOVERY OF 15 PIECES OF AN AIRCRAFT RESERVE FUEL TANK. PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION OF THE PIECES SUGGEST THAT THEY CAME FROM A U.S. MILITARY AIRCRAFT. THE ASSOCIATION OF FAMILY MEMBERS OF VICTIMS OF THE CRASH RECENTLY PUBLISHED A REPORT CLAIMING THAT THERE IS INCONTROVERTIBLE EVIDENCE SHOWING THAT THE ITAVIA DC-9 WAS VERY CLOSELY FOLLOWED BY AN UNIDENTIFIED AIRCRAFT AT THE TIME IT CRASHED. SOME HAVE LINKED THE DISCOVERY OF THESE FUEL TANK PIECES TO THAT "UNIDENTIFIED" PLANE AND CONCLUDED THAT THE ITAVIA JETLINER CRASHED FOLLOWING A MILITARY INCIDENT. END SUMMARY.

2. (U) AFTER A QUIET SPELL OVER THE PAST FEW MONTHS THE USTICA CASE IS ONCE AGAIN IN THE HEADLINES. THE THEORY THAT A BOMB ABOARD THE PLANE WAS THE CAUSE OF THE DOWNING RESURFACED IN APRIL. ERMANNIO BAZZOCHI, AN EXPERT HIRED BY SUPPORTERS OF SOME AIR FORCE

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OFFICERS BEING INVESTIGATED IN CONNECTION WITH AN ALLEGED COVERUP OF EVIDENCE IN THE CASE, INSISTS THAT HIS ANALYSIS SHOWS CONCLUSIVELY THAT THE PLANE CRASHED AS A RESULT OF AN EXPLOSION ON BOARD. HE SAID THE TYPE OF DAMAGE SUSTAINED BY THE PLANE WAS CONSISTENT WITH AN INTERNAL EXPLOSION. BAZZOCHI CLAIMED THAT WHEN A MISSILE WARHEAD HIT ITS TARGET IT EXPLODED INTO 1500 FRAGMENTS. HE NOTED THAT NOT A SINGLE FRAGMENT OF A MISSILE WARHEAD HAD BEEN RECOVERED SO FAR TO SUPPORT THE THEORY THAT THE PLANE WAS DOWNED BY A MISSILE.

3. (U) ON MAY 24 A NUMBER OF ITALIAN DAILIES REPORTED THAT THE SALVAGE COMPANY HIRED TO RECOVER THE REMAINS OF THE ITAVIA PLANE HAD FOUND PARTS OF AN AIRCRAFT RESERVE FUEL TANK. ACCORDING TO THE REPORTS, PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION OF THE PARTS SUGGESTED THEY BELONGED TO A U.S. MILITARY AIRCRAFT: 1) THEY WERE MANUFACTURED BY MCDONNELL-DOUGLAS; 2) THE TANK HAD A CAPACITY OF 1200 LITERS AND WAS 3 METERS LONG; 3) THE TANK WAS PAINTED WHITE, AS IS USUAL FOR U.S. NAVY AIRCRAFT. THE PARTS ARE REPORTEDLY OF THE TYPE THAT WAS NORMALLY INSTALLED ABOARD "PHANTOM" JETS, ACCORDING TO THE REPORTS.

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4. (U) MOST OF THE ARTICLES NOTED THAT INVESTIGATING JUDGE ROSARIO PRIORE HAD IMMEDIATELY ORDERED THAT THE PARTS BE ANALYZED TO SEE HOW LONG THEY HAD BEEN IN THE WATER. SOME REPORTS SPECULATED THAT IF IT COULD BE PROVED THAT THE REMAINS HAD BEEN IN THE OCEAN AS LONG AS THE REMAINS OF THE DC-9, IT WOULD BE PROOF

PAGE 04 ROME 09299 01 OF 02 271724Z
THAT THE PLANE WAS DOWNED AS A RESULT OF AN INCIDENT INVOLVING A U.S. MILITARY AIRCRAFT. ONE ARTICLE MADE MUCH OF THE DISCOVERY CLAIMING THAT IT WAS THE FIRST TIME THAT MATERIAL NOT BELONGING TO THE AIRCRAFT HAD BEEN RECOVERED FROM THE CRASH SITE. (COMMENT: THIS OBSERVATION IS NOT CORRECT, HOWEVER, INASMUCH AS LAST YEAR SEVERAL SUBMARINE TRACKING SONARS WERE RECOVERED FROM AMIDST THE WRECKAGE.)

5. (U) ACCORDING TO ONE REPORT, THE PARTS HAD BEEN FOUND LAST NOVEMBER, BUT DUE TO BAD WEATHER CONDITIONS WERE NOT RECOVERED UNTIL EARLY MAY.

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ACTION EUR-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-15	AID-01	AMAD-01	CIAE-00	CFE-01	C-01
	DS-00	HA-09	H-01	IMMC-01	INRE-00	INR-01	IO-19
	L-03	ADS-00	NEA-01	NRRC-01	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02
	PM-01	P-01	SB-01	SCT-03	SNP-01	SP-01	SS-01
	TRSE-00	T-01	/068W				

-----374941 272305Z /38

R 271721Z MAY 92
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8229
SECDEF WASHDC
INFO JCS WASHDC
USIA WASHDC 7017
USMISSION USNATO
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
COMSIXTHFLT
USCINCEUR VAHINGEN GM//ECPA//ECJ5//

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Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1992ROME09299

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

171.

CNO WASHDC//06/09C//
COMFAIRMED NAPLES IT
USNMR SHAPE BE

SECTION 02 OF 02 ROME 09299

STATE ALSO FOR P
USIA FOR EU, P/G

E.O. 12356: N/A

PAGE 02 ROME 09299 02 OF 02 271725Z
TAGS: PINR, NATO, PREL, IT
SUBJECT: USTICA: THE BOMB THEORY RESURFACES; A US
AIRCRAFT FUEL TANK IS RECOVERED FROM THE AREA OF THE
WRECKAGE - A CLUE?

SEVERAL ARTICLES LINKED THE DISCOVERY OF THESE PARTS
TO A NEW ANALYSIS COMMISSIONED BY THE ASSOCIATION OF
FAMILY MEMBERS OF THE VICTIMS OF THE CRASH WHICH
CONCLUDED THAT THERE WAS INCONTROVERTIBLE RADAR
EVIDENCE INDICATING THAT THERE WAS AN UNIDENTIFIED
AIRCRAFT VERY CLOSELY FOLLOWING THE ITAVIA DC-9 AT
THE TIME IT CRASHED. THE REMAINS OF A U.S. MILITARY
AIRCRAFT FUEL TANK WOULD BE CONCLUSIVE EVIDENCE THAT
THE DOWNING WAS THE RESULT OF MILITARY ACTIVITY.

6. (LOU) COMMENT: THE USTICA CASE HAS BEEN
OVERSHADOWED LATELY BY A NUMBER OF OTHER ISSUES
INCLUDING THE ELECTION OF A NEW PRESIDENT, THE
POLITICAL CORRUPTION INVESTIGATIONS, AND THE RECENT
ASSASSINATION OF JUDGE FALCONE IN PALERMO.
NONETHELESS IT IS STILL WITH US, AND WILL BE FOR SOME
TIME TO COME. JUDGE PRIORE IS SCHEDULED TO COMPLETE
HIS FINAL REPORT ON THE CASE BY OCTOBER OF THIS YEAR,
ALTHOUGH WE ARE NOT CONFIDENT THAT THE STORY WILL END
THERE. POST APPRECIATES THE FORMATION OF THE WORKING
GROUP IN WASHINGTON AND IS CONFIDENT THAT OUR JOINT
EFFORTS WILL ENSURE A CONSISTENT RESPONSE TO POSSIBLE
FURTHER REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION. SECCHIA

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Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1992ROME14757

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a
RELEASED IN FULL

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PAGE 01 ROME 14757 141626Z
ACTION EUR-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-16	AID-01	AMAD-01	CIAE-00	CFE-01	C-01
	HA-09	H-01	IMMC-01	INRE-00	INR-01	IO-19	L-03
	ADS-00	NEA-01	NRRC-01	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01
	PA-02	PM-01	PRS-01	P-01	SB-01	SCT-03	SNP-01
	SP-01	SS-01	TRSE-00	T-01	/073W		

-----55E316 141938Z /38

R 141624Z AUG 92
 FM AMEMBASSY ROME
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1766
 SECDEF WASHDC
 INFO JCS WASHDC
 USIA WASHDC 7316
 USMISSION USNATO
 CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
 COMSIXTHFLT
 USCINCEUR VAHINGEN GM//ECPA//ECJ5//
 CNO WASHDC//06/09C//
 COMFAIRMED NAPLES IT
 USNMR SHAPE BE

UNCLAS ROME 14757

STATE ALSO FOR P
USIA FOR EU, P/G

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: PINR, NATO, PREL, IT

[REDACTED]

PAGE 02 ROME 14757 141626Z
SUBJECT: USTICA: APPROVAL TO EXTEND INVESTIGATION

REF ROME 9299 (DTG 271721Z MAY 92)

1. THE ITALIAN COUNCIL OF MINISTERS ISSUED A DECREE ON AUGUST 14 THAT AUTHORIZES A CONTINUATION OF THE USTICA INVESTIGATION UNTIL DECEMBER 23, 1993. THIS EXTENSION HAD BEEN REQUESTED BY MINISTER OF JUSTICE CLAUDIO MARTELLI TO PERMIT THE CONTINUATION OF THE INVESTIGATION BEYOND THE PRESENTLY-AUTHORIZED PERIOD OF THREE YEARS WHICH WOULD HAVE EXPIRED ON OCTOBER

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DOC_NBR: 1992ROME14757

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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23, 1992.

2. THE INVESTIGATION FOCUSES ON THE CAUSE OF A CRASH IN 1980 OF AN ITAVIA DC-9 IN THE MEDITERRINEAN SEA NEAR THE ISLAND OF USTICA, NORTH OF SICILY. AS IS CUSTOMARY IN ITALY, A MAGISTRATE WAS APPOINTED TO INVESTIGATE THE MATTER. THE CAUSE OF THE CRASH WAS NEVER DETERMINED ALTHOUGH THERE HAS BEEN SPECULATION THAT IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN SHOT DOWN BY A LIBYAN MIG, THAT THERE WAS A BOMB ABOARD, OR THAT IT WAS MISTAKENLY FIRED UPON AS AN LIBYAN AIRCRAFT BY A FRENCH OR U.S. MISSILE.

3. IN OCTOBER 1988, ITALIAN PRIME MINISTER DE MITA NAMED A FORMAL COMMISSION TO LOOK INTO THE INCIDENT IN ADDITION TO THE ON-GOING INQUIRY OF THE MAGISTRATE. THE CONTROVERSY HAS SIMMERED FOR YEARS. BOTH THE TRAGEDY AND THE FAILURE TO DETERMINE THE CAUSE OF THE INCIDENT HAVE BEEN A MATTER OF ENORMOUS PUBLIC INTEREST IN ITALY FOR THE LAST TWELVE YEARS.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

PAGE 03 ROME 14757 141626Z
THE ITALIAN MEDIA REPORTS EVERY NEW DEVELOPMENT ABOUT THIS EMOTIONALLY-CHARGED ISSUE. WE EXPECT THAT THE INVESTIGATION WILL CONTINUE TO GENERATE CONSIDERABLE PUBLIC INTEREST IN THE ISSUE. SERWER

[REDACTED]

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Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1992ROME19313

CHANNEL: n/a
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BI, 1.5(D)

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PAGE 01 ROME 19313 01 OF 02 261921Z
ACTION EUR-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-17	AID-01	AMAD-01	CIAE-00	CFE-00	C-01
	HA-09	H-01	IMMC-01	INRE-00	INR-01	IO-19	L-03
	ADS-00	NEA-01	NRRC-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01
	PA-01	PM-02	PRS-01	P-01	SB-00	SCT-03	SNP-00
	SP-00	SS-00	TRSE-00	T-01	/068W		

-----72A132 261922Z /38

R 261921Z OCT 92
 FM AMEMBASSY ROME
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4592
 SECDEF WASHDC
 INFO JOINT STAFF WASHDC
 USIA WASHDC 7594
 USMISSION USNATO
 CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
 COMSIXTHFLT
 USCINCEUR VAHINGEN GM//ECPA//ECJ5//
 CNO WASHDC//06/09C//
 COMFAIRMED NAPLES IT
 USNMR SHAPE BE

~~SECTION 01 OF 02 ROME 19313~~

STATE ALSO FOR P
USIA FOR EU, P/G

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: PINR, NATO, PREL, IT

PAGE 02 ROME 19313 01 OF 02 261921Z
SUBJECT: USTICA: MOD ANDO' SUGGESTS FURTHER
INFORMATION FORTHCOMING FROM U.S. SOURCES

REF(S): (A) ROME 19270 (B) ROME 18989 (C) ROME
18907 AND PREVIOUS

1. (U) SUMMARY. ACCORDING TO THE ITALIAN PRESS
OCTOBER 26, MOD SALVO ANDO' SAID "THE U.S. HAS
SOMETHING TO SAY" ABOUT THE USTICA TRAGEDY. SPEAKING
IN EGYPT SHORTLY BEFORE RETURNING TO ITALY TO MEET
SECDEF CHENEY OCTOBER 25, ANDO' IS REPORTED TO HAVE

EXTEND CLASSIFICATION

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CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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SAID THAT THE U.S. "MUST RESPOND" TO INFORMATION CONTAINED IN RECENTLY-REVEALED TAPE RECORDINGS MADE SHORTLY AFTER THE USTICA INCIDENT (REFS). ALTHOUGH PRESS REPORTS OCTOBER 26 SAID SECDEF CHENEY'S MEETING WITH ANDO' WAS "CORDIAL AND FRIENDLY," THE TONE OF MEDIA COVERAGE WAS SOMEWHAT ACCUSATORY. SECDEF CHENEY SAID THE U.S. HAD ALWAYS BEEN COOPERATIVE WITH ITALY AND HE PROMISED ANDO' THAT THE U.S. WOULD CONTINUE TO COOPERATE FULLY WITH THE ITALIAN AUTHORITIES INVESTIGATING THE CAUSE OF THE USTICA CRASH. END SUMMARY.

2. (C) ITALIAN NEWSPAPERS WIDELY REPORTED OCTOBER 26 THAT, ONLY HOURS BEFORE MEETING U.S. SECDEF CHENEY IN ROME, ITALIAN MOD SALVO ANDO' SAID, "I THINK THE U.S. GOVERNMENT HAS SOMETHING TO SAY AND TO GIVE TO OUR INVESTIGATORS REGARDING THE USTICA AFFAIR. IT APPEARS TO ME THAT THIS IS SO, JUDGING FROM THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN THE INVESTIGATION." ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, ANDO' RAISED THE SUBJECT OF USTICA

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WITH SECDEF CHENEY OCTOBER 25 AND SPECIFICALLY ASKED THE U.S. TO "REPLY QUICKLY AND FULLY" TO THE REVELATIONS OF THE RECENTLY-PUBLISHED CONTROL TOWER TAPES (REFS). AS DESCRIBED IN REFS, THERE ARE UNSUBSTANTIATED CLAIMS THE TAPES MAY POINT TO THE PRESENCE OF ITALIAN OR U.S. MILITARY AIRCRAFT IN THE VICINITY OF USTICA SHORTLY AFTER THE CRASH.

3. (U) LEADING CENTRIST DAILY "CORRIERE DELLA SERA" OCTOBER 26 SAID ANDO' IS NOT ASKING THE U.S. TO FURNISH A "GLOBAL RECONSTRUCTION OF THE EVENT," BUT ONLY TO PROVIDE SPECIFIC RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS THAT ITALIAN INVESTIGATORS MAY ASK. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, ANDO' NOTED THAT SECDEF CHENEY WILLINGLY PROMISED "TO FURNISH A PROMPT REPLY TO ALL THE QUESTIONS THAT ARE POSED BY THE ITALIAN INVESTIGATING JUDGES." ASKED WHETHER HE THOUGHT THE U.S. WOULD COMPLY WITH ITALY'S REQUESTS, ANDO' SAID, "I BELIEVE THE AMERICANS WANT TO COOPERATE."

4. (U) ROME'S CENTRIST DAILY "IL MESSAGGERO" OCTOBER 26 REMINDED READERS THAT THE INVESTIGATING MAGISTRATE (JUDGE PRIORE) RECENTLY DISCOVERED THAT "THE AMERICANS SECRETLY FORMED AN INVESTIGATING GROUP

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DOC_NBR: 1992ROME19313

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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AT THE AMERICAN EMBASSY COMPOSED OF HIGH OFFICIALS OF THE U.S. AIR FORCE, CIA, MARINES AND NAVY." THE ARTICLE SAID THAT "THIS SPECIAL TEAM INCLUDED DUANE CLARIDGE, DIRECTOR OF THE ROME OFFICE OF THE AMERICAN SECRET SERVICE, WHO WAS CLOSELY COORDINATING WITH ZENO TASCIO (THEN HEAD OF SIOS)." THE HEADLINE OF THE ARTICLE WAS STRONG: "THE U.S. MUST RESPOND TO

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ANDO."

5. (U) IN A MORE STRIDENT TONE, "L'UNITA" (PARTY OF THE DEMOCRATIC LEFT-SUPPORTED DAILY) OCTOBER 26 SAID MOD ANDO' HAD MADE A "DRAMATIC TURNABOUT" BY "IMPLICITLY ADMITTING THAT THE FAMILIES OF THE VICTIMS HAVE HAD TWELVE YEARS OF MISERABLE LIES; FOR TWELVE YEARS, THE ITALIAN AND AMERICAN GOVERNMENTS HAVE CLAIMED TO HAVE KNOWN NOTHING, HEARD NOTHING, AND SEEN NOTHING." THE ARTICLE IN "L'UNITA" REPORTED THAT THE U.S. "KNEW THEN AND KNOWS NOW" WHAT CAUSED THE USTICA CRASH. THE NEWSPAPER'S HEADLINE OCTOBER

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ACTION EUR-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-17	AID-01	AMAD-01	CIAE-00	CFE-00	C-01
	HA-09	H-01	IMMC-01	INRE-00	INR-01	IO-19	L-03
	ADS-00	NEA-01	NRRC-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01
	PA-01	PM-02	PRS-01	P-01	SB-00	SCT-03	SNP-00
	SP-00	SS-00	TRSE-00	T-01	/068W		

-----72A136 261922Z /38

R 261921Z OCT 92
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4593
SECDEF WASHDC
INFO JOINT STAFF WASHDC
USIA WASHDC 7595
USMISSION USNATO
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
COMSIXTHFLT
USCINCEUR VAHINGEN GM//ECPA//ECJ5//

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Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1992ROME19313

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

178

CNO WASHDC//06/09C//
COMFAIRMED NAPLES IT
USNMR SHAPE BE

SECTION 02 OF 02 ROME 19313

STATE ALSO FOR P
USIA FOR EU, P/G

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: PINR, NATO, PREL, IT

PAGE 02 ROME 19313 02 OF 02 261922Z
SUBJECT: USTICA: MOD ANDO' SUGGESTS FURTHER
INFORMATION FORTHCOMING FROM U.S. SOURCES

26 SAID: "THE AMERICANS KNOW -- ANDO' ASKS FOR THE
TRUTH ABOUT USTICA."

6. (C) COMMENT. THE JOINT PRESS STATEMENT ISSUED
OCTOBER 26 FOLLOWING THE ANDO'/CHENEY MEETING PUTS A
MORE POSITIVE SPIN ON THE ISSUE AND FOCUSES ON
CONTINUED U.S. WILLINGNESS TO BE OF ASSISTANCE TO THE
INVESTIGATION.

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Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1992ROME19410

CHANNEL: n
HANDLING: **RELEASED IN PAR**
B1, 1.5(D)

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PAGE 01 ROME 19410 01 OF 03 271804Z
ACTION EUR-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-17	AID-01	AMAD-01	CIAE-00	CFE-00	C-01
	HA-09	H-01	IMMC-01	INRE-00	INR-01	IO-19	L-03
	ADS-00	NEA-01	NRRC-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01
	PA-01	PM-02	PRS-01	P-01	SB-00	SCT-03	SDEL-00
	SNP-00	SP-00	SS-00	TRSE-00	T-01	/068W	

-----731565 271805Z /38

O 271803Z OCT 92
 FM AMEMBASSY ROME
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4651
 SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
 INFO JOINT STAFF WASHDC
 DEPT JUSTICE WASHDC
 USIA WASHDC 7606
 USMISSION USNATO
 CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
 COMSIXTHFLT
 USCINCEUR VAHINGEN GM//ECPA//ECJ5//
 CNO WASHDC//06/09C//
 COMFAIRMED NAPLES IT
 USNMR SHAPE BE

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STATE ALSO FOR P
 USIA FOR EU, P/G
 DOJ FOR CRIM DIV/OIA L. BARSELLA

EXTEND CLASSIFICATION

PAGE 02 ROME 19410 01 OF 03 271804Z

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
 TAGS: PINR, NATO, PREL, IT
 SUBJECT: USTICA: AMBASSADOR SECCHIA RESPONDS TO
 ITALIAN PRESS REPORTS

REF(S): (A) ROME 19313 (B) ROME 19270 (C) ROME
 18989 AND PREVIOUS

1. (U) SUMMARY. AMBASSADOR SECCHIA ISSUED A PRESS
 STATEMENT IN RESPONSE TO RECENT ITALIAN PRESS REPORTS
 OCTOBER 26 SUGGESTING A LESS THAN FORTHCOMING U.S.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: ERIC W. FLEISHER
 DATE/CASE ID: 28 OCT 2002 200102359
 CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL REASON: 1.6(6) UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1992ROME19410

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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ATTITUDE ON ASSISTANCE TO THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT'S USTICA INVESTIGATION (REFS). THE STATEMENT SAID THE U.S. HAS COOPERATED FULLY WITH THE ITALIAN AUTHORITIES AND HAS ALWAYS RESPONDED PROMPTLY TO ALL REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THE USTICA TRAGEDY. THE AMBASSADOR'S STATEMENT WAS REPORTED PROMINENTLY AND WIDELY IN THE MEDIA OCTOBER 27. SOME NEWSPAPERS, HOWEVER, CONTINUE TO HIGHLIGHT ITALIAN MOD SALVO ANDO'S SUGGESTION THAT THERE MAY BE "MORE TO LEARN" FROM THE U.S. ABOUT USTICA. END SUMMARY.

2. (U) IN RESPONSE TO ITALIAN PRESS REPORTS OCTOBER 26 IMPLYING THAT THE U.S. MAY HAVE SOMETHING TO ADD TO THE INVESTIGATION OF THE JUNE 1980 CRASH OF AN ITALIAN COMMERCIAL AIRLINER NEAR THE ISLAND OF USTICA (REF A), AMBASSADOR SECCHIA ISSUED THE FOLLOWING PRESS STATEMENT OCTOBER 26:

(BEGIN STATEMENT)

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--THE U.S. GOVERNMENT CONSISTENTLY HAS RESPONDED TO ALL ITALIAN GOVERNMENT AND JUDICIAL REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION ON THE USTICA INVESTIGATION OVER A PERIOD OF YEARS. IT IS PATENTLY INCORRECT FOR THE PRESS TO CLAIM THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS RESPONDED WITH A "NO COMMENT."

--WITH OUR CLOSE ITALIAN ALLIES WE HAVE ALWAYS RESPONDED FACTUALLY AND THOROUGHLY, SPENDING THOUSANDS OF MAN-HOURS SEARCHING FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION. DURING MY THREE AND ONE HALF YEARS IN ROME, THE UNITED STATES HAS RESPONDED CLEARLY AND THOROUGHLY TO REQUESTS FROM THE ITALIAN AUTHORITIES. NOT ONCE HAS ANY INFORMATION COME TO LIGHT THAT WOULD SUGGEST U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN THIS TRAGEDY.

--AS SECRETARY CHENEY CONFIRMED ON SUNDAY, THE UNITED STATES IS PREPARED TO RESPOND TO REQUESTS BY ITALIAN AUTHORITIES IN A TIMELY MANNER BY PROVIDING ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WHICH EMERGES. I FIND IT UNFORTUNATE THAT ANYONE WOULD SUGGEST THROUGH RUMOR OR INNUENDO THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN ANYTHING BUT FORTHCOMING ON THIS ISSUE WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF ITALY.

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CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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(END STATEMENT)

3. (U) ALL MAJOR ITALIAN NEWSPAPERS CARRIED FOLLOW-UP STORIES ON USTICA OCTOBER 27. THE AMBASSADOR'S STATEMENT WAS REPRINTED IN FULL BY ROME'S CENTRIST DAILY "IL MESSAGGERO." THE ARTICLE'S

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HEADLINE READ: "WE HAVE TOLD EVERYTHING ABOUT USTICA. AMBASSADOR SECCHIA: 'THE U.S. HAS ALWAYS COOPERATED.'" PRESENTING (IN OUR VIEW) THE MOST BALANCED AND ACCURATE REPORTING ON THIS ISSUE, "IL MESSAGGERO" GAVE PROMINENCE TO AMBASSADOR SECCHIA'S STATEMENT AND THE INVESTIGATING ITALIAN MAGISTRATE'S CONVICTION THAT "THE COLLABORATION FURNISHED UNTIL NOW BY THE AMERICAN AUTHORITIES HAS BEEN VERY SOUND." THE NEWSPAPER NOTED THAT OTHER COUNTRIES HAVE NOT COOPERATED AS WELL AS THE U.S. ACCORDING TO "IL MESSAGGERO," JUDGE PRIORE SAID, "WE HAVE SENT 26 SEPARATE REQUESTS THROUGH JUDICIAL CHANNELS FOR

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INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-17	AID-01	AMAD-01	CIAE-00	CFE-00	C-01
	HA-09	H-01	IMMC-01	INRE-00	INR-01	IO-19	L-03
	ADS-00	NEA-01	NRRC-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01
	PA-01	PM-02	PRS-01	P-01	SB-00	SCT-03	SDEL-00
	SNP-00	SP-00	SS-00	TRSE-00	T-01	/068W	

-----731582 271806Z /38

O 271803Z OCT 92
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4652
SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
INFO JOINT STAFF WASHDC
DEPT JUSTICE WASHDC
USIA WASHDC 7607
USMISSION USNATO
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK

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DOC_NBR: 1992ROME19410

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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COMSIXTHFLT
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CNO WASHDC//06/09C//
COMFAIRMED NAPLES IT
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██████████ SECTION 02 OF 03 ROME 19410

STATE ALSO FOR P
USIA FOR EU, P/G
DOJ FOR CRIM DIV/OIA L. BARSELLA

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TAGS: PINR, NATO, PREL, IT
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ITALIAN PRESS REPORTS

INFORMATION TO THE UNITED STATES, FOR THE GREATER
NUMBER OF WHICH WE HAVE ALREADY RECEIVED A RESPONSE.
HOWEVER, THERE ARE OTHER COUNTRIES THAT HAVE NEVER
RESPONDED TO OUR FORMAL INQUIRIES." THE ARTICLE
REPORTED THAT MANY OF THE MOST IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS
OF THE USTICA INVESTIGATION WERE THE DIRECT RESULT OF
U.S. COOPERATION.

4. (U) OFFICIAL SOCIALIST PARTY (PSI) DAILY
"AVANTI|" OCTOBER 27 ALSO QUOTED AMBASSADOR SECCHIA'S
PRESS STATEMENT IN FULL UNDER THE HEADLINE "SECCHIA
INSISTS: NO AMERICAN INVOLVEMENT." ACCORDING TO
"AVANTI|," INVESTIGATING MAGISTRATE PRIORE HAS JUDGED
U.S. COOPERATION IN THE USTICA INQUIRY AS
"INDISPENSABLE."

5. (C) ALONG SIMILAR LINES, "L'UNITA" (PARTY OF THE
DEMOCRATIC LEFT-SUPPORTED DAILY) OCTOBER 27 REPORTED
THAT AMBASSADOR SECCHIA SAID, "THE U.S. HAS NO
RESPONSIBILITY" FOR THE USTICA CRASH. THE NEWSPAPER
REPRINTED MUCH OF AMBASSADOR SECCHIA'S PRESS
STATEMENT BUT ALSO NOTED SOME OF THE UNSUBSTANTIATED
ALLEGATIONS STILL CIRCULATING IN THE ITALIAN PRESS
(REFS). "L'UNITA" DESCRIBED HOW, ACCORDING TO ONE OF
THE ITALIAN LAWYERS REPRESENTING FAMILIES OF USTICA
CRASH VICTIMS, THE INVESTIGATION WAS PASSING FROM A
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"BUREAUCRATIC" TO A "POLITICAL" INQUIRY. ACCORDING
TO "L'UNITA" PM GIULIO AMATO WAS "PERSONALLY
INTERESTED" IN THE USTICA AFFAIR AND THIS FACT WAS
DRIVING THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT'S FOCUS ON THE ISSUE.
(COMMENT: SOME COMMENTATORS HAVE NOTED THAT AMATO,
AS A SOCIALIST, MAY BE CONCERNED THAT THE
SOCIALIST-SUPPORTED AIRLINE "ITAVIA," WHOSE PLANE
CRASHED NEAR USTICA, MAY BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR HUGE
MONETARY AWARDS TO THE FAMILIES OF USTICA CRASH
VICTIMS IF THE AIRLINE IS HELD LIABLE FOR THE CRASH.)

6. (C) BOTH LEADING CENTRIST DAILY "CORRIERE DELLA
SERA" AND "L'UNITA" PUBLISHED INTERVIEWS OCTOBER 27
WITH MOD ANDO' ABOUT THE USTICA AFFAIR AND SECDEF
CHENEY'S OFFER TO CONTINUE FULL U.S. COOPERATION WITH
ITALIAN AUTHORITIES (REF B). "CORRIERE" NOTED THAT
PM AMATO EXPRESSED FULL SUPPORT FOR ANDO'S STRONG
APPROACH TO THE U.S. "EVEN IF THAT POLICY RISKED A
DIRECT CONFRONTATION WITH THE "GREAT ALLY" OVER THE
FATE OF THE ITAVIA AIRLINER AND THE 81 PASSENGERS"
WHO DIED DURING THE CRASH. WHILE ACKNOWLEDGING THAT
THE U.S. HAS FULLY COOPERATED WITH THE USTICA
INVESTIGATION, BOTH ARTICLES LEFT THE IMPRESSION THAT
THE U.S. HAD WITHHELD OR DELAYED FURNISHING
INFORMATION VITAL TO USTICA INVESTIGATORS. ACCORDING
TO "L'UNITA," MOD ANDO' SAID, "THIS NEW PHASE OF
RESEARCH WILL BEGIN AFTER THE ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN NOW
RUNNING IN THE U.S. THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT IS
INTERESTED IN THE TRUTH AND SO IS THE INVESTIGATING
MAGISTRATE. WE HAVE MADE A STRONG REQUEST TO THE
UNITED STATES." THE ARTICLE IN "CORRIERE DELLA SERA"

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NOTED THAT ANDO' ASKED SECDEF CHENEY TWICE "TO
EXPLAIN THE USTICA TRAGEDY." ACCORDING TO THE
ARTICLE, ANDO' THINKS THAT THE U.S. HAS INFORMATION,
UNKNOWN OR WITHHELD UNTIL NOW, THAT IS CRITICAL TO
THE USTICA INVESTIGATION.

7. (C) COMMENT. ON THE HEELS OF SECDEF CHENEY'S
VISIT TO ROME, THE AMBASSADOR'S STATEMENT HAS SERVED
TO MAKE CLEAR THAT THE U.S. CONTINUES TO COOPERATE

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HANDLING: n/a

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FULLY, AS IT ALWAYS HAS DONE, WITH BOTH THE JUDICIAL INVESTIGATION, AND TO REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS. IF THE ISSUE ARISES DURING HIS APPEARANCE ON AN OCTOBER 27 TELEVISION TALK SHOW, THE AMBASSADOR WILL STRESS THESE POINTS.

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ACTION EUR-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-17	AID-01	AMAD-01	CIAE-00	CFE-00	C-01
	HA-09	H-01	IMMC-01	INRE-00	INR-01	IO-19	L-03
	ADS-00	NEA-01	NRRC-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01
	PA-01	PM-02	PRS-01	P-01	SB-00	SCT-03	SDEL-00
	SNP-00	SP-00	SS-00	TRSE-00	T-01	/068W	

-----73159D 271807Z /38

O 271803Z OCT 92
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4653
SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
INFO JOINT STAFF WASHDC
DEPT JUSTICE WASHDC
USIA WASHDC 7608
USMISSION USNATO
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
COMSIXTHFLT
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GM//ECPA//ECJ5//
CNO WASHDC//06/09C//
COMFAIRMED NAPLES IT
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STATE ALSO FOR P
USIA FOR EU, P/G
DOJ FOR CRIM DIV/OIA L. BARSELLA

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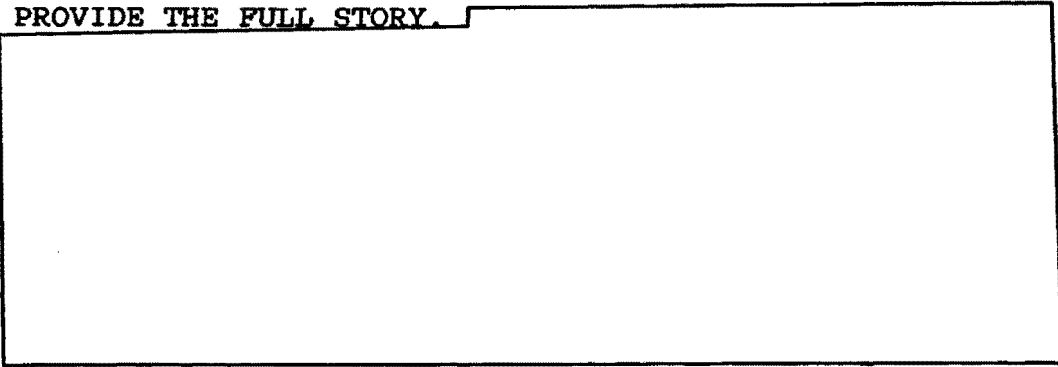
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SUBJECT: USTICA: AMBASSADOR SECCHIA RESPONDS TO
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8. IN ADDITION TO THE AMBASSADOR'S PRESS STATEMENT,
WE CONTINUE TO MAKE KNOWN THROUGH OTHER CHANNELS OUR
DISPLEASURE WITH SUGGESTIONS THAT THE U.S. HAS NOT
BEEN COOPERATIVE OR HAS CHANGED FROM A POLICY OF
HOLDING BACK INFORMATION, AND ONLY NOW IS WILLING TO
PROVIDE THE FULL STORY.

B1



EMBASSY HOPES THAT ALL OUTSTANDING REQUESTS TO USG
FROM JUDGE PRIORE THROUGH JUDICIAL CHANNELS ARE BEING
EXPEDITED, AS IT WILL BE IMPORTANT TO LIVE UP TO WHAT
WAS SAID IN THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE AFTER THE SECDEF/MOD
MEETING OCTOBER 25 -- THAT WE ARE REACTING TO ITALIAN
REQUESTS FULLY AND IN A TIMELY MANNER.

SECCHIA



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DOC_NBR: 1992ROME19492

CHANNEL: n/a
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ACTION EUR-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-17	AID-01	AMAD-01	CIAE-00	CFE-00	C-01
	HA-09	H-01	IMMC-01	INRE-00	INR-01	IO-19	L-03
	ADS-00	NEA-01	NRRC-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01
	PA-01	PM-02	PRS-01	P-01	SB-00	SCT-03	SNP-00
	SP-00	SS-00	TRSE-00	T-01	/068W		

-----739776 281840Z /38

O 281757Z OCT 92
 FM AMEMBASSY ROME
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4716
 SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
 INFO JOINT STAFF WASHDC
 DEPT JUSTICE WASHDC
 USIA WASHDC 7610
 USMISSION USNATO
 CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
 COMSIXTHFLT
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 CNO WASHDC//06/09C//
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 DOJ FOR CRIM DIV/OIA L. BARSELLA

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 E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
 TAGS: PINR, NATO, PREL, IT
 SUBJECT: USTICA: AMBASSADOR DISCUSSES U.S. ASSISTANCE
 TO ITALIAN INVESTIGATION; JUSTICE MINISTER MARTELLI'S
 COMMENTS

REF(S): (A) ROME 19410 (B) ROME 19313 (C) ROME
 19270 AND PREVIOUS

1. (U) SUMMARY. DURING AN OCTOBER 27 APPEARANCE ON
 ITALIAN TV, THE AMBASSADOR DISCUSSED THE USTICA

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CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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AFFAIR AND DESCRIBED U.S. RESPONSIVENESS TO INQUIRIES BY ITALIAN INVESTIGATORS. RESPONDING TO RECENT PRESS REPORTS IMPLYING THAT THE U.S. MAY HAVE MORE INFORMATION TO SHARE WITH ITALY ABOUT THE CAUSE OF THE JUNE 1980 CRASH OF AN ITALIAN COMMERCIAL AIRLINER NEAR THE ISLAND OF USTICA, THE AMBASSADOR EXPLAINED THAT THE U.S. HAS FULLY RESPONDED TO EACH INQUIRY AND HAS ALWAYS DONE SO IN A TIMELY MANNER. ROME'S CENTRIST DAILY "IL MESSAGGERO" OCTOBER 28 REPORTED THAT JUSTICE MINISTER CLAUDIO MARTELLI SAID, "THE U.S. HAS ONLY FULLY COOPERATED SINCE AUGUST." LAWYERS FOR THE FAMILIES OF USTICA VICTIMS HAVE CALLED UPON PRESIDENT OSCAR LUIGI SCALFARO TO INTERVENE PERSONALLY IN THE INVESTIGATION. END SUMMARY.

2. (U) THE AMBASSADOR APPEARED ON OCTOBER 27 ON THE POPULAR "MAURIZIO COSTANZO" CHANNEL FIVE TELEVISION TALK SHOW, IN THE COURSE OF WHICH HE DISCUSSED THE USTICA CASE. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION ABOUT WHAT

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ITALIAN MINISTER OF DEFENSE ANDO' HAD REPORTEDLY SAID TO THE PRESS PRIOR TO THE OCTOBER 25 MOD/SECDEF CHENEY MEETING-- THAT THE "U.S. KNOWS SOMETHING AND WILL HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY SOON,"-- THE AMBASSADOR SAID THAT HE HAD NEVER HEARD THIS FROM THE MINISTER. HE AFFIRMED THAT THE UNITED STATES HAD ANSWERED EVERY QUESTION PUT TO IT BY ITALIAN GOVERNMENT AND JUDICIAL AUTHORITIES. HE INDICATED THAT THERE WERE 26 REQUESTS FROM ITALIAN JUDICIAL AUTHORITIES, THE SUBSTANCE OF WHICH MAY NOT BE KNOWN TO THE EXECUTIVE OF THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT. SIMILARLY, THE JUDGES MAY NOT BE AWARE OF WHAT WAS SAID IN OFFICIAL, DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS THROUGH THE ITALIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON. THEREFORE, IT WAS POSSIBLE THAT INFORMATION WAS BEING EXCHANGED THAT ALL WERE NOT AWARE OF, THEREBY CAUSING CONFUSION.

3. (U) THE AMBASSADOR EXPLAINED THAT ON THE USTICA ISSUE, QUESTIONS WERE ASKED OF THE USG IN REQUESTS THAT WERE MANY PAGES LONG, AND THEN WERE ASKED AGAIN IN A SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT WAY. THEREFORE, IT WAS NOT ALWAYS EASY TO ANSWER, BECAUSE WE WANTED TO BE CLEAR AND UNEQUIVOCAL. THAT SAID, THE U.S. CONFIRMED AS EARLY AS 1988 IN DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS THAT OUR

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CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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AIRCRAFT CARRIER WAS IN PORT, THAT OUR COMBAT AIRCRAFT WERE NOT FLYING, AND THAT WE "KEEP A CLOSE WATCH ON OUR MISSILES." HE REAFFIRMED THAT FULL COOPERATION HAD BEEN EXTENDED TO THE GOI BY THE USG.

4. (U) THE AMBASSADOR INDICATED THAT HE PERSONALLY WAS OFFENDED AND HURT WHEN THE HONESTY OF THE USG WAS

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QUESTIONED IN THE PRESS. THE U.S. HE SAID, ADMITS ITS MISTAKES AND HAS BEEN HONEST. WE HAVE NOT CHANGED OUR STORY AND WILL CONTINUE TO PROVIDE INFORMATION. TURNING TO PRESS COVERAGE, THE AMBASSADOR SAID THAT WHEN JOURNALISTS-- LIKE THE "CORRIERE DELLA SERA" WRITER (PURGATORI)-- WRITE ABOUT USTICA AND CLAIM THAT THE MOD SAYS THAT THE U.S. "HAD SOMETHING TO SAY," IT SHOULD ALSO BE POINTED OUT THAT THE JOURNALIST HAD MADE A FILM ABOUT THE USTICA TRAGEDY-- "MURO DI GOMMA" (WALL OF RUBBER)-- AND THAT FOR EACH PAID TICKET, THE

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ACTION EUR-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-17	AID-01	AMAD-01	CIAE-00	CFE-00	C-01
	HA-09	H-01	IMMC-01	INRE-00	INR-01	IO-19	L-03
	ADS-00	NEA-01	NRRC-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01
	PA-01	PM-02	PRS-01	P-01	SB-00	SCT-03	SNP-00
	SP-00	SS-00	TRSE-00	T-01	/068W		

-----739790 281842Z /38

O 281757Z OCT 92
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4717
SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
INFO JOINT STAFF WASHDC
DEPT JUSTICE WASHDC
USIA WASHDC 7611
USMISSION USNATO
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
COMSIXTHFLT

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16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1992ROME19492

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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CNO WASHDC//06/09C//
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STATE ALSO FOR P
USIA FOR EU, P/G
DOJ FOR CRIM DIV/OIA L. BARSELLA

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E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: PINR, NATO, PREL, IT
SUBJECT: USTICA: AMBASSADOR DISCUSSES U.S. ASSISTANCE
TO ITALIAN INVESTIGATION; JUSTICE MINISTER MARTELLI'S
COMMENTS

JOURNALIST HAD A COUPLE MORE DOLLARS IN HIS POCKET.
THE AMBASSADOR INDICATED THAT EVEN THE MOD DIPLOMATIC
ADVISOR, ARAGONA, HAD CLARIFIED TO HIM PERSONALLY
THAT THE MOD HAD NOT MADE THESE STATEMENTS.

5. (U) RISING TO THE DEFENSE OF THE JOURNALIST,
"CORRIERE'S" TV CRITIC GIULIANO ZUCCONI AS WELL AS
HOST COSTANZO AND ANOTHER GUEST, TALK SHOW HOST
GIULIANO FERRARA, DEFENDED PURGATORI AS A TRUTHFUL,
PROFESSIONAL JOURNALIST WHO WOULD NOT LIE. FERRARA
ADDED THAT THE USTICA AFFAIR HAD BECOME SO FUZZY AND
COMPLICATED THAT IT WAS DIFFICULT TO DETERMINE WHAT
EXACTLY WAS THE TRUTH. THE AMBASSADOR INDICATED THAT
RECENTLY THE PRESS HAD TALKED ABOUT A TAPE RECORDING
AT A FLIGHT CONTROL CENTER IN GROSSETTO AS EVIDENCE
OF U.S. INVOLVEMENT. THE USG DID NOT HAVE THE TAPE
OR KNOW WHO WAS SPEAKING, SO IT COULD HARDLY EXPLAIN
THE TAPE'S MEANING. THESE WERE THE SORTS OF STORIES
EXAGGERATED BY JOURNALISTS. THE AMBASSADOR NOTED
THAT HE HAD BEEN PRESENT AT THE MOD/SECDEF MEETING.
THEY HAD HAD A FRIENDLY CONVERSATION ON THE SUBJECT.

6. (U) ROME'S CENTRIST DAILY "IL MESSAGGERO"
OCTOBER 28 REPORTED THAT JUSTICE MINISTER CLAUDIO
MARTELLI (FROM NEW YORK), RESPONDING TO THE

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HANDLING: n/a

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AMBASSADOR'S PRESS STATEMENT OCTOBER 26 (REF C) ON
U.S. RESPONSIVENESS ON USTICA, SAID THAT IT WAS ONLY
AT THE END OF AUGUST THAT ITALY WAS ABLE TO OBTAIN
FULL U.S. COOPERATION FOR ITALIAN USTICA
INVESTIGATORS. ACCORDING TO "IL MESSAGGERO,"
MARTELLI SAID, "IN THE COURSE OF THE LAST VISIT I
MADE (TO THE U.S.) WITH THE AMERICAN MINISTER OF
JUSTICE (READ: U.S. ATTORNEY GENERAL) AND THE
DIRECTOR OF THE FBI AT THE END OF AUGUST, WE WERE
ABLE TO OBTAIN FULL COOPERATION. I HAD JUST MET
JUDGE PRIORE AND HE HAD PAINTED A PICTURE OF THE
INVESTIGATIONS AND OF THE LIMITS HE HAD ENCOUNTERED,
A CERTAIN NEUTRALITY, EVEN SILENCE, ON THE PART OF
HIS INTERLOCUTORS. FROM THAT TIME (AT THE END OF
AUGUST), IT APPEARED TO ME THAT A LOT OF INFORMATION
FLOWED AND WE NOTED A WILLINGNESS ON THE AMERICANS'
PART THAT ALLOWED US TO MOVE FORWARD." ACCORDING TO
"IL MESSAGGERO," MARTELLI SAW HIS ROLE IN THE USTICA
AFFAIR AS SOLELY "DIPLOMATIC." THE NEWSPAPER ALSO
REPORTED THAT THE INVESTIGATING MAGISTRATE, JUDGE
PRIORE, DID NOT FULLY AGREE WITH THE AMBASSADOR'S
DECLARATION THAT THE U.S. HAD RESPONDED QUICKLY AND
FULLY TO ALL REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION. "IL
MESSAGGERO SAID JUDGE PRIORE HAD, IN FACT, RECEIVED
MANY RESPONSES FROM THE U.S. AND WAS, IN GENERAL,
SATISFIED WITH THEM. HE WAS STILL CONCERNED,
HOWEVER, WITH THE POSITION OF THE U.S. AIRCRAFT
CARRIER 'SARATOGA' ON THE NIGHT OF THE TRAGEDY:
"THERE ARE MANY VERSIONS. WE ARE WORKING TO
RECONSTRUCT ITS EXACT POSITION THAT NIGHT."

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7. (U) THE LEADING CONSERVATIVE DAILY "IL GIORNALE"
OCTOBER 28 REPORTED THAT LAWYERS FOR THE FAMILIES OF
USTICA VICTIMS HAD CALLED UPON ITALIAN PRESIDENT OF
THE REPUBLIC, OSCAR LUIGI SCALFARO, TO INTERVENE IN
THE INVESTIGATION. ACCORDING TO "IL GIORNALE," THE
FAMILIES' LAWYERS CLAIM THAT THE GOVERNMENT MUST
ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE IN THE INVESTIGATION IN ORDER TO
OBTAIN ALL THE INFORMATION NECESSARY TO DETERMINE THE
CAUSE OF THE CRASH. THE ARTICLE ALSO NOTED THAT THE

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CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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DIRECTOR OF "ASSITALIA," THE ITALIAN INSURER OF THE
ITAVIA AIRLINER THAT CRASH NEAR USTICA, HAS
CATEGORICALLY DENIED THAT ASSITALIA INDEMNIFIED OR
AGREED TO PAY ITAVIA FOR DAMAGES INCURRED "BY CAUSE
OF WAR." ACCORDING TO "IL GIORNALE," ASSITALIA

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ACTION EUR-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-17	AID-01	AMAD-01	CIAE-00	CFE-00	C-01
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	ADS-00	NEA-01	NRRC-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01
	PA-01	PM-02	PRS-01	P-01	SB-00	SCT-03	SNP-00
	SP-00	SS-00	TRSE-00	T-01	/068W		

-----739798 281843Z /38

O 281757Z OCT 92
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4718
SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
INFO JOINT STAFF WASHDC
DEPT JUSTICE WASHDC
USIA WASHDC 7612
USMISSION USNATO
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
COMSIXTHFLT
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE//ECPA//ECJ5//
CNO WASHDC//06/09C//
COMFAIRMED NAPLES IT
USNMR SHAPE BE

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STATE ALSO FOR P
USIA FOR EU, P/G
DOJ FOR CRIM DIV/OIA L. BARSELLA

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TAGS: PINR, NATO, PREL, IT

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16 Apr 2002

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DOC_NBR: 1992ROME19492

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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SUBJECT: USTICA: AMBASSADOR DISCUSSES U.S. ASSISTANCE
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COMMENTS

DIRECTOR CLAUDIO CAMPANA SAID, "WE HAVE NEVER
DECLARED THAT THE DC-9 ACCIDENT NEAR USTICA WAS
CAUSED BY AN ACT OF WAR." ASSITALIA'S INSURANCE
CONTRACT WITH ITAVIA, THE ARTICLE ENDED, STIPULATED
AN INDEMNITY OF LIRE 3,800 MILLION (USD 2.9 MILLION)
FOR AN "AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT."

8. (C) COMMENT. BY SEPTEL, WE REPORT A
CONVERSATION WITH PRIME MINISTER AMATO'S DIPLOMATIC
ADVISOR (VENTO) ON THIS MOST RECENT EPISODE IN THE
USTICA AFFAIR. SECCHIA

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Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1992ROME19567

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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ACTION EUR-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-17	AID-01	AMAD-01	CIAE-00	COME-00	CFE-00
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	IMMC-01	INRE-00	INR-01	IO-19	L-03	ADS-00	NEA-01
	NRRC-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01	PA-02	PM-02
	PRS-01	P-01	SB-00	SCT-03	SNP-00	SP-00	SS-00
	STR-17	TRSE-00	T-01	/088W			

-----7429A9 291847Z /38

O 291845Z OCT 92
 FM AMEMBASSY ROME
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4783
 INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE
 SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
 JOINT STAFF WASHDC
 DEPT JUSTICE WASHDC
 USIA WASHDC 7616
 USMISSION USNATO
 CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
 COMSIXTHFLT
 USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE//ECPA//ECJ5//
 CNO WASHDC//06/09C//
 COMFAIRMED NAPLES IT
 USNMR SHAPE BE

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 ROME 19567

ATHENS FOR AMBASSADOR SECCHIA; STATE ALSO FOR P; USIA
FOR EU, P/G; DOJ FOR CRIM DIV/OIA L. BARSELLA

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E.O. 12356:N/A
 TAGS: PINR, NATO, PREL, IT
 SUBJECT: USTICA: FURTHER PRESS REPORTING; U.S.
 FIGHTERS "SEEN" ON NIGHT OF CRASH; FORMER MOD ROGNONI
 COMMENTS

REF(S): (A) ROME 19492 (B) ROME 19410 (C) ROME
19313 AND PREVIOUS

1. (U) SUMMARY. THE ITALIAN PRESS REPORTED WIDELY

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OCTOBER 29 ON THE USTICA AFFAIR, INCLUDING COMMENTS BY THE AMBASSADOR (REF A). ALTHOUGH MOST OF THE REPORTING WAS FACTUAL, "CORRIERE DELLA SERA" COVERAGE INCLUDED EDITORIAL COMMENT CRITICAL OF THE AMBASSADOR'S REMARKS. ANSA WIRE SERVICE REPORTED REMARKS BY FORMER DEFENSE MINISTER ROGNONI AND PARLIAMENTARY REQUESTS FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION AND INVESTIGATION. ONE PAPER REPORTED ON THE POSSIBILITY THAT TWO "AMERICAN PHANTOMS" THAT TOOK OFF THE NIGHT OF THE CRASH FROM A BASE IN NORTHERN ITALY MIGHT HAVE SOME CONNECTION TO THE CRASH OF THE PASSENGER PLANE IN JUNE 1980 NEAR THE ISLAND OF USTICA. END SUMMARY.

2. (U) THE AMBASSADOR'S REMARKS ON ITALIAN TELEVISION REGARDING FULL U.S. COOPERATION DURING THE USTICA INVESTIGATION (REF A) WERE WIDELY COVERED BY THE ITALIAN MEDIA OCTOBER 29. MOST MAJOR NEWSPAPERS REPORTED HIS COMMENTS AT LENGTH. THE LEADING CENTRIST DAILY "CORRIERE DELLA SERA" OCTOBER 29 DESCRIBED (ON INSIDE PAGES) THE TELEVISION INTERVIEW

PAGE 03 ROME 19567 01 OF 02 291847Z
AS "A VERBAL DUEL BETWEEN THE AMBASSADOR AND JOURNALISTS BUILT ON THE SILENCE AND LIES OF 12 YEARS." THE NEWSPAPER COVERED IN SOME DETAIL THE AMBASSADOR'S COMMENTS AND HIS MENTION OF "CORRIERE" REPORTER ANDREA PURGATORI. "CORRIERE" REPORTED THAT AN UNIDENTIFIED DEFENSE MINISTRY SOURCE HAD RESPONDED TO THE AMBASSADOR'S MENTION OF A MOD OFFICIAL'S RECTIFICATION OF MOD ANDO'S REMARKS THAT THE "US HAS SOMETHING MORE TO SAY ABOUT USTICA": "THE ROLE OF DOCTOR ARAGONA IS DIPLOMATIC ADVISOR TO THE MINISTER, AND IT IS CERTAINLY NOT HIS JOB TO DENY OR MAKE MORE PRECISE THE STATEMENT OF THE MINISTER, WHO, IN ADDITION, DID NOT FIND IT NECESSARY TO RECTIFY ANYTHING WRITTEN IN THE "CORRIERE" STORY ."

3. (U) IN ADDITION, "CORRIERE" CARRIED AN UNSIGNED INSERT IN THE NEWS REPORT WHICH NOTED THAT, NOTWITHSTANDING THE ISSUE OF WHETHER THE U.S. HAS COOPERATED FULLY OR NOT ON USTICA, ITALIAN INVESTIGATORS HAVE FOUND ENOUGH CONFLICTING EVIDENCE ABOUT U.S. "INVOLVEMENT" THAT ITALIAN REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION, AND THE PUBLICITY THAT SURROUNDS THE ISSUE, SHOULD NOT BE TREATED CAVALIERLY. CHARGING THAT THE AMBASSADOR HAD ACCUSED ITALIAN JOURNALISTS,

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HANDLING: n/a

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"CORRIERE'S" PURGATORI IN PARTICULAR, OF WRITING
FALSEHOODS ABOUT USTICA AND U.S. COOPERATION IN THE
INVESTIGATION, THE UNSIGNED INSERT NOTED THAT JUDGES
AND SOME MINISTERS OF THE GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT
AGREE. FURTHER, THE INSERT NOTED, THIS ISSUE IF
REDUCED TO A PERSONAL PROBLEM WAS BETWEEN THOSE WHO
HAVE COVERED UP THE TRAGEDY AND THE FAMILIES OF THE

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81 DEAD WAITING FOR JUSTICE, NOT INSULTS. THE INSERT
SAID THAT THE AMBASSADOR DID NOT REACT AS SHOULD A
REPRESENTATIVE OF A COUNTRY WITH THE STRONGEST
TRADITION OF INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM-- IRANGATE,
WATERGATE, IRAKGATE.

4. (U) ROME'S CENTRIST DAILY "IL MESSAGGERO"
OCTOBER 29 ALSO REPORTED ON THE AMBASSADOR'S
TELEVISION APPEARANCE. THE ARTICLE SAID HIS REMARKS
CONSTITUTED AN "ATTACK" UPON ONE OF THE JOURNALISTS
(PURGATORI) WHO REPLIED THAT, AFTER ALL, "THE
SCANDALS ARE NOT PERSONAL PROBLEMS." POINTING TO THE
AMBASSADOR'S STATEMENT ON FULL U.S. COOPERATION ON

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ACTION EUR-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-17	AID-01	AMAD-01	CIAE-00	COME-00	CFE-00
	C-01	DOE-00	EB-01	E-01	FAAE-00	HA-09	H-01
	IMMC-01	INRE-00	INR-01	IO-19	L-03	ADS-00	NEA-01
	NRRC-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01	PA-02	PM-02
	PRS-01	P-01	SB-00	SCT-03	SNP-00	SP-00	SS-00
	STR-17	TRSE-00	T-01	/088W			

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O 291845Z OCT 92
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4784
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE
SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
JOINT STAFF WASHDC
DEPT JUSTICE WASHDC

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CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

182

USIA WASHDC 7617
USMISSION USNATO
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
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USCINCEUR VAHINGEN GE//ECPA//ECJ5//
CNO WASHDC//06/09C//
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UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 ROME 19567

ATHENS FOR AMBASSADOR SECCHIA; STATE ALSO FOR P; USIA
FOR EU, P/G; DOJ FOR CRIM DIV/OIA L. BARSELLA

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E.O. 12356:N/A
TAGS: PINR, NATO, PREL, IT
SUBJECT: USTICA: FURTHER PRESS REPORTING; U.S.
FIGHTERS "SEEN" ON NIGHT OF CRASH; FORMER MOD ROGNONI
COMMENTS

USTICA INVESTIGATION, "IL MESSAGGERO" NOTED THAT THE
INVESTIGATING MAGISTRATE, JUDGE PRIORE, HAD ASKED THE
U.S. FOR IDENTIFYING INFORMATION ON AN AIRPLANE FUEL
TANK FOUND NEAR USTICA BUT THE U.S. "COULD NOT FIND
THE FILE THAT CORRESPONDS TO THAT PARTICULAR FUEL
TANK."

5. (U) ROME'S CENTRIST DAILY "IL TEMPO" OCTOBER 29
REPORTED THAT "A RETIRED AIR FORCE SERGEANT HAS
REVEALED TO JUDGE PRIORE THAT ON THE EVENING OF JUNE
27, 1980, WHEN THE ITAVIA DC-9 FELL MYSTERIOUSLY INTO
THE SEA, A PAIR OF AMERICAN-MADE PHANTOM FIGHTERS
TOOK OFF FROM THE MILITARY BASE AT VILLAFRANCA."
ACCORDING TO "IL TEMPO," JUDGE PRIORE HAS INTERVIEWED
DOZENS OF MILITARY PERSONNEL (INCLUDING GENERALS,
COLONELS, AND AVIATORS) WHO WERE SERVING AT THE
AIRBASE NEAR VERONA ON THE NIGHT OF THE CRASH. THE
ARTICLE NOTED THE RETIRED AIR FORCE SARGEANT SAID THE
TWO U.S. PHANTOMS MIGHT HAVE LANDED DURING A "TRANSIT
FLIGHT." THE NEWSPAPER SPECULATED ON HOW THE
PHANTOMS COULD POSSIBLY HAVE PARTICIPATED IN "AN ACT
OF WAR OVER 1,000 KILOMETERS (600 MILES) FROM THE
VILLAFRANCA AIRBASE."

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HANDLING: n/a

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6. (U) ITALIAN WIRE SERVICE "ANSA" ALSO QUOTED
EX-MINISTER OF DEFENSE, VIRGINIO ROGNONI AS
CONFIRMING THAT DURING HIS TENURE IN OFFICE HE
HIMSELF MADE PERSONAL REQUESTS TO SECDEF CHENEY AND
TO THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF NATO ABOUT THEIR KNOWLEDGE
OF THE TRAGEDY. "IF THERE IS SOMETHING THAT THE U.S.
HAS LEARNED OR ACQUIRED," ROGNONI IS QUOTED AS
SAYING, "WE HAVE THE RIGHT TO KNOW IT AS SOON AS
POSSIBLE AND WITH THE OPENNESS AND LOYALTY THAT AN
AFFAIR OF THIS TYPE REQUIRES."

7. (U) "ANSA" REPORTED OCTOBER 29 THAT THE "GREENS"
HAVE RESUBMITTED PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS ON THE EXACT
POSITION OF THE U.S. AIRCRAFT CARRIER "SARATOGA" AND
REQUESTS FOR ALL RADAR DATA RECORDED ON THE SHIP ON
THE NIGHT OF THE USTICA CRASH. "ANSA" ALSO REPORTED
THAT PARLIAMENTARY MEMBERS OF "RIFONDAZIONE
COMUNISTA" (PARTY OF "OLD-STYLE" COMMUNISTS) HAVE
DEMANDED A NEW DISCUSSION IN PARLIAMENT ON U.S.
INVOLVEMENT IN THE USTICA AFFAIR.
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CHANNEL: n/a
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ACTION EUR-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-17	AID-01	AMAD-01	CIAE-00	COME-00	CFE-00
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	IMMC-01	INRE-00	INR-01	IO-19	L-03	ADS-00	NEA-01
	NRRC-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01	PA-01	PM-02
	PRS-01	P-01	SB-00	SCT-03	SNP-00	SP-00	STR-17
	TRSE-00	T-01	/087W				

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O 021752Z NOV 92
 FM AMEMBASSY ROME
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4898
 INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE
 SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
 JOINT STAFF WASHDC
 DEPT JUSTICE WASHDC
 USIA WASHDC 7625
 USMISSION USNATO
 CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
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 CNO WASHDC//06/09C//
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SECTION 01 OF 02 ROME 19792

ATHENS FOR AMBASSADOR SECCHIA; STATE ALSO FOR P; USIA
FOR EU, P/G; DOJ FOR CRIM DIV/OIA L. BARSELLA

PAGE 02 ROME 19792 01 OF 02 021754Z

E.O. 12356:N/A
 TAGS: PINR, NATO, PREL, IT
 SUBJECT: USTICA: ITALIAN MOD BECOMES PLAINTIFF IN
 LAWSUIT; RECONSTRUCTED ITAVIA DC-9 VIEWED BY PRESS

REF(S): (A) ROME 19567 (B) ROME 19535 (C) ROME
19492 AND PREVIOUS

EXTEND CLASSIFICATION

1. (U) SUMMARY. ITALIAN MOD SALVO ANDO' ANNOUNCED
NOVEMBER 1 THAT HE WILL FORMALLY BECOME A CIVIL PARTY

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DOC_NBR: 1992ROME19792

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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TO THE ONGOING INVESTIGATION INTO THE CAUSE OF THE JUNE 1980 CRASH OF A ITALIAN PASSENGER PLANE NEAR THE ISLAND OF USTICA. COMMENTATORS SAID THIS DECISION DEMONSTRATES THE "DISTANCE" BETWEEN ANDO' AND THE TRADITIONAL MILITARY STRUCTURE IN ITALY. ANDO' ALSO WILL TRANSFER THE AIR FORCE'S "USTICA COMMITTEE" (TASKED WITH ITS INTERNAL INVESTIGATION) TO THE MOD'S OFFICE. LASTLY, THE INVESTIGATING MAGISTRATE HAS PERMITTED JOURNALISTS TO VIEW THE RECONSTRUCTED DC-9. END SUMMARY.

2. (U) THE ITALIAN NATIONAL PRESS REPORTED NOVEMBER 1 THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF MOD SALVO ANDO' THAT HE WOULD FORMALLY BECOME PART OF THE ONGOING CIVIL LITIGATION ON THE USTICA INCIDENT. THE HEADLINE OF ROME'S CENTRIST DAILY "IL MESSAGGERO READ: "THE MINISTER WILL BE A CIVIL PARTY AGAINST AIR FORCE LEADERS WHO LIED ABOUT THE TRAGEDY." IN JOINING THE FAMILIES OF USTICA CRASH VICTIMS, MOD ANDO' SAID THE MOD WILL ASSIST THE INVESTIGATING MAGISTRATE (JUDGE PRIORE)

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"WITH EVERY MEANS AVAILABLE." ACCORDING TO "IL MESSAGGERO," ANDO'S DECISION IS THE FIRST OF ITS KIND AND WILL PUT HIM ON A COLLISION COURSE WITH THE 42 MILITARY OFFICERS CHARGED FOR THEIR PART IN THE USTICA INCIDENT OR THE ALLEGED COVER-UP THAT FOLLOWED (COMMENT. THESE CHARGES HAVE NOT YET GONE TO TRIAL.) THE LEFTIST, INDEPENDENT DAILY "LA REPUBBLICA" REPORTED NOVEMBER 1 THAT MOD ANDO' SAID, "I THINK THAT BECOMING A CIVIL PARTY WILL SHOW OUR DESIRE TO CLARIFY AN EVENT THAT CONTINUES TO DISTURB BOTH ITALY AND THE SOUL OF OUR ARMED FORCES WHICH IS OFTEN UNJUSTLY SUSPECTED OF INSUFFICIENT COOPERATION." ACCORDING TO ROME'S CENTRIST DAILY "IL TEMPO," ANDO'S DECISION NOW PITS "SOLDIER AGAINST SOLDIER."

3. (U) LEADING CENTRIST DAILY "CORRIERE DELLA SERA" NOVEMBER 1 SAID ANDO' WILL FORMALLY SUBMIT HIS PROPOSAL TO BECOME A CIVIL PARTY TO THE INVESTIGATION NEXT WEEK. ACCORDING TO "CORRIERE," THE MINISTER'S DIRECT PARTICIPATION "SIGNALS THE DISTANCE BETWEEN THE EXECUTIVE AND AN ADMINISTRATION THAT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR OMISSIONS AND A COVER-UP THAT BEGAN FROM THE NIGHT OF THE CRASH." THE NEWSPAPER REPORTED

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CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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THAT, IN ADDITION TO FORMALLY JOINING THE INVESTIGATION, ANDO' HAS DECIDED TO TRANSFER THE AIR FORCE CHIEF OF STAFF'S "USTICA COMMITTEE" TO HIS OWN OFFICE WHERE ANDO' WILL BE ABLE TO SUPERVISE ITS WORK PERSONALLY.

4. (U) "CORRIERE" OCTOBER 31 REPORTED THAT, OF ALL THE COUNTRIES FROM WHICH ITALY HAS REQUESTED

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INFORMATION ON THE USTICA AFFAIR, ONLY GERMANY AND THE U.K. HAVE RESPONDED "COMPLETELY." THE COOPERATION OF THE U.S. IS DEEMED "INSUFFICIENT" DUE TO CONTINUING CONCERNS ABOUT THE TRUTHFULNESS AND COMPLETENESS OF U.S. RESPONSES. "CORRIERE" CLAIMED FRENCH AND LIBYAN COOPERATION WAS "NONEXISTENT." THE ARTICLE ALSO REPORTED THAT SPECIFIC REQUESTS FOR SATELLITE AND RADAR DATA WERE RECENTLY SENT TO MOSCOW.

5. (U) ALONG WITH OTHER NATIONAL NEWSPAPERS, "CORRIERE" REPORTED OCTOBER 31 THAT JUDGE PRIORE PERMITTED JOURNALISTS AND PHOTOGRAPHERS TO VIEW, FOR THE FIRST TIME, THE RECONSTRUCTED FUSILAGE OF THE

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ACTION EUR-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-17	AID-01	AMAD-01	CIAE-00	COME-00	CFE-00
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	PRS-01	P-01	SB-00	SCT-03	SNP-00	SP-00	STR-17
	TRSE-00	T-01	/087W				

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O 021752Z NOV 92
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4899
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE
SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
JOINT STAFF WASHDC
DEPT JUSTICE WASHDC

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CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

183

USIA WASHDC 7626
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CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
COMSIXTHFLT
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE//ECPA//ECJ5//
CNO WASHDC//06/09C//
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[REDACTED] SECTION 02 OF 02 ROME 19792

ATHENS FOR AMBASSADOR SECCHIA; STATE ALSO FOR P; USIA
FOR EU, P/G; DOJ FOR CRIM DIV/OIA L. BARSELLA

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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E.O. 12356:N/A
TAGS: PINR, NATO, PREL, IT
SUBJECT: USTICA: ITALIAN MOD BECOMES PLAINTIFF IN
LAWSUIT; RECONSTRUCTED ITAVIA DC-9 VIEWED BY PRESS

ITAVIA DC-9 THAT CRASHED NEAR THE ISLAND OF USTICA IN
JUNE 1980. ACCORDING TO THE NEWSPAPER, OVER 90 PCT.
OF THE DC-9'S SURFACE HAS BEEN RECONSTRUCTED WITH
FRAGMENTS RECOVERED FROM THE CRASH SITE. "CORRIERE"
SAID JUDGE PRIORE HAS ORDERED A "SUPER TECHNICAL
EXAMINATION" OF POSSIBLE CAUSES OF THE TRAGEDY TO BE
COMPLETED BY MARCH 31, 1993. ALSO ON DISPLAY WITH
THE ITAVIA DC-9 WAS A RECONSTRUCTION OF THE LIBYAN
MIG-23 THAT CRASHED IN SILA THREE WEEKS AFTER THE
USTICA INCIDENT, AND AN EXTRA AIRCRAFT FUEL TANK THAT
WAS RECOVERED FROM AN AREA NEAR THE DC-9 WRECKAGE.

6. (C) COMMENT

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CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: B1, 1.5(D)

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ACTION EUR-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-17	AID-01	AMAD-01	CIAE-00	COME-00	CFE-00
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	H-01	INRE-00	INR-01	L-03	ADS-00	NEA-01	NRRC-00
	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OES-09	OMB-01	PA-01	PM-02	PRS-01
	P-01	SCT-03	SDEL-00	SNP-00	SP-00	STR-17	TRSE-00
	T-01	/074W					

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P 041126Z NOV 92
 FM AMEMBASSY ROME
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4970
 INFO SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
 DEPT JUSTICE WASHDC PRIORITY
 USMISSION USNATO
 CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
 USCINCEUR VAHINGEN GE
 USNMR SHAPE BE
 USIA WASHDC 7637

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STATE FOR EUR/WE
 DOD FOR OSD/ISP
 JUSTICE FOR BARSELLA
 USIA FOR EU

EXTEND CLASSIFICATION

E.O. 12356:DECL: OADR
 TAGS: PARM, PGOV, IT

PAGE 02 ROME 19911 01 OF 03 041127Z
 SUBJECT: USTICA: KEEPING THE U.S. BEYOND REPROACH

REF(S): ROME 19792

1. [REDACTED] - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SUMMARY. WE EXPECT THAT THE RECENT SPATE OF
 PRESS COVERAGE OF THE USTICA AFFAIR IS RELATED TO THE
 POLITICAL SITUATION IN ITALY [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] ALTHOUGH
 THE U.S. HAS TAKEN THE BRUNT OF THE PRESS ATTENTION,

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WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT WE ARE A MAJOR TARGET. TO PROTECT USG INTERESTS, WE SHOULD CONTINUE TO DEMONSTRATE OUR FULL COOPERATION IN THE ITALIAN INVESTIGATION. AMBASSADOR WILL CONTINUE TO EMPHASIZE THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT WILL RESPOND IN A TIMELY MANNER TO CURRENT, OUTSTANDING JUDICIAL REQUESTS. WE MUST ENSURE THAT ALL ITALIAN REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION ARE ANSWERED PRECISELY AND ON A TIMELY BASIS, WITH AT LEAST INTERIM RESPONSES BY NOVEMBER 30. USTICA WORKING GROUP SHOULD MEET TO COORDINATE CURRENT JUDICIAL REQUESTS. END SUMMARY.

3. OVER THE PAST SEVERAL WEEKS, THE USTICA AFFAIR -- THE YET UNEXPLAINED DOWNING OF AN ITALIAN CIVILIAN AIRCRAFT IN THE TYRHENNIAN SEA IN 1980 -- HAS BECOME A PRIME TOPIC OF CONVERSATION IN THE ITALIAN PRESS FROM "AMERICA LIES" TO "U.S. DOES NOT RESPOND WELL." PRIOR TO SECRETARY CHENEY'S VISIT TO ROME OCTOBER 24-25, SOCIALIST DEFENSE MINISTER ANDO' MADE STATEMENTS TO THE PRESS WHICH, ACCURATELY REFLECTING

PAGE 03 ROME 19911 01 OF 03 041127Z
HIS OPINION OR NOT, LEFT THE IMPRESSION THAT SOMEHOW THE USG HAD "ADDITIONAL INFORMATION" ON THE USTICA ISSUE TO SUPPLY TO ITALIAN OFFICIALS.

B1

4. DURING THE MEETING WITH MOD ANDO', SECRETARY CHENEY EXPLAINED THAT THE UNITED STATES HAD ALWAYS BEEN WILLING TO SUPPLY ALL RELEVANT INFORMATION TO THE ITALIANS THROUGH OFFICIAL AND JUDICIAL CHANNELS. HOWEVER, IN THE WAKE OF THE SECRETARY'S VISIT, [REDACTED] TO DISABUSE THE PRESS OF THE IDEA THAT SOMEHOW THE UNITED STATES HAD BEEN SLOW TO RESPOND OR AMBIGUOUS IN ITS RESPONSES TO THE ITALIAN REQUESTS.

B1

5. REFTEL REPORTED WEEKEND NEWS THAT THE DEFENSE MINISTER HAS ANNOUNCED THAT THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE, OR PERHAPS THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT-- IT IS NOT YET CLEAR-- HAS BECOME A "CIVIL PARTY" TO THE USTICA CASE. THIS MEANS THAT THE GOVERNMENT WILL NOW HAVE ACCESS, AS DO THE LAWYERS FOR THE FAMILIES OF THE VICTIMS, TO INFORMATION DEVELOPED BY JUDGE PRIORE IN THE CASE. THIS ALSO MEANS THAT THE JUDICIAL AND OFFICIAL/DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS OF INFORMATION, IF THEY WERE SEPARATE AND DISTINCT IN THE PAST, WILL NO

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CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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LONGER BE SO CLEARLY DEFINED.

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ACTION EUR-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-17	AID-01	AMAD-01	CIAE-00	COME-00	CFE-00
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	T-01	/074W					

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 FM AMEMBASSY ROME
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4971
 INFO SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
 DEPT JUSTICE WASHDC PRIORITY
 USMISSION USNATO
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DOC_NBR: 1992ROME19911

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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USIA WASHDC 7638

SECTION 02 OF 03 ROME 19911

STATE FOR EUR/WE
DOD FOR OSD/ISP
JUSTICE FOR BARSELLA
USIA FOR EU

E.O. 12356:DECL: OADR
TAGS: PARM, PGOV, IT

PAGE 02 ROME 19911 02 OF 03 041128Z
SUBJECT: USTICA: KEEPING THE U.S. BEYOND REPROACH

B1

7. AS PAST EXPERIENCE HAS INDICATED, THE USTICA CASE CAN BECOME A SPONTANEOUS TOPIC OF PUBLIC/MEDIA CONVERSATION HERE. IN ADDITION TO SUPPOSED NEW REVELATIONS EMANATING FROM AN ALLEGED CONTROL TOWER CONVERSATION NORTH OF ROME AND AN ALLEGED REPORT OF THE TAKEOFF OF TWO F-104S OR PHANTOM JETS FROM AN AIRPORT AT VERONA THE NIGHT OF THE CRASH, SOME OF THE MEDIA CONTINUES TO PRESS THE ARGUMENT THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT HAS NOT COOPERATED FULLY WITH THE INVESTIGATION. THE "NEW EVIDENCE" HAS BEEN ACCOMPANIED BY SUGGESTIONS THAT THE PHANTOMS OR F-104S FLEW TO THE "USS SARATOGA," WHICH THE PRESS CLAIMS MAY NOT HAVE BEEN IN NAPLES AFTER ALL ON THE NIGHT OF THE CRASH. THE U.S. HAS ALSO BEEN TERMED AS "LESS THAN COOPERATIVE."

B1

8. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] THOSE WHO ATTEMPT TO DEBASE OUR FORTHCOMING ROLE IN THE USTICA INVESTIGATION ARE COMMITTED TO ENSURING JUST THE OPPOSITE. THE MOST EFFECTIVE MEANS OF COMBATING THIS MOST RECENT SPATE OF UNFORTUNATE AND UNTRUE INSINUATIONS IS TO CONTINUE TO COOPERATE FULLY, RESPONDING WITH CLARITY AND ALACRITY, TO ALL ITALIAN REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION.

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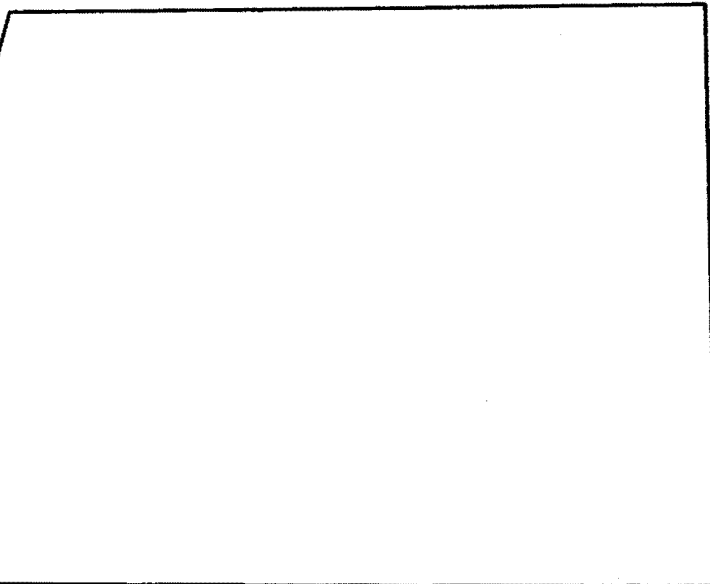
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PAGE 03 ROME 19911 02 OF 03 041128Z

9. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THERE ARE A NUMBER OF JUDICIAL REQUESTS FROM JUDGE PRIORE OUTSTANDING FROM EARLIER THIS YEAR REQUIRING ANSWERS FROM SEVERAL WASHINGTON AGENCIES. THESE REQUESTS SHOULD BE ANSWERED ASAP, WITH COMPLETE RESPONSES. IN CASES WHERE FULL RESPONSES CANNOT BE PROVIDED, THEN THE REASON SHOULD BE GIVEN SO AS TO INDICATE TO ITALIAN AUTHORITIES WHY A RESPONSE IS NOT POSSIBLE. LIKewise, SHOULD THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT MAKE FURTHER REQUESTS TO STATE OR DOD, WE SEE EVERY BENEFIT IN ENSURING THAT ALL POSSIBLE EFFORTS ARE MADE TO BE OF ASSISTANCE IN THE MOST TIMELY MANNER POSSIBLE.

10. EMBASSY STRONGLY SUGGESTS THAT THE USTICA WORKING GROUP OF USIA, STATE, JUSTICE, AND DEFENSE OFFICIALS MEET TO ENSURE THAT OUR RESPONSES TO THE ITALIANS ARE AS CLEAR, CONCISE AND TIMELY AS POSSIBLE. WE WOULD PARTICULARLY DIRECT THE ATTENTION OF THE GROUP TO THE CURRENTLY OUTSTANDING JUDICIAL REQUESTS, AND TO PROVIDING CLEAR RESPONSES, INCLUDING CASES WHERE THE USG HAS NOTHING FURTHER TO ADD BY NOVEMBER 30. WE MAKE THIS SUGGESTION AS ONE MEANS TO DISPEL ANY SUGGESTION THAT THE USG HAS BEEN AMBIGUOUS IN ITS ANSWERS OR UNWILLING TO FURNISH ALL THE INFORMATION CURRENTLY AT ITS DISPOSAL.

11. AMB. COMMENT. 

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ACTION EUR-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-17	AID-01	AMAD-01	CIAE-00	COME-00	CFE-00
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	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OES-09	OMB-01	PA-01	PM-02	PRS-01
	P-01	SCT-03	SDEL-00	SNP-00	SP-00	STR-17	TRSE-00
	T-01	/074W					

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P 041126Z NOV 92
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4972
INFO SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
DEPT JUSTICE WASHDC PRIORITY
USMISSION USNATO
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
USCINCEUR VAHINGEN GE
USNMR SHAPE BE
USIA WASHDC 7639

SECTION 03 OF 03 ROME 19911

STATE FOR EUR/WE
DOD FOR OSD/ISP
JUSTICE FOR BARSELLA
USIA FOR EU

E.O. 12356:DECL: OADR
TAGS: PARM, PGOV, IT

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SUBJECT: USTICA: KEEPING THE U.S. BEYOND REPROACH



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DOC_NBR: 1992ROME19911

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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A160

Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1992ROME20358

CHANNEL: n/a
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ACTION EUR-01

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INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-17	AID-01	CIAE-00	COME-00	CFE-00	C-01
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	INRE-00	INR-01	IO-19	L-03	ADS-00	NEA-01	NRRC-00
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	P-01	SB-00	SCT-03	SNP-00	SP-00	STR-17	TRSE-00
	T-01	/086W					

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O 121725Z NOV 92
 FM AMEMBASSY ROME
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5287
 SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
 DEPT JUSTICE WASHDC IMMEDIATE
 USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7664
 INFO JOINT STAFF WASHDC
 USMISSION USNATO
 CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
 COMSIXTHFLT
 USCINCEUR VAHINGEN GE//ECPA//ECJ5//
 CNO WASHDC//06/09C//
 COMFAIRMED NAPLES IT
 USNMR SHAPE BE
 AMEMBASSY PARIS

SECTION 01 OF 02 ROME 20358

STATE ALSO FOR P; USIA FOR EU, P/G; DOJ FOR CRIM
DIV/OIA L. BARSELLA

PAGE 02 ROME 20358 01 OF 02 121726Z

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
 TAGS: PINR, NATO, PREL, IT
 SUBJECT: USTICA: "CBS NEWS" SUGGESTS A U.S. COVER-UP;
 MOD ANDO' ASKS FRANCE TO REPLY TO QUESTIONS; AIR
 FORCE CHIEF OF STAFF PROTESTS "TRIAL BY TELEVISION"

REF(S): (A) ROME 19963 (B) ROME 19911 (C) ROME 19911
AND PREVIOUS

1. (U) SUMMARY. ITALIAN WIRE SERVICE "ANSA"

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CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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REPORTED NOVEMBER 12 THAT "CBS NEWS" IN ITS LEAD STORY NOVEMBER 11 SUGGESTED THAT THE U.S. HAS COVERED UP ITS RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CRASH OF A DC-9 PASSENGER PLANE ON JUNE 27, 1980 NEAR THE ISLAND OF USTICA. CITING IRREGULARITIES IN THE LOG BOOK OF THE "USS SARATOGA" FOR THE NIGHT OF THE TRAGEDY, THE "CBS" NEWS BROADCAST IMPLIED THAT AN AIR-TO-AIR MISSILE WAS THE PROBABLE CAUSE OF THE CRASH. SEPARATELY, ITALIAN PRESS REPORTS SAID ITALIAN MOD MINISTER ANDO' MET FRENCH MOD PIERRE JOXE NOVEMBER 10 TO REQUEST THAT THE FRENCH RESPOND TO OUTSTANDING REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THE USTICA CRASH. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS NOVEMBER 6, ANDO' SAID THE DC-9 WAS "SHOT DOWN" -- BUT THEN HE IMMEDIATELY "EXPLAINED" THAT HE MEANT THE CRASH WAS CAUSED BY SOME "EXTERNAL EVENT" RATHER THAN A STRUCTURAL DEFECT IN THE AIRCRAFT ITSELF. ITALIAN AIR FORCE CHIEF OF STAFF (NARDINI) PROTESTED THE APPARENT "TRIAL BY TELEVISION" OF AIR FORCE OFFICERS CHARGED IN THE USTICA AFFAIR. END SUMMARY.

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2. (U) ITALIAN WIRE SERVICE "ANSA" REPORTED NOVEMBER 12 THAT, FOR THE FIRST TIME IN TWELVE YEARS, AN AMERICAN TELEVISION NEWS PROGRAM HAD DEDICATED A SEGMENT TO THE USTICA AFFAIR. "ANSA" SAID "CBS NEWS" (BROADCAST ON THE FOLLOWING MORNING ON "TELE MONTECARLO" IN ITALY) HAD SUGGESTED THAT THE U.S. WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DOWNING OF THE ITAVIA DC-9 AND THAT THE USG HAD SUCCESSFULLY COVERED-UP ITS INVOLVEMENT. ACCORDING TO "ANSA," THE "CBS" NEWS PROGRAM INCLUDED INTERVIEWS WITH ITALIAN EXPERTS ON USTICA AND RELATIVES OF USTICA CRASH VICTIMS. "ANSA" NOTED THAT "CBS" ADVANCED THE THEORY THAT THE TRAGEDY WAS CAUSED BY AN AIR-TO-AIR MISSILE. THE "ANSA" ARTICLE ALSO SAID, "THE PENTAGON HAS ALWAYS DENIED THE INVOLVEMENT OF U.S. FORCES STATIONED IN THE MEDITERRANEAN AND HAS EMPHASIZED THAT THE AIRCRAFT CARRIER "SARATOGA" WAS ANCHORED AT NAPLES WITH ITS RADARS TURNED OFF." THE OFFICIAL U.S. VERSION, "CBS" EXPLAINED, HAS BEEN PLACED IN DOUBT BY EVIDENCE OBTAINED UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT BY RELATIVES OF USTICA CRASH VICTIMS. "ANSA" REPORTED THAT THE LOG BOOK OF THE "USS SARATOGA" WAS OF PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE: "THERE WERE FOUR OFFICIALS

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WHO SIGNED THE LOG BOOK ON THE DAY OF THE TRAGEDY BUT THE HANDWRITING IS ALL THE SAME."

3. (U) LEFTIST, INDEPENDENT DAILY "LA REPUBBLICA" NOVEMBER 11 REPORTED THAT THE USTICA CRASH "WAS AT THE CENTER" OF A BILATERAL MEETING BETWEEN ITALIAN MOD SALVO ANDO' AND FRENCH MOD PIERRE JOXE NOVEMBER

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10 IN PARIS. ACCORDING TO "LA REPUBBLICA," ITALY HAD SENT SIX ROGATORIES ABOUT USTICA TO FRANCE: THREE HAVE NOT BEEN ANSWERED AT ALL AND "NEGATIVE OR INCOMPLETE" ANSWERS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED FOR THE OTHER THREE. THE ARTICLE REPORTED THAT ANDO' SAID, "I FOUND THAT JOXE IS INTERESTED IN COOPERATING. HE HAS ALSO PROMISED INITIAL RESPONSES BY THE WEU MINISTERIAL MEETING IN ROME NOVEMBER 20. AT THAT TIME, JOXE WILL FURNISH THE FIRST INFORMATION. I HOPE MORE COMPLETE RESPONSES WILL THEN FOLLOW." THE NEWSPAPER NOTED THAT ITALIAN AUTHORITIES HAVE ASKED FOR AVAILABLE DATA RECORDINGS AND INFORMATION ABOUT THE MOVEMENT OF FRENCH MILITARY UNITS BASED NEAR

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ACTION EUR-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-17	AID-01	CIAE-00	COME-00	CFE-00	C-01
	DOE-00	EB-01	E-01	FAAE-00	HA-09	H-01	IMMC-01
	INRE-00	INR-01	IO-19	L-03	ADS-00	NEA-01	NRRC-00
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	T-01	/086W					

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O 121725Z NOV 92
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5288
SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
DEPT JUSTICE WASHDC IMMEDIATE
USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7665
INFO JOINT STAFF WASHDC

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CHANNEL: n/a

HANDLING: n/a

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USMISSION USNATO
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
COMSIXTHFLT
USCINCEUR VAHINGEN GE//ECPA//ECJ5//
CNO WASHDC//06/09C//
COMFAIRMED NAPLES IT
USNMR SHAPE BE
AMEMBASSY PARIS

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STATE ALSO FOR P; USIA FOR EU, P/G; DOJ FOR CRIM
DIV/OIA L. BARSELLA

PAGE 02 ROME 20358 02 OF 02 121727Z

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR

TAGS: PINR, NATO, PREL, IT

SUBJECT: USTICA: "CBS NEWS" SUGGESTS A U.S. COVER-UP;
MOD ANDO' ASKS FRANCE TO REPLY TO QUESTIONS; AIR
FORCE CHIEF OF STAFF PROTESTS "TRIAL BY TELEVISION"

ITALY (I.E., IN CORSICA) ON THE NIGHT OF THE CRASH.

4. (U) THE MEETING WITH JOXE IN PARIS WAS, IN PART, A FOLLOW-UP TO ANDO'S REMARKS AT A PRESS CONFERENCE AT THE ITALIAN AIR FORCE ACADEMY NOVEMBER 5. ROME'S CENTRIST DAILY REPORTED NOVEMBER 6 THAT ANDO' SAID, "WE WILL ASK THE COOPERATION OF EVERY COUNTRY THAT IS ABLE TO HELP US ESTABLISH THE "WHO, HOW, AND WHY" THE DC-9 WAS SHOT DOWN." ACCORDING TO THE ITALIAN PRESS, THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME A GOVERNMENT MINISTER HAS CHARACTERIZED THE CAUSE OF THE USTICA CRASH AS A "SHOOTING DOWN." ASKED FOR FURTHER EXPLANATION, "IL MESSAGGERO" NOTED, ANDO' REMARKED, "I PREFER TO SPEAK OF AN "ACCIDENT" INSTEAD OF A "SHOOTING DOWN" BECAUSE I DO NOT WANT TO ADVANCE ANY PARTICULAR HYPOTHESIS. RATHER THAN PROMOTING A SPECIFIC SCENARIO, IT IS BETTER TO LEAVE THE DETERMINATION IN THE HANDS OF THE JUDGES." LEADING CONSERVATIVE DAILY "IL GIORNALE" NOVEMBER 6 REPORTED THAT ANDO' EXPLAINED HIS REFERENCE TO "SHOOTING DOWN": "WE SHOULD NOT EXAGGERATE. I MEANT AN ACCIDENT, AN EXTERNAL CAUSE." THE HEADLINE OF THE "IL GIORNALE" ARTICLE READ: "ANDO': THE DC-9 WAS SHOT DOWN. A MINISTER ADMITS FOR THE FIRST TIME THAT IT WAS NOT A

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STRUCTURAL DEFECT. IT COULD HAVE BEEN AN ACCIDENT,
BUT WITHOUT DOUBT IT WAS AN EXTERNAL CAUSE."

5. (U) ROME'S CENTRIST DAILY "IL TEMPO" REPORTED
NOVEMBER 6 THAT ITALIAN AIR FORCE CHIEF OF STAFF
STELIO NARDINI DEFENDED THE ROLE OF THE AIR FORCE IN
THE USTICA AFFAIR AND SAID THE AIR FORCE OFFICERS
CRIMINALLY CHARGED ARE ENTITLED TO A FAIR TRIAL.
ACCORDING TO "IL TEMPO," NARDINI NOTED THAT THE
OFFICERS ARE INNOCENT UNTIL PROVEN GUILTY BUT "THE
PRESS, INSTEAD, ALREADY EXPECTS A GUILTY VERDICT."
NARDINI CRITICIZED THE WIDESPREAD NEGATIVE AND
SPECULATIVE PRESS COVERAGE ON USTICA AND EXPLAINED,
"THIS IS NOT ANY OLD STORY. THERE WERE 81 DEATHS.
EIGHTY-ONE ITALIANS WERE LOST. THESE ARE NOT THINGS
TO THROW AROUND LIGHTLY ON TELEVISION."

6. (C) COMMENT. THE CBS NEWS STORY IS INCORRECT
AND VIRTUALLY LIFTED FROM ITALIAN SOURCES, INCLUDING
THE MAJOR JOURNALIST COVERING THIS ISSUE. THAT WE
KNOW OF, CBS MADE NO ATTEMPT TO CHECK THEIR STORY
WITH USG AUTHORITIES. RECOMMEND THAT DEPARTMENT TAKE
A STRONG LINE REFUTING THE STORY, INCLUDING INFERENCE
THAT U.S. SOMEHOW HAS HELD BACK INFORMATION FROM
ITALIAN INVESTIGATORS. MOREOVER, IT SHOULD BE MADE
CLEAR THAT USS SARATOGA WAS IN PORT AND THAT NO U.S.
COMBAT AIRCRAFT WERE IN THE AREA AT THE TIME THE
PLANE WENT DOWN. REQUEST SOONEST DEPARTMENT GUIDANCE
REQUESTED REFTELS. SECCHIA

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PAGE 01 ROME 20453 01 OF 02 131739Z
ACTION EUR-01

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	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01	PA-01	PM-02	PRS-01
	P-01	SB-00	SCT-03	SNP-00	SP-00	STR-17	TRSE-00
	T-01	/086W					

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O 131727Z NOV 92
 FM AMEMBASSY ROME
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5343
 SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
 DEPT JUSTICE WASHDC IMMEDIATE
 USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7672
 INFO JOINT STAFF WASHDC
 USMISSION USNATO
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 CNO WASHDC//06/09C//
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 AMEMBASSY PARIS

SECTION 01 OF 02 ROME 20453

STATE ALSO FOR P; USIA FOR EU, P/G; DOJ FOR CRIM
DIV/OIA L. BARSELLA

PAGE 02 ROME 20453 01 OF 02 131739Z

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
 TAGS: PINR, NATO, PREL, IT
 SUBJECT: USTICA: U.S. REPLIES TO ALLEGATIONS OF A
 COVER-UP; ITALIAN MOD SALVO ANDO' DENIES DOUBTING
 U.S. SINCERITY AND COOPERATION; JUDGE PRIORE LOOKS
 FOR PROOF ON THE "USS SARATOGA"

REF(S): (A) ROME 20358 (B) ROME 19963 (C) ROME 19911
AND PREVIOUS

EXTEND CLASSIFICATION

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CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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1. (U) SUMMARY. MAJOR NEWSPAPERS NOVEMBER 13 CARRIED THE "CATEGORICAL DENIAL" OF U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN THE USTICA CRASH GIVEN BY ASSISTANT SECDEF PETE WILLIAMS AT A PENTAGON BRIEFING. EXPLAINING THE LONG HISTORY OF U.S. COOPERATION IN THE 12 YEAR OLD INVESTIGATION, THE ITALIAN PRESS SAID WILLIAMS SPOKE OF U.S. "FRUSTRATION THAT ITALIAN LEADERS HAVE POLITICIZED A SERIOUS MATTER." IN REPLY, ITALIAN MOD SALVO ANDO' SAID HE HAD NEVER HAD ANY DOUBT ABOUT THE SINCERITY OF THE USG. ACCORDING TO "LA REPUBBLICA" NOVEMBER 13, ANDO' CLAIMED HE WAS ONLY TRYING TO COMPLETE THE INVESTIGATION AND SOLVE THE USTICA MYSTERY. ITALIAN PRESS REPORTS ALSO INDICATED THAT THE INVESTIGATING MAGISTRATE (JUDGE PRIORE) WOULD GO TO NAPLES NOVEMBER 13 TO TAKE TESTIMONY FROM WITNESSES ABOUT THE WHEREABOUTS OF THE "USS SARATOGA" ON THE NIGHT OF THE USTICA CRASH. END SUMMARY.

2. (U) USTICA WAS A FRONT PAGE STORY IN MUCH OF THE NATIONAL PRESS NOVEMBER 13. MAJOR ITALIAN NEWSPAPERS

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DESCRIBED THE "CBS NEWS" BROADCAST (TRANSMITTED IN ITALY NOVEMBER 12, REF A) AND GAVE FULL COVERAGE TO THE U.S. RESPONSE BY ASSISTANT SECDEF PETE WILLIAMS AT A PENTAGON PRESS BRIEFING NOVEMBER 12. RESPONDING TO SUGGESTIONS THAT THE U.S. HAD COVERED UP ITS RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE USTICA CRASH, SEVERAL ITALIAN NEWSPAPERS REPORTED WILLIAMS' "TOTAL, UNEQUIVOCAL, AND CATEGORICAL" DENIAL OF U.S. INVOLVEMENT. THE ITALIAN PRESS ALSO REPORTED WILLIAMS' EXPLANATION FOR THE SIMILARITY OF LOG BOOK ENTRIES FOR THE "USS SARATOGA"; HIS REITERATION THAT THERE WERE NO U.S. COMBAT AIRCRAFT OR SHIPS OPERATING IN THE AREA OF THE CRASH ON JUNE 27, 1980; HIS CONFIRMATION THAT THE "USS SARATOGA" WAS ANCHORED IN NAPLES AT THE TIME; AND HIS PLEDGE THAT THE USG WOULD CONTINUE, AS IT HAS ALWAYS DONE IN THE PAST, TO COOPERATE WITH ITALIAN AUTHORITIES INVESTIGATING THE CAUSE OF THE TRAGEDY.

3. (U) LEADING CENTRIST DAILY "CORRIERE DELLA SERA" NOVEMBER 13 REPORTED THAT WILLIAMS SAID THAT THE U.S. UNDERSTOOD ITALY'S DESIRE TO RESOLVE THIS CASE. THE U.S. HAD OFTEN RESPONDED TO ITALIAN REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION ABOUT USTICA ONLY TO RECEIVE THE SAME QUESTIONS AGAIN. WILLIAMS IS QUOTED AS SAYING,

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"THERE IS BARELY A CHANGE IN THE ITALIAN LEADERSHIP WHEN INTEREST IN THE USTICA AFFAIR ARISES ANEW. I BELIEVE THAT POLITICAL STRUGGLES BETWEEN PARTIES SHOULD NOT INTERFERE WITH THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE INVESTIGATION. IN EVERY CIVILIZED COUNTRY THERE ARE THEORIES OF CONSPIRACY. OUR RELATIONS WITH ITALY ARE EXCELLENT BUT IT IS FRUSTRATING THAT EVERY TIME THERE

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IS A POLITICAL HICCUP, THE RUMORS ABOUT USTICA START UP AGAIN."

4. (U) LEFTIST, INDEPENDENT DAILY "LA REPUBBLICA" NOVEMBER 13 SAID WILLIAMS DESCRIBED THE NUMEROUS DIPLOMATIC RESPONSES THAT THE U.S. HAS GIVEN ITALY OVER THE LAST FEW YEARS. WILLIAMS NOTED OFFICIAL U.S. LETTERS FROM UNDER SECDEFS WILLIAM TAFT (24 JANUARY 1988), DON ATWOOD (15 MAY 1989), AND PAUL WOLFOWITZ (4 DECEMBER 1990). "LA REPUBBLICA" ALSO REPORTED WILLIAMS' COMMENT: "WE TAKE THIS AFFAIR VERY SERIOUSLY BECAUSE ITALY IS AN IMPORTANT ALLY AND WE ARE ABOVE ALL INTERESTED IN THE DISCOVERY OF THE TRUTH BUT THERE IS NOTHING NEW AND, FOR THIS, IT IS

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ACTION EUR-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-17	AID-01	CIAE-00	COME-00	CFE-00	C-01
	DOT-00	EB-01	E-01	FAAE-00	HA-09	H-01	IMMC-01
	INRE-00	INR-01	IO-19	L-03	ADS-00	NEA-01	NRRC-00
	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01	PA-01	PM-02	PRS-01
	P-01	SB-00	SCT-03	SNP-00	SP-00	STR-17	TRSE-00
	T-01	/086W					

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O 131727Z NOV 92
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5344
SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
DEPT JUSTICE WASHDC IMMEDIATE
USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7673

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INFO JOINT STAFF WASHDC
USMISSION USNATO
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
COMSIXTHFLT
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE//ECPA//ECJ5//
CNO WASHDC//06/09C//
COMFAIRMED NAPLES IT
USNMR SHAPE BE
AMEMBASSY PARIS

SECTION 02 OF 02 ROME 20453

STATE ALSO FOR P; USIA FOR EU, P/G; DOJ FOR CRIM
DIV/OIA L. BARSELLA

PAGE 02 ROME 20453 02 OF 02 131739Z

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: PINR, NATO, PREL, IT
SUBJECT: USTICA: U.S. REPLIES TO ALLEGATIONS OF A
COVER-UP; ITALIAN MOD SALVO ANDO' DENIES DOUBTING
U.S. SINCERITY AND COOPERATION; JUDGE PRIORE LOOKS
FOR PROOF ON THE "USS SARATOGA"

WRONG TO DEFINE OUR POSITION AS "NEWLY HELPFUL."

5. (U) "LA REPUBBLICA" ALSO REPORTED THAT
IMMEDIATELY AFTER HEARING ASD WILLIAMS' STATEMENTS,
ITALIAN MOD SALVO ANDO' RESPONDED, "I AM GLAD TO HEAR
THAT THE U.S. HAS REITERATED ITS COMMITMENT TO
COOPERATE WITH EVERY POSSIBLE MEANS SO THAT THE
INVESTIGATION CAN CONCLUDE QUICKLY AND PROPERLY. WE
HAVE NEVER INFERRED OR EXPRESSED DOUBT ABOUT THE
SINCERITY OF THEIR (USG) INTENTIONS. THE RECENT
INITIATIVES BY THE ITALIAN MOD WERE NOT MEANT TO FEED
NEW ARGUMENTS OR REKINDLE OLD ONES. THEY REFLECTED
THE DESIRE OF THE DEFENSE MINISTRY AND THE ENTIRE
ITALIAN COMMUNITY TO COMPLETE THIS DIFFICULT
INVESTIGATION IN THE BEST WAY POSSIBLE. I AM
CONVINCED THAT THE U.S. WILL CONTINUE TO GIVE ITS
FULL AND COMPLETE SUPPORT TO THE VARIOUS INITIATIVES
AS IT HAS DONE UP TO NOW."

6. (U) LEADING CONSERVATIVE DAILY "IL GIORNALE"
NOVEMBER 13 SAID THE INVESTIGATING MAGISTRATE (JUDGE
PRIORE) WOULD GO TO NAPLES NOVEMBER 13 TO INTERVIEW

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DOC_NBR: 1992ROME20453

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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WITNESSES AND GATHER DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE REGARDING

PAGE 03 ROME 20453 02 OF 02 131739Z
THE EXACT WHEREABOUTS OF THE "USS SARATOGA" ON THE
NIGHT OF THE USTICA CRASH. REITERATING SUGGESTIONS
MADE BY "CBS NEWS" NOVEMBER 11 THAT THERE WERE
IRREGULARITIES IN THE "SARATOGA'S" LOG BOOK, ROME'S
CENTRIST DAILY "IL MESSAGGERO" REPORTED THAT USTICA
INVESTIGATORS WERE LOOKING FOR INDEPENDENT PROOF THAT
THE "USS SARATOGA" WAS, AS THE U.S. HAS ALWAYS
CLAIMED, ANCHORED IN NAPLES HARBOR ON JUNE 27, 1980.
(COMMENT. "IL GIORNALE" ALSO REPORTED THAT JUDGE
PRIORE WOULD LISTEN TO FIVE WITNESSES "AMONG WHOM
WERE SOME OFFICIALS OF THE US NAVY." WE HAVE
CONTACTED THE NAVAL AUTHORITIES IN NAPLES AND GAETA
AND THEY HAVE HAD NO SUCH CONTACT. JUDGE PRIORE IS
AWARE THAT ANY REQUEST TO INTERVIEW A USG OFFICIAL
MUST GO THROUGH PROPER USG CHANNELS.)

7. (C) COMMENT.

B1

THE ITALIAN PRESS, IN GENERAL, GAVE
WIDE AND IN-DEPTH COVERAGE TO ASD WILLIAMS' REMARKS
AT THE PENTAGON BRIEFING -- INCLUDING HIS POINTED
COMMENT ABOUT USTICA AS A POLITICAL FOOTBALL.
WILLIAMS' COMMENTS WERE HELPFUL IN DISPELLING RECENT
PRESS COVERAGE OF THE AFFAIR AND FOCUS ON THE U.S.
MILITARY. SEPTELS REPORT OUR APPROACHES TO
GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ON THE USTICA QUESTION.

PAGE 04
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ROME 20453 02 OF 02 131739Z

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Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1992ROME20465

CHANNEL: n/a
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PAGE 01 ROME 20465 01 OF 02 140626Z
ACTION EUR-01

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	P-01	SB-00	SCT-03	SNP-00	SP-00	STR-17	TRSE-00
	T-01	USIE-00	/086W				

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P 131922Z NOV 92
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 SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
 DEPT JUSTICE WASHDC PRIORITY
 INFO JOINT STAFF WASHDC
 USMISSION USNATO
 CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
 COMSIXTHFLT
 USCINCEUR VAHINGEN GE//ECPA/ECJ5//
 CNO WASHDC//06//09C//
 COMFAIRMED NAPLES IT
 USNMR SHAPE BE
 AMEMBASSY PARIS

SECTION 01 OF 02 ROME 20465

STATE ALSO FOR P; DOJ FOR CRIM DIV/OIA L. BARSELLA

E.O. 12356:DECL: OADR

PAGE 02 ROME 20465 01 OF 02 140626Z
 TAGS: PGOV, PREL, NATO, MARR, IT
 SUBJECT: USTICA: THE AMBASSADOR GETS A SYMPATHETIC
 HEARING TO HIS PROTEST

REF: STATE 368673 NOTAL

EXTEND CLASSIFICATION

1. - ENTIRE TEXT -

2. SUMMARY.

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Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1992ROME20465

CHANNEL: n/a
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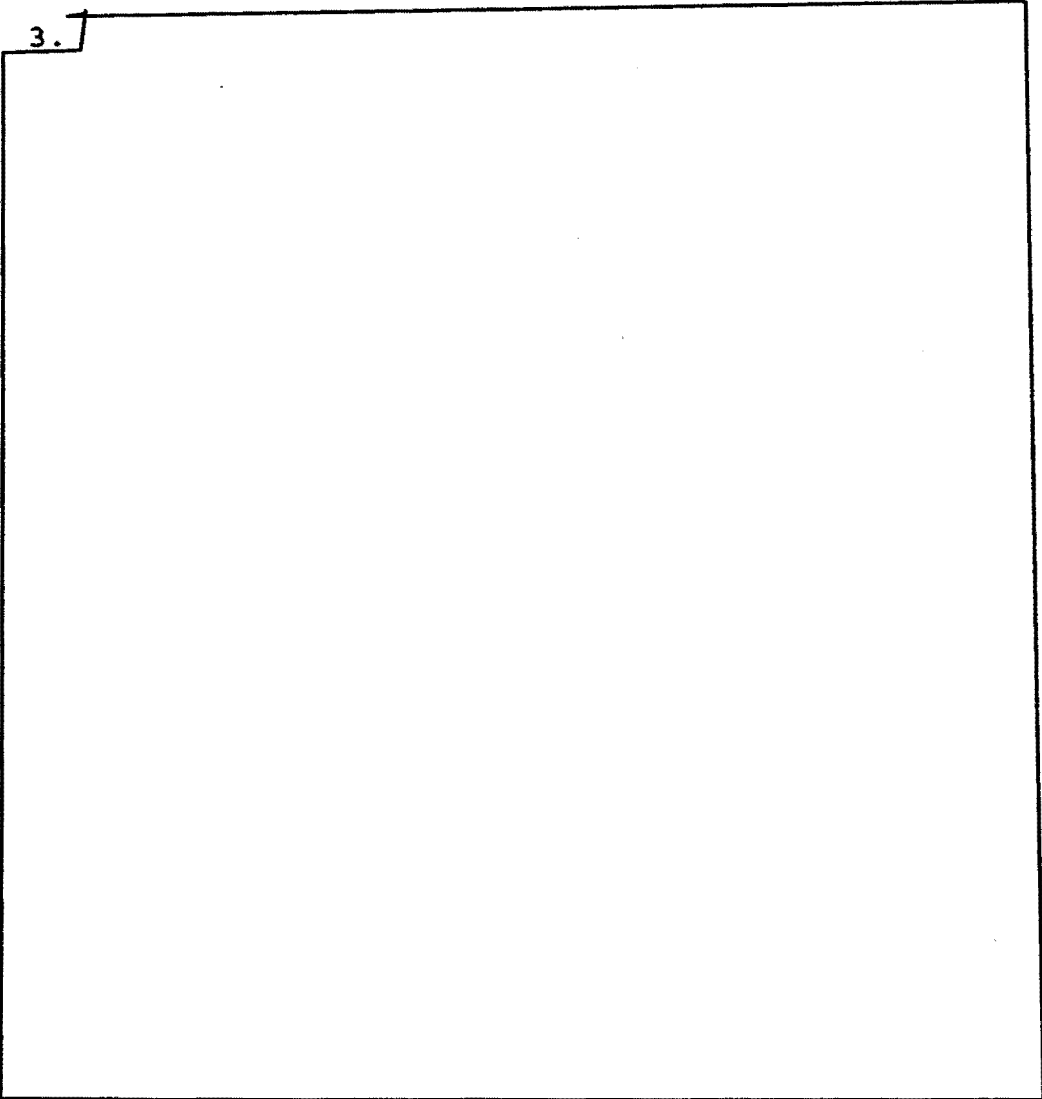
190



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END SUMMARY.

AMATO AGREES TO CALL ANDO' ...



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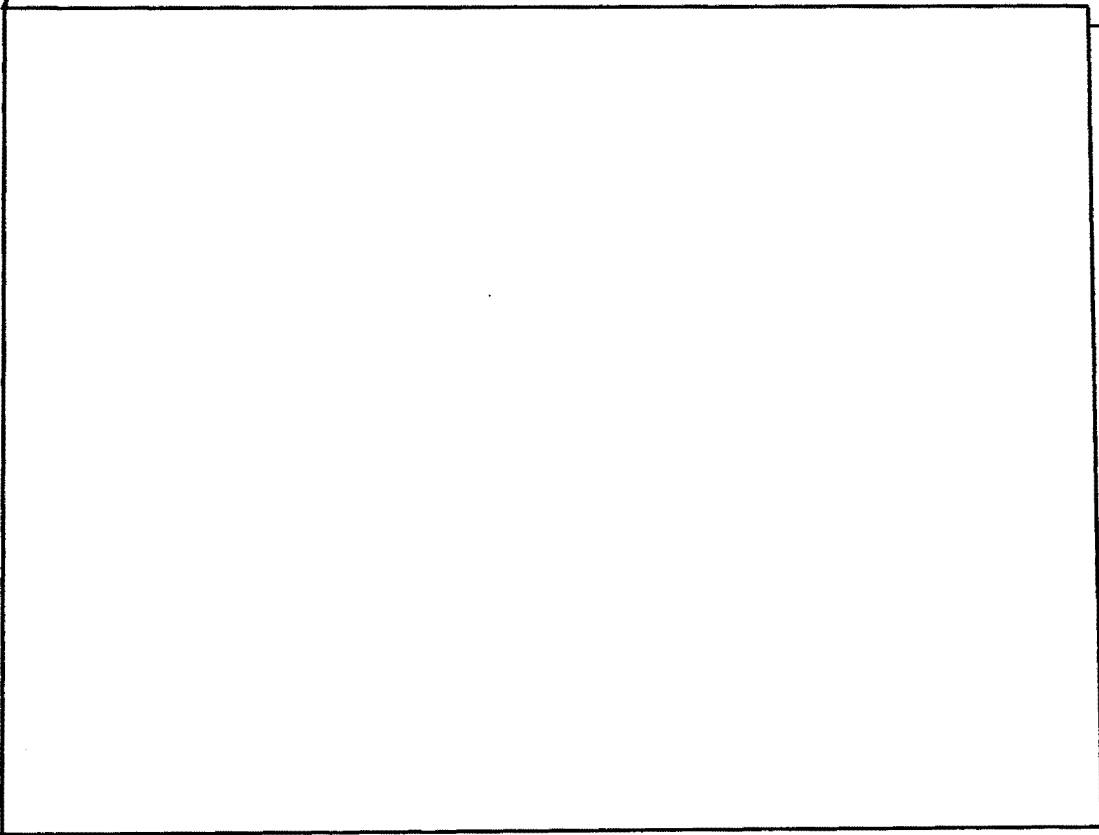
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ACTION EUR-01

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	P-01	SB-00	SCT-03	SNP-00	SP-00	STR-17	TRSE-00
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P 131922Z NOV 92
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5360
SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
DEPT JUSTICE WASHDC PRIORITY
INFO JOINT STAFF WASHDC

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USMISSION USNATO
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AMEMBASSY PARIS

SECTION 02 OF 02 ROME 20465

STATE ALSO FOR P; DOJ FOR CRIM DIV/OIA L. BARSELLA

E.O. 12356:DECL: OADR

PAGE 02 ROME 20465 02 OF 02 140626Z
TAGS: PGOV, PREL, NATO, MARR, IT
SUBJECT: USTICA: THE AMBASSADOR GETS A SYMPATHETIC
HEARING TO HIS PROTEST

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8. CRAXI ADVISED THE AMBASSADOR TO AVOID PUBLIC
DISCUSSION OF SUCH DETAILS AND TO STICK TO THE
ESSENTIAL POINTS: THE U.S. HAD NO PLANES IN THE

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IMMEDIATE VICINITY AND NO MISSILES WERE MISSING. THE
██████████
██████████

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AMBASSADOR INDICATED THAT A GREAT DEAL OF DAMAGE HAS
ALREADY BEEN DONE, AND SOMETHING NEEDS TO BE DONE TO
REPAIR IT. CRAXI SAID HE WOULD TALK TO ANDO' AGAIN
TO MAKE SURE HE UNDERSTANDS THIS, /

██
CRAXI ALSO
SAID HE WOULD MAKE HIS VIEWS KNOWN TO THE PRIME
MINISTER (WHICH HE CLEARLY DID). SECCHIA
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16 Apr 2002

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ACTION EUR-01

INFO	LOG-00	AID-01	CIAE-00	C-01	HA-09	H-01	INRE-00
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	PM-02	PRS-01	P-01	SB-00	SCT-03	SNP-00	SP-00
	SS-00	TRSE-00	T-01	/027W			

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R 191625Z NOV 92
 FM AMEMBASSY ROME
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5583
 INFO SECDEF WASHDC
 CJCS WASHDC
 DEPT JUSTICE WASHDC
 USIA WASHDC 7697
 AMEMBASSY PARIS
 USMISSION USNATO
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 CNO WASHDC//06/090//
 COMFAIRMED NAPLES IT
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SECTION 01 OF 02 ROME 20768

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
 TAGS: PREL, PGOV, MARR, IT
 SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR MEETS WITH [REDACTED]

B6

PAGE 02 ROME 20768 01 OF 02 191625Z

REF: ROME 20514 AND PREVIOUS

1. [REDACTED] - ENTIRE TEXT.
2. SUMMARY. THE AMBASSADOR MET ON NOVEMBER 16

[REDACTED] TO EXPLAIN SOME OF
 THE FRUSTRATIONS THE U.S. HAS FELT IN DEALING WITH
 THE USTICA AFFAIR AND TO PROVIDE ANSWERS TO SOME OF

B6

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THE NEWEST "MYSTERIES" RAISED. END SUMMARY.

3. THE AMBASSADOR BEGAN BY EXPLAINING THAT, DURING HIS THREE AND ONE-HALF YEARS IN ROME, HE HAD DEVELOPED A STRONG ADMIRATION AND FRIENDSHIP FOR [REDACTED] AND RESPECT FOR HIS NEWSPAPER, AND THEREFORE HAD CHOSEN TO SPEAK WITH HIM NOW ABOUT OUR PROBLEMS AND FRUSTRATIONS REGARDING USTICA. HE STRESSED THAT THE CONVERSATION WAS INTENDED AS BACKGROUND INFORMATION ONLY. THE AMBASSADOR NOTED WITH GRATITUDE THAT [REDACTED] HAD BEEN ONE OF THE FEW ITALIAN PAPERS TO REPORT (USTICA INVESTIGATING MAGISTRATE) JUDGE PRIORE'S DENIAL OF ALLEGATIONS, RAMPANT IN THE ITALIAN PRESS OVER THE WEEKEND, THAT NAPLES PORT RECORDS RELATING TO THE LOCATION OF THE AIRCRAFT CARRIER SARATOGA AT THE TIME OF THE USTICA CRASH HAD BEEN "FALSIFIED." HE EMPHASIZED ONCE AGAIN THAT THE U.S. HAS ALWAYS COOPERATED FULLY WITH THE ITALIAN JUDICIAL INVESTIGATION, AND THAT OUR

B1

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GOVERNMENT IS WORKING ON THE ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS THAT ARE OUTSTANDING.

4. THE AMBASSADOR REFERRED SPECIFICALLY TO SEVERAL OF THE INNUMERABLE FALSE ALLEGATIONS THAT HAVE APPEARED IN THE PRESS IN THE DECADE SINCE THE USTICA CRASH, NOTING THAT, EVEN WHEN THESE ALLEGATIONS HAVE BEEN DISPROVEN, THE NEWSPAPERS THAT PRINTED THEM HAVE NOT SEEN FIT TO PUBLISH RETRACTIONS. MORE RECENTLY, HE OBSERVED, NO ONE IN ITALY HAD BOTHERED TO NOTE THAT THE NOVEMBER 11 CBS EVENING NEWS STORY ON USTICA HAD BEEN THE WORK OF A SOLE CORRESPONDENT WHO HAD NOT SPOKEN WITH A SINGLE U.S. SOURCE.

5. [REDACTED] IN NAPLES TO SPEAK DIRECTLY WITH JUDGE PRIORE ON NOVEMBER 13 AND THUS TO RECORD HIS DENIAL. [REDACTED] A JOURNALIST FROM LA REPUBBLICA, WHO HAD NOT SPOKEN WITH THE JUDGE, WAS THE SOURCE OF ALLEGATIONS THAT DOCUMENTS AT THE NAPLES PORT HAD BEEN TAMPERED WITH.

B1, B6

6. THE AMBASSADOR NOTED THAT WHILE IT WAS QUITE

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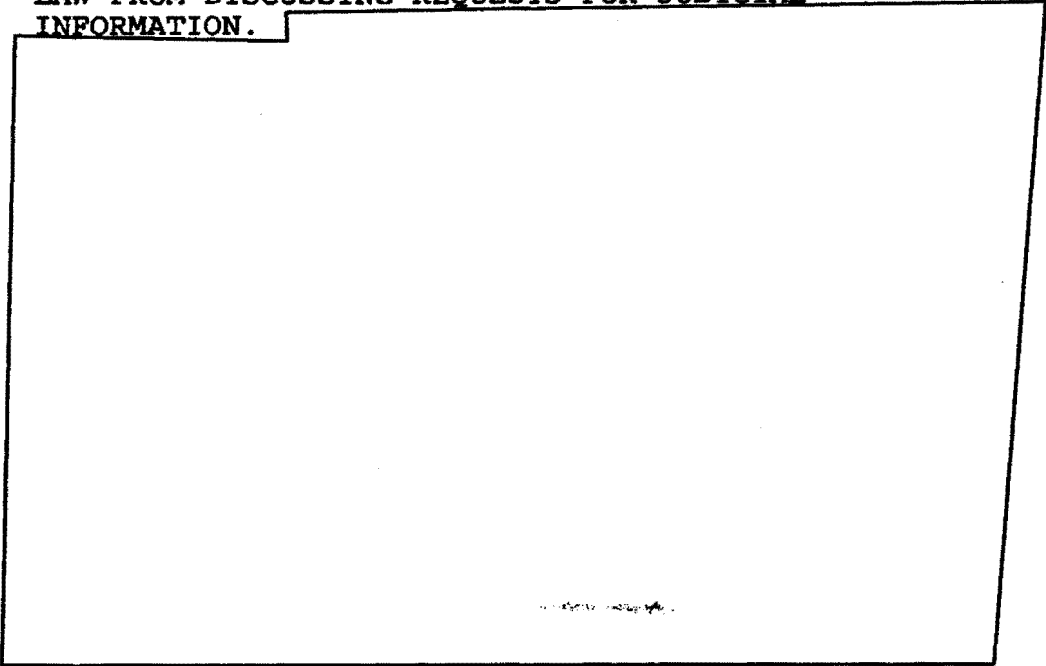
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16 Apr 2002

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PROPER FOR [REDACTED] AS A JOURNALIST, TO QUOTE B6
JUDGE PRIORE, AMERICAN OFFICIALS WERE PROHIBITED BY
LAW FROM DISCUSSING REQUESTS FOR JUDICIAL
INFORMATION.



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ACTION EUR-01

INFO	LOG-00	AID-01	CIAE-00	C-01	HA-09	H-01	INRE-00
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	PM-02	PRS-01	P-01	SB-00	SCT-03	SNP-00	SP-00
	SS-00	TRSE-00	T-01	/027W			

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R 191625Z NOV 92
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5584
INFO SECDEF WASHDC
CJCS WASHDC
DEPT JUSTICE WASHDC
USIA WASHDC 7698
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USNATO
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK

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CHANNEL: n/a
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COMFAIRMED NAPLES IT
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[REDACTED] SECTION 02 OF 02 ROME 20768

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: PREL, PGOV, MARR, IT
SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR MEETS WITH EDITOR OF [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] ON USTICA

B6

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[REDACTED]

B1

8. [REDACTED]
THE AMBASSADOR WENT ON TO NOTE CHARGES (MADE PRIMARILY BY "CORRIERE DELLA SERA" JOURNALIST ANDREA PURGATORI) THAT THE U.S. HAS RESPONDED TO ONLY 12 OF THE 25 INQUIRIES RECEIVED FROM ITALIAN AUTHORITIES ON THE USTICA AFFAIR. THE AMBASSADOR NOTED THAT IN SEVERAL OF THESE CASES, WE HAVE IN FACT RESPONDED TO THE INQUIRY, BUT OUR ANSWER WAS "NOT TO THE SATISFACTION OF THOSE WHO WANT TO HEAR SOMETHING ELSE." THE AMBASSADOR ADDED THAT IN HIS JUDGEMENT, ONLY SIX OF THE INQUIRIES REMAINED UNANSWERED, AND RESPONSES TO TWO OF THOSE SIX MAY ALREADY HAVE BEEN MADE THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS.

B1, B6

9. WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF EMBASSY MILITARY ELEMENTS, THE AMBASSADOR WENT ON TO SHED LIGHT ON SOME OF THE NEWEST USTICA "MYSTERIES" THAT APPEARED IN THE ITALIAN PRESS OVER THE WEEKEND:

--THE "FAST CRUISE" UNDERTAKEN BY THE SARATOGA ON JULY 2, 1980, WAS IN FACT NOTHING MORE THAN A STANDARD DRY RUN FOR AN UPCOMING EXIT FROM PORT. THIS PROCEDURE, THE AMBASSADOR POINTEDLY REMARKED, IS USUALLY FOLLOWED WHEN A SHIP HAS NOT BEEN AT SEA FOR SOME TIME, A FACT THAT PENDINELLI NOTED AS "IMPORTANT";

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--THE VISIT OF THE PREFECT OF NAPLES ABOARD THE SARATOGA ON JULY 1 WAS PURELY CEREMONIAL, AS THE NAPLES DAILY "IL MATTINO" NOTED IN ITS REPORT OF THE CEREMONY JULY 2, 1980. ██████████ LIKEWISE B1, B6 DESCRIBED THIS AS "IMPORTANT";

--THE NOTATION "SARATOGA DEPARTING" IN THE SHIP'S LOG BOOKS REFERS TO THE COMMANDER OF THE SHIP, NOT THE SARATOGA ITSELF;

--THE "READINESS IV" CONDITION OF THE SHIP WAS IN FACT THE LOWEST OF THE FOUR POSSIBLE CONDITIONS, THE NORMAL IN-PORT STATUS OF THE SHIP IN PEACETIME;

--THE RECOPYING OF A SHIP'S LOGS IS STANDARD PROCEDURE ANY TIME THAT CERTAIN ENTRIES, FOR WHATEVER REASON, ARE ILLEGIBLE OR NOT IN PROPER FORM. IN SUCH CASES, THE ENTIRE PAGE ON WHICH THE ENTRY APPEARS MUST BE RECOPIED.

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16 Apr 2002

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PAGE 01 ROME 20887 01 OF 02 201649Z
ACTION EUR-01

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	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01	PA-01	PM-02	PRS-01
	P-01	SB-00	SCT-03	SNP-00	SP-00	STR-17	TRSE-00
	T-01	/086W					

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 FM AMEMBASSY ROME
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5664
 SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
 DEPT JUSTICE WASHDC IMMEDIATE
 USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7705
 INFO JOINT STAFF WASHDC
 USMISSION USNATO
 CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
 COMSIXTHFLT
 USCINCEUR VAHINGEN GE//ECPA//ECJ5//
 CNO WASHDC//06/09C//
 COMFAIRMED NAPLES IT
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 AMEMBASSY PARIS

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STATE ALSO FOR P; USIA FOR EU, P/G; DOJ FOR CRIM
DIV/OIA L. BARSELLA

PAGE 02 ROME 20887 01 OF 02 201649Z

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
 TAGS: PINR, NATO, PREL, IT
 SUBJECT: USTICA: PRESS SAYS THAT "SARATOGA'S"
 COMMANDER CONTRADICTS OFFICIAL US LINE; QUESTIONS TO
 THE FRENCH ABOUT POSITION OF THEIR AIRCRAFT CARRIER

REF(S): (A) ROME 20778 (B) ROME 20514 (C) ROME 20358
(D) STATE 377186

EXTEND CLASSIFICATION

1. (U) SUMMARY. MAJOR NEWSPAPERS NOVEMBER 20

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CARRIED REPORTS THAT US NAVY ADMIRAL JAMES FLATLEY HAS TOLD ITALIAN INVESTIGATING MAGISTRATE (JUDGE PRIORE) THAT THE "USS SARATOGA" LEFT NAPLES PORT THE NIGHT THAT AN ITALIAN PASSENGER PLANE CRASHED NEAR THE ISLAND OF USTICA ON JUNE 27, 1980. LEADING CENTRIST DAILY "CORRIERE DELLA SERA" NOVEMBER 20 SAID THIS EVIDENCE CAST DOUBT ON THE OFFICIAL US VERSION. ITALIAN MOD SALVO ANDO' DAMPENED PUBLIC EXPECTATION OF NEW FRENCH REVELATIONS ABOUT USTICA ON THE EVE OF THE WEU MINISTERIAL MEETING IN ROME TODAY. END SUMMARY.

2. (U) MAJOR ITALIAN NEWSPAPERS REPORTED WIDELY NOVEMBER 20 ON NEW ALLEGATIONS THAT US NAVY ADMIRAL JAMES FLATLEY, THEN COMMANDER OF THE "USS SARATOGA," TOLD ITALIAN AUTHORITIES THAT THE "USS SARATOGA" HAD LEFT NAPLES PORT THE NIGHT OF THE USTICA CRASH.

3. (U) THE ITALIAN PRESS REPORTED WIDELY THAT PENTAGON PRESS SPOKESMAN SATTERFIELD AND COLONEL

PAGE 03 ROME 20887 01 OF 02 201649Z
DAVID GARMER STRONGLY DENIED REPORTS THAT THE "USS SARATOGA" HAD LEFT NAPLES ON THE DAY OF THE CRASH. ACCORDING TO "CORRIERE DELLA SERA," SATTERFIELD SAID THAT "THE ITALIAN PRESS IS FREE TO REPORT WHAT IT WANTS, BUT THE "SARATOGA" WAS IN PORT AND THAT IS A FACT." ACCORDING TO DOD SOURCES, "CORRIERE" WRITES, FLATLEY'S STATEMENTS ARE NOT YET KNOWN OFFICIALLY, AND THEREFORE NO COMMENT COULD BE MADE.

4. (U) CONCERNING REVELATIONS ABOUT FLATLEY'S ALLEGED STATEMENT TO ITALIAN MAGISTRATES IN DECEMBER 1991, "CORRIERE" AND "LA REPUBBLICA" INDICATE THAT THE "USS SARATOGA" CAPTAIN SAID THE SHIP LEFT PORT THAT DAY FOR "TWO OR THREE HOURS" AND THAT THE SIXTH FLEET TOOK AWAY THE SHIP'S RADAR RECORDINGS AFTER THE NIGHT OF CRASH. FROM THE PENTAGON A RESPONSE-- THAT A "RAPID" DEPARTURE FROM A PORT FOR A FEW HOURS IS TECHNICALLY IMPOSSIBLE. "IL MESSAGGERO" REPORTED A "NO COMMENT" FROM CIA SPOKESMAN PETER EARNEST ABOUT THE WORKING GROUP ALLEGEDLY PRESIDED OVER BY EMBASSY ROME CIA CHIEF DUANE DEWEY CLARIDGE IN THE WEEK AFTER THE DISASTER.

5. (U) IN A SEPARATE DEVELOPMENT, ROME'S CENTRIST

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DOC_NBR: 1992ROME20887

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DAILY "IL MESSAGGERO" REPORTED NOVEMBER 20 THAT ITALIAN MOD SALVO ANDO' SPOKE ABOUT USTICA WITH FRENCH MOD PIERRE JOXE PRIOR TO THE WEU DEFENSE MINISTERIAL MEETING IN ROME NOVEMBER 20. ACCORDING TO "IL MESSAGGERO," ANDO' SAID, "I HAVE HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLAIN TO MINISTER JOXE, IN ITALY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE WEU MINISTERIAL MEETING AND NOT TO

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DISCUSS THE USTICA AFFAIR, THAT OUR INVESTIGATION IS AT A MOST DELICATE JUNCTURE." IT WAS IMPORTANT FOR EVERYONE TO COOPERATE IN THE SEARCH FOR THE TRUTH, ANDO' REMARKED, ESPECIALLY SINCE ITALY HAS ONLY ASKED THE FRENCH FOR INFORMATION, NOT FOR "MIRACLES." ACCORDING TO THE NEWSPAPER, ALTHOUGH JOXE WOULD NOT CARRY ANY NEW INFORMATION TO ITALY ABOUT USTICA, ANDO' EXPLAINED THAT THE INVESTIGATION WAS A JUDICIAL MATTER AND OUGHT TO BE HANDLED THROUGH PROPER JUDICIAL CHANNELS--"ITALY WOULD NOT PRE-JUDGE FRANCE'S RESPONSES."

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ACTION EUR-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-17	AID-01	CIAE-00	COME-00	CFE-00	C-01
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	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01	PA-01	PM-02	PRS-01
	P-01	SB-00	SCT-03	SNP-00	SP-00	STR-17	TRSE-00
	T-01	/086W					

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5665
SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
DEPT JUSTICE WASHDC IMMEDIATE
USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7706
INFO JOINT STAFF WASHDC
USMISSION USNATO
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK

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AMEMBASSY PARIS

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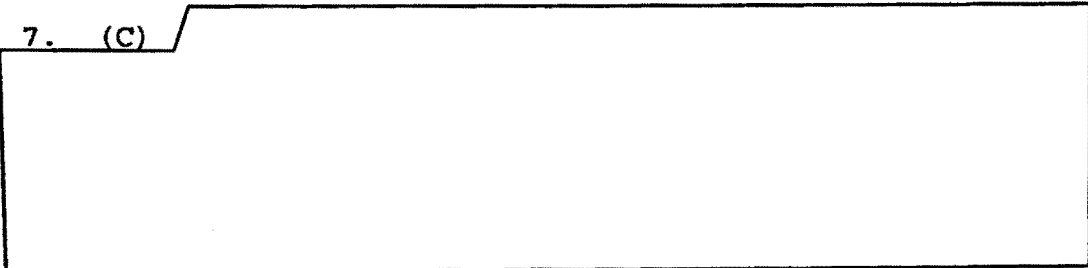
STATE ALSO FOR P; USIA FOR EU, P/G; DOJ FOR CRIM
DIV/OIA L. BARSELLA

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E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: PINR, NATO, PREL, IT
SUBJECT: USTICA: PRESS SAYS THAT "SARATOGA'S"
COMMANDER CONTRADICTS OFFICIAL US LINE; QUESTIONS TO
THE FRENCH ABOUT POSITION OF THEIR AIRCRAFT CARRIER

6. (U) "IL TEMPO" REPORTED THAT ACCORDING TO
UNOFFICIAL SOURCES, THE FRENCH MAY PERMIT ITALIAN
AUTHORITIES TO LOOK AT THE LOG BOOK OF THE FRENCH
AIRCRAFT CARRIER "CLEMENCEAU" TO RESOLVE ANY
QUESTIONS. PAPERS REPORT THAT THE "CLEMENCEAU" WAS
IN THE FRENCH PORT OF TOULON AT THE TIME OF THE
USTICA CRASH, ALTHOUGH THERE IS SOME QUESTION AS TO
WHETHER IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN IN CORSICA. "IL TEMPO"
REPORTED THAT THE "CLEMENCEAU" IS ACCOMPANIED BY A
RADAR UNIT WHICH MIGHT HOLD CLUES ABOUT USTICA. THE
ARTICLE INDICATED THAT THE FRENCH HAVE ONLY MADE
STATEMENTS ABOUT THE WHEREABOUTS OF THE AIRCRAFT
CARRIER, BUT PRESENTED NO PROOF; WHY, THEY ASK
HYPOTHETICALLY, SHOULD THE FRENCH NOT BE ASKED FOR
DOCUMENTATION?

7. (C)



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Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

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PAGE 01 ROME 20930 01 OF 03 211128Z
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	DODE-00	EB-01	EXIM-06	E-01	FRB-03	HA-09	H-01
	INRE-00	INR-01	ITC-01	JUSE-00	LAB-04	L-03	ADS-00
	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OMB-01	OPIC-08	PA-01	PM-02	PRS-01
	P-01	SCT-03	SNP-00	SP-00	STR-17	TRSE-00	T-01
	USIE-00	/069W					

-----7D50FC 211129Z /38

R 211128Z NOV 92
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5696

SECTION 01 OF 03 ROME 20930

E.O. 12356:DECL: OADR
TAGS: PGOV, ETRD, EFIN, IT
SUBJECT: A FRIENDLY VICE MINISTER LOOKS AT CURRENT
ISSUES

REF(S): A) ROME 20627, B) ROME 20669

1. [REDACTED] - ENTIRE TEXT.
2. SUMMARY: THE DCM AND POLMIN MET NOVEMBER 18 WITH MFA UNDERSECRETARY SPINI, A SOCIALIST PARLIAMENTARIAN WHOSE PORTFOLIO AT THE MINISTRY INCLUDES RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES. WE DISCUSSED A RANGE OF ISSUES: AID TO POLAND AND RUSSIA, U.S. BASES IN ITALY, DURATION OF AMATO

[REDACTED]

PAGE 02 ROME 20930 01 OF 03 211128Z
GOVERNMENT, SOCIALIST PARTY POLITICS (INCLUDING SPINI'S PROSPECTS FOR SUCCEEDING PARTY SECRETARY CRAXI), INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY PROTECTION, THE URUGUAY ROUND, AND YES USTICA (AT SPINI'S REQUEST). END SUMMARY.

EXTEND CLASSIFICATION

POLISH AND RUSSIAN AID

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CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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3. THE DCM NOTED THAT THERE ARE TWO "HOT" ISSUES CONCERNING AID TO EASTERN EUROPE AND THE FORMER SOVIET UNION AT THE MOMENT: USE OF THE POLISH STABILIZATION FUND TO SUPPORT BANK PRIVATIZATION, AND THE NEED FOR QUICK ATTENTION TO PARIS CLUB RESCHEDULING OF RUSSIAN DEBT. WE EXPLAINED THAT

ITALIAN OFFICIALS HAD BEEN POSITIVE ABOUT COMMITTING THE ITALIAN \$100 MILLION CONTRIBUTION TO SUPPORT BANK PRIVATIZATION, BUT THAT LEGAL PROBLEMS SEEM TO REQUIRE REPAYMENT OF THE LOAN MONEY BEFORE IT CAN BE NEWLY COMMITTED. SPINI TOOK NOTES AND MADE IT CLEAR HE WOULD BE HELPFUL IN PUSHING FOR ITALY TO DO THE RIGHT THING.

4. SPINI NOTED THAT HE HAD LED THE ITALIAN DELEGATION TO THE TOKYO CONFERENCE ON AID TO THE FORMER USSR, WHICH IN SPINI'S VIEW HAD DONE WELL TO REORIENT EFFORTS TOWARD SPECIFIC REPUBLICS AND AWAY FROM THE EARLIER SECTORAL APPROACH.

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5. ON RUSSIA THE DCM STRESSED THE DELICACY OF YELTSIN'S POSITION SUGGESTING THAT IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THE WEST ARRANGE RESCHEDULING BEFORE THE FORTHCOMING MEETING OF THE PEOPLES' CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES IN DECEMBER. SPINI NOTED THE HIGH REGARD WITH WHICH GORBACHEV IS HELD IN ITALY AND THAT HIS TREATMENT BY YELTSIN IS A CAUSE OF CONCERN HERE. DCM RESPONDED THAT WHILE THE U.S. SHARES ITALY'S HIGH REGARD FOR GORBACHEV, YELTSIN WAS IN CHARGE AND IT SEEMED UNLIKELY THAT THE ALTERNATIVE TO YELTSIN WAS GORBACHEV. SPINI INDICATED HIS AGREEMENT.

MILITARY ISSUES

6. NOTING THAT SPINI REPRESENTED FLORENCE, THE DCM INQUIRED WHETHER HE HAD EVER VISITED CAMP DARBY LOCATED NEAR LIVORNO AND SUGGESTED THAT HE DO SO SOME TIME. HE EXPLAINED THE CARE WHICH THE OFFICIALS AT DARBY HAD TAKEN TO PROTECT THE

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HANDLING: n/a

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ENVIRONMENT AND EXPLAINED TWO MAIN FUNCTIONS OF THE
BASE: PREPOSITIONING MILITARY EQUIPMENT FOR RAPID
DEPLOYMENT, STORAGE AND SHIPMENT OF HUMANITARIAN
SUPPLIES FOR USE IN AN EMERGENCY.

7. SPINI INDICATED THAT HE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN
A VISIT TO DARBY AND NOTED THAT ITALIAN BOY SCOUTS

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WERE THINKING OF REQUESTING PERMISSION TO HOLD ONE
OF THEIR JUBILEES THERE. DCM RESPONDED THAT THERE
IS A LARGE MILITARY EXERCISE PLANNED FOR THE SPRING
WHICH MIGHT CONFLICT WITH THE BASE'S ABILITY TO
HOST THE SCOUTS.

8. THE DCM ALSO GAVE A GENERAL EXPLANATION OF THE
PLANS FOR BASING THE F-16S IN SIGONELLA WITH
SUPPORT FACILITIES LOCATED IN COMISO. SPINI SEEMED
UNAWARE OF THIS AND APPRECIATED THE INFORMATION.

AMATO GOVERNMENT'S SURVIVABILITY

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ACTION EUR-01

INFO	LOG-00	AID-01	CEA-01	CIAE-00	COME-00	CTME-00	C-01
	DODE-00	EB-01	EXIM-06	E-01	FRB-03	HA-09	H-01
	INRE-00	INR-01	ITC-01	JUSE-00	LAB-04	L-03	ADS-00
	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OMB-01	OPIC-08	PA-01	PM-02	PRS-01
	P-01	SCT-03	SNP-00	SP-00	STR-17	TRSE-00	T-01
	USIE-00	/069W					

-----7D5110 211129Z /38

R 211128Z NOV 92
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5697

SECTION 02 OF 03 ROME 20930

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CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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E.O. 12356:DECL: OADR
TAGS: PGOV, ETRD, EFIN, IT
SUBJECT: A FRIENDLY VICE MINISTER LOOKS AT CURRENT
ISSUES

9. SPINI NOTED THE PROGRESS THAT PRIME MINISTER
AMATO HAD MADE IN ADDRESSING THE SERIOUS PROBLEMS
FACING ITALY. HE INDICATED THAT IN HIS TRAVELS
OUTSIDE THE COUNTRY HE NOTED THE CREDIBILITY AMATO
HAS OBTAINED IN DIRECTING ITALY'S EFFORTS. HE
BELIEVED THAT THE PROGNOSIS FOR THE CONTINUATION OF
THE GOVERNMENT BEYOND DECEMBER 1992 (WHEN FINANCE
LAWS ARE LIKELY TO BE APPROVED) HAD INCREASED.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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URUGUAY ROUND

LO. [REDACTED] IN
REACHING AN AGREEMENT AND STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE
OF COMPLETING ACTION BEFORE THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION
LEFT OFFICE.

B1

SOCIALIST PARTY POLITICS


11. IN RESPONSE TO THE DCM'S QUERY, SPINI

[REDACTED]

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HANDLING: n/a

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B1

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A) .



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THE LEAGUES IN TUSCANY

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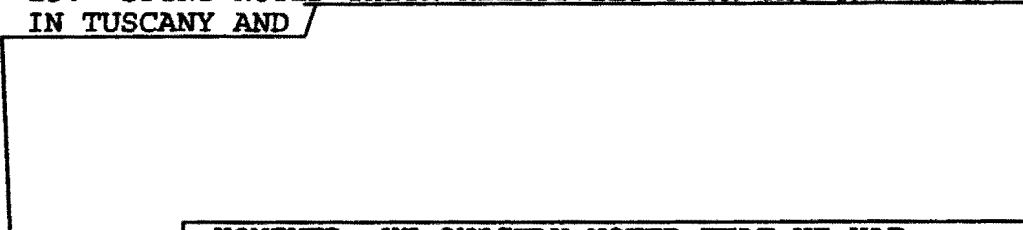
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15. SPINI NOTED THEIR RELATIVELY POOR SHOWING MADE
IN TUSCANY AND

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HOWEVER, HE QUICKLY NOTED THAT HE HAD
WITNESSED THE BREAK UP OF YUGOSLAVIA, THE SOVIET
UNION AND NOW CZECHOSLOVAKIA. THE PROBLEMS
ASSOCIATED WITH DISMANTLING A NATION STATE ARE SO



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ACTION EUR-01

INFO	LOG-00	AID-01	CEA-01	CIAE-00	COME-00	CTME-00	C-01
	DODE-00	EB-01	EXIM-06	E-01	FRB-03	HA-09	H-01
	INRE-00	INR-01	ITC-01	JUSE-00	LAB-04	L-03	ADS-00
	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OMB-01	OPIC-08	PA-01	PM-02	PRS-01
	P-01	SCT-03	SNP-00	SP-00	STR-17	TRSE-00	T-01
	USIE-00	/069W					

-----7D5128 211130Z /38

R 211128Z NOV 92
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5698

SECTION 03 OF 03 ROME 20930

E.O. 12356:DECL: OADR
TAGS: PGOV, ETRD, EFIN, IT
SUBJECT: A FRIENDLY VICE MINISTER LOOKS AT CURRENT
ISSUES

COMPLEX BECAUSE OF THE DIVISION OF RESOURCES AND
DEBTS THAT HE DID NOT THINK IT FEASIBLE.

USTICA

16. SPINI ASKED THE DCM AND POLMIN WHAT THEY

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THOUGHT ABOUT USTICA, THE LONG RUNNING SAGA OF A
DOWNED ITALIAN AIRCRAFT, WHICH HAS DEVELOPED INTO A

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DAILY SERIES OF NEGATIVE NEWS STORIES INVOLVING THE
U.S. THE DCM, EXPRESSING SOME IRRITATION,

INDICATED THAT THE U.S. HAD PATIENTLY BEEN
COOPERATING WITH ITALY OVER THE LAST 12 YEARS ON
THE SUBJECT.

B1

17. THE DCM INDICATED THAT ITALIAN OFFICIALS WOULD
FIND IT DIFFICULT TO BE RECEIVED BY AMERICAN
CABINET MEMBERS IF USTICA BECAME THE ONLY ISSUE
THEY WISHED TO DISCUSS OR IT SO APPEARED IN THE
PRESS FOLLOWING SUCH VISITS. HE EXPANDED THIS TO
TELL SPINI

B1

NOW 12 YEARS LATER THE U.S. WAS BEING PUT IN THE
POSITION OF LOOKING GUILTY WHILE WE WERE IN FACT
NOT INVOLVED IN THE INCIDENT.

18. THE DCM STATED THAT WE WOULD GET OVER THIS
PROBLEM, BUT IT WAS BEST FOR ALL CONCERNED IF WE
LET THE INVESTIGATING MAGISTRATE DO HIS JOB AND NOT
HAVE MISLEADING, INCOMPLETE AND SLANTED STORIES IN
THE PRESS.

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YUGOSLAVIA SANCTIONS

19.

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INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

20. FINALLY, THE DCM MENTIONED THAT THEFT OF AMERICAN FILMS AND PIRATED VIDEO CASSETTES HAD BECOME A SERIOUS ISSUE. HE INFORMED SPINI THAT JACK VALENTI, HEAD OF THE U.S. MOTION PICTURE INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION WOULD BE IN ITALY IN DECEMBER TO RAISE THIS ISSUE.-SPINI, WHO MENTIONED THAT CULTURAL ISSUES FELL UNDER HIS JURISDICTION IN THE MINISTRY, OFFERED TO PROVIDE ANY ASSISTANCE HE COULD.

21. COMMENT:

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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ACTION EUR-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-17	AID-01	CIAE-00	COME-00	CFE-00	C-01
	DOE-00	EB-01	E-01	FAAE-00	HA-09	H-01	IMMC-01
	INRE-00	INR-01	IO-19	L-03	ADS-00	NEA-01	NRRC-00
	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01	PA-01	PM-02	PRS-01
	P-01	SB-00	SCT-03	SNP-00	SP-00	STR-17	TRSE-00
	T-01	/086W					

-----7DC634 231629Z /38

O 231629Z NOV 92
 FM AMEMBASSY ROME
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5727
 SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
 DEPT JUSTICE WASHDC IMMEDIATE
 USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7708
 INFO JOINT STAFF WASHDC
 USMISSION USNATO
 CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
 COMSIXTHFLT
 USCINCEUR VAHINGEN GE//ECPA//ECJ5//
 CNO WASHDC//06/09C//
 COMFAIRMED NAPLES IT
 USNMR SHAPE BE
 AMEMBASSY PARIS

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STATE ALSO FOR P; USIA FOR EU, P/G; DOJ FOR CRIM
DIV/OIA L. BARSELLA

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E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
 TAGS: PINR, NATO, PREL, IT
 SUBJECT: USTICA: "USS SARATOGA" DECK LOGS PUBLISHED;
 FASCIST YOUTH GROUP DEMONSTRATES IN FRONT OF US
 EMBASSY

REF(S): (A) ROME 20887 (B) ROME 20778 (C) ROME 20514
(D) STATE 377186

1. (U) SUMMARY. LEFTIST NEWSMAGAZINE "PANORAMA"

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DOC_NBR: 1992ROME20985

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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PUBLISHED (NOVEMBER 29 EDITION) THE "SHIP'S DECK LOG" FOR THE "USS SARATOGA" WHICH HAD BEEN OBTAINED THROUGH THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT (FOIA) BY BOTH "PANORAMA" AND "GREENPEACE." THE ARTICLE NOTED ALLEGED INCONSISTENCIES IN THE ENTRIES FOR THE NIGHT OF JUNE 27, 1980 WHEN AN ITALIAN PASSENGER PLANE CRASHED NEAR THE ISLAND OF USTICA. SEPARATELY, MEMBERS OF A FASCIST YOUTH GROUP DEMONSTRATED NOVEMBER 20 IN FRONT OF THE US EMBASSY AGAINST AMERICAN "INVOLVEMENT" IN THE USTICA AFFAIR. END SUMMARY.

2. (U) LEFTIST NEWSMAGAZINE "PANORAMA" PUBLISHED (NOVEMBER 29 EDITION) PHOTOGRAPHIC COPIES OF THE "SHIP'S DECK LOG" OF THE AIRCRAFT CARRIER "USS SARATOGA" OBTAINED BY BOTH "PANORAMA" AND "GREENPEACE" THROUGH THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT (FOIA). THE ARTICLE INCLUDES PICTURES OF "SHIP'S DECK LOG SHEETS" FOR THE "USS SARATOGA" AND POINTS OUT ALLEGED INCONSISTENCIES IN THE ENTRIES FOR JUNE
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██████████

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27-28, 1980.

3. (U) "PANORAMA" SAID US NAVY OFFICERS PALMATIER AND FISHER WROTE, DURING THEIR WATCH FROM 2000 TO 2400 ON JUNE 27, 1980, THAT THE AIRCRAFT CARRIER WAS "ANCHORED AS BEFORE" IN NAPLES AND THAT THE SHIP'S BRIDGE COMMAND NOTED "ALL SECURE." (COMMENT. THE ITALIAN DC-9 PASSENGER PLANE CRASHED THAT NIGHT AT APPROXIMATELY 2100.) ACCORDING TO "PANORAMA," FIVE CONSECUTIVE WATCH ENTRIES, BEGINNING 0800 JUNE 27 AND ENDING 0400 JUNE 28, WERE WRITTEN IN THE SAME HANDWRITING. OTHER WATCH ENTRIES FOR JUNE AND JULY, "PANORAMA" EXPLAINED, WERE SOMETIMES DUPLICATED IN THE SAME HANDWRITING BUT NEVER FOR SUCH AN EXTENDED PERIOD OF TIME. THE NEWSMAGAZINE SAID EACH OF THESE FIVE WATCH ENTRIES REPORTED THAT THE SHIP WAS "ANCHORED" AND "EVERYTHING IN ORDER."

4. (U) THE ARTICLE ALSO CLAIMED THE TITLE OF THE DAILY LOG SHEETS INEXPLICABLY CHANGED FOR TWO WATCHES: FROM 1600 TO 2400 JUNE 27. "PANORAMA" NOTED THAT, FOR TWO WEEKS BEFORE THE TRAGEDY AND SOME DAYS AFTERWARD, THE LOG WAS ENTITLED "OPNAV 3100/99 S/N 0107-LF-031-0495" (WRITTEN ON THE FRONT AND BACK

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HANDLING: n/a

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OF THE LOG). THE ARTICLE SAID THIS TITLE CHANGED TO "NAVPERS" FOLLOWED BY A DIFFERENT NUMBER SEQUENCE, AND WAS ONLY INSCRIBED ON THE FRONT OF THE LOG -- UNLIKE PREVIOUS AND SUBSEQUENT ENTRIES. "PANORAMA" ALSO REITERATED CLAIMS THAT THE AIRCRAFT CARRIER WENT ON A "FAST CRUISE" JULY 2 AND THAT THIS ACTIVITY WAS DOCUMENTED IN OTHER SHIP RECORDS AS A "DRILL."

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LASTLY, THE NEWSMAGAZINE NOTED ALLEGED INCONSISTENCIES IN US NAVY ADMIRAL JAMES FLATLEY'S RECONSTRUCTION OF EVENTS AS THEY HAVE BEEN REPORTED IN THE ITALIAN PRESS.

5. (U) SEPARATELY, THE YOUTH GROUP OF "MOVIMENTO SOCIALE ITALIANO" (FAR-RIGHT NEO-FASCIST PARTY) DEMONSTRATED NOVEMBER 20 IN FRONT OF THE US EMBASSY AGAINST US "KNOWLEDGE" OR "INVOLVEMENT" IN THE USTICA CRASH. APPROXIMATELY 35-40 MEMBERS OF MSI'S "FRONTE DELLA GIOVENTU'" GATHERED IN FRONT OF THE EMBASSY'S MAIN GATE AT 1830 AND STOOD PEACEFULLY WHILE CARRYING TORCHES. THE DEMONSTRATORS HANDED OUT FLIERS TO PASSERSBY. THE EVENT DID NOT DISTURB EMBASSY

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ACTION EUR-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-17	AID-01	CIAE-00	COME-00	CFE-00	C-01
	DOE-00	EB-01	E-01	FAAE-00	HA-09	H-01	IMMC-01
	INRE-00	INR-01	IO-19	L-03	ADS-00	NEA-01	NRRC-00
	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01	PA-01	PM-02	PRS-01
	P-01	SB-00	SCT-03	SNP-00	SP-00	STR-17	TRSE-00
	T-01	/086W					

-----7DC650 231629Z /38

O 231629Z NOV 92
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5728
SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
DEPT JUSTICE WASHDC IMMEDIATE
USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7709

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CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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INFO JOINT STAFF WASHDC
USMISSION USNATO
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
COMSIXTHFLT
USCINCEUR VAHINGEN GE//ECPA//ECJ5//
CNO WASHDC//06/09C//
COMFAIRMED NAPLES IT
USNMR SHAPE BE
AMEMBASSY PARIS

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STATE ALSO FOR P; USIA FOR EU, P/G; DOJ FOR CRIM
DIV/OIA L. BARSELLA

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E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: PINR, NATO, PREL, IT
SUBJECT: USTICA: "USS SARATOGA" DECK LOGS PUBLISHED;
FASCIST YOUTH GROUP DEMONSTRATES IN FRONT OF US
EMBASSY

ACTIVITY AND LASTED ONLY A SHORT TIME.

6. (U) AN INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF HAND-OUT FOLLOWS:

(BEGIN TRANSLATION)

--USTICA: THE AMERICANS KNOW|

--AFTER 12 YEARS OF OMISSIONS, COVER-UPS, AND
SILENCE, FLASHES OF TRUTH HAVE FINALLY BEGUN TO
EMERGE ABOUT THE USTICA TRAGEDY THAT KILLED 81 PEOPLE.

--ALTHOUGH IT HAS BEEN SUGGESTED MANY TIMES, NOW
THERE IS A STRONGER POSSIBILITY THAT AMERICA WAS
INVOLVED IN THE AFFAIR. IT APPEARS CERTAIN, IN FACT,
THAT CONTRARY TO WHAT THE PENTAGON HAS ALWAYS SAID,
THE AIRCRAFT CARRIER SARATOGA DID NOT REMAIN THAT
NIGHT IN THE PORT OF NAPLES BUT LEFT FOR AN
EXERCISE. IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN MORE CREDIBLE THAT A
REAL BATTLE WAS FOUGHT IN OUR SKIES THAT NIGHT WHICH
ACCIDENTALLY INVOLVED THE ITAVIA DC-9. IT IS CLEAR
THAT OUR SECRET SERVICES WERE LEAVING A SERIES OF
FALSE TRAILS BY SUPPORTING, TIME AFTER TIME, THEORIES

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OF A STRUCTURAL DEFECT OR BOMB ON BOARD.

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--THE USTICA AFFAIR MAY ALSO BE LINKED TO THE TRAGEDY OF BOLOGNA. (COMMENT. A BOMB EXPLODED IN THE BOLOGNA TRAIN STATION ON AUGUST 2, 1980. AS WITH THE USTICA AFFAIR, THE BOLOGNA TRAGEDY HAS NEVER BEEN FULLY SOLVED.) IT WOULD BE GOOD TO REMEMBER THAT A COINCIDENCE CAUSED ALL THOSE INJURIES AT THE STATION; THE ATTEMPT HOWEVER HAD BEEN ORGANIZED DIFFERENTLY. PERHAPS THE BOLOGNA BOMBING WAS MEANT TO DEFLECT PUBLIC OPINION, OR IT WAS THE RESULT OF A VENDETTA BY A FOREIGN COUNTRY INVOLVED IN THE USTICA AFFAIR.

--IT IS NOT POSSIBLE, FOR NOW, TO ESTABLISH THE ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITY OF THE AMERICANS IN THE (USTICA) AFFAIR. WHAT IS CERTAIN IS THAT THEY KNOW HOW IT HAPPENED AND THAT THEY HAVE INTERVENED TO HIDE IT.

--WE WANT THE TRUTH.

--WE ASK THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT TO TRULY PLEDGE ITSELF TO CLARIFY THE AFFAIR.

--OUR INDEPENDENCE REQUIRES THE TRUTH ON USTICA|

--YOUTH FRONT

(END INFORMAL TRANSLATION)


7. (C) COMMENT. WE UNDERSTAND THAT WASHINGTON AGENCIES ARE WORKING TO PRESENT JUDICIAL RESPONSES TO ITALIAN AUTHORITIES BY NOVEMBER 30. EMBASSY BELIEVES

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IT ABSOLUTELY CRITICAL THAT WE DO SO AS PART OF OUR EFFORTS TO CLEAR UP ANY DOUBT THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT HAS NOT RESPONDED FULLY, ACCURATELY, AND PUNCTUALLY TO ITALIAN REQUESTS. IN THE MEANTIME, EMBASSY HAS BACKGROUNDED PRESS ON THE OBVIOUS INCONSISTENCIES AND UNTRUTHS IN A NUMBER OF THEIR STORIES. ONCE OUR JUDICIAL RESPONSES ARE PRESENTED

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CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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TO THE ITALIANS, WE INTEND TO UNDERLINE WITH THE PM,
FOREIGN MINISTER, DEFENSE MINISTER AND JUSTICE
MINISTER OUR CONTINUING WILLINGNESS TO BE HELPFUL.

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DOC_NBR: 1992ROME21067

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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PAGE 01 ROME 21067 251005Z
ACTION DS-00

INFO	LOG-00	COR-01	ACDA-17	AID-01	AMAD-01	A-01	CA-02
	CCO-00	CG-00	CIAE-00	COME-00	CTIME-00	C-01	DODE-00
	DOEE-00	EB-01	EUR-01	FAAE-00	FBIE-00	FBO-01	HA-09
	H-01	IMMC-01	INRE-00	INR-01	INSE-00	JUSE-00	L-03
	ADS-00	M-01	NRCE-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OCS-06	OIS-01
	OMB-01	OPR-01	PA-02	PM-02	PRS-01	P-01	SCT-03
	SP-00	SR-00	SSO-00	SS-00	TRSE-00	USIE-00	USSS-00
	ASDS-01	/062W					

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P 241337Z NOV 92 ZDS
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5779
INFO AMCONSUL MILAN
AMCONSUL FLORENCE
AMCONSUL GENOA
AMCONSUL NAPLES
AMCONSUL PALERMO
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

UNCLAS ROME 21067

~~REDACTED~~ // PARA 1, MONTH
DEPT FOR DS/ITA, DSS/OP/EUR

FRANKFURT FOR RSSD AND CO CO "E"

CONSULATES FOR RSO/PSO
~~REDACTED~~

PAGE 02 ROME 21067 251005Z


E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: ASEC
SUBJECT: PEACEFUL DEMONSTRATION AT AMEMBASSY ROME

1. LEAFLETS WERE HANDED OUT BY THE "FRONTE DELLA GIOVENTU" (MSI) IN FRONT OF AMEMBASSY ROME STARTING AT 1815 HOURS ON FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 1992. APPROXIMATELY 30 PEOPLE DISBANDED AFTER ABOUT 30 MINUTES WITHOUT INCIDENT.

2. SYNOPSIS OF THE LEAFLET IS THE U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN THE USTICA DISASTER WHEN 81 PERSONS LOST THEIR LIVES 12 YEARS AGO. IT GOES ON TO STATE THAT THE

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CHANNEL: n/a
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USTICA DISASTER COULD ALSO BE CONNECTED TO THE
BOMBING IN BOLOGNA. IN CLOSING, THE MSI LEAFLET ASKS
THAT THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT DO ALL THAT IS NECESSARY
TO CLARIFY THE FACTS.

3. COPY OF THE LEAFLET (ORIGINAL AND TRANSLATED)
WILL BE POUCHED TO DS/ITA.

4. END REPORT.

SECCHIA


<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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Date Printed:
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DOC_NBR: 1992ROME21529

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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ACTION EUR-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-17	AID-01	A-01	CA-02	CCO-00	CIAE-00
	COME-00	CTME-00	CFE-00	C-01	DOPE-00	DS-00	EB-01
	E-01	FAAE-00	FBO-01	HA-09	H-01	IMMC-01	INRE-00
	INR-01	IO-19	L-03	ADS-00	M-01	NEA-01	NRRC-00
	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OCS-06	OIC-02	OMB-01	OPR-01	PA-01
	PM-02	PRS-01	P-01	SB-00	SCT-03	SNP-00	SP-00
	SR-00	SS-00	STR-17	TRSE-00	T-01	USSS-00	ASDS-01

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O 021654Z DEC 92
 FM AMEMBASSY ROME
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6093
 SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
 DEPT JUSTICE WASHDC IMMEDIATE
 USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7746
 INFO JOINT STAFF WASHDC
 USMISSION USNATO
 CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
 COMSIXTHFLT
 USCINCEUR VAHINGEN GE//ECPA//ECJ5//
 CNO WASHDC//06/09C//
 COMFAIRMED NAPLES IT
 USNMR SHAPE BE
 AMEMBASSY PARIS

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 STATE ALSO FOR P; USIA FOR EU, P/G; DOJ FOR CRIM
 DIV/OIA L. BARSELLA

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
 TAGS: PINR, NATO, PREL, IT
 SUBJECT: USTICA: BRITISH EXPERT SAYS BOMB EXPLOSION
 CAUSED TRAGEDY; PRELIMINARY REPORT EXCLUDES
 STRUCTURAL DEFECT, COLLISION AND MISSILE AS POSSIBLE
 CAUSES.

REF(S): (A) ROME 21300 (B) ROME 21117 (C) ROME 20985

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HANDLING: n/a

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AND PREVIOUS

1. (U) SUMMARY. ROME'S CENTRIST DAILY "IL TEMPO" REPORTED DECEMBER 2 THAT THE BRITISH "AIR ACCIDENTS INVESTIGATION BRANCH" INFORMED INVESTIGATING MAGISTRATE ROSARIO PRIORE THAT THE USTICA TRAGEDY WAS CAUSED BY A BOMB PLACED IN THE RIGHT, REAR SECTION OF THE ITAVIA DC-9 THAT CRASHED NEAR THE ISLAND OF USTICA ON JUNE 27, 1980. THE ARTICLE NOTED THAT "SENIOR INSPECTOR" CHRIS PROTHEROE (A BRITISH EXPERT WHO ALSO INVESTIGATED THE CAUSE OF THE LOCKERBIE DISASTER) PROVIDED A "PROVISIONAL HYPOTHESIS" TO JUDGE PRIORE IN JANUARY 1992 THAT EXCLUDED THE POSSIBILITY THAT A STRUCTURAL DEFECT, COLLISION, OR MISSILE COULD HAVE CAUSED THE USTICA CRASH. END SUMMARY.

2. (U) ROME'S CENTRIST DAILY "IL TEMPO" SAID BRITISH EXPERT CHRIS PROTHEROE OF THE "AIR ACCIDENTS INVESTIGATION BRANCH" PROVIDED A "PROVISIONAL

PAGE 03 ROME 21529 01 OF 02 021654Z
HYPOTHESIS" TO JUDGE PRIORE IN JANUARY 1992 THAT A BOMB EXPLODED ABOARD THE ITAVIA DC-9 THAT CRASHED TWELVE YEARS AGO. ACCORDING TO THE NEWSPAPER, PROTHEROE WAS A "SENIOR INSPECTOR" OF THE BRITISH INVESTIGATING TEAM HIRED BY JUDGE PRIORE TO EXAMINE THE LATEST AND MOST COMPREHENSIVE COLLECTION OF AIRCRAFT FRAGMENTS IN ORDER TO DETERMINE THE CAUSE OF THE TRAGEDY. THE PROVISIONAL HYPOTHESIS ALLEGEDLY DELIVERED TO JUDGE PRIORE HELD THAT A "SABOTAGE EXPLOSIVE" CAUSED THE STRUCTURAL COLLAPSE OF THE FUSILAGE. "IL TEMPO" SAID THE AIRCRAFT PROBABLY CONTINUED TO FLY FOR EIGHT MINUTES BEFORE BREAKING APART AND HITTING THE SEA SURFACE.

3. (U) THE HEADLINE FOR AN INSERT READ "NO OUTSIDE EXPLOSION." THE NEWSPAPER SUMMARIZED THE MAIN FINDINGS OF THE REPORT COMPILED BY THE "AIR ACCIDENTS INVESTIGATION BRANCH":

--THE "FLATTENING" OBSERVED IN THE FRONT AND CENTRAL PARTS OF THE FUSILAGE WAS CONSISTENT WITH THAT NORMALLY SHOWN BY AN AIRCRAFT HITTING THE SEA SURFACE;

--THERE WERE FEW AIRCRAFT FRAGMENTS FROM THE RIGHT,

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REAR, UPPER PART OF THE FUSILAGE (KNOWN AS ZONE 3)
AMONG ALL THE PIECES RECOVERED FROM THE SEABED;

--THE DEFORMATION OF SEATING, ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS,
CARPETS, AND SEAT BELTS WAS CONSISTENT WITH AN
INTERNAL EXPLOSION IN THE RIGHT, REAR SECTION OF THE
PASSENGER CABIN;



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--THERE WAS ABSOLUTELY NO EVIDENCE THAT EITHER A
MISSILE OR ANOTHER AIRCRAFT HIT THE DC-9: NO MISSILE
FRAGMENTS WERE FOUND NEAR THE WRECKAGE;
--TRACES OF A "SABOTAGE EXPLOSIVE BASED UPON TNT AND
T4" WERE FOUND ON FRAGMENTS OF THE AIRCRAFT, AND
STRUCTURAL EFFECTS OBSERVED BY THE INVESTIGATING TEAM
WERE CONSISTENT WITH SUCH AN EXPLOSION; AND

--COMPUTER-AIDED SIMULATIONS SHOWED THAT AN EXPLOSION
IN ZONE 3 WOULD PRECIPITATE ~~THE~~ EXACT TYPES OF
STRUCTURAL COLLAPSE, FRAGMENTATION, AND DESCENT
TRAJECTORIES OBSERVED DURING THE RECOVERY,
RECONSTRUCTION, AND ANALYSIS OF THE AIRCRAFT.

4. (U) CURRENT SALVAGE OPERATIONS ARE FOCUSED ON



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INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-17	AID-01	A-01	CA-02	CCO-00	CIAE-00
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	E-01	FAAE-00	FBO-01	HA-09	H-01	IMMC-01	INRE-00
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	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OCS-06	OIC-02	OMB-01	OPR-01	PA-01
	PM-02	PRS-01	P-01	SB-00	SCT-03	SNP-00	SP-00
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6094
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DEPT JUSTICE WASHDC IMMEDIATE
USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7747
INFO JOINT STAFF WASHDC
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CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
COMSIXTHFLT
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE//ECPA//ECJ5//
CNO WASHDC//06/09C//
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STATE ALSO FOR P; USIA FOR EU, P/G; DOJ FOR CRIM
DIV/OIA L. BARSELLA

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: PINR, NATO, PREL, IT
SUBJECT: USTICA: BRITISH EXPERT SAYS BOMB EXPLOSION
CAUSED TRAGEDY; PRELIMINARY REPORT EXCLUDES
STRUCTURAL DEFECT, COLLISION AND MISSILE AS POSSIBLE
CAUSES.

LOCATING AIRCRAFT FRAGMENTS FROM THE RIGHT, REAR
SECTION OF THE FUSILAGE WHICH, ACCORDING TO "IL
TEMPO," MIGHT FURNISH DEFINITIVE EVIDENCE OF THE
PROVISIONAL HYPOTHESIS OFFERED BY THE BRITISH EXPERTS.

5. (C) COMMENT. ALTHOUGH THIS TEAM OF BRITISH
EXPERTS ALLEGEDLY HAD ACCESS TO ALL THE AIRCRAFT
FRAGMENTS RECOVERED TO DATE, IT IS TOO EARLY TO CALL
THEIR HYPOTHESIS ANYTHING BUT PRELIMINARY. WE ARE
REMINDED THAT, OVER THE YEARS, USTICA INVESTIGATORS
HAVE RECEIVED SEPARATE (AND OFTEN CONTRADICTIONARY)
REPORTS FROM ITALIAN, GERMAN, AMERICAN, AND BRITISH
ACCIDENT-RECONSTRUCTION EXPERTS.

6. (C) WE ARE ALSO NOT SURPRISED THAT "IL TEMPO,"
LONG KNOWN FOR ITS CLOSE CONTACT WITH THE ITALIAN
MILITARY, HAS PUBLISHED AN UNCONFIRMED BRITISH REPORT
SUPPORTING THE "BOMB THEORY" THAT THE ITALIAN AIR

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FORCE HAS ADVOCATED FROM THE BEGINNING. WHILE WE
HAVE NO REASON TO DOUBT THE AUTHENTICITY OF THE
BRITISH REPORT, WE FIND IT INTERESTING THAT IT HAS

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NOW SURFACED AFTER LAYING DORMANT SINCE LAST
JANUARY. THE PUBLICATION OF THE REPORT COULD WELL
SPRING FROM RECENT PRESS COVERAGE WHICH ACCUSES THE
ITALIAN AIR FORCE OF COMPLICITY IN THE USTICA
AFFAIR. END COMMENT.

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ACTION EUR-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-17	AID-01	CIAE-00	COME-00	CFE-00	C-01
	DOT-00	EB-01	E-01	FAAE-00	HA-09	H-01	IMMC-01
	INRE-00	INR-01	IO-19	L-03	ADS-00	NEA-01	NRRC-00
	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01	PA-01	PM-02	PRS-01
	P-01	SB-00	SCT-03	SNP-00	SP-00	SS-00	STR-17
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 FM AMEMBASSY ROME
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6216
 SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
 DEPT JUSTICE WASHDC IMMEDIATE
 USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7755
 INFO JOINT STAFF WASHDC
 USMISSION USNATO
 CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
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STATE ALSO FOR P; USIA FOR EU, P/G; DOJ FOR CRIM
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E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
 TAGS: PINR, NATO, PREL, IT
 SUBJECT: USTICA: ITALIAN PRESS REPORTS AMBASSADOR'S
 PRESS STATEMENT; VICTIMS' FAMILIES HOLD PRESS
 CONFERENCE TO RAISE FUNDS; CIVIL PLAINTIFFS' EXPERT
 SAYS COLLISION CAUSED THE TRAGEDY

REF(S): (A) ROME 21529 (B) ROME 21300 (C) ROME 21117
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1. (U) SUMMARY. ITALIAN PRESS REPORTS DECEMBER 4 CARRIED AMBASSADOR SECCHIA'S STRONG DEFENSE OF USG RESPONSIVENESS TO ITALIAN REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THE CRASH OF AN ITAVIA DC-9 PASSENGER PLANE NEAR THE ISLAND OF USTICA JUNE 27, 1980. THE AMBASSADOR ISSUED A PRESS STATEMENT DECEMBER 3 THAT SAID THE U.S. HAD RESPONDED TO 28 OUT OF 31 TOTAL JUDICIAL REQUESTS TO DATE AND THAT THERE WERE NO U.S. SHIPS OR COMBAT AIRCRAFT OPERATING IN THE AREA ON THE NIGHT OF THE CRASH. SEPARATELY, THE ASSOCIATION OF USTICA VICTIMS' FAMILIES HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE DECEMBER 3 TO RAISE FUNDS AND ANNOUNCE THE PUBLIC SUPPORT OF LEADING CENTRIST DAILY "CORRIERE DELLA SERA" AND LEFTIST WEEKLY NEWSMAGAZINE "PANORAMA" FOR ITS FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES. ACCORDING TO ROME'S CENTRIST DAILY "IL TEMPO," AN ITALIAN EXPERT WORKING FOR THE VICTIMS' FAMILIES IN THE CIVIL LAWSUIT SAID THERE WAS NO DOUBT ABOUT THE CAUSE OF THE CRASH -- "THE DC-9 FELL AFTER COLLIDING WITH ANOTHER AIRCRAFT." END SUMMARY

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AMBASSADOR HIGHLIGHTS U.S. COOPERATION

2. (U) THE AMBASSADOR ISSUED A PRESS STATEMENT DECEMBER 3 STRONGLY DENYING U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN THE USTICA AFFAIR. (THE FULL TEXT OF THE AMBASSADOR'S STATEMENT APPEARS IN PARAGRAPH 7.) HIS COMPLETE STATEMENT WAS IMMEDIATELY DISSEMINATED BY ITALIAN WIRE SERVICE "ANSA." PORTIONS OF THE AMBASSADOR'S STATEMENT WERE REPRINTED IN ALL OF ITALY'S MAJOR NEWSPAPERS DECEMBER 4. IN HIS STATEMENT, THE AMBASSADOR ANNOUNCED THAT THE USG HAD RESPONDED TO 28 OUT OF THE 31 TOTAL JUDICIAL REQUESTS MADE BY ITALIAN AUTHORITIES IN THE COURSE OF THE 12 YEAR OLD INVESTIGATION. OF THE THREE OUTSTANDING REQUESTS, THE AMBASSADOR SAID TWO WERE FOR INTERVIEWS THAT HAVE ALREADY BEEN SCHEDULED FOR THE NEAR FUTURE. AS TO THE REMAINING ROGATORY, THE USG HAS REQUESTED A CLARIFICATION FROM INVESTIGATING MAGISTRATE ROSARIO PRIORE. UPON RECEIPT OF JUDGE PRIORE'S CLARIFICATION, THE AMBASSADOR REMARKED, WE WILL RESPOND AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.

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3. (U) THE AMBASSADOR ALSO NOTED THAT MUCH OF THE RECENT PRESS REPORTS ABOUT POSSIBLE U.S. INVOLVEMENT WAS NOTHING MORE THAN "RUMORS, SPECULATION, AND LEAKS FROM UNKNOWN SOURCES." THERE WERE NO FACTS TO SUBSTANTIATE ANY OF THE ACCUSATIONS AND INSINUATIONS AGAINST THE U.S. THE AMBASSADOR ASKED ITALIAN

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JOURNALISTS TO REPORT ACCURATELY AND "RESPONSIBLY" ON THE "UNSUBSTANTIATED LEAKS FROM ANONYMOUS SOURCES" THAT PORTRAYED THE U.S. AS WITHHOLDING INFORMATION FROM USTICA INVESTIGATORS AND FAILING TO COOPERATE WITH ITALIAN AUTHORITIES. IN CLOSING HIS REMARKS, THE AMBASSADOR PLEDGED CONTINUED U.S. ASSISTANCE AND REITERATED OUR LONG-TERM COOPERATION IN THE INVESTIGATION.

USTICA FAMILIES LAUNCH FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN

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INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-17	AID-01	CIAE-00	COME-00	CFE-00	C-01
	DOTE-00	EB-01	E-01	FAAE-00	HA-09	H-01	IMMC-01
	INRE-00	INR-01	IO-19	L-03	ADS-00	NEA-01	NRRC-00
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	P-01	SB-00	SCT-03	SNP-00	SP-00	SS-00	STR-17
	TRSE-00	T-01	/086W				

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SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
DEPT JUSTICE WASHDC IMMEDIATE
USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7756
INFO JOINT STAFF WASHDC
USMISSION USNATO

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CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
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CNO WASHDC//06/09C//
COMFAIRMED NAPLES IT
USNMR SHAPE BE
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STATE ALSO FOR P; USIA FOR EU, P/G; DOJ FOR CRIM
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E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: PINR, NATO, PREL, IT
SUBJECT: USTICA: ITALIAN PRESS REPORTS AMBASSADOR'S
PRESS STATEMENT; VICTIMS' FAMILIES HOLD PRESS
CONFERENCE TO RAISE FUNDS; CIVIL PLAINTIFFS' EXPERT
SAYS COLLISION CAUSED THE TRAGEDY

4. (U) LEADING CENTRIST DAILY "CORRIERE DELLA SERA"
DECEMBER 4 REPORTED THAT THE ASSOCIATION OF USTICA
VICTIMS' FAMILIES HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE DECEMBER 3
TO INITIATE A NEW FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN. ACCORDING TO
"CORRIERE," THE HEAD OF THE ASSOCIATION (MS. DARIA
BONFIETTI) ANNOUNCED THAT "CORRIERE" AND LEFTIST
WEEKLY NEWSMAGAZINE "PANORAMA" HAD GUARANTEED "FULL
SUPPORT" FOR THE EFFORT. ROME'S CENTRIST DAILY "IL
MESSAGGERO" DECEMBER 4 SAID VITTORIO CECCHI GORI, THE
PRODUCER OF A SPECULATIVE FILM ABOUT THE USTICA
AFFAIR ("IL MURO DI GOMMA"), HAS DECIDED TO
RE-RELEASE THE MOVIE IN ROME, MILAN, AND OTHER
PRINCIPAL CITIES. "IL MESSAGGERO" NOTED THAT GORI
HAS PLEDGED ALL BOX OFFICE RECEIPTS TO THE
ASSOCIATION IN SUPPORT OF ITS LITIGATION ACTIVITIES.
THE ARTICLE SAID "RCS VIDEO" WILL DONATE RECEIPTS
FROM VIDEOCASSETTE SALES OF THE MOVIE, AND ITALIAN TV
STATION "TELEPIU' UNO" WILL BROADCAST THE FILM AGAIN
DECEMBER 18. ACCORDING TO CENTRIST DAILY "LA STAMPA"
DECEMBER 3, ASSOCIATION HEAD BONFIETTI CLAIMED THAT
WITHOUT AN INFUSION OF FUNDS, THE OFFICE MIGHT HAVE
TO CLOSE. "IL TEMPO" NOTED THAT ITALIAN MOD ANDO'

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AND SENATE PRESIDENT SPADOLINI SENT TELEGRAMS OF
SUPPORT TO BONFIETTI.

PRODUCER CLAIMS FILM ABOUT USTICA "BOYCOTTED"

5. (C) SEVERAL NATIONAL NEWSPAPERS ALSO REPORTED THAT MOVIE PRODUCER GORI SAID HIS FILM ABOUT THE USTICA AFFAIR HAD BEEN "BOYCOTTED" AT THE VENICE FILM FESTIVAL. "LA STAMPA" QUOTED GORI AS SAYING "THERE WERE NO GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AT ITS FIRST SHOWING. THEY WERE ALL SICK OR TOO BUSY, AND JIM BELUSHI (A MEMBER OF THE FESTIVAL'S JURY) WAS TOLD NOT TO CONSIDER THE FILM FOR A PRIZE." THE FILM WAS SO POORLY RECEIVED AT THE VENICE FESTIVAL, "LA STAMPA" REMARKED, THAT THE FIRST QUESTION TO THE FILM'S PRODUCERS WAS ABOUT THE SOUND-TRACK INSTEAD OF THE FILM'S POLITICAL CONTENT. (COMMENT. THE FILM IS, IN OUR OPINION, A HYPERVENTILATED MIX OF SPECULATION AND CONSPIRACY THEORY THAT, UNFORTUNATELY, IMPLIES THAT THE U.S. WAS SOMEHOW INVOLVED IN THE AFFAIR.)

EXPERT SAYS COLLISION CAUSED THE CRASH

6. (U) "IL TEMPO" REPORTED THAT MARIO VADACCHINO (A TECHNICAL EXPERT HIRED BY THE USTICA ASSOCIATION) CLAIMED THAT "THE DC-9 FELL AFTER COLLIDING WITH ANOTHER AIRCRAFT." THE ARTICLE NOTED THAT

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VADACCHINO, SPEAKING AT THE ASSOCIATION'S PRESS CONFERENCE YESTERDAY, BASED HIS CONCLUSION ON RADAR TRACKS OF OTHER AIRCRAFT FLYING IN THE AREA AT THE TIME OF THE INCIDENT. ASKED ABOUT A RECENT BRITISH REPORT SUGGESTING THAT A BOMB CAUSED THE TRAGEDY (REFS), VADACCHINO REPORTEDLY SAID, "IT WOULD BE ABSURD TO BELIEVE IN A BOMB THEORY WHEN ONE EXAMINES THE RADAR TRACKS. BUT THERE IS MORE. THE THEORY THAT AN INTERNAL BOMB CAUSED THE CRASH COLLAPSES UPON

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AN EXAMINATION OF ITEMS FOUND IN THE WATERS NEAR
USTICA."

FULL TEXT OF AMBASSADOR'S PRESS STATEMENT

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INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-17	AID-01	CIAE-00	COME-00	CFE-00	C-01
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	INRE-00	INR-01	IO-19	L-03	ADS-00	NEA-01	NRRC-00
	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01	PA-01	PM-02	PRS-01
	P-01	SB-00	SCT-03	SNP-00	SP-00	SS-00	STR-17
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FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6218
SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
DEPT JUSTICE WASHDC IMMEDIATE
USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7757
INFO JOINT STAFF WASHDC
USMISSION USNATO
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
COMSIXTHFLT
USCINCEUR VAHINGEN GE//ECPA//ECJ5//
CNO WASHDC//06/09C//
COMFAIRMED NAPLES IT
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STATE ALSO FOR P; USIA FOR EU, P/G; DOJ FOR CRIM
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E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: PINR, NATO, PREL, IT
SUBJECT: USTICA: ITALIAN PRESS REPORTS AMBASSADOR'S
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CONFERENCE TO RAISE FUNDS; CIVIL PLAINTIFFS' EXPERT
SAYS COLLISION CAUSED THE TRAGEDY

7. (U) THE FULL TEXT OF THE AMBASSADOR'S PRESS
STATEMENT DECEMBER 3 FOLLOWS:

BEGIN TEXT:

I AM ANNOUNCING TODAY THAT THE UNITED STATES
GOVERNMENT HAS DELIVERED TO ITALIAN AUTHORITIES
THROUGH JUDICIAL CHANNELS OUR REPLIES TO REQUESTS FOR
INFORMATION IN THE USTICA TRAGEDY THAT WERE STILL
PENDING.

OUR RECORDS SHOW THAT A TOTAL OF 31 REQUESTS,
IDENTIFIED BY THE DATES OF THE REQUESTS, FOR
INFORMATION ON USTICA HAVE BEEN RECEIVED THROUGH THE
OFFICIAL JUDICIAL CHANNEL. WITH THE DELIVERY OF THE
NEW REPLIES, WE HAVE EXECUTED 28 OF THE 31 REQUESTS.
EXECUTION OF TWO RECENT REQUESTS IS STILL IN
PROGRESS. THESE TWO ARE REQUESTS FOR INTERVIEWS THAT
ARE ALREADY SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE IN THE NEAR
FUTURE. WE HAVE ASKED FOR CLARIFICATION OF ONE
ASPECT OF THE THIRD REQUEST AND WILL EXECUTE IT AS
SOON AS POSSIBLE.

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JUDICIAL REQUESTS ARE MADE UNDER A SPECIAL TREATY FOR
CRIMINAL MATTERS. THEY ARE LEGAL DOCUMENTS FROM THE
INVESTIGATING MAGISTRATE TRANSMITTED BY THE MINISTRY
OF JUSTICE TO OUR DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE. ANSWERS GO
TO JUDGE PRIORE, AND ITALIAN LAW REQUIRES HIM TO
MAINTAIN SECRECY. IF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT DID NOT
ALSO MAINTAIN SECRECY, HIS EFFORTS TO DO SO WOULD BE
DIMINISHED.

HOWEVER, BECAUSE WE HAVE RESPECTED JUDICIAL SECRECY,
WE HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO ANSWER IRRESPONSIBLE
ACCUSATIONS WHICH EVIDENCE GATHERED IN THE OFFICIAL
JUDICIAL INQUIRY WOULD SHOW TO BE BASELESS. THE
INVESTIGATING MAGISTRATES, AND NO ONE ELSE, KNOW HOW

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WELL WE HAVE COOPERATED, AND THEY HAVE NEVER EXPRESSED ANYTHING BUT APPRECIATION FOR OUR EFFORTS.

WE USE THE OFFICIAL TERM "EXECUTED/NOT EXECUTED," WHICH IS DESCRIBED IN THE TREATY OF MUTUAL ASSISTANCE, IN REFERRING TO THE DISPOSITION OF JUDICIAL QUESTIONS. WE DO NOT USE THE CHARACTERIZATIONS "POSITIVE/NEGATIVE," WHICH CAN BE SUBJECT TO MISINTERPRETATION AND CAN SUGGEST THE EXISTENCE OF A PRECONCEIVED BIAS AS TO WHAT THE RESPONSE TO AN INQUIRY SHOULD BE.

I HOPE THIS ANNOUNCEMENT WILL PUT AN END TO STORIES ABOUT AMERICAN RELUCTANCE OR FAILURE TO COOPERATE IN THE USTICA INVESTIGATION. WHILE RECOGNIZING THAT THE INVESTIGATION OF THE USTICA CASE IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT, MY

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GOVERNMENT HAS ALWAYS GIVEN FULL ASSISTANCE TO THE INVESTIGATION. TODAY'S ANNOUNCEMENT DEMONSTRATES THAT THE ASSURANCES OF COOPERATION GIVEN ITALIAN AUTHORITIES IN RECENT MONTHS BY DEFENSE SECRETARY CHENEY AND ATTORNEY GENERAL BARR HAVE BEEN CARRIED OUT FULLY.

WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE FAMILIES OF THE VICTIMS OF THE USTICA CRASH, NO ONE DESIRES MORE THAN THE U.S. AUTHORITIES THAT AN OBJECTIVE INVESTIGATION RESOLVE THE UNANSWERED QUESTIONS ABOUT USTICA. WE HAVE ALWAYS BELIEVED THAT A FULL INVESTIGATION WOULD SHOW THAT THE UNITED STATES HAD NO ROLE IN THE TRAGEDY.

I WOULD LIKE TO DIRECT AN APPEAL FOR REASON TO SOME ITALIAN MEDIA PERSONALITIES. I ASK THEM TO REVIEW THE RECORD OF THEIR REPORTING ON THE USTICA CASE. I

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ACTION EUR-01

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CHANNEL: n/a
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INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-17	AID-01	CIAE-00	COME-00	CFE-00	C-01
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O 041637Z DEC 92
 FM AMEMBASSY ROME
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6219
 SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
 DEPT JUSTICE WASHDC IMMEDIATE
 USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7758
 INFO JOINT STAFF WASHDC
 USMISSION USNATO
 CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
 COMSIXTHFLT
 USCINCEUR VAHINGEN GE//ECPA//ECJ5//
 CNO WASHDC//06/09C//
 COMFAIRMED NAPLES IT
 USNMR SHAPE BE
 AMEMBASSY PARIS

SECTION 04 OF 04 ROME 21706

STATE ALSO FOR P; USIA FOR EU, P/G; DOJ FOR CRIM
 DIV/OIA L. BARSELLA

PAGE 02 ROME 21706 04 OF 04 041641Z

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
 TAGS: PINR, NATO, PREL, IT
 SUBJECT: USTICA: ITALIAN PRESS REPORTS AMBASSADOR'S
 PRESS STATEMENT; VICTIMS' FAMILIES HOLD PRESS
 CONFERENCE TO RAISE FUNDS; CIVIL PLAINTIFFS' EXPERT
 SAYS COLLISION CAUSED THE TRAGEDY

RECOGNIZE AND RESPECT THE RIGHT OF A FREE PRESS TO
 REPORT ON THIS IMPORTANT CASE. MY PLEA IS THAT THIS
 BE DONE RESPONSIBLY.

OVER THE PAST TWO MONTHS A FLOOD OF PRESS REPORTS HAS
 SUGGESTED THAT THE UNITED STATES OR THE USS SARATOGA
 WAS SOMEHOW IMPLICATED IN THE INCIDENT.

HEADLINES HAVE STATED THAT THE U.S. LIED ABOUT THE

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LOCATION OF THE SARATOGA ON JUNE 27, 1980. A FRONT-PAGE EDITORIAL CARTOON DEPICTED ITS DECK COVERED WITH THE CROSSES OF USTICA VICTIMS. MY GOVERNMENT WAS ACCUSED OF BEING UNRESPONSIVE TO ITALIAN REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION, OF HIDING BEHIND A "NO COMMENT."

FROM WHERE I STAND, I SEE MY GOVERNMENT BEING TRIED AND CONVICTED IN THE PRESS ON THE BASIS OF SPECULATION AND UNSUBSTANTIATED LEAKS FROM ANONYMOUS SOURCES. WHILE DEPARTMENTS OF MY GOVERNMENT HAVE SPENT GREAT RESOURCES IN SEEKING ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS PUT TO US, WE HAVE BEEN PORTRAYED AS WITHHOLDING INFORMATION AND FAILING TO COOPERATE.

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IN FACT, IN REVIEWING THE PRESS REPORTS OF THESE PAST TWO MONTHS, IT IS CLEAR THAT NO NEW EVIDENCE HAS BEEN PRESENTED WHICH CONTRADICTS OUR POSITION. RUMORS, SPECULATION, LEAKS FROM UNKNOWN SOURCES -- YES, THERE HAVE BEEN MANY OF THESE. BUT EVIDENCE AND HARD FACTS -- NO.

MY FEAR IS THAT ITALIAN NEWSPAPER READERS AND TELEVISION VIEWERS MAY CONCLUDE THAT BEHIND ALL THIS SMOKE THERE MUST BE FIRE -- THAT ACCUSATIONS OR INSINUATIONS, NO MATTER HOW INACCURATE OR IMPLAUSIBLE, IF REPEATED OFTEN ENOUGH, WILL COME TO BE ACCEPTED AS TRUE.

I WANT TO STATE IN THE STRONGEST TERMS THAT THE UNITED STATES HAD NO COMBAT SHIPS OR COMBAT AIRCRAFT IN THE AREA THAT COULD HAVE BROUGHT DOWN THE ITAVIA DC-9, AND THAT THE SARATOGA WAS IN NAPLES HARBOR AS WE HAVE SAID AND DOCUMENTED. THERE WERE NO U.S. OR NATO MANEUVERS BEING CARRIED ON IN THE MEDITERRANEAN AT THE TIME.

AS AMERICAN AMBASSADOR IN ITALY FOR THE PAST THREE AND ONE HALF YEARS, I HAVE LOOKED INTO THE CASE WITH THE GREATEST CARE AND ATTENTION. I AM FULLY SATISFIED BY THE ASSURANCES OF OUR MILITARY AUTHORITIES. HAD I EVER FOUND REASON TO BELIEVE THAT I WAS MISLED ON THIS VITAL MATTER, I WOULD HAVE RESIGNED MY POST.

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[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
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AS I PREPARE TO LEAVE MY POST IN ITALY, MY GREATEST
WISH IS THAT THIS TROUBLESOME CASE BE RESOLVED SOON
-- SO THAT THE FAMILIES OF THE VICTIMS HAVE THE
ANSWERS THEY SEEK; SO THAT THE ITALIAN PUBLIC IS
FULLY INFORMED, AND SO THAT THE CLOUD THAT THIS CASE
HAS CAST OVER U.S.-ITALIAN RELATIONS IS FULLY AND
FINALLY LIFTED.

END TEXT.

SECCHIA
[REDACTED]

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PAGE 01 ROME 21765 070827Z
ACTION EUR-01

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	SNP-00	SP-00	SS-00	TRSE-00	T-01	USIE-00	/029W

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P 070824Z DEC 92
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6262

██████████ ROME 21765

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: PINR, PREL IT
SUBJECT: FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER DE MICHELIS'
- BIRTHDAY DINNER - TALK OF USTICA, GATT

1. ██████████ - ENTIRE TEXT.
2. SUMMARY: AMBASSADOR SECCHIA WAS INVITED TO A SMALL DINNER PARTY TO CELEBRATE THE BIRTHDAY OF FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER GIANNI DE MICHELIS. CONVERSATION TOUCHED UPON USTICA, UPCOMING FOREIGN MINISTRY PERSONNEL CHANGES, AND GATT. END SUMMARY.
3. AMBASSADOR SECCHIA WAS INVITED TO A DINNER PARTY IN HONOR OF FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER DE MICHELIS' 52ND BIRTHDAY ON NOVEMBER 26. THE HOST WAS CESARE PALADINO, A PERSONAL FRIEND OF DE MICHELIS. IN ATTENDANCE WAS ██████████
██████████

PAGE 02 ROME 21765 070827Z
THE FORMER RECTOR OF LOUIS UNIVERSITY, NOW SENATOR SCONGNAMIGLIO (PLI); ING. PRESIDENTE INSLESS (ICE), PARISI; ECONOMIC ADVISOR TO AMATO, AMBASSADOR BALDOCCI; DIPLOMATIC ADVISOR TO AMATO, AMBASSADOR VENTO; AND DEPUTY MARZO (PSI).

4. AS THE HOT TOPIC IN ITALY THESE DAYS IS THE U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN THE USTICA CRASH, CONVERSATION NATURALLY TURNED TO THIS SUBJECT. ██████████ TOLD THE AMBASSADOR THAT "CORRIERE" REPORTER (AND LEADER

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OF THE "BLAME AMERICA" CONSPIRACY THEORISTS) PURGATORI WAS AN OUTSTANDING JOURNALIST. [REDACTED] STATED STRONGLY THAT HE DIDN'T BELIEVE THAT PURGATORY COULD BE WRONG ABOUT THE SARATOGA LEAVING THE PORT OF NAPLES. HE HAD READ THE INTERVIEW OF U.S. ADMIRAL FLATLEY IN THE ITALIAN MAGAZINE EUROPA, BUT HE STILL THOUGHT PURGATORI HAD MORE INFORMATION THAN OTHERS. HE SAID:

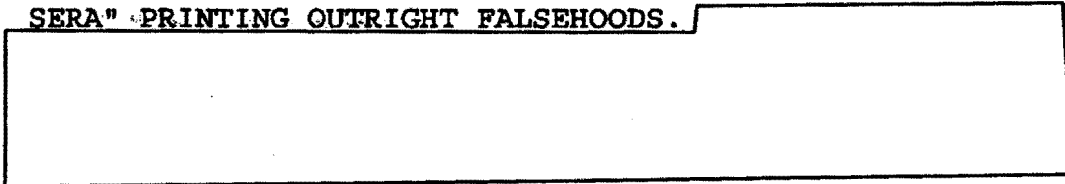
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5. THE AMBASSADOR AGAIN EXPLAINED THAT THE U.S. HAS COOPERATED FULLY WITH THE ITALIAN INVESTIGATORS AND EXPRESSED HIS PROFOUND DISMAY WITH "CORRIERE DELLA SERA" PRINTING OUTRIGHT FALSEHOODS. [REDACTED]

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6. ON FOREIGN MINISTRY PERSONNEL MATTERS, [REDACTED]

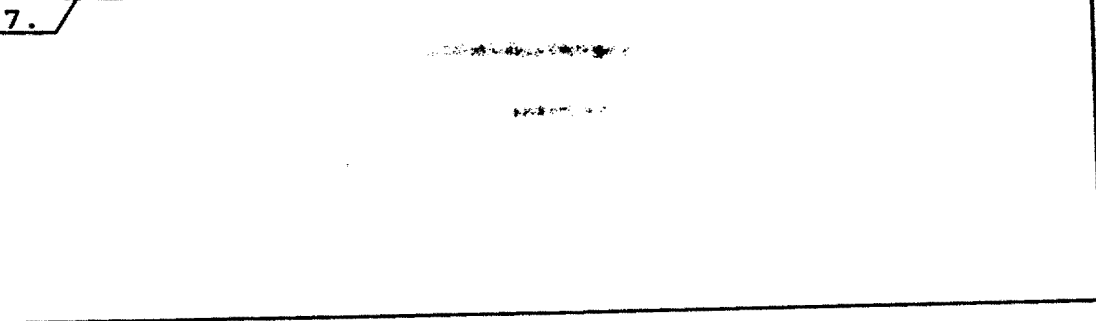
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[REDACTED] SAID THAT AMBASSADOR SERGIO BERLINGUER WILL SOON BE GOING BACK TO THE MINISTRY. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] AND HE WILL SOON BE IN CHARGE OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH CROATIA AND SLOVENIA.



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16 Apr 2002

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PAGE 01 ROME 21826 01 OF 02 071631Z
ACTION EUR-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-17	AID-01	CIAE-00	COME-00	CFE-00	C-01
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	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01	PA-01	PM-02	PRS-01
	P-01	SB-00	SCT-03	SNP-00	SP-00	SS-00	STR-17
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O 071629Z DEC 92
 FM AMEMBASSY ROME
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6286
 SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
 DEPT JUSTICE WASHDC IMMEDIATE
 USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7772
 INFO JOINT STAFF WASHDC
 USMISSION USNATO
 CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
 COMSIXTHFLT
 USCINCEUR VAHINGEN GE//ECPA//ECJ5//
 CNO WASHDC//06/09C//
 COMFAIRMED NAPLES IT
 USNMR SHAPE BE
 AMEMBASSY PARIS

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STATE ALSO FOR P; USIA FOR EU, P/G; DOJ FOR CRIM
DIV/OIA L. BARSELLA

PAGE 02 ROME 21826 01 OF 02 071631Z

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
 TAGS: PINR, NATO, PREL, IT
 SUBJECT: USTICA: ITALIAN MOD PRESS STATEMENT
 ACKNOWLEDGES AMBASSADOR'S PLEDGE OF CONTINUED
 ASSISTANCE; JUDGE PRIORE DEPARTS FOR U.S.; NOTED
 USTICA JOURNALIST ANDREA PURGATORI ADMITS TO BREAKING
 JUDICIAL SECRECY

EXTEND CLASSIFICATION

REF(S): (A) ROME 21766 (B) ROME 21706 (C) ROME 21529
AND PREVIOUS

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Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

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CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

209

1. (U) SUMMARY. ITALIAN MOD ISSUED A SHORT PRESS STATEMENT DECEMBER 5 THAT EXPRESSED HOPE THAT U.S. AUTHORITIES WOULD ASSIST INVESTIGATING MAGISTRATE ROSARIO PRIORE DURING HIS VISIT TO THE U.S. THE MOD'S PRESS RELEASE ALSO ACKNOWLEDGED AMBASSADOR SECCHIA'S PLEDGE THAT THE USG WILL CONTINUE COOPERATING IN THE INVESTIGATION OF THE CRASH OF AN ITAVIA DC-9 PASSENGER PLANE NEAR THE ISLAND OF USTICA ON JUNE 27, 1980. ITALIAN PRESS REPORTS SAID JUDGE PRIORE WOULD DEPART DECEMBER 6 FOR THE US. TO INTERVIEW RICHARD COE AND U.S. NAVY ADMIRAL JAMES FLATLEY. SEPARATELY, LEFTWING DAILY "L'UNITA" PUBLISHED DECEMBER 7 AN INTERVIEW WITH NOTED USTICA JOURNALIST ANDREA PURGATORI WHO ADMITTED VIOLATING ITALIAN JUDICIAL SECRECY LAWS WHEN REPORTING ON THE USTICA AFFAIR OVER THE LAST 13 YEARS. END SUMMARY.

2. (U) THE ITALIAN MOD ISSUED A PRESS STATEMENT DECEMBER 5 FOLLOWING THE AMBASSADOR'S MEETING

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DECEMBER 4 WITH MOD SALVO ANDO', DESCRIBED REF A.
NEWS OF THEIR MEETING WAS CARRIED ONLY BY ROME'S
CENTRIST DAILY "IL TEMPO." THE FULL TEXT OF THE
MOD'S PRESS STATEMENT FOLLOWS:

(BEGIN INFORMAL EMBASSY TRANSLATION)

--MINISTER OF DEFENSE SALVO ANDO' RECEIVED THE
AMBASSADOR OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, PETER
SECCHIA, YESTERDAY AT PALAZZO BARACCHINI.

--THEY DISCUSSED MANY DIFFERENT ISSUES OF MUTUAL
INTEREST IN THE COURSE OF THEIR MEETING.

--IN ANTICIPATION OF JUDGE PRIORE'S TRAVEL NEXT WEEK
TO THE U.S., MINISTER ANDO', RECOGNIZING THE
COOPERATION GIVEN BY THE UNITED STATES TO ITALIAN
JUDICIAL INVESTIGATORS, HOPED THAT THE AMERICAN
ADMINISTRATION AND, IN PARTICULAR, THE DEPARTMENT OF
DEFENSE WOULD ASSIST JUDGE PRIORE DURING HIS TRIP AND
FACILITATE HIS WORK WHILE IN THE U.S.

--AMBASSADOR SECCHIA CONFIRMED THE FULL COOPERATION
OF THE USG IN THIS REGARD.

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(END INFORMAL EMBASSY TRANSLATION)

3. (U) THE ITALIAN PRESS REPORTED DECEMBER 5 THAT JUDGE PRIORE WILL TRAVEL TO THE U.S. THIS WEEK TO TAKE EVIDENCE AND TESTIMONY FROM RICHARD COE AND U.S. NAVY ADMIRAL JAMES FLATLEY. ROME'S CENTRIST DAILY

PAGE 04 ROME 21826 01 OF 02 071631Z
"IL MESSAGGERO" DECEMBER 5 REPORTED THAT JUDGE PRIORE WOULD DEPART ITALY DECEMBER 6 AND BE ACCOMPANIED BY PUBLIC MINISTER GIOVANNI SALVI, COLONEL (CARABINIERI) MARCANTONIO BIANCHINI, AND OTHER OFFICIALS OF THE JUDICIAL POLICE. "IL MESSAGGERO" SAID JUDGE PRIORE'S DEPARTURE FOLLOWED THE ADJOURNMENT OF A MEETING HELD IN ROME AMONG THE VARIOUS TECHNICAL EXPERTS INVESTIGATING THE CAUSE OF THE CRASH. THE NEWSPAPER NOTED THAT THE EXPERTS HAD HELD WIDE-RANGING DISCUSSIONS WHICH, NEVERTHELESS, FOCUSED MAINLY ON A RECENT BRITISH REPORT THAT THE TRAGEDY WAS CAUSED BY A BOMB WHICH EXPLODED INSIDE THE AIRCRAFT. "IL MESSAGGERO" SAID THE TECHNICAL EXPERTS HAVE ALREADY DRAFTED A FINAL REPORT WHICH WILL BE SUBMITTED TO

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ACTION EUR-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-17	AID-01	CIAE-00	COME-00	CFE-00	C-01
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	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01	PA-01	PM-02	PRS-01
	P-01	SB-00	SCT-03	SNP-00	SP-00	SS-00	STR-17
	TRSE-00	T-01	/086W				

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6287
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USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7773

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INFO JOINT STAFF WASHDC
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CNO WASHDC//06/09C//
COMFAIRMED NAPLES IT
USNMR SHAPE BE
AMEMBASSY PARIS

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STATE ALSO FOR P; USIA FOR EU, P/G; DOJ FOR CRIM
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E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: PINR, NATO, PREL, IT
SUBJECT: USTICA: ITALIAN MOD PRESS STATEMENT
ACKNOWLEDGES AMBASSADOR'S PLEDGE OF CONTINUED U.S.
ASSISTANCE; JUDGE PRIORE DEPARTS FOR U.S.; NOTED
USTICA JOURNALIST ANDREA PURGATORI ADMITS TO BREAKING
JUDICIAL SECRECY

JUDGE PRIORE IN EARLY JANUARY 1993.

4. (U) SEPARATELY, LEFTWING DAILY "L'UNITA"
PUBLISHED DECEMBER 7 AN INTERVIEW WITH NOTED USTICA
JOURNALIST ANDREA PURGATORI WHO ADMITTED VIOLATING
ITALIAN SECRECY LAWS WHEN REPORTING ON THE USTICA
AFFAIR OVER THE LAST 13 YEARS. ASKED HOW MANY TIMES
HE HAD VIOLATED THE JUDICIAL SECRECY LAWS, PURGATORI
SAID, "ON THE AVERAGE OF ONCE FOR EVERY ARTICLE THAT
I WROTE IN 13 YEARS. AND ALONG WITH ME, A GROUP OF
MY COLLEAGUES THAT FOLLOW THIS AFFAIR. I ALSO THINK
THAT, IF I HAD RESPECTED THE SECRECY LAWS, WE WOULD
NOT BE WHERE WE ARE TODAY ON USTICA." PURGATORI
ACKNOWLEDGED DURING THE INTERVIEW THAT HE HAD BEEN
INDICTED IN JANUARY 1992 FOR VIOLATING THE SECRECY
LAWS BY REPORTING ON CRIMINAL CHARGES BROUGHT AGAINST
MILITARY OFFICERS ALLEGEDLY INVOLVED IN THE USTICA
TRAGEDY. ACCORDING TO THE INTERVIEW, PURGATORI PAID
A LIRE 250,000 (USD 200) FINE TO SETTLE THE CHARGES.

5. (C) COMMENT.

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THE HEAT OF USTICA
APPEARS TO BE OFF THE U.S. RIGHT NOW. THE
AMBASSADOR'S RECENT PUBLIC STATEMENTS, FLATLEY'S
INTERVIEW, THE BRITISH REPORT BLAMING A BOMB ON
BOARD, AND PRIORE'S TRIP TO THE U.S. HAVE ALL HELPED
LESSEN PRESS HYSTERIA OVER UNSUBSTANTIATED CLAIMS
THAT WE WERE SOMEHOW INVOLVED.

SECCHIA

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Date Printed:
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ACTION EUR-01

INFO	LOG-00	COR-01	ACDA-17	AID-01	CIAE-00	COME-00	CFE-00
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 USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7809
 INFO JOINT STAFF WASHDC
 USMISSION USNATO
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 USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE//ECPA//ECJ5//
 CNO WASHDC//06/09C//
 COMFAIRMED NAPLES IT
 USNMR SHAPE BE
 AMEMBASSY PARIS

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 ROME 22238

STATE ALSO FOR P; USIA FOR EU, P/G; DOJ FOR CRIM
DIV/OIA L. BARSELLA

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y - T E X T
 E.O. 12356: N/A
 TAGS: PINR, NATO, PREL, IT
 SUBJECT: USTICA: AMBASSADOR SECCHIA DEFENDS U.S.
 COOPERATION IN PRESS INTERVIEW; ITALIAN PRESS REPORTS
 JUDGE PRIORE PLEASED WITH USG HELP DURING HIS VISIT
 TO U.S.

REF(S): (A) ROME 22111 (B) ROME 21956 (C) ROME 21826
AND PREVIOUS

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DOC_NBR: 1992ROME22238

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

212

1. (U) SUMMARY. AMBASSADOR SECCHIA STRONGLY DEFENDED U.S. COOPERATION WITH ITALY ON THE USTICA AFFAIR DURING AN INTERVIEW PUBLISHED DECEMBER 12 IN ROME'S CENTRIST DAILY "IL MESSAGGERO." SEPARATELY, THE NEWSPAPER REPORTED THAT INVESTIGATING MAGISTRATE ROSARIO PRIORE SAID, UPON HIS RETURN FROM THE U.S., THAT HE HAD RECEIVED "EXCELLENT COOPERATION" FROM AMERICAN AUTHORITIES AND HAD ESTABLISHED A GOOD WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH THE PENTAGON. END SUMMARY.

INTERVIEW WITH AMBASSADOR SECCHIA

2. (U) DURING AN INTERVIEW PUBLISHED DECEMBER 12 IN ROME'S CENTRIST DAILY "IL MESSAGGERO," AMBASSADOR SECCHIA STRONGLY DEFENDED U.S. COOPERATION WITH ITALIAN AUTHORITIES INVESTIGATING THE CRASH OF AN ITAVIA DC-9 NEAR THE ISLAND OF USTICA ON JUNE 27,

PAGE 03 ROME 22238 01 OF 03 151811Z
1980. THE HEADLINES FOR THE INTERVIEW READ: "TO ACCUSE THE U.S. IS AN ACT OF IRRESPONSIBILITY; WHEN AMERICAN MAKES AN ERROR, WE ADMIT IT." AN INFORMAL EMBASSY TRANSLATION OF THE FULL INTERVIEW FOLLOWS:

(BEGIN INFORMAL EMBASSY TRANSLATION)

--Q: SOME FEEL THAT THE U.S. KNOWS WHAT HAPPENED THE EVENING OF THE USTICA DISASTER. MR. AMBASSADOR, HOW DO YOU RESPOND?

--A: IF WE KNEW EVERYTHING, WE WOULD NEVER MAKE ANY ERRORS. AMERICA SOMETIMES MAKES ERRORS, BUT WHENEVER THAT HAPPENS, WE ADMIT IT.

--Q: YOU SPEAK OF ERRORS. COULDN'T IT HAVE BEEN THE ERROR OF ANOTHER COUNTRY?

--A: I DON'T KNOW. I DO NOT TALK ABOUT OTHER COUNTRIES. I DO NOT ACCUSE OTHER COUNTRIES AND I HOPE THAT OTHER COUNTRIES WOULD DO THE SAME. WHOEVER DOES THAT WITHOUT THE FACTS IS IRRESPONSIBLE. THE PROBLEM IS THAT, IN ITALY, ONE FEELS THAT THE U.S. CAN SEE EVERYTHING. I CAN ONLY SAY THAT OUR

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SATELLITES DO NOT PHOTOGRAPH FRIENDLY COUNTRIES AND ITALY IS A FRIENDLY COUNTRY.

--Q: ITALIAN JUDGES LOOK TO THE U.S. FOR COOPERATION. IS IT POSSIBLE THAT THIS IS THE REASON FOR SO MUCH FOCUS ON OUR DISAGREEMENTS?

--A: I DON'T KNOW BUT THIS DOES NOT JUSTIFY THE IRRESPONSIBLE ACCUSATIONS THAT HAVE BEEN MADE AGAINST

PAGE 04 ROME 22238 01 OF 03 151811Z
THE U.S. PERHAPS THIS HAS HAPPENED BECAUSE WE ARE THE ONLY COUNTRY THAT COOPERATES AND RESPONDS TO THE ITALIAN AUTHORITIES.

--Q: DO YOU THINK THAT PEOPLE HAVE TRIED TO DIVERT ATTENTION AWAY FROM ITALY TOWARDS THE U.S. IN ORDER TO HIDE SOMETHING HERE?

--A: BUT WHO SAYS THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT HAS DONE NOTHING IN ITALY TO GET TO THE TRUTH?

--Q: A PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE, HEADED BY SENATOR

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ACTION EUR-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-17	AID-01	CIAE-00	COME-00	CFE-00	C-01
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	NRRC-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01	PA-02	PM-02
	PRS-01	P-01	SB-00	SCT-03	SNP-00	SP-00	SS-00
	STR-17	TRSE-00	T-01	/087W			

-----860055 142008Z /38

O 142006Z DEC 92
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6567
SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
DEPT JUSTICE WASHDC IMMEDIATE
USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7810
INFO JOINT STAFF WASHDC
USMISSION USNATO

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Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1992ROME22238

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

212

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
COMSIXTHFLT
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE//ECPA//ECJ5//
CNO WASHDC//06/09C//
COMFAIRMED NAPLES IT
USNMR SHAPE BE
AMEMBASSY PARIS

UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 03 ROME 22238

STATE ALSO FOR P; USIA FOR EU, P/G; DOJ FOR CRIM
DIV/OIA L. BARSELLA

PAGE 02 ROME 22238 02 OF 03 142007Z

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: PINR, NATO, PREL, IT
SUBJECT: USTICA: AMBASSADOR SECCHIA DEFENDS U.S.
COOPERATION IN PRESS INTERVIEW; ITALIAN PRESS REPORTS
JUDGE PRIORE PLEASED WITH USG HELP DURING HIS VISIT
TO U.S.

GUALTIERI, HAS POINTED THE FINGER AT SOME ITALIAN
POLITICIANS AND MILITARY OFFICERS.

--A: I DO NOT HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF
A PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE.

--Q: IN THIS PERIOD, ALL THE ATTENTION HAS BEEN
FOCUSED ON THE "USS SARATOGA." MANY PEOPLE FEEL THAT
THE SHIP'S RADAR COULD CONTRIBUTE TO THE
INVESTIGATION. HOW DO YOU RESPOND?

--A: IN 1980, THE "USS SARATOGA" WAS FUNCTIONING
WITH 1950'S TECHNOLOGY AND WAS NOT ABLE TO
TAPE-RECORD ITS RADAR, EVEN IF THE RADAR WAS ON AT
THAT TIME. THE SHIP HAD NO SYSTEM OF AUTOMATED
RECORDING.

--Q: THEREFORE TAPES DO NOT EXIST?

--A: THAT NIGHT THE RADARS WERE NOT FUNCTIONING.
AND WHENEVER THE SHIP IS IN PORT, WE DO NOT USE THE
RADAR. IF WE ARE IN A FRIENDLY COUNTRY, WE TRUST
THEIR RADARS. IF WE HAD ACTIVATED OUR RADARS, ALL

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PAGE 03 ROME 22238 02 OF 03 142007Z
THE TELEVISION BROADCASTS IN THE NAPLES AREA WOULD
HAVE GONE "TILT."

--Q: TWO DAYS AGO, ADMIRAL FLATLEY CONFIRMED TO THE
ITALIAN MAGISTRATES THAT THE "SARATOGA" HAD NOT MOVED
FROM THE PORT OF NAPLES THAT NIGHT. NOW THE JUDGES
WANT TO INTERVIEW DUANE CLARRIDGE. DO YOU THINK THIS
WILL BE POSSIBLE?

--A: I DON'T KNOW WHY SUCH IMPORTANCE IS GIVEN TO
CLARRIDGE. HIS NAME NEVER APPEARS IN THE OFFICIAL
DOCUMENTS I HAVE SEEN.

--Q: BUT HE PARTICIPATED IN THE MEETINGS THAT WERE
HELD IN THE EMBASSY AT ROME THE NIGHT OF THE TRAGEDY.

--A: NOTHING STRANGE ABOUT THAT. IF TOMORROW THERE
WERE AN AIR CRASH, I WOULD IMMEDIATELY CALL A MEETING
TO FIND OUT IF THE U.S. WAS INVOLVED IN ANY WAY. WE
ALSO MET AFTER THE BOMBINGS IN PALERMO IN WHICH
JUDGES FALCONE AND BORSELLINO LOST THEIR LIVES. IF I
HAD NOT DONE SO THE NIGHT OF THE USTICA DISASTER, I
WOULD BE CRITICIZED AND, PERHAPS, ACCUSED OF NOT
DOING ENOUGH FOR THE VICTIMS AND THEIR FAMILIES.

--Q: DON'T YOU THINK THAT IT'S IMPORTANT TO KNOW THE
RESULTS OF THOSE MEETINGS?

--A: IF THAT MEETING WAS LIKE THOSE I HAVE
PARTICIPATED IN, I CAN SAY THAT ONLY RARELY DO THEY
ARRIVE AT A CONCLUSION.

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████████████████████
PAGE 04 ROME 22238 02 OF 03 142007Z

--Q: WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE LIBYAN MIG?

--A: ABSOLUTELY NOTHING.

(END INFORMAL EMBASSY TRANSLATION)

JUDGE PRIORE RETURNS TO ITALY

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CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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3. (U) "IL MESSAGGERO" REPORTED SEPARATELY THAT INVESTIGATING MAGISTRATE (JUDGE) ROSARIO PRIORE SAID, AFTER HIS RETURN TO ITALY, "WE HAVE RECEIVED EXCELLENT COOPERATION AND HAVE ACQUIRED INFORMATION VERY USEFUL TO THE INVESTIGATION. WE HAVE ESTABLISHED A GOOD WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH THE

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PAGE 01 ROME 22238 03 OF 03 142010Z
ACTION EUR-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-17	AID-01	CIAE-00	COME-00	CFE-00	C-01
	OASY-00	DOTE-00	EB-01	E-01	FAAE-00	HA-09	H-01
	IMMC-01	INRE-00	INR-01	IO-19	L-03	ADS-00	NEA-01
	NRRC-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01	PA-02	PM-02
	PRS-01	P-01	SB-00	SCT-03	SNP-00	SP-00	SS-00
	STR-17	TRSE-00	T-01	/087W			

-----86008B 142010Z /38

O 142006Z DEC 92
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6568
SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
DEPT JUSTICE WASHDC IMMEDIATE
USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7811
INFO JOINT STAFF WASHDC
USMISSION USNATO
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
COMSIXTHFLT
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE//ECPA//ECJS//
CNO WASHDC//06/09C//
COMFAIRMED NAPLES IT
USNMR SHAPE BE
AMEMBASSY PARIS

UNCLAS SECTION 03 OF 03 ROME 22238

PENTAGON THAT WILL YIELD GOOD RESULTS IN THE FUTURE AS WELL." THE ARTICLE NOTED THAT, HAVING OBTAINED

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CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

212

USEFUL INFORMATION FROM THE U.S., THE INVESTIGATION WILL NOW TURN TOWARDS OTHER COUNTRIES THAT HAVE NOT YET PROVIDED THE LEVEL OF COOPERATION AFFORDED BY THE U.S. (I.E., FRANCE, LIBYA, AND RUSSIA).

4. (U) "IL MESSAGGERO" NOTED THAT JUDGE PRIORE HAD BEEN UNABLE TO DEPOSE TWO U.S. OFFICIALS DURING HIS FOUR DAY STAY IN THE U.S.: DUANE CLARRIDGE, ALLEGED "EX-HEAD OF THE CIA IN ITALY," AND DICK COE, "MILITARY ATTACHE AND MEMBER OF THE USTICA WORKING WORKING GROUP AT THE EMBASSY." ACCORDING TO "IL MESSAGGERO," CLARRIDGE SAID NO ONE HAD ASKED HIM TO MEET JUDGE PRIORE "PERHAPS BECAUSE I HAD JUST RETURNED FROM A VACATION IN SWITZERLAND." COE WAS NOT AVAILABLE BECAUSE HIS FLIGHT FROM DALLAS TO WASHINGTON, D.C. WAS CANCELLED DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER.

5. (C) COMMENT. LONG-TIME READERS OF THE USTICA SAGA WILL NOTE THAT CONSPIRACY THEORIES SURROUNDING THIS AFFAIR BREED LIKE RABBITS. SEPTEL REPORTS ITALY'S DIFFICULTY IN GETTING ITS TROOPS ON THE GROUND IN SOMALIA. ROME'S CENTRIST DAILY "IL TEMPO" DECEMBER 14 REPORTED THAT U.S. MILITARY AUTHORITIES, IN REACTION TO JUDGE PRIORE'S PRESENCE IN THE U.S. TO GATHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE USTICA AFFAIR, MAY HAVE INTENTIONALLY DELAYED ITALY'S REQUEST FOR FLIGHT CLEARANCES.

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Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1992ROME22654

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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PAGE 01 ROME 22654 01 OF 02 211653Z
ACTION EUR-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-17	AID-01	CIAE-00	COME-00	CFE-00	C-01
	OASY-00	DOTE-00	EB-01	E-01	FAAE-00	HA-09	H-01
	IMMC-01	INRE-00	INR-01	IO-19	L-03	ADS-00	NEA-01
	NRRC-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01	PA-01	PM-02
	PRS-01	P-01	SB-00	SCT-03	SNP-00	SP-00	SS-00
	STR-17	TRSE-00	T-01	/086W			

-----88C608 211655Z /38

O 211648Z DEC 92
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6913
SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
DEPT JUSTICE WASHDC IMMEDIATE
USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7832
INFO JOINT STAFF WASHDC
USMISSION USNATO
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
COMSIXTHFLT
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE//ECPA//ECJ5//
CNO WASHDC//06/09C//
COMFAIRMED NAPLES IT
USNMR SHAPE BE
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY PARIS

SECTION 01 OF 02 ROME 22654

STATE ALSO FOR P; USIA FOR EU, P/G; DOJ FOR CRIM

PAGE 02 ROME 22654 01 OF 02 211653Z
DIV/OIA L. BARSELLA

E.O. 12356:DECL:OADR
TAGS: PINR, NATO, PREL, IT
SUBJECT: USTICA: ITALIAN PRESS REPORTS MARRIAGE
PHOTO SHOWS "USS SARATOGA" IN PORT; ITALIAN GENERAL
(TASCIO) DISMISSED FROM AIR FORCE

REF(S): (A) ROME 22238 (B) ROME 22111 (C) ROME 21956
AND PREVIOUS

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Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

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DOC_NBR: 1992ROME22654

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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1. (U) SUMMARY. ITALIAN PRESS REPORTS DECEMBER 21 SAID MARRIAGE PHOTOS SHOW THE "USS SARATOGA" IN NAPLES ON THE DAY AN ITAVIA DC-9 PASSENGER PLANE CRASHED NEAR THE ISLAND OF USTICA IN JUNE, 1980. SEPARATELY, NATIONAL NEWSPAPERS DECEMBER 18 REPORTED THAT MOD SALVO ANDO' HAD DISMISSED GENERAL ZENO TASCIO, INDICTED IN THE USTICA AFFAIR, FROM THE ITALIAN AIR FORCE. END SUMMARY.

2. (U) LEFTIST, INDEPENDENT DAILY "LA REPUBBLICA" REPORTED DECEMBER 21 THAT MARRIAGE PHOTOGRAPHS SHOW THE PRESENCE OF THE "USS SARATOGA" IN THE BAY OF NAPLES ON JUNE 27, 1980. THE NEWSPAPER SAID POLICE HAD SEARCHED MARRIAGE RECORDS FROM THE CITY OF NAPLES AND INVITED THE FIVE COUPLES WHO HAD REGISTERED THEIR MARRIAGES THAT DAY TO APPEAR FOR UNOFFICIAL QUESTIONING. EACH COUPLE WAS REQUESTED TO BRING THEIR MARRIAGE PHOTOGRAPH ALBUMS. ACCORDING TO "LA REPUBBLICA," INVESTIGATORS DETERMINED THAT PHOTOGRAPHS IDENTIFYING THE SHIP WERE TAKEN BETWEEN
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1800 - 1900 ON THE DAY OF THE CRASH. THE ARTICLE SAID THE PICTURES CLEARLY SHOW THE OUTLINE OF AN AIRCRAFT CARRIER, ALTHOUGH THE SHIP'S IDENTIFICATION NUMBERS ARE NOT VISIBLE. THE NEWSPAPER SAID THE PRESENCE OF THE SHIP IS "UNMISTAKABLE." EXPERTS ARE NOW EXAMINING THE PRECISE ANGLES OF SHADOW ON THE PHOTOGRAPHS TO DETERMINE THE EXACT TIME WHEN THE PHOTOGRAPHS WERE TAKEN. THE ARTICLE CLOSED BY NOTING THAT IT WOULD HAVE BEEN IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE "USS SARATOGA" TO BE IN PORT BETWEEN 1800 - 1900 AND DEPART IN TIME TO LAUNCH AIRCRAFT THAT WERE CAPABLE OF CAUSING THE DISASTER BEFORE THE DC-9 REPORTEDLY CRASHED AT 2054 THAT SAME NIGHT.

3. (U) THE ITALIAN PRESS SEPARATELY REPORTED DECEMBER 18 THAT MOD SALVO ANDO' HAD DISMISSED AIR FORCE GENERAL ZENO TASCIO FROM MILITARY SERVICE. ACCORDING TO LEADING CENTRIST DAILY "CORRIERE DELLA SERA," GENERAL TASCIO WAS AMONG THOSE INDICTED JANUARY 1991 FOR "HIGH TREASON" RESULTING FROM THEIR INVOLVEMENT IN THE USTICA AFFAIR. GENERAL TASCIO WAS DIRECTOR OF THE ITALIAN AIR FORCE'S INTELLIGENCE SERVICE ("SIOS") AT THE TIME OF THE USTICA CRASH AND, ACCORDING TO NEWS REPORTS, WAS INVOLVED IN RECOVERING

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CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

213

THE AS-YET UNIDENTIFIED MIG FROM THE SILA MOUNTAINS,
AND PASSING TO "SISMI" (MILITARY INTELLIGENCE
SERVICE) THE FIRST TAPES OF RADAR TRACINGS FROM THE
NIGHT OF THE CRASH.

4. (U) LEADING CONSERVATIVE DAILY "IL GIORNALE"
DECEMBER 18 REPORTED THAT GENERAL TASCIO CONTACTED

PAGE 04 ROME 22654 01 OF 02 211653Z
"THE CIA" IN THE SUMMER OF 1980 FOR HELP IN
IDENTIFYING A MIG-23 THAT CRASHED IN SOUTHERN ITALY.
THE ARTICLE SAID U.S. COLONEL WARREN WALTERS,
ALLEGEDLY AN EXPERT IN MIG'S, WAS SENT FROM A U.S.
BASE IN WEISBADEN, GERMANY TO ITALY TO HELP IDENTIFY
THE WRECKAGE. THE NEWSPAPER SAID WALTERS HAD TAKEN
SOME PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE RECOVERED MIG AND REPORTEDLY
HAD INFORMATION ABOUT THE MIG'S FLIGHT. "IL GIORNALE"
SAID WALTERS ADMITTED TAKING PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE MIG
WHEN QUESTIONED BY ITALIAN INVESTIGATORS WHO
INTERVIEWED HIM IN THE U.S.

5. (C) COMMENT. WE WILL TAKE GOOD NEWS ON THE

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PAGE 01 ROME 22654 02 OF 02 211654Z
ACTION EUR-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-17	AID-01	CIAE-00	COME-00	CFE-00	C-01
	OASY-00	DOTE-00	EB-01	E-01	FAAE-00	HA-09	H-01
	IMMC-01	INRE-00	INR-01	IO-19	L-03	ADS-00	NEA-01
	NRRC-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01	PA-01	PM-02
	PRS-01	P-01	SB-00	SCT-03	SNP-00	SP-00	SS-00
	STR-17	TRSE-00	T-01	/086W			

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O 211648Z DEC 92
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6914
SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
DEPT JUSTICE WASHDC IMMEDIATE
USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7833
INFO JOINT STAFF WASHDC

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Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1992ROME22654

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

213

USMISSION USNATO
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
COMSIXTHFLT
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE//ECPA//ECJ5//
CNO WASHDC//06/09C//
COMFAIRMED NAPLES IT
USNMR SHAPE BE
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY PARIS

SECTION 02 OF 02 ROME'22654

STATE ALSO FOR P; USIA FOR EU, P/G; DOJ FOR CRIM

PAGE 02 ROME 22654 02 OF 02 211654Z
DIV/OIA L. BARSELLA

E.O. 12356:DECL:OADR
TAGS: PINR, NATO, PREL, IT
SUBJECT: USTICA: ITALIAN PRESS REPORTS MARRIAGE
PHOTO SHOWS "USS SARATOGA" IN PORT; ITALIAN GENERAL
(TASCIO) DISMISSED FROM AIR FORCE

USTICA AFFAIR FROM ANY QUARTER -- EVEN OLD WEDDING
PICTURES. ALTHOUGH THIS WILL PROBABLY NOT BE THE
LAST WORD ON THE WHEREABOUTS OF THE "SARATOGA" OR
U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN OTHER ASPECTS OF THE CASE, THE
PRESS WILL LIKELY NEXT FOCUS ON THE FINAL REPORT BY A
TEAM OF INTERNATIONAL ACCIDENT RECONSTRUCTION
EXPERTS, PRESENTLY DUE MID-JANUARY 1993.

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Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1992STATE043093

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a
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PAGE 01 STATE 043093 111913Z
ORIGIN EUR-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-15	AMAD-01	A-01	CG-00	CIAE-00	INRE-00
	INR-01	IO-19	JUSE-00	ADS-00	NSAE-00	OES-09	OIC-02
	OIG-01	OIS-01	PA-02	PRS-01	SIL-01	SP-01	SR-01

/057R

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DRAFTED BY: EUR/P: CTJORDAN
APPROVED BY: EUR/P: MCPEARSON
EUR/ISCA: JFTEFFT
PA/PRESS: PYOUNG

-----0DEC9F 111914Z /38

O 111915Z FEB 92
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO ALL EUROPEAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS IMMEDIATE
ALL POLADS COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE
USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE 0000
NSC WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0000
AMCONSUL ST PETERSBURG IMMEDIATE
USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0000
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 0000
INFO JCS WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0000
SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0000

UNCLAS STATE 043093

FOR PAOS GENEVA PASS TO NST AND CD DELS USIA PASS TO EU

[REDACTED]

PAGE 02 STATE 043093 111913Z
E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: OPRC
SUBJECT: EUR DAILY PRESS GUIDANCES - FEBRUARY 10, 1992

1. THE FOLLOWING ARE TODAY'S PRESS GUIDANCES OF EUROPEAN INTEREST PREPARED FOR THE DEPARTMENT'S DAILY PRESS BRIEFING. THE FOLLOWING GUIDANCES WERE NOT ADDRESSED AT TODAY'S BRIEFING.

2. YUGOSLAVIA

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Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1992STATE043093

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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Q: WAS THERE A REFERENDUM ON THE UN PEACEKEEPING EFFORT IN SO-CALLED KRAJINA? IF SO, WHAT WAS THE RESULT AND WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

A: -- NO, THERE WAS NO REFERENDUM. ON FEBRUARY 9 A NUMBER OF LOCAL SERBIAN LEADERS FROM WITHIN THE SO-CALLED "KRAJINA" IN CROATIA MET IN THE TOWN OF GLINA AND VOTED IN FAVOR OF ADOPTING THE VANCE PEACE PLAN.

-- I UNDERSTAND THAT LOCAL SERBIAN LEADER BABIC DISPUTES THE LEGITIMACY OF THOSE PROCEEDINGS AND IS CALLING FOR A REFERENDUM ON THE PLAN.

-- WE CONTINUE TO LOOK TOWARDS THE OFFICIAL PARTIES IN YUGOSLAVIA TO MAINTAIN THEIR PUBLIC COMMITMENT TO THE PEACE PLAN AND TO ENSURE ITS FULL IMPLEMENTATION.

-- IN REGARD TO THE SO-CALLED KRAJINA REPUBLIC, WE

PAGE 03 STATE 043093 111913Z
REITERATE THAT WE DO NOT RECOGNIZE TERRITORIAL CHANGES IN YUGOSLAVIA THAT HAVE BEEN ACHIEVED BY FORCE OR INTIMIDATION.

Q: WILL KRAJINA GO ALONG WITH THE PEACEKEEPING PLAN?

A: -- THE OPPOSITION FROM MR. BABIC REPRESENTS THE MAIN OBSTACLE TO IMPLEMENTATION OF THE VANCE PLAN. WE BELIEVE THAT THE LEADERSHIP OF SERBIA AND OF THE YUGOSLAV MILITARY HAVE A PARTICULAR RESPONSIBILITY AND OBLIGATION TO ENCOURAGE SERBIAN LEADERS IN CROATIA TO ACCEPT THE VANCE PLAN.

Q: IS TUDJMAN HAVING DOUBTS ABOUT THE PLAN?

A: -- IN A LETTER TO THE UN LAST THURSDAY, PRESIDENT TUDJMAN REAFFIRMED HIS FULL AND UNCONDITIONAL ACCEPTANCE OF THE VANCE PEACE PLAN. WE EXPECT HIM TO STICK TO THAT POSITION.

Q: DO YOU HAVE AN UPDATE ON THE FIGHTING? IS THE CEASEFIRE HOLDING?

A: -- REPORTS FROM OUR MISSIONS IN YUGOSLAVIA, UN

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MILITARY OBSERVERS, AND LOCAL MEDIA INDICATE THAT THE
CEASEFIRE IS HOLDING FAIRLY WELL DESPITE SPORADIC
VIOLATIONS.

3. ITALY: 1980 USTICA AIR TRAGEDY

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████████████████████

PAGE 04 STATE 043093 111913Z

Q: WAS THE ITALIAN AIRLINER DOWNED NEAR USTICA IN THE
MEDITERRANEAN IN 1980 SHOT DOWN BY A NATO MISSILE?

A: I WOULD REFER YOU TO NATO FOR ANY COMMENT ON THAT.

(IF ASKED)

Q: WAS THE U.S. MILITARY -- AS A PART OF NATO, FOR
EXAMPLE -- INVOLVED IN THE INCIDENT?

A: -- I WOULD REFER YOU TO THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE FOR
ANY COMMENT ON THAT.

Q: HOW IS THE U.S. COOPERATING WITH THE ITALIAN JUDICIAL
INVESTIGATIONS OF THE INCIDENT?

A: -- I BELIEVE THAT WE ARE COOPERATING, BUT I WOULD HAVE
TO REFER YOU TO THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE FOR THEIR
COMMENT ON THAT.

4. ROMANIA: LOCAL ELECTIONS

Q: WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE ELECTIONS IN ROMANIA? WERE
THEY FREE AND FAIR? WILL THE U.S. NOW RESTORE MFN FOR
ROMANIA?

A: -- IT'S TOO SOON TO COMMENT IN DETAIL. WE EXPECT TO
RECEIVE IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS THE ASSESSMENT OF OUR EMBASSY
AND FINAL REPORTS OF ELECTION OBSERVERS WHO HAVE BEEN
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████████████████████

PAGE 05 STATE 043093 111913Z
FOLLOWING BOTH THE CAMPAIGN AND THE VOTING.

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CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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-- VOTER TURN-OUT IS REPORTED TO BE ABOUT 70 PERCENT.

-- THE ELECTIONS THEMSELVES APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN CONDUCTED WITHOUT SERIOUS INCIDENT OR VIOLENCE, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE NORTHERN TOWN OF SAPINTA. THERE, A DISPUTE OVER THE MAYORAL CANDIDATES DISRUPTED THE VOTING AND SOME LOW-LEVEL VIOLENCE REPORTEDLY OCCURRED.

-- EARLY REPORTS SHOW THERE MAY BE RUN-OFF ELECTIONS FOR MAYOR IN SOME CITIES, INCLUDING BUCHAREST.

-- WE REPEAT, HOWEVER, THAT WE NEED FAR MORE INFORMATION BEFORE COMMENTING ON THE ELECTIONS AS A WHOLE.

(IF ASKED)

-- THERE WERE REPORTS OF SOME ORGANIZATIONAL PROBLEMS DURING THE CAMPAIGN PERIOD WHICH ARE OF CONCERN TO US AND WHICH WE ARE PRESENTLY EVALUATING.

-- WE CONTINUE TO KEEP THE QUESTION OF MFN UNDER REVIEW. THE CONDUCT OF THESE ELECTIONS WILL BE A FACTOR IN OUR THINKING. NO DECISIONS HAVE BEEN MADE YET.

5. CANADA: AMBASSADOR NEY

-- AMBASSADOR NEY HAS INDICATED TO LEAVE HIS POST SOMETIME DURING THE FIRST HALF OF THIS YEAR. IN THE MEANTIME, HE

PAGE 06 STATE 043093 111913Z
IS U.S. AMBASSADOR TO CANADA AND HAS THE PRESIDENT'S FULL CONFIDENCE AND SUPPORT.

Q: WHAT ABOUT A REPLACEMENT?

A: -- THAT IS FOR THE WHITE HOUSE TO ANNOUNCE, WHEN IT IS APPROPRIATE.

-- WE ARE NOT AWARE OF ANY ANNOUNCEMENTS.

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Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1993ROME00862

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a
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PAGE 01 ROME 00862 01 OF 02 191927Z
ACTION EUR-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-17	AID-01	CIAE-00	COME-00	CPE-00	C-01
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	H-01	IMMC-01	INRE-00	INR-01	IO-19	L-03	ADS-00
	NEA-01	NRRC-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01	PA-01
	PM-02	PRS-01	P-01	SB-00	SCT-03	SNP-00	SP-00
	SS-00	STR-17	TRSE-00	T-01	/088W		

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R 191919Z JAN 93
 FM AMEMBASSY ROME
 TO USIA WASHDC 7929
 DEPT JUSTICE WASHDC
 SECSTATE WASHDC 7795
 SECDEF WASHDC
 INFO COM SIXTHFLT
 CNO WASHDC//06/09C//
 CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
 USMISSION USNATO
 JOINT STAFF WASHDC
 AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
 AMEMBASSY PARIS
 AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
 USNMR SHAPE BE
 COMFAIRMED NAPLES IT
 USCINCEUR VAHINGEN GE//ECPA/ECJ5//

SECTION 01 OF 02 ROME 000862

PAGE 02 ROME 00862 01 OF 02 191927Z
 STATE ALSO FOR P; USIA FOR EU, P/G; DOJ FOR CRIM
 DIV/OIA L. BARSELLA

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
 TAGS: PINR, NATO, PREL, IT
 SUBJECT: USTICA: ITALIAN PRESS REPORTS SUSPICIOUS
 DEATH OF ITALIAN EX-AIR FORCE GENERAL BOEMIO;
 ACCIDENT EXPERT ROBBED OF RADAR DATA; EX-SOVIET GRU
 CAPTAIN SAYS U.S. SHOT DOWN PLANE DURING MILITARY
 EXERCISE

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Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1993ROME00862

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

222

REF(S): (A) 92 ROME 22654 (B) 92 ROME 22238
(C) 92 ROME 22111 AND PREVIOUS

1. (U) SUMMARY. ITALIAN PRESS REPORTS JANUARY 14-19 SAID ITALIAN EX-AIR FORCE GENERAL ROBERTO BOEMIO WAS ATTACKED AND KILLED DURING AN APPARENT ROBBERY IN BRUSSELS. BOEMIO HAD BEEN CHIEF OF STAFF FOR THE THIRD AIR REGION, HEADQUARTERED IN BARI, AT THE TIME AN ITAVIA DC-9 PASSENGER CRASHED NEAR THE ISLAND OF USTICA ON JUNE 27, 1980. SEPARATELY, THE ITALIAN PRESS REPORTED THAT A RETIRED SOVIET MILITARY INTELLIGENCE (GRU) AGENT CLAIMED A U.S. FIGHTER ACCIDENTLY SHOT DOWN THE DC-9 DURING A MILITARY EXERCISE. LASTLY, THE PRESS FOCUSED ON THE MISFORTUNE OF SWEDISH ACCIDENT RECONSTRUCTION EXPERT (GUNNO GUNNVAL), WHO WAS ROBBED IN A ROME TRAIN STATION, LOSING COPIES OF FLOPPY DISKS CONTAINING DATA ON THE USTICA CRASH. END SUMMARY.

2. (U) THE ITALIAN PRESS REPORTED WIDELY JANUARY

PAGE 03 ROME 00862 01 OF 02 191927Z
14-19 ON THE VIOLENT DEATH OF RETIRED ITALIAN AIR FORCE GENERAL ROBERTO BOEMIO WHO, AT THE TIME OF THE USTICA CRASH, WAS CHIEF OF STAFF FOR THE THIRD AIR REGION. HEADQUARTERED IN BARI, THIS COMMAND EXERCISED OPERATIONAL CONTROL AND SUPERVISION OVER THE RADAR AND AIR DEFENSE SYSTEMS FOR SOUTHERN ITALY. BOEMIO WAS ATTACKED JANUARY 12 OUTSIDE HIS HOME IN BRUSSELS BY TWO ASSAILANTS WHO STABBED HIM THREE TIMES; THE LAST TIME DIRECTLY INTO HIS HEART THROUGH SEVERAL LAYERS OF CLOTHES. HE IMMEDIATELY LOST CONSCIOUSNESS AND DIED A FEW HOURS LATER IN A LOCAL HOSPITAL. THE ITALIAN MEDIA SPECULATED THAT BOEMIO, INDICTED ALONG WITH OTHER HIGH MILITARY OFFICIALS FOR HIS ROLE IN THE USTICA AFFAIR, WAS PROFESSIONALLY KILLED TO PREVENT HIM FROM TESTIFYING FURTHER ABOUT THE MILITARY'S INVOLVEMENT IN THE TRAGEDY. PRESS ACCOUNTS POINT TO THE APPARENT PRE-PLANNING OF THE ATTACK, THE SPECIFIC STABBING TECHNIQUE, AND THE LACK OF ANY OTHER CREDIBLE MOTIVE (COMMENT. BOEMIO'S WALLET REPORTEDLY REMAINED IN HIS POCKET.) AS PROOF THAT HE WAS KILLED EITHER FOR HIS PREVIOUS TESTIMONY OR FOR WHAT HE MIGHT ADD TO INVESTIGATING JUDGE PRIORE'S CONTINUING INQUIRIES. LEFTIST, INDEPENDENT DAILY "LA REPUBBLICA" JANUARY 16

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REPORTED THAT BELGIAN AUTHORITIES HAVE ALREADY ASKED FOR INFORMATION COLLECTED BY ITALIAN USTICA INVESTIGATORS.

3. (U) SEPARATELY, NATIONAL NEWSPAPERS REPORTED WIDELY JANUARY 15 THAT SWEDISH ACCIDENT RECONSTRUCTION SPECIALIST (GUNNO GUNNVAL), APPOINTED

PAGE 04 ROME 00862 01 OF 02 191927Z
BY JUDGE PRIORE TO THE TEAM OF EXPERTS WHOSE FINAL REPORT ON THE CAUSE OF THE CRASH IS DUE AT THE END OF THE MONTH, WAS ROBBED AT A ROME RAILWAY STATION AND LOST A BRIEFCASE HOLDING COPIES OF FLOPPY DISKS THAT CONTAINED DATA ON THE USTICA CRASH. (COMMENT. FROM PRESS REPORTS ABOUT THE ROBBERY, IT APPEARS THAT GUNNVAL'S BRIEFCASE WAS LIFTED LIKE THOSE OF NUMEROUS OTHER UNSUSPECTING VISITORS TO ITALY WHO ARE THE VICTIMS OF PETTY THEFT. THERE WAS NO INDICATION THAT HE WAS TARGETED FOR HIS INVOLVEMENT WITH THE EXPERT TEAM APPOINTED BY JUDGE PRIORE. END COMMENT.) CENTRIST DAILY "LA STAMPA" NOTED JANUARY 15 THAT NO HARM HAD ACTUALLY BEEN DONE: GUNNVAL HAD PRUDENTLY MADE BACK-UP COPIES OF HIS DISKS BEFORE TRAVELING TO ROME.

4. (U) LASTLY, ANTONIO PURGATOR I IN "CORRIERE DELLA SERA" JANUARY 19 REPORTED THAT RETIRED SOVIET MILITARY INTELLIGENCE (GRU) CAPTAIN (ANATOLIJ IVANOV), IN AN INTERVIEW WITH ITALIAN PRIVATE

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ACTION EUR-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-17	AID-01	CIAE-00	COME-00	CFE-00	C-01
	OASY-00	DOTE-00	CISA-02	EB-01	E-01	FAAE-00	HA-09
	H-01	IMMC-01	INRE-00	INR-01	IO-19	L-03	ADS-00
	NEA-01	NRRC-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01	PA-01
	PM-02	PRS-01	P-01	SB-00	SCT-03	SNP-00	SP-00
	SS-00	STR-17	TRSE-00	T-01	/088W		

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DOC_NBR: 1993ROME00862

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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-----91E354 192001Z /38

R 191919Z JAN 93
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO USIA WASHDC 7930
DEPT JUSTICE WASHDC
SECSTATE WASHDC 7796
SECDEF WASHDC
INFO COM SIXTHFLT
CNO WASHDC//06/09C//
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
USMISSION USNATO
JOINT STAFF WASHDC
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USNMR SHAPE BE
COMFAIRMED NAPLES IT
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE//ECPA/ECJ5//

SECTION 02 OF 02 ROME 000862

PAGE 02 ROME 00862 02 OF 02 191928Z
STATE ALSO FOR P; USIA FOR EU, P/G; DOJ FOR CRIM
DIV/OIA L. BARSELLA

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: PINR, NATO, PREL, IT
SUBJECT: USTICA: ITALIAN PRESS REPORTS SUSPICIOUS
DEATH OF ITALIAN EX-AIR FORCE GENERAL BOEMIO;
ACCIDENT EXPERT ROBBED OF RADAR DATA; EX-SOVIET GRU
CAPTAIN SAYS U.S. SHOT DOWN PLANE DURING MILITARY
EXERCISE

TELEVISION CHANNEL "GRL," SAID A U.S. NAVY FIGHTER
ACCIDENTLY FIRED A MISSILE AND SHOT DOWN THE ITAVIA
DC-9 PASSENGER PLANE DURING A MILITARY EXERCISE.
ACCORDING TO "CORRIERE," IVANOV COMPARED THIS
ACCIDENT TO THE SOVIET DOWNING OF KOREAN AIR 007
SEVERAL YEARS AGO. THE ARTICLE SAID IVANOV WAS
ASSIGNED TO GRU "ITALIAN AFFAIRS" AT THE TIME OF THE
USTICA CRASH AND WORKED WITH A GROUP OF SOVIET
MILITARY INTELLIGENCE EXPERTS ON THE TRAGEDY. ASKED
ABOUT THE WHEREABOUTS OF THE "USS SARATOGA" AT THE
TIME, IVANOV REPORTEDLY SAID HE COULD NOT CONFIRM THE
SHIP WAS IN PORT AS THE USG HAS REPEATEDLY CLAIMED

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CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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"CORRIERE" REPORTED THAT IVANOV BASED HIS CONCLUSIONS ON GRU ARCHIVES CONTAINING BOTH SOVIET AND ITALIAN DOCUMENTS. ACCORDING TO THE ARTICLE, IVANOV NOTED THAT SOVIET SUBMARINES ROUTINELY TRACKED U.S. MILITARY SHIP MOVEMENTS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN AND UNDOUBTEDLY SURVEILLED THE "SARATOGA." IVANOV CATEGORICALLY DENIED THAT THE SOVIET UNION HAD ANY RELATIONSHIP TO THE LIBYAN MIG-23 FOUND IN THE ██████████
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PAGE 03 ROME 00862 02 OF 02 191928Z
MOUNTAINS OF SOUTHERN ITALY SEVERAL WEEKS AFTER THE USTICA CRASH.

5. (C) COMMENT. THE DEATH OF BOEMIO -- PARTICULARLY IF BELGIAN POLICE ARE UNABLE TO COME UP WITH OTHER MOTIVES FOR THE CRIME -- AND THE "REVELATIONS" OF THE FORMER SOVIET OFFICIAL ARE NEW GRIST FOR THE USTICA MILL. THE INVESTIGATING JUDGE UNDOUBTEDLY WILL BE OBLIGED TO FOLLOW UP BOTH. STRANGELY, ACCORDING TO INFORMED ITALIAN MOD SOURCES, THE RUSSIAN GOVERNMENT HAS CHOSEN NOT TO ACCEPT THE ITALIAN ROGATORY ON THE USTICA INVESTIGATION.

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16 Apr 2002

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PAGE 01 ROME 01010 211647Z
ACTION EUR-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-17	AID-01	CIAE-00	COME-00	CFE-00	C-01
	OASY-00	DOFE-00	EB-01	E-01	FAAE-00	HA-09	H-01
	IMMC-01	INRE-00	INR-01	IO-19	L-03	ADS-00	NEA-01
	NRRC-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01	PA-01	PM-02
	PRS-01	P-01	SB-00	SCT-03	SNP-00	SP-00	SS-00
	STR-17	TRSE-00	T-01	/086W			

-----92BA90 211901Z /38

R 211635Z JAN 93
 FM AMEMBASSY ROME
 TO DEPT JUSTICE WASHDC
 SECDEF WASHDC
 SECSTATE WASHDC 7878
 USIA WASHDC 7943
 INFO JOINT STAFF WASHDC
 COMFAIRMED NAPLES IT
 USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE//ECPA/ECJ5//
 USMISSION USNATO
 COM SIXTHFLT
 CNO WASHDC//06/09C//
 USNMR SHAPE BE
 CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK

[REDACTED] ROME 001010

STATE ALSO FOR P; USIA FOR EU, P/G; DOJ FOR CRIM
DIV/OIA L. BARSELLA

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

PAGE 02 ROME 01010 211647Z
 E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
 TAGS: PINR, NATO, PREL, IT
 SUBJECT: USTICA: SAVED BY THE (WEDDING) BELL --
 ITALIAN PRESS REPORTS MARRIAGE PHOTOS SHOW "USS
 SARATOGA" IN PORT THE NIGHT OF THE CRASH

REF(S): (A) ROME 00862 (B) 92 ROME 22654
(C) 92 ROME 22238 AND PREVIOUS

1. (U) SUMMARY. ITALIAN PRESS REPORTS JANUARY 21
SAID MARRIAGE PHOTOGRAPHS, TRADITIONALLY TAKEN NEAR

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NAPLES BAY, SHOWED THAT THE "USS SARATOGA" WAS IN PORT JUST BEFORE AND AFTER AN ITAVIA DC-9 PASSENGER PLANE CRASHED NEAR THE ISLAND OF USTICA IN JUNE 1980. LEFTIST, INDEPENDENT DAILY "LA REPUBBLICA" REPORTED THAT FIVE SEPARATE PHOTOGRAPHS CONTAIN "VERY CLEAR" IMAGES OF THE SHIP ANCHORED IN THE PORT OF NAPLES JUNE 27 AND 28, 1980. END SUMMARY.

2. (U) NATIONAL NEWSPAPERS REPORTED WIDELY JANUARY 21 THAT INVESTIGATING MAGISTRATE PRIORE HAD RECEIVED, PURSUANT TO HIS OFFICIAL REQUEST, OVER 300 MARRIAGE PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN AT LOCAL PLACES OF INTEREST JUNE 27-28, 1980 DURING THE TRADITIONAL ROUND OF POST-NUPTIAL FESTIVITIES FOR ITALIAN NEWLYWEDS IN NAPLES. OF THIS NUMBER, FIVE PHOTOGRAPHS SHOW THE PRESENCE OF THE "USS SARATOGA" IN NAPLES BAY JUST BEFORE AND AFTER THE USTICA TRAGEDY. "LA REPUBBLICA" NOTED, "THE IMAGE OF THE SHIP IS VERY CLEAR AND ONE CAN EVEN SEE THE SHIP'S DISTINCTIVE NUMBERS THROUGH A MAGNIFYING GLASS." PRESS ACCOUNTS SAID THAT, ALTHOUGH JUDGE PRIORE WOULD NOW TRY TO DETERMINE THE

PAGE 03 ROME 01010 211647Z
EXACT TIME THAT EACH PHOTOGRAPH WAS TAKEN, IT WAS APPARENT THAT THE SHIP WAS ANCHORED IN NAPLES PORT 1700 (LOCAL TIME) JUNE 27 AND EARLY MORNING JUNE 28.

3. (U) A REFRAIN WE HAVE HEARD BEFORE WAS REPLAYED BY ANTONIO PURGATORI IN "CORRIERE DELLA SERA" WHEN HE SPECULATED THAT THE "SARATOGA" COULD HAVE VENTURED OUT FROM PORT AND RETURNED WITHIN THE APPROXIMATELY 12 HOURS DURING WHICH THERE WERE NO PHOTOGRAPHS. BY AND LARGE, HOWEVER, PRESS REPORTS ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE PHOTOGRAPHS CONSTITUTED STRONG SUPPORT FOR U.S. CLAIMS THAT THE SHIP WAS IN PORT AT THE TIME OF THE CRASH.

4. (C) COMMENT. WE WERE PLEASED TO SEE INDEPENDENT CORROBORATION THAT THE "SARATOGA" WAS IN PORT AT THE TIME OF THE CRASH, AND FROM A SOURCE PARTICULARLY FAMILIAR TO EVERY ITALIAN -- WEDDING "SNAPS" THAT ARE TRADITIONALLY TAKEN AT LOCAL PLACES OF INTEREST IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING MARRIAGE. WE ALSO NOTE THAT, BY ASSIDUOUSLY FOLLOWING THE UNSOLICITED SUGGESTION TO REQUEST SUCH WEDDING PICTURES (REF B), JUDGE PRIORE DISPLAYED THE INITIATIVE AND THOROUGHNESS FOR WHICH HE IS WELL KNOWN.

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CHANNEL: n/a
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PAGE 01 ROME 02866 01 OF 02 201137Z
ACTION EUR-01

INFO	LOG-00	AID-01	CA-02	CIAE-00	C-01	DEAE-00	OASY-00
	DODE-00	CISA-02	OIGO-01	HA-09	H-01	INM-02	INR-00
	L-03	ADS-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OCS-06	OMB-01	PA-01
	PM-02	PRS-01	P-01	RPCS-01	SCT-03	SNP-00	SP-00
	SS-00	TRSE-00	T-01	USIE-00	/040W		

-----9E36C2 201137Z /38

P 201133Z FEB 93
 FM AMEMBASSY ROME
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9108
 INFO AMCONSUL MILAN
 AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
 AMEMBASSY VIENNA
 AMCONSUL NAPLES
 AMEMBASSY TIRANA
 AMEMBASSY VALLETTA
 AMEMBASSY ZAGREB
 AMEMBASSY BERN
 AMEMBASSY LJUBLJANA
 DIRFBI WASHDC
 DEPT OF JUSTICE WASH DC
 ALLEC COLLECTIVE
 AMCONSUL PALERMO//POUCH
 AMCONSUL FLORENCE//POUCH

EXTEND CLASSIFICATION

SECTION 01 OF 02 ROME 002866

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
 TAGS: PREL, PGOV, OVIP, CJAN, SNAR, IT
 SUBJECT: ITALIAN PRESS SURPRISED AT ORLANDO'S U.S.

PAGE 02 ROME 02866 01 OF 02 201137Z
RECEPTION

REF: 92 ROME 22438

SUMMARY

1. (U) ITALIAN NEWSPAPERS HAVE TREATED U.S. REACTION

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CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

225

TO "LA RETE" LEADER LEOLUCA ORLANDO'S ONGOING VISIT WITH SURPRISE. A STORY IN LEADING MILAN DAILY "CORRIERE DELLA SERA" FEBRUARY 18 LISTS STATEMENTS U.S. NEWSPAPERS HAVE QUOTED HIM AS HAVING MADE ABOUT HIS ROLE IN UNCOVERING ALLEGED SHIPMENTS OF RUSSIAN NUCLEAR MATERIAL THROUGH ITALY, AND CONCLUDES, AMAZED, THAT "THEY ARE TAKING ORLANDO AT HIS WORD." ACCORDING TO ANOTHER ACCOUNT, "AT THE STATE DEPARTMENT, AT THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT, AND AT THE FBI, ORLANDO ASKED THE AMERICA OF BILL CLINTON TO NO LONGER PROTECT, AS IT DID FOR DECADES IN THE PAST, ITALIAN POLITICIANS WHO COLLUDE WITH THE MAFIA AND ORGANIZED CRIME." HIS CONVERSATIONS WERE ALSO REPORTED TO HAVE DEALT WITH THE USTICA AFFAIR. NO U.S. MEDIA THAT WE HAVE SEEN HAVE QUESTIONED ORLANDO ON THE NUMEROUS POSITIONS HE AND HIS PARTY HAVE TAKEN HOSTILE TO U.S. POSITIONS, SUCH AS EMBRACING ARAFAT ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS AND OPPOSING OPERATION DESERT STORM. END SUMMARY.

ITALIAN PRESS: AMAZED AND AMUSED
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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2. (U) ITALIAN MEDIA REPORTS HAVE TAKEN A TONE OF SURPRISE AT THE LEVEL AND TONE OF COVERAGE LEOLUCA ORLANDO HAS RECEIVED FROM U.S. MEDIA DURING HIS ONGOING VISIT. THE "CORRIERE" ARTICLE, FOR EXAMPLE, TERMED "REVOLUTIONARY" THE FACT THAT LEFT-WING ORLANDO KEPT THE EDITORS OF THE "WALL STREET JOURNAL" WAITING FOR THEIR APPOINTMENT, BUT THEN RECEIVED A LAUDATORY HALF PAGE FEATURE. THE "CORRIERE" ARTICLE SAID THAT, AMONG ITALIAN POLITICAL FIGURES, ONLY FORMER FM DE MICHELIS AND FORMER PM CRAÏI, AT THE TIME OF THE SIGONELLA INCIDENT, RECEIVED SUCH A LEVEL OF COVERAGE IN THE U.S. MEDIA.

3. (U) ROME LEADING DAILY "IL MESSAGGERO" NOTED THAT THE OCCURRENCE OF POSSIBLE SHIPMENTS OF URANIUM AND OTHER NUCLEAR MATERIAL FROM RUSSIA THROUGH ITALY WAS NOT A DISCOVERY OF ORLANDO'S, AS HE HAD SUGGESTED, BUT INSTEAD HAD FIRST BEEN BROUGHT TO PUBLIC ATTENTION BY FLORENCE PROSECUTOR VIGNA. ACCORDING TO "IL MESSAGGERO," THE HEAD OF THE FBI'S ANTIMAFIA

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CHANNEL: n/a
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SECTION, JIM MOODY, HAD "CONFIRMED" ORLANDO'S STATEMENTS BY SAYING "I KNOW OF SOME EPISODES IN WHICH NUCLEAR MATERIAL HAS BEEN STOLEN FROM THE EX-USSR WITH THE INTENTION OF SELLING IT ON THE WORLD MARKET."

4. (U) THE ARTICLE DEVOTES SEVERAL PARAGRAPHS TO ORLANDO'S INTERVIEW WITH "U.S.A. TODAY" ON THIS TOPIC, IN WHICH HIS COMPANION, "LA RETE" SENATOR

PAGE 04 ROME 02866 01 OF 02 201137Z
CARMINE MANCUSO, PALERMO, CHARGED THAT A SHIPMENT OF TWO KILOGRAMS AND 200 GRAMS OF ENRICHED URANIUM AT THIRTY PER CENT OF PURITY WAS OFFERED FOR SALE FOR TWO MILLION DOLLARS. "IT ARRIVED IN MUNICH FROM POLAND," SAID MANCUSO. "THEN, LAST OCTOBER, WITHIN THE BORDERS OF AUSTRIA AND (THE ITALIAN PROVINCE OF) FRIULI (BORDERING ON AUSTRIA), PEOPLE WERE ARRESTED WHO WERE TRYING TO LOAD M-18 HELICOPTERS AND SOME SHIPS FROM THE RED ARMY DESTINED FOR LIBYA AND OTHER ARAB COUNTRIES." THE "MESSAGGERO" ARTICLE CONCLUDES, AMAZED, THAT "THEY TOOK ORLANDO AT HIS WORD."

THE U.S. SHOULD "NO LONGER" PROTECT ITALIAN MAFIA

5. (U) AMONG THE STATEMENTS ORLANDO IS REPORTED TO HAVE MADE IS THE FOLLOWING: "AMERICA SHOULD NO LONGER PROTECT ITALIAN POLITICIANS WHO COLLUDE WITH THE

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PAGE 01 ROME 02866 02 OF 02 201137Z
ACTION EUR-01

INFO LOG-00 AID-01 CA-02 CIAE-00 C-01 DEAE-00 OASY-00
DODE-00 CISA-02 OIGO-01 HA-09 H-01 INM-02 INR-00
L-03 ADS-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 OCS-06 OMB-01 PA-01
PM-02 PRS-01 P-01 RPCS-01 SCT-03 SNP-00 SP-00
SS-00 TRSE-00 T-01 USIE-00 /040W
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Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1993ROME02866

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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P 201133Z FEB 93
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9109
INFO AMCONSUL MILAN
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
AMCONSUL NAPLES
AMEMBASSY TIRANA
AMEMBASSY VALLETTA
AMEMBASSY ZAGREB
AMEMBASSY BERN
AMEMBASSY LJUBLJANA
DIRFBI WASHDC
DEPT OF JUSTICE WASH DC
ALLEC COLLECTIVE
AMCONSUL PALERMO//POUCH
AMCONSUL FLORENCE//POUCH

SECTION 02 OF 02 ROME 002866

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PREL, PGOV, OVIP, CJAN, SNAR, IT
SUBJECT: ITALIAN PRESS SURPRISED AT ORLANDO'S U.S.

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RECEPTION

MAFIA AND CRIMINAL ORGANIZATIONS, AS IT DID FOR
DECADES IN THE PA
ST. THE COLD WAR IS OVER, AND
CERTAIN MEN NO LONGER NEED TO BE MAINTAINED IN
POWER." HE IS REPORTED TO HAVE SAID THIS AT THE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, THE FBI, AND THE DEPARTMENT OF
STATE, WHERE THE "CORRIERE" ARTICLE HAD ORLANDO
MEETING WITH "THE HEAD OF THE EUROPEAN DEPARTMENT OF
THE STATE DEPARTMENT."

6. (U) "WHENEVER SOMETHING USED TO GO BADLY IN
ITALY, (FORMER PMS) GIULIO ANDREOTTI AND BETTINO
CRAXI WOULD GO TO AMERICA TO ASK FOR HELP...BUT TIMES
HAVE CHANGED AND THE 'NOMENKLATURA' OF THE COLD WAR
IS NO LONGER NECESSARY FOR MAINTAINING INTERNATIONAL
EQUILIBRIUM," HE IS REPORTED TO HAVE TOLD THE
NATIONAL PRESS CLUB.

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CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

225

...AND USTICA

7. (U) THE ITALIAN MEDIA ALSO REPORT THAT ORLANDO TOLD U.S. OFFICIALS THAT THE U.S. AND ITALY MUST "WORK TOGETHER ON INVESTIGATIONS IN PROGRESS. YOU SHOULD HELP US TO SOLVE MYSTERIES. BEGINNING WITH THE USTICA TRAGEDY."

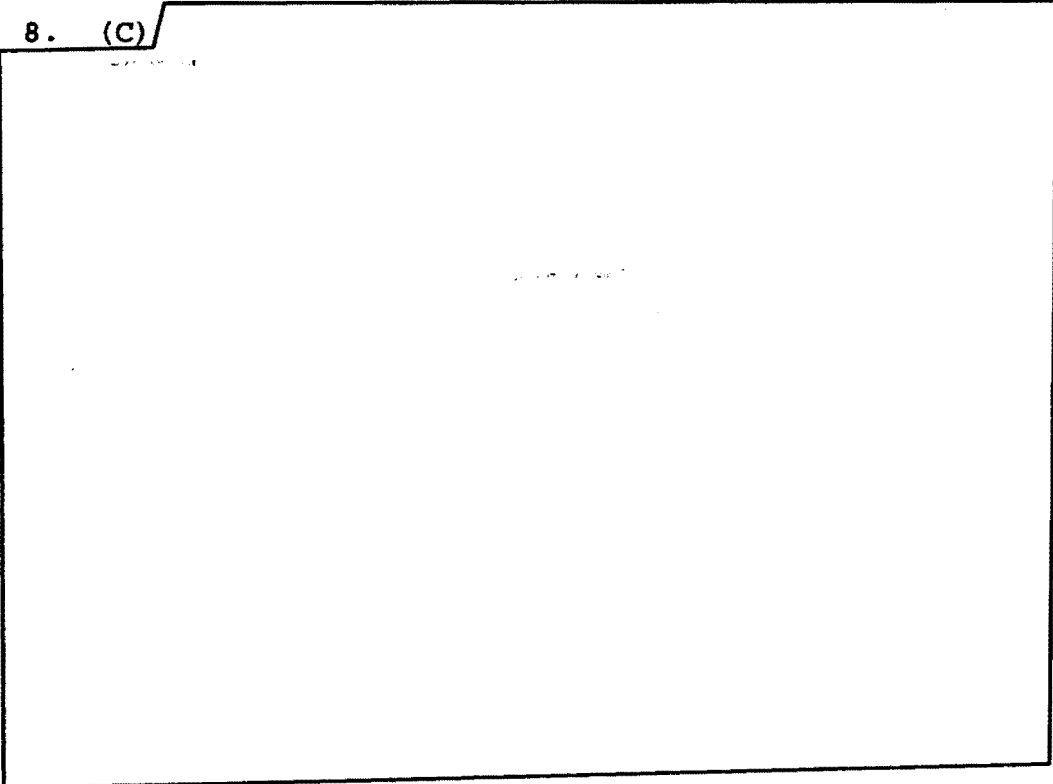
SUMMARY

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

PAGE 03

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8. (C)



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[REDACTED]

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Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1993ROME03648

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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PAGE 01 ROME 03648 01 OF 02 031818Z
ACTION EUR-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-17	AID-01	CIAE-00	COME-00	CFE-00	C-01
	OASY-00	DOTI-00	EB-01	E-01	FAAE-00	HA-09	H-01
	IMMC-01	INR-00	IO-19	L-03	ADS-00	NEA-01	NRRC-00
	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01	PA-01	PM-02	PRS-01
	P-01	RPCS-01	SB-00	SCT-03	SNP-00	SP-00	SS-00
	STR-17	TRSE-00	T-00	/085W			

-----A29329 031923Z /43

P 031804Z MAR 93
 FM AMEMBASSY ROME
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9592
 SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
 DEPT JUSTICE WASHDC PRIORITY
 USIA WASHDC PRIORITY 8223
 INFO USNMR SHAPE BE
 COMFAIRMED NAPLES IT
 CNO WASHDC//06/09C//
 USCINCEUR VAHINGEN GE//ECPA/ECJ5//
 COM SIXTHFLT
 JOINT STAFF WASHDC
 CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
 USMISSION USNATO

SECTION 01 OF 02 ROME 03648

STATE ALSO FOR P; USIA FOR EU, P/G; DOJ FOR CRIM
DIV/OIA L. BARSELLA

PAGE 02 ROME 03648 01 OF 02 031818Z

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
 TAGS: PINR, NATO, PREL, IT
 SUBJECT: USTICA: KGB COLONEL TELLS ITALIAN PRESS
 THAT SOVIETS MONITORED USTICA SHOOT-DOWN BY AMERICAN
 FIGHTERS; OLD ISSUES AIRED ANEW

REF(S): (A) ROME 01010 AND PREVIOUS

1. (C) SUMMARY: ITALIAN RADIO 3 MARCH CARRIED AN
 INTERVIEW WITH AN EX-KGB COLONEL WHO CLAIMED THAT A
 SOVIET RADAR IN LIBYA HAD MONITORED THE SHOOTING DOWN

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: ERIC W. FLEISHER
 DATE/CASE ID: 29 OCT 2002 200102359

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Date Printed:
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DOC_NBR: 1993ROME03648

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

226

OF THE CIVILIAN AIRLINER NEAR USTICA IN 1980 BY A

U.S. FIGHTER AIRCRAFT BASED IN SARDINIA. DEFENSE MINISTER ANDO' AND INVESTIGATING MAGISTRATE PRIORE (AMONG OTHERS) WERE ALSO INTERVIEWED FOR COMMENTS. THE ITALIAN WIRE SERVICE "ANSA" PICKED UP THE INTERVIEW AND ALSO CARRIED A DENIAL BY THE PENTAGON OF U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN THE CRASH. IN OTHER USTICA COVERAGE, A LEADING WEEKLY NEWS MAGAZINE REHASHED OLD QUESTIONS AND ALLEGATION IN AN ARTICLE BASED ON CABLE TRAFFIC RELEASED UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT. END SUMMARY.

2. (U) ITALIAN RADIO "UNO" CARRIED AN INTERVIEW 3 MARCH WITH AN EX-KGB COLONEL PAVLOV, WHO CLAIMED THAT A SE CRET SOVIET RADAR IN LIBYA, IN THE COURSE OF MINITORING A NATO "LIVE-FIRE" EXERCISE, RECORDED THE 27 JUNE 1981 DOWNING OF THE CIVILIAN AIRLINER NEAR USTICA ISLAND BY A U.S. FIGHTER AIRCRAFT. HE CLAIMED THE AIRCRAFT HAD TAKEN OFF FROM A BASE ON SARDINIA

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CND THAT#HE MISSILE HAD "ESCAPED" CONTROL. HE ALSO NOTED THAT THE CIVILIAN AIRLINER WAS OUTSIDE NORMAL CIVIL AIR TRAFFIC CORRIDORS AT THE TIME.

3. (U) RADIO "UNO" ALSO INTERVIEWED (AMONG OTHERS) INVESTIGATING MAGISTRATE PRIORE AND DEFENSE MINISTER ANDO' FOR COMMENT ON PAVLOV'S ALLEGATIONS. PRIORE, WHILE ACKNOWLEDGING THAT PAVLOV'S ALLEGATIONS WOULD BE CAREFULLY EXAMINED, ALSO NOTED THAT THE SOVIET RADAR MENTIONED BY PAVLOV WOULD HAVE HAD TO BE EXCEPTIONALLY POWERFUL FOR THAT GENERATION OF TECHNOLOGY, ESPECIALLY TO BE ABLE TO IDENTIFY AT A RANGE OF 750 KMS. THE TYPE OF AIRCRAFT INVOLVED AND TO PICK OUT AN OBJECT THE SIZE OF AN AIR-TO-AIR MISSILE. PRIORE SAID HE WOULD FOLLOW UP WITH AN OFFICIAL INQUIRY TO THE RUSSIAN GOVERNMENT. (IN A SEPARATE INTERVIEW, FORMER SOVIET PRESIDENT GORBACHEV DENIED ANY KNOWLEDGE OF PAVLOV'S ALLEGATIONS, BUT URGED THE RUSSIAN GOVERNMENT TO BE COOPERATIVE.)

4. (U) IN HIS INTERVIEW, DEFENSE MINISTER ANDO' SAID THE ITALIAN DEFENSE MINISTRY WOULD COOPERATE FULLY WITH PRIORE'S INVESTIGATION WHILE BEING CAREFUL NOT TO DUPLICATE OR CONFUSE THE ISSUES. IN RESPONSE

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TO QUESTIONS, ANDO' ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE USTICA CASE WAS BEING PURSUED ON A POLITICAL AS WELL AS JUDICIAL TRACK. HE NOTED IN THIS CONTEXT HIS VISIT TO WASHINGTON LATER THIS MONTH, ALTHOUGH HE SAID HE WOULD MEET AGAIN WITH PRIORE TO SEE WHAT IF ANYTHING THE DEFENSE MINISTRY COULD DO TO SUPPORT THE JUDICIAL INVESTIGATION OF THESE NEW ALLEGATIONS.

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5. (U) THE ITALIAN WIRE SERVICE "ANSA" PICKED UP THE RADIO "UNO" INTERVIEWS, INCLSDING A DENIAL BY DOD SPOKESMAN KEITH ARTERBURN THAT ANY U.S.NAVY SHIPS OR U.S. (COMBAT) AIRCRAFT WERE IN THE AREA AT THE TIME OF THE CRASH.

6. (U) SEVERAC DAYS PRIOR TO THE PAVLOV ALLEGATIONS, THE LEADING ITALIAN NEWS WEEKLY "PANORAMA" RAN A LONG ARTICLE REITERATING NUMEROUS PAST ALLEGATIONS AND "QUESTIONS" REGARDING THE USTICA CASE, BASED ON CABLE TRAFFIC OBTAINED IN WASHINGTON THROUGH THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT.

7. (C) COMMENT: WE INTEND TO RESPOND TO ANY PRESS INQUIRIES ON THE PAVLOV AND OTHER ALLEGATIONS WITH PREVIOUSLY APPROVED PRESS GUIDANCE DENYING THE PRESENCE OF U.S. COMBAT FORCES IN THE AREA AT THE TIME OF THE CRASH AND EMPHASIZING OUR CONTINUING COOPERATION WITH GOI INVESTIGATIONS. WE HAVE ALREADY INDICATED TO ANDO'S STAFF THAT USTICA WOULD NOT BE A WELCOME SUBJECT FOR DISCUSSION IN ANDO'S MEETING WITH

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ACTION EUR-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-17	AID-01	CIAE-00	COME-00	CFE-00	C-01
	OASY-00	DOTE-00	EB-01	E-01	FAAE-00	HA-09	H-01
	IMMC-01	INR-00	IO-19	L-03	ADS-00	NEA-01	NRRC-00
	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01	PA-01	PM-02	PRS-01
	P-01	RPCS-01	SB-00	SCT-03	SNP-00	SP-00	SS-00

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9593
SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
DEPT JUSTICE WASHDC PRIORITY
USIA WASHDC PRIORITY 8224
INFO USNMR SHAPE BE
COMFAIRMED NAPLES IT
CNO WASHDC//06/09C//
USCINCEUR VAHINGEN GE//ECPA/ECJ5//
COM SIXTHFLT
JOINT STAFF WASHDC
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
USMISSION USNATO

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STATE ALSO FOR P; UQJA FOR EU, P/G; DOJ FOR CRIM
DIV/OIA L. BARSELLA

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E.05 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: PINR, NATO, PREL, IT
SUBJECT: USTICA: KGB COLONEL TELLS ITALIAN PRESS
THAT SOVIETS MONITORED USTICA SHOOT-DOWN BY AMERICAN
FIGHTERS; OLD ISSUES AIRED ANEW

SECDEF ASPIN, A POINT WHICH WE WILL REINFORCE AT THE
NEXT OPPORTUNITY. END COMMENT.

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ACTION EUR-01

INFO	LOG-00	CIAE-00	COME-00	C-01	OASY-00	DOFE-00	EB-01
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	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OMB-01	PA-01	PM-02	PRS-01	P-01
	SNP-00	SP-00	SS-00	STR-17	TRSE-00	T-00	/040W

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P 041731Z MAR 93
 FM AMEMBASSY ROME
 TO DEPT JUSTICE WASHDC PRIORITY
 SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
 USIA WASHDC PRIORITY 8230
 SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9639
 INFO CINCUSNAV-UR LONDON UK
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 CNO WASHDC//06/09C//
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SECTION 01 OF 02 ROME 003732

STATE ALSO FOR P; USIA FOR EU, P/G; DOJ FOR CRIM
DIV/OIA L. BARSELLA

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: PINR, NATO, PREL, IT

PAGE 02 ROME 03732 01 OF 02 041733Z
SUBJECT: USQICA: ALLEGATIONS BY EX-KGB COLONEL
WIDELY REPORTED, DOUBTED (BUT...)

REF(S): (A) ROME 03648 AND PREVIOUS

1. (U) SUMMARY/COMMENT: THE ALLEGATIONS MADE BY
"SELF-STYLED" EX-KGB COLONEL PAVLOV THAT U.S. NAVY
FIGHTERS TAKING OFF FROM A BASE IN SARDINIA SHOT DOWN
AN ITALIAN CIVIL AIRLINER IN 1980 RECEIVED EXTENSIVE
COVERAGE IN THE 4 MARCH ITALIAN PRESS. RUSSIAN
GOVERNMENT REPORTEDLY DENIES ANY KNOWLEDGE OF

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PAVLOV. TECHNICAL EXPERTS CAST DOUBTS ON ALLEGED SOVIET RADAR CAPABILITIES, BUT MOST ARTICLES SEARCHED FOR SOME GRAINS OF TRUTH. LIKE SO MANY OTHER THEORIES ON THE USTICA CASE, THIS ONE PROMISES TO BECOME A PERSISTENT ELEMENT OF USTICA LORE.

2. (C) SUMMARY/COMMENT CONTINUED: FOR POST'S INFORMATION, WE COULD USE A MILITARY JUDGMENT ON THE RUSSIAN'S REMARKS. WE INTEND TO USE CURRENT GUIDANCE TO DEBUNK PAVLOV'S STATEMENT, BUT WOULD FIND IT HELPFUL TO HAVE OUR MILITARY'S JUDGMENT IN OUR BACK POCKET. IN PARTICULAR, WE WOULD APPRECIATE INFORMATION ON THE POSSIBILITY OF A RADAR STATION IN LIBYA PICKING UP THE DETAILED INFORMATION CLAIMED BY PAVLOV. END SUMMARY/COMMENT.

3. (U) THE 4 MARCH ITALIAN PRINT MEDIA CARRIED EXTENSIVE COVERAGE OF THE RADIO "UNO" INTERVIEW WITH ALLEGED EX-KGB COLONEL ALEXEI PAVLOV, WHO CLAIMED TO HAVE WITNESSED FROM A "SEC RET" SOVIET RADAR FACILITY

PAGE 03 ROME 03732 01 OF 02 041733Z
IN LIBYA A U.S. NAVY AIRCRAFT ACCIDENTALLY SHOOT DOWN
THE ITALIAN AIRLINER ON THE EVENING OF 27 JUNE 1980
(REFTEL) 6

4. (U) ALONG WITH SUMMARIES (AND IN SOME CASES EXCERPTS FROM THE INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPT) OF PAVLOV'S ALLEGATIONS, MOST PAPERS CARRY COMMENTS BY GOI OFFICIALS AND TECHNICAL EXPERTS THAT CAST DOUBT ON PAVLOV'S ACCOUNT, PARTICULARLY FROM A TECHNICAL PERSPECTIVE. INDEPENDENT LEFTIST DAILY "LA REPUBBLICA" REFERRED TO PAVLOV AS A "SELF-STYLED" EX-KGB AGENT AND RAN A SIDE ARTICLE REPORTING THAT THE PRESS OFFICE OF THE RUSSIAN ESPIONAGE SERVICE HAD DENIED ANY KNOWLEDGE OF PAVLOV. "LA REPUBBLICA" ALSO NOTED THAT TECHNICAL ERRORS IN PAVLOV'S ACCOUNT GAVE CAUSE FOR SKEPTICISM. THE PAPER NOTED IN PARTICULAR THAT:

-- IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO TELL FROM A RADAR SCREEN THAT A GIVEN AIRCRAFT BELONGED TO THE U.S. NAVY, OR THAT RADAR COULD PICK OUT OBJECTS AS SMALL AS AIR-TO-AIR MISSILES OR DEBRIS FROM AN EXPLODED AIRCRAFT;

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-- IT WAS ALSO UNLIKELY THAT A POWERFUL RADAR FACILITY SUCH AS THAT DESCRIBED BY PAVLOV COULD REMAIN S ECRET FOR LONG;

-- NO KNOWN RADAR HAD THE RANGE TO COVER THE CRASH AREA AND SARDINIA (FROM WHICH PAVLOV SAID THE U.S. AIRCRAFT TOOK OFF) FROM THE TRIPOLI AREA.

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THESE FACTORS WERE CITED BY OTHER PAPERS AS WELL, SOME OF WHICH QUOTED EXPERTS.

5. (U) MOST PAPERS, HOWEVER, ATTEMPTED TO INTERPRED' PAVLOV'S ALLEGATIONS IN WAYS THAT MIGHT EXPLAIN THE CRASH. "LA REPUBBLICA" NOTED THAT PAVLOV'S VERSION OF EVENTS MIGHT MAKE SENSE IF THE SOVIET FACILITY IN QUESTION WERE REALLY A SIGNALS INTERCEPT OPERATION AND NOT A RADAR STATION. NOTED SECURITY ANALYST AT THE PRESTIGIOUS INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS INSTITUTE STEFANO SILVESTRI ALLEGEDLY SPECULATED IN THE LEFTIST (EX-COMMUNIST) "L'UNITA" ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF THE SOVIETS HAVING RECORDED THE EVENT VIA SPY SATELLITE.

#7. (U) THE PRESS REPORTS ON COMMENTS BY INVESTIGATING MAGISTRATE PRIORE THAT PAVLOV'S ALLEGATIONS WILL BE FOLLOWED UP IN MOSCOW (REPORTED REFTEL). THE FORMER CHAIRMAN OF THE PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE ON USTICA, LIBERO GUALTIERI, NOTED TO THE

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ACTION EUR-01

INFO	LOG-00	CIAE-00	COME-00	C-01	OASY-00	DOTE-00	EB-01
	E-01	FAAE-00	HA-09	H-01	INR-00	L-03	ADS-00
	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OMB-01	PA-01	PM-02	PRS-01	P-01
	SNP-00	SP-00	SS-00	STR-17	TRSE-00	T-00	/040W

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SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
USIA WASHDC PRIORITY 8231
SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9640
INFO CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
USMISSION USNATO
USNMR SHAPE BE
COMFAIRMED NAPLES IT
CNO WASHDC//06/09C//
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE//ECPA/ECJ5//
COM SIXTHFLT
JOINT STAFF WASHDC

██████████ SECTION 02 OF 02 ROME 003732

STATE ALSO FOR P; USIA FOR EU, P/G; DOJ FOR CRIM
DIV/OIA L. BARSELLA

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: PINR, NATO, PREL, IT
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SUBJECT: USTICA: ALLEGATIONS BY EX-KGB COLONEL
WIDELY REPORTED, DOUBTED (BUT...)

PRESS THAT MANY OF THE ANSWERS TO THE USTICA TRAGEDY
COULD BE FOUND IN ITALY, NOT ABROAD. A
PARLIAMENTARIAN FROM THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF THE LEFT
(EX-COMMUNIST) NOTED THAT PAVLOV'S ACCOUNT EXPOSED
IMPROPER UTILIZATION OF ITALIAN MILITARY BASES, WHICH
STILL "ESCAPE ANY KIND OF CONTROL."

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ACTION SCT-03

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-17	AID-01	A-01	CA-02	CCO-00	CG-00
	CIAE-00	COME-00	CTME-00	C-01	OASY-00	DOEE-00	DS-00
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	L-03	ADS-00	M-01	NRCE-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OCS-06
	OIS-01	PA-01	PM-02	PRS-01	P-01	SP-00	SSO-00
	SS-00	TRSE-00	USIE-00	USSS-00	ASDS-01	/045W	

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P 081316Z MAR 93
 FM AMEMBASSY ROME
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9729
 INFO JOINT STAFF WASHDC PRIORITY
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 CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK

EXTEND CLASSIFICATION

SECTION 01 OF 03 ROME 003880

JUSTICE FOR CRIMINAL DIVISION

E.O. 12356:DECL: OADR
 TGS: PTER, PINS, MARR, CJAN, IT
 SUBJECT: JUSTICE MINISTER CORO: OPEN AND
 COOPERATIVE ON ORGANIZED CRIME AND SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY
 AND JURISDICTION OVER U.S. MILITARY PERSONNEL BUT

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CONCERNED ABOUT USTICA

REF: ROME 2704

1. [REDACTED] - ENTIRE TEXT.

SUMMARY

2. IN A MARCH 3 MEETING WITH THE CHARGE, JUSTICE

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CHANNEL: n/a
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MINISTER GIOVANNI CONSO EXPRESSED AGREEMENT ON THE VALUE OF CLOSE BILATERAL COOPERATION AGAINST TERRORISM AND ORGANIZED CRIME. HE SAID A GOVERNMENTAL DECREE BEING PREPARED WOULD AMEND ITALIAN LAW ON SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY AND SHOULD AMELIORATE U.S. CONCERNS WITH RESPECT TO SEIZED PROPERTY. AMENDING ITALY'S NEW CRIMINAL CODE TO PROVIDE U.S. AUTHORITIES THE OPPORTUNITY TO REQUEST JURISDICTION IN CRIMINAL CASES INVOLVING U.S. MILITARY PERSONNEL, HOWEVER, WILL TAKE CONSIDERABLE TIME AND WORK.

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CONSO EXPRESSED STRONG INTEREST IN ORGANIZING AN INTERNATIONAL INVESTIGATION OF THE 1980 USTICA INCIDENT DRAWING ON THE U.S. SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY. IN RESPONSE THE CHARGE SAID THE U.S. HAD ALWAYS COOPERATED FULLY WITH ITALIAN REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION BUT COULD NOT PARTICIPATE IN SUCH AN

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INVESTIGATION BECAUSE IT IS UNDER SUSPICION OF HAVING PLAYED A ROLE IN THE TRAGEDY. END SUMMARY.

3. CHARGE SERWER PAID AN INTRODUCTORY CALL ON NEWLY APPOINTED JUSTICE MINISTER CONSO ON MARCH 3. CONSO'S CHIEF OF STAFF, DR. FRANCO MELANDRI, SAT IN& AS DID EMBASSY DOJ ATTACHE AK' POLOFF.

W
LAW ENFORCEMENT COOPERATION
.0-

4. STARTINGOFF THE MEETING WITH A DISCUSSION ON BILATERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT COOPERATION, CONSO AGREED THAT THE U.S.-ITALIAN RELATIONSHIP IN THIS AREA HAD BEEN VERY FRUITFUL. HE SAID THAT DESPITE THE DIFFERENCES IN OUR LEGAL SYSTEMS, COOPERATION HAD BEEN SUSTAINED BY COMMON INTERESTS AND GOOD WILL. HE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT OUR CLOSE COOPERATION IN FIGHTING TERRORISM AND ORGANIZED CRIME WOULD CONTINUE. HE LAMENTED THE PRACTICE OF SOME COURTS OF WEARING OUT FORMER MAFIOSI TURNED STATE'S WITNESSES, REFERRING TO THE PRACTICE BY BOTH ITALY AND THE U.S. OF CALLING BACK WITNESSES TO APPEAR IN TRIALS AND NOT

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RELYING ON PREVIOUS TESTIMONY. CONSO SAID THAT SMALL DISCREPANCIES IN THE TESTIMONY OF STATE'S WITNESSES, WHICH EMERGE IN THE COURSE OF REPEATED DEPOSITIONS, OUGHT NOT TO BE USED BY THE COURTS TO THROW OUT THE EVIDENCE. CONSO ALSO VOICED RESPECT FOR U.S. COUNTER-TERRORISM POLICY AND UNDERSTANDING FOR THE RECENT BOMB EXPLOSION UNDER THE NEW YORK WORLD TRADE

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CENTER.

5. [REDACTED]

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AND SAID THIS FACT UNDERScoreD THE IMPORTANCE THE U.S. ATTACHED TO OUR COOPERATION IN THIS AREA. HE NOTED THAT COOPERATION HAD BEEN GOOD ON EXTRADITION REQUESTS AND WITNESS EXCHANGES, AND SAID HE HOPED THIS WOULD CONTINUE WITH EACH SIDE BEING SENSITIVE TO THE OTHER'S NEEDS.

SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY PROBLEM TO BE RESOLVED

6. T8#CHARGE CONTRASTED OUR CLOSE LAW ENFORCEMENT COOPERATION WITH THE SITUATION WITH RESPECT TO HE PROBLEO OF SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY FOR U.S. PROPERTY. OCONSO GAVE ASSURANCES THAT THE JUSTICE MINISTRY WAS SEIZED WITH THE PROBLEM AND PREDICTED THAT CORRECTIVE STEP S WOULDQOON BE TAKEN. HE REMARKED THAT THE

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ACTION SCT-03

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-17	AID-01	A-01	CA-02	CCO-00	CG-00
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	OIS-01	PA-01	PM-02	PRS-01	P-01	SP-00	SSO-00
	SS-00	TRSE-00	USIE-00	USSS-00	ASDS-01	/045W	

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P 081316Z MAR 93
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9730
INFO JOINT STAF WASHDC PRIORITY
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JUSTICE FOR CRIMINAL DIVISIN

E.O. 12356:DECL: OADR

PAGE 02 ROME 03880 02 OF 03 081324Z
TAGS: PTER, PINS, MARR, CJAN, IT
SUBJECT: JUSTICE MINISTER CONSO: OPN AND
COOPERATIVE ON ORGANIZED CRIME AND SOVEREIN IMMUNITY
AND JURISDICTION OVER U.S. MILITARY PRSONNEL BUT
CONCERNED ABOUT USTICA

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS HAD RECENTLY RETURNED A DRAFT
DECREE WITH THE REQUES THAT MINOR CHANGES BE MADE TO
TAKE INTO ACCOUNT RELATED CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS.
CONSO DID NOTGO INTO DETAIL ON THE CHANGES, BUT SAID
HE EXPECTED THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS TO TAKE 5 THE
DRAHT DECREL THE WEEK FOLLOWINO PRIME MINISTER
AMATO'S RETURN (MARCH 4) FROM HIS TRIP TO PORTUGAL
AND SPAIN.

JURISDICTIONAL ISSUE CONCERNI:G U.S. SERVICEMEN

7. NOTING THAT THERE ARE 17,000 U.. MILITARY
PERSONNEL STATIONED IN ITALY, THE CHRGE BROUGHT UP
THE ISSUE OF CRIMINAL JURISDICTIO AND THE PROBLEMS
RECENTLY CREATED BY A REVISIONBY ITALY'S CRIMINAL
CODE WHICH NOW DOES NOT ALLO THE U.S. AUTHORITIES TO
BE INFORMED OF A DEVELOPING ITALIAN INVESTIGATION IN
TIME TO MAKE A REQUET FOR JURISDICTION UNDER THE
TERMS OF THE STATUSOF FORCES AGREEMENT (SOFA). THE

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CHARGE NOTED THT THE TERMS OF THE SOFA CALL FOR ITALY TO RESPON TO U.S. REQUESTS FOR ITALY TO WAIVE JURISDICTION AND THAT U.S. LAWS ALMOST ALWAYS CARRY STIFFER PNALTIES. WHILE THERE MIGHT OFTEN BE

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LEGITIMATE EASONS WHY THE ITALIANS MIGHT NOT AGREE TO WAIVE JURISDICTION, THE NEW CRIMINAL CODE CLOSED OFF AY OPPORTUNITY FOR A U.S. REQUEST TO BE CONSIDERED ON ITS MERITS. CONSO EXPRESSED UNDERSTANDING FO THE U.S. PROBLEM, BUT OPINED THAT LEGAL COMPLICIONS WOULD MAKE UNRAVELLING THIS KNOT A LONG AN DIFFICULT PROCESS. HE ARRANGED FOR A MINISTRY FFICIAL TO BE IN TUCH WITH THE EMBASSY'S SENDINGSTATE OFFICE.

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USTICA AND THE IDEA OF AN INTERNATIONAL INVESTIGATION

9. ASSERTING THAT DURING THE EIGHT YEARS AFTER THE USTICA TRAGEDY THE GOI HAD BOTCHED ITS INVESTIGATION, CONSO POINTED TO THE NEED FOR AN INTERNATIONAL EFFORT. HE STRESSED THE IMPORTANT ROLE THE U.S. SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY COULD PLAY IN SUCH AN INVESTIGATION, WHICH HE SAID WOULD HAVE TO BE "TRANSPARENT." HE ALSO SAID THAT SELECTIVE LEAKS FROM THE ONGOING ITALIAN INVESTIGATION HAD BEEN DAMAGING. IN RESPONSE, THE CHARGE SAID THE U.S. HAD ALWAYS FULLY COOPERATED WITH ITALIAN REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION. INDEED, U.S. EXPERTS HAD ANTICIPATED IN TECHNICAL ASSESSMENTS DURING THE 1980'S, THOUGH HE HAD NEVER MENTIONED THE PLANE WRECKAGE. MORE RECENTLY THE UN. HAD COME UNDER SUSPICION IN THE ITALIAN MEDIA FOR POSSIBLE COMPLICITY IN THE USTICA TRAGEDY, WHICH LIKELY RULED OUT THE POSSIBILITY OF U.S. PARTICIPATION ON THE GROUNDS THAT THE PUBLIC MIGHT POSSIBLY PERCEIVE A CONFLICT OF INTEREST. CONSO PRESSED THE POINT, CLARIFYING THAT HE WAS NOT

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ACTION SCT-03

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-17	AID-01	A-01	CA-02	CCO-00	CG-00
	CIAE-00	COME-00	CTME-00	C-01	OASY-00	DOEE-00	DS-00
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	L-03	ADS-00	M-01	NRCE-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OCS-06
	OIS-01	PA-01	PM-02	PRS-01	P-01	SP-00	SSO-00
	SS-00	TRSE-00	USIE-00	USSS-00	ASDS-01	/045W	

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P 081316Z MAR 93
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9731
INFO JOINT STAFF WASHDC PRIORITY
SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
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CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK

SECTION 03 OF 03 ROME 003880

JUSTICE FOR CRIMINAL DIVISION

E.O. 12356:DECL: OADR
TAGS: PTER, PINS, MARR, CJAN, IT
SUBJECT: JUSTICE MINISTER CONSO: OPEN AND
COOPERATIVE ON ORGANIZED CRIME AND SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY
AND JURISDICTION OVER U.S. MILITARY PERSONNEL BUT

PAGE 02 ROME 03880 03 OF 03 081325Z
CONCERNED ABOUT USTICA

SEEKING OFFICIAL USG INVOLVEMENT, BUT THE COOPERATION
OF THE U.S. SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY IN RESOLVING THE
MYSTERY OF THE CRASH OF THE PASSENGER AIRLINER NEAR
ITALY'S USTIA ISLAND. THE CHARGE CONCLUDED THAT THE
USG WO
ULD CONTINUE TO COOPERATE WITH INVESTIGATING
MAWSTRATE PRIORI AS IT HAS IN THE PAST. HE ALSO
EMPHASIZED THAT TO DATE THE SG HAD FOUND NO EVIDENCE
TO INDICATE ANY U.S. CONNECTION TO THE TRAGEDY.

WAR CRIMES TRIBUNAL FOR EX-YUGOSLAVIA

10. AT THE END OF THEIR MEETING, THE CHARGE ASKED
AOT CONSO'S WORKAS THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SPECIAL
PANEL WHICH FORMULATED ITALY'S PROPOSAL SUBMITTED TO
THE UN ON THE CREATION OF A WAR CRIMES TRIBUNAL.
CONSO REMARKED THAT HE HAD ALWAYS FELT THAT THE
SUPPORT OF THE U.S. FOR THIS INITIATIVE WOULD BE
CRUCIAL AND THAT ONE OF ITALY'S AIMS IN PRESENTING
ITS PROPOSAL WAS TO PUSH THE U.S. TO SUPPORT THE
CREATION OF SUCH A TRIBUNAL.

CHIEF OF STAFF ON UNBLOCKING PUBLIC CONTRACTS

11. IN A PRELIMINARY CONVERSATION, CONSO'S CHIEF OF

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STAFF, FRANCO MELANDRI, DISCUSSED WITH CHARGE THE
ECONOMIC PROBLEMS ARISING FROM THE WIDENING
CORRUPTION SCANDALS. MELANDRI NOTED THAT FIRMS UNDER
INVESTIGATION FOR ILLEGAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO POLITICAL
PARTIES HAVE HAD ASSETS SEIZED, BRINGING THEIR WORK
TO A HALT AND CREATING UNEMPLOYMENTS PROBLEMS. HE
REMARKED THAT A POLITICAL CONSENSUS HAD NOT YET BEEN
FOUND TO RESOLVE THE PROBLEM, BUT UNDERLINED THE
URGENCY FOR ACTION. MELANDRI INDICATED THAT HE WAS
WORKING ON THIS ISSUE HIMSELF AND SUGGESTED THAT THE
SOLUTION WOULD BE TO DIVIDE THE JURIDICAL PROBLEMS
FACING CERTAIN FIRMS -- HE CITED THE WORK ON THE
ROME-PARIS HIGH SPEED RAILWAY -- FROM THEIR BUSINESS
OPERATIONS. HE ARGUED FOR HAVING CORPORATE OFFICERS

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ACCUSED OF WRONGDOING SUBSTITUTED TO ALLOW THE WORK
OF FIRMS TO PROCEED UNDER THE INCREASED SUPERVISION
OF ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGES. (NOTE: A DECREE LAW ALONG
THESE LINES WAS ISSUED LATER THE SAME DAY. END
NOTE.) SERWER

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INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-17	CIAE-00	CFE-00	C-01	OASY-00	ANHR-01
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P 101712Z MAR 93
 FM AMEMBASSY ROME
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9867
 USIA WASHDC PRIORITY 8264
 SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
 DEPT JUSTICE WASHDC PRIORITY
 INFO CNO WASHDC//06/09C//
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 USMISSION USNATO
 JOINT STAFF WASHDC
 USNMR SHAPE BE
 COMFAIRMED NAPLES IT

ROME 004128

STATE ALSO FOR P; USIA FOR EU, P/G; DOJ FOR CRIM
DIV/OIA L. BARSELLA

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: PINR, NATO, PREL, IT

PAGE 02 ROME 04128 101713Z
SUBJECT: USTICA: RUSSIAN AUTHORITIES REFUTE CLAIMS
BY "EX-KGB COLONEL" ALEXEI PAVLOV

REF(S): (A) ROME 03732 AND PREVIOUS

1. (U) SUMMARY. ACCORDING TO THE ITALIAN PRESS,
RUSSIAN AUTHORITIES HAVE DENIED CLAIMS BY "EX-KGB
COLONEL" ALEXEI PAVLOV THAT U.S. NAVY AIRCRAFT SHOT
DOWN AN ITALIAN PASSENGER JET NEAR THE ISLAND OF
USTICA IN JUNE 1980. END SUMMARY.

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2. (U) THE ITALIAN PRESS REPORTED MARCH 4 THAT THE "RUSSIAN INTELLIGENCE SERVICE" PRESS OFFICE HAD NO RECORD OF ALEXEI PAVLOV, THE SELF-STYLED EX-KGB COLONEL WHO CLAIMED THAT U.S. NAVY AIRCRAFT SHOT DOWN AN ITALIAN PASSENGER JET NEAR THE ISLAND OF USTICA IN JUNE 1980. ITALIAN NEWSPAPERS HAD RECENTLY PUBLISHED ALLEGATIONS BY PAVLOV (REF) WHICH WERE IMMEDIATELY DISMISSED BY ITALIAN MILITARY EXPERTS. PAVLOV CLAIMED TO HAVE SEEN THE EVENT FROM A SUPERSE CRET SOVIET RADAR INSTALLATION IN LIBYA. LEFTIST, INDEPENDENT DAILY "LA REPUBBLICA" NOTED THAT EX-KGB CHIEF VLADIMIR KRJUCHKOV EMPHATICALLY STATED, "WE HAVE NEVER BEEN IN POSSESSION OF THE INFORMATION OF WHICH PAVLOV SPEAKS."

2. (U) LEADING CENTRIST DAILY "CORRIERE DELLA SERA" MARCH 5 REPORTED SEPARATELY THAT EX-SOVIET LEADER IGOR LIGACHEV, PROMOTING A RECENT BOOK IN ITALY, SAID, "I HAVE NEVER HEARD OF A SUPERSEC RET BASE IN TRIPOLI WHOSE RADAR WAS CAPABLE OF FOLLOWING EVENTS

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OVER USTICA." LIGACHEV ALSO DENIED HAVING EVER HEARD OF AN INTELLIGENCE AGENT NAMED "PAVLOV."

3. (C) COMMENT.

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4. (C) SINCE PAVLOV'S ALLEGATIONS WERE FIRST PUBLISHED, THERE HAS BEEN LITTLE PRESS FOLLOW-UP, EXCEPT THAT, UNLIKE OTHER USTICA "REVELATIONS" WHICH LEAVE MOST SPECULATION UNANSWERED, ITALIAN NEWSPAPERS HAVE CARRIED STRONG DENUNCIATIONS OF PAVLOV'S STORY ALONGSIDE HIS CLAIMS. ITALIAN MILITARY EXPERTS POINTED OUT THE TECHNICAL IMPOSSIBILITY OF OBSERVING WHAT PAVLOV CLAIMED TO HAVE WITNESSED. END COMMENT.

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ACTION EUR-01

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	P-01	SB-00	SNP-00	SP-00	SS-00	TRSE-00	T-00

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-----B699AC 221952Z /61

R 221509Z APR 93
 FM AMEMBASSY ROME
 TO SECDEF WASHDC
 USIA WASHDC 8530
 DEPT JUSTICE WASHDC
 SECSTATE WASHDC 1534
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 CNO WASHDC//06/09C//
 USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE//ECPA/ECJ5//
 COM SIXTHFLT
 CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
 USMISSION USNATO
 AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
 JOINT STAFF WASHDC

ROME 007043

STATE ALSO FOR P; USIA FOR EU, P/G; DOJ FOR CRIM
DIV/OIA L. BARSELLA

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 E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
 TAGS: PINR, NATO, PREL, IT
 SUBJECT: USTICA: SOVIET GENERAL CLAIMS U.S.
 INVOLVED IN CRASH

REF(S): (A) ROME 04128 AND PREVIOUS

1. (U) SUMMARY. ITALIAN PRESS REPORTS APRIL 22
 SAID SOVIET GENERAL (RET) YURI SULIMOV CORROBORATED
 PREVIOUS CLAIMS BY "EX-KGB COLONEL" ALEXEI PAVLOV
 THAT U.S. NAVY AIRCRAFT SHOT DOWN AN ITALIAN

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PASSENGER JET NEAR THE ISLAND OF USTICA IN JUNE 1980 (REFS). EMBASSY ROME DENIED THESE ALLEGATIONS AND REITERATED THAT THERE WERE NO U.S. SHIPS OR AIRCRAFT IN THE AREA AT THE TIME OF THE CRASH. WE EXPECT INVESTIGATING MAGISTRATE PRIORE TO REQUEST FURTHER INFORMATION FROM THE U.S. BASED UPON SULIMOV'S STATEMENTS. END SUMMARY.

2. (U) ITALIAN MEDIA REPORTS APRIL 22 SAID RETIRED SOVIET GENERAL (YURI SULIMOV) CORROBORATED CLAIMS MADE BY SELF-STYLED EX-KGB COLONEL ("ALEXEI PAVLOV") WHO CLAIMED THAT U.S. NAVY AIRCRAFT SHOT DOWN AN ITALIAN PASSENGER JET NEAR THE ISLAND OF USTICA IN JUNE 1980. ITALIAN NEWSPAPERS HAD RECENTLY PUBLISHED PAVLOV'S ALLEGATIONS WHICH WERE IMMEDIATELY DISMISSED BY ITALIAN MILITARY EXPERTS AND RUSSIAN AUTHORITIES (REFS). PAVLOV CLAIMED TO HAVE SEEN THE EVENT FROM A SUPERSE CRET SOVIET RADAR INSTALLATION IN LIBYA.

3. (U) GENERAL SULIMOV CLAIMED, DURING A RADIO

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INTERVIEW ON ITALIAN STATION "GRL," THAT THE SE CRET RADAR SITE, UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE LIBYAN AIR FORCE CHIEF OF STAFF, WAS LOCATED AT MAITIGHE NEAR TRIPOLI. UTILIZING A COMPLEX SYSTEM OF RADAR AND SATELLITE SIGNALS, THE INSTALLATION COULD "SEE" FROM THE LIBYAN COAST TO SARDEGNA. SULIMOV SAID HE WAS THE CHIEF SOVIET RADAR INSTRUCTOR AT THE SITE AT THE TIME OF THE USTICA CRASH. HE WAS RESPONSIBLE, AS SUCH, FOR BOTH TRAINING LIBYAN TECHNICIANS AND SUPERVISING OPERATIONS FOR THE ENTIRE RADAR SYSTEM THAT THE SOVIET UNION HAD BUILT IN LIBYA.

4. (U) ALTHOUGH NOT ON DUTY THAT NIGHT, SULIMOV CLAIMED TO HAVE HEARD FIRST-HAND FROM HIS COLLEAGUES WHO ALLEGEDLY WITNESSED THE EVENTS LEADING UP TO THE CRASH. ACCORDING TO SULIMOV, THE ITALIAN PASSENGER JET WAS SHOT DOWN BY A MISSILE FIRED BY A U.S. NAVY AIRCRAFT THAT HAD TAKEN OFF FROM A BASE IN SARDEGNA. THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR TO LIBYA (ANISSIMOV) WAS IMMEDIATELY INFORMED OF THESE EVENTS AND A REPORT ON THE CRASH WAS FORWARDED SOON AFTERWARDS TO THE SOVIET ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF. SULIMOV SUGGESTED THAT THIS REPORT COULD PROBABLY STILL BE FOUND IN THE ARCHIVES OF THE "TENTH DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF

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IN MOSCOW." ASKED WHY RUSSIA HAD BEEN SILENT FOR ALL THE INTERVENING YEARS, SULIMOV NOTED THAT SOVIET AUTHORITIES WANTED, ABOVE ALL, TO MAINTAIN THE SECRECY OF THE MAITIGHE INSTALLATION.

5. (U) SEVERAL MAJOR NEWSPAPERS ALSO CARRIED BOTH EMBASSY ROME'S DENIAL OF THESE ALLEGATIONS AND OUR

PAGE 04 ROME 07043 221504Z
REITERATION THAT NO U.S. SHIPS OR AIRCRAFT WERE IN THE AREA AT THE TIME OF THE CRASH.

6. (C) COMMENT. WE WILL CONTINUE TO POINT OUT, WHENEVER APPROPRIATE, THAT THERE WERE NO U.S. SHIPS OR AIRCRAFT IN THE AREA WHEN THE ITAVIA DC-9 CRASHED AND, CONTRARY TO PAVLOV AND SULIMOV'S CLAIMS, NO RADAR EXISTED AT THAT TIME (OR DOES NOW) WHICH IS CAPABLE OF OBSERVING A MISSILE ON A RADAR SCREEN AS BOTH SOVIETS HAVE ALSO CLAIMED.

7. (C) AS WITH OTHER LEADS FIRST DEVELOPED BY THE ITALIAN PRESS, WE SHOULD EXPECT INVESTIGATING MAGISTRATE PRIORE TO REQUEST FURTHER INFORMATION FROM THE U.S. BASED UPON SULIMOV'S CLAIMS. END COMMENT.

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ACTION EUR-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-17	CIAE-00	CFE-00	C-01	DODE-00	HA-09
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	P-01	SB-00	SNP-00	SP-00	SS-00	TRSE-00	T-00
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P 061335Z MAY 93
 FM AMEMBASSY ROME
 TO SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
 SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2137
 USIA WASHDC PRIORITY 8605
 DEPT JUSTICE WASHDC PRIORITY
 INFO USMISSION USNATO
 AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
 AMEMBASSY BONN
 AMEMBASSY PARIS
 CNO WASHDC//06/09C//
 JOINT STAFF WASHDC
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 CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
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STATE ALSO FOR P; USIA FOR EU, P/G; DOJ FOR CRIM

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DIV/OIA L. BARSELLA

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
 TAGS: PINR, NATO, PREL, IT
 SUBJECT: USTICA: JUDGE PRIORE DISCUSSES
 SHORTCOMINGS OF INVESTIGATION; EXPERTS' REPORT STIRS
 NEW SPECULATION ON MIG-23

REF(S): (A) ROME 07043 AND PREVIOUS

1. (C) SUMMARY. INVESTIGATING JUDGE ROSARIO

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PRIORE, IN A TELEVISION INTERVIEW MAY 5, SAID THE INQUIRY INTO THE CAUSE OF THE CRASH OF AN ITALIAN PASSENGER JET NEAR THE ISLAND OF USTICA IN JUNE 1980 HAD BEEN HAMPERED BY MILITARY SECRECY, LOSS AND DESTRUCTION OF RELEVANT DOCUMENTS, INEXACT TESTIMONY BY WITNESSES, AND LACK OF FRENCH GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO OFFICIAL ITALIAN INQUIRIES. COMMENTS IN THE MEDIA ABOUT U.S. COOPERATION WITH PRIORE'S INVESTIGATION WERE NEUTRAL AND ACCURATE.

2. (C) SEPARATELY, THE LONG-AWAITED "EXPERTS' REPORT" WAS DELIVERED TO JUDGE PRIORE AND STIRRED NEW SPECULATION IN THE PRESS ABOUT THE MIG-23 FOUND IN SOUTHERN ITALY THREE WEEKS AFTER THE USTICA CRASH. IMPORTANTLY, THE REPORT'S ACCIDENT RECONSTRUCTION FINDINGS DID NOT RESOLVE THE "BOMB VS. MISSILE" QUESTION. THE REPORT SAID THE MIG-23 WAS PROBABLY NOT LIBYAN (AS OFFICIAL ITALIAN AND LIBYA STATEMENTS HAD PREVIOUSLY DECLARED) NOR DID IT HAVE SUFFICIENT FUEL TO FLY FROM LIBYA TO ITALY. PRESS COVERAGE

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ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE EXPERTS HAD CONFIRMED THE "USS SARATOGA" WAS IN PORT AT THE TIME OF THE CRASH. END SUMMARY.

JUDGE PRIORE INTERVIEW

3. (U) INVESTIGATING JUDGE PRIORE, INTERVIEWED ON ITALIAN TV STATION "RAI 3" MAY 5, SAID HIS BIGGEST DIFFICULTY IN CONDUCTING THE USTICA INQUIRY WAS THAT HE IS CONSTANTLY STUMBLING ONTO MILITARY SECRETS AND CLASSIFIED INFORMATION. ITALIAN NEWS SERVICE "ANSA" REPORTED THAT PRIORE ALSO SAID MUCH HAD HAPPENED DURING THE COURSE OF THE USTICA INVESTIGATION THAT WAS "NEGATIVE" - INCLUDING THE INTENTIONAL DESTRUCTION OF DOCUMENTS WHICH, UPON ANALYSIS, MIGHT HAVE POINTED TO THE CAUSE OF THE CRASH. PRIORE REPORTEDLY ACKNOWLEDGED, MOREOVER, THAT MANY IMPORTANT WITNESSES HAD DIED DURING THE INTERVENING YEARS AND THAT SOME, STILL AVAILABLE FOR TESTIMONY, COULD NO LONGER REMEMBER EVENTS SO LONG AGO.

4. (U) IN HIS INTERVIEW, PRIORE SAID HE WAS STILL

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WAITING FOR FRANCE'S RESPONSE TO SEVERAL ITALIAN
ROGATORIES ON THE PRESENCE OF TWO FRENCH AIRCRAFT
CARRIERS IN THE AREA AND "INTENSE" AIRCRAFT ACTIVITY
AT THE TIME OF THE TRAGEDY. PRIORE NOTED THAT,
HAVING FELT AS IF HE HAD RUN INTO A "BRICK WALL" WITH
THE FRENCH, HE WAS NEVERTHELESS HOPEFUL THAT THEY
WOULD GIVE HIM A FULL ACCOUNTING.

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5. (U) ASKED ABOUT A SO-CALLED SECRET LIBYAN RADAR
STATION NEAR TRIPOLI, PRIORE SAID ALTHOUGH HE HAD
ALREADY SENT FORMAL ROGATORIES TO MOSCOW THE RUSSIAN
AUTHORITIES HAD NOT YET OFFICIALLY ACKNOWLEDGED THEIR
RECEIPT. ANY FURTHER INQUIRIES INTO THESE CLAIMS,
INCLUDING A TRIP TO MOSCOW TO INTERVIEW POSSIBLE
WITNESSES, HAD TO AWAIT FORMAL RUSSIAN APPROVAL.

6. (U) THERE WERE ONLY TWO REFERENCES TO THE U.S.
DURING THE ENTIRE 10 MINUTE INTERVIEW. FIRST, A
VISIBLE NOTATION ON A CHART OF THE LOCATION OF THE
"USS SARATOGA" IN THE PORT OF NAPLES ON THE NIGHT OF
THE CRASH. SECOND, A "VOICE-OVER" WHICH, DESCRIBING
THE CHART AND ITS NUMEROUS NOTATIONS, REITERATED
OFFICIAL U.S. STATEMENTS THAT THE SARATOGA WAS IN
PORT AT THE TIME OF THE TRAGEDY. THE "VOICE-OVER"
ALSO DISTINGUISHED U.S. RESPONSIVENESS FROM APPARENT
FRENCH AND RUSSIAN INACTION IN THE FACE OF OFFICIAL
ITALIAN INQUIRIES.

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2138
USIA WASHDC PRIORITY 8606
DEPT JUSTICE WASHDC PRIORITY
INFO USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY PARIS
CNO WASHDC//06/09C//
JOINT STAFF WASHDC
USNMR SHAPE BE
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE//ECPA/ECJ5//
COMFAIRMED NAPLES IT
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
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SECTION 02 OF 03 ROME 007985

STATE ALSO FOR P; USIA FOR EU, P/G; DOJ FOR CRIM

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DIV/OIA L. BARSELLA

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
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SHORTCOMINGS OF INVESTIGATION; EXPERTS' REPORT STIRS
NEW SPECULATION ON MIG-23

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W SPECULATION ON MIG-23

7. (C) PRESS REPORTS MAY 6 SAID THE LONG-AWAITED EXPERTS' REPORT (REFS) HAD FINALLY BEEN DELIVERED TO JUDGE PRIORE. WIDELY COVERED IN THE ITALIAN MEDIA, THE REPORT ALLEGEDLY RAISES SIGNIFICANT NEW DOUBTS ABOUT BOTH THE MIG-23 FOUND IN SOUTHERN ITALY THREE WEEKS AFTER THE USTICA CRASH, AS WELL AS WHETHER THE USTICA CRASH WAS CAUSED BY AN INTERNAL OR EXTERNAL EXPLOSION. THE REPORT'S ACCIDENT RECONSTRUCTION FINDINGS DID NOT RESOLVE THE CENTRAL QUESTION OF THE INVESTIGATION - THE IMMEDIATE CAUSE OF THE CRASH. REGARDING THE U.S., THE COURT-APPOINTED EXPERTS

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CONFIRMED THAT THE "USS SARATOGA" WAS IN PORT AT THE TIME OF THE CRASH - NOTWITHSTANDING THE APPARENT IRREGULARITIES IN THE SHIP'S LOGS - AS WE HAVE ALWAYS MAINTAINED.

8. (U) LEADING CONSERVATIVE DAILY "IL GIORNALE" REPORTED THAT THE EXPERTS' FINDINGS INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING "REVELATIONS" ABOUT THE MIG-23 WHICH, UP TO

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NOW, WAS BELIEVED TO HAVE FLOWN NORTH FROM LIBYA AND, FOR UNEXPLAINED REASONS, CRASHED IN THE SILA MOUNTAINS OF SOUTHERN ITALY:

--THE MIG-23 COULD NOT POSSIBLY HAVE TAKEN OFF FROM LIBYA BECAUSE ITS FLIGHT RECORDER AND OTHER DATA INDICATE THAT THE PLANE DID NOT HAVE ENOUGH FUEL TO FLY THAT DISTANCE. ACCORDING TO EVIDENCE OBTAINED FROM A MIG PRODUCTION FACILITY IN DRESDEN, THE MIG'S FUEL TANKS HELD TOO LITTLE FUEL. IF IT HAD TAKEN OFF FROM LIBYA, OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS NOTED, IT WOULD HAVE CRASHED IN THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA. THIS FINDING CONTRADICTS OFFICIAL ITALIAN AIR FORCE AND GOVERNMENT OF LIBYA STATEMENTS THAT THE FLIGHT ORIGINATED IN LIBYA.

--THE MIG-23 COULD NOT POSSIBLY HAVE BEEN LIBYAN, EXPERTS (PROFESSOR DELLA MESE AND AN UNNAMED GERMAN) EXPLAINED, BECAUSE LIBYA DID NOT HAVE THAT SPECIFIC TYPE OF MIG IN ITS MILITARY ARSENAL AT THE TIME. CRUCIAL MARKINGS ON THE DAMAGED FUSILAGE CAN NOT BE AUTHORITATIVELY ATTRIBUTED TO LIBYA. THIS FINDING SIMILARLY CONTRADICTS OFFICIAL ITALIAN AIR FORCE AND GOVERNMENT OF LIBYA STATEMENTS THAT THE PLANE WAS LIBYAN.

--A DOCUMENT ATTRIBUTED TO "SISMI" (ITALIAN MILITARY INTELLIGENCE) INDICATES THAT THERE WAS INTENSE LIBYAN AIRCRAFT ACTIVITY IN THE AREA ON THE NIGHT OF THE CRASH. THE ITALIAN PRESS, WHILE ENGAGING IN WIDE-RANGING SPECULATION ABOUT THESE NEW MIG-23 FINDINGS, QUERIED WHETHER THE MIG WAS USED BY NATO

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FORCES IN A LIVE-FIRE EXERCISE THAT WENT WRONG. EVIDENCE IN THE EXPERTS' REPORT INDICATE, MOREOVER, THAT AN UNDETERMINED NUMBER OF LIBYAN PILOTS HAD BEEN TRAINED AT THE DECIMOMANNU AIRBASE IN SARDINIA.

9. (U) LASTLY, JOURNALIST (ANDREA PURGATORI) NOTED IN LEADING CENTRIST DAILY "CORRIERE DELLA SERA" THAT U.S. MAJOR WARREN WALTERS AND CIA "STATION CHIEF" DUANE CLARRIDGE INSPECTED THE CRASHED MIG-23 SOON AFTER IT WAS DISCOVERED. ACCORDING TO PURGATORI, WALTERS REFUSED TO RESPOND, ON THE BASIS OF NATIONAL SECURITY, TO QUESTIONS ABOUT THE MIG'S NATIONALITY POSED BY JUDGE PRIORE.

10. (C) COMMENT. WE WERE PLEASED TO NOTE THAT PRIORE HAD FOCUSED HIS PERSONAL CRITIQUE OF THE INVESTIGATION IN AREAS UNRELATED TO U.S. MILITARY ACTIVITY AT THE TIME OF THE CRASH. FRENCH AND RUSSIAN INACTION WAS CONTRASTED WITH U.S. RELATIVE PROMPTNESS IN RESPONDING TO OFFICIAL ITALIAN INQUIRIES. PRESS COVERAGE, WHILE FOCUSING ON NEW

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INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-17	CIAE-00	CFE-00	C-01	DODE-00	HA-09
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P 061335Z MAY 93
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2139
USIA WASHDC PRIORITY 8607
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INFO USMISSION USNATO
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DOC_NBR: 1993ROME07985

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STATE ALSO FOR P; USIA FOR EU, P/G; DOJ FOR CRIM
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PAGE 02 ROME 07985 03 OF 03 061338Z
DIV/OIA L. BARSELLA

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: PINR, NATO, PREL, IT
SUBJECT: USTICA: JUDGE PRIORE DISCUSSES
SHORTCOMINGS OF INVESTIGATION; EXPERTS' REPORT STIRS
NEW SPECULATION ON MIG-23

HYPOTHESES THAT MIGHT FIT THE "REVELATIONS" OF THE
EXPERTS' REPORT, UNIFORMLY ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE
SARATOGA WAS IN PORT AT THE TIME OF THE CRASH AS THE
U.S. HAS ALWAYS MAINTAINED.

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PAGE 01 ROME 09207 251552Z
ACTION EUR-01

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	NRRC-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01	PA-01	PM-02
	PRS-01	P-01	SB-00	SCT-03	SNP-00	SP-00	SS-00
	TRSE-00	T-00	CORE-00	SSD-01	/064W		

-----C3A63B 252019Z /61

P 251548Z MAY 93
 FM AMEMBASSY ROME
 TO USIA WASHDC PRIORITY 8701
 SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
 SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2891
 DEPT JUSTICE WASHDC PRIORITY
 INFO COMFAIRMED NAPLES IT
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ROME 009207

STATE ALSO FOR P; USIA FOR EU, P/G; DOJ FOR CRIM
DIV/OIA L. BARSELLA

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR

PAGE 02 ROME 09207 251552Z
 TAGS: PINR, NATO, PREL, IT
 SUBJECT: USTICA: ITALY NOTES CBS "EXPOSE" ON
 USTICA; EX-ITALIAN AIR FORCE CAPTAIN SAYS ITAVIA DC-9
 SHOT DOWN BY ITALIAN AIR FORCE FIGHTER

REF(S): (A) ROME 07985 AND PREVIOUS

1. (U) SUMMARY. U.S. INTEREST IN THE USTICA AFFAIR
 WAS HIGHLIGHTED IN ITALY MAY 24 BY THE RE-BROADCAST
 OF EXCERPTS FROM CBS NETWORK'S "60 MINUTES" PROGRAM
 WHICH DEDICATED A SEGMENT OF ITS MOST RECENT SHOW TO

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ONGOING EFFORTS BY ITALIAN INVESTIGATORS TO DETERMINE THE CAUSE OF THE CRASH OF AN ITALIAN PASSENGER PLANE IN JUNE 1980 NEAR THE ISLAND OF USTICA. SEPARATELY, AN EX-ITALIAN AIR FORCE OFFICER CLAIMED THAT THE AIR CRASH THAT CAUSED THE DEATH OF HIS ITALIAN AIR FORCE COLLEAGUE AND FRIEND (ALESSANDRO MARCUCCI) FEBRUARY 2, 1992 WAS NOT ACCIDENTAL BUT THE RESULT OF MARCUCCI'S PRIOR TESTIMONY THAT THE ITAVIA DC-9 WAS SHOT DOWN BY AN ITALIAN AIR FORCE FIGHTER. END SUMMARY.

2. (U) ITALIAN NEWS SERVICE "ANSA" REPORTED MAY 24 THAT THE CBS NETWORK PROGRAM "60 MINUTES" DEDICATED A SEGMENT TO INVESTIGATING THE CAUSE OF THE ITAVIA DC-9 CRASH ON JUNE 27, 1980 NEAR THE ISLAND OF USTICA. "ANSA" SAID THE SHOW PROMOTED THE THEORY THAT THE PASSENGER PLANE HAD BEEN MISTAKENLY SHOT DOWN BY AN ITALIAN FIGHTER WHICH HAD LAUNCHED A MISSILE AGAINST A LIBYAN FIGHTER THAT WAS FLYING CLOSE TO THE CIVILIAN AIRCRAFT AT THE TIME OF THE INCIDENT.

PAGE 03 ROME 09207 251552Z
ACCORDING TO THE ITALIAN PRESS, THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE REFUSED TO GRANT AN INTERVIEW TO THE SHOW'S PRODUCERS AND THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE SIMPLY REITERATED, AS IT HAS OVER THE LAST 13 YEARS, THAT THERE WERE NO U.S. SHIPS OR AIRCRAFT NEAR THE CRASH SITE AT THE TIME OF THE TRAGEDY.

3. (U) SEPARATELY, AN EX-ITALIAN AIR FORCE CAPTAIN AND "RETE" BACKER (MARIO CIANCARELLA) CLAIMED THAT THE AIR CRASH WHICH KILLED HIS AIR FORCE COLLEAGUE AND FRIEND (ALESSANDRO MARCUCCI) FEBRUARY 2, 1992 IN THE ITALIAN ALPS WAS NOT ACCIDENTAL, AS THE INVESTIGATING MAGISTRATE DETERMINED, BUT AN INTENTIONAL ATTEMPT TO SILENCE MARCUCCI WHO HAD PREVIOUSLY TESTIFIED THAT THE ITAVIA DC-9 THAT CRASHED NEAR USTICA WAS ACCIDENTALLY SHOT DOWN BY AN ITALIAN AIR FORCE FIGHTER. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, MARCUCCI HAD PROOF THAT THE MIG-23 LATER FOUND IN THE SILA MOUNTAINS OF SOUTHERN ITALY (REFS) HAD TAKEN OFF FROM A MILITARY AIRPORT NEAR ROME (PRACTICA DI MARE) INSTEAD OF FROM TRIPOLI -- AS THE GOVERNMENTS OF ITALY AND LIBYA HAVE OFFICIALLY CLAIMED FOR YEARS -- AS PART OF A JOINT U.S.-ITALIAN SECRET SERVICE PLAN TO BOTH RETALIATE AGAINST LIBYAN

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DOC_NBR: 1993ROME09207

CHANNEL: n/a
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LEADER QADDAFI BY PLACING BLAME FOR THE TRAGEDY ON
LIBYA, AND BUILD SUPPORT FOR INSTALLING CRUISE
MISSILES AT COMISO, SICILY.

4. (C) COMMENT. AS YET, THE CBS SEGMENT HAS NOT
BEEN COVERED WIDELY BY THE NATIONAL MEDIA. WE SPOKE
MAY 25 WITH MOD FABBRI'S STAFF WHO CONFIRMED THAT

[REDACTED]
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PAGE 04 ROME 09207 251552Z
THEY HOPED TO AVOID THE ISSUE ALTOGETHER DURING
SECRETARY OF DEFENSE ASPIN'S VISIT TO ROME MAY 31.

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PAGE 01 ROME 11394 281629Z
ACTION EUR-01

INFO	LOG-00	CIAE-00	C-01	OASY-00	HA-09	H-01	INR-00
	L-03	ADS-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OMB-01	PA-01	PM-02
	PRS-01	P-01	SNP-00	SP-00	SS-00	TRSE-00	T-00
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R 281623Z JUN 93
 FM AMEMBASSY ROME
 TO USIA WASHDC 8902
 DEPT JUSTICE WASHDC
 SECDEF WASHDC//OUSDP-ISA-EUR//
 SECSTATE WASHDC 4307
 INFO JOINT STAFF WASHDC
 CNO WASHDC//06/09C//
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ROME 011394

STATE ALSO FOR P; USIA FOR EU, P/G; DOJ FOR CRIM
DIV/OIA (L. BARSELLA)

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR

PAGE 02 ROME 11394 281629Z
 TAGS: PINR, NATO, PREL, IT
 SUBJECT: USTICA: TRAGEDY'S 13TH ANNIVERSARY
 COMMEMORATED; JUSTICE MINISTER PROMISES TO KEEP CASE
 OPEN; POLICE CHIEF SAYS PLANE BROUGHT DOWN BY BOMB

REF(S): ROME 9207 AND PREVIOUS

1. (U) THE ITALIAN PRESS REPORTED EXTENSIVELY JUNE
 28 ON COMMEMORATIVE ACTIVITIES HELD IN BOLOGNA AND
 PALERMO ON THE OCCASION OF THE THIRTEENTH ANNIVERSARY
 OF THE JUNE 27, 1980, DOWNING OF A COMMERCIAL ITAVIA

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JETLINER NEAR THE ISLAND OF USTICA. ACTIVITIES INCLUDED A DEMONSTRATION IN BOLOGNA (WHERE THE JUSTICE MINISTER SPOKE -- SEE BELOW), A SYMBOLIC FLIGHT FROM BOLOGNA TO PALERMO OVER THE SITE OF THE CRASH, AND A CONCERT IN PALERMO. PARTICIPANTS INCLUDED FAMILY MEMBERS OF THE VICTIMS, PRESS, AND POLITICIANS. (SEVERAL PAPERS NOTED THE PRESENCE OF A CBS REPORTER ON THE SYMBOLIC FLIGHT.) THE BOLOGNA RALLY TOOK PLACE AT THE FUTURE SITE OF THE "MEMORIAL MUSEUM" WHERE FAMILY MEMBERS HOPE TO PLACE THE REMAINS OF THE AIRLINER, ALONG WITH INVESTIGATIVE RECORDS AND OTHER MEMORABILIA, ONCE THE INVESTIGATION HAS BEEN COMPLETED.

2. (U) MINISTER OF GRACE AND JUSTICE CONSO WAS AMONG THE SPEAKERS IN BOLOGNA. ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNTS, HE NOTED THAT THE JUDICIAL INVESTIGATION HEADED BY JUDGE PRIORE WAS DUE TO BE COMPLETED BY THE END OF 1993. HE PROMISED TO EXTEND THE DEADLINE IF NECESSARY AND TO ENSURE THE CASE FILE WOULD BE NOT BE

PAGE 03 ROME 11394 281629Z
CLOSED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE USUAL STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS, BUT WOULD REMAIN OPEN AND AVAILABLE FOR FUTURE INVESTIGATIONS. THE PRESS ALSO REPORTED THAT CONSO, EXPRESSING FULL SUPPORT FOR THE JUDICIAL INVESTIGATION, UNDERTOOK TO SEE THAT ALL ROGATORIES TO OTHER GOVERNMENTS WERE ANSWERED. CONSO REPORTEDLY SAID THAT OUT OF 60 ROGATORIES TO VARIOUS GOVERNMENTS, ONLY 44 HAD BEEN ANSWERED SATISFACTORILY. "FULL COLLABORATION" HAD BEEN GIVEN BY GERMANY, THE U.K., SPAIN, MALTA AND BELGIUM, WHILE OUTSTANDING REQUESTS REMAINED WITH THE U.S., RUSSIA, AND FRANCE. (COMMENT: CONSO WAS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT THE U.S. HAD ANSWERED 22 OUT OF 26 INQUIRIES; ACCORDING TO EMBASSY RECORDS, THE USG HAS RESPONDED TO 36 OUT OF 39, AND TWO OF THE THREE REQUESTS NOT YET ANSWERED WERE SUBMITTED LESS THAN A MONTH AGO. END COMMENT.) CONSO REPORTEDLY POINTED OUT THAT EGYPT AND IRAN HAD YET TO RESPOND TO ANY ROGATORIES.

3. (U) THE PRESS ALSO COVERED A CONTROVERSY STIMULATED BY NATIONAL POLICE CHIEF PARISI IN TESTIMONY BEFORE THE PARLIAMENT LAST WEEK. PARISI REPORTEDLY SAID THAT FOREIGN EXPERTS HAD CONCLUDED THAT THE PREPONDERANCE OF EVIDENCE SUPPORTED THE

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THEORY THAT THE USTICA AIRLINER WAS BROUGHT DOWN BY A BOMB INSTEAD OF A MISSILE. VICTIMS' FAMILY MEMBERS, THEIR LAWYERS, AND VARIOUS PARLIAMENTARIANS QUICKLY DENOUNCED PARISI'S STATEMENT, CONTENDING THAT THAT THE BOMB THEORY HAD BEEN DISCREDITED BY A RECENT REPORT, ALSO BY FOREIGN EXPERTS, THAT INDICATED THE PRESENCE OF TNT AND "T4" EXPLOSIVES IN SEVERAL BAGS

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PAGE 04 ROME 11394 281629Z
RECOVERED FROM THE WRECKAGE. THESE TWO EXPLOSIVES, THEY CONTENDED, WERE COMMON TO MOST TYPES OF AIR-TO-AIR MISSILE WARHEADS.

4. (C) COMMENT: ON AN INFORMAL BASIS, WE ARE RESPONDING TO THE PRESS THAT THE USG CONTINUES TO BE FULLY COOPERATIVE WITH THE ITALIAN INVESTIGATION. WHOEVER WRITES CONSO'S SPEECHES -- IF THE MINISTER WAS QUOTED CORRECTLY -- HAS NOT UPDATED THE NUMBER OF ROGATORIES SUBMITTED TO THE USG. WE WILL BRING THIS TO THE ATTENTION OF THE GRACE AND JUSTICE MINISTRY.

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ACTION EUR-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-17	CIAE-00	COME-00	CFE-00	C-01	OASY-00
	DOEE-00	DOTE-00	EB-01	E-01	FAAE-00	HA-09	H-01
	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-19	JUSE-00	L-03	ADS-00	NRRC-00
	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01	PA-01	PM-02	PRS-01
	P-01	SB-00	SDEL-00	SNP-00	SP-00	SSO-00	SS-00
	STR-16	TRSE-00	T-00	TSKY-00	CORE-00	SSD-01	/078W

-----D213AD 011556Z /45

O 011535Z JUL 93
 FM AMEMBASSY ROME
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4423
 SECDEF WASHDC//OUSDP-ISA-EUR//
 USIA WASHDC 8913
 DEPT JUSTICE WASHDC
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STATE ALSO FOR P; USIA FOR EU, P/G; DOJ FOR CRIM
DIV/OIA (L. BARSELLA)

PAGE 02 ROME 11575 01 OF 02 011544Z

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
 TAGS: MARR, PARM, PREL, IT
 SUBJECT: USTICA: AMERICAN "EXPERT" CLAIMS TWO
 MISSILES HIT THE AIRCRAFT

REF: ROME 11394

1. (C) SUMMARY. AN AMERICAN "EXPERT" HIRED BY THE
 FAMILIES OF USTICA VICTIMS THEORIZES THAT TWO
 RADAR-GUIDED MISSILES -- U.S., FRENCH, SOVIET, OR

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HANDLING: n/a

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BRITISH -- BROUGHT DOWN THE ITAVIA COMMERCIAL AIRLINER IN 1980. THE EXPERT'S EVIDENCE PRESENTED AT A PRESS CONFERENCE FOLLOWING UPON THE HEELS OF THE BOLOGNA COMMEMORATION OF THE 13TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TRAGEDY, WILL CREATE MORE GRIST FOR JUDICIAL INVESTIGATORS. END SUMMARY.

2. (U) PRESS ATTENTION JUNE 30 AND JULY 1 TURNED ONCE AGAIN TO THE USTICA AFFAIR (THE UNEXPLAINED DOWNING OF AN ITALIAN COMMERCIAL AIRLINER ON JUNE 27, 1980), WITH NEW "REVELATIONS" THAT TWO RADAR-GUIDED MISSILES DOWNED THE AIRCRAFT. ROBERT SEWELL, REPORTEDLY A U.S. GOVERNMENT SPECIALIST WHOSE 40 YEARS EXPERIENCE ON MISSILE TECHNOLOGY -- INCLUDING MOST RECENTLY AT CHINA LAKE NAVAL MUNITIONS LABORATORIES (CALIFORNIA) -- DESCRIBED IN A PRESS CONFERENCE A PROBABLE MISTAKEN ATTACK ON THE AIRCRAFT WHICH COST THE LIVES OF ITS 81 PASSENGERS AND CREW. THE PRESS MADE CLEAR THAT SEWELL WAS HIRED BY THE ASSOCIATION MADE UP OF THE FAMILIES OF THE USTICA VICTIMS.

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3. (U) SEWELL CLAIMED THAT TWO POWERFUL DOUBLE-HEADED AIR-TO-AIR MISSILES (BOTH LAUNCHED FROM THE SAME AIRCRAFT) EXPLODED OUTSIDE THE AIRCRAFT, WRENCHING THE RIGHT MOTOR FROM THE WING AND PENETRATING THE FUSELAGE JUST FORWARD OF THE POINT WHERE THE WING ATTACHES TO THE FUSELAGE, AND JUST AFT OF THE COCKPIT. IT EXITED ON THE OPPOSITE SIDE OF THE AIRCRAFT. AS ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE THAT MISSILES BROUGHT DOWN THE AIRCRAFT, SEWELL CITES:

-- T4 AND TNT FOUND ON REMNANTS OF SUITCASES;

-- THE CUTS MADE BY THE MISSILES IN THE FUSELAGE (THE "SKIN") WHICH HAS BEEN BROUGHT UP FROM THE OCEAN BOTTOM AND RECONSTITUTED;

-- THE CARPET IN THE PASSENGER CABIN SHOWS THAT THE MISSILES ENTERED FROM BELOW AND PASSED OUT OF THE AIRCRAFT FUSELAGE FROM ABOVE.

4. (LOU) AS USUAL THERE ARE SEVERAL CONTRASTING VERSIONS OF WHAT SEWELL SAID. THE MOST AUTHORITATIVE APPEARED IN THE JULY 5 ISSUE OF "L'EUROPEO." IN THAT

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INTERVIEW SEWELL SAYS THAT THE AIRCRAFT WAS ATTACKED DIRECTLY, AND RULED OUT THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE MISSILES WERE FIRED BY ACCIDENT. HE WAS SAID TO BE CONVINCED THAT IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO FIND FRAGMENTS OF THE MISSILES IN QUESTION ON THE OCEAN BOTTOM AT A DISTANCE OF 3 TO 5 NAUTICAL MILES FROM THE POINT WHERE THE USTICA AIRCRAFT EXPLODED. SEWELL, IN AN

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INTERVIEW THAT APPEARED IN "IL TEMPO" JUNE 30,
SUGGESTED THAT THE MISSILES COULD HAVE BEEN:

- SOVIET AA7 APEX OR AN AA6 ACRID;
- FRENCH MATRA R 530;
- AMERICAN AIM 7 SPARROW, VERSION I OR F;
- ENGLISH SKYFLASH.

OTHER ARTICLES SAY THAT SEWELL BELIEVES THAT THE COMMERCIAL LINER GOT IN THE WAY OF AN ATTACK BY ONE FIGHTER AIRCRAFT AGAINST ANOTHER, AND WAS MISTAKENLY HIT.

5. (LOU) WHEN IT WAS NOTED IN THE COURSE OF THE PRESS CONFERENCE THAT NO ONE SURVIVED THE EXPLOSION (SUPPORTING THE THEORY THAT ALL DIED FROM IMMEDIATE DECOMPRESSION CAUSED BY A MISSILE AND NOT BY A BOMB), A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ORGANIZATION OF "FAMILIES OF MILITARY PERSONNEL FALLEN IN SERVICE TO THE COUNTRY", DIFFERED SHARPLY. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, THE

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ACTION EUR-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-17	CIAE-00	COME-00	CPE-00	C-01	OASY-00
	DOEE-00	DOTE-00	EB-01	E-01	FAAE-00	HA-09	H-01
	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-19	JUSE-00	L-03	ADS-00	NRRC-00
	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01	PA-01	PM-02	PRS-01

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P-01	SB-00	SDEL-00	SNP-00	SP-00	SSO-00	SS-00
STR-16	TRSE-00	T-00	TSKY-00	CORE-00	SSD-01	/078W
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O 011535Z JUL 93
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 SECDEF WASHDC//OUSDP-ISA-EUR//
 USIA WASHDC 8914
 DEPT JUSTICE WASHDC
 INFO USNMR SHAPE BE
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 USCINCEUR VAHINGEN GE//ECPA/ECJ5//
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 USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT
 JOINT STAFF WASHDC
 CNO WASHDC//06/09C//

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STATE ALSO FOR P; USIA FOR EU, P/G; DOJ FOR CRIM
DIV/OIA (L. BARSELLA)



PAGE 02 ROME 11575 02 OF 02 011545Z

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
 TAGS: MARR, PARM, PREL, IT
 SUBJECT: USTICA: AMERICAN "EXPERT" CLAIMS TWO
 MISSILES HIT THE AIRCRAFT

REPRESENTATIVE POINTED OUT THAT THE CORPSE OF A
 "CARABINIERE" (NATIONAL POLICE), FOUND AFTER THE
 TRAGEDY, SHOWED SIGNS THAT AT LEAST ONE PERSON HAD
 SURVIVED FOR SOME MINUTES AFTER THE EXPL
 OSION. THE
 ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE FURTHER QUESTIONED WHETHER
 THE RADAR MISSILES CITED BY SEWELL WERE WIDELY USED
 IN 1980.

6. (C) WE HAVE LEARNED THAT SEWELL WAS FIRST
 CONTACTED BY "L'EUROPEO" JOURNALIST CLAUDIO GATTI AND
 HAS BEEN ADVISING HIM ON THE CRASH FOR OVER TWO
 YEARS. ONLY RECENTLY DID GATTI SUGGEST TO THE
 ASSOCIATION OF THE FAMILIES OF USTICA VICTIMS THAT
 THEY HIRE SEWELL AS AN EXPERT WITNESS.

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7. (C) COMMENT. THE SEWELL "REVELATIONS" WILL GIVE THE INVESTIGATING JUDGES FURTHER PATHS TO FOLLOW. SEVERAL MONTHS AGO, AS HE NOTES IN HIS INTERVIEW, SEWELL CONTACTED THE EMBASSY AND EXPLAINED HIS MISSION. WE GAVE HIM NO ENCOURAGEMENT, NOR DID WE SUGGEST IN ANY WAY THAT THE USG SANCTIONED HIS INVOLVEMENT IN THE CASE.

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PAGE 01 ROME 12897 231801Z
ACTION EUR-01

INFO LOG-00 CIAE-00 OASY-00 TEDE-00 INR-00 ADS-00 NSAE-00
PM-02 CORE-00 /003W

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R 231756Z JUL 93
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO DEPT OF JUSTICE WASH DC
USIA WASHDC 9037
SECDEF WASHDC//OUSDP-ISA-EUR//
SECSTATE WASHDC 5346
INFO DIA WASHDC
AMCONSUL NAPLES
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AMCONSUL FLORENCE
AMCONSUL MILAN
COMFAIRMED NAPLES IT
COMSIXTHFLT
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE//ECPA/ECJ5//
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE
JOINT STAFF WASHDC
USNMR SHAPE BE
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
CNO WASHDC//06/09C//

UNCLAS ROME 012897

STATE FOR EUR/WE; USIA FOR EU, P/G; DOJ FOR CRIM
DIV/OIA L. BARSELLA

PAGE 02 ROME 12897 231801Z

E.O. 12356:N/A
TAGS: PINR, NATO, PREL, IT, RS
SUBJECT: USTICA PRESS UPDATE

REF: ROME 11575 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: PRESS INTEREST IN THE USTICA CASE (IN WHICH A CIVIL AIRLINER CRASHED IN THE TYRHENIAN SEA NEAR THE ISLAND OF USTICA) REMAINS HIGH. RECENT PRESS ARTICLES NOTE AN UPCOMING TRIP BY THE

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CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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INVESTIGATING MAGISTRATE TO MOSCOW, A "NEW LIBYAN ANGLE, CRITICISM OF THE INVESTIGATION BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE INVESTIGATING PARLIAMENTARY COMMISSION, AND A FEW KIND WORDS ABOUT U.S. COOPERATION. END SUMMARY.

2. THE PRESS REPORTED RECENTLY THAT RUSSIAN AUTHORITIES HAVE AGREED TO COLLABORATE WITH ITALIAN MAGISTRATES INVESTIGATING THE USTICA TRAGEDY. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, INVESTIGATING MAGISTRATE PRIORE IS SCHEDULED TO MEET WITH RUSSIAN OFFICIALS IN MOSCOW BEFORE THE END OF JULY. THE ITALIANS ARE SEEKING RUSSIAN ASSISTANCE IN IDENTIFYING THE NATIONALITY OF A MIG 23 AIRCRAFT WHICH WAS FOUND WRECKED IN CALABRIA ON 18 JULY, 1980. THE AIRCRAFT IS SUSPECTED OF HAVING PLAYED A ROLE IN THE USTICA CRASH.

3. JUDGE PRIORE HEARD THE TESTIMONY OF PIERLUIGI SCARPA, ACCOUNTANT AND COMMERCIAL OFFICER OF AERITALIA ON 20 JULY IN VENICE. ACCORDING TO PRESS

PAGE 03 ROME 12897 231801Z
REPORTS SCARPA CLAIMED THAT, WORKING THROUGH ITALIAN, GERMAN, AND ENGLISH COMPANIES, LIBYA ACQUIRED AT LEAST TEN C-130 AIRCRAFT FROM A U.S. COMPANY FROM 1978-1980. ACCORDING TO HIS ACCOUNT, AERITALIA ADAPTED THE AIRCRAFT FOR MILITARY USE AT ITS FACILITY IN MESTRE (NEAR VENICE). INFERRING FROM THIS THAT LIBYA HAD EASY ACCESS TO ITALIAN FACILITIES AT THE TIME OF THE USTICA TRAGEDY, THE ARTICLE GOES ON TO SPECULATE THAT THAT THE MIG 23 FOUND IN CALABRIA COULD HAVE TAKEN OFF FROM AN ITALIAN AIRPORT SECRETLY PUT AT LIBYA'S DISPOSAL BY ITALIAN AUTHORITIES.

4. THE RECENTLY REELECTED PRESIDENT OF THE PARLIAMENTARY COMMISSION INVESTIGATING THE USTICA CRASH, LIBERO GUALTIERI, DISPARAGED THE MANNER IN WHICH THE USTICA INVESTIGATION HAS BEEN CONDUCTED OVER ITS 13 YEAR HISTORY. IN AN INTERVIEW WITH NEWS WEEKLY "L'EUROPEO," HE DENOUNCED THE INVESTIGATION AS THE WORST-RUN EVER INQUIRY OF A SERIOUS INCIDENT AND CALLED IT TAMPERED WITH FROM THE BEGINNING.

5. THE PRESS REPORTED THAT INVESTIGATING MAGISTRATES SAID THAT ALL HYPOTHESES ABOUT THE CAUSE OF THE CRASH WERE STILL VALID. IN COMMENTS TO THE PRESS, ONE OF THE MAGISTRATES (SALVI) ANNOUNCED THAT BEGINNING 29

UNCLASSIFIED

Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1993ROME12897

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

238

JULY DR. HELDE, A GERMAN MISSILE EXPERT, WOULD MAKE AN INDEPENDENT EVALUATION OF AMERICAN CONSULTANT ROBERT SEWELL'S ALLEGATIONS THAT THE AIRLINER WAS DOWNED BY TWO MISSILES (REFTEL). IN A STATEMENT TO JOURNALISTS SALVI REPORTEDLY CREDITED THE U.S. FOR ITS WIDE-RANGING COLLABORATION WITH THE INVESTIGATION. THOUGH HE CLAIMED (INCORRECTLY) THAT

PAGE 04 ROME 12897 231801Z
ONE U.S. RESPONSE WAS STILL PENDING (THREE ARE OUTSTANDING), SALVI ALLOWED THAT THE U.S. HAD ALREADY RESPONDED TO MULTIPLE INQUIRIES.

SERWER

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A201

Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1993ROME13346

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

RELEASED IN FULL

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PAGE 01 ROME 13346 301655Z
ACTION EUR-01

INFO LOG-00 CIAE-00 OASY-00 TEDE-00 INR-00 ADS-00 NSAE-00
PM-02 CORE-00 /003W

-----DD494B 301835Z /38

R 301649Z JUL 93
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO USIA WASHDC 9087
DEPT JUSTICE WASHDC
SECDEF WASHDC//OUSDP-ISA-EUR//
SECSTATE WASHDC 5610
INFO DIA WASHDC
USCINCEUR VAHINGEN GE//ECPA/ECJ5//
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE
USMISSION USNATO
JOINT STAFF WASHDC
AMCONSUL NAPLES
AMCONSUL FLORENCE
AMCONSUL MILAN
COMFAIRMED NAPLES IT
USNMR SHAPE BE
CNO WASHDC//06/09C//
COMSIXTHFLT

UNCLAS ROME 013346

STATE FOR EUR/WE; USIA FOR EU, P/G; DOJ FOR CRIM
DIV/OIA L. BARSELLA

PAGE 02 ROME 13346 301655Z

E.O. 12356:N/A
TAGS: PINR, NATO, PREL, IT, RS
SUBJECT: USTICA PRESS UPDATE: DRY WELL IN RUSSIA

REFS: A) ROME 12897 B) ROME 04128 C) ROME 07043

1. JULY 27-29 PRESS REPORTS COVERED INVESTIGATING
JUDGE PRIORE'S TRIP TO MOSCOW TO ATTEMPT TO QUESTION
RUSSIAN OFFICIALS WHO HAVE ALLEGED U.S.
RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE 1980 CRASH OF A CIVILIAN

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16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1993ROME13346

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

239

AIRLINER NEAR THE ISLAND OF USTICA AND TO DETERMINE IF RUSSIAN ARCHIVES HELD ANY INFORMATION RELEVANT TO THE CASE. IN PUBLIC STATEMENTS, THE INVESTIGATORS REPEATEDLY COMPLIMENTED THE RUSSIANS' WILLINGNESS TO COOPERATE WITH THE INVESTIGATION, BUT REPORTEDLY ADMITTED THAT NO NEW FINDINGS EMERGED FROM 25-27 JULY VISIT TO MOSCOW.

2. JUDGE PRIORE WAS NOT ABLE TO MEET WITH ANY OF THE RUSSIAN OFFICIALS WHO HAVE PUBLICLY BLAMED U.S. MISSILES FOR THE CRASH. THE RUSSIANS REPORTEDLY DENIED ONCE AGAIN ANY KNOWLEDGE OF SELF-PROCLAIMED KGB OFFICIAL "GENERAL PAVLOV" WHO CLAIMED TO ITALIAN MEDIA IN MARCH THAT, FROM A SECRET RADAR FACILITY IN LIBYA, HE SAW TWO AMERICAN MISSILES DOWN THE DC-9 (REFTEL B).

3. THE PRESS ALSO REPORTED THAT GENERAL SALIMOV, WHO GAVE INTERVIEWS TO RADIO "GRL" IN WHICH HE CORROBORATED PAVLOV'S STORY (REFTEL C), WAS NOT

PAGE 03 ROME 13346 301655Z
AVAILABLE TO BE INTERVIEWED. THE LEFTIST, INDEPENDENT "LA REPUBBLICA" MENTIONED THAT PRIORE WAS ALSO UNABLE TO QUESTION A CAPTAIN IVANOV WHO REPORTEDLY EXPOUNDED THE SAME THEORY AS PAVLOV AND SALIMOV. WIRE REPORTS STATED THAT JUDGE PRIORE WILL RETURN TO MOSCOW IN MID-SEPTEMBER TO QUESTION THE RUSSIAN OFFICIALS.

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RELEASED IN FULL

Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1993ROME21806

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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PAGE 01 ROME 21806 221026Z
ACTION EUR-01

INFO LOG-00 CIAE-00 OASY-00 TEDE-00 INR-00 ADS-00 NSAE-00
PM-02 /003W

-----1337AA 221038Z /38

R 221025Z DEC 93
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0790
INFO SECDEF WASHDC//OUSDP-ISA-EUR//
DIA WASHDC
AMCONSUL MILAN
DEPT JUSTICE WASHDC
COMSIXTHFLT
USIA WASHDC 9835
USMISSION USNATO
JOINT STAFF WASHDC
COMFAIRMED NAPLES IT
USCINCEUR VAHINGEN GE//ECPA/ECJ//
AMCONSUL FLORENCE//POUCH//
AMCONSUL NAPLES

ROME 021806

STATE FOR EUR/WE; USIA FOR EU, P/G; DOJ FOR CRIM
DIV/OIA L. BARSELLA

E.O. 1236: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PINR, NATO, PREL, IT
SUBJECT: USTICA INVESTIGATION WILL LIKELY BE
EXTENDED UNTIL DECEMBER, 1994

PAGE 02 ROME 21806 221026Z
REF: ROME 13346; DTG 301649Z JUL 93 AND PREVIOUS

1. [REDACTED] - ENTIRE TEXT.
2. IN A DECEMBER 1 MEETING, USTICA INVESTIGATING
MAGISTRATES ROSARIO PRIORE AND GIOVANNI SALVI TOLD
EMBASSY SENIOR DOJ REPRESENTATIVE THAT THE ITALIAN
SENATE HAD APPROVED EXTENDING THE INVESTIGATION OF
THE USTICA CRASH AND THAT THE CHAMBER WOULD PROBABLY

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Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1993ROME21806

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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VOTE IN FAVOR OF AN EXTENSION UNTIL DECEMBER 1994, A YEAR BEYOND ITS CURRENT EXPIRATION DATE.

3. THE INVESTIGATION FOCUSES ON THE CAUSE OF A CRASH IN 1980 OF AN ITAVIA DC-9 IN THE MEDITERRANEAN NEAR THE ISLAND OF USTICA, NORTH OF SICILY. THE CAUSE HAS NEVER BEEN DETERMINED. JUDICIAL AND POPULAR SPECULATION CENTERS AROUND SEVERAL THEORIES:

THAT THE AIRCRAFT WAS SHOT DOWN BY A LIBYAN MIG, THAT A BOMB ABOARD EXPLODED, OR THAT IT WAS MISIDENTIFIED AS A LIBYAN AIRCRAFT AND SHOT DOWN BY A FRENCH OR U.S. MISSILE. INVESTIGATORS IN THE CASE HAVE MADE REPEATED TREATY REQUESTS OF THE U.S. FOR INFORMATION ABOUT POSSIBLE INVOLVEMENT IN THE CRASH.

4. MAGISTRATES TOLD THE DOJ REPRESENTATIVE THAT THEY WOULD AWAIT THE U.S. RESPONSE TO THEIR OUTSTANDING REQUESTS AND THEN PROVIDE A COMPREHENSIVE LIST OF THOSE RESPONSES NEEDING CLARIFICATION. THEY PLAN TO FOLLOW-UP WITH ADDITIONAL INQUIRIES NECESSARY TO CONCLUDE U.S.

PAGE 03 ROME 21806 221026Z
COOPERATION. THE MAGISTRATES HOPE TO FINISH THE INTERNATIONAL ROGATORIES WELL BEFORE DECEMBER 1994 IN ORDER TO COMPLETE THE REPORT AND MAKE ANY CRIMINAL CHARGES BEFORE THE END OF 1994. IN REALITY, REQUESTS WILL LIKELY COME IN THROUGH LATE NEXT YEAR.

5. NAPLES' DAILY, "IL MATTINO" CARRIED ON DECEMBER 16 A CALL FROM THE ORGANIZATION OF THE VICTIMS' FAMILIES TO EXTEND THE LENGTH OF THE INVESTIGATION. THE ARTICLE NOTES THAT THE PARLIAMENT HAS UNTIL DECEMBER 31 TO APPROVE THE EXTENSION. IN THE STORY, THE GROUP'S PRESIDENT ASKED PRESIDENT CLINTON TO CLARIFY A MYSTERY: WAS THE AMERICAN AIRCRAFT CARRIER, "USS SARATOGA" IN NAPLES HARBOR THE NIGHT OF THE JUNE 27 CRASH? ALTHOUGH PHOTOGRAPHS WHICH CAME TO LIGHT IN DECEMBER 1992 SHOW THE CARRIER ANCHORED IN NAPLES HARBOR THE AFTERNOON OF THE TRAGEDY, THE THEORY THAT THE "USS SARATOGA" WAS IN THE AREA OF THE CRASH AND THAT ONE OF ITS FIGHTERS SHOT DOWN THE PASSENGER JET IS STILL IN LIMITED CIRCULATION. BARTHOLOMEW

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Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1995ROME05135

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

RELEASED IN FULL

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PAGE 01 ROME 05135 01 OF 02 161252Z
ACTION EUR-01

INFO	LOG-00	COR-01	AID-00	CIAE-00	COME-00	OASY-00	DOPE-00
	EB-01	E-00	FAAE-00	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	LAB-01
	L-01	ADS-00	M-00	NEA-01	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OMB-01
	PA-02	PM-00	PRS-01	P-01	SCT-00	SP-00	SSO-00
	SS-00	STR-01	TRSE-00	T-00	PMB-00	DRL-09	G-00

/022W

-----BC0FE0 161304Z /45/38

O 051626Z APR 95
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6258
INFO USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2063
AMCONSUL NAPLES
AMCONSUL MILAN
AMCONSUL FLORENCE

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 ROME 005135

[REDACTED] - PARA 3 AND REMOVING
CLASSIFICATION FROM MIDDLE OF TEXT

DEPT FOR EUR/WE; DOD FOR OSD/ISA (LAZARUS)

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: PREL, IT
SUBJECT: NEW TESTIMONY IN USTICA CASE

PAGE 02 ROME 05135 01 OF 02 161252Z

SUMMARY

1. TWO LEADING ITALIAN NEWSPAPERS APRIL 5 REPORTED THAT AN ITALIAN AIR FORCE NCO HAS VOLUNTEERED FURTHER TESTIMONY THAT HE SAW SEVERAL JETS FLYING NEAR THE AIRLINER PRIOR TO THE CRASH. REPORTS ALSO NOTE THAT SEVERAL AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS PROVIDED SIMILAR TESTIMONY, AND THAT THE ITALIAN AIR FORCE RECENTLY FURNISHED THE JUDICIARY WITH A LIST OF FIFTY-TWO MILITARY PERSONNEL ON DUTY AT CIAMPINO THE NIGHT OF THE CRASH. THE ARTICLES ALSO SUGGEST THAT THESE JETS MIGHT HAVE BEEN AMERICAN. EMBASSY

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16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1995ROME05135

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

246

PROPOSED PRESS GUIDANCE FOLLOWS PARA 6. END
SUMMARY.

2. THE CORRIERE DELLA SERA AND IL MESSAGGERO APRIL 5 REPORTED THAT LUCIANO CARICO, AN ITAF NCO ON DUTY AT THE MARSALA AIR BASE THE NIGHT OF JUNE 27, 1980 RECENTLY VOLUNTEERED TO ADD INFORMATION TO HIS PREVIOUS STATEMENTS CONCERNING THE CRASH THAT NIGHT OF AN ITALIAN DC-9 AIRLINER NEAR THE SOUTHERN ITALIAN ISLAND OF USTICA (WHICH KILLED ALL 81 PERSONS ONBOARD). DURING A SIX-HOUR HEARING WITH ROME MAGISTRATE ROSARIO PRIORE, WHO IS INVESTIGATING THE USTICA CRASH, CARICO CONFIRMED THE TESTIMONY HE GAVE IN 1989 IN WHICH HE SAID THE MARSALA RADARS HAD TRACKED SEVERAL JETS FLYING NEAR THE AIRLINER JUST BEFORE THE CRASH. HE REPORTEDLY STATED THAT ONE JET WAS FLYING CLOSE AND FAST BEHIND THE DC-9, AS IF TO

PAGE 03 ROME 05135 01 OF 02 161252Z
OVERTAKE IT.

3. THE ARTICLES ALSO REPORTED THAT CARICO'S STATEMENTS MATCH THOSE OF SEVERAL AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS WHO WERE ON DUTY IN ROME'S CIAMPINO AIRPORT THE SAME NIGHT AND WHOM PRIORE RECENTLY CALLED TO TESTIFY. THE CONTROLLERS REPORTEDLY SAID THE TRAFFIC THEY SAW AROUND THE CIVILIAN AIRLINER HAD INITIALLY NOT CAUSED ANY ALARM BECAUSE A NOTAM HAD ADVISED THEM OF A U.S. MILITARY AIR EXERCISE SCHEDULED FOR THAT EVENING. WHEN THE CONTROLLERS WERE ASKED WHY THEY HAD NOT TESTIFIED BEFORE, ALL REPORTEDLY SAID THEY HAD NEVER BEEN ASKED.

4. ACCORDING TO THE ARTICLES, ABOUT TWO MONTHS AGO THE ITAF GAVE JUDGE PRIORE THE NAMES OF FIFTY-TWO MILITARY OFFICIALS WHO WERE ON DUTY AT CIAMPINO THE NIGHT OF THE CRASH. THE ITAF RECONSTRUCTED THE FULL LIST OF PERSONNEL FROM BUDGET-DEPARTMENT RECORDS. PREVIOUSLY, ITAF ONLY FURNISHED THE NAMES OF SIX DUTY PERSONNEL, SAYING THAT RECORDS OF DUTY PERSONNEL FOR THAT EVENING HAD BEEN DESTROYED.

5. THE ARTICLES ALSO SUGGEST THAT THE UNIDENTIFIED JETS ALLEGEDLY FLYING OVER USTICA AT THE TIME OF THE CRASH WERE AMERICAN FIGHTER JETS, BY CONFLATING THE STATEMENTS BY CARICO, THE CIAMPINO AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS, UNIDENTIFIED AIR RESCUE PERSONNEL, AND TAPES OF A CONVERSATION BETWEEN TWO AIR TRAFFIC

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DOC_NBR: 1995ROME05135

CHANNEL: n/a
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246

CONTROLLERS AT CIAMPINO WHEN THE DC-9 RADAR TRACK
DISAPPEARED FROM THE SCREEN. IN THAT CONVERSATION,

PAGE 04 ROME 05135 01 OF 02 161252Z
ONE CONTROLLER REPORTEDLY ASKED ANOTHER WHERE THE
"U.S. AIRCRAFT CARRIER" WAS AT THAT MOMENT AND TOLD
THE OTHER CONTROLLER TO CALL THE U.S. EMBASSY IN
ROME.

6. EMBASSY PROPOSES TO USE THE FOLLOWING PRESS
GUIDANCE TO RESPOND TO POTENTIAL QUERIES ON THIS
MATTER:

BEGIN TEXT:

THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT HAS ALWAYS PROVIDED,
AND WILL CONTINUE TO PROVIDE, FULL COOPERATION TO
ITALIAN JUDICIAL AUTHORITIES IN THEIR INVESTIGATION
OF THE USTICA CRASH.

AS NOTED REPEATEDLY IN THE PAST, WE HAVE INFORMED
ITALIAN AUTHORITIES THAT NO U.S. COMBAT SHIPS OR
AIRCRAFT WERE OPERATING IN THE AREA OF THE CRASH ON
THE EVENING OF JUNE 27, 1980.

END TEXT.

PAGE 01 ROME 05135 02 OF 02 130732Z
ACTION EUR-01

INFO	LOG-00	AID-00	CIAE-00	SMEC-00	COME-00	OASY-00	DOPE-00
	EB-01	E-00	FAAE-00	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	LAB-01
	L-01	ADS-00	M-00	NEA-01	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OMB-01
	PA-02	PM-00	PRS-01	P-01	SB-00	SCT-00	SP-00
	SSO-00	SS-00	STR-01	TRSE-00	T-00	PMB-00	DRL-09
	G-00	/021W					

-----BB2E8B 130733Z /38
O 051626Z APR 95
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6259
INFO USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2064
AMCONSUL NAPLES
AMCONSUL MILAN

UNCLASSIFIED

Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

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DOC_NBR: 1995ROME05135

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

246

AMCONSUL FLORENCE

UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 ROME 005135

DEPT FOR EUR/WE; DOD FOR OSD/ISA (LAZARUS)

████████████████████ (TEXT)

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: PREL, IT
SUBJECT: NEW TESTIMONY IN USTICA CASE

COMMENT

████████████████████
PAGE 02 ROME 05135 02 OF 02 130732Z

7. WE ARE REPORTING THESE TWO PRESS ARTICLES FOR THE RECORD ONLY BECAUSE THIS LATEST TWIST TO THE USTICA SAGA INDICATES THAT AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS OTHER THAN NCO CARICO HAVE TESTIFIED THAT THEY SAW OTHER JET AIRCRAFT IN THE VICINITY OF THE AIRLINER BEFORE THE CRASH. ALSO NEW IS THE NEWS THAT THE ITAF HAS FURNISHED THE JUDICIARY WITH A COMPLETE LIST OF OFFICIALS ON DUTY AT CIAMPINO THE NIGHT OF THE CRASH. END COMMENT.

BARTHOLOMEW
████████████████████

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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A200

Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1996ROME00466

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a
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PTQ2371

PTQ2371

PAGE 01 ROME 00466 161621Z
ACTION EUR-01

INFO	LOG-00	CIAE-00	OASY-00	SRPP-00	EB-01	H-01	TEDE-00
	INR-00	L-01	ADS-00	M-00	NEA-01	NSAE-00	NSCE-00
	OMB-01	PA-02	PM-00	PRS-01	P-00	SP-00	SS-00
	TRSE-00	T-00	SNIS-00	NISC-00	PMB-00	DRL-09	G-00

/018W

-----1027BF 161635Z /49

R 161619Z JAN 96
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO RUEHC SECSTATE WASHDC 4357
SECDEF WASHDC
INFO AMCONSUL FLORENCE
AMCONSUL MILAN
AMCONSUL NAPLES
USIA WASHDC 3105

UNCLAS ROME 000466

SENSITIVE

DEPT FOR EUR/WE; DOD FOR OSD/ISA/ITALY (MILLER)

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: PREH, IT
SUBJECT: USTICA INVASTIGATION UPDATE

1. (U) LOCAL PRSS REPORTS INDICATE THAT ON DECEMBER 24, ROME PROSECUTOR ROSARIO PRIORE (RESPONSIBLE FOR

PAGE 02 ROME 00466 161621Z
INVESTIGATING THE UNEXPLAINED JULY 1980 CRASH OF AN ITALIAN AIRLINER NEAR THE ISLAND OF USTICA) AND VENICE PROSECUTOR CARLO MASTELLONI (WHO IS INVESTIGATING THE DOWNING OF AN ITALIAN INTELLIGENCE ARGO 16 AIRCRAFT) JOINTLY ORDERED A SEARCH OF THE ROME RESIDENCE OF RETIRED CARABINIERI GENERAL (AND EX-SISMI OFFICIAL) DEMETRIO COGLIANDRO. DURING THE SMARCH, PRIORE AND MASTELLONI REPORTEDLY DISCOVERED OVER ONE HUNDRED FILES CONTAINING ALLEGED "CONFIDENTIAL" INFORMATION ON USTICA

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16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1996ROME00466

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

248

(ABOUT 20 FILES) AS WELL AS INFORMATION ON PROMINENT ITALIAN POLITICAL AND BUSINESS LEADERS, INCLUDING FORMER PRIME MINISTERS ANDREOTTI, CRAXI, DE MITA, AND BERLUSCONI, AS WELL AS OLIVETTI HEAD DE BENEDETTI; AND MATERIAL ON OTHER "UNSOLVED MYSTERIES" INCLUDING THE 1969 PIAZZA FONTANA TERRORIST BOMBING AND THE ALDO MORO KIDNAPPING.

2. (U) OTHER PRESS ACCOUNTS INDICATE THAT MATERIAL DISCOVERED AT THE COGLIANRO RESIDENCE THEORIZES THAT THE AIRLINER WAS ACCIDENTALLY DOWNED BY AN AIR-TO-AIR MISSILE DURING AN AIR BATTLE BETWEEN ALLIED (U.S. AND FRENCH) AND DIBAN AIRCRAFT, INCLUDING ONE CARRYING LIBYAN LEIDER MOAMMAR KHADDAFI. ACCORDING TO THIS THEORY, THE USTICA AIRLINER, WHICH WAS TWO HOURS LATE AND NOT EXPECTED IN THE AREA, WAS INADVERTENTLY DOWNED BY A FRENCH MISSILE IN THE MELEE. PRESS ACCOUNTS ALSO ALLEGE THAT A GROUND RADAR SITE IN MARSALA DETECTED AN UNUSUAL AMOUNT OF AIR TRAFFIC OVER THE USTICA AREA THE NIGHT THE INCIDENT OCCURED, AND THAT A TOTAL OF FIVE P-3 ORION AIRCRAFT FLEW CONSECUTIVE SEARCHES OVER THE CALABRIA REGION THAT NIGHT. COGLIANDRO'S NOTES

PAGE 03 ROME 00466 161621Z
REPORTEDLY CONCLUDED THAT THEN-PRIME MINISTER (LATER PRESIDENT) FRANCESCO COSSIGA MADE THE DECISION NOT TO REVEAL THE FACTS BEHIND THE DOWNING, FEARING A POSSIBLE POLITICAL CRISIS. (NOTE: COSSIGA JANUARY 11 DISMISSED AS ABSURD THESE ALLEGATIONS IN A TONGUE-IN-CHEEK LETTER TO THE LEADING ITALIAN DAILY CORRIERE DELLA SERA.)

3. (U) THE FILES DISCOVERED AT THE COGLIANDRO RESIDENCE REPORTEDLY COVER THE 1984-91 PERIOD, SUBSEQUENT TO HIS RETIREMENT FROM SISMI IN 1981. ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNTS, PROSECUTORS PRIORE AND MASTELLONI ARE NOW INVESTIGATING ALLEGATIONS THAT COGLIANDRO--WHO HAD SET UP HIS OWN PRIVATE INVESTIGATING AGENCY --WAS WORKING ON CONTRACT OR SISMI DURING THIS PERIOD. PROSECUTOR PRIORE REPORTEDLY HAS ALSO SEIZED OTHER RELATED MATERIAL FROM SISMI STATIONS IN MILAN, NAPLES AND BARI, AS WELL AS FROM SISMI'S ROME HEADQUARTERS. PRIORE HAS FORWARDED EXCERPTS FROM THE MATERIAL DISCOVERED IN COGLIANDRO'S HOME TO VARIOUS ITALIAN JUDICIARY OFFICES. IN ADDITION, THE FILES WILL REPORTEDLY BE EXAMINED BY A PARLIAMENTARY JOINT

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Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1996ROME00466

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

248

OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE.

4. (SBU) COMMENT: WE REPORT THE FOREGOING @RESS
REPORTS ON THE LATEST TWIST IN THE LONG-PUNNING USTICA
SAGA FOR THE RECORD. INVESTIGATORS AND LOCAL PRESS
HAVE, AT DIFFERENT TIMES, PROPOSED VARIOUS SCENARIOS TO
EXPLAIN THE USTICA CRASH, INCLUDING THE POSSIBILITY OF
A BOMB EXPLOSION ON BOARD, AS WELL AS THE INVOLVEMENT
OF FIGHTER AIRCRAFT BELONGING TO: ITALY, FRANCE,

PAGE 04 ROME 00466 161621Z
ISRAEL, LIBYA, OR THE UNITED STATES. THE THEORY A LA
MODE APPEARS TO BE A GRAND SYNTHESIS POSITING A
CONSPIRACY AMONG THREE OF THESE NATIONS. BARTHOLOMEW

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Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1996ROME00467

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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PTQ2343

PTQ2343

PAGE 01 ROME 00467 161624Z
ACTION EUR-01

INFO	LOG-00	AID-00	SMI-00	CIAE-00	SMEC-00	COME-00	OASY-00
	DOTE-00	SRPP-00	EB-01	E-00	FAAE-00	H-01	TEDE-00
	INR-00	LAB-01	L-01	ADS-00	M-00	NEA-01	NSAE-00
	NSCE-00	OMB-01	PA-02	PM-00	PRS-01	P-00	SCT-00
	SP-00	SSO-00	SS-00	STR-00	TRSE-00	T-00	PMB-00
	DRL-09	G-00	/019W				

-----1026A4 161624Z /38

R 161624Z JAN 96
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECDEF WASHDC
SECSTATE WASHDC 4358
INFO USIA WASHDC 3106
AMCONSUL NAPLES
AMCONSUL FLORENCE
AMCONSUL MILAN

UNCLAS ROME 000467

DEPT FOR EUR/WE; DOD FOR OSD/ISA/ITALY (MILLER)

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: PREL, IT
SUBJECT: USTICA INVESTIGATION UPDATE

1. (U) LOCAL PRESS REPORTS INDIBATE THAT ON DECEMBER

PAGE 02 ROME 00467 161624Z
24, ROME PROSECUTOR ROSARIO PRIORE (RESPONSIBLE FOR INVESTIGATING THE UNEXPLAINED JULY 1980 CRASH OF AN ITALIAN AIRLINER NEAR THE ISLAND OF USTICA) AND VENACE PROSECUTOR CARL MASTELLONI (WHO IS INVESTIGATING THE DOWNING OF AN ITALIAN INTELLIGENCE ARGO 16 AIRCRAFT) JOINTLY ORDERED A SEARCH OF THE ROME RESIDENCE OF RETIRED CARABINIERI GENERAL (AND EX-SISMI OFFICIAL) DEMETRIO COGLIANDRO. DURING THE SEARCH, PRIORE AND MASTELLONI REPORTEDLY DISCOVERED OVER ONE HUNDRED FILES

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UNCLASSIFIED

Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1996ROME00467

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

249

CONTAINING ALLEGED "CONFIDENTIAL" INFORMATION ON USTICA
(ABOUT 20 FILES) AS WELL AS INFORMATION ON PROMINENT

M
ITALIAN POLITICAL AND BUSINESS LEADERS, INCLUDING
FORMER PRIME MINISTERS ANDREOTTI, CRAXI, DE MITA, AND
BERLUSCONI, AS WELL AS OLIVETTI HEAD DE BENEDETTI; AND
MATERIAL ON OTHER "UNSOLVED MYSTERIES" INCLUDING THE
1969 PIAZZA FONTANA TERRORIST BOMBING AND THE ALDO MORO
KIDNAPPING.

2. (U) OTHER PRESS ACCOUNTS INDICATE THAT MATERIAL
DISCOVERED AT THE COGLIANDRO RESIDENCE THEORIZES THAT
THE AIRLINER WAS ACCIDENTALLY DOWNED BY AN AIR-TO-AIR
MISSILE DURING AN AIR BATTLE BETWEEN ALLIED (U.S. AND
FRENCH) AND LIBYAN AIRCRAFT, INCLUDING ONE CARRYING
LIBYAN LEADER MOAMMAR KHADDAFI. ACCORDING TO THIS
THEORY, THE USTICA AIRLINER, WHICH WAS TWO HOURS LATE
AND NOT EXPECTED IN THE AREA, WAS INADVERTENTLY DOWNED
BY A FRENCH MISSILE IN THE MELEE. PRESS ACCOUNTS ALSO
ALLEGED THAT A GROUND RADAR SITE IN MARSALA DETECTED AN
UNUSUAL AMOUNT OF AIR TRAFFIC OVER THE USTICA AREA THE
NIGHT THE INCIDENT OCCURED, AND THAT A TOTAL OF FIVE P-

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3 ORION AIRCRAFT FLE CONSECUTIVE SEARCHES OVER THE
CALABRIA REGION THAT NIGHT. COGLIANDRO'S NOTES
REPORTEDLY CONCLUDED THAT THEN-PRIME MINISTER (LATER
PRESIDENT) FRANCESCO COSSIGA MADE THE DECISION NOT TO
REVEAL THE FACTS BEHIND THE DOWNING, FEARING A POSSIBLE
POLITICAL CRISIS. (NOTE: COSSIGA JANUARY 11 DISMISSED
AS ABSURD THESE ALLEGATIONS IN A TONGUE-IN-CHEEK LETTER
TO THE LEADING ITALIAN DAILY CORRIERE DELLA SERA.)

3. (U) THE FILES DISCOVERED AT THE COGLIANDRO
RESIDENCE REPORTEDLY COVER THE 1984-91 PERIOD,
SUBSEQUENT TO HIS RETIREMENT FROM SISMI IN 1981.
ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNTS, PROSECUTORS PRIORE AND
MASTELLONI ARE NOW INVESTIGATING ALLEGATIONS THAT
COGLIANDRO--WHO HAD SET UP HIS OWN PRIVATE
INVESTIGATING AGENCY--WAS WORKING ON CONTRACT FOR SISMI
DURING THIS PERIOD. PROSECUTOR PRIORE REPORTEDLY HAS
ALSO SEIZED OTHER RELATED MATERIAL FROM SISMI STATIONS
IN MILAN, NAPLES AND BARI, AS WELL AS FROM SISMI'S ROME
HEADQUARTERS. PRIORE HAS FORWARDED EXCERPTS FROM THE
MATERIAL DISCOVERED IN COGLIANDRO'S HOME TO VARIOUS
ITALIAN JUDICIARY OFFICES. IN ADDITION, THE FILES WILL

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REPORTEDLY BE EXAMINED BY A PARLIAMENTARY JOINT
OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE.

4. (SBU) COMMENT: WE REPORT THE FOREGOING PRESS
REPORTS ON THE LATEST TWIST IN THE LONG-RUNNING USTICA
SAGA FOR THE RECORD. INVESTIGATORS AND LOCAL PRESS
HAVE, AT DIFFERENT TIMES, PROPOSED VARIOUS SCENARIOS TO
EXPLAIN THE USTICA CRASH, INCLUDING THE POSSIBILITY OF
A BOMB EXPLOSION ON BOARD, AS WELL AS THE INVOLVEMENT
████████████████████
████████████████████

PAGE 04 ROME 00467 161624Z
OF FIGHTER AIRCRAFT BELONGING TO: ITALY, FRANCE,
ISRAEL, LIBYA, OR THE UNITED STATES. THE THEORY A LA
MODE APPEARS TO BE A GRAND SYNTHESIS POSI\IFG A
CONSPIRACY AMONG THREE OF THESE NATIONS. BARTHOLOMEW
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PTQ5838

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PAGE 01 ROME 03818 021512Z
ACTION EUR-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-10	ACDE-00	AID-00	CIAE-00	SMEC-00	COME-00
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	INLB-01	H-01	IMMC-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00	LAB-01
	L-01	ADS-00	M-00	NEA-01	NRRC-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00
	OIC-02	PA-00	PM-00	PRS-00	P-00	SCT-00	SP-00
	SSO-00	SS-00	STR-00	TRSE-00	T-00	USIE-00	SSD-01
	PMB-00	DRL-09	G-00	/031W			

-----29FE89 021512Z /38

P 021503Z APR 96
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6652
INFO USMISSION USNATO
SECDEF WASHDC

UNCLAS ROME 003818

STATE FOR EUR/RPM AND EUR/WE
SECDEF FOR OSD/ISP/ITALY

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: PREL, MARR, NATO, IT
SUBJECT: PRODI, MIGONE COMMENTS ON USTICA INQUIRY

REF: ROME 03755

1. (U) IN PRESS COMMENTS CARRIED BY THE ITALIAN
PRESS AGENCY ANSA APRIL 2, ITALIAN SENATE FOREIGN

PAGE 02 ROME 03818 021512Z
AFFAIRS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN GIANGIACOMO MIGONE SAID
THAT THE ITALIAN PEOPLE, PARLIAMENT, AND GOVERNMENT
HAVE A RIGHT TO ASCERTAIN THE TRUTH BEHIND THE 1980
AIRLINER CRASH OFF THE ISLAND OF USTICA. MIGONE
SAID HE HAD NO DOUBT THAT THE NATO SECRETARY
GENERAL, FRIENDLY COUNTRIES, AND THE ALLIED POWERS
WILL PROVIDE ALL POSSIBLE COOPERATION IN RESOLVING
THE MATTER. MIGONE SAID THAT EVERY INSTITUTION IS
CAPABLE OF DISCLOSING CLASSIFIED INFORMATION IN A

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CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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MANNER WHICH SAFEGUARDS ITS OWN SECURITY, ESPECIALLY IF THE EVENTS TRANSPIRED IN THE DISTANT PAST. IF THERE ARE REASONS TO DENY INFORMATION, THESE REASONS SHOULD BE CLEARLY COMMUNICATED AND THE IDENTITY OF THOSE REFUSING TO PROVIDE THE INFORMATION CLEARLY SPECIFIED. MIGONE SAID THAT FM AGNELLI HAD BEEN REQUESTED BY THE SENATE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE TO TAKE ACTION IN PRESSING NATO TO COOPERATE WITH THE JUDICIAL INVESTIGATION; HE HAD NO DOUBT THAT FM AGNELLI WILL SEEK THE COOPERATION OF ALLIED GOVERNMENTS AND THE NATO SECRETARY GENERAL.

2. (U) IN SEPARATE COMMENTS, OLIVE TREE COALITION PRIME MINISTERIAL CANDIDATE ROMANO PRODI REMARKED THAT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD UNDERTAKE ALL NECESSARY INITIATIVES WITH NATO AUTHORITIES IN ORDER TO OBTAIN THE RELEASE OF THE RADAR TRACKS RELATING TO THE NIGHT OF THE INCIDENT. HE SAID IT WAS STILL UNACCEPTABLE THAT, SIXTEEN YEARS AFTER THE INCIDENT, THERE WERE STILL OBSTACLES TO ASCERTAINING THE TRUTH, TO WHICH THE FAMILIES OF THE VICTIMS AND ALL ITALIAN CITIZENS HAVE A RIGHT.

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3. (U) COMMENT: PRESS INTEREST IN THE USTICA STORY HAS SUBSIDED AFTER A BRIEF FLURRY OF ARTICLES, EDITORIALS, AND CRITICAL REMARKS FROM A NUMBER OF ITALIAN POLITICAL FIGURES IN THE WAKE OF THE REPORTED NATO REFUSAL TO PROVIDE INVESTIGATORS WITH CLASSIFIED RECORDS PERTAINING TO THE 1980 CRASH OF THE ITAVIA AIRLINER OFF THE ISLAND OF USTICA (REFTEL). IN CONTRAST TO THE HEATED TONE OF SOME EARLIER COMMENTARIES, SOME OF WHICH EQUATED NATO'S REPORTED DENIAL AS A "HALF-ADMISSION" OF CULPABILITY IN THE CASE, MIGONE AND PRODI'S COMMENTS ARE MEASURED AND LOW-KEY, WITH MIGONE EVINCING CONFIDENCE THAT NATO AUTHORITIES WILL EXTEND ALL POSSIBLE COOPERATION IN RESOLVING THE MATTER. NEVERTHELESS, THEY SHARE THE WIDESPREAD FEELING IN ITALY THAT INVESTIGATORS HAVE AN OBLIGATION TO PURSUE--AND NATO AUTHORITIES SHOULD COOPERATE--IN FOLLOWING UP ALL POSSIBLE LEADS IN RESOLVING THE CASE. CREAGAN

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PAGE 01 ROME 04130 162124Z
ACTION EUR-01

INFO	LOG-00	COR-01	ACDA-10	ACDE-00	AID-00	CIAE-00	SMEC-00
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	FAAE-00	INLB-01	H-01	IMMC-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00
	LAB-01	L-01	ADS-00	M-00	NEA-01	NRRC-00	NSAE-00
	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01	PA-00	PM-00	PRS-00	P-00
	SCT-00	SP-00	SSO-00	STR-00	TRSE-00	T-00	USIE-00
	SSD-01	PMB-00	DRL-09	G-00	/033W		

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P 111548Z APR 96
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6907
INFO USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY
SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

ROME 004130

(TEXT PARA 6)

STATE FOR EUR/WE
SECDEF FOR OUSD/ISP/ITALY

E.O. 12958: DECL: 4/11/01
TAGS: PGOV, PREL, MARR, NATO, IT
SUBJECT: ITALIAN SENATE COMMITTEE HEARINGS ON USTICA
INVESTIGATION

REF: A) ROME 3883 B) ROME 3818 C) ROME 3755

PAGE 02 ROME 04130 162124Z

1. CLASSIFICATION -- AS MARKED. CLASSIFIED BY AMBASSADOR BARTHOLOMEW FOR REASONS 1.5 (B) AND (D).
2. (U) THIS IS AN ACTION REQUEST. SEE PARA 4.
3. (U) SUMMARY/COMMENT: LEADING ROME DAILIES AND THE ITALIAN NEWS SERVICE ANSA FEATURED COVERAGE OF SENATE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE HEARINGS APRIL 9 ON

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CHANNEL: n/a
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THE USTIC INCIDENT. PRIME MINISTER DINI PROVIDED BY LETTER AN UPDATE ON GOI EFFORTS TO OBTAIN CLASSIFIED NATO DOCUMENTS ON THE 1980 AIRLINER EXPLOSION. DINI SAID THAT NATO SYG SOLANA HAD EVINCED WILLINGNESS TO COOPERATE WITH ITALIAN INVESTIGATORS, BUT ALSO SAID THAT NATO SECURITY REGULATIONS MUST BE FOLLOWED. HE ALSO NOTED THE "ENCOURAGING" RESULTS OBTAINED DURING THE RECENT WASHINGTON VISIT OF PRESIDENT SCALFARO. DINI'S NONAPPEARANCE AND "BUREAUCRATIC" TONE OF HIS LETTER ENCOUNTERED SOME SNIPING FROM LEGISLATORS; IN ADDITION, PPI SENATOR (AND FORMER PRIME MINISTER) ANDREOTTI RECALLED PREVIOUS INITIATIVES TO SECURE INFORMATION FROM THE USG, AND SUGGESTED FOCUSING ON THE ACTIONS OF THE U.S. EMBASSY IN ROME IN THE WAKE OF THE CRASH.

4. (C) EMBASSY IS RESPONDING TO LOCAL PRESS QUERIES ON THE USTICA INVESTIGATION BY REFERRING THE MATTER TO NATO. WE ALSO RECEIVED A REQUEST FROM THE INVESTIGATING JUSTICE (VIA THE DEFENSE MINISTRY) FOR A NATO CODING/DECODING MANUAL. WE ARE ALSO

PAGE 03 ROME 04130 162124Z
REFERRING THAT REQUEST TO NATO. THE NATO HAT IS OFTEN SEEN TO BE ON THE USG. GIVEN THAT PRESIDENT SCALFARO HAS ALREADY RAISED THE ISSUE OF ACCESS TO NATO MATERIAL WITH PRESIDENT CLINTON DURING HIS RECENT WASHINGTON VISIT, AND THAT PRIME MINISTER DINI HAS SIGNALED THAT ITALY MAY MAKE PARALLEL APPROACHES TO ALLIED GOVERNMENTS (INCLUDING, PRESUMABLY, THE U.S.), WE WOULD WELCOME A READOUT FROM USNATO ON THE STATUS OF ITALY'S REQUEST FOR NATO CLASSIFIED DOCUMENTS. END SUMMARY/COMMENT.

5. (U) LEADING DAILIES AND THE ITALIAN NEWS SERVICE ANSA PROVIDED WIDE COVERAGE OF THE APRIL 9 SENATE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE HEARINGS ON THE 1980 EXPLOSION ABOARD A COMMERCIAL AIRLINER NEAR THE ITALIAN ISLAND OF USTICA. PRIME MINISTER DINI SENT THE SENATE A LETTER OUTLINING STEPS HE HAS TAKEN TO SECURE NATO'S COOPERATION IN OBTAINING CLASSIFIED INFORMATION WHICH MAY PERTAIN TO THE INCIDENT. (TEXT OF LETTER FOLLOWS PARA 9). DINI NOTED THAT NATO SYG SOLANA HAD EVINCED WILLINGNESS TO COOPERATE WITH ITALIAN INVESTIGATORS, BUT ALSO WARNED THAT

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DECLASSIFICATION NEEDED TO BE IN COMPLIANCE WITH NATO REGULATIONS AND MAY TAKE TIME. DINI ALSO SAID THAT ITALY'S REQUEST TO NATO DID NOT PRECLUDE PARALLEL APPROACHES TO OTHER ALLIED COUNTRIES, AND THAT THE INDICATIONS OF WILLINGNESS OBTAINED FROM WASHINGTON DURING THE RECENT VISIT OF PRESIDENT SCALFARO WERE ENCOURAGING.

6. (U) IN INTERPELLATIONS AFTER MFA UNDERSECRETARY

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GARDINI READ DINI'S LETTER, CENTER-RIGHT (AN) SENATOR PORCARI CRITICIZED THE DINI MISSIVE AS "COLD AND BUREAUCRATIC," AND DEPLORED DINI'S ABSENCE, WHICH HE CALLED AN AFFRONT TO THE CITIZENS WHO LOST THEIR LIVES IN THE USTICA CRASH. PORCARI SAID NATO'S UNENTHUSIASTIC RESPONSE GAVE RISE TO THE SUSPICION THAT IT HAD SOMETHING TO HIDE. COMMUNIST RENEWAL SENATOR CUFFARO SAID THAT DINI'S LETTER WAS TOTALLY INADEQUATE, AND THAT NATO, WHICH HAD THE KEY TO UNLOCKING THE USTICA SECRET, DID NOT WANT TO USE IT. FELLOW RC SENATOR ROSSI QUERIED MFA UNDERSECRETARY GARDINI ABOUT THE WHEREABOUTS OF THE USS SARATOGA ON THE NIGHT OF THE INCIDENT.

7. (U) FORMER PRIME MINISTER (AND PPI SENATOR) ANDREOTTI DEFENDED THE DINI LETTER AS A SINCERE CONTRIBUTION T THE INVESTIGATION, BUT ADDED THAT DINI IGNORED INITIATIVES TAKEN BY PREVIOUS GOVERNMENTS, INCLUDING HIS OWN. HE REPORTEDLY RECALLED THAT ADM. FLATLEY IN 1990 STATED THAT RADAR TECHNICIANS ON THE USS SARATOGA HAD NOTICED AN ANOMALY ON THEIR RADAR SCREENS ON THE NIGHT OF THE INCIDENT, WHICH WAS REPORTED TO FLATLEY'S SUPERIORS. ANDREOTTI SAID THAT HE HAD TASKED THE ITALIAN NATO MISSION AND THE ITALIAN AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON WITH VERIFYING THIS STATEMENT, BUT IT HAD BEEN DENIED BY THEN-SACEUR GENERAL GALVIN AND CJCS ADM CROWE. ANDREOTTI SAID IT MIGHT ALSO BE USEFUL TO QUERY THE US EMBASSY IN ROME REGARDING THEIR ACTIONS IMMEDIATELY IN THE WAKE OF THE CRASH.

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8. (U) JUDGE PRIORE IN PRESS COMMENTS APRIL 10
APPLAUDED NATO'S APPARENT CHANGE IN ATTITUDE TOWARDS
RELEASE OF CLASSIFIED INFORMATION. HOWEVER, HE SAID
THAT THE CONDITIONS IMPOSED BY NATO WERE
INCOMPATIBLE WITH THE ITALIAN PENAL CODE AND MAKE IT
DIFFICULT FOR HIM TO CONDUCT HIS INVESTIGATION. FOR
EXAMPLE, HE SAID, EVIDENCE OBTAINED IN A RESTRICTED,
SECURE SETTING IS INADMISSIBLE UNDER ITALIAN LAWS.
HE ADDED THAT SOME EXPERTS WHO NEED TO CONSULT THIS
INFORMATION ARE NOT ITALIAN CITIZENS, AND, IN FACT,
ARE NOT CITIZENS OF NATO COUNTRIES.

9. INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF THE DINI LETTER FOLLOWS:
BEGIN TRANSLATION.

THE GOVERNMENT IS PLEASED WITH THE OPPORTUNITY
OFFERED BY THE THE SENATE FOREIGN AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE HEARING TO PROVIDE AN UPDATE ON THE
GOVERNMENT'S INITIATIVES REGARDING THE USTICA
INVESTIGATION DURING THE PAST FEW MONTHS.
BEFORE GOING FURTHER, IT IS PERHAPS OPPORTUNE
TO MENTION CERTAIN TECHNICAL AND PROCEDURAL
ASPECTS INDISPENSIBLE TO PROVIDING A FRAMEWORK
FOR DESCRIBING THE GOVERNMENT'S ACTIONS TO
DATE.

1. SPECIFIC REGULATIONS COVER THE PROTECTION
OF NATO CLASSIFIED DOCUMENTS, WHETHER
ORIGINATING FROM MEMBER COUNTRIES OR FROM NATO
ITSELF. THESE REGULATIONS ARE AIMED AT
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PROTECTING THE COMMON SECURITY OF ALL NATO
MEMBERS, AND DERIVE FROM A RECIPROCAL
COMMITMENT BY ALL MEMBERS. ACCESS TO THESE
DOCUMENTS IS ALLOWED EXCLUSIVELY TO PERSONS
WITH SECURITY CLEARANCES BECAUSE OF THEIR
DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES, ON A "NEED TO
KNOW" BASIS. THERE ARE STRICT PROCEDURES FOR
DECLASSIFICATION AND DISCLOSURE OF CLASSIFIED
DOCUMENTATION. FOR THE DOCUMENTS AND
INFORMATION OF BROAD COMMON INTEREST, THE
CONSENT OF MEMBER COUNTRIES AND INTERESTED NATO
BODIES MUST BE OBTAINED. THIS COMPLEX

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MECHANISM REQUIRES TIME TO ALLOW THE NECESSARY TECHNICAL STEPS TO TAKE PLACE.

2. WITHIN THIS FRAMEWORK, THE GOI EXPEDITIOUSLY AND IN A TIMELY MANNER FORWARDED TO COMPETENT NATO AUTHORITIES THROUGH ITS PERMANENT MISSION TO THE ATLANTIC COUNCIL REQUESTS TO RELEASE CLASSIFIED NATO DOCUMENTATION FROM NATIONAL JUDICIAL AUTHORITIES WITHIN THE AMBIT OF PENAL PROCEDURES AGAINST UNKNOWN PERPETRATORS OF THE CRIME (UNDER ARTICLES 422 AND 428 OF THE PENAL CODE) COMMITTED JUNE 27, 1980, OVER THE TYRRHENIAN SEA (AKA THE "USTICA INCIDENT"). GOVERNMENT ACTIONS SINCE LAST SUMMER HAVE CULMINATED WITH MY PERSONAL LETTER TO NATO SYG SOLANA IN WHICH, RECALLING PREVIOUS GOI REQUESTS, I SOLICITED FROM SYG SOLANA A RESPONSE TO OUR REQUESTS. AS A RESULT OF THESE

PAGE 07 ROME 04130 162124Z
STEPS, THE NATO SYG RESPONDED WITH THREE COMMUNICATIONS: ON JANUARY 29, 1996; FEBRUARY 14, 1996; AND LASTLY, APRIL 1, 1996. IN HIS LETTERS, SYG SOLANA NOTED THE REGULATIONS FOR PROTECTING CLASSIFIED NATO DOCUMENTATION; PROVIDED THE CURRENT STATUS OF REQUEST FOR SPECIFIC DOCUMENTS; AND EXPLAINED WHAT MEASURES HAVE BEEN TAKEN BY THE SYG AND HIS LEGAL OFFICE TO MEET, IN ACCORDANCE WITH ESTABLISHED PROCEDURES AND REGULATIONS, OUR REQUEST TO ALLOW USE OF THESE DOCUMENTS IN THE INVESTIGATIONS NOW UNDERWAY. COPIES OF SYG SOLANA'S LETTERS ARE AVAILABLE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEMBERS WHO HAVE REQUESTED THEM.

3. REGARDING THE CONTENTS (OF SOLANA'S LETTERS), THE NATO SYG STATED THAT THE DOCUMENTS REGARDING THE NATO CLASSIFIED INFORMATION ARE AVAILABLE ONLY FOR THE EXCLUSIVE USE BY ITALIAN JUDICIARY AUTHORITIES FOR THE REASONS OUTLINED IN THE ITALIAN REQUEST. OF THE CLASSIFIED DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED RELEVANT TO THE INVESTIGATION ARE FURNISHED ONLY TO AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL AWARE OF

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THE NEED TO SAFEGUARD THE INFORMATION. THE SYG'S RESPONSE TO REPEATED GOI REQUESTS INDICATES THAT ACCESS/USE OF CLASSIFIED NATO DOCUMENTS FOR JUDICIAL REASONS ARE POSSIBLE UNDER THE CONDITION THAT THIS TAKES PLACE DURING HEARINGS BEHIND CLOSED DOORS, AND THAT

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PAGE 08 ROME 04130 162124Z
ESTABLISHED SECURITY PROCEDURES ARE FOLLOWED. THESE CRITERIA INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING: RELEVANCE TO THE CASE; NEED TO KNOW; AND AN ADEQUATE AND VALID SECURITY CLEARANCE.

4. WITHIN THE ABOVE FRAMEWORK, JUDICIAL INVESTIGATORS, IN THE PERSON OF JUDGE PRIORE, HAVE ALREADY OBTAINED A VIEW OF MOD/ITALIAN AIR FORCE DOCUMENTS DEEMED NECESSARY. IN THE VIEW OF OTHER EXPERTS, FOR THE INVESTIGATION AND EXAMINATION OF RADAR RECORDS.

5. THE GOI BELIEVES THAT THE NATO SYG AND NATO AUTHORITIES HAVE GIVEN PROOF OF THEIR WILLINGNESS TO COLLABORATE WITHIN THE LIMITS IMPOSED BY THE NEED TO PROTECT COMMON SECURITY. THESE LIMITS ARE ESTABLISHED IN THE INTEREST OF ALL ALLIANCE MEMBERS, INCLUDING ITALY.

6. THE SEARCH FOR TRUTH AND THE NECESSARY TRANSPARENCY TO FULFILL THE PROCEDURES OF OUR JUDICIARY AUTHORITIES ARE THE OBJECTIVES WHICH THIS GOVERNMENT HAS FOLLOWED AND WHICH IT INTENDS TO CONTINUE TO FOLLOW. IT IS UP TO NATO TO INDICATE WHICH SPECIFIC AUTHORIZATIONS ARE NECESSARY TO SECURE THE EVENTUAL RELEASE OF CLASSIFIED INFORMATION BEYOND THAT ALREADY PROVIDED. IF DOCUMENTS REQUIRING DECLASSIFICATION ARE IDENTIFIED, THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT WILL MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO SEEK THEIR RELEASE WITH THE NATO SYG AND NATO MILITARY

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AUTHORITIES, FROM WHOM WE HAVE OBTAINED AN AGREEMENT, IN PRINCIPLE, TO DO SO. IF THE SYG

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CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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INDICATES THAT ONE OR MORE MEMBER COUNTRIES MUST PROVIDE ASSENT TO DECLASSIFY, THE GOI WILL EXAMINE WHICH DIPLOMATIC STEPS NEED TO BE UNDERTAKEN TO SUPPORT OUR REQUEST. IN LIGHT OF THE CONSTRUCTIVE COOPERATION FROM THE NATO SYG, THE GOI WILL CONTINUE ITS ACTIONS AIMED AT ALLOWING THE GATHERING OF ELEMENTS DEEMED NECESSARY FOR INVESTIGATIONS NOW UNDERWAY. AS INDICATED PREVIOUSLY, THIS DOES NOT EXCLUDE PARALLEL APPROACHES TO OTHER ALLIED COUNTRIES; ON THIS POINT, THE INDICATIONS OF WILLINGNESS TO COOPERATE RECENTLY OBTAINED IN WASHINGTON DURING THE VISIT OF PRESIDENT SCALFARO ARE ENCOURAGING.

CORDIALLY,

LAMBERTO DINI

10. END TRANSLATION. BARTHOLOMEW

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PAGE 01 ROME 04130 01 OF 03 160126Z
ACTION EUR-01

INFO	LOG-00	COR-01	ACDA-10	ACDE-00	AID-00	CIAE-00	SMEC-00
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	LAB-01	L-01	ADS-00	M-00	NEA-01	NRRC-00	NSAE-00
	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01	PA-00	PM-00	PRS-00	P-00
	SCT-00	SP-00	SSO-00	STR-00	TRSE-00	T-00	USIE-00
	SSD-01	PMB-00	DRL-09	G-00	/033W		

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6907
INFO USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY
SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

SECTION 01 OF 03 ROME 004130

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT PARA 6)

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HANDLING: n/a

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STATE FOR EUR/WE
SECDEF FOR OUSD/ISP/ITALY

E.O. 12958: DECL: 4/11/01
TAGS: PGOV, PREL, MARR, NATO, IT
SUBJECT: ITALIAN SENATE COMMITTEE HEARINGS ON USTICA
INVESTIGATION

REF: A) ROME 3883 B) ROME 3818 C) ROME 3755

PAGE 02 ROME 04130 01 OF 03 160126Z

1. CLASSIFICATION -- AS MARKED. CLASSIFIED BY
AMBASSADOR BARTHOLOMEW FOR REASONS 1.5 (B) AND (D).
2. (U) THIS IS AN ACTION REQUEST. SEE PARA 4.
3. (U) SUMMARY/COMMENT: LEADING ROME DAILIES AND
THE ITALIAN NEWS SERVICE ANSA FEATURED COVERAGE OF
SENATE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE HEARINGS APRIL 9 ON
THE USTICINCIDENT. PRIME MISTER DINI PROVIDED
BY LETTER AN UPDATE ON GOI EFFORTS TO OBTAIN
CLASSIFIED NATO DOCUMENTS ON THE 1980 AIRLINER
EXPLOSION. DINI SAID THAT NATO SYG-SOLANA HAD
EVINCED WILLINGNESS TO COOPERATE WITH ITALIAN
INVESTIGATORS, BUT ALSO SAID THAT NATO SECURITY
REGULATIONS MUST BE FOLLOWED. HE ALSO NOTED THE
"ENCOURAGING" RESULTS OBTAINED DURING THE RECENT
WASHINGTON VISIT OF PRESIDENT SCALFARO. DINI'S
NONAPPEARANCE AND "BUREAUCRATIC" TONE OF HIS LETTER
ENCOUNTERED SOME SNIPING FROM LEGISLATORS; IN
ADDITION, PPI SENATOR (AND FORMER PRIME MINISTER)
ANDREOTTI RECALLED PREVIOUS INITIATIVES TO SECURE
INFORMATION FROM THE USG, AND SUGGESTED FOCUSING ON
THE ACTIONS OF THE U.S. EMBASSY IN ROME IN THE WAKE
OF THE CRASH.
4. (C) EMBASSY IS RESPONDING TO LOCAL PRESS QUERIES
ON THE USTICA INVESTIGATION BY REFERRING THE MATTER
TO NATO. WE ALSO RECEIVED A REQUEST FROM THE
INVESTIGATING JUSTICE (VIA THE DEFENSE MINISTRY) FOR
A NATO CODING/DECODING MANUAL. WE ARE ALSO

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PAGE 01 ROME 04191 121634Z
ACTION EUR-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-10	ACDE-00	AID-00	CIAE-00	SMEC-00	COME-00
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	INLB-01	H-01	IMMC-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00	LAB-01
	L-01	ADS-00	M-00	NEA-01	NRRC-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00
	OIC-02	PA-00	PM-00	PRS-00	P-00	SCT-00	SP-00
	SSO-00	SS-00	STR-00	TRSE-00	T-00	USIE-00	SSD-01
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R 121625Z APR 96
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6955
INFO SECDEF WASHDC
USMISSION USNATO

UNCLAS ROME 004191

STATE FOR EUR/RPM AND EUR/WE
SECDEF FOR OSD/ISP/ITALY

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: PREL, MARR, NATO, IT
SUBJECT: "IL FOGLIO" ARTICLE ON USTICA INVESTIGATION

REF: A) ROME 03755; B) ROME 03818; C) ROME 03883

1. SUMMARY: IN AN APRIL 5 ARTICLE IN CENTER-RIGHT
DAILY "IL FOGLIO," DEFENSE MINISTER CORCIONE SAID THE

PAGE 02 ROME 04191 121634Z
ITALIAN GOVERNMENT WOULD REFER TO THE NORTH ATLANTIC
COUNCIL NATO'S REFUSAL TO ALLOW ACCESS TO CLASSIFIED
DOCUMENTS. MEANWHILE, AN EX-CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT
PARLIAMENTARIAN WHO SERVED AS UNDER-SECRETARY IN THE
FOREIGN MINISTRY AT THE TIME OF THE USTICA CRASH,
REPORTEDLY CRITICIZED THE INVESTIGATING MAGISTRATE'S
MOTIVES, SAYING HE HAS BECOME A "PRISONER OF THE
PROCESS" WHO IS AFRAID TO CONCLUDE HIS INVESTIGATION.
END SUMMARY.

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2. "IL FOGLIO," A SMALL-CIRCULATION (30,000) CENTER-RIGHT TABLOID SPECIALIZING IN POLITICAL NEWS AND COMMENTARY, CHARGED THAT RAI TELEVISION'S NEWSCAST (TG3) WAS LEADING A "LEFTIST" CAMPAIGN AGAINST NATO'S REFUSAL TO RELEASE ALL THE DOCUMENTS REQUESTED ON USTICA. ACCORDING TO "IL FOGLIO," THE NEWSCAST IS CONVINCED THAT NATO'S DENIAL INDICATES THAT SOMETHING IS BEING HIDDEN. USTICA INVESTIGATING MAGISTRATE ROSARIO PRIORE SAID IN A TG3 INTERVIEW ON APRIL 4 THAT THE U.S. HAS FAILED TO RESPOND TO THREE LETTERS ROGATORY IN THE LAST YEAR. COMMENT: IN FACT, THREE REQUESTS FROM THE FALL OF 1995 WERE ANSWERED THE WEEK OF APRIL 8. END COMMENT)

3. "IL FOGLIO" QUOTES DEFENSE MINISTER DOMENICO CORCIONE AT LENGTH EXPLAINING THAT NATO, "AN ALLIANCE IN WHICH ITALY HAS FULL MEMBERSHIP," ACTED ACCORDING TO ITS RULES. CORCIONE REPORTEDLY SAID THE CURRENT POLEMIC ABOUT NATO'S REFUSAL IS POLITICALLY MOTIVATED, AND THAT THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT WOULD REFER THE QUESTION TO THE NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL, SO

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PAGE 03 ROME 04191 121634Z
THAT EACH COUNTRY COULD TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR NATO'S DECISION.

4. INVESTIGATING MAGISTRATE ROASARIO PRIORE REPORTEDLY TOLD "IL FOGLIO" THAT HE HAD ASKED FOR NATO MANUALS THAT WOULD ENABLE A CORRECT READING OF DATA ALREADY IN HIS POSSESSION. PRIORE HAS SAID THAT HE WOULD REQUEST AN EXTENSION ON THE JUNE 30 DEADLINE FOR HIS INVESTIGATION. SINCE HIS INVESTIGATION OPERATES UNDER AN EXEMPTION OF THE 1989 CRIMINAL CODE REVISION, PARLIAMENT MUST ULTIMATELY GRANT THE EXTENSION.

5. GIUSEPPE ZAMBERLETTI, EX-CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT PARLIAMENTARIAN WHO SERVED AS UNDER-SECRETARY IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY AT THE TIME OF THE USTICA CRASH, EXPRESSED SKEPTICISM ABOUT PRIORE'S MOTIVES. HE TOLD "IL FOGLIO," HE BELIEVES PRIORE HAS BECOME A "PRISONER OF THE PROCESS" WHO FEARS CLOSING HIS INVESTIGATION WITHOUT HAVING DONE EVERYTHING POSSIBLE IN ORDER NOT TO BE BLAMED FOR HAVING OMITTED A LINE OF INQUIRY THAT COULD HAVE PROVED THE EXISTENCE OF A

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MISSILE. ZAMBERLETTI, WHO REPORTEDLY SUPPORTS NATO'S REACTION, IS A PRIME EXPONENT OF THE "LIBYAN BOMB" THEORY, WHICH HOLDS THAT THE USTICA TRAGEDY IS LINKED TO THE JULY 1980 BOMBING OF THE BOLOGNA TRAIN STATION--AND THAT BOTH WERE LIBYAN RETALIATION FOR ITALY'S 1980 DIPLOMATIC OVERTURES TOWARD THEN-PRO-LIBYA MALTA.
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ACTION EUR-01

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P 181443Z JUN 97
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8332
INFO AMCONSUL FLORENCE
AMCONSUL NAPLES
AMCONSUL MILAN
USMISSION USNATO
SECDEF WASHDC
AMEMBASSY PARIS

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 ROME 005427

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: PREL, NATO, IT
SUBJECT: USTICA DISASTER MAKES PRESS HEADLINES
AGAIN

SUMMARY

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1. THE 1980 CRASH OF AN ITALIAN CIVILIAN AIRLINER NEAR THE ITALIAN SOUTHERN ISLAND OF USTICA HAS AGAIN MADE HEADLINES JUNE 18 IN THE ITALIAN PRESS. THE COVERAGE STEMS FROM LEAKS TO THE PRESS HIGHLIGHTING THE CONCLUSIONS OF A COMMISSION OF THREE EXPERTS STUDYING THE CASE (WITH NATO'S ASSISTANCE). THE AIRLINER CRASHED

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THE NIGHT OF JUNE 27, 1980. EIGHTY-ONE PERSONS WERE KILLED; THERE WERE NO SURVIVORS. JUDICIAL INVESTIGATIONS HAVE NOT YET UNCOVERED THE CAUSES OF THE CRASH. PRESS HEADLINES AGAIN IMPLY U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN THE DISASTER, BUT THE ONLY EVIDENCE APPEARS TO BE AN OLD A-6 CORSAIR RESERVE FUEL TANK FOUND UNDER WATER NEAR THE SITE OF THE CRASH. USIS, JUNE 18, ASKED THE DEPARTMENT FOR UPDATED GUIDANCE ON THE CASE. END SUMMARY.

2. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, A COMMISSION OF THREE EXPERTS WHICH HAS BEEN WORKING ON THE USTICA CASE WITH ROME PROSECUTOR ROSARIO PRIORE HAS COMPLETED ITS REPORT AND DEPOSITED ITS FINDINGS WITH THE ITALIAN JUDICIARY JUNE 16. THE EXPERT COMMITTEE'S FINDINGS WERE MADE POSSIBLE LARGELY BECAUSE OF THE ASSISTANCE FURNISHED BY NATO (PRIORE AND THE THREE EXPERTS TRAVELED TO BRUSSELS SIX TIMES SINCE OCTOBER 1996 TO CONSULT WITH NATO ON HOW TO READ AND INTERPRET RADAR TRACKS OF THE NIGHT OF THE CRASH; NATO OFFICIALS HAVE TRAVELED TO ITALY TO FURNISH FURTHER

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ASSISTANCE).

3. ACCORDING TO PRESS LEAKS, THE COMMITTEE PRODUCED A SEVEN-HUNDRED PAGE ANALYSIS WITH THREE THOUSAND PAGES OF ATTACHMENTS WHICH ALLEGEDLY PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING SCENARIO:

-- ONE OR TWO ALLEGEDLY LIBYAN FIGHTER AIRCRAFT FLEW INTO THE ITALIAN AIRLINER'S "RADAR SHADOW CONE" TO ESCAPE RADAR DETECTION, WITH ONE OF THE TWO FIGHTERS ALLEGEDLY FLYING UNDER THE ITALIAN AIRLINER.

-- THREE ITALIAN F-104'S TOOK OFF ON AN OFFICIAL TRAINING MISSION FROM THE ITALIAN MILITARY AIRPORT OF GROSSETO, NORTHWEST OF ROME. THEIR FLIGHT PLAN WAS GROSSETO-FLORENCE-BOLOGNA-VILLAFRANCA-GROSSETO. THEIR RADAR TRACKS SHOW THEM AS FOLLOWING THE CIVILIAN AIRLINER SOUTH OVER FLORENCE. THEY WERE CALLED BACK TO BASE BEFORE THE END OF THE MISSION. SHORTLY BEFORE LANDING IN GROSSETO, ONE OF THE F-104'S SENT THE

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ALARM CODE SIGNAL.

-- SEVEN OR EIGHT FRENCH AIR FORCE AIRCRAFT WERE FLYING OVER CORSICA AND ELBA AFTER 5 P.M. THE NIGHT OF THE CRASH. RADAR TRACKS SHOW ONE AIRCRAFT ALLEGEDLY POINTING TOWARD THE CIVILIAN AIRLINER.

-- RADAR TRACKS FOLLOW AN ALLEGED FRAGMENT OF

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THE ITALIAN AIRLINER (WHICH HAD BY THEN EXPLODED) UNTIL THE FRAGMENT SANK INTO THE TYRRHENIAN SEA NEAR USTICA. YEARS LATER, THE ITALIANS FOUND AN OLD A-6 CORSAIR RESERVE TANK UNDER WATER AT THAT POINT.

-- THE CIVILIAN AIRLINER'S RADAR TRACK DID NOT DISSOLVE AFTER THE EXPLOSION, BUT CONTINUED TO TRAVEL SOUTH TOWARD SICILY (INDICATING AN ALLEGED FUGITIVE AIRCRAFT TRYING TO FLEE).

PRESS ACCOUNTS IMPLY THAT A MISSILE OR MISSILES FIRED AT THE LIBYAN AIRCRAFT STRUCK THE CIVILIAN FLIGHT BY MISTAKE. THERE HAS BEEN NO OFFICIAL STATEMENT REGARDING ANY OF THE FOREGOING.

4. USIS, JUNE LB, ASKED THE DEPARTMENT FOR AN UPDATED PRESS GUIDANCE ON USTICA. THE GUIDANCE THE MISSION IS CURRENTLY USING STATES:

BEGIN QUOTE: THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT HAS ALWAYS PROVIDED AND WILL CONTINUE TO PROVIDE FULL COOPERATION TO ITALIAN JUDICIAL AUTHORITIES IN THEIR INVESTIGATION OF THE USTICA CRASH. AS WE HAVE STATED REPEATEDLY IN THE PAST, BOTH PUBLICLY AND TO ITALIAN AUTHORITIES, NO U.S. COMBAT SHIPS

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	INR-00	IO-00	LAB-01	L-01	ADS-00	M-00	NEA-01
	NRRC-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	PA-00	PM-00	PRS-00
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P 181443Z JUN 97
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8333
INFO AMCONSUL FLORENCE
AMCONSUL NAPLES
AMCONSUL MILAN
USMISSION USNATO
SECDEF WASHDC
AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.O. 12958: N/A
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OR AIRCRAFT WERE OPERATING IN THE AREA OF THE

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CRASH ON THE EVENING OF JUNE 27, 1980. THERE WAS
NO AMERICAN INVOLVEMENT OF ANY KIND IN THE
DISASTER. END QUOTE.

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 FM AMEMBASSY ROME
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2138
 INFO AMCONSUL NAPLES
 AMCONSUL MILAN
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 JOINT STAFF WASHDC
 AMEMBASSY TUNIS
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 AMEMBASSY CAIRO
 AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
 SECDEF WASHDC

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E.O. 12958: N/A

PAGE 02 ROME 09357 01 OF 02 281555Z
 TAGS: PREL, PINR, MARR, MOPS, XI, XF, LI, IT
 SUBJECT: ITALIAN PRESS: DREDGING UP THE PAST AT
 LAMPEDUSA

SUMMARY

1. ITALIAN "INVESTIGATIVE" JOURNALIST ANDREA
 PURGATORI, IN THE ITALIAN LEADING NATIONAL DAILY

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DOC_NBR: 1997ROME09357

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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"CORRIERE DELLA SERA" OCTOBER 26, CLAIMS THE U.S. MAY HAVE SIMULATED A LIBYAN MISSILE ATTACK AGAINST ITALY IN APRIL 1986, TO BRING ITALY "INTO LINE" ON ANTI-LIBYAN POSITIONS. PURGATORI CLAIMS THE ITALIANS HAVE NO HARD EVIDENCE TO PROVE THE MISSILES WERE TRULY LAUNCHED. HE SUGGESTS THAT THE MISSILE ATTACK MAY HAVE BEEN "ONE OF THE [U.S.'] LARGEST AND MOST SUCCESSFUL INTELLIGENCE AND DISINFORMATION OPERATIONS." HE NOTES THAT THE U.S. SAID IT HAD SATELLITE PHOTOS OF THE ATTACK, BUT CITES VARIOUS GOI KEY PLAYERS -- INCLUDING FORMER FM ANDREOTTI -- AS SAYING THEY HAVE NEVER SEEN THE PHOTOS. END SUMMARY.

WERE THE "BANGS" SUPERSONIC FLIGHTS?

2. ITALIAN "INVESTIGATIVE" JOURNALIST ANDREA PURGATORI, IN AN EXCLUSIVE ARTICLE IN THE LEADING ITALIAN NATIONAL DAILY "CORRIERE DELLA SERA" OCTOBER 26, STATES THAT, IN APRIL 1986, THE U.S. MAY HAVE SIMULATED STRIKES BY TWO LIBYAN SCUD-B

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MISSILES OFF THE COAST OF THE SOUTHERN ITALIAN ISLAND OF LAMPEDUSA. PURGATORI DOES NOT CITE A SPECIFIC SOURCE ("NOBODY SAYS IT OFFICIALLY, BUT MANY TODAY ARE CONVINCED...") BUT CLAIMS THE TWO "BANGS" WHICH "EVERYBODY" HEARD IN LAMPEDUSA ON APRIL 15, 1986, WERE CAUSED BY OVERHEAD FLIGHTS BY U.S. SUPERSONIC FIGHTER AIRCRAFT. PURGATORI ARGUES THAT THE SIMULATED ATTACK WAS MEANT TO BRING THE GOI (WHICH THE WHITE HOUSE BELIEVED TO BE PRO-PLO AND PRO-LIBYAN) AND THE ITALIAN PARLIAMENT (WHICH WAS GETTING READY TO DISCUSS THE U.S. AIR STRIKES AGAINST LIBYA THE PREVIOUS DAY AND WAS LIKELY TO TAKE AN ANTI-AMERICAN POSITION) "INTO LINE." ACCORDING TO PURGATORI, THE U.S. SIMULATION "MAY WELL HAVE BEEN ONE OF THE LARGEST AND MOST SUCCESSFUL INTELLIGENCE AND DISINFORMATION OPERATIONS CARRIED OUT BY THE AMERICANS."

WHERE ARE THE SATELLITE PHOTOS?

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3. PURGATORI CLAIMS THAT THE ITALIANS HAVE NO HARD EVIDENCE TO PROVE THAT TWO MISSILES WERE LAUNCHED AGAINST ITALY. HE NOTES THAT U.S. SOURCES, "THROUGH NATO CHANNELS," AND U.S. PERSONNEL AT THE U.S. COAST GUARD-OPERATED LORAN BASE IN LAMPEDUSA WERE THE ONES TO GIVE THE ITALIANS THE INITIAL INFORMATION ABOUT A MISSILE ATTACK. ABOUT TWO HOURS LATER, "THE AMERICANS" TOLD THE ITALIANS THAT U.S. SATELLITES HAD

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PHOTOGRAPHED THE MISSILE-LAUNCHING RAMP AND THE LAUNCHES, AND HAD IDENTIFIED THE MISSILES AS SOVIET-MADE LIBYAN SCUD-B'S. (PURGATORI DOES NOT SPECIFY WHO OFFERED THIS INFORMATION, NOR TO WHOM IT WAS GIVEN.) PURGATORI CITES RETIRED GENERAL PIETRO GIANNATTASIO, FORMER ITALIAN DEFENSE MINISTER SPADOLINI'S CHEF-DE-CABINET AND NOW A MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT, AS SAYING, HOWEVER, THAT HE "REMEMBERED THE NEWS OF THE SATELLITE PHOTOS, BUT DID NOT REMEMBER SEEING THE PHOTOS THEMSELVES." PURGATORI ALSO CITES ITALIAN AMBASSADOR ANTONIO BADINI, FORMER DIPLOMATIC ADVISER TO THEN ITALIAN PRIME MINISTER CRAXI, AS SAYING HE HAD NOT SEEN THE PHOTOS EITHER. BADINI ALSO SAID THAT "ALL OF THE GOI'S EFFORTS IN THOSE HOURS WERE CONCENTRATED ON COOLING DOWN THE SITUATION."

WHERE IS THE EVIDENCE?

4. PURGATORI ADDS THAT AN ITALIAN NAVAL VESSEL SAILED TOWARD LIBYA SHORTLY AFTER THE ATTACK LOOKING FOR ENEMY SHIPS, BUT FOUND NONE. SIMILARLY, THE ITALIAN AIR FORCE SENT OUT TWO

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ACTION EUR-01

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CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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DSCC-00	PRM-10	PRME-01	DRL-04	G-00	/034W	

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O 281556Z OCT 97
 FM AMEMBASSY ROME
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2139
 INFO AMCONSUL NAPLES
 AMCONSUL MILAN
 AMCONSUL FLORENCE
 AFSOUTH NAPLES IT
 USCINCEUR VAHINGEN GE//ECJ5/ECPLAD//
 JOINT STAFF WASHDC
 AMEMBASSY TUNIS
 AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
 AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
 AMEMBASSY CAIRO
 AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
 SECDEF WASHDC

UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 ROME 009357

E.O. 12958: N/A

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 TAGS: PREL, PINR, MARR, MOPS, XI, XF, LI, IT
 SUBJECT: ITALIAN PRESS: DREDGING UP THE PAST AT
 LAMPEDUSA

F-104S INTERCEPTORS, BUT THE AIRCRAFT DID NOT
 DETECT ANY FLIGHT ACTIVITY IN THE AREA.
 MOREOVER, ACCORDING TO PURGATORI, ONE LOCAL
 "EYEWITNESS" WHO IN 1986 TOLD THE PRESS HE HAD
 SEEN THE MISSILES HIT THE WATER, HAS SINCE
 RETRACTED ("NOBODY HERE SAW ANYTHING AND IF THEY
 SAY THE CONTRARY, THEY ARE LYING," THE EYEWITNESS
 SAID). IN ADDITION, ACCORDING TO PURGATORI,
 SEVERAL MONTHS AFTER THE ALLEGED ATTACK, THE
 ITALIAN NAVY SEARCHED FOR THE REMAINS OF THE SCUD
 MISSILES OFF THE COAST OF LAMPEDUSA, BUT FOUND
 NONE.

FORMER FM ANDREOTTI: DID IT HAPPEN?

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5. SENATOR GIULIO ANDREOTTI, WHO WAS ITALY'S FOREIGN MINISTER AT THE TIME OF THE EVENTS, IN AN INTERVIEW WITH PURGATORI IN "CORRIERE DELLA SERA" OCTOBER 28, SAID THE ATTACK AGAINST LAMPEDUSA "WAS SOME SORT OF RESPONSE TO THE AMERICAN STRIKES" AGAINST LIBYA A FEW HOURS EARLIER, "SOMETHING QADHAFI HAD TO DO, BECAUSE HE HAD TO DO SOMETHING." ANDREOTTI, HOWEVER, AVOIDED ANSWERING A SPECIFIC QUESTION ON WHETHER THE LIBYAN STRIKE AGAINST ITALY DID ACTUALLY OCCUR. HE SAID, "AH WELL...AT ANY RATE, WE DID NOT GIVE

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IT MUCH IMPORTANCE. WE INTERPRETED IT AS A DEMONSTRATIVE, BUT INTENTIONALLY HARMLESS ACTION." HE ADDED HE HAD NEVER SEEN THE U.S. SATELLITE PHOTOS OF THE MISSILE LAUNCHES, AND CONCLUDED, "IT IS STRANGE, COME TO THINK OF IT, BECAUSE A WAR ACTION OF THAT KIND SHOULD HAVE SPARKED" A STRONG REACTION. THE ONLY PRESS STATEMENT CLAIMING THAT THE ATTACK DID HAPPEN CAME FROM CURRENT LAMPEDUSA MAYOR, SALVATORE MARTELLO. ACCORDING TO MARTELLO, THE MISSILES "WERE REAL MISSILES AND WERE AIMED-AT LAMPEDUSA," CAUSING THE AMERICANS AT THE LORAN BASE TO FLEE.

PURGATORI AND USTICA

6. PURGATORI'S ARTICLE IS DATELINED LAMPEDUSA AND APPEARS TO BE BASED ON CONVERSATIONS WITH LOCAL RESIDENTS, INCLUDING FORMER LAMPEDUSA MAYOR FRAGALA. PURGATORI IS KNOWN FOR HIS INVESTIGATIVE PIECES, IN PARTICULAR HIS ARTICLES ON THE 1980 USTICA AIR CRASH. (ACCORDING TO PURGATORI, THE ITALIAN CIVILIAN AIRLINER WHICH CRASHED NEAR THE SOUTHERN ITALIAN ISLAND OF USTICA KILLING EVERYONE ON BOARD WAS DOWNED BY A MISSILE DURING AN AIR BATTLE BETWEEN THE U.S., LIBYA, AND POSSIBLY FRANCE.)
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16 Apr 2002

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PAGE 01 STATE 116007 200104Z
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	PRS-00	P-00	SP-00	ACAS-01	SNRO-00	PMB-00	/007R

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SOURCE: KODAKA.200008

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APPROVED BY: EUR/PPA:M THOMPSON- JONES

PA/PRESS (INFO): P A YOUNG, EUR/PPA:LCORWIN

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 FM SECSTATE WASHDC
 TO EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE
 AMEMBASSY ALMATY IMMEDIATE
 AMEMBASSY BAKU IMMEDIATE
 AMEMBASSY BELGRADE IMMEDIATE
 AMEMBASSY BRATISLAVA IMMEDIATE
 AMEMBASSY KIEV IMMEDIATE
 AMEMBASSY LJUBLJANA IMMEDIATE
 AMEMBASSY MINSK IMMEDIATE
 AMEMBASSY RIGA IMMEDIATE
 AMEMBASSY TALLINN IMMEDIATE
 AMEMBASSY TASHKENT IMMEDIATE
 AMEMBASSY TBILISI IMMEDIATE
 AMEMBASSY VILNIUS IMMEDIATE
 AMEMBASSY YEREVAN IMMEDIATE
 AMEMBASSY ZAGREB IMMEDIATE
 AMCONSUL MARSEILLE IMMEDIATE
 AMEMBASSY SARAJEVO IMMEDIATE

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AMEMBASSY CHISINAU IMMEDIATE
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TAGS: OPRC

SUBJECT: REVISED EUR DAILY PRESS GUIDANCE - JUNE 19, 1997

PLEASE PASS TO ALL PAOS USIA PLEASE PASS TO EEN AND WEU, PARIS
ALSO FOR USOECD

1. THE FOLLOWING PRESS GUIDANCE WAS PREPARED AND APPROVED BY THE BUREAU OF EUROPEAN AND CANADIAN AFFAIRS AND OTHER SELECTED BUREAUS HANDLING ISSUES OF INTEREST TO EUR POSTS FOR THE DEPARTMENT BRIEFING. QUESTIONS SHOULD BE REFERRED TO MARY THOMPSON-JONES OR LARRY CORWIN, EUR POLICY AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS.

TOPICS INCLUDE:

SALMON TALKS
ERBAKAN RESIGNING
VISIT OF ROMANIAN PRIME MINISTER
USTICA REPORT (ADDITION)

2. CANADA: SALMON TALKS

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Q: WHAT CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT PACIFIC SALMON NEGOTIATIONS?

A: -- SALMON NEGOTIATIONS RESUMED ON WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18, IN VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLOMBIA. ANOTHER SESSION BEGAN AT 9:30 THIS MORNING, PACIFIC TIME.

-- THE TALKS ARE SCHEDULED TO RUN THROUGH FRIDAY, JUNE 20.

HOW ARE THE TALKS GOING?

A: -- IT IS TOO EARLY TO TELL.

Q: WHAT IF THEY DON'T REACH AGREEMENT BY THE 20TH?

A: -- I DON'T WANT TO SPECULATE ABOUT THAT. WE ARE NEGOTIATING IN GOOD-FAITH TOWARD AN AGREEMENT OUR NEGOTIATOR CAN TAKE BACK TO THE STAKEHOLDERS. WE HOPE WE CAN QUICKLY AND

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SUCCESSFULLY WRAP THIS UP.

3. TURKEY: ERBAKAN RESIGNING

DOES THE U.S. HAVE ANY POSITION ON ERBAKAN'S
RESIGNATION AND ON PROGRESS TOWARD THE FORMATION
OF A NEW GOVERNMENT IN TURKEY?

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- A: -- WE UNDERSTAND THAT PRIME MINISTER ERBAKAN HAS
RESIGNED AND THAT PRESIDENT DEMIREL IS MEETING
WITH VARIOUS PARTY LEADERS TODAY. WE DO NOT
KNOW WHEN A DECISION WILL BE MADE ON THE
FORMATION OF A NEW GOVERNMENT.
- AS THE SECRETARY HAS SAID, WE BELIEVE IT IS
ESSENTIAL THAT TURKEY CONTINUE TO DEVELOP IN A
SECULAR AND DEMOCRATIC FASHION AND THAT ISSUES
BE RESOLVED WITHOUT RESORT TO AN
EXTRACONSTITUTIONAL APPROACH.
- WE HAVE CONFIDENCE THAT CHANGES IN GOVERNMENT
WILL CONTINUE TO TAKE PLACE THROUGH THE
DEMOCRATIC PROCESS.
- WE ARE AWARE OF CLAIMS THAT THE USG IS
SUPPORTING ONE POLITICAL INSTITUTION OR GROUP
OVER ANOTHER. OUR MESSAGE IS CLEAR--WE DO NOT
SUPPORT ONE OR ANOTHER ELEMENT IN THE
POLITICAL DEBATE. ONLY THE TURKISH PEOPLE,
THROUGH THEIR CONSTITUTIONAL INSTITUTIONS, CAN
DECIDE HOW THEY MUST PROTECT THEIR DEMOCRATIC
FREEDOMS.
- WE WILL CONTINUE TO WATCH THE SITUATION
CLOSELY.

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4. STATEMENT BY JOHN DINGER, ACTING SPOKESMAN: VISIT OF
ROMANIAN PRIME MINISTER

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SECRETARY OF STATE AIBRIGHT MET WITH ROMANIAN PRIME MINISTER VICTOR CIORBEA AT THE STATE DEPARTMENT ON JUNE 18, AS PART OF A LONGER MEETING WITH DEPUTY SECRETARY TALBOTT, TO DISCUSS THE FUTURE OF U.S.-ROMANIAN RELATIONS AND ROMANIA'S INTEGRATION INTO TRANS-ATLANTIC AND EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS, INCLUDING NATO. SECRETARY ALBRIGHT APPLAUDED THE MANY POSITIVE CHANGES THAT HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN ROMANIA, ESPECIALLY IN RECENT MONTHS, WHICH THE PRIME MINISTER AND PRESIDENT CONSTANTINESCU HAVE DONE MUCH TO PROMOTE. SHE STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE TO THE UNITED STATES OF ITS RELATIONS WITH ROMANIA AND EXPLAINED THE FIRM COMMITMENT OF THE U.S. TO ENSURING THAT NATO REMAINS A POLITICALLY COHESIVE AND MILITARILY STRONG ALLIANCE AS IT ENLARGES, THAT THE MADRID SUMMIT MARKS THE BEGINNING AND NOT THE END OF A PROCESS, AND THAT THE U.S. LOOKS FORWARD TO FUTURE ENLARGEMENTS.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND DEPUTY SECRETARY REVIEWED THEIR RESPECTIVE VIEWS REGARDING NATO ENLARGEMENT, INCLUDING ROMANIA'S DETERMINATION TO BECOME A FULL MEMBER IN THE SHORTEST TIME POSSIBLE. THEY AGREED ON THE IMPORTANCE OF DEVELOPING A MEANINGFUL U.S.-ROMANIAN STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP, BASED ON A RECOGNITION OF ROMANIA'S STRATEGIC POSITION IN

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SOUTHEASTERN EUROPE, AS WELL AS A COMMITMENT TO

SHARED VALUES AND A COMMON INTEREST IN STABILITY AND DEMOCRATIC PROGRESS. THE DEPUTY SECRETARY EXPLAINED THE REASONS FOR THE U.S. DECISION TO BACK ONLY THREE COUNTRIES FOR INCLUSION IN THE FIRST WAVE OF NATO EXPANSION. HE ALSO EXPRESSED FULL SUPPORT FOR ROMANIA'S GOAL OF INTEGRATION INTO EURO-ATLANTIC STRUCTURES. THE DEPUTY SECRETARY EXPRESSED HIS CONFIDENCE THAT ROMANIA IS ON TRACK AND WILL SUCCEED IF IT CONTINUES WITH POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC REFORM. IN THOSE NECESSARY BUT OFTEN PAINFUL REFORM EFFORTS, ROMANIA CAN COUNT ON THE FULL UNDERSTANDING AND PRACTICAL SUPPORT OF THE UNITED STATES.

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THE DEPUTY SECRETARY AND PRIME MINISTER AGREED ON THE NEED TO CONCENTRATE ON BUILDING STRONG, CONSTRUCTIVE RELATIONS FOR THE FUTURE. THE DEPUTY SECRETARY SAID THE TWO SIDES NEED TO MAKE CONCRETE AND EFFECTIVE THE STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP. THE PRIME MINISTER AND DEPUTY SECRETARY AGREED THAT THE PARTNERSHIP THEY DISCUSSED WILL BE ELABORATED BY THE TWO GOVERNMENTS OVER THE COMING WEEKS AND MONTHS, INCLUDING THROUGH THE EXCHANGE OF VISITS SUCH AS THE CURRENT ONE.

5. USTICA REPORT

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ITALIAN PRESS STORIES SAY THAT ITALY WILL RELEASE A NEW REPORT ON THE 1980 USTICA AIR DISASTER. THESE STORIES FURTHER ALLEGE THAT THE REPORT WILL BE BASED ON EXTENSIVE RESEARCH THROUGH NATO RECORDS, AND REPORTEDLY OUTLINES A SCENARIO OF POSSIBLE NATO INVOLVEMENT. WHAT IS THE U.S. RESPONSE TO THIS REPORT?

- A: -- NO ONE IN THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT HAS SEEN THE REPORT, AND SO WE ARE IN NO POSITION TO COMMENT SPECIFICALLY ON ANY ALLEGATIONS.
- WE WISH TO STRESS OUR STANDING POSITION, HOWEVER, WHICH IS THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT HAS ALWAYS PROVIDED AND WILL CONTINUE TO PROVIDE FULL COOPERATION TO ITALIAN JUDICIAL AUTHORITIES IN THEIR INVESTIGATION OF THE USTICA CRASH.
- AS WE HAVE STATED REPEATEDLY IN THE PAST, BOTH PUBLICLY AND TO ITALIAN AUTHORITIES, NO U.S. COMBAT SHIPS OR AIRCRAFT WERE OPERATING IN THE AREA OF THE CRASH ON THE EVENING OF JUNE 27, 1980. THERE WAS NO AMERICAN INVOLVEMENT OF ANY KIND IN THE DISASTER.

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1999

THIS REPORT FOCUSES ON THE FOLLOWING ISSUES:

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1. RUSSIAGATE
2. MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROCESS
3. KOSOVO PEACE PROCESS
4. WTO
5. 1980 USTICA AIR CRASH

TREATMENT

1. RUSSIAGATE

ALL MEDIA GIVE PROMINENT ATTENTION TO THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN THE RUSSIA-IMF FINANCIAL SCANDAL: REPORTS ABOUT THE POSSIBLE INVOLVEMENT OF DOZENS OF ADDITIONAL BANKS AROUND THE WORLD; AND THE "STORM" REPORTEDLY CAUSED BY U.S. TREASURY SECRETARY SUMMER'S STATEMENT -- IN AN INTERVIEW WITH USA TODAY -- THAT NO ADDITIONAL LOANS WILL BE MADE TO RUSSIA WITHOUT APPROPRIATE GUARANTEES. ALL REPORTS INDICATE THAT MOSCOW'S IMMEDIATE, "FURIOUS" REACTION AND THE JOLTS OF FINANCIAL MARKETS PROMPTED THE U.S. TREASURY DEPARTMENT

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TO LATER ISSUE A "CORRECTION". LEFT-LEANING, INFLUENTIAL LA REPUBBLICA (9/2) CARRIES THE TEXT OF TREASURY SECRETARY SUMMER'S INTERVIEW WITH USA TODAY UNDER THE HEADLINE: "NO MONEY TO YELTSIN WITHOUT NEW GUARANTEES'".

LEADING BUSINESS DAILY IL SOLE-24 ORE (9/2) CARRIES AN OP-ED BY JEFFREY SACHS, DIRECTOR OF THE HARVARD INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, HEADLINED: "POVERTY AND CORRUPTION ARE THE HERITAGE OF THE SOVIETS." SUBHEAD LINE: "GEOGRAPHY AND SCANT WESTERN SUPPORT ARE ALSO AT THE ROOTS OF RUSSIA'S FAILURE."

HEADLINES:

- "WASHINGTON WANTS TO STOP LOANS NOW" (CORRIERE DELLA SERA)
- "WASHINGTON THREATENS TO SUSPEND LOANS TO MOSCOW" (LA STAMPA)
- "RUSSIAGATE, BANKS ARE THE TARGET" (FRONT PAGE, LA REPUBBLICA)
- "RUSSIAN SHADOWS MAKE THE UNITED STATES TREMBLE" (IL SOLE-24 ORE)
- "RUSSIAGATE, INVESTIGATIONS EXPAND ALL OVER THE WORLD" (IL MESSAGGERO)
- "SCANDALS AND BOMBS, MOSCOW CRIES PLOT" (IL TEMPO)

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"THE UNITED STATES: NO MORE MONEY TO THE CORRUPT IN
RUSSIA" (IL GIORNALE)
"MONEY LAUNDERING, BANKS ALL OVER THE WORLD INVOLVED"
(L'UNITA')

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COMMENTS:

CENTRIST, INFLUENTIAL LA STAMPA (9/2) HOLDS IN A FRONT-
PAGE SUMMARY ABOUT RUSSIAGATE: "RUSSIAGATE HAS TURNED
INTO A STORM: U.S. TREASURY SECRETARY LARRY SUMMERS SAID
IN AN INTERVIEW THAT THE WHITE HOUSE INTENDS TO HALT THE
NEXT IMF LOANS TO RUSSIA. THE REACTION BY THE MOSCOW
GOVERNMENT WAS IMMEDIATE AND FORCED SUMMERS' OFFICE TO
ISSUE A CLARIFICATION: WE WANT TO PROCEED WITH THE
LOANS, BUT WE ASK FOR 'ADEQUATE' GUARANTEES."

WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT ANDREA DI ROBILANT WRITES IN
CENTRIST, INFLUENTIAL LA STAMPA (9/2): "THE CLINTON
ADMINISTRATION HAS FINALLY INTERVENED TO CHECK
'RUSSIAGATE' BUT HAS ENDED UP MAKING MOSCOW FURIOUS AND
CONFUSING THINGS EVEN FURTHER...ACCORDING TO U.S. MEDIA
REPORTS, THE INVESTIGATORS HAVE NOT YET SUCCEEDED IN

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SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4404
ALL NATO POST COLLECTIVE
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AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
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FINDING ANY EVIDENCE OF THE VIOLATION OF U.S. ANTI-MONEYLAUNDERING LAWS. EVEN THOUGH THE VARIOUS ASPECTS OF THE OPERATION CONTINUE TO BE CONFUSED, STRONG PRESSURE IS ALREADY BEING EXERTED ON THE CLINTON ADMINISTRATION. AND, IN THE WAKE OF SUMMERS' UNFORTUNATE STATEMENT, IT IS EASY TO PREDICT THAT THE FIRE OF THE REPUBLICANS WILL NOW CONCENTRATE ON THE TREASURY SECRETARY IN ADDITION TO AL GORE....THIS IS AN ESPECIALLY DELICATE MOMENT FOR SUMMERS, WHO STILL HAS TO SHOW THAT HE IS, IF NOT AS GOOD AS RUBIN, AT LEAST UP TO HIS JOB."

"RUSSIA AND THE UNITED STATES AT LOGGERHEADS" A REPORT FROM NEW YORK BY ARTURO ZAMPAGLIONE IN LEFT-LEANING, INFLUENTIAL LA REPUBBLICA (9/2): "MOSCOW'S REACTION AND THE SHAKING OF THE FINANCIAL MARKETS...HAVE SUGGESTED TO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY TO SOFTEN SUMMERS' TONES. 'WE ARE NOT ASKING TO DELAY THE NEXT IMF PAYMENT TO MOSCOW,' A SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT, 'BUT ONLY TO ADOPT MEASURES TO CONTROL PAST AND FUTURE LOANS.'" THE CLARIFICATION BY THE TREASURY DEPARTMENT IS AN INDICATION OF THE EMBARRASSMENT OF CLINTON AND HIS

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COLLABORATORS: ON ONE SIDE, THE WHITE HOUSE IS CRITICIZED BY THE REPUBLICANS FOR ITS SUPERFICIAL LOANS TO MOSCOW 'KLEPTOCRATS;' AND ON THE OTHER, THE KREMLIN WON'T ACCEPT HASTY CONCLUSIONS."

A REPORT FROM NEW YORK IN CENTRIST, TOP-CIRCULATION CORRIERE DELLA SERA (9/2): "LAWRENCE SUMMERS DID NOT MINCE WORDS....IN AN INTERVIEW WITH USA TODAY, THE NEWLY APPOINTED SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY...GAVE A CLEAR SIGNAL ABOUT STOPPING THE FUNDS FOR MOSCOW....A 'NO' WHICH PROMPTED AN IMMEDIATE REACTION BOTH BY THE PUTIN GOVERNMENT AND BY INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL MARKETS, WHERE THE VALUE OF RUSSIAN DEBT TITLES HAS PLUNGED. SO MUCH SO THAT, A FEW HOURS LATER, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE TREASURY DEPARTMENT MADE A POINT TO CLARIFY THAT WASHINGTON HAS NO INTENTION, WHATSOEVER, OF STOPPING NEW LOANS: 'WE ASK FOR MORE GUARANTEES, NOT FOR THE END OF THE LOANS.' NOTWITHSTANDING THE VERBAL CORRECTIONS, HOWEVER, IT IS CLEAR THAT SUMMERS' WORDS ARE THE SIGNAL THAT THE CLINTON ADMINISTRATION, PUT TO THE ROPES BY THE SCANDAL, NO LONGER INTENDS TO REMAIN PASSIVE IN THE WAKE OF ACCUSATIONS THAT IT HAS PUSHED THE IMF TO GRANT LOANS WITHOUT BEING TOO FUSSY, WITH THE GOAL OF SUPPORTING YELTSIN."

"MOSCOW'S ANGER: 'A PLOT AGAINST OUR POWER'" -- A REPORT FROM MOSCOW, ALSO IN CENTRIST, TOP-CIRCULATION CORRIERE DELLA SERA (9/2): "MOSCOW FEELS BESIEGED AND DEFAMED, AND BLAMES THE WEST FOR THIS, ESPECIALLY A FEW NEWSPAPERS AND THE U.S. REPUBLICAN PARTY. THE RUSSIAN GOVERNMENT CLAIMS ITS CONSCIENCE IS CLEAR. IT DOES NOT

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DENY POSSIBLE AREAS OF CORRUPTION, BUT NO LONGER WANTS TO HEAR NONSENSE ABOUT THE ALLEGED IMPROPER USE OF LOANS AND INTERNATIONAL AID.

"MOSCOW-GATE" PROVOCATIVE, CLASSICAL LIBERAL DAILY IL FOGLIO (9/2) SAYS THAT "THERE HAS BEEN ONE ADDITIONAL LEAK FROM THE STATE DEPARTMENT: LAST JULY, STROBE TALBOTT CAME BACK FURIOUS FROM MOSCOW BECAUSE, FOR THE SECOND TIME, YELTSIN HAD EXERTED HIS RIGHT-OF-VETO AGAINST THE LAW TO MONITOR MONEY LAUNDERING, REQUESTED BY THE UNITED STATES AND VOTED FOR BY THE RUSSIAN PARLIAMENT. A DECISION WAS MADE AT THAT POINT TO 'DROP' YELTSIN AND, PROBABLY, TO LEAK THE NEWS THAT HAS LED TO THE INVESTIGATIONS."

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2. MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROCESS

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MEDIA ARE GENERALLY OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE PROSPECTS OF AN ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN AGREEMENT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WYE ACCORDS AND SEE AN OFFICIAL SIGNING CEREMONY -- TO BE HELD TODAY IN EGYPT AT THE PRESENCE OF SECRETARY ALBRIGHT AMONG OTHERS -- AS VERY LIKELY. REPORTS UNDERLINE PRESIDENT CLINTON'S PERSONAL EFFORTS IN PROMOTING AN ACCORD, NOTING HIS TELEPHONE CALLS YESTERDAY TO ISRAELI PM BARAK AND PALESTINIAN LEADER ARAFAT. SOME COMMENTATORS, HOWEVER, WARN THAT "SKIRMISHES" CONTINUE BETWEEN THE NEGOTIATORS AND THAT THE MAIN PROBLEMS -- BORDERS AND SECURITY -- STILL REMAIN UNRESOLVED.

HEADLINES:

"BARAK-ARAFAT RACE TOWARDS PEACE" (CORRIERE DELLA SERA)
"ALBRIGHT TO THE MIDDLE EAST, AGREEMENT CLOSE" (IL SOLE-24 ORE)
"LAST SHIVERS: AGREEMENT BETWEEN ISRAELIS AND PALESTINIANS STUMBLES OVER POLITICAL PRISONERS" (IL MESSAGGERO)
"ISRAEL AND PALESTINE AGREE ON ALMOST EVERYTHING" (IL

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GIORNALE)

"ISRAEL-PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY CLOSE TO ACCORD"
(L'UNITA')

COMMENTS:

LORENZO CREMONESI REPORTS FROM JERUSALEM IN CENTRIST, TOP-CIRCULATION CORRIERE DELLA SERA (9/2): "AN AGREEMENT HAS VIRTUALLY BEEN ACHIEVED BY THE ISRAELIS AND THE PALESTINIANS. LATE LAST NIGHT THE IMPRESSION WAS THAT THE SIGNING OF THE AGREEMENT IN JERUSALEM WAS IMMINENT, LEADING TO TODAY'S OFFICIAL CEREMONY IN ALEXANDRIA, EGYPT, ATTENDED BY BARAK, ARAFAT, MUBARAK AND ALBRIGHT. YESTERDAY WAS A VERY HECTIC DAY. PRESIDENT CLINTON INTERVENED WITH LONG TELEPHONE CALLS TO BARAK AND ARAFAT IN ORDER TO PROMOTE THE DIALOGUE. AND THE EGYPTIANS ALSO EXERTED PRESSURE ON THE PALESTINIAN LEADER." THE ARTICLE CONCLUDES: "BY MID JANUARY, AN ADDITIONAL ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL OF 4 PERCENT SHOULD BEGIN. ALBRIGHT ALSO AIMS AT REOPENING THE 'ROAD' OF TALKS BETWEEN ISRAEL AND SYRIA. ON SATURDAY SHE WILL VISIT DAMASCUS TO MEET WITH PRESIDENT ASSAD."

"BARAK-ARAFAT, POSSIBLE AGREEMENT ON DETAILS DOES NOT

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DISPEL DOUBTS ABOUT A FUTURE TOGETHER" -- THE NEWS ANALYSIS SECTION OF PROVOCATIVE, CLASSICAL LIBERAL DAILY IL FOGLIO (9/2) IS LESS OPTIMISTIC: "FOR OBSERVERS WHO FOLLOW THE NEGOTIATIONS FROM A DISTANCE, IT MAY SEEM PARADOXICAL THAT, RIGHT AT THE TIME WHEN THE ISRAELIS SHOW MAXIMUM INTEREST IN FINDING A PEACE COMPROMISE AND ALL INTERNATIONAL MEDIATORS FROM EGYPT TO THE UNITED

PAGE 04 ROME 06001 03 OF 05 021329Z STATES WORK WITH STRONG COMMITMENT AND OPTIMISM TOWARD THE SAME GOAL, THE NEGOTIATIONS SEEM ABOUT TO GET STUCK. YET THAT IS NOT A COINCIDENCE...BOTH ARAFAT AND BARAK HAVE SHOWN GOOD INTENTIONS IN TRYING TO 'AMEND,' 'ENRICH' AND 'IMPROVE' THE WYE ACCORDS...BUT THIS HAS LED THE NEGOTIATORS TO DEAL WITH INCREASINGLY COMPLICATED PROBLEMS. IN ORDER TO OVERCOME THE CRISIS OVER THE WYE ACCORDS, IT WAS NECESSARY TO ACHIEVE A COMPROMISE ON THE RELEASE OF POLITICAL PRISONERS...AND ALL THE MOST SERIOUS TANGLES REMAIN: THE DEFINITION OF BORDERS, THE LEGITIMIZATION OF A SOVEREIGN PALESTINIAN STATE, THE THORNY ISSUE OF JERUSALEM, THE ISSUE OF PALESTINIAN REFUGEES, THE PROBLEM OF SETTLEMENTS."

SANDRO MANOR REPORTS FROM JERUSALEM IN LEADING BUSINESS DAILY IL SOLE-24 ORE (9/2): "BARAK HAS MANAGED TO CONVINCEN ALBRIGHT NOT TO BECOME INVOLVED WITH THE HEART

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NAS SIGONELLA IT//PA//
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SUBJECT: USIS ROME MEDIA REACTION REPORT - SEPTEMBER 2,
1999

OF ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN NEGOTIATIONS DURING HER VISIT...FOR ISRAEL, THIS MEANS AVOIDING AMERICAN PRESSURE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WYE ACCORDS...AND LEAVING ALBRIGHT WITH A SINGLE MAJOR ISSUE TO DEAL WITH: PEACE WITH SYRIA OR, AT LEAST, THE IMMEDIATE RESUMPTION OF THE NEGOTIATIONS WHICH WERE INTERRUPTED IN 1996. THE U.S. ADMINISTRATION PREFERS TO REDUCE EXPECTATIONS FOR THE ALBRIGHT MISSION."

UMBERTO DE GIOVANNANGELI WRITES IN PRO-DS (LEADING GOVERNMENT PARTY) DAILY L'UNITA' (9/2): "IT'S A RACE AGAINST TIME. SECRETARY ALBRIGHT ARRIVES IN ALEXANDRIA TODAY. EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT MUBARAK PLANS TO HAVE AN OFFICIAL CEREMONY FOR THE SIGNING OF THE LONG-SOUGHT AGREEMENT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WYE ACCORDS. A POSTPONEMENT WOULD BE A SLAP THAT THE EGYPTIAN 'KING' CANNOT ACCEPT. A COMPROMISE IS BEING SOUGHT ON THE NUMBER OF PALESTINIAN REFUGEES TO BE RELEASED BY THE JEWISH STATE...AS HOURS GO BY, PRESSURES ON ARAFAT INCREASE, AS MANY FEAR THE CONSEQUENCES OF A POSSIBLE FAILURE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS. AMONG THEM, PRESIDENT CLINTON. YESTERDAY WAS A DAY OF PHONE CALLS FOR HIM."

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3. KOSOVO PEACE PROCESS

COVERAGE OF KOSOVO ISSUES IS LIMITED TODAY, WITH MOST OF THE REPORTING FOCUSING ON THE ONGOING DOMESTIC DISPUTE OVER THE ALLEGED SCANDAL INVOLVING THE ITALIAN "RAINBOW OPERATION" AID EFFORTS.

A FEW REPORTS NOTE THAT ITALIAN GENERAL PIETRO FRISONE WAS SWORN IN YESTERDAY AS THE NEW COMMANDER OF "COMMUNICATION ZONE WEST," THE NATO HUMANITARIAN MISSION IN ALBANIA ("IN SUBSTANCE, THE CONTINUATION OF THE FORMER 'ALLIED HARBOUR-ALBANIAN FORCE' LED BY BRITISH GENERAL JOHN REITH," ACCORDING TO THE ARTICLES.)

"CLARK: 'MILOSEVIC WON'T RESPECT THE AGREEMENTS' -- CLARK WARNS MILOSEVIC THAT HE HAS TO RELEASE THE 7,000 ALBANIANS HE HAS SEIZED" MAURIZIO MOLINARI'S REPORT FROM WASHINGTON IN CENTRIST, INFLUENTIAL LA STAMPA (9/2) FOCUSES ON GENERAL CLARK'S REMARKS AT THE AMERICAN ENTERPRISE INSTITUTE AND NOTES: "CLARK DID NOT APPEAR WEAKENED AS A RESULT OF THE RECENT WHITE HOUSE DECISION TO REPLACE HIM AHEAD OF TIME AND ADDRESSED MILOSEVIC DIRECTLY." THE ARTICLE QUOTES EXTENSIVELY FROM GENERAL CLARK'S REMARKS.

"DRUGS AND WEAPONS, MAFIA ASSAILS KOSOVO" A REPORT FROM PRISTINA IN PRO-DS (LEADING GOVERNMENT PARTY) DAILY L'UNITA' (9/2) DEPICTS AS GLOOMY SITUATION AS FAR AS THE INCREASE OF ORGANIZED CRIME ACTIVITIES IN KOSOVO IS

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CONCERNED, ALSO BASED ON REPORTS PROVIDED BY ITALIAN CARABINIERI POLICE OFFICIALS OPERATING IN THE AREA.

4. WTO

"POST-RUGGIERO ERA: THREE-YEAR MANDATE BEGINS FOR MOORE"
A REPORT FROM GENEVA IN LEADING BUSINESS DAILY IL SOLE-24 ORE (9/2): "UPON HIS DEBUT AS WTO DIRECTOR, MIKE MOORE HAS BEFORE HIM AN OBSTACLE, A GOAL AND AN ORGANIZATIONAL TASK. THE OBSTACLE COMES FROM THE DISPUTE THAT HAS PRECEDED HIS NOMINATION: THE FORMER NEW ZEALAND LABOR UNION LEADER WILL HAVE TO GET RID OF THE LABEL OF 'MAN OF THE UNITED STATES' VERSUS SMALLER NATIONS...MOORE LAUNCHED A MESSAGE IN THAT DIRECTION

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YESTERDAY AS HE WAS SWORN IN...THE GOAL AHEAD FOR THE
NEW DIRECTOR IS INSTEAD ACHIEVING AN AGREEMENT WITH
CHINA, SO THAT BEIJING WILL ACCEPT JOINING THE WTO

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SOONEST....FINALLY, HIS FIRST ORGANIZATIONAL TASK: PREPARING THE THIRD WTO MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN SEATTLE, WASHINGTON IN THREE MONTHS. WITHOUT A LEADER SINCE THE END OF APRIL...THE WTO IS BEHIND WITH PREPARATIONS FOR THAT CONFERENCE."

5. 1980 USTICA AIR CRASH

CONSIDERABLE MEDIA COVERAGE HAS BEEN DEVOTED OVER THE LAST TWO DAYS TO THE CONCLUSION OF ITALIAN PROSECUTOR ROSARIO PRIORE'S INVESTIGATION INTO THE 1980 USTICA AIR CRASH. PRIORE OFFICIALLY ACCEPTED THAT THE CRASH WAS DUE TO A DOG FIGHT BETWEEN FOREIGN MILITARY AIRCRAFT AND ORDERED THAT FOUR FORMER AIR FORCE GENERALS STAND TRIAL ON CHARGES OF HIGH TREASON. A NUMBER OF OTHER HIGH-RANKING OFFICERS WERE ALSO INDICTED FOR COVERING UP THE REAL CAUSES OF THE INCIDENT AND PUTTING INVESTIGATORS ON THE WRONG TRACK.

DS (LEADING GOVERNMENT PARTY) SECRETARY WALTER VELTRONI IS QUOTED IN TODAY'S PRESS AS SAYING: "I WANT TO UNDERLINE THE GREAT WORK DONE BY PRIORE. IT SEEMS TO ME

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HE HAD THE STRENGTH, AND EVEN THE COURAGE, TO SHED LIGHT ON WHAT HAPPENED THAT NIGHT." DS SENATOR DARIA BONFIETTI, CHAIRWOMAN OF THE ASSOCIATION OF THE FAMILIES OF THE USTICA VICTIMS REPORTEDLY SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD ASK THE U.S., ENGLAND AND LIBYA WHY THEIR PLANES WERE FLYING OVER USTICA ON JUNE 27, 1980. TODAY'S PRO-DS (LEADING GOVERNMENT PARTY) DAILY L'UNITA' (9/2) CARRIES THIS FRONT-PAGE HEADLINE: "DS PARTY EXPECTS ALLIES TO TELL THE TRUTH ABOUT USTICA." THE PAPER ADDS THAT DS SECRETARY VELTRONI HAS ASKED THAT FRANCE, THE UNITED STATES AND GREAT BRITAIN SHOULD HELP EXPLAIN THE DETAILS AND THE REASONS FOR THE AIR BATTLE. CENTRIST, TOP-CIRCULATION 'CORRIERE DELLA SERA (9/2) SPECULATES THAT PRIORE HAS ALREADY INITIATED ANOTHER INVESTIGATION TO ASCERTAIN HIGHER - POSSIBLY POLITICAL - RESPONSIBILITIES, AND CITES NATO DIPLOMATIC SOURCES AS STATING: "WE GAVE ALL THE HELP WE COULD HAVE GIVEN."

A SEPARATE SPECIAL REPORT WRAPPING UP THIS WEEK'S COVERAGE WILL BE SENT TOMORROW. CALLAHAN

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1980 USTICA AIR CRASH - SEPTEMBER 3, 1999

THIS REPORT WILL FOCUS ON SEPTEMBER 1-3 MEDIA COVERAGE

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: ERIC W. FLEISHER
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ON USTICA.

ALL ITALIAN MEDIA DEVOTE INCREASING ATTENTION TO ITALIAN PROSECUTOR ROSARIO PRIORE'S CONCLUSION OF HIS NINE YEAR INVESTIGATION INTO THE 1980 USTICA AIR CRASH. FRONT-PAGE BOLD-HEADLINES, COMMENTARIES AND DETAILED FACTUAL ARTICLES WITH GRAPHS AND CHARTS FILL SEVERAL PAGES IN EACH DAILY.

ALL NEWSPAPERS FOCUS THEIR INTEREST ON THE FOLLOWING ASPECTS RESULTING FROM PRIORE'S REPORT: THE WALL OF SILENCE ERECTED AROUND THE TRAGEDY WAS THE RESULT OF ORDERS FROM A 'HIGH-LEVEL (POLITICAL)'; THE DC-9 WAS CAUGHT UP IN AN AIR FIGHT, SHOT DOWN OVER USTICA AND THERE HAS BEEN A 19-YEAR COVERUP ON NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVELS; DS (LEADING GOVERNMENT PARTY) SECRETARY, WALTER VELTRONI, HAS ASKED FRANCE, THE UNITED STATES AND GREAT BRITAIN TO HELP EXPLAIN THE DETAILS AND THE REASONS FOR THE AIR BATTLE; THE GOVERNMENT'S PROMISE, THROUGH PRIME MINISTER D'ALEMA, TO ASK ITS NATO

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ALLIES TO EXPLAIN THEIR ROLE IN THE USTICA AIR CRASH.

PRO-DS (LEADING GOVERNMENT PARTY) L'UNIT, (9/3)
COMMENTS: 'ON USTICA, WE MUST GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THINGS, AND ASK OUR ALLIES - JUST BECAUSE THEY ARE ALLIES - TO TELL US WHAT HAPPENED DURING THE NIGHT OF JUNE 27, 1980.' PALAZZO CHIGI ISSUED A STATEMENT: 'THE PRIME MINISTER IS CONSIDERING THE BEST COURSE TO FOLLOW IN ORDER TO CONTINUE CONTRIBUTING TO THE DEFINITIVE DISCOVERY OF THE TRUTH, INCLUDING THE ROLE OF OUR NATO ALLIES.' CALLING IT "MEASURED, BUT VERY CLEAR," L'UNITA CONTINUED: "THERE WAS AN (AMERICAN) AIRCRAFT CARRIER, THERE WERE PLANES, AND LIFE JACKETS...HELMETS...WERE FOUND IN THE AREA...RAHER STRONG EVIDENCE...WE CANNOT EXCLUDE THAT U.S. PLANES WERE CHASING AN ENEMY AIRCRAFT THAT NIGHT."

SEVERAL STORIES SPECULATE HEAVILY ON U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN THE USTICA TRAGEDY AND NOTE THAT PRIORE'S REPORT SEEMS TO INCLUDE AN ATTACK ON THE UNITED STATES.

ALESSANDRO FARRUGGIA LEADS IN CONSERVATIVE, TOP-CIRCULATION SYNDICATE LA NAZIONE (9/3), UNDER THE HEADLINE "USTICA, PRIORE POINTS TO THE UNITED STATES," "(THERE IS) TOO MUCH CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE AGAINST THE AMERICANS. ACCORDING TO PROSECUTOR ROSARIO PRIORE, "THE

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U.S. PRESENCE THAT NIGHT IS TOO OBVIOUS...THERE WERE THE AIRCRAFT CARRIER, LIFE JACKETS AND PLANES...THESE OBJECTS DEMONSTRATE THAT THERE WAS A U.S. PRESENCE.' BUT (U.S.) JUDICIAL RESPONSIBILITY IS TOO FAR AWAY TO BE CONSIDERED."

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UNDER ITS FRONT-PAGE HEADLINE "USTICA, PRIORE ATTACKS THE UNITED STATES," LEFT-LEANING, INFLUENTIAL LA REPUBBLICA (9/3) CITES A U.S. SPOKESMAN WHO EXPLICITLY STATED THAT WASHINGTON INTENDS TO REMAIN SILENT BECAUSE "IT IS BEST THAT THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT ADDRESS THE ISSUE." THIS SAME STATEMENT IS PICKED UP BY OTHER NEWSPAPERS AS WELL.

CORRIERE DELLA SERA (9/2) SPECULATES THAT PRIORE HAS ALREADY INITIATED ANOTHER INVESTIGATION TO ASCERTAIN HIGHER - POSSIBLY POLITICAL - RESPONSIBILITY, AND CITES NATO DIPLOMATIC SOURCES: "WE GAVE ALL THE HELP WE COULD HAVE GIVEN." ANDREA PURGATORI (THE JOURNALIST WHO BU ILT A CAREER ON BLAMING THE USTICA TRAGEDY ON THE U.S.) QUOTES PRIORE IN CORRIERE DELLA SERA (9/2): "IT WAS AN ACT OF TERRORISM...AN ATTACK AGAINST A HEAD OF STATE." THEN PURGATORI DRAWS HIS OWN CONCLUSION: "THE VICTIM WAS

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SUPPOSED TO HAVE BEEN GADHAFI."

HEADLINES:

(9/3)
"USTICA, BEFORE THE DISASTERS COMMITTEE" (FRONT PAGE IL
TEMPO)
"USTICA/PRIORE ACCUSES THE UNITED STATES AND FRANCE -
THE GOVERNMENT: WE WILL SEARCH THE TRUTH WITHIN NATO"
(FRONT PAGE IL MESSAGGERO)
"USTICA, THE UNITED STATES KNOWS THE TRUTH - THE
(ITALIAN) GOVERNMENT MUST NOW TAKE ACTION" (FRONT PAGE
LA STAMPA)
"USTICA, INVESTIGATIONS ON (ITALIAN) POLITICIANS BY
PARLIAMENT" (CORRIERE DELLA SERA)
"THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT ASKS ITS ALLIES FOR THE TRUTH"
(IL SOLE-24 ORE)

(9/2)
"USTICA, THE WAR (WAS) FOUGHT ONLY IN THE DOSSIERS" (IL
RESTO DEL CARLINO)
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"USTICA, NO CULPRITS FOR THE MANSLAUGHTER" (IL TEMPO)
"FOUR GENERALS (ARE) UNDER ACCUSATION FOR USTICA" (LA STAMPA)
"THAT BARRIER OF SILENCE AND LIES" (LA STAMPA)
"DC9, INVESTIGATION OVER POLITICAL COVER UP" (CORRIERE DELLA SERA)
"USTICA, FOUR GENERALS ACCUSED OF HIGH BETRAYAL" (IL SOLE-24 ORE)

(9/1)

"USTICA, INVESTIGATION (IS) FINISHED, "THERE WAS AN AIR FIGHT'" (FRONT PAGE CORRIERE DELLA SERA)
USTICA, FINAL ACT - MILITARY GENERALS IN COURT" (FRONT PAGE LA REPUBBLICA)
"USTICA, THERE WAS AN AIR FIGHT: THE DC9 CAUGHT DURING A SECRET OPERATION" (FRONT PAGE IL MESSAGGERO)
"PRIORE'S TRUTH: A MISSILE PULLED DOWN THE DC9 IN USTICA" (IL RESTO DEL CARLINO)
"USTICA WAS AN 'ACT OF WAR'' - FOUR GENERALS IN COURT" (L'UNIT")
"THE USTICA DC9 (WAS) CAUGHT UP IN AN AIR FIGHT" (IL TEMPO)

COMMENTS:

"'THE UNITED STATES HIDES THE MYSTERY'" - AN ARTICLE BY GIOVANNI BIANCONI LEADS IN CENTRIST, INFLUENTIAL LA STAMPA (9/3) : "IN SEVERAL PASSAGES (OF HIS INDICTMENT), PROSECUTOR ROSARIO PRIORE ALLEGES THAT THE TRUTH ABOUT THE USTICA TRAGEDY MIGHT LIE WITH THE UNITED STATES, ADDING REGRETFULLY THAT IT IS VERY LIKELY THAT IT (THE TRUTH) WILL NEVER BE DISCOVERED BECAUSE OF...THE

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AMERICANS." BIANCONI CONTINUES QUOTING THE MAGISTRATE'S INDICTMENT AS WRITING: "'A DIRECT INVOLVEMENT OF SOME U.S. AIRCRAFT WAS DEMONSTRATED EVEN THOUGH NOT PROVED, WHILE THEY WERE ENGAGED, EITHER ARMED OR UNARMED, IN MANEUVERS OR IN TRANSFERS.'" (THERE WERE) MILITARY AIRCRAFT WHOSE CHARACTERISTICS MATCH EXCLUSIVELY WITH THE PRESENCE OF AN AIRCRAFT CARRIER.'" ACCORDING TO BIANCONI, PRIORE THEN ADDS: "THEREFORE, THE PRESENCE OF SEVERAL INDICATORS OR, MORE CONCRETELY, OF SUSPECTS... AGAINST THE UNITED STATES CANNOT BE DENIED."

"THE NOISE OF INDIGNATION" - FRONT PAGE COMMENTARY BY ANDREA PURGATORI IN CENTRIST TOP-CIRCULATION CORRIERE DELLA SERA (9/3) CONCLUDES: "IF CERMIS HAD OCCURRED AT

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NIGHT, RATHER THAN DURING THE DAY, AND WITHOUT WITNESSES, WOULD SOMEONE HAVE PROPOSED THE ARREST OF THE OWNER OF THE CABLE LIFT ON CHARGES OF MALFUNCTIONING OF THE GONDOLA?'

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"WHAT LOYALTY TOWARD USTICA" - AN UNSIGNED EDITORIAL IN PROVOCATIVE, CLASSICAL LIBERAL DAILY IL FOGLIO (9/3) ARGUES THAT DS PARTY LEADERS HAD BETTER STOP SPECULATING ABOUT THE THEORY OF "THE DOUBLE ALLEGIANCE" (TOWARD THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT AND TOWARD THE UNITED STATES) OF THE VARIOUS ITALIAN INSTITUTIONS.

"USTICA, THE MILITARY GENERALS' REVOLT: "IF WE ARE RESPONSIBLE, THE (ITALIAN) GOVERNMENT IS AS WELL" - FRONT-PAGE COMMENTARY BY PAOLO GUZZANTI IN LEADING, OPPOSITION DAILY IL GIORNALE (9/2) STATES THAT HE IS RESENTFUL AND DISTRESSED BY PRIORE'S INDICTMENT AS ARE MANY OTHER ITALIANS, AND NOTES: "IT IS TRUE THAT PART OF OUR COUNTRY IS NOW CELEBRATING BECAUSE A POLITICAL AND NOT A REAL TRUTH WAS DISCOVERED...PRIORE'S FINDINGS QUESTION THE VERY RESPONSIBILITY OF THE UNITED STATES IN THE USTICA TRAGEDY, DESCRIBING A BATTLE THAT NEVER EXISTED...THE USTICA INVESTIGATION IS BEING CLOSED IN A COMPLETELY FALSE, ALBEIT POLITICALLY CORRECT, FASHION."

"USTICA, DEVASTATING SIDETRACKS" - FIORENZA SARZANINI
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QUOTES LONG EXCEPTS

FROM PRIORE'S REPORT AND LEADS: "A 19 YEAR LONG SIDETRACKED (INVESTIGATION). IT IS AN IMPRESSIVE - AND WITHOUT PRECEDENT - SERIES OF FAILURES, LIES AND DESTRUCTIONS OF FILES. JUDGE PRIORE'S ANALYSIS OF THE ITALIAN AIR FORCE IS VERY HARSH. IN HIS SEVERE EVALUATION, PRIORE ALSO DISCUSSES THE 'POLITICAL LEVEL' WHICH HAS 'COVERED UP WHAT THEY DID'....PRIORE STATES THAT "THERE HAS BEEN A SPECIFIC WILL TO ERASE ANY EVIDENCE WHICH MIGHT ALLOW US TO TRACE RESPONSIBILITY.... GENERAL ZENO TASCIO (ONE OF THE DEFENDANTS) INTERVENED WITH THE INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES OF FOREIGN COUNTRIES, AND FIRST OF ALL WITH THE INTELLIGENCE OF (ITALY'S) PRINCIPAL ALLY...." SARZANINI THEN CONTINUES: "ON JULY 4, 1980, ARGIOLAS AND BOMPREZZI OFFICIALS VISITED THE (MILITARY) AIRPORT OF BOCCADIFALCO (PALERMO). OFFICIALLY, THEY HAD TO REVIEW THE SPOILS OF THE DC9. THEIR REAL PURPOSE WAS, INDEED (ACCORDING TO PRIORE), "TO VERIFY THE RELIABILITY OF THE NEWS ABOUT A POSSIBLE CRASH WITH AN AMERICAN AIRCRAFT.'"

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"USTICA, THE REVOLT OF THE GENERALS, VELTRONI (DS, LEADING GOVERNMENT PARTY, LEADER) WANTS TO TRY NATO INSTEAD" - MARCO VENTURA QUESTIONS IN LEADING OPPOSITION DAILY (9/2) IL GIORNALE: "JUDGE ANTONIO PRIORE'S TRUTH ABOUT USTICA IS THAT "IT WAS MAINLY AN ACT OF WAR...AN INTERNATIONAL POLICE OPERATION.'" VENTURA COMMENTS THAT FOLLOWING PRIORE'S INDICTMENT THE LEFT CHEERS, THE OPPOSITION IS SKEPTICAL, WHILE COMMUNISTS AND THE GREENS POINT TO NATO. CALLAHAN

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TAGS: OPRC, KMDR, IT
SUBJECT:ROME MEDIA REACTION REPORT - FEBRUARY 1, 2000

THIS REPORT WILL FOCUS ON THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

1. AUSTRIA
2. DAVOS WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM/INTERNATIONAL ECONOMY
3. RUSSIA
4. U.S. POLITICS

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5. WRECKAGE OF U.S. NAVY F-4J PHANTOM

TREATMENT

1. AUSTRIA

THE LEADING STORY IN ALL MEDIA IS THE DECISION BY 14 EUROPEAN UNION NATIONS TO TAKE AN UNPRECEDENTED MOVE AND OSTRACIZE FELLOW MEMBER AUSTRIA IN THE EVENT THAT THE FREEDOM PARTY OF FAR-RIGHT LEADER JOERG HAIDER ENTERS INTO A GOVERNMENT COALITION. GIVEN THE HUGE AMOUNT OF COVERAGE, A SPECIAL MEDIA REACTION REPORT WILL FOLLOW.

2. DAVOS WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM/ INTERNATIONAL ECONOMY

REPORTS FROM THE WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM IN DAVOS EXAMINE THE DEBATE AMONG THE THREE MEDIA AND COMPUTERS MOGULS: BILL GATES, STEVE CASE AND NEWCOMER SUMNER REDSTONE ABOUT THE FUTURE OF THE INTERNET.

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THE RISE OF THE DOLLAR VIS-A-VIS THE EURO RECEIVES FRONT-PAGE COVERAGE IN MOST DAILIES, WHERE THE STRENGTH OF THE U.S. ECONOMY IS SPELLED OUT. ALSO WIDELY REPORTED ARE ECB PRESIDENT WIM DUISEMBERG'S REMARKS FROM DAVOS ABOUT THE EURO'S VALUE ON FOREIGN EXCHANGES BEING AN "IMPORTANT FACTOR" IN THE CENTRAL BANK'S ASSESSMENT OF INFLATION RISK, AND ARE MOSTLY INTERPRETED AS A SIGN THAT THE ECB MIGHT ACT TO RAISE ITS KEY SHORT-TERM RATE. REPORTS ALSO FOCUS ON THE FORTHCOMING MEETING OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE BOARD.

AMONG OTHER STATEMENTS, MEDIA PICK UP THE REMARKS OF CARLO AZEGLIO CIAMPI, ITALIAN PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC (AND FORMER MINISTER OF THE TREASURY), THAT "THE EURO HAS POSITIVE ECONOMIC FOUNDATIONS...BUT EUROPE IS LAGGING BEHIND THE U.S. IN THE AREA OF INNOVATION. WE HAVE TO UNDERSTAND THE IMPORTANCE OF THE NEED TO CARRY OUT STRUCTURAL REFORMS IN THE LABOR AND CAPITAL MARKETS."

HEADLINES (FRONT-PAGE):

"DOLLAR BREAKS THROUGH 2,000 LIRE EXCHANGE RATE" (LA REPUBBLICA)

"RECORD DOLLAR: IT IS WORTH MORE THAN 2,000 LIRE" (CORRIERE DELLA SERA)

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"DOLLAR OVER 2,000 LIRE" (LA STAMPA)
"HISTORICAL MINIMUM: MORE THAN 2,000 LIRE FOR A DOLLAR"
(IL MESSAGGERO)

HEADLINES:

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"BILL GATES: WE WILL NOT FOLLOW AOL. MICROSOFT LOOKS AT
TECHNOLOGY" (CORRIERE DELLA
SERA)
"GATES-CASE: ONLY ONE NET, TWO DIFFERENT VISIONS" (IL
SOLE-24 ORE)
"EUROPE PLAYS 'THE SPOILER' BETWEEN BILL GATES AND STEVE
CASE" (LA STAMPA)
"THE TWO INTERNET KINGS MEET IN DAVOS" (L'UNITA')

COMMENTS:

"THE AMERICAN CHALLENGE" -- MARIO PLATERO COMMENTS ON
THE FRONT-PAGE OF LEADING BUSINESS DAILY IL SOLE-24 ORE
(2/1): "TODAY THE AMERICAN ECONOMY IS KNOCKING AT
HISTORY'S DOORS ONCE AGAIN. ON FEBRUARY 1ST THE
UNPRECEDENTED BOOM OF THE '90S OVERCAME THE PREVIOUS ONE
OF THE '60S....IF WE COMPARE THE TWO WE CAN UNDERSTAND
ALAN GREENSPAN'S OBSESSIVE ATTENTION TO INFLATION. THE

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INR/R/MR, I/GEU, I/FW, I/FNY, B/VOA/X, D/P
NAVSUPACT FOR LT. SMITH/01E
JOINT STAFF FOR J-5 LCDR. FC PANDOLFE

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AIM IS TO EXTEND THE PRESENT RECOVERY EVEN FURTHER INTO THE FUTURE...WITH THE "NEW ECONOMY" OF THE YEAR 2000 IN THE U.S. THERE IS AN ATMOSPHERE OF INVULNERABILITY, AT LEAST UNTIL THE NEXT SCARE IN THE STOCK MARKET WILL PREVAIL." PLATERO THEN EXAMINES THE GOOD PERFORMANCE OF THE U.S. ECONOMY AND CONCLUDES: "IN PRESENT CONDITIONS, THE WEAKNESS OF THE EURO DOES NOT TAKE THE AMERICAN MARKET BY SURPRISE. SINCE EUROPE DOES NOT CARRY OUT SIGNIFICANT STRUCTURAL REFORMS THAT MIGHT ALLOW IT TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF NEW TECHNOLOGIES, IT IS VERY UNLIKELY THAT IT CAN HAVE HIGHER GROWTH RATES THAN AMERICA."

"A CURRENCY IN INTENSIVE CARE" -- ANDREA BONANNI
COMMENTS ON THE FRONT-PAGE OF CENTRIST, TOP-CIRCULATION CORRIERE DELLA SERA (2/1): "'A DOLLAR IS WORTH A DOLLAR. BUT HOW MUCH IS THE EURO WORTH?'. BEHIND THIS BITTER REMARK BY A HIGH-LEVEL EUROPEAN OFFICER...THERE IS ALL THE EUROPEAN PSYCHO-DRAMA BEFORE THE WEAKNESS OF THE EURO....A BIG WORLD POWER WHICH RELIES ON A HUGE DOMESTIC MARKET MUST GOVERN ITS CURRENCY AND LOOK EXCLUSIVELY AT ITS OWN DOMESTIC INTERESTS...THESE ARE THE PARAMETERS ON WHICH THE AMERICAN INTEREST RATES POLICY IS BASED. THE FACT THAT THE EFFECT OF ITS CHOICES PRODUCES A STRENGTHENING OR WEAKENING OF THE DOLLAR, IS EVERYONE'S ELSE BUSINESS....INDEED, HOWEVER, THE REAL PROBLEM IS THAT EUROPE IS NOT ABLE TO IMPOSE THE SAME

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PHILOSOPHY WITH SIMILAR SECURITY."

"LOOKING FOR EUROLAND" ARTURO GUATELLI COMMENTS ON THE FRONT-PAGE OF ROME CENTRIST DAILY IL MESSAGGERO (2/1): "EUROPE MARKS ITS TIME.....NOTWITHSTANDING ITS AMBITIOUS TARGETS...IT IS NOT AN ATTRACTIVE POLITICAL ENTITY IN PUBLIC OPINION....TODAY WE LOOK AT EUROPE WITH INDIFFERENCE, AS IF IT BECAME OLD TOO EARLY....NOTWITHSTANDING REASSURING REMARKS BY THE ECB, THE EURO LOSES GROUND DAY AFTER DAY....THE WORLD MOVES AHEAD. EUROPE IS STILL."

"THE RICH AND UNCERTAIN AMERICA IN DAVOS" A SHORT EDITORIAL IN PROVOCATIVE, CLASSICAL LIBERAL DAILY IL FOGLIO (2/1): "THIS YEAR'S INTERNATIONAL FORUM IN DAVOS TOOK PLACE IN A DIFFERENT CLIMATE THAN IN 1999....IN DAVOS IT WAS CLEAR HOW THE AMERICAN POLITICAL LEADERSHIP OF THE GLOBAL ECONOMY IS IN CRISIS. THE CLINTON ADMINISTRATION LINE OF OPPOSING JAPAN AND TRYING TO DIVIDE THE EUROPEANS IN ORDER TO GAIN MORE ROOM, LED US TO A STANDSTILL. HENCE, THE ANTI-GLOBALIZATION SPIRIT IN MONTREAL WHICH SCORED ITS FIRST VICTORY AGAINST THE WTO. WASHINGTON MADE A MESS OF THE IMF LEADERSHIP DEBATE, FUELING THE DISPUTE BETWEEN FRANCE AND GERMANY. IN DAVOS THEY TRIED TO FIND A REMEDY: BUT CERTAIN DESTABILIZING INITIATIVES CAN PRODUCE POISONED FRUITS. NOW THE GERMAN CANDIDACY TO THE IMF ...IS GAINING WEIGHT AGAIN....INDEED, IF THE U.S. WANTS THAT WE MOVE AHEAD ON THE PATH OF GLOBALIZATION, IT SHOULD HELP INSTEAD OF HINDERING EUROPE'S POLITICAL AUTHORITY."

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A REPORT BY DANILO TAINO FROM DAVOS IN CENTRIST, TOP-CIRCULATION CORRIERE DELLA SERA (2/1): "YESTERDAY THEY WERE TOGETHER ON THE DAVOS PODIUM....OBVIOUSLY, YESTERDAY NOBODY WON. BUT THE IDEOLOGICAL PLATFORMS WHICH DIVIDE THE TWO INTERNET KINGS WERE PRESENTED. IN GATES' WORLD, TECHNOLOGY IS THE QUEEN....IN CASE'S WORLD, PEOPLE ARE THE QUEEN."

STEFANO LEPRI REPORTS FROM DAVOS IN CENTRIST, INFLUENTIAL LA STAMPA (2/1): "THE NEWS OF THE DAY IS WHETHER THE DISPUTE OF BIG TECHNOLOGICAL BUSINESSES IS MADE MORE COMPLICATED BY THE ENTRANCE OF A THIRD CHALLENGER, VODAFONE. ALTHOUGH THE POWER OF THE TWO

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AMERICAN GIANTS IS SO BIG - GATES' MICROSOFT IN SOFTWARE, AND CASE'S AOL IN EVERYTHING WHICH IS INSIDE THE INTERNET - ALL EXPERTS RECOGNIZE THAT EUROPE IS AHEAD IN THE TELEPHONE BUSINESS."

"WHAT IS BEHIND ALBRIGHT'S REBUKE ON EUROPEAN

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CORRUPTION" A FRONT-PAGE EDITORIAL COMMENTARY FROM NEW YORK IN PROVOCATIVE, CLASSICAL LIBERAL DAILY IL FOGLIO (2/1) SPECULATES ON THE LATEST FOREIGN POLICY MOVES BY THE CLINTON ADMINISTRATION AND FOCUSES ON SECRETARY ALBRIGHT'S SPEECH...IN DAVOS, QUESTIONING WHY SECRETARY ALBRIGHT CENSURED IMPORTANT ALLIES LIKE FRANCE, ITALY, JAPAN AND EVEN THE U.K. FOR THEIR ALLEGED POOR ANTI-CORRUPTION RECORDS. CITING WILLIAM SAFIRE'S THESIS THAT THE U.S. IS MAD AT THE EUROPEANS FOR DISCLOSING RUSSIA'S SCANDALS, THE ARTICLE ARGUES THAT 'REALITY IS MORE COMPLEX.' HER REPRIMAND COULD HAVE BEEN "A THREAT AIMED AT THE EUROPEANS AFTER THE (U.S.) DEFEAT IN SEATTLE; OR THE EXPRESSION OF AMERICAN IRRITATION WITH THE DIFFICULTIES MET IN THE NOMINATION OF A NEW IMF DIRECTOR. THE...VERY TOUGH REBUKE ON CORRUPTION TOOK MANAGERS AND POLITICIANS BY SURPRISE... BUT, INDEED, IT DID NOT HAPPEN BY CHANCE BECAUSE THE AMERICANS ARRIVED IN DAVOS IN FORCE, LED BY BILL CLINTON AND FIVE SECRETARIES. CLINTON DID NOT SPOUT THE EXPECTED RHETORIC ON GLOBALIZATION...BUT ANNOUNCED THAT HE WILL CHANGE THE POLICY LINE HE HAS BEEN FOLLOWING FOR SEVEN YEARS: TO ACT AND PUSH TRADE EXPANSION BETWEEN THE U.S. AND THE REST OF THE WORLD. HE EXPLAINED THAT THAT STAGE IS OVER...THE ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN, TOGETHER WITH THE HUMILIATION SUFFERED IN SEATTLE BECAUSE OF THE INDIFFERENCE OR, EVEN WORSE, THE COMPLICITY OF THE

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EUROPEANS, IS THE KEY INSIGHT INTO AMERICAN BEHAVIOR IN DAVOS....PERHAPS IT WAS JUST A LESSON. IT HAPPENS OFTEN THAT SECRETARY ALBRIGHT USES FORCEFUL TONES AND THEN BACK-PEDALS. NOR IS THE CORRUPTION ISSUE AN EASY ONE FOR A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ADMINISTRATION WHICH IS ACCUSED OF BEING THE MOST CORRUPT IN THE HISTORY OF AMERICA."

3. RUSSIA

MEDIA REPORT ON SECRETARY ALBRIGHT'S MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER IGOR IVANOV AND UNDERLINE HER WARNING REMARKS TO RUSSIA ON THE WAR IN CHECHNYA. REPORTS ALSO PREVIEW SECRETARY ALBRIGHT'S MEETING WITH ACTING PRESIDENT VLADIMIR PUTIN.

HEADLINES:

"CHECHNYA: MOSCOW SAYS 'NO' TO THE U.S." (IL MESSAGGERO)

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"THE U.S. WARNS PUTIN: CHECHNYA WILL ISOLATE MOSCOW" (IL
SOLE-24 ORE)
"ICE IN MOSCOW BETWEEN ALBRIGHT AND IVANOV"" (IL
GIORNALE)
"CLASH BETWEEN ALBRIGHT AND IVANOV ON CHECHNYA"
(L'UNITA')

COMMENTS:

A REPORT FROM MOSCOW IN LEADING CONSERVATIVE, OPPOSITION
DAILY IL GIORNALE (2/1): "'RUSSIA 'HAS THE RIGHT TO

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DEFEND ITS OWN TERRITORY', BUT THE U.S. REMAINS CRITICAL
OF THE MILITARY MEANS IT IS USING IN CHECHNYA AGAINST
THE ISLAMIC REBELS, AND MAINTAINS THAT MOSCOW RISKS
DAMAGING ITS REPUTATION IN THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY.
THIS IS WHAT SECRETARY ALBRIGHT SAID IN A JOINT PRESS
CONFERENCE WITH FOREIGN MINISTER IVANOV....IVANOV AND
ALBRIGHT ALSO TALKED ABOUT 'STAR WARS'....THE HEAD OF
AMERICAN DIPLOMACY ACKNOWLEDGED THAT ON THIS ISSUE, AS
WELL AS ON CHECHNYA, THERE ARE 'DIFFERENT POINTS OF
VIEW.' "

A REPORT FROM MOSCOW IN PRO-DS (LEADING GOVERNMENT
PARTY) DAILY L'UNITA' (2/1): "ON THE FIRST DAY OF HER
MISSION TO MOSCOW, SECRETARY ALBRIGHT RECEIVED MANY
'NYETS' AND SOME SUGGESTIONS. HER VISIT WAS PROCEEDED
BY A RALLY ORGANIZED BY THE COMMUNISTS IN FRONT OF THE
AMERICAN EMBASSY TO PROTEST HER MEETING AT THE KREMLIN
'BECAUSE THE AMERICANS DEFEND THOSE GANGSTERS IN
CHECHNYA.'....INDEED, TODAY'S MULTILATERAL MEETING IS

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THE REAL DAY WHEN THEY WILL DEAL WITH VARIOUS ISSUES ON THE PEACE PROCESS IN THE MIDDLE EAST. YESTERDAY SECRETARY ALBRIGHT SPENT HER TIME 'EXAMINING' THE POST-YELTSIN MEN. IVANOV PRONOUNCED HIS FIRST 'NO' AND SUGGESTED THAT SHE... 'BE MORE INFORMED' ON WHAT IS TAKING PLACE IN CHECHNYA... TO MAKE THE CASE EVEN MORE COMPLICATED THERE IS THE ANDREI BABITSKI CASE, THE REPORTER FROM RADIO FREE EUROPE/RADIO LIBERTY WHO WAS ARRESTED BY THE RUSSIAN MILITARY IN GROZNY... THIS WAS JUST THE BEGINNING. EVERYTHING CAN CHANGE TODAY WHEN... ALBRIGHT WILL MEET WITH ACTING PRESIDENT PUTIN. IT SHOULD NOT BE RULED OUT THAT THE DATE FOR A MEETING BETWEEN CLINTON AND PUTIN WILL BE SET - PROBABLY BEFORE THE RUSSIAN PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION ON MARCH 26TH... NOTWITHSTANDING BASIC DIFFERENCES, IVANOV AND ALBRIGHT ALSO MADE A TINY GESTURE OF DETENTE AND SIGNED AN AGREEMENT WHICH SHOULD STRENGTHEN CONTROLS OVER TECHNOLOGY USED IN THE LAUNCHING OF THE U.S. SATELLITES FROM RUSSIAN SPACE STATIONS."

VLADIMIR SAPOSHNIKOV REPORTS FROM MOSCOW IN LEADING

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BUSINESS DAILY IL SOLE-24 ORE (2/1): "MANY EXPERTS MAINTAIN THAT ALBRIGHT'S VISIT REPRESENTS A UNIQUE OCCASION FOR THE WHITE HOUSE TO CARRY OUT A PERSONAL REVIEW OF PUTIN, THE FAVORITE CANDIDATE IN THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS."
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A REPORT FROM MOSCOW IN ROME CENTRIST DAILY IL MESSAGGERO (2/1): 'YESTERDAY'S MEETINGS IN MOSCOW PRESENTED A DIFFICULT BEGINNING FOR SECRETARY ALBRIGHT... BUT IT WAS JUST THE BEGINNING. EVERYTHING MIGHT CHANGE TODAY WHEN, BEFORE GOING TO CROATIA, ALBRIGHT WILL HAVE A PERSONAL MEETING WITH ACTING PRESIDENT PUTIN."

4. U.S. POLITICS

ITALIAN MEDIA PREVIEW TODAY'S PRIMARY IN NEW HAMPSHIRE WITH COLORFUL STORIES ON THE CONTESTANTS.

ALL DAILIES ALSO BRIEFLY REPORT THAT ILLINOIS GOVERNOR GEORGE RYAN ANNOUNCED A SUSPENSION OF THE DEATH SENTENCE IN HIS STATE.

HEADLINES:

"U.S. PRIMARY: THE RUN-UP OF THE LOSERS" (CORRIERE DELLA SERA)
"TODAY'S PRIMARY IN NEW HAMPSHIRE, THE FIRST REAL TEST FOR GORE AND BUSH" (IL SOLE-24 ORE)
"A GAME OF FOUR IN NEW HAMPSHIRE" (LA STAMPA)
"BUSH AND GORE TO THE CRUCIAL TEST" (IL MESSAGGERO)
"NEW HAMPSHIRE PRIMARY: STRIKES BELOW THE BELT AND COURTYARD BRAWLS" (L'UNITA')

COMMENTS:

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AUGUSTO MINZOLINI REPORTS FROM MANCHESTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE, IN CENTRIST, INFLUENTIAL LA STAMPA (2/1): "WHO WINS THE PRIMARY HERE...USUALLY BECOMES THE U.S. PRESIDENT. IT IS NOT A SCIENTIFIC FIGURE, BUT A DE-FACTO STATISTIC....IN ANY CASE, PEOPLE DO BELIEVE IN THIS...AND THE PRIMARY IN NEW HAMPSHIRE REPRESENTS A SENSITIVE SEISMOGRAPH OF THE POLITICAL CHANGES WHICH

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MODIFY AMERICANS' ORIENTATION.....THIS YEAR IS NO DIFFERENT. THE CHALLENGERS, THE OUTSIDERS OF THESE ELECTIONS, HAVE BET EVERYTHING ON TODAY'S VOTE....AND SUDDENLY, THE ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN IGNITED. NO MORE MINUETS OR FORMAL SMILES. EVEN THE TAME BRADLEY REALIZED THAT...AND BEGAN TO HIT BACK."

SIEGMUND GINZBERG REPORTS FROM WASHINGTON IN PRO-DS (LEADING GOVERNMENT PARTY) DAILY L'UNITA' (2/1): "IT IS LIKE A WRESTLING MATCH....THE PRIMARY IN NEW HAMPSHIRE OPENED THE WAY TO AN UNSEEMLY EXCHANGE OF INVECTIVES - HITS BELOW THE BELT AMONG THE MAIN CANDIDATES. NOT

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AMONG THOSE WHO WILL FIGHT FOR THE WHITE HOUSE, BUT BETWEEN THOSE WHO, IN EACH OF THE TWO PARTIES, HOPE TO GET THE NOMINATION. AMONG THE DEMOCRATS THE BRAWL WAS BEGUN BY THE MORE GENTLEMANLY CANDIDATE, FORMER BASKET BALL CHAMPION BILL BRADLEY....NOR IS THE 'TONE' OF THE DEBATE VERY DIFFERENT AMONG THE REPUBLICANS."

"BRADLEY: THE GENTLEMAN CANDIDATE" -- UNDER THIS HEADLINE, LEFT LEANING, INFLUENTIAL LA REPUBBLICA (2/1) DEVOTES A FULL-PAGE STORY, WITH REFERENCE ON THE FRONT-PAGE, TO BILL BRADLEY WHO IS DEFINED BY SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT VITTORIO ZUCCONI AS "THE ONLY MAN FROM THE LEFT IN THIS PRIMARY."

4. WRECKAGE OF U.S. NAVY F-4J PHANTOM

MEDIA CONTINUE TO REPORT ABOUT THE WRECKAGE OF A U.S. NAVY F-4J THAT HAD BEEN FOUND EARLIER IN THE WEEK IN THE WATERS NEAR GAETA. REPORTS INCLUDED ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE EMBASSY IN ROME BASED ON DATA FROM THE U.S. NAVAL SAFETY CENTER (NORFOLK, VA) ABOUT THE MISHAP WHICH OCCURRED ON OCT. 23, 1974, INVOLVING TWO F-4J AIRCRAFT BASED ON THE USS SARATOGA.

HOWEVER, THE SUSPICION OF PLOTS AND CONSPIRACIES PREVAILS IN SOME REPORTS, ESPECIALLY CENTRIST, TOP-

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CIRCULATION CORRIERE DELLA SERA WHICH UNABASHEDLY CONTINUES TO LINK THE WRECKAGE, CALLED "PHANTOM II," TO THE USTICA INCIDENT.

STORIES ALSO NOTE THAT THE ROME PROSECUTORS WHO ARE CONDUCTING THE INVESTIGATION ON THE (USTICA) JUNE 27, 1980, TRAGEDY ASKED THE LATINA PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE FOR DOCUMENTATION ABOUT THE AIRCRAFT THAT CRASHED NEAR GAETA.

HEADLINES:

"THE MYSTERY OF THE PHANTOM PLANE REOPENS THE USTICA

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CASE - ROME PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE ASKS FOR DOCUMENTS: IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN SHOT DOWN IN THE FIGHT THAT COULD HAVE INVOLVED THE DC9" (SUB-HEADING) (CORRIERE DELLA SERA)
"THE MYSTERY OF THE U.S. F4 GOES TO THE USTICA PROSECUTORS - BUT THE U.S. EMBASSY CLARIFIES: ON OCTOBER 23, 1974, TWO JETS CRASHED" (SUB-HEADING) (LA REPUBBLICA)
"ROME' PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE ASK FOR THE DOCUMENTS OF THE F4 CRASHED IN GAETA" (IL GIORNALE)
"'ONLY ONE F4 CRASHED IN THE SEA' - THE NEW U.S. VERSION: ONE JET CAUGHT FIRE OFF GAETA, THE OTHER ONE LANDED IN MOLISE" (SUB-HEADING) (IL MESSAGGERO)
"THE U.S. IS READY TO COOPERATE ON USTICA - THE U.S. EMBASSY: 'THIS IS HOW THE TWO AIRCRAFTS CRASHED IN '74.' BUT ROME INVESTIGATORS WANT THE DOCUMENTS (SUB-HEADING)." (IL TEMPO)

COMMENTS:

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A REPORT IN CENTRIST, TOP-CIRCULATION CORRIERE DELLA SERA (2/1): "IN EFFECT, THE WRECKAGE OF THE PHANTOM PLANE ...REOPENS THE INVESTIGATION OF THE USTICA INCIDENT. THE FIRST OFFICIAL VERSION ISSUED BY THE U.S. EMBASSY...DID NOT DISPEL SUSPICIONS....THE SECOND OFFICIAL VERSION WAS RELEASED YESTERDAY BY THE AMERICAN EMBASSY, AFTER NEWSPAPERS HAD BEEN FOUND IN THEIR ARCHIVES THAT A PHANTOM...CRASHED NEAR CAMPOBASSO ON OCTOBER, 23, 1974....THIS NEW VERSION STATES THAT THE JET HICH LANDED IN CAMPOBASSO HAD AN EQUIPMENT FAILURE AND TRIED TO REACH AN AIRFIELD IN NAPLES, WHILE THE ONE WHICH CRASHED INTO THE SEA, AFTER HAVING ESCORTED IT, REMAINED WITHOUT GASOLINE ON ITS WAY BACK TO THE SARATOGA." THE REPORT CONCLUDES BY CITING AN ARTICLE PUBLISHED ON THE FRONT PAGE OF THE FRENCH DAILY LE MONDE YESTERDAY WHICH NOTED "HOW THE AMERICANS HAVE ALWAYS REFUSED TO COLLABORATE ON THE USTICA INVESTIGATION."

A REPORT IN LEFT-LEANING, INFLUENTIAL LA REPUBBLICA

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ACTION EUR-01

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NAVSUPPACT FOR LT. SMITH/01E
JOINT STAFF FOR J-5 LCDR. FC PANDOLFE

PERISHABLE INFORMATION -- DO NOT SERVICE

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E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: OPRC, KMDR, IT
SUBJECT:ROME MEDIA REACTION REPORT - FEBRUARY 1, 2000

(2/1): "THE AMERICAN EMBASSY GAVE FURTHER DETAILS: TWO AIRCRAFTS CRASHED ON OCT. 23, 1974....THE PILOTS OF THE F4 PLANE WHICH LANDED ON THE SEPINO AREA WERE RESCUED BY DOMENICO MOLINARA, WHO THEN DIED BACK IN 1986. HIS WIDOWER, MARIA PASQUALINA D'ALOIA, YESTERDAY SHOWED WITH PRIDE THE THANK-YOU LETTER FROM THE AMERICAN ARMED FORCE IN ITALY....INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS PROVIDE THAT IN CASE OF AN AIR ACCIDENT ON OUR TERRITORY, THE ITALIAN AUTHORITY MUST BE INFORMED. AND THIS OBLIGATION, ACCORDING TO ITALIAN DEFENSE SOURCES, WAS RESPECTED IN 1974. BUT IT IS NOT CLEAR IF IT IS PROVIDED THAT THE U.S. AUTHORITIES SHOULD GIVE ALL THE NECESSARY DATA FOR THE FINDING OF THE JET. IT IS CLEAR THAT IF DOCUMENTS OF AN AIR CRASH OF AN F 4J WITH THE SAME NUMBER AS THE

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ONE IN PONZA ARE FOUND IN THE ITALIAN DEFENSE ARCHIVES,
THE MYSTERY WOULD BE SOLVED. UNLESS WE MAKE THE
HYPOTHESIS THAT IN THE TWO DAYS IN WHICH THE WRECKAGE
DISAPPEARED... SOMEONE MANIPULATED IT. BUT THE OWNER OF
THE STORAGE WHERE THE WRECKAGE IS KEPT RULES OUT THIS:
DOMENICO PONTICELLA ASSURED 'I'VE NOT RECEIVED ANY
PRESSURES FROM THE U.S.' "

FIorenza SARZANINI REPORTS IN ROME CENTRIST DAILY IL
MESSAGGERO (2/1): "THE AMERICAN EMBASSY ADJUSTS THE AIM
AND CHANGES VERSION OF THE ACCIDENT THAT OCCURED ON
OCTOBER 23, 1974....IN REALITY, THE NOTE ADDS MYSTERIES

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TO MYSTERIES. WHY THIS SUDDEN CHANGE OF VERSION? IS
THERE SOMETHING ELSE THEY WANT TO HIDE? IN ORDER TO
DISCOVER THIS, PROSECUTORS FROM THE ROME PROSECUTOR'S
OFFICE INVESTIGATING ON USTICA REQUESTED THEIR
COLLEAGUES FROM LATINA THE PROCEEDINGS ON THE
PHANTOM....IN MOLISE, MANY PEOPLE REMEMBER THAT
ACCIDENT. AND THEY TELL US THAT THE TWO AMERICAN
PILOTS...WERE BROUGHT TO THE CAMPOBASSO HOSPITAL...BUT
THAT AFTER A FEW HOURS THEY WERE TAKEN BY A U.S. NAVY
HELICOPTER AND WERE BROUGHT TO NAPLES AND THEN TO THE
U.S. IT WILL BE UP TO THE PROSECUTORS TO FIND IF THE
JET CRASHED IN GAETA WAS REALLY THE JET FLYING ON THE
SAME MISSION." FOGLIETTA

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