

UNCLASSIFIED

(A2)

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
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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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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 ALGHERO, 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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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
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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 REFTTEL) 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
HANDLING: 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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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
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Date Printed:
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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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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: ERIC W. FLEISHER
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Date Printed:
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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 AERIA
- 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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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

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. () -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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DOC_NBR: 1981MOSCOW11783

CHANNEL: n/a

HANDLING: n/a

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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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HANDLING: n/a

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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:
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CHANNEL: 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

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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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

~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

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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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 TRAF-
FIC 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 DEMON-
STRATE 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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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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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

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

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DECONTROLLED/UNCLASSIFIED

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
SSO-00 INRE-00 /019 W
-----372252 041759Z /40

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. - 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 3,000 METERS OF WATER. NO ITALIAN LABORATORY IS
CAPABLE OF PROPERLY EXAMINING THE CONTENTS OF THE BOX

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DATE/CASE ID: 25 FEB 2003 200102359

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DOC_NBR: 1987ROME13608

CHANNEL: n/a

HANDLING: n/a

18

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 BRUIED 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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CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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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
HANDLING: n/a

A17

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PAGE 01 ROME 13786 060817Z
ACTION EB-08

INFO LOG-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 INR-10 EUR-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00
SSO-00 PA-01 INRE-00 USIE-00 PRS-01 /021 W
-----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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REVIEW AUTHORITY: ERIC W. FLEISHER
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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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A20

Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1988PALERM01054

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

22

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PAGE 01
ACTION EUR-00

PALERM 01054 01 OF 02 171227Z

B6, B1, 1.5(B), 1.5(D)

INFO	LOG-00	ADS-00	INR-10	SS-00	CIAE-00	DODE-00	H-01
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	PA-01	OMB-01	INRE-00	ACDA-12	USIE-00	SP-02	SNP-01
	C-01	PRS-01	SCT-02	P-02	T-01	/063 W	

-----250305 171351Z /43

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-----

PAGE 02 PALERM 01054 01 OF 02 171227Z

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 FISHERMEN. 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 DOCUMENTATION 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 QUESTION 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.)

PAGE 03 PALERM 01054 01 OF 02 171227Z

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
HANDLING: n/a

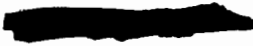
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Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002


DOC_NBR: 1988PALERM01054

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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B1

END COMMENT.

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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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	INRE-00	USIE-00	SP-02	PRS-01	SCT-02	P-02	/031 W
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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 [REDACTED] TRIP TO LIBYA ACCOMPANY-
LNG 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 [REDACTED]
QUESTION ABOUT THE DC-9 CRASH IN USTICA THAT PROMPTED QADHAFI'S
HIGHLY PUBLICIZED RESPONSE THAT AN AMERICAN MISSILE HIT THE
PLANE. WE ASKED [REDACTED] ABOUT THIS AND OTHER ASPECTS OF THE
TRIP.

B6

B6

B6

LIBYA AND THE QADHAFI REGIME

2. [REDACTED] 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
[REDACTED] WAS DUE TO DISAGREEMENT ON HOW TO HANDLE THE

B6

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Date Printed:

16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1988PALERM01095

CHANNEL: n/a

HANDLING: n/a

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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" ABDO 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

B6
B6

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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[REDACTED]
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CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

23

ESSENTIALLY CHILDISH NATURE.
SHIRLEY

[REDACTED]

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UNCLASSIFIED

A22

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16 Apr 2002

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HANDLING: n/a

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PAGE 01 ROME 03223 01 OF 02 141200Z
ACTION EUR-00

INFO	LOG-00	ADS-00	INR-07	SS-00	CIAE-00	NEA-04	NSCE-00
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	SP-02	C-01	PRS-01	SCT-02	P-02	/031 W	

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O 141146Z FEB 88
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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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: ERIC W. FLEISHER
DATE/CASE ID: 24 SEP 2002 200102359

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CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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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

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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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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

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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 T*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 VAIHINGEN GE
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE
USDOSOUTH NAPLES IT//INTAFF/PIO//
DIA WASH DC
AMCONSUL MILAN

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HANDLING: n/a

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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
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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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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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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 PRODDERED 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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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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	DS-01	SCT-02	E-01	/034 W			

-----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 VAHINGEN GE
DIA WASH DC
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT// INTAFF//
HQUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE

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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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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 DRNNE. THE DRONE WAS SAID TO HAVE BEEN

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
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CHANNEL: n/a
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LAUNCHED BY AN "ENGLISH AIRCRAFT" (ALSO DESCRIBED IN THE PRESS AS AN V"AIRCRAFT 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 TG1 REPORT PROVE ACCURATE, AND THE INVESTIGATING
MAGISTRATE IN CHARGE OF THE 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:
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CHANNEL: 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
-----241051 041829Z /44

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 THELG 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

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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)
DECLASSIFY AFTER: 4 NOV 2013

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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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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
	COME-00	SSO-00	L-03	FAAE-00	DOTE-00	STR-17	INRE-00
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				-----373046 071959Z /43			

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
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT
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

PAGE 02 ROME 25210 01 OF 02 071831Z

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

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EXTEND CLASSIFICATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: ERIC W. FLEISHER
DATE/CASE ID: 24 SEP 2002 200102359
CLASSIFICATION: SECRET REASON: 1.6(5)

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Date Printed:
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DOC_NBR: 1988ROME25210

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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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;

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

B1

4. (C)

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

COULD ONLY REFER TO THE INFORMATION

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CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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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 POSSIBILITY 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:

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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	DOT-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 VAIHINGEN GE
DIA WASH DC
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE
AMCONSUL PALERMO

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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

RABB

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A28

Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

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CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: 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	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

-----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 VAIHINGEN 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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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

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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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HANDLING: n/a

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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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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	DOT-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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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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PAGE 01 ROME 25714 151047Z
ACTION EUR-00

INFO	LOG-00	ADS-00	INR-10	SS-00	CIAE-00	EB-00	NEA-04
	NSCE-00	NSAE-00	COME-00	SSO-00	L-03	PM-10	PA-02
	FAAE-00	DOTE-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 VAIHINGEN 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

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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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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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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 VAIHINGEN 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

PAGE 02 ROME 26055 181745Z

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

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CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: 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

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16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1988ROME27060

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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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.

PAGE 02 ROME 27060 01 OF 03 021823Z

2. SUMMARY. THE MYSTERY SURROUNDING THE CRASH OF AN

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CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

35

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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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
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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

35

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.

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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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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).

PAGE 03 ROME 27060 02 OF 03 022101Z

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
ACTION EB-00

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

-----040503 281842Z /44

P 281743Z FEB 89
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0524
INFO USIA WASHDC 0519
SECDEF WASHDC
JCS WASHDC
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
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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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: ERIC W. FLEISHER
DATE/CASE ID: 25 SEP 2002 200102359

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HANDLING: n/a

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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

INFO LOG-00 ADS-00 INR-07 EUR-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 INRE-00
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-----110610 062032Z /45

P 061737Z MAR 89
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0773
INFO USIA WASHDC 0563
SECDEF WASHDC
JCS WASHDC
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USNATO
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT
DIA WASH DC
AMCONSUL MILAN
AMCONSUL NAPLES
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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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: ERIC W. FLEISHER
DATE/CASE ID: 25 SEP 2002 200102359

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42

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 DERAIL 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 (REFTEL), THE
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

PAGE 03 ROME 04802 061740Z

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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A39

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BI, 1.5(D)

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PAGE 01 ROME 05722 01 OF 02 162004Z
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
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				-----067712 162014Z /44			

O 161622Z MAR 89
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1269
INFO SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0689
JCS WASHDC
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY BONN
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USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT//INTAFF/PIO//
DIA WASH DC
AMCONSUL MILAN
AMCONSUL NAPLES
AMCONSUL PALERMO

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

PAGE 02 ROME 05722 01 OF 02 162004Z

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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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: ERIC W. FLEISHER
DATE/CASE ID: 25 SEP 2002 200102359
CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL REASON: 1.6(6) UNCLASSIFIED

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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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	INRE-00	JUSE-00	DS-01	SCT-02	E-01	/041 W	
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O 161622Z MAR 89
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1270
INFO SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0690
JCS WASHDC
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY AONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT//INTAFF/PIO//
DIA WASH DC

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HANDLING: n/a

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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
ACTION PM-10

INFO LOG-00 ADS-00 INR-07 EUR-00 CIAE-00 EB-00 NSAE-00
SSO-00 L-03 FAAE-00 DOTE-00 INRE-00 /020 W
-----153523 171826Z /44

O 171813Z MAR 89
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1326
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK IMMEDIATE
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT//INTAFF/PIO// IMMEDIATE
INFO SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0707
JCS WASHDC
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE
DIA WASH DC
AMCONSUL MILAN
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 COQTROVERSY IN
ITALY ABOUT THE BEHAVIOR OF THE U.S. NAVY IN THE

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

CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL REASON: 1.6(6) UNCLASSIFIED

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16 Apr 2002

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CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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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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HOLMES

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A41

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PAGE 01 ROME 06001 01 OF 02 210825Z
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
-----342612 210831Z /25

O 210825Z MAR 89
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1399
INFO SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK IMMEDIATE
USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0714
JCS WASHDC IMMEDIATE
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

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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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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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
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	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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CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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AMCONSUL MILAN
AMCONSUL NAPLES
AMCONSUL PALERMO

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

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

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

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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

PAGE 03 ROME 06185 221909Z

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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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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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
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DOC_NBR: 1989ROME06345

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
AFFIRMATIONS 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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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 VAIHINGEN GE
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE
DIA WASH DC

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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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HANDLING: n/a

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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 SQENARIO 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 IE
RETURNED FROM QUNE 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
	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	
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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 VAIHINGEN 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

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(B) ROME 6001 DTG 210825Z MAR 89

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: ERIC W. FLEISHER
DATE/CASE ID: 25 SEP 2002 200102359
CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL REASON: 1.6(6) UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1989ROME09761

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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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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)

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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

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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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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 CONSIGNED
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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16 Apr 2002

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CHANNEL: n/a
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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	PRS-01	DS-01
	SCT-02	E-01	P-02	T-01	/054 W		

-----235757 151706Z /47

O 151614Z MAY 89
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3734
SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO JCS WASHDC
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
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

PAGE 02 ROME 10250 01 OF 02 151700Z

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

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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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HANDLING: n/a

49

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)

SECTION 02 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

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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[REDACTED]

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

[REDACTED]

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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

[REDACTED]

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CHANNEL: n/a
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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
	STR-18	INRE-00	JUSE-00	SP-02	FAIM-01	PRS-01	DS-01
	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 VAIHINGEN GE
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE
DIA WASH DC
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMCONSUL MILAN
AMCONSUL NAPLES
AMCONSUL PALERMO

SECTION 01 OF 03 ROME 10974

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

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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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ABT

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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
	STR-18	INRE-00	JUSE-00	SP-02	FAIM-01	PRS-01	DS-01
	SCT-02	E-01	P-02	T-01	/056 W		

-----167116 251459Z /49/23

R 231535Z MAY 89
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4133

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Date Printed:
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HANDLING: n/a

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INFO SECDEF WASHDC
JCS WASHDC
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
USIA WASHDC 1209
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

SECTION 02 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
[REDACTED]

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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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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
	NSAE-00	COME-00	L-03	PM-10	PA-01	FAAE-00	DOT-00
	STR-18	INRE-00	JUSE-00	SP-02	FAIM-01	PRS-01	DS-01
	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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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

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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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A47

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

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Date Printed:

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CHANNEL: n/a

HANDLING: n/a

51

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

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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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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
	NSAE-00	COME-00	L-03	FAAE-00	DOTE-00	STR-18	INRE-00
	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
AMEMBASSY BONN
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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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: ERIC W. FLEISHER
DATE/CASE ID: 25 SEP 2002 200102359

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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

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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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[REDACTED]

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

[REDACTED]

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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
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	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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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: ERIC W. FLEISHER
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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
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	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	
					-----007736 010845Z /24		

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
USMISSION USNATO
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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221440Z JUNE 89

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: ERIC W. FLEISHER
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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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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	/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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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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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		

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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
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN 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

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

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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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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 REPTTEL 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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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 AGENCY 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.
SECCHIA

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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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	PA-02	DOT-00	OMB-01	INRE-00	JUSE-00	SP-02	SNP-01
	PRS-01	DS-01	SCT-02	P-02	T-01	/047 W	
					-----240006	060529Z	/24

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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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
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CHANNEL: n/a

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58

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	DOT-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
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 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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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
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59

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
	NEA-04	NSCE-00	NSAE-00	SSO-00	HA-09	L-03	TRSE-00
	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
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE

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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
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	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
JCS WASHDC
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
USIA WASHDC 1510
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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 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

PAGE 02 ROME 14414 01 OF 02 111853Z

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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Date Printed:

16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1989ROME14414

CHANNEL: n/a

HANDLING: n/a

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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 REFTTEL)

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
T-01	/083 W					

-----260045 120632Z /20

R 111845Z JUL 89
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6011
INFO SECDEF WASHDC
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DIA WASH DC
FAA WASHDC
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY BONN

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CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
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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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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PAGE 01 ROME 14470 121425Z
ACTION EUR-00

INFO	LOG-00	ADS-00	INR-07	SS-00	CIAE-00	EB-00	H-01
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	SP-02	SNP-01	PRS-01	DS-01	SCT-02	P-02	T-01

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-----303144 121435Z /47

O 121423Z JUL 89
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6032
INFO SECDEF WASHDC
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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 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

PAGE 02 ROME 14470 121425Z

THEORY

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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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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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16 Apr 2002

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PAGE 01 ROME 20481 01 OF 02 281902Z
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
	JUSE-00	SP-02	PRS-01	DS-01	SCT-03	E-01	/042 W

-----243331 301126Z /24

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,

PAGE 02 ROME 20481 01 OF 02 281902Z

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

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CHANNEL: n/a

HANDLING: 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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HANDLING: n/a

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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
	JUSE-00	SP-02	PRS-01	DS-01	SCT-03	E-01	/042 W
					-----243332 301127Z/24		

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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HANDLING: n/a

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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
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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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 THEN
A MISSILE, DOWNED THE AIRLINER.
SECCHIA
[REDACTED]

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HANDLING: n/a

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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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	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
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
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

PAGE 02 ROME 21636 01 OF 02 131743Z

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

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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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HANDLING: n/a

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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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16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1989ROME21636

CHANNEL: n/a

HANDLING: n/a

69

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	DOT-00
	STR-18	INRE-00	JUSE-00	SP-02	PRS-01	DS-01	SCT-03
	E-01	/059 W					

-----000553 140639Z /23

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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UNCLASSIFIED

Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1989ROME21636

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

69

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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16 Apr 2002

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HANDLING: n/a

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PAGE 01 ROME 22610 01 OF 02 261107Z
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	DOE-00
	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

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

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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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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

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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CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

70

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.

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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

70

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.

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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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EXTEND CLASSIFICATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: ERIC W. FLEISHER
DATE/CASE ID: 25 SEP 2002 200102359
CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL REASON: 1.6(6) UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

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.

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Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002


DOC_NBR: 1989ROME25758

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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

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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

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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Date Printed:
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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 REFTTEL 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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A73

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16 Apr 2002

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

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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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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 DOTE-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 VAIHINGEN 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

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: ERIC W. FLEISHER
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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

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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16 Apr 2002

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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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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: ERIC W. FLEISHER
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86

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

INFO LOG-00 ADS-00 INR-05 CIAE-00 EB-00 NSAE-00 AMAD-01
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SCT-03 /025 W

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R 191816Z JAN 90
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4023
SECDEF WASHDC
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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

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86

CINCSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE

AMCONSUL MILAN

AMCONSUL NAPLES

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.

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PAGE 01 ROME 03279 180922Z
ACTION EUR-00

INFO LOG-00 ADS-00 EB-00 DOTE-00 COR-01 SCT-03 /004 W
-----210564 190635Z /10/23

R 161110Z FEB 90 ZDS
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5146
SECDEF WASHDC
INFO JCS WASHDC
FAA WASHDC
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
USIA WASHDC 2876
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 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
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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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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: ERIC W. FLEISHER
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89

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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PAGE 01 ROME 03781 01 OF 02 231646Z
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
-----220727 242102Z /63 38

R 231539Z FEB 90
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5396
SECDEF WASHDC
INFO JCS WASHDC
FAA WASHDC
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
USIA WASHDC 2923
DIA WASH DC
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT
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AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY VALLETTA
USCINCEUR VAHINGEN GE
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE
AMCONSUL MILAN
AMCONSUL NAPLES
AMCONSUL PALERMO

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)

PAGE 02 ROME 03781 01 OF 02 231646Z

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

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: ERIC W. FLEISHER
DATE/CASE ID: 1 OCT 2002 200102359

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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 REFTELS 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
-----220744 242102Z /63 38

R 231539Z FEB 90
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5397
SECDEF WASHDC
INFO JCS WASHDC
FAA WASHDC
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
USIA WASHDC 2924
DIA WASH DC
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

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

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.
SECCHIA

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A80

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16 Apr 2002

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ACTION EUR-01

INFO LOG-00 ADS-00 INR-05 CIAE-00 EB-01 NSAE-00 PM-01
PA-02 DOTE-00 INRE-00 SP-01 PRS-01 /012 W
-----366161 040724Z /23

R 021827Z MAR 90
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5746
SECDEF WASHDC
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FAA WASHDC
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
USIA WASHDC 2981
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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 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

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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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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: ERIC W. FLEISHER
DATE/CASE ID: 1 OCT 2002 200102359

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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
AMCONSUL NAPLES
AMCONSUL PALERMO

UNCLAS SECTION 02 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?

THE SAME SPEED AS THE WIND AND THUS IT COULD NOT HAVE
BEEN A JET.

HOLMES

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PAGE 01 ROME 07067 061639Z
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-----337527 080611Z /12

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME
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AMCONSUL MILAN
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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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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: ERIC W. FLEISHER
DATE/CASE ID: 1 OCT 2002 200102359

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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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HANDLING: n/a

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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. SECCHIA

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ACTION EUR-01

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R 221612Z JUN 90
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
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INFO SECDEF WASHDC
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CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE
AMCONSUL MILAN
AMCONSUL NAPLES
AMCCONSUL PALERMO POUCH

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

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EXTEND CLASSIFICATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: ERIC W. FLEISHER
DATE/CASE ID: 1 OCT 2002 200102359
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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.

B1

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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	P-02	T-01	SB-01	/111 W			

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R 221612Z JUN 90
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0220
INFO SECDEF WASHDC
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DIA WASHDC
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USMISSION USNATO

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AMEMBASSY BONN
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AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY VALLETTA
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CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE
AMCONSUL MILAN
AMCONSUL NAPLES
AMCCONSUL PALERMO POUCH

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

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

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B1

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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THE GOVERNMENT AROUND. 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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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
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0221
INFO SECDEF WASHDC
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DIA WASHDC
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USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY VALLETTA
USCINCEUR VAHINGEN GE
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE
AMCONSUL MILAN
AMCONSUL NAPLES
AMCCONSUL PALERMO POUCH

SECTION 03 OF 07 ROME 12051

E.O. 12356:DECL:OADR
TAGS: MOPS, KPRP, EAIR, PTER, NATO, IT
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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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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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R 221612Z JUN 90
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0222
INFO SECDEF WASHDC
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JCS WASHDC
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
USIA WASHDC 3603
DIA WASHDC
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT
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AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY VALLETTA
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE
AMCONSUL MILAN
AMCONSUL NAPLES
AMCCONSUL PALERMO POUCH

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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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?

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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,

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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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ACTION EUR-01

INFO	LOG-00	ADS-00	INR-05	SS-01	OIC-02	CIAE-00	EB-01
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0223
INFO SECDEF WASHDC
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AMCONSUL MILAN
AMCONSUL NAPLES
AMCCONSUL PALERMO POUCH

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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.

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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AMCCONSUL PALERMO POUCH

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

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HERE ARE GIVEN FREE REIN TO DO AS THEY WISH-- SO MUCH SO
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[REDACTED]

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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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CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE
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AMCONSUL NAPLES
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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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ACTION EUR-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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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: ERIC W. FLEISHER
DATE/CASE ID: 1 OCT 2002 200102359

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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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HANDLING: n/a

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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. SECCHIA

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Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1990ROME12456

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

97

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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
NSAE-00 COME-00 SSO-01 L-03 DOTE-00 STR-18 INRE-00
OES-09 JUSE-00 E-01 /040 W

-----251213 281836Z /41

O 281820Z JUN 90
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0410
INFO SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3627
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 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

PAGE 02 ROME 12456 281824Z

DOWN THE AERITALIA PLANE THAT A DECADE AGO CRASHED
MYSTERIOUSLY IN THE TYHRENNIAN SEA. IN CONTRAST TO

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Date Printed:

16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1990ROME12456

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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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 TYHRENNIAN 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

PAGE 03 ROME 12456 281824Z

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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Date Printed:

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DOC_NBR: 1990ROME12456

CHANNEL: n/a

HANDLING: n/a

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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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(A85)

Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1990ROME12565

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: B1, 1.5(D)

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PAGE 01 ROME 12565 031117Z
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 VAIHINGEN 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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AS7

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 VAHINGEN 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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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: ERIC W. FLEISHER
DATE/CASE ID: 1 OCT 2002 200102359

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Date Printed:

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DOC_NBR: 1990ROME13264

CHANNEL: n/a

HANDLING: n/a

100

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

100

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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A88

Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1990ROME13999

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: 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
	H-01	IO-19	NSCE-00	NSAE-00	SSO-01	L-03	TRSE-00
	PM-01	PA-02	DOTE-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
[REDACTED])

PAGE 02 ROME 13999 251550Z

PROPONENT OF THE MISSILE THEORY), JOHN TRANSUE (EX-
PENTAGON CONSULTANT), ADMIRAL JAMES FLATLEY (COMMANDER

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: ERIC W. FLEISHER
DATE/CASE ID: 1 OCT 2002 200102359

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Date Printed:
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DOC_NBR: 1990ROME13999

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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[REDACTED]

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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[REDACTED]

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A92
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Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1990ROME17182

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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RELEASED IN PART
B2, B1, 1.5(D)

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
	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	

-----356622 161349Z /49 38

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

110

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

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

PAGE 03 ROME 17182 01 OF 02 140153Z

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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DOC_NBR: 1990ROME17182

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: 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.

B2

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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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UNCLASSIFIED

Date Printed:

16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1990ROME17182

CHANNEL: n/a

HANDLING: n/a

110

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.

B1

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A94

Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1990ROME19012

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a
RELEASED IN FULL

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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 VAHINGEN 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
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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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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." SECCHIA

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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 VAIHINGEN 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

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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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

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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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

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ROME 21086 131040Z

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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 VAIHINGEN 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.

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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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."

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

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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
JUSE-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 VAHINGEN 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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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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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

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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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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PAGE 01 ROME 12804 121644Z
ACTION EUR-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-13	ADS-00	AMAD-01	CIAE-00	COME-00	CFE-01
	DOT-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

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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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

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

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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 MACDONNEL 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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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: ERIC W. FLEISHER
DATE/CASE ID: 2 OCT 2002 200102359

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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

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

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REVIEW AUTHORITY: ERIC W. FLEISHER
DATE/CASE ID: 2 OCT 2002 200102359

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CHANNEL: n/a
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RELEASED IN PART
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:

(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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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: 2 AUG 2016

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B2
B1

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Date Printed:
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DOC_NBR: 1991ROME14048

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	DOTE-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

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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CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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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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CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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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

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

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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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
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Date Printed:
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DOC_NBR: 1991ROME18180

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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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

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

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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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