Date Printed: 16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1991ROME18180

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CHANNEL: n/a HANDLING: n/a 132

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR TAGS: MOPS, PREL, IT SUBJECT: USTICA: MEDIA REPORTS OF U.S. NAVAL AIRCRAFT IN AIR AT TIME OF CRASH

NNNN



Date Printed: 16 Apr 2002

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CHANNEL: nRELEASED IN1FULL

HANDLING: n/a

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PAGE 01 ROME 18362 081758Z

ACTION EUR-01

DPR-01 CSCE-01 CIAE-00 CFE-01 INFO LOG-00 ACDA-13 ADS-00 NRRC-01 IO-19 L-03H-01 IMMC-01 INRE-00 INR-01 P-01 PRS-01 PA-02 PM-01 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 OIC-02 /057W SS-01 TRSE-00 T-01 SB-01 SCT-03 SP-01

-----9E0586 082026Z /65

P 081750Z OCT 91
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9032
INFO SECDEF WASHDC
JCS WASHDC
USIA WASHDC 5991
USMISSION USNATO 1008
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
COMSIXTHFLT
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE//ECPA//ECJ5//
CNO WASHDC//06/09C//

UNCLAS ROME 18362

COMFAIRMED NAPLES IT

E.O. 12356: DECL OADR TAGS: PINR, NATO, PREL, IT SUBJECT: USTICA: PRESS IDENTIFIES U.S. AIRCRAFT; MINISTER OF DEFENSE COMMENTS

REF: A) ROME 18286 (DTG 071756Z OCT 91), B) 90 ROME 7067 (DTG 061449Z APR 90) AND PREVIOUS

PAGE 02

ROME 18362 081758Z

1. OCTOBER 8 PRESS ARTICLES IDENTIFIED THE USN AIRCRAFT ALLEGEDLY FLYING IN THE AREA WHERE THE ITAVIA DC-9 MYSTERIOUSLY CRASHED IN JUNE OF 1980. ACCORDING TO SEVERAL NEWSPAPERS, THE PLANES WERE A BEECHCRAFT UC12B SUPER KING AIR, SERIAL NUMBER BJ16, USN REGISTRATION NUMBER 161206, AND A GRUMMAN C2A TRANSPORT PLANE. THE FIRST PLANE WAS IDENTIFIED AS A TWIN PROPELLOR, MANUFACTURED FOR THE USN AND USED, AMONG OTHER THINGS, FOR RADAR PATROLS, HIGH ALTITUDE

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

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Date Printed: 16 Apr 2002

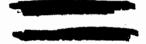
DOC_NBR: 1991ROME18362

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PHOTOGRAPHY, AND DELIVERING LIFE SAVING
EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES TO SHIP WRECK SURVIVORS.
THE SECOND PLANE WAS DESCRIBED AS AN "EXECUTIVE"
JET OF THE USN MODIFIED TO TRAIN RADAR OPERATORS
OR FOR TRANSPORTATION OF PERSONNEL AND
SUPPLIES. ONE JOURNALIST NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT
NO-ONE REALLY KNEW TO WHAT USE THE PLANES WERE
PUT ON THE NIGHT OF THE CRASH. IN ONE ARTICLE
THERE IS MENTION OF THE POSSIBLE PRESENCE IN THE
AREA OF A SIKORSKY HH53 SUPERFLY HELICOPTER,
IDENTIFIED IN A RECORDED TELEPHONE CALL
TRANSCRIPT AS "HENRY CHARLIE 141".

2. MINISTER OF DEFENSE ROGNONI, COMMENTING TO THE PRESS ON THE LATEST PRESS REPORTS, STATED THAT THE TAPE RECORDINGS WHICH HAD RECENTLY BEEN "DISCOVERED" WERE PASSED TO THE INVESTIGATING JUDGE A LONG TIME AGO. HE ADDED THAT ALL AVENUES HAD TO BE USED TO REACH THE TRUTH, AND THAT FROM HIS FIRST DAY IN OFFICE HE HAD BEEN



PAGE 03 ROME 18362 081758Z AVAILABLE TO ASSIST THE INVESTIGATION IN ANY WAY HE COULD.

3. FYI: A PREVIOUS EMBASSY MESSAGE (REF B)
REPORTED THAT THE WEEKLY NEWS MAGAZINE
"L'EUROPEO" PUBLISHED AN ARTICLE ON THE ALLEGED
FLIGHT OF THE C-12 BEECHCRAFT IN ITS 15 APRIL
1990 EDITION. THIS WOULD NOT BE THE FIRST TIME,
DURING THE LONG HISTORY OF THE USTICA AFFAIR,
THAT "FACTS" HAVE BEEN REDISCOVERED AND
REINTERPRETED BY THE PRESS. END FYI.

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PAGE 01

ROME 18408 091205Z

ACTION INR-01

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AMAD-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 EB-01

PM-01

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---9E4E16 091208Z /46

O 091153Z OCT 91

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDITATE 9064

ROME 18408

STATE ALSO FOR P

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR TAGS: PINR, NATO, PREL, IT SUBJECT: USTICA: QUESTIONS TO BE RAISED BY AMBASSADOR BIANCHIERI

- -- ENTIRE TEXT.
- THE FOLLOWING IS INFORMAL EMBASSY TRANSLATION OF TEXT PROVIDED TO US BY MFA OF POINTS ON WHICH AMBASSADOR BIANCHIERI WILL BE SEEKING CLARIFICATION IN HIS MEETING TODAY WITH U/S KANTER ON THE USTICA MATTER.
- 3. BEGIN TEXT:

--AN AIRCRAFT WITH THE CALL SIGNAL "NAVY 61206"

PAGE 02 ROME = 18408 091205Z ON JUNE 27, 1980, THE NIGHT OF THE USTICA CRASH MADE REPEATED APPROACHES TO THE AIRPORT OF LAMETIA (COSENZA) BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 18:35 ZULU AND 20:05 ZULU, TAKING OFF AND LANDING AT THE BASE OF CATANIA-SIGONELLA. (THE SUBJECT CRASH TOOK PLACE AT 18:59 ZULU);

--AN AIRCRAFT WITH THE CALL SIGNAL JM 169 REQUESTED, AND OBTAINED, FROM THE SAME AIR BASE, PERMISSION TO DEPART WITHOUT A FLIGHT PLAN FOR

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THE SPANISH AIR BASE AT TORREJON ON THE SAME NIGHT, AT APPROXIMATELY 19:30 ZULU;

--IN THE HOURS FOLLOWING THE DISASTER THE OFFICE OF THE 3RD ROC OF MARTINA FRANCA AND OTHER BASES OF THE AIR FORCE ATTEMPTED TO VERIFY THE PRESENCE OF INTENSE MILITARY TRAFFIC AND OF A POSSIBLE AIRCRAFT CARRIER, SPOTTED BY ROME-CIAMPINO (AIRPORT).

THE AIRCRAFT IDENTIFIED IN POINTS 1 AND 2, AND THE TRAFFIC AND AIRCRAFT CARRIER IN POINT 3, APPEAR LIKELY TO BE AMERICAN. END TEXT.

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/053W

-----A495EC 251449Z /45

O 251443Z OCT 91 FM AMEMBASSY ROME TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9745 INFO WHITEHOUSE WASHDC IMMEDIATE

SECTION 01 OF 04 ROME 19453

STATE FOR EUR/WE (NIGRO); WHITE HOUSE FOR NSC (WAYNE)

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR

TAGS: OVIP (BUSH, GEORGE), NATO, IT

SUBJECT: NATO SUMMIT: THE PRESIDENT'S BILATERAL

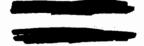
MEETING WITH PM ANDREOTTI

REFS: (A) ROME 16667, (B) ROME 17537, (C) ROME

17685, (D) ROME 18167, (E) ROME 19404

1. ENTIRE TEXT.

THE ONLY SUBSTANTIVE U.S.-ITALIAN EVENT LIKELY



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TO BE SCHEDULED FOR THE NATO SUMMIT IN ROME IS THE
PRESIDENT'S MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER GIULIO
ANDREOTTI, OVER BREAKFAST AT THE AMBASSADOR'S
RESIDENCE, NOVEMBER 7. (WE ASSUME THAT SECRETARY
BAKER AND FOREIGN MINISTER DE MICHELIS WILL TAKE
PART IN THIS MEETING.) BESIDES A BRIEF BACKGROUND
NOTE, WE ADDRESS BELOW PRIMARILY MATTERS TO BE
DISCUSSED DURING THE NATO SUMMIT AND SECONDARILY
OTHER INTERNATIONAL AND SOME BILATERAL MATTERSX TEND CLASSIFICATION

GENERAL BACKGROUND ON ITALY



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3. ITALIAN GDP GROWTH HAS SLOWED TO AN ANTICIPATED 1.4 PERCENT IN 1991 DUE TO THE GLOBAL SLOWDOWN. ITALY'S BUDGET DEFICIT (MORE THAN 10 PERCENT OF GDP) AND PUBLIC DEBT (OVER 100 PERCENT OF GDP) ARE THE ECONOMY'S MOST PRESSING PROBLEMS. REFLECTING THESE WEAKNESSES, ITALY'S FINANCIAL RATING HAS BEEN DOWNGRADED BY MOODY'S AND STANDARD AND POOR'S. WITH WARNINGS FROM THE IMF, OECD AND EC, A HEALTHY CONCERN ABOUT THE NATION'S FINANCIAL STRUCTURE IS SPREADING. THE FOUR-PARTY COALITION GOVERNMENT, HOWEVER, HAS NOT YET DEMONSTRATED THE WILL TO ADOPT THE NECESSARY TOUGH DOMESTIC MEASURES. BEHIND THE GOVERNMENT'S INHIBITION, IN PART, IS THE COALITION PARTIES' DESIRE NOT TO ALIENATE VOTERS PRIOR TO THE NATIONAL ELECTIONS NOW SCHEDULED FOR NEXT MAY, IN WHICH IT IS LIKELY THE GOVERNING COALITION WILL SUFFER LOSSES (AND MAY NOT GAIN A MAJORITY IN PARLIAMENT). THE COUNTRY IS GENERALLY REGARDED AS

PAGE 03 ROME 19453 01 OF 04 251444Z
LESS THAN WELL-PREPARED FOR EC92, AND THERE IS
WIDESPREAD CRITICISM OF THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT FOR
ITS FAILURE TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE PUBLIC SERVICES,
STOP THE SPREAD OF ORGANIZED CRIME, AND GET CONTROL
OF THE PUBLIC SECTOR DEFICIT. (FOR FURTHER
BACKGROUND ON U.S.-ITALIAN RELATIONS, PLEASE SEE
REFTELS, A SERIES OF BACKGROUND REPORTS SUBMITTED
OVER THE LAST MONTH.)

E AND STREET

EUROPEAN SECURITY DEBATE

4. THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT FULLY SUPPORTS GREATER EUROPEAN COOPERATION IN SECURITY AND DEFENSE ISSUES THROUGH ESTABLISHMENT OF A BRIDGE BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AND NATO. IT WAS ITALY DURING ITS EC PRESIDENCY IN SEPTEMBER, 1990, THAT PROPOSED FOLDING THE WEU INTO THE COMMUNITY. THE ITALIANS HAVE ABANDONED THAT PROPOSAL IN ITS SIMPLEST FORM BUT CONTINUE TO ADVOCATE AN EXPANDED EUROPEAN DEFENSE EFFORT COMPLIMENTARY TO THE TRIED AND TESTED NATO ALLIANCE.

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ITALIANS WANT BOTH THE CONVENTIONAL AND NUCLEAR PRESENCE OF THE U.S. IN EUROPE TO PREVENT ANY UNRAVELING OF EUROPEAN INTEGRATION EFFORTS. IN RECENT DISCUSSIONS WITH SECRETARY CHENEY, BOTH ANDREOTTI AND DEFENSE MINISTER ROGNONI STRESSED:

-- THAT NATO IS THE BASIS OF EUROPEAN SECURITY; AND



PAGE 04

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--THAT EUROPEAN EFFORTS SHOULD BE COORDINATED AND NOT CONFLICT WITH NATO.

5. THE RECENT ANGLO-ITALIAN PAPER ON EUROPEAN SECURITY SYNTHESIZED THE TWO COUNTRIES' VIEWS ON EUROPEAN DEFENSE COORDINATION. IT WAS CONCEIVED BY THE ITALIANS TO BE A GENERAL EXPOSITION OF VIEWS BEGINNING FROM THE PREMISE THAT NATO WILL REMAIN THE BASIS OF WESTERN SECURITY FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE. ANDREOTTI OPPOSES TAMPERING WITH NATO IN THE NEAR TERM, AND HE BELIEVES THAT IT WILL TAKE YEARS TO BUILD THE POLITICAL CONSENSUS FOR JOINT

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ACTION EUR-01

INFO LOG-00 ACDA-13 ADS-00 AMAD-01 CIAE-00 CFE-01 DODE-00 CSCE-01 H-01 IMMC-01 INRE-00 INR-01 IO-19 L - 03NRRC-01 NSAE-00 OIC-02 PA-01 PM-01 PRS-01 P-01 SB-01 SP-01 SSO-00 SS-01 TRSE-00 T-01 USIE-00 /053W

O 251443Z OCT 91 FM AMEMBASSY ROME TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9746 INFO WHITEHOUSE WASHDC IMMEDIATE

SECTION 02 OF 04 ROME 19453

STATE FOR EUR/WE (NIGRO); WHITE HOUSE FOR NSC

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(WAYNE)

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR

TAGS: OVIP (BUSH, GEORGE), NATO, IT SUBJECT: NATO SUMMIT: THE PRESIDENT'S BILATERAL

MEETING WITH PM ANDREOTTI

DEFENSE EFFORTS IN THE EC CONTEXT. CURRENTLY, THE ITALIANS ARE WORKING TO FASHION A COMPROMISE BETWEEN THEIR OWN PROPOSAL AND FRENCH-GERMAN IDEAS IN THE RUNUP TO THE EC SUMMIT AT MAASTRICHT.



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FOUR POWER NUCLEAR MEETING

NATO LIAISON WITH EASTERN EUROPE

ANDREOTTI TOLD CHENEY OCTOBER 21 THAT ITALY SUPPORTED AN ENHANCED ROLE FOR NATO IN REACHING OUT TO FORMER MEMBERS OF THE WARSAW PACT AND IN GUARANTEEING THEIR SECURITY. THE ITALIANS WELCOMED THE BAKER-GENSCHER PROPOSAL,

RATHER THAN A COUNCIL, ITALY HAS PROPOSED THAT NATO SIGN AGREEMENTS WITH EACH EAST EUROPEAN



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PAGE 03 ROME 19453 02 OF 04 251445Z COUNTRY, AND UNDER THAT UMBRELLA BEGIN THE COOPERATIVE ENDEAVORS WE ALSO SUPPORT.

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FRENCH, THE ITALIANS BELIEVE THAT THE CSCE AS WELL AS NATO SHOULD PLAY A LARGER ROLE IN BRINGING THE EAST EUROPEANS CLOSER TO THE WEST.

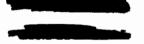
CROTONE

8. THE ITALIANS HAVE INDICATED THEIR READINESS IN LIGHT OF CONGRESSIONAL SPENDING STRICTURES TO BE HELPFUL IN FINDING A WAY TO CONTINUE CONSTRUCTION OF THE NATO-FUNDED AIR BASE AT CROTONE, ITALY. IN THE OCTOBER 21 DISCUSSIONS WITH CHENEY, BOTH ANDREOTTI AND ROGNONI EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS TO LOOK AT ALTERNATIVES. SHOULD NEW PROPOSALS BE FORMULATED, THE ITALIANS WOULD LIKE TO HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY TO THE DPC IN DECEMBER.

B1

MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROCESS

9. ANDREOTTI WILL BE INTERESTED IN OBTAINING THE PRESIDENT'S VIEWS ON THE MIDDLE EAST PEACE



PAGE 04 ROME 19453 02 OF 04 251445Z
CONFERENCE AND ON THE PROSPECTS FOR FURTHER
PROGRESS. BOTH ANDREOTTI AND DE MICHELIS HAVE
STRONGLY SUPPORTED U.S. EFFORTS THUS FAR. IN EARLY

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UNDERTOOK A VISIT TO ISRAEL SEPTEMBER 4-5 TO

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03 OF 04 251446Z PAGE 01 ROME 19453

ACTION EUR-01

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--------/A49674 251452Z /45 O 251443Z OCT 91 FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9747 INFO WHITEHOUSE WASHDC IMMEDIATE

SECTION 03 OF 04 ROME 19453

STATE FOR EUR/WE (NIGRO); WHITE HOUSE FOR NSC (WAYNE)

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR

TAGS: OVIP (BUSH, GEORGE), NATO, IT SUBJECT: NATO SUMMIT: THE PRESIDENT'S BILATERAL

MEETING WITH PM ANDREOTTI

BALANCE ITALY'S LONGSTANDING, GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE ARAB OIL PRODUCERS. FINALLY, TO AVOID COMPLICATING U.S. MIDDLE EAST PEACE EFFORTS, DE MICHELIS HAS NOT PRESSED HIS INITIATIVE FOR A CONFERENCE FOR SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN THE MEDITERRANEAN, MODELLED ON CSCE.

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10. THE ITALIANS REMAIN INTERESTED IN EUROPEAN PARTICIPATION IN THE PEACE PROCESS. FOREIGN MINISTRY CONTACTS HAVE ASKED ABOUT THE VENUE FOR THE FOLLOW-ON TALKS.

URUGUAY ROUND

11. THE MEETING WITH ANDREOTTI OFFERS THE PRESIDENT AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY TO PUSH FOR ITALY TO BE GENEROUS IN THE FINAL PHASE OF THE ROUND. ITALY IS NOT OPPOSED TO INCREASED EC NEGOTIATING FLEXIBILITY AND WANTS THE NEGOTIATIONS TO SUCCEED,

B1

AID TO SOVIETS/EASTERN EUROPE

12. ITALY COMMITTED ITSELF EARLY TO ASSIST THE SOVIET UNION, BY MAKING AVAILABLE APPROXIMATELY \$6.4 BILLION IN CREDITS OVER FIVE YEARS. SUBSEQUENTLY, HOWEVER, DOMESTIC BUDGET REALITIES HAVE MODERATED ITALIAN CALLS FOR MASSIVE WESTERN ASSISTANCE TO THE SOVIETS AS WELL AS THE EAST EUROPEANS AND HAVE LIMITED ADDITIONAL ITALIAN

PAGE 03 ROME 19453 03 OF 04 251446Z CONTRIBUTIONS. THE ITALIANS WILL BE EAGER TO KNOW CURRENT U.S. THOUGHTS.

ALBANIA

13. FOLLOWING A LARGE REFUGEE INFLUX EARLIER THIS YEAR, ITALY HAS COMMITTED ITSELF TO NEARLY \$200 MILLION IN EMERGENCY AID FOR ALBANIA THUS FAR, PLUS SUBSTANTIAL ADDITIONAL DEVELOPMENT AID. ITALY WOULD LIKE OTHER WESTERN COUNTRIES TO SHARE THE BURDEN. THE ITALIAN MILITARY IS IN ALBANIA

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DISTRIBUTING AID; THEY HELPED US DELIVER SOME OF OUR OWN RELIEF SUPPLIES, AND MAY BE ASKED TO DO THE SAME FOR MUCH OTHER WESTERN ASSISTANCE.

YUGOSLAVIA SANCTIONS

14. ITALY HAS A LARGE AID PROGRAM (OVER \$350 MILLION OVER THREE YEARS) WITH YUGOSLAVIA AND CLOSE ECONOMIC TIES. IT FAVORS SANCTIONS AGAINST THOSE WHO ARE FOUND RESPONSIBLE FOR CONTINUING THE VIOLENCE OR CAUSING A BREAKDOWN OF NEGOTIATIONS,

DE MICHELIS HAS

BEEN TAKING THE LEAD IN RESISTING DOMESTIC PRESSURE TO RECOGNIZE THE INDEPENDENCE OF THESE TWO

PAGE 04 ROME 19453 03 OF 04 251446Z REPUBLICS AHEAD OF A NEGOTIATED SOLUTION WITHIN THE EC.

GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE

15. WE SEEM TO HAVE MADE SOME PROGRESS IN CONVINCING THE ITALIANS OF THE NEED TO BASE DECISIONS ON SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE AND A HARD BALANCING OF THE COSTS AND BENEFITS, BUT WE NEED TO CONTINUE OUR EFFORT.

RELATIONS WITH IRAN

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INFO LOG-00 ACDA-13 ADS-00 AMAD-01 CIAE-00 CFE-01 DODE-00

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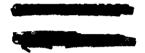
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SPACE COOPERATION

18. OUR COOPERATION ON SPACE IS STRONG. THE ITALIAN SPACE AGENCY (ASI) AND NASA CONCLUDED RECENTLY A DRAFT AGREEMENT FOR LOGISTICS MODULES AND A LABORATORY TO SPACE STATION FREEDOM. THE ITALIANS MAY MENTION A HIGH-LEVEL CONFERENCE IN WASHINGTON NEXT DECEMBER ON U.S.-ITALIAN SPACE COOPERATION; THEY HOPE FOR THE VICE PRESIDENT'S PARTICIPATION.



PAGE 03

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ALLEGATIONS OF U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN DOWNING AIRLINER

19. ON JUNE 27, 1980 AN ITAVIA AIRLINE DC-9 CRASHED INTO THE TYRRHENIAN SEA OFF THE ISLAND OF USTICA, NEAR SICILY. THE CAUSE OF THE DOWNING HAS NEVER BEEN EXPLAINED. FUELED BY PRESS SPECULATION, CONTROVERSIAL AND POLITICALLY SENSITIVE THEORIES OF U.S. MILITARY INVOLVEMENT IN THE DOWNING HAVE CIRCULATED WIDELY. THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT HAS RECENTLY MADE ADDITIONAL REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION FROM THE U.S. AND THE AMBASSADOR HAS PUBLICLY PLEDGED FULL U.S. COOPERATION TO ASSIST THE OFFICIAL INVESTIGATION IN ANY WAY WE CAN.

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PAGE 01

ROME 19745 301823Z

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O 301823Z OCT 91 FM AMEMBASSY ROME TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9930 WHITEHOUSE WASHDC IMMEDIATE INFO DEPT JUSTICE WASHDC DIRFBI WASHDC 0251

ROME 19745

STATE FOR EUR/WE (NIGRO); WHITE HOUSE FOR NSC (WAYNE)

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR

TAGS: OVIP (BUSH, GEORGE), NATO, IT

SUBJECT: NATO SUMMIT: BRIEFING MEMO FOR

PRESIDENT'S BILATERAL WITH PM ANDREOTTI

(A) ROME 19453 (B) ROME 19631 (C) STATE REF: (D) ROME 19744 357111

- ENTIRE TEXT.

PAGE 02

ROME 19745 301823Z

- THE EMBASSY BELIEVES IT IS IMPORTANT TO FLAG TWO BILATERAL ITEMS FOR THE PRESIDENT BEFORE HIS MEETING WITH PM ANDREOTTI: THE USTICA CASE (REF A, PARA 19) AND THE AL-JAWARY CASE (OTHER REFTELS).
- THE USTICA CASE IS ONE THAT ANDREOTTI MAY RAISE. ALTHOUGH THE DISAPPEARANCE OF THE ITAVIA DC-9 OVER THE TYRRHENIAN SEA OCCURRED 11 YEARS AGO, THE UNSOLVED CAUSE OF THE CRASH CONTINUES TO EXERCISE THE PUBLIC, THE MEDIA AND THE HIGHEST

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LEVELS OF THE GOVERNMENT, JUST AS THE CAUSE OF THE PAN AM 103 CRASH ENGAGES US. THE PRESIDENT SHOULD BE READY TO ASSURE ANDREOTTI THAT THE U.S. REMAINS PREPARED TO ASSIST THE ITALIAN AUTHORITIES BY PROVIDING INFORMATION ABOUT THE WHEREABOUTS OF U.S. SHIPS AND PLANES ON THE NIGHT OF THE DISASTER.

4. THE AL-JAWARY CASE, WHICH IS IMPORTANT TO US, IS ONE THAT THE PRESIDENT SHOULD RAISE, IF WE HAVE NOT YET OBTAINED A FAVORABLE COURT OR GOVERNMENT RULING ON OUR REQUEST FOR AL-JAWARY'S EXTRADITION.

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PAGE 01 ROME 19898 01 OF 02 041438Z

ACTION EUR-01

INFO LOG-00 ACDA-13 ADS-00 AID-01 AMAD-01 CIAE-00 CFE-01 DOEE-00 ANHR-01 CSCE-01 HA-09 H-01 IMMC-01 INRE-00 INR-01 10-19 L-03 NRRC-01 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 OIC-02 PA-01 PM-01 PRS-01 P-01 SB-01 SCT-03 SDEL-01 SNP-01 SS-01 TRSE-00 T-01 TSKY-01 /070W SP-01

O 041437Z NOV 91 FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0029

INFO SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

JCS WASHDC

USIA WASHDC 6099

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CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK

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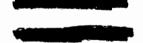
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SECTION 01 OF 02 ROME 19898

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E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: PARM, NATO, PREL,



PAGE 02 ROME 19898 01 OF 02 041438Z SUBJECT: MEETING WITH ITALIAN DEFENSE MINISTER

REF: ROME 19340

1. ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SUMMARY: ITALIAN MINISTER OF DEFENSE ROGNONI
CAME TO PAVIA ON OCTOBER 30 TO ACT AS MY ESCORT
DURING USIS SPONSORED VISIT. DURING THE FOUR MODESND CLASSIFICATION
THAT WE SPENT TOGETHER, WE DISCUSSED THE PREVIOUS
DAY'S WEU MEETING IN BONN, THE REVIEW OF THE

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CHANNEL: n/a HANDLING: n/a

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AL JAWARY CASE AND CURRENT ITALIAN CONCERNS WITH THE EVER SURFACING USTICA ISSUE. END SUMMARY.

3. ITALIAN DEFENSE MINISTER VIRGINIO ROGNONI
TRAVELED TO HIS HOME TOWN OF PAVIA (50 MILES FROM MILAN) TO PERSONALLY WELCOME ME ON OCTOBER 30. I WAS IN PAVIA TO TAKE PART IN A CEREMONY AT WHICH 14TH CENTURY FRESCOS WHICH HAD BEEN REMOVED FROM ITALY AND HAD BECOME PART OF THE COLLECTION OF THE PHILADELPHIA FINE ART MUSEUM WERE RETURNED TO THEIR ORIGINAL HOME.

4. I USED THIS OPPORTUNITY TO ASK MINISTER ROGNONI ABOUT THE MEETING OF THE WEU ON OCT. 29. SPECIFICALLY, I PRODDED HIM ON THE POSSIBILITY OF COMPROMISE BETWEEN THE ITALIAN-BRITISH PROPOSAL AND THE FRANCO-GERMAN PROPOSAL.

HE

BELIEVED THAT PROGRESS HAD INDEED BEEN MADE. HE STRESSED THAT THE TWO PROPOSALS HAVE MANY POINTS IN COMMON. MOST IMPORTANTLY, THE REALIZATION OF THE

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NEED FOR A COMMON DEFENSE OF EUROPE IN CONSULTATION
WITH THE U.S. HOWEVER, THE FRENCH ARE STILL WARY OF
THE U.S.'S PRIMORDIAL ROLE IN EUROPEAN DEFENSE.
ROGNONI OBSERVED THAT "THE FRENCH STILL WANT TO DRESS
AND SPEAK LIKE DE GAULLE, WITHOUT HAVING DE GAULLE."

5.

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THE TIGHT BUDGET SITUATION IN ALL COUNTRIES, THERE IS NO POSSIBILITY OF INCREASES IN TROOP LEVELS.
THEREFORE, EXISTING UNITS WOULD HAVE TO BE
"DOUBLE-HATTED" THAT IS, TO BE ABLE TO SERVE IN A NATO OR EUROPEAN ROLE AS EVENTS WARRANTED. THE MINISTER THEN CLARIFIED BY STATING THAT FRANCE WOULD NOT PARTICIPATE IN AN INTEGRATED NATO EFFORT WHILE THE U.S. AND CANADA WOULD NOT BE PART OF AN EUROPEAN EFFORT. IF, FOR EXAMPLE, THERE HAD BEEN AN INTERVENTION FORCE SENT TO YUGOSLAVIA, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN A EUROPEAN AND NOT A NATO FORCE. FURTHER

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| CALL NOT HOW | AINING, HI ED UPON TO COVERED BY THE WEU WO SPORTS AND | O UNDERTAL Y NATO OR OULD MOVE | KE MILITAI IN EASTEI THESE TRO | RY ACTION RN EUROPE OOPS WITH | IN AN AR | EA | Bì | |
| | I ASKED THEASED IMPO | | | | | | B1 | |
| NNNN | | | | | | | | |
| PAGE 01 ROME 19898 02 OF 02 041439Z ACTION EUR-01 | | | | | | | | |
| INFO | | ANHR-01 IO-19 PM-01 | PRS-01 SS-01 | HA-09 NRRC-01 P-01 TRSE-00 | H-01 NSAE-00 SB-01 T-01 | NSCE-00 SCT-03 TSKY-01 | CFE-01 INRE-00 OIC-02 SDEL-01 /070W | |
| O 041437Z NOV 91 FM AMEMBASSY ROME TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0030 INFO SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE JCS WASHDC USIA WASHDC 6100 USMISSION USNATO 1058 CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK | | | | | | | | |

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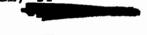
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DEPT ALSO FOR PUSIA FOR EU, P/G

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR TAGS: PARM, NATO, PREL, IT



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7. I ALSO USED MY MORNING WITH ROGNONI TO BRING UP THE AL JAWARY CASE AND THE CURRENT RESURFACING OF THE USTICA AFFAIR. I TOLD THE MINISTER THAT IF TERRORIST QAL JAWARY, WHOSE CASE IS CURRENTLY UNDER REVIEW BY

CORRADO CARNEVALE WAS

RELEASED, THERE WOULD BE STRONG REACTION IN THE

UNITED STATES.

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HE DID PROMISE, HOWEVER, TO MENTION THE PROBABLE U.S. REACTION TO ITALIAN JUSTICE MINISTER MARTELLI IMMEDIATELY UPON RETURN TO ROME.

8. MOVING ONTO USTICA, I TOLD THE MINISTER THAT WE

HAVE DECIDED NOT TO GO FORWARD IMMEDIATELY WITH A RESPONSE TO THE REQUEST BY AMBASSADOR BIANCHIERI. WE WERE PRESENTLY PREPARING A MORE COMPLETE LETTER, BUT IT HAD BEEN SOMEWHAT DELAYED BECAUSE OF THE NUMBER OF KEY PEOPLE WHO WERE NOW ATTENDING THE MADRID CONFERENCE. I STATED THAT WE HOPED TO PUT TOGETHER A SERIES OF QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS THAT THE U.S. WOULD USE WITH THE PRESS. THE MINISTER REMARKED THAT WE WOULD HAVE TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF EVERYTHING IN THE AREA ON THE EVENING OF 1980, NOT JUST AIRCRAFT. I TOLD HIM THAT THERE HAD BEEN 21 FLIGHTS OF AIRCRAFT FROM THE USS SARATOGA, BUT THEY HAD TAKEN PLACE FROM SIGONELLA, NOT FROM NAPLES WHERE THE CARRIER WAS THEN

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QMOORED AND HAD LANDED BEFORE THE USTICA CRASH. I
TOLD HIM THAT WE INTENDED TO ATTACK THE ISSUE HEAD-ON
AND TO COORDINATE CLOSELY AMONG THE THREE USG
AGENCIES INVOLVED. HE CONCURRED THAT WE NEEDED A

STRONG STATEMENT FROM EMBASSY ROME.

9. COMMENT: I EXPRESSED MY PERSONAL APPRECIATION TO THE MINISTER FOR THE FACT THAT HE TOOK FOUR HOURS (EXCLUDING TRAVEL TIME) OUT OF HIS SCHEDULE TO BE

WITH ME IN PAVIA. MORE IMPORTANTLY, THIS GESTURE UNDERLINES THE DEGREE OF IMPORTANCE THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT, AND SPECIFICALLY THE CURRENT MINISTER OF DEFENSE, PLACES ON IN-DEPTH COMMUNICATION AND CONSULTATIONS ON DEFENSE ISSUES.

CONSULTATIONS ON DEFENSE ISSUES. SECCHIA

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PAGE 01 NAPLES 03512 071407Z

ACTION EUR-01

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R 061400Z NOV 92
FM AMCONSUL NAPLES//DP1//
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1925
AMEMBASSY ROME
INFO AMCONSUL MILAN
AMCONSUL FLORENCE
AMCONSUL GENOA
AMCONSUL PALERMO
NATO EC COLLECTIVE

NAPLES 3512

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ROME PLS PASS AMCONSULS FLORENCE, GENOA, PALERMO

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: ECON, MARR, PINR, PGOV, IT

SUBJ: SOUTHERN ITALIAN ATTITUDES ON NATO AND THE MEDITERRANEAN AREA THREAT IS GONE.

PEACE MOVEMENTS -- NO LONGER THE FACTOR THEY ONCE WERE

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PAGE 02 NAPLES 03512 071407Z

PAGE 02 RUFNSAA5090

9. THE ITALIAN PEACE MOVEMENT THAT COULD SO EASILY RALLY TENS
OF THOUSANDS OF DEMONSTRATORS ON OCCASION IN THE LATE 1960S AND
1970S HAS LONG SINCE CEASED TO HAVE BROAD POPULAR SUPPORT. IN RECENT
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NUMBER OF EVENTS AND IN THE NUMBER PARTICIPANTS. FOR EXAMPLE, THE
ANNOUNCEMENT IN MID-OCTOBER THAT SOME U.S. F-16S WOULD BE TEMPORARILY
DEPLOYED IN GOIA DEL COLLE IN SOUTH ITALY DREW PROTESTS FROM THE
LOCAL PDS WHICH CIRCULATED PROTEST FLYERS AND DISCUSSED THE
DEPLOYMENT IN THE CITY COUNCIL. HOWEVER, THEIR EFFORTS FAILED TO
AROUSE ANY NOTICEABLE PUBLIC REACTION AND THERE WERE NO
DEMONSTRATIONS, ACCORDING TO OUR CONTACTS IN THE AREA. EVEN THE

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE REVIEW AUTHORITY: ERIC W. FLEISHER DATE/CASE ID: 3 OCT 2002 200102359

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FORMERLY ACTIVE LOCAL PEACE MOVEMENT FAILED TO JOIN THE PDS EFFORT.

10. THE WANING ITALIAN ENTHUSIASM FOR THE RADICAL LEFT WAS ALSO
REFLECTED IN THE NATIONAL PARLIAMENT ELECTION LAST APRIL WHEN MOST
LEFTIST GROUPS DECIDED TO NOT RUN SLATES OF CANDIDATES. ONLY
A FEW FAR LEFTIST CANDIDATES WERE ELECTED, AND THE ONCE NOTABLE GROUP
OF INDEPENDENT LEFTISTS IN PARLIAMENT WAS NO MORE. NAPLES' GRAND OLD
MAN OF THE FAR LEFT, MARCO PANELLA (FOUNDER OF THE RADICAL PARTY) RAN
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PAGE 03 RUFNSAA5090
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PAGE 03 NAPLES 03512 071407Z (WHAT A CHANGE--MOST OF THE GREENS BECAME PROPONENTS OF "LAW AND ORDER").

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES--PREDICTABLE HEADACHES FOR MILITARY DEPLOYMENTS

11. ENVIRONMENTAL INTERESTS HAVE BECOME MORE OF A CONCERN FOR MILITARY DEPLOYMENTS AND BASES THAN THE ATTENTION-GRABBING LARGE SCALE PACIFIST DEMONSTRATIONS WERE IN THE 1960S AND 1970S.

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EVENTS.

USTICA -- GHOSTS FROM THE PAST THREATEN THE FUTURE

12. THE ALMOST PERENNIAL DEBATE ON THE MYSTERIOUS CRASH OF AN ITALIAN AIRLINER NEAR USTICA ON JUNE 27, 1980 (81 LIVES LOST) PRESENTS THE MOST SERIOUS PUBLIC RELATIONS PROBLEM FACING U.S. FORCES IN ITALY AT PRESENT. DESPITE THE U.S. MILITARY'S AND THE U.S. EMBASSY'S CAREFUL AND COMPREHENSIVE EFFORTS TO COOPERATE WITH ITALIAN

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AUTHORITIES AND COUNTER INACCURATE SPECULATIVE MEDIA COVERAGE
THROUGHOUT THE YEARS, THIS ISSUE BECAME FRONT PAGE NEWS AGAIN IN
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CRASH AND THE INCOMPLETE RECORDS OF 1980 APPEAL TO CONGENITAL
LEFTISTS AND A GENERAL ITALIAN PUBLIC THIRST FOR CONSPIRACIES. A
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IN AREAS PERCEIVED TO HAVE CONGESTED AIRSPACE.

YUGOSLAVIA AND THE ARAB STATES -- CLOSE TO SOUTH ITALY

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ACTION EUR-01

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R 061400Z NOV 92 FM AMCONSUL NAPLES//DP1// TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1925 AMEMBASSY ROME INFO AMCONSUL MILAN AMCONSUL FLORENCE AMCONSUL GENOA AMCONSUL PALERMO

NATO EC COLLECTIVE

SECTION 02 OF 03 NAPLES 3512

FOR SECTION INFO

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EUROPE MIGHT LEAD TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF A BLACK MARKET FOR WEAPONS
TRANSITING ITALY. AN EASTERN EUROPEAN ARMS SMUGGLING OPERATION WAS

PAGE 01 NAPLES 03512 03 OF 03 071740Z ACTION EUR-01

LOG-00 INFO AGRE-00 AID-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 CTME-00 C-01 DODE-00 EB-01 EXIM-06 E-01 FRB-03 HA-09 H-01 INRE-00 INR-01 ITC-01 JUSE-00 LAB-04 L-03OPIC-08 ADS-00 NSCE-00 NSAE-00 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-02 PRS-01 P-01 SNP-00 SP-00 SS-00 TRSE-00 STR-17 T-01 USIE-00 /066W

-----77ED94 071742Z /38

R 061400Z NOV 92
FM AMCONSUL NAPLES//DP1//
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000
AMEMBASSY ROME
INFO AMCONSUL MILAN
AMCONSUL FLORENCE
AMCONSUL GENOA
AMCONSUL PALERMO
NATO EC COLLECTIVE

SECTION 03 OF 03 NAPLES 3512

ROME PLS PASS AMCONSULS FLORENCE, GENOA, PALERMO

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: ECON, MARR, PINR, PGOV, IT

SUBJ: SOUTHERN ITALIAN ATTITUDES ON NATO AND THE MEDITERRANEAN AREA UNCOVERED IN ITALY IN THE 1980S.

16. SOUTHERN ITALIANS ALSO VIEW THE MIDDLE EAST AS AN AREA OF IMMEDIATE CONCERN FOR THEIR NATIONAL SECURITY. RADICAL ARAB STATES COULD JEOPARDIZE SOME VITAL SEA ROUTES OR COULD PROMOTE TERRORIST ACTIVITY IN SOUTH ITALY. (NOTE: STATISTICS CITED TO US BY UNION

Date Printed: 16 Apr 2002

DOC NBR: 1992NAPLES03512

CHANNEL: n/a HANDLING: n/a

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LEADERS IN CAMPANIA INDICATE THAT 90 PERCENT OF THE IMMIGRANTS IN
THE MEZZOGIORNO ARE MUSLIMS. FURTHERMORE, POLICE REPORTS IN NAPLES
INDICATE THAT THE PLO AND THE IRANIAN REGIME, INTER ALIA, HAVE
SUPPORTERS IN THE REGION.) AS THE MAYOR OF REGGIO CALABRIA REMARKED,
THE ARAB STATES ARE TOO CLOSE FOR ITALIANS TO IGNORE, AND (WITH SOME
EXAGGERATION) "ON A CLEAR DAY YOU CAN SEE LIBYA FROM SOME AREAS OF
SOUTH ITALY."

17. SOUTHERN ITALIAN POLITICIANS AND BUSINESSMEN HAVE ALSO COMMENTED TO US THAT YUGOSLAVIA, ALBANIA AND THE MIDDLE EAST HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO BECOME IMPORTANT MARKETS FOR ITALIAN GOODS AND SERVICES. SOME OF THE BUSINESS ORGANIZATION LEADERS WE HAVE TALKED TO IN CITIES SUCH AS BARI, TARANTO, AND BRINDISI IN THE FAR SOUTH HAVE HAD OVERLY OPTIMISTIC EXPECTATIONS OF HOW MUCH THESE NEW MARKETS COULD DO FOR REVIVING THE STAGNANT MEZZOGIORNO ECONOMY. THEY CITE THESE EXPECTED INTERNATIONAL TRADE BENEFITS AS ANOTHER OF THE REASONS FOR ITALIAN SUPPORT FOR NATO AND WESTERN EFFORTS TO INTERVENE IN YUGOSLAVIA.

BUT NO ENTHUSIASM FOR NATO "OUT-OF-THE-AREA" ADVENTURES

18. SOUTHERN ITALIAN CONCERNS ABOUT YUGOSLAVIA AND ALBANIA AND THE MIDDLE EAST/NORTH AFRICA DO NOT NECESSARILY TRANSLATE INTO SUPPORT FOR NATO INVOLVEMENT IN AREAS BEYOND ITS TRADITIONAL TERRITORIAL AREA OF OPERATION. POLITICIANS HAVE CITED THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT'S WILLINGNESS TO ASSIGN FIVE BRIGADES TO NATO'S RAPID REACTION FORCE AS PROOF OF A NATIONAL COMMITMENT TO BROADER NATO RESPONSIBILITIES. ITALY HAD ALSO OFFERED A 1300 MAN FORCE TO THE UN FOR USE IN YUGOSLAVIA. (THE UN, HOWEVER, REJECTED THIS OFFER). SEVERAL OF OUR CONTACTS, HOWEVER, QUESTIONED THE WISDOM OF BOTH OF THESE DECISIONS. DC AND PSI POLITICIANS SAID THAT THEIR PARTIES WERE SPLIT ON THESE DECISIONS. ONE REGIONAL DC PARTY OFFICIAL WORRIED THAT IF ANY LARGE ITALIAN LOSSES WERE INCURRED IN MILITARY INTERVENTIONS

PAGE 03 NAPLES 03512 03 OF 03 071740Z
OUTSIDE OF WESTERN EUROPE, THE PUBLIC WOULD BEGIN TO QUESTION THE
VALUE OF NATO INVOLVEMENT IN "FOREIGN" AREAS. ALL PDS REGIONAL
OFFICIALS WITH WHOM WE TALKED OPPOSED "OUT-OF-THE-AREA" NATO
DEPLOYMENTS.

19. ITALIAN REACTIONS TO THE ALLIED ENGAGEMENT IN THE IRAQ WAR IS ANOTHER INDICATOR OF THE DIVISIONS INHERENT IN THE SOUTHERN ITALIANS' YES-MAYBE ENDORSEMENT OF BROADER NATO RESPONSIBILITIES. THE DESERT STORM CAMPAIGN AGAINST IRAQ DREW MIXED REVIEWS IN SOUTH ITALY DESPITE BROAD CONSENSUS THAT SADDAM HUSSEIN WAS AN AGGRESSOR WHO NEEDED TO BE DEALT WITH. MOST OF THE DC, THE PSI AND THE SMALLER LAY PARTIES SUPPORTED THE WAR, BUT WE HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT THE PUBLIC WAS SPLIT.THE PDS AND OTHER PARTIES ON THE LEFT WERE, AS WAS EXPECTED, OPPOSED. SEVERAL DC CONTACTS AND A MEMBER OF

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CHANNEL: n/a HANDLING: n/a

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ALESSANDRIA MUSSOLINI'S ITALIAN SOCIAL MOVEMENT TOLD US THAT THE US HAD ERRED IN NOT SEIZING ALL OF IRAQ AND IMPOSING A PERMANENT SOLUTION.

NO CRYSTAL BALL FOR THE FUTURE OF WESTERN DEFENSE DOCTRINES

20. THE EVOLUTION IN SOUTHERN ITALIAN VIEWS ON SECURITY POLICY, OBSCURED PARTIALLY BY A LACK OF OPEN PUBLIC DEBATE, PRESENTLY REFLECTS A CHARACTERISTIC ITALIAN DESIRE TO "KEEP THEIR OPTIONS OPEN." THERE IS A GENERALIZED PUBLIC FEELING THAT SECURITY MECHANISMS MUST CHANGE IN EUROPE IN THE POST-COLD WAR ERA, BUT NOT MUCH CONSENSUS ON HOW. THE SOUTHERN ITALIANS EXPECT SUCH CHANGES TO INCLUDE AN ENHANCED EUROPEAN ROLE IN ITS DEFENSE AS PART OF THE CREATION OF A MORE UNIFIED EUROPE. ONE MEANS FOR ACCOMPLISHING THIS WOULD BE WITHIN THE WEU (WESTERN EUROPEAN UNION), AN AVENUE THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT RECENTLY EXPLORED IN ITS STATUS AS PRESIDENT OF THE WEU.

21. HOWEVER, THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT AND THE PARLIAMENTARIANS

NAPLES 03512 03 OF 03 071740Z WE HAVE TALKED TO MAY BE EXCEEDING THE PUBLIC TOLERANCE FOR CHANGE, AT LEAST IN THE SOUTH. WE HAVE DETECTED IN OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH ITALIANS RANGING FROM PREFECTS AND REGIONAL GIUNTA PRESIDENTS TO PARTY RANK AND FILE A VAGUE RELUCTANCE TO EMBRACE A EUROPEAN DEFENSE FORCE OR ORGANIZATION. FIRST, THERE IS A PREFERENCE TO NOT RISK THE OLD TRIED AND PROVEN ATLANTIC ALLIANCE, ALTHOUGH MANY OF OUR INTERLOCUTORS WOULD ADJUST ITS STRUCTURE AND DOCTRINE TO ENHANCE THE EUROPEAN ROLE. SECOND, A NUMBER OF OUR CONTACTS HAVE EXPRESSED A RELUCTANCE TO COMMIT ITALY TO A NEW STRUCTURE THAT MIGHT BE UNDULY INFLUENCED BY A FRANCO-GERMAN AXIS. AT PRESENT, THE PREFERENCE OF MANY SOUTHERNERS WOULD BE TO PLAY BOTH ANGLES, BUILDING EUROPEAN SECURITY COOPERATION WHILE ENGAGING IN ADEQUATE DIALOGUE TO AVOID UNDOING NATO. ULTIMATELY, FACED WITH TIGHT ECONOMIC CONSTRAINTS, MANY ITALIANS IN THE MEZZOGIORNO MAY WELL BASE THEIR VIEWS ON SECURITY POLICY ON PERCEIVED COSTS AND BENEFITS OF A NEW EUROPEAN SECURITY STRUCTURE AS COMPARED TO NATO, RATHER THAN PURELY ON PERCEIVED DANGERS.

DERTADIAN

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Date Printed: 16 Apr 2002

DOC NBR: 1991STATE237427

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PAGE 01

STATE 237427 191946Z

ORIGIN EUR-01

INFO LOG-00 ADS-00 ONY-00 SSO-00

(ONY)

DRAFTED BY: EUR/WE:LJNIGRO:LJN APPROVED BY: EUR/WE: JHMADDEN

DOD/OSD/ISP:GLAZARUS

EUR/RPM:MTAYLOR

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O 191943Z JUL 91 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 237427

FOR AMBASSADOR AND DCM FROM EUR/WE - JAMES H. MADDEN

E.O. 12356: N/A TAGS: PREL, PGOV, MARR, IT SUBJECT: OFFICIAL-INFORMAL

REF: ROME 12867

- 1. PER REFTEL, EMBASSY ROME REQUESTED INFORMATION ON REMARKS MADE BY DOD SPOKESMAN SATTERFIELD TO AN ITALIAN JOURNALIST THAT WERE LATER QUOTED IN ITALIAN MEDIA.
- 2. THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS PROVIDED, AND IS KEYED TO THE CITATIONS IN THE ANSA JULY 11 DISPATCH (AS RELATED

PAGE 02 REFTEL). STATE 237427 191946Z

(QUOTE) HE CONFIRMED THAT THE INDICATOR 3. CITATATION: "MK30" IS FOUND ON THE STANDARD MISSILE. (UNQUOTE)

CLARIFICATION: THE REPORTER ASKED IF THE MARKING "MK 30" IS USED WITH THE STANDARD MISSILE. SATTERFIELD SAID THAT A MK 30 SUSTAINER IS USED WITH THE EXTENDED RANGE STANDARD SATTERFIELD ALSO SAID THAT WITHOUT SEEING THE CANNISTER IN QUESTION, HE COULD NOT COMMENT ON ANY MARKINGS.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE **REVIEW AUTHORITY: ERIC W. FLEISHER** DATE/CASE ID: 3 OCT 2002 200102359

UNCLASSIFIED

Date Printed: 16 Apr 2002

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CHANNEL: n/a HANDLING: ONLY

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4. CITATION: (QUOTE) HE REPEATED HOWEVER THAT "NO MILITARY SHIP OR AIRPLANE OF THE U.S." WAS OPERATING IN THE ZONE IN WHICH THE ITAVIA DC-9 FELL ON THE NIGHT OF JUNE 27, 1980. (UNQUOTE)

CLARIFICATION: SATTERFIELD REPEATED NAVY GUIDANCE STATING THAT NO AIRCRAFT CARRIER NOR SURFACE SHIP WERE OPERATING IN THE AREA ON THE DAY THE PLANE CRASHED.

5. CITATION: (QUOTE) SATTERFIELD FURTHER SAID THAT IT IS PRACTICALLY IMPOSSIBLE TO COMMENT ON THE FINDING OF THE REMAINS OF THE AIRPLANE AND OTHER OBJECTS ON THE SEA FLOOR UNTIL THERE IS MORE PRECISELY DOCUMENTED INFORMATION. (UNQUOTE)

CLARIFICATION: SATTERFIELD WAS ASKED IF THE OBJECT FOUND WAS PART OF A STANDARD MISSILE. SATTERFIELD STATED THE THE U.S NAVY OR OTHER DEFENSE OFFICIALS (AS OF THAT DATE) HAD NOT BEEN ASKED TO EXAMINE THE PART FOUND (ACCORDING TO

PAGE 03 STATE 237427 191946Z
OUR FPAO AT U.S. NAVAL FORCES EUROPE). THEREFORE IT WAS
IMPOSSIBLE TO COMMENT. SATTERFIELD DID NOT USE THE PHRASE
"REMAINS OF THE AIRPLANE," AS NONE WAS CITED AS HAVING
BEEN FOUND.

6. CITATION: (QUOTE) STANDARD MISSILES IN USE IN THE AMERICAN NAVY ARE WHITE AND GREY, WHILE THOSE OF OTHER COUNTRIES ARE OTHER COLORS. MOREVER BESIDES THE INDICATOR MK 30; EVERY COUNTRY THAT USES THEM ADDS ANOTHER IDENTIFICATION CODE. "WE SPEAK FOR THE AMERICAN NAVY, NOT FOR OTHER COUNTRIES." (UNQUOTE)

CLARIFICATION: THE REPORTER INQUIRED REGARDING THE COLOR OF NAVY MISSILES. SATTERFIELD REPLIED THAT MISSILES ABOARD SURFACE VESSELS WERE GENERALLY WHITE OR GREY. THE REPORTER STARTED ASKING ABOUT COLORS USED BY OTHER NATIONS' NAVIES, AND ANY CODES THAT MIGHT BE USED. SATTERFIELD RESPONDED BY SAYING "WE SPEAK FOR THE AMERICAN NAVY."

7. CITATION: (QUOTE) SATTERFIELD ADDED THAT THE STANDARD MISSILE IS IN USE BY THE U.S. NAVY SINCE 1969 AND HAS BEEN USED MANY TIMES DURING THE PAST 20 YEARS IN MILITARY EXERCISES IN THE MEDITERRANEAN. (UNQUOTE)

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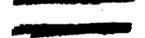
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CHANNEL: n/a HANDLING: ONLY

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CLARIFICATION: SATTERFIELD TOLD THE REPORTER THAT THE STANDARD MISSILE BECAME OPERATIONAL IN 1969. THE REPORTER THEN ASKED HOW MANY TIMES IT HAD BEEN USED IN EXERCISES IN THE LAST 20 YEARS. SATTERFIELD REPLIED THAT THERE WAS NO

WAY TO VERIFY THAT INFORMATION IN ONE DAY. THE REPORTER



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ASKED IF HE COULD SAY THAT IT HAD NEVER BEEN USED.
SATTERFIELD REPLIED THAT HE COULD NOT RESPOND TO THIS QUESTION AT THIS TIME.

8. CITATION: (QUOTE) THE REPORTER ASKED WHETHER THAT WAS DONE WITH OR WITHOUT EXPLOSIVE. SATTERFIELD REPLIED, "IT DEPENDS ON THE EXERCISES." (UNQUOTE)

CLARIFICATION: THE REPORTER ASKED IF THE MISSILES WERE ARMED WITH EXPLOSIVES DURING ALL EXERCISES. SATTERFIELD REPLIED AS QUOTED.

- 9. DOD PUBLIC AFFAIRS DESK OFFICERS SUCH AS SATTERFIELD ROUTINELY USE STANDARD REFERENCE MATERIAL TO FROVIDE INFORMATION REGARDING OUR MISSILE SYSTEMS. THROUGHOUT THE EXCHANGE WITH THE ITALIAN REPORTER, SATTERFIELD RESPONDED WITH INFORMATION IN THE PUBLIC RECORD REGARDING THE STANDARD MISSILE AND NAVAL OPERATIONS, IN THE SAME MANNER AS HE WOULD HAVE REPLIED TO AN AMERICAN REPORTER.
- 10. SATTERFIELD'S REMARKS TO THE ITALIAN REPORTER NOTWITHSTANDING, WE BELIEVE THAT YOU SHOULD CONTINUE TO USE THE SAME LANGUAGE THAT YOU HAVE BEEN USING (PER 89 STATE 204245) TO REPLY TO PRESS AND OTHER PUBLIC INQUIRIES. EAGLEBURGER



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Date Printed: 16 Apr 2002

DOC NBR: 1991STATE244578

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PAGE 01

STATE

244578 251812Z

ORIGIN EUR-01

INFO LOG-00

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AMAD-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00

INRE-00 INR-01

NSAE-00 PA-02

PRS-01 SP-01 /007R

DRAFTED BY: EUR/WE:LJNIGRO-DOD/OSD/ISP:GLAZARUS:LJN

APPROVED BY: EUR:RCALDWELL

EUR/WE: JHMADDEN EUR/P:GGARLAND

PA: RJBOUCHER

EUR/RPM:MTAYLOR

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P 251811Z JUL 91 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 244578

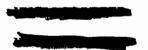
E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: OPRC IT

SUBJECT: USTICA PRESS GUIDANCE

REF: A) ROME 13431, B) 89 STATE 204245

1. REGARDING YOUR REQUEST FOR CLARIFICATION OF PRESS GUIDANCE ON THE USTICA CONTROVERSY (REF A), THE LANGUAGE CONTAINED IN REF B IS STILL APPLICABLE. ALL U.S. NAVY SHIPS AND AIRCRAFT OPERATING IN THE MEDITERRANEAN ARE UNDER THE OPERATIONAL CONTROL OF THE COMMANDER OF THE U.S. SIXTH FLEET. ACCORDINGLY, THE PHRASE "NO U.S. NAVY SHIPS" AND "NO SIXTH FLEET SHIPS" ARE ONE AND THE SAME.



PAGE 02 STATE 244578 251812Z 2. IN ADDITION, THE LETTER DATED JANUARY 24, 1989 FROM DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE TAFT TO AMBASSADOR PETRIGNANI STATED (QUOTE) ALL MILITARY COMMANDERS IN THE AREA HAVE BEEN QUERIED...AND ALL INFORMATION AVAILABLE INDICATES THAT THE UNITED STATES DID NOT HAVE SHIPS OR AIRCRAFT OPERATING IN THE TYRRENIAN SEA AT THE TIME OF THE CRASH (UNQUOTE).

3. REGARDING IDENTIFICATION OF MATERIALS UNLESS WE ARE CONTACTED OFFICIALLY BY THE GOVERNMENT OF ITALY AND ASKED

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE REVIEW AUTHORITY: ERIC W. FLEISHER DATE/CASE ID: 3 OCT 2002 200102359

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Date Printed: 16 Apr 2002

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CHANNEL: n/a HANDLING: n/a

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TO ASSIST IN EXAMINING ANY MATERIAL FOUND ON THE OCEAN FLOOR, WE CHOOSE NOT TO RESPOND TO PRESS SPECULATION OVER ANY "MISSILE" AND ITS POSSIBLE MARKINGS.

EAGLEBURGER

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Date Printed: 16 Apr 2002

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PAGE 01

STATE 398364 062320Z

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EUR/RPM:SCAINE

PA: RBOUCHER

DOD/OSD/ISP:GLAZARUS

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O R 062320Z DEC 91 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE INFO SECDEF WASHDC 4789 JCS WASHDC 6616 USIA WASHDC 8388 USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE//J-5// USNMR SHAPE BE

STATE 398364

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: PREL, NATO, PINR, IT

SUBJECT: USTICA: UPDATING PRESS GUIDANCE

PAGE 02

STATE

398364 062320Z

REF: ROME 20689

DEPARTMENT APPROVES EMBASSY ROME'S RESPONSE TO PUBLIC INQUIRIES REGARDING THE USTICA CONTROVERSY AS PROPOSED REFTEL, WITH THE FOLLOWING MODIFICATIONS:

-- IN PARA 11: CORRECT FLIGHT NUMBER IS 161206 VICE 16206. DELETE LAST TWO SENTENCES, BEGINNING WITH "THE PLANE'S FLIGHT PATH...

-- IN PARA 15: MODIFY SECOND SENTENCE TO READ: "ALTHOUGH THE U.S. NAVY NO LONGER HAS FLIGHT RECORDS, BASED ON THE

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE REVIEW AUTHORITY: ERIC W. FLEISHER DATE/CASE ID: 3 OCT 2002 200102359

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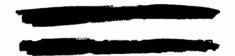
162

REPORTED ITALIAN TRANSCRIPTS..."

- -- IN PARA 17: MODIFY THE SECOND SENTENCE TO READ
 "...MODIFIED 'KING AIR 200,' COULD NOT HAVE TRAVELLED TO
 THE CRASH SITE IN 24 MINUTES FROM ITS DEPARTURE TIME FROM
 SIGONELLA." DELETE THE REMAINDER OF THE SENTENCE.
- -- IN PARA 17: DELETE THE LAST SENTENCE AND SUBSTITUTE

WITH: "THE UNARMED CARGO PLANE TOOK OFF AT 1935 HOURS LOCAL TIME AND ACCORDING TO ITALIAN INFORMATION PROCEEDED TO TORREJON. THAT UNARMED TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT, WHOSE DESIGNATED PERMANENT IDENTIFICATION NUMBER IS 159362, IS STILL ASSIGNED TO VR-24 AT SIGONELLA AND CONTINUES TO USE THE CALL SIGN "JULIET MIKE." THE FLIGHT PLAN WAS DESTROYED LONG AGO, PER NORMAL MILITARY PROCEDURES."

-- IN PARA 22: CORRECT FLIGHT NUMBER IS 161206 VICE 16206.



PAGE 03 STATE 398364 062320Z
-- IN PARA 30: DELETE FIRST SENTENCE, BEGINNING: "WE CANNOT SPECULATE..."

-- IN PARA 35: DELETE LAST SENTENCE, BEGINNING: "IN FACT, AT THE...

-- IN PARA 58: DELETE LAST SENTENCE, BEGINNING: "NOR HAS HE EVER..."

-- IN PARA 62: DELETE LAST SENTENCE, BEGINNING: "AS A RULE..."
BAKER

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Date Printed: 16 Apr 2002

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ACTION EUR-01

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SP-01 SS-01 TRSE-00 T-01 /069W ------04DA83 171746Z /38

O 171741Z JAN 92

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2875

INFO SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

JCS WASHDC

USIA WASHDC 6407

USMISSION USNATO 1146

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK

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CNO WASHDC//06/09C//

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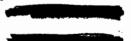
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SECTION 01 OF 02 ROME 00993

STATE ALSO FOR PUSIA FOR EU, P/G

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR



PAGE 02 ROME 00993 01 OF 02 171746Z
TAGS: PINR, NATO, PREL, IT
SUBJECT: USTICA UPDATE: 13 ITALIAN MILITARY
OFFICERS, INCLUDING FORMER CHIEFS OF STAFF,
IMPLICATED IN COVERUP OF USTICA AFFAIR

REF: A) 91 ROME 22483 (DTG 131738Z DEC 91) AND PREVIOUS

1. (C) SUMMARY: ACCORDING TO JANUARY 16 PRESS ACCOUNTS, IN DECEMBER 1991, 13 ITALIAN MILITARY OFFICERS, INCLUDING TWO FORMER CHIEFS OF STAFF,

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE REVIEW AUTHORITY: ERIC W. FLEISHER DATE/CASE ID: 3 OCT 2002 200102359

CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL REASON: 1.6(6)UNCLASSIFIED



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CHANNEL: n/a HANDLING: n/a

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WERE EITHER CHARGED OR IMPLICATED IN A COVERUP INVOLVING THE MYSTERIOUS DOWNING OF AN ITALIAN AIRLINER IN JUNE OF 1980 NEAR THE ISLAND OF THE ARTICLES LINK SOME OF THE OFFICERS USTICA. TO A WORKING GROUP ALLEGEDLY FORMED AT EMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE DOWNING AND IMPLY THAT THE OFFICERS PARTICIPATED IN A COVERUP IN COLLABORATION WITH U.S. OFFICIALS. POLITICIANS, PRIMARILY ON THE LEFT, SPECULATE THAT IF THERE WAS A COVERUP BY THE MILITARY, IT HAD TO BE DIRECTED BY THE GOVERNMENT, PROBABLY TO PROTECT SOME "GREATER POWER." WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE AND CAREER MILITARY OFFICERS ARE FRUSTRATED AND BITTER OVER WHAT THEY VIEW AS AN ESSENTIALLY POLITICALLY DRIVEN SCANDAL WHICH CONTINUES TO IMPACT NEGATIVELY ON THE MILITARY. END SUMMARY.

2. (U) ON JANUARY 16 THE ITALIAN PRESS REPORTED THAT LEGAL ACTION HAD BEEN TAKEN AGAINST 13

00993 PAGE 03 ROME 01 OF 02 171746Z ITALIAN MILITARY OFFICERS IN CONNECTION WITH AN ALLEGED COVERUP INVOLVING THE DOWNING OF THE ITAVIA AIRLINE NEAR THE ISLAND OF USTICA IN 1980. MINISTER OF DEFENSE ROGNONI APPEARED BEFORE THE PARLIAMENTARY COMMISSION INVESTIGATING THE DOWNING ON THE 15TH TO REPORT THAT IN DECEMBER 1991, FOUR OFFICERS HAD BEEN CHARGED AND NINE OTHERS IMPLICATED IN A COVERUP IN THE USTICA CASE. NONE OF THE CASES INVOLVE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CRASH ITSELF. THE NINE OFFICERS NOT CHARGED WERE SERVED WITH LEGAL NOTICE THAT THEY WERE THE TARGETS OF AN INVESTIGATION IN CONNECTION WITH CRIMES RELATING TO EVENTS FOLLOWING THE USTICA DOWNING.

3. (U) THE FOUR OFFICERS CHARGED AND THE POSITIONS THEY HELD AT THE TIME OF THE CRASH ARE: GENERAL LAMBERTO BARTOLUCCI, DEFENSE CHIEF OF STAFF; GENERAL FRANCO FERRI, DEPUTY CHIEF OF DEFENSE STAFF; GENERAL ZENO TASCIO, HEAD OF THE SECOND AIR DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR INTELLIGENCE SERVICES; AND GENERAL CORRADO MELILLO, HEAD OF THE THIRD AIR DEPARTMENT. OF THESE FOUR, ONLY GENERAL TASCIO IS STILL ON ACTIVE DUTY. GEN.

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BARTOLUCCI AND GEN. FERRO HAVE BEEN ACCUSED OF ACTS AGAINST CONSITUTIONAL BODIES AND HIGH TREASON BECAUSE OF THEIR STATUS AS MILITARY OFFICERS AT THE TIME THE ALLEGED CRIMES WERE COMMITTED. GEN. TASCIO IS CHARGED WITH THESE CRIMES AND SUPPRESSING, FALSIFYING, OR DESTROYING DOCUMENTS RELATING TO STATE SECURITY,

PAGE 04 00993 01 OF 02 ROME 171746Z ABUSE OF STATE RECORDS, PERJURY BY A PUBLIC OFFICIAL, DESTRUCTION OR HIDING OF OFFICIAL RECORDS. GEN. MELILLO IS CHARGED WITH PRODUCING FRAUDULENT RECORDS, ABUSE OF OFFICE, AND FOR BEING AN ACCESSORY AFTER THE FACT.

(U) THE OTHER NINE OFFICERS WERE EITHER INVOLVED IN THE INVESTIGATION FOLLOWING THE CRASH OR WERE WORKING IN RADAR STATIONS AT THE TIME OF THE CRASH. THEY ARE CHARGED WITH DESTROYING EVIDENCE OR WILLIFULLY PUBLISHING FALSE INFORMATION IN REPORTS FOLLOWING THE CRASH. ALL BUT THREE OF THESE OFFICERS HAVE ALSO RETIRED.

NNNN

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ACTION EUR-01

LOG-00 INFO ACDA-13 AID-01 AMAD-01 CIAE-00 CFE-01 CSCE-01 HA-09 H-01 IMMC-01 INRE-00 INR-01 **IO-19** L-03 ADS-00 NEA-01 NRRC-01 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-01 PRS-01 P-01 SB-01 SCT-03 SNP-01 SP-01 SS-01 TRSE-00 T-01 /069W

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O 171741Z JAN 92 FM AMEMBASSY ROME TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2876 INFO SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE JCS WASHDC USIA WASHDC 6408 USMISSION USNATO 1147

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171748Z /38

Date Printed: 16 Apr 2002

DOC NBR: 1992ROME00993

CHANNEL: n/a HANDLING: n/a

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CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
COMSIXTHFLT
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE//ECPA//ECJ5//
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SECTION 02 OF 02 ROME 00993

STATE ALSO FOR PUSIA FOR EU, P/G

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

PAGE 02 ROME 00993 02 OF 02 1717472 TAGS: PINR, NATO, PREL, IT SUBJECT: USTICA UPDATE: 13 ITALIAN MILITARY OFFICERS, INCLUDING FORMER CHIEFS OF STAFF, IMPLICATED IN COVERUP OF USTICA AFFAIR

- 5. (U) THE IMPLICATION OF SUCH HIGH-RANKING OFFICERS RECEIVED WIDE PRESS COVERAGE AND HAS GENERATED CONSIDERABLE DEBATE WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT AND AMONG THE POLITICAL PARTIES. PREDICTABLY, THE LEFT WING HAS JUMPED INTO THE FRAY. ACHILLE OCHETTO, THE HEAD OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF THE LEFT (FORMER COMMUNIST PARTY) WENT AS FAR AS SUGGESTING THAT IF THERE WAS ANY COVERUP BY THE MILITARY OFFICERS IT HAD TO HAVE BEEN DIRECTED BY POLITICAL "MASTERS" AT THE TIME TO PROTECT "GREATER POWERS." THE LATTER IS A REFERENCE TO THE U.S. WHICH IS STILL CONSIDERED A PRIME SUSPECT BY MANY IN ITALY.
- 6. (U) A FEW ARTICLES MENTIONED THE "WORKING GROUP" THAT WAS ALLEGEDLY FORMED AT EMBASSY ROME THE DAY AFTER THE CRASH. THE LEFT WING PAPER, "L'UNITA", SPECULATED THAT THE PARTICIPATION OF GENERAL TASCIO IN THAT TASK FORCE -- AS ALLEGED BY SOME WITNESSES INTERVIEWED IN THE U.S. BY JUDGE PRIORE -- WAS EVIDENCE OF U.S. COMPLICITY IN THE COVERUP.
- 7. (C) COMMENT: A MEDIA CONTACT OF EMBASSY PRESS OFFICER CLAIMS THAT JUDGE PRIORE'S

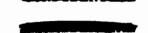
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CHANNEL: n/a HANDLING: n/a

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COLLEAGUES ARE SAYING THAT THE NOTIFICATIONS



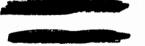
PAGE 03 ROME 00993 02 OF 02 171747Z WERE ISSUED IN THE HOPE THAT THEY WOULD LEAD TO AN EXPLANATION OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE IMPLICATED OFFICERS, THE U.S. EMBASSY, AND OTHER USG EMPLOYEES INVOLVED AFTER THE CRASH. IN PARTICULAR, SOURCE CLAIMED THAT THE JUDGE WAS INTERESTED IN WHAT INFORMATION WAS PASSED ON TO THE USG AND WHAT THE ROLE OF THE WORKING GROUP AT THE EMBASSY WAS.

8. (C)

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THE JUDGE APPARENTLY WAS VERY PLEASED WITH THE QUANTITY AND QUALITY OF INFORMATION HE WAS ABLE TO GATHER IN A SHORT VISIT TO THE U.S. AND THE EASE WITH WHICH HE WAS ABLE TO COMPLETE HIS INVESTIGATION. HE IS SAID TO WANT THE SAME COOPERATION IN ITALY AND THOUGHT THIS WOULD BE ONE WAY TO GET IT. IN A CONVERSATION WITH EMBASSY LEGATT, JUDGE PRIORE DOWNPLAYED PRESS SPECULATION THAT THE RECENT CHARGES AROSE DIRECTLY FROM HIS WORK IN THE U.S., NOTING IN A JOKING MANNER, THAT HE HAD NOT INTERVIEWED ANY ITALIAN OFFICERS WHILE HE WAS THERE.

9. (C) USTICA CONTINUES TO PREOCCUPY AND TO WEIGH HEAVILY ON THE MILITARY. THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE, AS THE GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL ANSWERABLE FOR MILITARY ACTIVITIES BOTH PAST AND PRESENT, IS RELIABLY REPORTED TO BE FED UP WITH THIS



PAGE 04 ROME 00993 02 OF 02 171747Z ESSENTIALLY POLITICALLY DRIVEN SCANDAL.

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PAGE 01 ROME 01087 01 OF 02 211645Z

ACTION EUR-01

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SP-01 SS-01 TRSE-00 T-01 /069W -----05985C 211645Z /38

O 211642Z JAN 92

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2934

INFO SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

JCS WASHDC

USIA WASHDC 6415

USMISSION USNATO 1148

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK

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AMCONSUL MILAN

SECTION 01 OF 02 ROME 01087

STATE ALSO FOR PUSIA FOR EU, P/G

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

EXTEND CLASSIFICATION

PAGE 02 ROME 01087 01 OF 02 211645Z
TAGS: PINR, NATO, PREL, IT
SUBJECT: USTICA UPDATE: LATEST THEORIES POINT TO
FRENCH INVOLVEMENT IN CRASH; FRENCH ADMIRAL
POINTS THE FINGER AT U.S./ITALY

REF: A) ROME 993 (DTG 171741Z JAN 92) AND PREVIOUS

1. (U) SUMMARY: THE THEORY OF FRENCH INVOLVEMENT IN THE MYSTERIOUS DOWNING OF AN ITAVIA AIRLINES DC-9 NEAR THE ISLAND OF USTICA

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE REVIEW AUTHORITY: ERIC W. FLEISHER DATE/CASE ID: 28 OCT 2002 200102359

CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL REASON: 1.6(6)UNCLASSIFIED

Date Printed: 16 Apr 2002

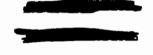
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CHANNEL: n/a HANDLING: n/a

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IN 1980 HAS BEEN REVIVED BY THE PRESS FOLLOWING THE RELEASE OF SOME RADAR RECORDINGS AND "NEW" EVIDENCE OBTAINED BY THE INVESTIGATING JUDGE. ACCORDING TO THIS THEORY, A LIBYAN MIG BEING CHASED BY A FRENCH FIGHTER JET HID BEHIND THE CIVILIAN AIRCRAFT. THE FRENCH AIRCRAFT FIRED A MISSILE OR MISSILES WHICH HIT BOTH AIRCRAFT. THE LIBYAN MIG, NOT SERIOUSLY DAMAGED, WAS ABLE TO MAKE AN EMERGENCY LANDING ON THE NEARBY TYRREHNIAN COAST. THE ITALIAN ARMY PICKED UP THE MIG AND TRANSPORTED IT TO A MOUNTAIN SITE WHERE IT WAS DUMPED AND MADE TO LOOK LIKE A THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT IS NOT COMMENTING OFFICIALLY, THOUGH A FORMER HIGH-RANKING OFFICER RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN SAYS THAT IF THERE WAS AN EXCHANGE OF FIRE IN THE AIR, THEN IT INVOLVED THE U.S. OR ITALIAN AIR FORCE. END SUMMARY.

2. (U) ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS JANUARY 18



ROME 01087 01 OF 02 211645Z AND 19, RECENTLY DISCOVERED EVIDENCE POINTS TO FRENCH RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE DOWNING OF THE ITAVIA AIRLINES DC-9 NEAR THE ISLAND OF USTICA IN JUNE OF 1980. AN ACCOUNT IN THE DAILY, "LA REPUBBLICA", JANUARY 18 STATES THAT IN THE SUMMER OF 1980 THE FRENCH AND THE LIBYANS WERE AT ODDS OVER LIBYAN INVOLVEMENT IN CHAD. DURING THIS PERIOD THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT AGREED TO ALLOW SEVERAL LIBYAN MIGS RETURNING HOME FROM YUGOSLAVIA TO REFUEL AT THE PRATICA DI MARE AIRPORT NEAR ROME. AT AN UNSPECIFIED TIME AFTER THE TAKEOFF FROM ROME, A FRENCH FIGHTER BEGAN TO FOLLOW THE MIG. ACCORDING TO THE ARTICLE, THE FRENCH WERE AFRAID THE MIGS MIGHT TRY TO STOP FRENCH MILITARY AIRCRAFT ON THEIR WAY TO AID LIBYAN REBELS. THE MIG EVENTUALLY TOOK REFUGE BEHIND THE ITAVIA JET, AND THEN WAS FIRED UPON BY THE FRENCH FIGHTER.

3. (U) THE "REPUBBLICA" ARTICLE REPORTED THAT THE ITAVIA JET CRASHED DIRECTLY INTO THE OCEAN, BUT THE MIG WAS ABLE TO MAKE AN EMERGENCY LANDING ON THE NEARBY TYRREHNIAN COAST. THE MIG WAS THEN PICKED UP BY THE ITALIAN ARMY,

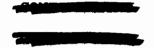
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TRANSPORTED TO A REMOTE SITE IN THE SILA MOUNTAINS, AND DUMPED IN A SIMULATED CRASH SCENARIO. THE ARTICLE SPECULATES THAT THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT WANTED TO HIDE THE MIG SO AS NOT TO HAVE TO EXPLAIN ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH LIBYA.



PAGE 04 ROME 01087 01 OF 02 211645Z (U) PROOF OF THE FRENCH INVOLVEMENT, ACCORDING TO "LA REPUBBLICA", COMES FROM RADAR RECORDINGS MADE AT THE GROSSETO RADAR STATION WHICH SHOWED A LARGE NUMBER OF FRENCH FIGHTER JETS TAKING OFF FROM CORSICA AND THE SOUTH OF FRANCE IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE DOWNING OF THE ITAVIA JET HEADED TOWARDS THE SOUTHERN TYRREHNIAN. ALSO, A PEASANT FROM THE AREA NEAR WHERE THE MIG WAS FOUND IS REPORTED TO HAVE TURNED OVER TO INVESTIGATING JUDGE PRIORE RECENTLY A PIECE OF THE WRECKAGE CONTAINING HOLES CAUSED BY AN EXPLOSION. THIS PIECE OF WRECKAGE WOULD BE PROOF THAT THE MIG WAS SHOT

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ACTION EUR-01

INFO LOG-00 ACDA-13 AID-01 AMAD-01 CIAE-00 CSCE-01 CFE-01 HA-09 H-01 IMMC-01 INRE-00 INR-01 IO-19 L-03ADS-00 NEA-01 NRRC-01 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 OMB-01 OIC-02 PA-01 PM-01 SNP-01 PRS-01 P-01 SB-01 SCT-03 SP-01 SS-01 T-01 /069W TRSE-00

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O 211642Z JAN 92
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2935
INFO SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
JCS WASHDC
USIA WASHDC 6416
USMISSION USNATO 1149
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK

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211646Z /38

Date Printed: 16 Apr 2002

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CHANNEL: n/a HANDLING: n/a

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COMSIXTHFLT
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CNO WASHDC//O6/O9C//
COMFAIRMED NAPLES IT
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AMCONSUL MILAN

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STATE ALSO FOR PUSIA FOR EU, P/G

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

PAGE 02 ROME 01087 02 OF 02 211645Z TAGS: PINR, NATO, PREL, IT SUBJECT: USTICA UPDATE: LATEST THEORIES POINT TO FRENCH INVOLVEMENT IN CRASH; FRENCH ADMIRAL POINTS THE FINGER AT U.S./ITALY

DOWN.

- 5. (U) WHEN ASKED BY "LA REPUBBLICA" ABOUT THE NEW ALLEGATIONS, THE FRENCH EMBASSY IN ROME REFUSED TO COMMENT. THE ARTICLE WONDERED WHY THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT WAS UNWILLING TO SPEAK WHEN THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE HAD OFFERED ITS FULL COOPERATION AND HAD EVEN ALLOWED THE DEPOSTIONS OF AMERICAN CITIZENS IN CONNECTION WITH THE CASE.
- 6. (U) ADMIRAL PIERRE LACOSTE, A FORMER HEAD OF THE FRENCH SECRET SERVICES, WHO AT THE TIME OF THE FRENCH SECRET SERVICES, WHO AT THE TIME OF THE USTICA INCIDENT WAS IN CHARGE OF THE FRENCH FLEET IN THE MEDITERRANEAN, IS REPORTED TO HAVE SAID ON JANUARY 18 THAT "IF ON THE EVENING OF THE USTICA TRAGEDY ANY FRENCH AIRCRAFT WERE INVOLVED, EVEN INDIRECTLY, IN AN AIR DUEL OR SIMPLY IN A TRAGIC ACCIDENT, I WOULD HAVE KNOWN. I PRESUME, BUT IT IS ONLY A THEORY, THAT IF IT WAS A SHOOTING DOWN, IF THERE REALLY WERE AN AIR DUEL, IT HAD TO HAVE INVOLVED U.S. OR ITALIAN PLANES." THE "REPUBBLICA" ARTICLE THEN NOTES THAT THE ADMIRAL'S COMMENT AND THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT'S BEHAVIOR IS A REPLAY OF OFFICIAL FRENCH BEHAVIOR FOLLOWING THE GREENPEACE

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CHANNEL: n/a HANDLING: n/a

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PAGE 03 ROME 01087 02 OF 02 211645Z "RAINBOW WARRIOR" INCIDENT IN NEW ZEALAND.

7. (C) COMMENT:

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8. (C) SOME OF THE RECENTLY REPORTED DEVELOPMENTS INVOLVE A WORKING GROUP ALLEGEDLY FORMED AT THE EMBASSY FOLLOWING THE CRASH. IN ORDER TO PREPARE OURSELVES FOR WHAT WILL INVEVITABLY BE A MORE IN-DEPTH INVOLVEMENT BY THE EMBASSY, WE HAVE ASKED THE DEPARTMENT SEPTEL TO FORWARD THE HISTORICAL FILES ON USTICA TO ROME. SECCHIA

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Date Printed: 16 Apr 2002

DOC NBR: 1992ROME09299

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PAGE 01

ROME 09299 01 OF 02 271724Z

ACTION EUR-01

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TRSE-00 T-01 /068W

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R 271721Z MAY 92
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8228
SECDEF WASHDC
INFO JCS WASHDC
USIA WASHDC 7016
USMISSION USNATO
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
COMSIXTHFLT
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GM//ECPA//ECJ5//

CNO WASHDC//06/09C//

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SECTION 01 OF 02 ROME 09299

STATE ALSO FOR PUSIA FOR EU, P/G

E.O. 12356: N/A



PAGE 02 ROME 09299 01 OF 02 271724Z
TAGS: PINR, NATO, PREL, IT
SUBJECT: USTICA: THE BOMB THEORY RESURFACES; A US
AIRCRAFT FUEL TANK IS RECOVERED FROM THE AREA OF THE
WRECKAGE - A CLUE?

REF: A) ROME 1596 (DTG 290952Z JAN 92) AND PREVIOUS

1. (U) SUMMARY: AFTER A LULL OF SEVERAL MONTHS THE CONTROVERSY SURROUNDING THE MYSTERIOUS DOWNING OF AN ITAVIA AIRLINES DC-9 NEAR THE ISLAND OF USTICA IS ONCE AGAIN IN THE HEADLINES. THE THEORY THAT A BOMB EXPLOSION ON BOARD THE PLANE CAUSED ITS DOWNING,

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE REVIEW AUTHORITY: ERIC W. FLEISHER DATE/CASE ID: 28 OCT 2002 200102359

Jate Printed: 16 Apr 2002

DOC NBR: 1992ROME09299

CHANNEL: n/a HANDLING: n/a 171

RESURFACED IN APRIL AND WAS FOLLOWED IN MAY BY
REPORTS OF THE DISCOVERY OF 15 PIECES OF AN AIRCRAFT
RESERVE FUEL TANK. PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION OF THE
PIECES SUGGEST THAT THEY CAME FROM A U.S. MILITARY
AIRCRAFT. THE ASSOCIATION OF FAMILY MEMBERS OF
VICTIMS OF THE CRASH RECENTLY PUBLISHED A REPORT
CLAIMING THAT THERE IS INCONTROVERTIBLE EVIDENCE
SHOWING THAT THE ITAVIA DC-9 WAS VERY CLOSELY
FOLLOWED BY AN UNIDENTIFIED AIRCRAFT AT THE TIME IT
CRASHED. SOME HAVE LINKED THE DISCOVERY OF THESE
FUEL TANK PIECES TO THAT "UNIDENTIFIED" PLANE AND
CONCLUDED THAT THE ITAVIA JETLINER CRASHED FOLLOWING
A MILITARY INCIDENT. END SUMMARY.

2. (U) AFTER A QUIET SPELL OVER THE PAST FEW MONTHS THE USTICA CASE IS ONCE AGAIN IN THE HEADLINES. THE THEORY THAT A BOMB ABOARD THE PLANE WAS THE CAUSE OF THE DOWNING RESURFACED IN APRIL. ERMANNO BAZZOCHI, AN EXPERT HIRED BY SUPPORTERS OF SOME AIR FORCE

PAGE 03 ROME 09299 01 OF 02 271724Z
OFFICERS BEING INVESTIGATED IN CONNECTION WITH AN
ALLEGED COVERUP OF EVIDENCE IN THE CASE, INSISTS THAT
HIS ANALYSIS SHOWS CONCLUSIVELY THAT THE PLANE
CRASHED AS A RESULT OF AN EXPLOSION ON BOARD. HE
SAID THE TYPE OF DAMAGE SUSTAINED BY THE PLANE WAS
CONSISTENT WITH AN INTERNAL EXPLOSION. BAZZOCHI
CLAIMED THAT WHEN A MISSILE WARHEAD HIT ITS TARGET IT
EXPLODED INTO 1500 FRAGMENTS. HE NOTED THAT NOT A
SINGLE FRAGMENT OF A MISSILE WARHEAD HAD BEEN
RECOVERED SO FAR TO SUPPORT THE THEORY THAT THE PLANE
WAS DOWNED BY A MISSILE.

3. (U) ON MAY 24 A NUMBER OF ITALIAN DAILIES REPORTED THAT THE SALVAGE COMPANY HIRED TO RECOVER THE REMAINS OF THE ITAVIA PLANE HAD FOUND PARTS OF AN AIRCRAFT RESERVE FUEL TANK. ACCORDING TO THE REPORTS, PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION OF THE PARTS SUGGESTED THEY BELONGED TO A U.S. MILITARY AIRCRAFT: 1) THEY WERE MANUFACTURED BY MCDONNELL-DOUGLAS; 2) THE TANK HAD A CAPACITY OF 1200 LITERS AND WAS 3 METERS LONG; 3) THE TANK WAS PAINTED WHITE, AS IS USUAL FOR U.S. NAVY AIRCRAFT. THE PARTS ARE REPORTEDLY OF THE TYPE THAT WAS NORMALLY INSTALLED ABOARD "PHANTOM" JETS, ACCORDING TO THE REPORTS.

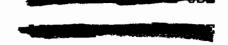
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CHANNEL: n/a HANDLING: n/a

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4. (U) MOST OF THE ARTICLES NOTED THAT INVESTIGATING JUDGE ROSARIO PRIORE HAD IMMEDIATELY ORDERED THAT THE PARTS BE ANALYZED TO SEE HOW LONG THEY HAD BEEN IN THE WATER. SOME REPORTS SPECULATED THAT IF IT COULD BE PROVED THAT THE REMAINS HAD BEEN IN THE OCEAN AS LONG AS THE REMAINS OF THE DC-9, IT WOULD BE PROOF



PAGE 04 ROME 09299 01 OF 02 271724Z
THAT THE PLANE WAS DOWNED AS A RESULT OF AN INCIDENT
INVOLVING A U.S. MILITARY AIRCRAFT. ONE ARTICLE MADE
MUCH OF THE DISCOVERY CLAIMING THAT IT WAS THE FIRST
TIME THAT MATERIAL NOT BELONGING TO THE AIRCRAFT HAD
BEEN RECOVERED FROM THE CRASH SITE. (COMMENT: THIS
OBSERVATION IS NOT CORRECT, HOWEVER, INASMUCH AS LAST
YEAR SEVERAL SUBMARINE TRACKING SONARS WERE RECOVERED
FROM AMIDST THE WRECKAGE.)

5. (U) ACCORDING TO ONE REPORT, THE PARTS HAD BEEN FOUND LAST NOVEMBER, BUT DUE TO BAD WEATHER CONDITIONS WERE NOT RECOVERED UNTIL EARLY MAY.

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ACTION EUR-01

INFO LOG-00 ACDA-15 AID-01 AMAD-01 CIAE-00 CFE-01 C-01 DS-00 HA-09 IMMC-01 H-01 INRE-00 INR-01 TO-19 L-03 ADS-00 NEA-01 NRRC-01 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 OIC-02 PM-01 P-01 SB-01 SCT-03 SNP-01 SP-01 TRSE-00 T-01 /068W

R 271721Z MAY 92
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8229
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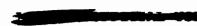
Date Printed: 16 Apr 2002

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CHANNEL: n/a HANDLING: n/a

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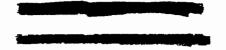
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SECTION 02 OF 02 ROME 09299

STATE ALSO FOR P USIA FOR EU, P/G

E.O. 12356: N/A



PAGE 02 ROME 09299 02 OF 02 271725Z
TAGS: PINR, NATO, PREL, IT
SUBJECT: USTICA: THE BOMB THEORY RESURFACES; A US
AIRCRAFT FUEL TANK IS RECOVERED FROM THE AREA OF THE
WRECKAGE - A CLUE?

SEVERAL ARTICLES LINKED THE DISCOVERY OF THESE PARTS TO A NEW ANALYSIS COMMISSIONED BY THE ASSOCIATION OF FAMILY MEMBERS OF THE VICTIMS OF THE CRASH WHICH CONCLUDED THAT THERE WAS INCONTROVERTIBLE RADAR EVIDENCE INDICATING THAT THERE WAS AN UNIDENTIFIED AIRCRAFT VERY CLOSELY FOLLOWING THE ITAVIA DC-9 AT THE TIME IT CRASHED. THE REMAINS OF A U.S. MILITARY AIRCRAFT FUEL TANK WOULD BE CONCLUSIVE EVIDENCE THAT THE DOWNING WAS THE RESULT OF MILITARY ACTIVITY.

6. (LOU) COMMENT: THE USTICA CASE HAS BEEN OVERSHADOWED LATELY BY A NUMBER OF OTHER ISSUES INCLUDING THE ELECTION OF A NEW PRESIDENT, THE POLITICAL CORRUPTION INVESTIGATIONS, AND THE RECENT ASSASSINATION OF JUDGE FALCONE IN PALERMO.

NONETHELESS IT IS STILL WITH US, AND WILL BE FOR SOME TIME TO COME. JUDGE PRIORE IS SCHEDULED TO COMPLETE HIS FINAL REPORT ON THE CASE BY OCTOBER OF THIS YEAR, ALTHOUGH WE ARE NOT CONFIDENT THAT THE STORY WILL END THERE. POST APPRECIATES THE FORMATION OF THE WORKING GROUP IN WASHINGTON AND IS CONFIDENT THAT OUR JOINT EFFORTS WILL ENSURE A CONSISTENT RESPONSE TO POSSIBLE FURTHER REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION. SECCHIA



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ROME 09299 02 OF 02 271725Z

Date Printed: 16 Apr 2002

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PAGE 01 ROME 14757 141626Z

ACTION EUR-01

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SP-01 SS-01 TRSE-00 T-01 /073W -----55E316 141938Z /38

R 141624Z AUG 92
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1766
SECDEF WASHDC
INFO JCS WASHDC
USIA WASHDC 7316
USMISSION USNATO
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
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CNO WASHDC//06/09C//
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UNCLAS ROME 14757

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STATE ALSO FOR PUSIA FOR EU, P/G

E.O. 12356: N/A TAGS: PINR, NATO, PREL, IT

PAGE 02 ROME 14757 141626Z

SUBJECT: USTICA: APPROVAL TO EXTEND INVESTIGATION

REF ROME 9299 (DTG 271721Z MAY 92)

1. THE ITALIAN COUNCIL OF MINISTERS ISSUED A DECREE ON AUGUST 14 THAT AUTHORIZES A CONTINUATION OF THE USTICA INVESTIGATION UNTIL DECEMBER 23, 1993. THIS EXTENSION HAD BEEN REQUESTED BY MINISTER OF JUSTICE CLAUDIO MARTELLI TO PERMIT THE CONTINUATION OF THE INVESTIGATION BEYOND THE PRESENTLY-AUTHORIZED PERIOD OF THREE YEARS WHICH WOULD HAVE EXPIRED ON OCTOBER

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE REVIEW AUTHORITY: ERIC W. FLEISHER DATE/CASE ID: 28 OCT 2002 200102359

Date Printed: 16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1992ROME14757

CHANNEL: n/a HANDLING: n/a

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23, 1992.

- 2. THE INVESTIGATION FOCUSES ON THE CAUSE OF A CRASH IN 1980 OF AN ITAVIA DC-9 IN THE MEDITERRINEAN SEA NEAR THE ISLAND OF USTICA, NORTH OF SICILY. AS IS CUSTOMARY IN ITALY, A MAGISTRATE WAS APPOINTED TO INVESTIGATE THE MATTER. THE CAUSE OF THE CRASH WAS NEVER DETERMINED ALTHOUGH THERE HAS BEEN SPECULATION THAT IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN SHOT DOWN BY A LIBYAN MIG, THAT THERE WAS A BOMB ABOARD, OR THAT IT WAS MISTAKENLY FIRED UPON AS AN LIBYAN AIRCRAFT BY A FRENCH OR U.S. MISSILE.
- 3. IN OCTOBER 1988, ITALIAN PRIME MINISTER DE MITA NAMED A FORMAL COMMISSION TO LOOK INTO THE INCIDENT IN ADDITION TO THE ON-GOING INQUIRY OF THE MAGISTRATE. THE CONTROVERSY HAS SIMMERED FOR YEARS. BOTH THE TRAGEDY AND THE FAILURE TO DETERMINE THE CAUSE OF THE INCIDENT HAVE BEEN A MATTER OF ENORMOUS PUBLIC INTEREST IN ITALY FOR THE LAST TWELVE YEARS.

PAGE 03 ROME 14757 141626Z
THE ITALIAN MEDIA REPORTS EVERY NEW DEVELOPMENT ABOUT
THIS EMOTIONALLY-CHARGED ISSUE. WE EXPECT THAT THE
INVESTIGATION WILL CONTINUE TO GENERATE CONSIDERABLE
PUBLIC INTEREST IN THE ISSUE. SERWER

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Date Printed: 16 Apr 2002

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ACTION EUR-01

INFO LOG-00 ACDA-17 AID-01 AMAD-01 CIAE-00 CFE-00 C-01 HA-09 H-01 IMMC-01 INRE-00 INR-01 IO-19 L-03ADS-00 NEA-01 NRRC-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PM-02 PRS-01 P-01 SB-00 SCT-03 SNP-00 PA-01

SS-00 TRSE-00 T-01 /068W SP-00

-----72A132 261922Z /38

R 261921Z OCT 92 FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4592

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO JOINT STAFF WASHDC

USIA WASHDC 7594

USMISSION USNATO

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK

COMSIXTHFLT

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GM//ECPA//ECJ5//

CNO WASHDC//06/09C//

COMFAIRMED NAPLES IT

USNMR SHAPE BE

SECTION 01 OF 02 ROME 19313

STATE ALSO FOR P USIA FOR EU, P/G

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR

TAGS: PINR, NATO, PREL, IT

PAGE 02 ROME 19313 01 OF 02 261921Z SUBJECT: USTICA: MOD ANDO' SUGGESTS FURTHER INFORMATION FORTHCOMING FROM U.S. SOURCES

REF(S): (A)ROME 19270 (B) ROME 18989 (C) ROME 18907 AND PREVIOUS

(U) SUMMARY. ACCORDING TO THE ITALIAN PRESS OCTOBER 26, MOD SALVO ANDO' SAID "THE U.S. HAS SOMETHING TO SAY" ABOUT THE USTICA TRAGEDY. SPEAKING IN EGYPT SHORTLY BEFORE RETURNING TO ITALY TO MEET SECDEF CHENEY OCTOBER 25, ANDO' IS REPORTED TO HAVE

EXTEND CLASSIFICATION

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE REVIEW AUTHORITY: ERIC W. FLEISHER DATE/CASE ID: 28 OCT 2002 200102359

CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL REASON: 1.6(6) UNCLASSIFIED

Date Printed: 16 Apr 2002

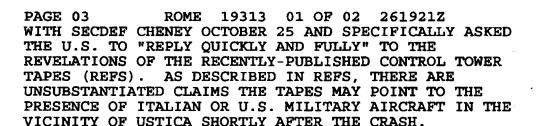
DOC NBR: 1992ROME19313

CHANNEL: n/a HANDLING: n/a

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SAID THAT THE U.S. "MUST RESPOND" TO INFORMATION CONTAINED IN RECENTLY-REVEALED TAPE RECORDINGS MADE SHORTLY AFTER THE USTICA INCIDENT (REFS). ALTHOUGH PRESS REPORTS OCTOBER 26 SAID SECDEF CHENEY'S MEETING WITH ANDO' WAS "CORDIAL AND FRIENDLY," THE TONE OF MEDIA COVERAGE WAS SOMEWHAT ACCUSATORY. SECDEF CHENEY SAID THE U.S. HAD ALWAYS BEEN COOPERATIVE WITH ITALY AND HE PROMISED ANDO' THAT THE U.S. WOULD CONTINUE TO COOPERATE FULLY WITH THE ITALIAN AUTHORITIES INVESTIGATING THE CAUSE OF THE USTICA CRASH. END SUMMARY.

2. (C) ITALIAN NEWSPAPERS WIDELY REPORTED OCTOBER 26 THAT, ONLY HOURS BEFORE MEETING U.S. SECDEF CHENEY IN ROME, ITALIAN MOD SALVO ANDO' SAID, "I THINK THE U.S. GOVERNMENT HAS SOMETHING TO SAY AND TO GIVE TO OUR INVESTIGATORS REGARDING THE USTICA AFFAIR. IT APPEARS TO ME THAT THIS IS SO, JUDGING FROM THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN THE INVESTIGATION." ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, ANDO' RAISED THE SUBJECT OF USTICA



- 3. (U) LEADING CENTRIST DAILY "CORRIERE DELLA SERA" OCTOBER 26 SAID ANDO' IS NOT ASKING THE U.S. TO FURNISH A "GLOBAL RECONSTRUCTION OF THE EVENT," BUT ONLY TO PROVIDE SPECIFIC RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS THAT ITALIAN INVESTIGATORS MAY ASK. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, ANDO' NOTED THAT SECDEF CHENEY WILLINGLY PROMISED "TO FURNISH A PROMPT REPLY TO ALL THE QUESTIONS THAT ARE POSED BY THE ITALIAN INVESTIGATING JUDGES." ASKED WHETHER HE THOUGHT THE U.S. WOULD COMPLY WITH ITALY'S REQUESTS, ANDO' SAID, "I BELIEVE THE AMERICANS WANT TO COOPERATE."
- 4. (U) ROME'S CENTRIST DAILY "IL MESSAGGERO"
 OCTOBER 26 REMINDED READERS THAT THE INVESTIGATING
 MAGISTRATE (JUDGE PRIORE) RECENTLY DISCOVERED THAT
 "THE AMERICANS SECRETLY FORMED AN INVESTIGATING GROUP

Date Printed: 16 Apr 2002

DOC NBR: 1992ROME19313

CHANNEL: n/a HANDLING: n/a 178

AT THE AMERICAN EMBASSY COMPOSED OF HIGH OFFICIALS OF THE U.S. AIR FORCE, CIA, MARINES AND NAVY." ARTICLE SAID THAT "THIS SPECIAL TEAM INCLUDED DUANE CLARIDGE, DIRECTOR OF THE ROME OFFICE OF THE AMERICAN SECRET SERVICE, WHO WAS CLOSELY COORDINATING WITH ZENO TASCIO (THEN HEAD OF SIOS)." THE HEADLINE OF THE ARTICLE WAS STRONG: "THE U.S. MUST RESPOND TO

PAGE 04 ROME 19313 01 OF 02 261921Z ANDO."

IN A MORE STRIDENT TONE, "L'UNITA" (PARTY OF 5. (U) THE DEMOCRATIC LEFT-SUPPORTED DAILY) OCTOBER 26 SAID MOD ANDO' HAD MADE A "DRAMATIC TURNABOUT" BY "IMPLICITLY ADMITTING THAT THE FAMILIES OF THE VICTIMS HAVE HAD TWELVE YEARS OF MISERABLE LIES: FOR TWELVE YEARS, THE ITALIAN AND AMERICAN GOVERNMENTS HAVE CLAIMED TO HAVE KNOWN NOTHING, HEARD NOTHING, AND SEEN NOTHING." THE ARTICLE IN "L'UNITA" REPORTED THAT THE U.S. "KNEW THEN AND KNOWS NOW" WHAT CAUSED THE USTICA CRASH. THE NEWSPAPER'S HEADLINE OCTOBER

NNNN

PAGE 01 ROME 19313 02 OF 02 261922Z ACTION EUR-01

INFO LOG-00 ACDA-17 AID-01 AMAD-01 CIAE-00 CFE-00 C-01 HA-09 H-01 IMMC-01 INRE-00 INR-01 IO-19 L-03ADS-00 NEA-01 NRRC-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-02 PRS-01 P-01 SB-00 SCT-03 SNP-00 /068W SP-00 SS-00 TRSE-00 T-01

----72A136

R 261921Z OCT 92 FM AMEMBASSY ROME TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4593 SECDEF WASHDC INFO JOINT STAFF WASHDC USIA WASHDC 7595 USMISSION USNATO CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK COMSIXTHFLT USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GM//ECPA//ECJ5//

Page - 856

261922Z /38

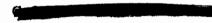
Date Printed: 16 Apr 2002

DOC NBR: 1992ROME19313

CHANNEL: n/a HANDLING: n/a

178

CNO WASHDC//06/09C// COMFAIRMED NAPLES IT USNMR SHAPE BE



■ SECTION 02 OF 02 ROME 19313

STATE ALSO FOR PUSIA FOR EU, P/G

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR TAGS: PINR, NATO, PREL, IT



PAGE 02 ROME 19313 02 OF 02 261922Z SUBJECT: USTICA: MOD ANDO' SUGGESTS FURTHER INFORMATION FORTHCOMING FROM U.S. SOURCES

26 SAID: "THE AMERICANS KNOW -- ANDO' ASKS FOR THE TRUTH ABOUT USTICA."

6. (C) COMMENT. THE JOINT PRESS STATEMENT ISSUED OCTOBER 26 FOLLOWING THE ANDO'/CHENEY MEETING PUTS A MORE POSITIVE SPIN ON THE ISSUE AND FOCUSES ON CONTINUED U.S. WILLINGNESS TO BE OF ASSISTANCE TO THE

INVESTIGATION.

B1

SECCHIA

CONTRACTOR

NNNN

271804Z

Date Printed: 16 Apr 2002

DOC NBR: 1992ROME19410

19410

CHANNEL: nRELEA

HANDLING: B1, 1.5(D)

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ROME

PAGE 01 ACTION EUR-01

LOG-00 AID-01 CIAE-00 CFE-00 C-01 INFO ACDA-17 AMAD-01 INR-01 IO-19 L - 03HA-09 IMMC-01 INRE-00 H-01 OIC-02 ADS-00 NEA-01 NRRC-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 OMB-01 SB-00 SCT-03 SDEL-00 PA-01 PM-02 PRS-01 P-01 /068W

01 OF 03

SNP-00 T-01 SP-00 TRSE-00 SS-00 -----731565 271805Z /38

O 271803Z OCT 92 FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4651

SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO JOINT STAFF WASHDC

DEPT JUSTICE WASHDC

USIA WASHDC 7606

USMISSION USNATO

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK

COMSIXTHFLT

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GM//ECPA//ECJ5//

CNO WASHDC//06/09C//

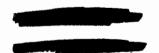
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SECTION 01 OF 03 ROME 19410

STATE ALSO FOR P USIA FOR EU, P/G DOJ FOR CRIM DIV/OIA L. BARSELLA

EXTEND CLASSIFICATION



PAGE 02 ROME 19410 01 OF 03 271804Z

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR

TAGS: PINR, NATO, PREL, IT

SUBJECT: USTICA: AMBASSADOR SECCHIA RESPONDS TO

ITALIAN PRESS REPORTS

REF(S): (A) ROME 19313 (B) ROME 19270 (C) ROME

18989 AND PREVIOUS

SUMMARY. AMBASSADOR SECCHIA ISSUED A PRESS STATEMENT IN RESPONSE TO RECENT ITALIAN PRESS REPORTS OCTOBER 26 SUGGESTING A LESS THAN FORTHCOMING U.S.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE REVIEW AUTHORITY: ERIC W. FLEISHER DATE/CASE ID: 28 OCT 2002 200102359

CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL REASON: 1.6(6)[JNCLASSIFIED]

Date Printed: 16 Apr 2002

DOC NBR: 1992ROME19410

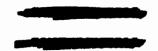
CHANNEL: n/a HANDLING: n/a

179

ATTITUDE ON ASSISTANCE TO THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT'S USTICA INVESTIGATION (REFS). THE STATEMENT SAID THE U.S. HAS COOPERATED FULLY WITH THE ITALIAN AUTHORITIES AND HAS ALWAYS RESPONDED PROMPTLY TO ALL REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THE USTICA TRAGEDY. THE AMBASSADOR'S STATEMENT WAS REPORTED PROMINENTLY AND WIDELY IN THE MEDIA OCTOBER 27. SOME NEWSPAPERS, HOWEVER, CONTINUE TO HIGHLIGHT ITALIAN MOD SALVO ANDO'S SUGGESTION THAT THERE MAY BE "MORE TO LEARN" FROM THE U.S. ABOUT USTICA. END SUMMARY.

2. (U) IN RESPONSE TO ITALIAN PRESS REPORTS OCTOBER 26 IMPLYING THAT THE U.S. MAY HAVE SOMETHING TO ADD TO THE INVESTIGATION OF THE JUNE 1980 CRASH OF AN ITALIAN COMMERCIAL AIRLINER NEAR THE ISLAND OF USTICA (REF A), AMBASSADOR SECCHIA ISSUED THE FOLLOWING PRESS STATEMENT OCTOBER 26:

(BEGIN STATEMENT)



PAGE 03 ROME 19410 01 OF 03 271804Z
--THE U.S. GOVERNMENT CONSISTENTLY HAS RESPONDED TO
ALL ITALIAN GOVERNMENT AND JUDICIAL REQUESTS FOR
INFORMATION ON THE USTICA INVESTIGATION OVER A PERIOD
OF YEARS. IT IS PATENTLY INCORRECT FOR THE PRESS TO
CLAIM THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS RESPONDED WITH A "NO
COMMENT."

--WITH OUR CLOSE ITALIAN ALLIES WE HAVE ALWAYS RESPONDED FACTUALLY AND THOROUGHLY, SPENDING THOUSANDS OF MAN-HOURS SEARCHING FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION. DURING MY THREE AND ONE HALF YEARS IN ROME, THE UNITED STATES HAS RESPONDED CLEARLY AND THOROUGHLY TO REQUESTS FROM THE ITALIAN AUTHORITIES. NOT ONCE HAS ANY INFORMATION COME TO LIGHT THAT WOULD SUGGEST U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN THIS TRAGEDY.

--AS SECRETARY CHENEY CONFIRMED ON SUNDAY, THE UNITED STATES IS PREPARED TO RESPOND TO REQUESTS BY ITALIAN AUTHORITIES IN A TIMELY MANNER BY PROVIDING ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WHICH EMERGES. I FIND IT UNFORTUNATE THAT ANYONE WOULD SUGGEST THROUGH RUMOR OR INNUENDO THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN ANYTHING BUT FORTHCOMING ON THIS ISSUE WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF ITALY.

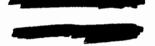
Date Printed: 16 Apr 2002

DOC NBR: 1992ROME19410

CHANNEL: n/a HANDLING: n/a 179

(END STATEMENT)

3. (U) ALL MAJOR ITALIAN NEWSPAPERS CARRIED FOLLOW-UP STORIES ON USTICA OCTOBER 27. THE AMBASSADOR'S STATEMENT WAS REPRINTED IN FULL BY ROME'S CENTRIST DAILY "IL MESSAGGERO." THE ARTICLE'S



PAGE 04 ROME 19410 01 OF 03 271804Z HEADLINE READ: "WE HAVE TOLD EVERYTHING ABOUT USTICA. AMBASSADOR SECCHIA: 'THE U.S. HAS ALWAYS COOPERATED.'" PRESENTING (IN OUR VIEW) THE MOST BALANCED AND ACCURATE REPORTING ON THIS ISSUE, "IL MESSAGGERO" GAVE PROMINENCE TO AMBASSADOR SECCHIA'S STATEMENT AND THE INVESTIGATING ITALIAN MAGISTRATE'S CONVICTION THAT "THE COLLABORATION FURNISHED UNTIL NOW BY THE AMERICAN AUTHORITIES HAS BEEN VERY SOUND." THE NEWSPAPER NOTED THAT OTHER COUNTRIES HAVE NOT COOPERATED AS WELL AS THE U.S. ACCORDING TO "IL MESSAGGERO," JUDGE PRIORE SAID, "WE HAVE SENT 26 SEPARATE REQUESTS THROUGH JUDICIAL CHANNELS FOR

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ACTION EUR-01

INFO LOG-00 ACDA-17 CFE-00 C-01 AID-01 AMAD-01 CIAE-00 HA-09 H-01 IMMC-01 INRE-00 INR-01 10-19 L-03OIC-02 ADS-00 NEA-01 NRRC-00 NSCE-00 OMB-01 NSAE-00 PA-01 PM-02 PRS-01 SB-00 SCT-03 SDEL-00 P-01 SNP-00 SP-00 SS-00 TRSE-00 T-01 /068W ----731582 271806Z /38

O 271803Z OCT 92
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4652
SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
INFO JOINT STAFF WASHDC
DEPT JUSTICE WASHDC
USIA WASHDC 7607
USMISSION USNATO
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK

Date Printed: 16 Apr 2002

DOC NBR: 1992ROME19410

CHANNEL: n/a HANDLING: n/a 179

COMSIXTHFLT
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GM//ECPA//ECJ5//
CNO WASHDC//06/09C//
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SECTION 02 OF 03 ROME 19410

STATE ALSO FOR P USIA FOR EU, P/G DOJ FOR CRIM DIV/OIA L. BARSELLA

PAGE 02 ROME 19410 02 OF 03 271806Z E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR TAGS: PINR, NATO, PREL, IT SUBJECT: USTICA: AMBASSADOR SECCHIA RESPONDS TO ITALIAN PRESS REPORTS

INFORMATION TO THE UNITED STATES, FOR THE GREATER NUMBER OF WHICH WE HAVE ALREADY RECEIVED A RESPONSE. HOWEVER, THERE ARE OTHER COUNTRIES THAT HAVE NEVER RESPONDED TO OUR FORMAL INQUIRIES." THE ARTICLE REPORTED THAT MANY OF THE MOST IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS OF THE USTICA INVESTIGATION WERE THE DIRECT RESULT OF U.S. COOPERATION.

- 4. (U) OFFICIAL SOCIALIST PARTY (PSI) DAILY
 "AVANTI|" OCTOBER 27 ALSO QUOTED AMBASSADOR SECCHIA'S
 PRESS STATEMENT IN FULL UNDER THE HEADLINE "SECCHIA
 INSISTS: NO AMERICAN INVOLVEMENT." ACCORDING TO
 "AVANTI|," INVESTIGATING MAGISTRATE PRIORE HAS JUDGED
 U.S. COOPERATION IN THE USTICA INQUIRY AS
 "INDISPENSABLE."
- 5. (C) ALONG SIMILAR LINES, "L'UNITA" (PARTY OF THE DEMOCRATIC LEFT-SUPPORTED DAILY) OCTOBER 27 REPORTED THAT AMBASSADOR SECCHIA SAID, "THE U.S. HAS NO RESPONSIBILITY" FOR THE USTICA CRASH. THE NEWSPAPER REPRINTED MUCH OF AMBASSADOR SECCHIA'S PRESS STATEMENT BUT ALSO NOTED SOME OF THE UNSUBSTANTIATED ALLEGATIONS STILL CIRCULATING IN THE ITALIAN PRESS (REFS). "L'UNITA" DESCRIBED HOW, ACCORDING TO ONE OF THE ITALIAN LAWYERS REPRESENTING FAMILIES OF USTICA CRASH VICTIMS, THE INVESTIGATION WAS PASSING FROM A

Date Printed: 16 Apr 2002

DOC NBR: 1992ROME19410

CHANNEL: n/a HANDLING: n/a

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"BUREAUCRATIC" TO A "POLITICAL" INQUIRY. ACCORDING
TO "L'UNITA" PM GIULIO AMATO WAS "PERSONALLY
INTERESTED" IN THE USTICA AFFAIR AND THIS FACT WAS
DRIVING THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT'S FOCUS ON THE ISSUE.
(COMMENT: SOME COMMENTATORS HAVE NOTED THAT AMATO,
AS A SOCIALIST, MAY BE CONCERNED THAT THE
SOCIALIST-SUPPORTED AIRLINE "ITAVIA," WHOSE PLANE

SOCIALIST-SUPPORTED AIRLINE "ITAVIA," WHOSE PLANE CRASHED NEAR USTICA, MAY BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR HUGE MONETARY AWARDS TO THE FAMILIES OF USTICA CRASH VICTIMS IF THE AIRLINE IS HELD LIABLE FOR THE CRASH.)

(C) BOTH LEADING CENTRIST DAILY "CORRIERE DELLA SERA" AND "L'UNITA" PUBLISHED INTERVIEWS OCTOBER 27 WITH MOD ANDO' ABOUT THE USTICA AFFAIR AND SECDEF CHENEY'S OFFER TO CONTINUE FULL U.S. COOPERATION WITH ITALIAN AUTHORITIES (REF B). "CORRIERE" NOTED THAT PM AMATO EXPRESSED FULL SUPPORT FOR ANDO'S STRONG APPROACH TO THE U.S. "EVEN IF THAT POLICY RISKED A DIRECT CONFRONTATION WITH THE "GREAT ALLY" OVER THE FATE OF THE ITAVIA AIRLINER AND THE 81 PASSENGERS" WHO DIED DURING THE CRASH. WHILE ACKNOWLEDGING THAT THE U.S. HAS FULLY COOPERATED WITH THE USTICA INVESTIGATION, BOTH ARTICLES LEFT THE IMPRESSION THAT THE U.S. HAD WITHHELD OR DELAYED FURNISHING INFORMATION VITAL TO USTICA INVESTIGATORS. ACCORDING TO "L'UNITA," MOD ANDO' SAID, "THIS NEW PHASE OF RESEARCH WILL BEGIN AFTER THE ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN NOW RUNNING IN THE U.S. THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT IS INTERESTED IN THE TRUTH AND SO IS THE INVESTIGATING MAGISTRATE. WE HAVE MADE A STRONG REQUEST TO THE UNITED STATES." THE ARTICLE IN "CORRIERE DELLA SERA"

PAGE 04 ROME 19410 02 OF 03 271806Z
NOTED THAT ANDO' ASKED SECDEF CHENEY TWICE "TO
EXPLAIN THE USTICA TRAGEDY." ACCORDING TO THE
ARTICLE, ANDO' THINKS THAT THE U.S. HAS INFORMATION,
UNKNOWN OR WITHHELD UNTIL NOW, THAT IS CRITICAL TO
THE USTICA INVESTIGATION.

7. (C) COMMENT. ON THE HEELS OF SECDEF CHENEY'S VISIT TO ROME, THE AMBASSADOR'S STATEMENT HAS SERVED TO MAKE CLEAR THAT THE U.S. CONTINUES TO COOPERATE

Date Printed: 16 Apr 2002

CHANNEL: n/a HANDLING: n/a

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FULLY, AS IT ALWAYS HAS DONE, WITH BOTH THE JUDICIAL INVESTIGATION, AND TO REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS. IF THE ISSUE ARISES DURING HIS APPEARANCE ON AN OCTOBER 27 TELEVISION TALK SHOW, THE AMBASSADOR WILL STRESS THESE POINTS.

DOC NBR: 1992ROME19410

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INFO LOG-00 ACDA-17 AID-01 AMAD-01 CIAE-00 CFE-00 C-01 HA-09 H-01 IMMC-01 INRE-00 INR-01 **IO-19** L-03 ADS-00 NEA-01 NRRC-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-02 PRS-01 P-01 SB-00 SCT-03 SDEL-00 SNP-00 SP-00 SS-00 TRSE-00 T-01 /068W

O 271803Z OCT 92 FM AMEMBASSY ROME

FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4653
SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
INFO JOINT STAFF WASHDC
DEPT JUSTICE WASHDC
USIA WASHDC 7608
USMISSION USNATO

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK

COMSIXTHFLT USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GM//ECPA//ECJ5//

CNO WASHDC//06/09C//

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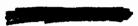
SECTION 03 OF 03 ROME 19410

STATE ALSO FOR P USIA FOR EU, P/G DOJ FOR CRIM DIV/OIA L. BARSELLA

PAGE 02 ROME 19410 03 OF 03 2718062

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR

TAGS: PINR, NATO, PREL, IT



Date Printed: 16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1992ROME19410

CHANNEL: n/a HANDLING: n/a

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SUBJECT: USTICA: AMBASSADOR SECCHIA RESPONDS TO ITALIAN PRESS REPORTS

8. IN ADDITION TO THE AMBASSADOR'S PRESS STATEMENT, WE CONTINUE TO MAKE KNOWN THROUGH OTHER CHANNELS OUR DISPLEASURE WITH SUGGESTIONS THAT THE U.S. HAS NOT BEEN COOPERATIVE OR HAS CHANGED FROM A POLICY OF HOLDING BACK INFORMATION, AND ONLY NOW IS WILLING TO

PROVIDE THE FULL STORY. I

B1

EMBASSY HOPES THAT ALL OUTSTANDING REQUESTS TO USG FROM JUDGE PRIORE THROUGH JUDICIAL CHANNELS ARE BEING EXPEDITED, AS IT WILL BE IMPORTANT TO LIVE UP TO WHAT WAS SAID IN THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE AFTER THE SECDEF/MOD MEETING OCTOBER 25 -- THAT WE ARE REACTING TO ITALIAN REQUESTS FULLY AND IN A TIMELY MANNER.

SECCHIA

PAGE 03

ROME 19410 03 OF 03 271806Z

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Date Printed: 16 Apr 2002

DOC NBR: 1992ROME19492

CHANNEL: nRELEASED

HANDLING: n/a

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ROME 19492 01 OF 03 281759Z PAGE 01

ACTION EUR-01

LOG-00 ACDA-17 AID-01 AMAD-01 CIAE-00 CFE-00 C-01 HA-09 H-01 IMMC-01 INRE-00 INR-01 IO-19 L - 03ADS-00-NEA-01 NRRC-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 OIC-02 OMB - 01 PA-01 PM-02 PRS-01 P-01 SB-00 SCT-03 SNP-00

SP-00 SS-00 TRSE-00 T-01 /068W

-----739776 281840Z /38

O 281757Z OCT 92 FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4716

SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO JOINT STAFF WASHDC

DEPT JUSTICE WASHDC

USIA WASHDC 7610

USMISSION USNATO

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK

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USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE//ECPA//ECJ5//

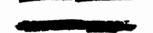
CNO WASHDC//06/09C//

COMFAIRMED NAPLES IT

USNMR SHAPE BE

SECTION 01 OF 03 ROME 19492

STATE ALSO FOR P USIA FOR EU, P/G DOJ FOR CRIM DIV/OIA L. BARSELLA



PAGE 02 ROME 19492 01 OF 03 281759Z E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR

TAGS: PINR, NATO, PREL, IT SUBJECT: USTICA: AMBASSADOR DISCUSSES U.S. ASSISTANCE

TO ITALIAN INVESTIGATION; JUSTICE MINISTER MARTELLI'S COMMENTS

REF(S): (A) ROME 19410 (B) ROME 19313 (C) ROME 19270 AND PREVIOUS

(U) SUMMARY. DURING AN OCTOBER 27 APPEARANCE ON ITALIAN TV, THE AMBASSADOR DISCUSSED THE USTICA

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE REVIEW AUTHORITY: ERIC W. FLEISHER DATE/CASE ID: 28 OCT 2002 200102359

UNCLASSIFIED

Date Printed: 16 Apr 2002

DOC NBR: 1992ROME19492

CHANNEL: n/a HANDLING: n/a

180

AFFAIR AND DESCRIBED U.S. RESPONSIVENESS TO INQUIRIES BY ITALIAN INVESTIGATORS. RESPONDING TO RECENT PRESS REPORTS IMPLYING THAT THE U.S. MAY HAVE MORE INFORMATION TO SHARE WITH ITALY ABOUT THE CAUSE OF THE JUNE 1980 CRASH OF AN ITALIAN COMMERCIAL AIRLINER NEAR THE ISLAND OF USTICA, THE AMBASSADOR EXPLAINED THAT THE U.S. HAS FULLY RESPONDED TO EACH INQUIRY AND HAS ALWAYS DONE SO IN A TIMELY MANNER. ROME'S CENTRIST DAILY "IL MESSAGGERO" OCTOBER 28 REPORTED THAT JUSTICE MINISTER CLAUDIO MARTELLI SAID, "THE U.S. HAS ONLY FULLY COOPERATED SINCE AUGUST." LAWYERS FOR THE FAMILIES OF USTICA VICTIMS HAVE CALLED UPON PRESIDENT OSCAR LUIGI SCALFARO TO INTERVENE PERSONALLY IN THE INVESTIGATION. END SUMMARY.

2. (U) THE AMBASSADOR APPEARED ON OCTOBER 27 ON THE POPULAR "MAURIZIO COSTANZO" CHANNEL FIVE TELEVISION TALK SHOW, IN THE COURSE OF WHICH HE DISCUSSED THE USTICA CASE. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION ABOUT WHAT

PAGE 03 ROME 19492 01 OF 03 281759Z ITALIAN MINISTER OF DEFENSE ANDO' HAD REPORTEDLY SAID TO THE PRESS PRIOR TO THE OCTOBER 25 MOD/SECDEF CHENEY MEETING -- THAT THE "U.S. KNOWS SOMETHING AND WILL HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY SOON, "-- THE AMBASSADOR SAID THAT HE HAD NEVER HEARD THIS FROM THE MINISTER. HE AFFIRMED THAT THE UNITED STATES HAD ANSWERED EVERY QUESTION PUT TO IT BY ITALIAN GOVERNMENT AND JUDICIAL AUTHORITIES. HE INDICATED THAT THERE WERE 26 REQUESTS FROM ITALIAN JUDICIAL AUTHORITIES, THE SUBSTANCE OF WHICH MAY NOT BE KNOWN TO THE EXECUTIVE OF THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT. SIMILARLY, THE JUDGES MAY NOT BE AWARE OF WHAT WAS SAID IN OFFICIAL, DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS THROUGH THE ITALIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON. THEREFORE, IT WAS POSSIBLE THAT INFORMATION WAS BEING EXCHANGED THAT ALL WERE NOT AWARE OF, THEREBY CAUSING CONFUSION.

3. (U) THE AMBASSADOR EXPLAINED THAT ON THE USTICA ISSUE, QUESTIONS WERE ASKED OF THE USG IN REQUESTS THAT WERE MANY PAGES LONG, AND THEN WERE ASKED AGAIN IN A SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT WAY. THEREFORE, IT WAS NOT ALWAYS EASY TO ANSWER, BECAUSE WE WANTED TO BE CLEAR AND UNEQUIVOCAL. THAT SAID, THE U.S. CONFIRMED AS EARLY AS 1988 IN DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS THAT OUR

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DOC NBR: 1992ROME19492

CHANNEL: n/a HANDLING: n/a 180

AIRCRAFT CARRIER WAS IN PORT, THAT OUR COMBAT AIRCRAFT WERE NOT FLYING, AND THAT WE "KEEP A CLOSE WATCH ON OUR MISSILES." HE REAFFIRMED THAT FULL COOPERATION HAD BEEN EXTENDED TO THE GOI BY THE USG.

THE AMBASSADOR INDICATED THAT HE PERSONALLY (U) WAS OFFENDED AND HURT WHEN THE HONESTY OF THE USG WAS

PAGE 04 ROME 19492 01 OF 03 281759Z QUESTIONED IN THE PRESS. THE U.S. HE SAID, ADMITS ITS MISTAKES AND HAS BEEN HONEST. WE HAVE NOT CHANGED OUR STORY AND WILL CONTINUE TO PROVIDE INFORMATION. TURNING TO PRESS COVERAGE, THE AMBASSADOR SAID THAT WHEN JOURNALISTS -- LIKE THE "CORRIERE DELLA SERA" WRITER (PURGATORI) -- WRITE ABOUT USTICA AND CLAIM THAT THE MOD SAYS THAT THE U.S. "HAD SOMETHING TO SAY," IT SHOULD ALSO BE POINTED OUT THAT THE JOURNALIST HAD MADE A FILM ABOUT THE USTICA TRAGEDY -- "MURO DI GOMMA" (WALL OF RUBBER) -- AND THAT FOR EACH PAID TICKET, THE

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PAGE 01 ROME 19492 02 OF 03 281800Z

ACTION EUR-01

INFO LOG-00 ACDA-17 AID-01 AMAD-01 CIAE-00 CFE-00 C-01 HA-09 H-01 IMMC-01 INRE-00 INR-01 IO-19 L - 03NSCE-00 OIC-02 ADS-00 NEA-01 NRRC-00 NSAE-00 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-02 PRS-01 P-01 SB-00 SCT-03 SNP-00 SP-00 SS-00 TRSE-00 T-01 /068W

O 281757Z OCT 92 FM AMEMBASSY ROME TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4717 SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY INFO JOINT STAFF WASHDC DEPT JUSTICE WASHDC USIA WASHDC 7611 USMISSION USNATO CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK COMSIXTHFLT

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Date Printed: 16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1992ROME19492

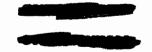
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CNO WASHDC//06/09C//
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SECTION 02 OF 03 ROME 19492

STATE ALSO FOR P USIA FOR EU, P/G DOJ FOR CRIM DIV/OIA L. BARSELLA



PAGE 02 ROME 19492 02 OF 03 281800Z E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR TAGS: PINR, NATO, PREL, IT SUBJECT: USTICA: AMBASSADOR DISCUSSES U.S. ASSISTANCE TO ITALIAN INVESTIGATION; JUSTICE MINISTER MARTELLI'S COMMENTS

JOURNALIST HAD A COUPLE MORE DOLLARS IN HIS POCKET. THE AMBASSADOR INDICATED THAT EVEN THE MOD DIPLOMATIC ADVISOR, ARAGONA, HAD CLARIFIED TO HIM PERSONALLY THAT THE MOD HAD NOT MADE THESE STATEMENTS.

- (U) RISING TO THE DEFENSE OF THE JOURNALIST, "CORRIERE'S" TV CRITIC GIULIANO ZUCCONI AS WELL AS HOST COSTANZO AND ANOTHER GUEST, TALK SHOW HOST GIULIANO FERRARA, DEFENDED PURGATORI AS A TRUTHFUL, PROFESSIONAL JOURNALIST WHO WOULD NOT LIE. FERRARA ADDED THAT THE USTICA AFFAIR HAD BECOME SO FUZZY AND COMPLICATED THAT IT WAS DIFFICULT TO DETERMINE WHAT EXACTLY WAS THE TRUTH. THE AMBASSADOR INDICATED THAT RECENTLY THE PRESS HAD TALKED ABOUT A TAPE RECORDING AT A FLIGHT CONTROL CENTER IN GROSSETTO AS EVIDENCE OF U.S. INVOLVEMENT. THE USG DID NOT HAVE THE TAPE OR KNOW WHO WAS SPEAKING, SO IT COULD HARDLY EXPLAIN THE TAPE'S MEANING. THESE WERE THE SORTS OF STORIES EXAGGERATED BY JOURNALISTS. THE AMBASSADOR NOTED THAT HE HAD BEEN PRESENT AT THE MOD/SECDEF MEETING. THEY HAD HAD A FRIENDLY CONVERSATION ON THE SUBJECT.
- 6. (U) ROME'S CENTRIST DAILY "IL MESSAGGERO" OCTOBER 28 REPORTED THAT JUSTICE MINISTER CLAUDIO MARTELLI (FROM NEW YORK), RESPONDING TO THE

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CHANNEL: n/a HANDLING: n/a

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ROME 19492 02 OF 03 PAGE 03 281800Z AMBASSADOR'S PRESS STATEMENT OCTOBER 26 (REF C) ON U.S. RESPONSIVENESS ON USTICA, SAID THAT IT WAS ONLY AT THE END OF AUGUST THAT ITALY WAS ABLE TO OBTAIN FULL U.S. COOPERATION FOR ITALIAN USTICA INVESTIGATORS. ACCORDING TO "IL MESSAGGERO," MARTELLI SAID, "IN THE COURSE OF THE LAST VISIT I MADE (TO THE U.S.) WITH THE AMERICAN MINISTER OF JUSTICE (READ: U.S. ATTORNEY GENERAL) AND THE DIRECTOR OF THE FBI AT THE END OF AUGUST, WE WERE ABLE TO OBTAIN FULL COOPERATION. I HAD JUST MET JUDGE PRIORE AND HE HAD PAINTED A PICTURE OF THE INVESTIGATIONS AND OF THE LIMITS HE HAD ENCOUNTERED, A CERTAIN NEUTRALITY, EVEN SILENCE, ON THE PART OF HIS INTERLOCUTORS. FROM THAT TIME (AT THE END OF AUGUST), IT APPEARED TO ME THAT A LOT OF INFORMATION FLOWED AND WE NOTED A WILLINGNESS ON THE AMERICANS' PART THAT ALLOWED US TO MOVE FORWARD." ACCORDING TO "IL MESSAGGERO, " MARTELLI SAW HIS ROLE IN THE USTICA AFFAIR AS SOLELY "DIPLOMATIC." THE NEWSPAPER ALSO REPORTED THAT THE INVESTIGATING MAGISTRATE, JUDGE PRIORE, DID NOT FULLY AGREE WITH THE AMBASSADOR'S DECLARATION THAT THE U.S. HAD RESPONDED QUICKLY AND FULLY TO ALL REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION. "IL MESSAGGERO SAID JUDGE PRIORE HAD, IN FACT, RECEIVED MANY RESPONSES FROM THE U.S. AND WAS, IN GENERAL, SATISFIED WITH THEM. HE WAS STILL CONCERNED, HOWEVER, WITH THE POSITION OF THE U.S. AIRCRAFT CARRIER 'SARATOGA' ON THE NIGHT OF THE TRAGEDY: "THERE ARE MANY VERSIONS. WE ARE WORKING TO RECONSTRUCT ITS EXACT POSITION THAT NIGHT."

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7. (U) THE LEADING CONSERVATIVE DAILY "IL GIORNALE"
OCTOBER 28 REPORTED THAT LAWYERS FOR THE FAMILIES OF
USTICA VICTIMS HAD CALLED UPON ITALIAN PRESIDENT OF
THE REPUBLIC, OSCAR LUIGI SCALFARO, TO INTERVENE IN
THE INVESTIGATION. ACCORDING TO "IL GIORNALE," THE
FAMILIES' LAWYERS CLAIM THAT THE GOVERNMENT MUST
ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE IN THE INVESTIGATION IN ORDER TO
OBTAIN ALL THE INFORMATION NECESSARY TO DETERMINE THE
CAUSE OF THE CRASH. THE ARTICLE ALSO NOTED THAT THE

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DOC NBR: 1992ROME19492

CHANNEL: n/a HANDLING: n/a

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DIRECTOR OF "ASSITALIA," THE ITALIAN INSURER OF THE ITAVIA AIRLINER THAT CRASH NEAR USTICA, HAS CATEGORICALLY DENIED THAT ASSITALIA INDEMNIFIED OR AGREED TO PAY ITAVIA FOR DAMAGES INCURRED "BY CAUSE OF WAR." ACCORDING TO "IL GIORNALE," ASSITALIA

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PAGE 01 ROME 19492 03 OF 03 281801Z ACTION EUR-01

CIAE-00 CFE-00 INFO LOG-00 ACDA-17 AID-01 AMAD-01 C-01 IMMC-01 INRE-00 INR-01 L-03HA-09 H-01 IO-19 NRRC-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 ADS-00 NEA-01 P-01 PA-01 PM-02 PRS-01 SB-00 SCT-03 SNP-00 SP-00 SS-00

SP-00 SS-00 TRSE-00 T-01 /068W -----739798 281843Z /38

O 281757Z OCT 92
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4718
SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
INFO JOINT STAFF WASHDC
DEPT JUSTICE WASHDC
USIA WASHDC 7612
USMISSION USNATO
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
COMSIXTHFLT
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE//ECPA//ECJ5//

CNO WASHDC//06/09C//
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SECTION 03 OF 03 ROME 19492

STATE ALSO FOR P USIA FOR EU, P/G DOJ FOR CRIM DIV/OIA L. BARSELLA

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E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR

TAGS: PINR, NATO, PREL, IT

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DOC NBR: 1992ROME19492

CHANNEL: n/a HANDLING: n/a

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SUBJECT: USTICA: AMBASSADOR DISCUSSES U.S. ASSISTANCE TO ITALIAN INVESTIGATION; JUSTICE MINISTER MARTELLI'S COMMENTS

DIRECTOR CLAUDIO CAMPANA SAID, "WE HAVE NEVER DECLARED THAT THE DC-9 ACCIDENT NEAR USTICA WAS CAUSED BY AN ACT OF WAR." ASSITALIA'S INSURANCE CONTRACT WITH ITAVIA, THE ARTICLE ENDED, STIPULATED AN INDEMNITY OF LIRE 3,800 MILLION (USD 2.9 MILLION) FOR AN "AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT."

8. (C) COMMENT. BY SEPTEL, WE REPORT A CONVERSATION WITH PRIME MINISTER AMATO'S DIPLOMATIC ADVISOR (VENTO) ON THIS MOST RECENT EPISODE IN THE USTICA AFFAIR. SECCHIA

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Date Printed: 16 Apr 2002

DOC NBR: 1992ROME19567

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ACTION EUR-01

INFO LOG-00 AMAD-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 CFE-00 ACDA-17 AID-01 C-01 DOTE-00 EB-01 E-01 FAAE-00 HA-09 H-01 IMMC-01 INRE-00 INR-01 **IO-19** L-03ADS-00 NEA-01 NRRC-00 NSCE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-02 PM-02 NSAE-00 SNP-00 PRS-01 SB-00 SCT-03 SP-00 SS-00 P-01 STR-17 TRSE-00 T-01 /088W

O 291845Z OCT 92 FM AMEMBASSY ROME TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4783 INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY JOINT STAFF WASHDC DEPT JUSTICE WASHDC USIA WASHDC 7616 USMISSION USNATO CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK COMSIXTHFLT

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE//ECPA//ECJ5// CNO WASHDC//06/09C//

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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 ROME 19567

ATHENS FOR AMBASSADOR SECCHIA; STATE ALSO FOR P; USIA FOR EU, P/G; DOJ FOR CRIM DIV/OIA L. BARSELLA

PAGE 02

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E.O. 12356:N/A TAGS: PINR, NATO, PREL, IT SUBJECT: USTICA: FURTHER PRESS REPORTING; U.S.

FIGHTERS "SEEN" ON NIGHT OF CRASH; FORMER MOD ROGNONI COMMENTS

REF(S): (A) ROME 19492 (B) ROME 19410 (C) ROME 19313 AND PREVIOUS

(U) SUMMARY. THE ITALIAN PRESS REPORTED WIDELY

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE REVIEW AUTHORITY: ERIC W. FLEISHER DATE/CASE ID: 28 OCT 2002 200102359

UNCLASSIFIED

Date Printed: 16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1992ROME19567

CHANNEL: n/a HANDLING: n/a

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OCTOBER 29 ON THE USTICA AFFAIR, INCLUDING COMMENTS BY THE AMBASSADOR (REF A). ALTHOUGH MOST OF THE REPORTING WAS FACTUAL, "CORRIERE DELLA SERA" COVERAGE INCLUDED EDITORIAL COMMENT CRITICAL OF THE AMBASSADOR'S REMARKS. ANSA WIRE SERVICE REPORTED REMARKS BY FORMER DEFENSE MINISTER ROGNONI AND PARLIAMENTARY REQUESTS FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION AND INVESTIGATION. ONE PAPER REPORTED ON THE POSSIBILITY THAT TWO "AMERICAN PHANTOMS" THAT TOOK OFF THE NIGHT OF THE CRASH FROM A BASE IN NORTHERN ITALY MIGHT HAVE SOME CONNECTION TO THE CRASH OF THE PASSENGER PLANE IN JUNE 1980 NEAR THE ISLAND OF USTICA. END SUMMARY.

2. (U) THE AMBASSADOR'S REMARKS ON ITALIAN
TELEVISION REGARDING FULL U.S. COOPERATION DURING THE
USTICA INVESTIGATION (REF A) WERE WIDELY COVERED BY
THE ITALIAN MEDIA OCTOBER 29. MOST MAJOR NEWSPAPERS
REPORTED HIS COMMENTS AT LENGTH. THE LEADING
CENTRIST DAILY "CORRIERE DELLA SERA" OCTOBER 29
DESCRIBED (ON INSIDE PAGES) THE TELEVISION INTERVIEW

PAGE 03 ROME 19567 01 OF 02 291847Z AS "A VERBAL DUEL BETWEEN THE AMBASSADOR AND JOURNALISTS BUILT ON THE SILENCE AND LIES OF 12 YEARS." THE NEWSPAPER COVERED IN SOME DETAIL THE AMBASSADOR'S COMMENTS AND HIS MENTION OF "CORRIERE" REPORTER ANDREA PURGATORI. "CORRIERE" REPORTED THAT AN UNIDENTIFIED DEFENSE MINISTRY SOURCE HAD RESPONDED TO THE AMBASSADOR'S MENTION OF A MOD OFFICIAL'S RECTIFICATION OF MOD ANDO'S REMARKS THAT THE "US HAS SOMETHING MORE TO SAY ABOUT USTICA": "THE ROLE OF DOCTOR ARAGONA IS DIPLOMATIC ADVISOR TO THE MINISTER, AND IT IS CERTAINLY NOT HIS JOB TO DENY OR MAKE MORE PRECISE THE STATEMENT OF THE MINISTER, WHO, IN ADDITION, DID NOT FIND IT NECESSARY TO RECTIFY ANYTHING WRITTEN IN THE "CORRIERE" STORY ."

3. (U) IN ADDITION, "CORRIERE" CARRIED AN UNSIGNED INSERT IN THE NEWS REPORT WHICH NOTED THAT, NOTWITHSTANDING THE ISSUE OF WHETHER THE U.S. HAS COOPERATED FULLY OR NOT ON USTICA, ITALIAN INVESTIGATORS HAVE FOUND ENOUGH CONFLICTING EVIDENCE ABOUT U.S. "INVOLVEMENT" THAT ITALIAN REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION, AND THE PUBLICITY THAT SURROUNDS THE ISSUE, SHOULD NOT BE TREATED CAVALIERLY. CHARGING THAT THE AMBASSADOR HAD ACCUSED ITALIAN JOURNALISTS,

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"CORRIERE'S" PURGATORI IN PARTICULAR, OF WRITING FALSEHOODS ABOUT USTICA AND U.S. COOPERATION IN THE INVESTIGATION, THE UNSIGNED INSERT NOTED THAT JUDGES AND SOME MINISTERS OF THE GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT FURTHER, THE INSERT NOTED, THIS ISSUE IF AGREE. REDUCED TO A PERSONAL PROBLEM WAS BETWEEN THOSE WHO HAVE COVERED UP THE TRAGEDY AND THE FAMILIES OF THE

PAGE 04 ROME 19567 01 OF 02 291847Z 81 DEAD WAITING FOR JUSTICE, NOT INSULTS. THE INSERT SAID THAT THE AMBASSADOR DID NOT REACT AS SHOULD A REPRESENTATIVE OF A COUNTRY WITH THE STRONGEST TRADITION OF INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM -- IRANGATE, WATERGATE, IRAKGATE.

ROME'S CENTRIST DAILY "IL MESSAGGERO" (U) OCTOBER 29 ALSO REPORTED ON THE AMBASSADOR'S TELEVISION APPEARANCE. THE ARTICLE SAID HIS REMARKS CONSTITUTED AN "ATTACK" UPON ONE OF THE JOURNALISTS (PURGATORI) WHO REPLIED THAT, AFTER ALL, "THE SCANDALS ARE NOT PERSONAL PROBLEMS." POINTING TO THE AMBASSADOR'S STATEMENT ON FULL U.S. COOPERATION ON

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ACTION EUR-01

INFO CFE-00 LOG-00 ACDA-17 AID-01 AMAD-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 C-01 DOTE-00 EB-01 E-01 FAAE-00 HA-09 H-01 IMMC-01 INRE-00 INR-01 IO-19 L - 03ADS-00 NEA-01 NRRC-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-02 PM~02 SS-00 PRS-01 P-01 SB-00 SCT-03 SNP-00 SP-00 STR-17 TRSE-00 T-01 /088W

O 291845Z OCT 92 FM AMEMBASSY ROME TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4784 INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY JOINT STAFF WASHDC DEPT JUSTICE WASHDC

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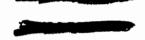
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USIA WASHDC 7617
USMISSION USNATO
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
COMSIXTHFLT
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE//ECPA//ECJ5//
CNO WASHDC//06/09C//
COMFAIRMED NAPLES IT
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UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 ROME 19567

ATHENS FOR AMBASSADOR SECCHIA; STATE ALSO FOR P; USIA FOR EU, P/G; DOJ FOR CRIM DIV/OIA L. BARSELLA



PAGE 02

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E.O. 12356:N/A
TAGS: PINR, NATO, PREL, IT
SUBJECT: USTICA: FURTHER PRESS REPORTING; U.S.
FIGHTERS "SEEN" ON NIGHT OF CRASH; FORMER MOD ROGNONI
COMMENTS

USTICA INVESTIGATION, "IL MESSAGGERO" NOTED THAT THE INVESTIGATING MAGISTRATE, JUDGE PRIORE, HAD ASKED THE U.S. FOR IDENTIFYING INFORMATION ON AN AIRPLANE FUEL TANK FOUND NEAR USTICA BUT THE U.S. "COULD NOT FIND THE FILE THAT CORRESPONDS TO THAT PARTICULAR FUEL TANK."

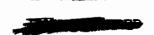
ROME'S CENTRIST DAILY "IL TEMPO" OCTOBER 29 (U) REPORTED THAT "A RETIRED AIR FORCE SERGEANT HAS REVEALED TO JUDGE PRIORE THAT ON THE EVENING OF JUNE 27, 1980, WHEN THE ITAVIA DC-9 FELL MYSTERIOUSLY INTO THE SEA, A PAIR OF AMERICAN-MADE PHANTOM FIGHTERS TOOK OFF FROM THE MILITARY BASE AT VILLAFRANCA." ACCORDING TO "IL TEMPO," JUDGE PRIORE HAS INTERVIEWED DOZENS OF MILITARY PERSONNEL (INCLUDING GENERALS, COLONELS, AND AVIATORS) WHO WERE SERVING AT THE AIRBASE NEAR VERONA ON THE NIGHT OF THE CRASH. ARTICLE NOTED THE RETIRED AIR FORCE SARGEANT SAID THE TWO U.S. PHANTOMS MIGHT HAVE LANDED DURING A "TRANSIT THE NEWSPAPER SPECULATED ON HOW THE PHANTOMS COULD POSSIBLY HAVE PARTICIPATED IN "AN ACT OF WAR OVER 1,000 KILOMETERS (600 MILES) FROM THE VILLAFRANCA AIRBASE."

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PAGE 03 ROME 19567 02 OF 02 291848Z 6. (U) ITALIAN WIRE SERVICE "ANSA" ALSO QUOTED EX-MINISTER OF DEFENSE, VIRGINIO ROGNONI AS CONFIRMING THAT DURING HIS TENURE IN OFFICE HE HIMSELF MADE PERSONAL REQUESTS TO SECDEF CHENEY AND TO THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF NATO ABOUT THEIR KNOWLEDGE OF THE TRAGEDY. "IF THERE IS SOMETHING THAT THE U.S. HAS LEARNED OR ACQUIRED, " ROGNONI IS QUOTED AS SAYING, "WE HAVE THE RIGHT TO KNOW IT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND WITH THE OPENNESS AND LOYALTY THAT AN AFFAIR OF THIS TYPE REQUIRES."

7. (U) "ANSA" REPORTED OCTOBER 29 THAT THE "GREENS" HAVE RESUBMITTED PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS ON THE EXACT POSITION OF THE U.S. AIRCRAFT CARRIER "SARATOGA" AND REQUESTS FOR ALL RADAR DATA RECORDED ON THE SHIP ON THE NIGHT OF THE USTICA CRASH. "ANSA" ALSO REPORTED THAT PARLIAMENTARY MEMBERS OF "RIFONDAZIONE COMUNISTA" (PARTY OF "OLD-STYLE" COMMUNISTS) HAVE DEMANDED A NEW DISCUSSION IN PARLIAMENT ON U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN THE USTICA AFFAIR.

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PAGE 01 19792 01 OF 02 021754Z ROME

ACTION EUR-01

ACDA-17 AID-01 AMAD-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 CFE-00 INFO LOG-00 DOTE-00 EB-01 FAAE-00 HA-09 H-01 C-01 E-01 INRE-00 INR-01 **IO-19** ADS-00 NEA-01 IMMC-01 L - 03NSCE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-02 NRRC-00 NSAE-00 SCT-03 SNP-00 SP-00 STR-17 PRS-01 P-01 SB-00

TRSE-00 /087W T-01

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O 021752Z NOV 92

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4898

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE

SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

JOINT STAFF WASHDC

DEPT JUSTICE WASHDC

USIA WASHDC 7625

USMISSION USNATO

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK

COMSIXTHFLT

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE//ECPA//ECJ5//

CNO WASHDC//06/09C//

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SECTION 01 OF 02 ROME 19792

ATHENS FOR AMBASSADOR SECCHIA; STATE ALSO FOR P; USIA FOR EU, P/G; DOJ FOR CRIM DIV/OIA L. BARSELLA

PAGE 02

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E.O. 12356:N/A

TAGS: PINR, NATO, PREL, IT

SUBJECT: USTICA: ITALIAN MOD BECOMES PLAINTIFF IN LAWSUIT: RECONSTRUCTED ITAVIA DC-9 VIEWED BY PRESS

REF(S):(A) ROME 19567 (B) ROME 19535 (C) ROME

19492 AND PREVIOUS

EXTEND CLASSIFICATION

SUMMARY. ITALIAN MOD SALVO ANDO' ANNOUNCED (U) NOVEMBER 1 THAT HE WILL FORMALLY BECOME A CIVIL PARTY

Date Printed: 16 Apr 2002

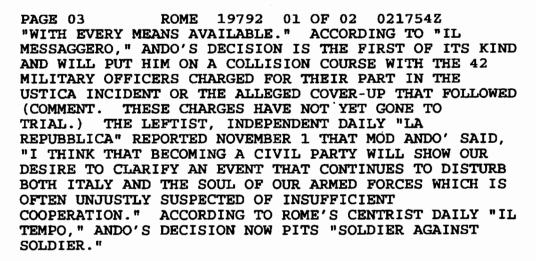
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CHANNEL: n/a HANDLING: n/a

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TO THE ONGOING INVESTIGATION INTO THE CAUSE OF THE JUNE 1980 CRASH OF A ITALIAN PASSENGER PLANE NEAR THE ISLAND OF USTICA. COMMENTATORS SAID THIS DECISION DEMONSTRATES THE "DISTANCE" BETWEEN ANDO' AND THE TRADITIONAL MILITARY STRUCTURE IN ITALY. ANDO' ALSO WILL TRANSFER THE AIR FORCE'S "USTICA COMMITTEE" (TASKED WITH ITS INTERNAL INVESTIGATION) TO THE MOD'S OFFICE. LASTLY, THE INVESTIGATING MAGISTRATE HAS PERMITTED JOURNALISTS TO VIEW THE RECONSTRUCTED DC-9. END SUMMARY.

2. (U) THE ITALIAN NATIONAL PRESS REPORTED NOVEMBER 1 THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF MOD SALVO ANDO' THAT HE WOULD FORMALLY BECOME PART OF THE ONGOING CIVIL LITIGATION ON THE USTICA INCIDENT. THE HEADLINE OF ROME'S CENTRIST DAILY "IL MESSAGGERO READ: "THE MINISTER WILL BE A CIVIL PARTY AGAINST AIR FORCE LEADERS WHO LIED ABOUT THE TRAGEDY." IN JOINING THE FAMILIES OF USTICA CRASH VICTIMS, MOD ANDO' SAID THE MOD WILL ASSIST THE INVESTIGATING MAGISTRATE (JUDGE PRIORE)



3. (U) LEADING CENTRIST DAILY "CORRIERE DELLA SERA" NOVEMBER 1 SAID ANDO' WILL FORMALLY SUBMIT HIS PROPOSAL TO BECOME A CIVIL PARTY TO THE INVESTIGATION NEXT WEEK. ACCORDING TO "CORRIERE," THE MINISTER'S DIRECT PARTICIPATION "SIGNALS THE DISTANCE BETWEEN THE EXECUTIVE AND AN ADMINISTRATION THAT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR OMISSIONS AND A COVER-UP THAT BEGAN FROM THE NIGHT OF THE CRASH." THE NEWSPAPER REPORTED

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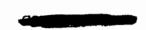
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CHANNEL: n/a HANDLING: n/a

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THAT, IN ADDITION TO FORMALLY JOINING THE INVESTIGATION, ANDO' HAS DECIDED TO TRANSFER THE AIR FORCE CHIEF OF STAFF'S "USTICA COMMITTEE" TO HIS OWN OFFICE WHERE ANDO' WILL BE ABLE TO SUPERVISE ITS WORK PERSONALLY.

4. (U) "CORRIERE" OCTOBER 31 REPORTED THAT, OF ALL THE COUNTRIES FROM WHICH ITALY HAS REQUESTED



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INFORMATION ON THE USTICA AFFAIR, ONLY GERMANY AND
THE U.K. HAVE RESPONDED "COMPLETELY." THE
COOPERATION OF THE U.S. IS DEEMED "INSUFFICIENT" DUE
TO CONTINUING CONCERNS ABOUT THE TRUTHFULNESS AND
COMPLETENESS OF U.S. RESPONSES. "CORRIERE" CLAIMED
FRENCH AND LIBYAN COOPERATION WAS "NONEXISTENT." THE
ARTICLE ALSO REPORTED THAT SPECIFIC REQUESTS FOR
SATELLITE AND RADAR DATA WERE RECENTLY SENT TO MOSCOW.

5. (U) ALONG WITH OTHER NATIONAL NEWSPAPERS, "CORRIERE" REPORTED OCTOBER 31 THAT JUDGE PRIORE PERMITTED JOURNALISTS AND PHOTOGRAPHERS TO VIEW, FOR THE FIRST TIME, THE RECONSTRUCTED FUSILAGE OF THE

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PAGE 01 ROME 19792 02 OF 02 021754Z

ACTION EUR-01

INFO LOG-00 AMAD-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 CFE-00 ACDA-17 AID-01 C-01 DOTE-00 EB-01 E-01 FAAE-00 HA-09 H-01 L-03 ADS-00 NEA-01 IMMC-01 INRE-00 INR-01 10-19 NRRC-00 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-02 NSCE-00 SNP-00 SP-00 STR-17 PRS-01 P-01 SB-00 SCT-03 /087W TRSE-00 T-01

-----758F63 021755Z /38

O 021752Z NOV 92 FM AMEMBASSY ROME TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4899 INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY JOINT STAFF WASHDC DEPT JUSTICE WASHDC

Date Printed: 16 Apr 2002

DOC NBR: 1992ROME19792

CHANNEL: n/a HANDLING: n/a 183

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USIA WASHDC 7626 USMISSION USNATO CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK COMSIXTHFLT USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE//ECPA//ECJ5// CNO WASHDC//06/09C// COMFAIRMED NAPLES IT USNMR SHAPE BE

SECTION 02 OF 02 ROME 19792

ATHENS FOR AMBASSADOR SECCHIA; STATE ALSO FOR P; USIA FOR EU, P/G; DOJ FOR CRIM DIV/OIA L. BARSELLA

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ROME 19792 02 OF 02 021754Z

E.O. 12356:N/A

TAGS: PINR, NATO, PREL, IT SUBJECT: USTICA: ITALIAN MOD BECOMES PLAINTIFF IN LAWSUIT; RECONSTRUCTED ITAVIA DC-9 VIEWED BY PRESS

ITAVIA DC-9 THAT CRASHED NEAR THE ISLAND OF USTICA IN JUNE 1980. ACCORDING TO THE NEWSPAPER, OVER 90 PCT. OF THE DC-9'S SURFACE HAS BEEN RECONSTRUCTED WITH FRAGMENTS RECOVERED FROM THE CRASH SITE. "CORRIERE" SAID JUDGE PRIORE HAS ORDERED A "SUPER TECHNICAL EXAMINATION" OF POSSIBLE CAUSES OF THE TRAGEDY TO BE ALSO ON DISPLAY WITH COMPLETED BY MARCH 31, 1993. THE ITAVIA DC-9 WAS A RECONSTRUCTION OF THE LIBYAN MIG-23 THAT CRASHED IN SILA THREE WEEKS AFTER THE USTICA INCIDENT, AND AN EXTRA AIRCRAFT FUEL TANK THAT WAS RECOVERED FROM AN AREA NEAR THE DC-9 WRECKAGE.

| 6. | (C) | COMMENT | | | |
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Page - 886.

Date Printed: 16 Apr 2002

DOC NBR: 1992ROME19911

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ACTION EUR-01

COME-00 LOG-00 ACDA-17 AID-01 AMAD-01 CIAE-00 CFE-00 INFO C-01 DOEE-00 DOTE-00 EB-01 E-01 FAAE-00 HA-09 INRE-00 INR-01 L-03ADS-00 NEA-01 NRRC-00 H-01 NSCE-00 OES-09 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-02 PRS-01 NSAE-00 SCT-03 SDEL-00 SNP-00 SP-00 STR-17 TRSE-00 P-01 T-01 /074W

P 041126Z NOV 92 FM AMEMBASSY ROME TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4970 INFO SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY DEPT JUSTICE WASHDC PRIORITY USMISSION USNATO CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE USNMR SHAPE BE USIA WASHDC 7637

SECTION 01 OF 03 ROME 19911

----765FCB 041128Z /38

STATE FOR EUR/WE DOD FOR OSD/ISP JUSTICE FOR BARSELLA USIA FOR EU

E.O. 12356:DECL: OADR TAGS: PARM, PGOV, IT

EXTEND CLASSIFICATION

PAGE 02

ROME 19911 01 OF 03 041127Z

SUBJECT: USTICA: KEEPING THE U.S. BEYOND REPROACH

REF(S): **ROME 19792**

- ENTIRE TEXT.

SUMMARY. WE EXPECT THAT THE RECENT SPATE OF PRESS COVERAGE OF THE USTICA AFFAIR IS RELATED TO THE

POLITICAL SITUATION IN ITALY

ALTHOUGH

THE U.S. HAS TAKEN THE BRUNT OF THE PRESS ATTENTION,

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE REVIEW AUTHORITY: ERIC W. FLEISHER DATE/CASE ID: 28 OCT 2002 200102359

CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL REASON: 1.6(6)[JNCLASSIFIED]

B1

Date Printed: 16 Apr 2002

DOC NBR: 1992ROME19911

CHANNEL: n/a HANDLING: n/a

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WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT WE ARE A MAJOR TARGET. TO PROTECT USG INTERESTS, WE SHOULD CONTINUE TO DEMONSTRATE OUR FULL COOPERATION IN THE ITALIAN INVESTIGATION. AMBASSADOR WILL CONTINUE TO EMPHASIZE THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT WILL RESPOND IN A TIMELY MANNER TO CURRENT, OUTSTANDING JUDICIAL REQUESTS. WE MUST ENSURE THAT ALL ITALIAN REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION ARE ANSWERED PRECISELY AND ON A TIMELY BASIS, WITH AT LEAST INTERIM RESPONSES BY NOVEMBER 30. USTICA WORKING GROUP SHOULD MEET TO COORDINATE CURRENT JUDICIAL REQUESTS. END SUMMARY.

3. OVER THE PAST SEVERAL WEEKS, THE USTICA AFFAIR -THE YET UNEXPLAINED DOWNING OF AN ITALIAN CIVILIAN
AIRCRAFT IN THE TYRHENNIAN SEA IN 1980 -- HAS BECOME
A PRIME TOPIC OF CONVERSATION IN THE ITALIAN PRESS
FROM "AMERICA LIES" TO "U.S. DOES NOT RESPOND WELL."
PRIOR TO SECRETARY CHENEY'S VISIT TO ROME OCTOBER
24-25, SOCIALIST DEFENSE MINISTER ANDO' MADE
STATEMENTS TO THE PRESS WHICH, ACCURATELY REFLECTING

PAGE 03 ROME 19911 01 OF 03 041127Z
HIS OPINION OR NOT, LEFT THE IMPRESSION THAT SOMEHOW
THE USG HAD "ADDITIONAL INFORMATION" ON THE USTICA
ISSUE TO SUPPLY TO ITALIAN OFFICIALS.

B1

4. DURING THE MEETING WITH MOD ANDO', SECRETARY CHENEY EXPLAINED THAT THE UNITED STATES HAD ALWAYS BEEN WILLING TO SUPPLY ALL RELEVANT INFORMATION TO THE ITALIANS THROUGH OFFICIAL AND JUDICIAL CHANNELS. HOWEVER, IN THE WAKE OF THE SECRETARY'S VISIT,

TO DISABUSE THE PRESS OF THE IDEA THAT SOMEHOW THE UNITED STATES HAD BEEN SLOW TO RESPOND OR AMBIGUOUS IN ITS RESPONSES TO THE ITALIAN REQUESTS.

B1 -

5. REFTEL REPORTED WEEKEND NEWS THAT THE DEFENSE MINISTER HAS ANNOUNCED THAT THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE, OR PERHAPS THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT-- IT IS NOT YET CLEAR-- HAS BECOME A "CIVIL PARTY" TO THE USTICA CASE. THIS MEANS THAT THE GOVERNMENT WILL NOW HAVE ACCESS, AS DO THE LAWYERS FOR THE FAMILIES OF THE VICTIMS, TO INFORMATION DEVELOPED BY JUDGE PRIORE IN THE CASE. THIS ALSO MEANS THAT THE JUDICIAL AND OFFICIAL/DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS OF INFORMATION, IF THEY WERE SEPARATE AND DISTINCT IN THE PAST, WILL NO

CHANNEL: n/a 184 Date Printed: DOC NBR: 1992ROME19911 HANDLING: n/a 16 Apr 2002 LONGER BE SO CLEARLY DEFINED. B1 **B**1 6. NNNN PAGE 01 ROME 19911 02 OF 03 041128Z ACTION EUR-01 INFO LOG-00 ACDA-17 AID-01 AMAD-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 CFE-00 C-01 DOEE-00 DOTE-00 EB-01 E-01 FAAE-00 HA-09 H-01 INRE-00 INR-01 L-03ADS-00 NEA-01 NRRC-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 OES-09 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-02 PRS-01 P-01 SCT-03 SDEL-00 SNP-00 SP-00 STR-17 TRSE-00 T-01 /074W ----- 041128Z /38 P 041126Z NOV 92 FM AMEMBASSY ROME TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4971 INFO SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY DEPT JUSTICE WASHDC PRIORITY USMISSION USNATO CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE USNMR SHAPE BE

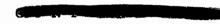


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CHANNEL: n/a HANDLING: n/a 184

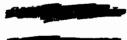
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STATE FOR EUR/WE DOD FOR OSD/ISP JUSTICE FOR BARSELLA USIA FOR EU

E.O. 12356:DECL: OADR TAGS: PARM, PGOV, IT



PAGE 02

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B1

 AS PAST EXPERIENCE HAS INDICATED, THE USTICA CASE CAN BECOME A SPONTANEOUS TOPIC OF PUBLIC/MEDIA CONVERSATION HERE. IN ADDITION TO SUPPOSED NEW REVELATIONS EMANATING FROM AN ALLEGED CONTROL TOWER CONVERSATION NORTH OF ROME AND AN ALLEGED REPORT OF THE TAKEOFF OF TWO F-104S OR PHANTOM JETS FROM AN AIRPORT AT VERONA THE NIGHT OF THE CRASH, SOME OF THE MEDIA CONTINUES TO PRESS THE ARGUMENT THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT HAS NOT COOPERATED FULLY WITH THE INVESTIGATION. THE "NEW EVIDENCE" HAS BEEN ACCOMPANIED BY SUGGESTIONS THAT THE PHANTOMS OR F-104S FLEW TO THE "USS SARATOGA," WHICH THE PRESS CLAIMS MAY NOT HAVE BEEN IN NAPLES AFTER ALL ON THE NIGHT OF THE CRASH. THE U.S. HAS ALSO BEEN TERMED AS "LESS THAN COOPERATIVE."

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THOSE WHO ATTEMPT TO DEBASE OUR FORTHCOMING ROLE IN THE USTICA INVESTIGATION ARE COMMITTED TO ENSURING JUST THE OPPOSITE. THE MOST EFFECTIVE MEANS OF COMBATING THIS MOST RECENT SPATE OF UNFORTUNATE AND UNTRUE INSINUATIONS IS TO CONTINUE TO COOPERATE FULLY, RESPONDING WITH CLARITY AND ALACRITY, TO ALL ITALIAN REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION.



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- 9. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THERE ARE A NUMBER OF JUDICIAL REQUESTS FROM JUDGE PRIORE OUTSTANDING FROM EARLIER THIS YEAR REQUIRING ANSWERS FROM SEVERAL WASHINGTON AGENCIES. THESE REQUESTS SHOULD BE ANSWERED ASAP, WITH COMPLETE RESPONSES. IN CASES WHERE FULL RESPONSES CANNOT BE PROVIDED, THEN THE REASON SHOULD BE GIVEN SO AS TO INDICATE TO ITALIAN AUTHORITIES WHY A RESPONSE IS NOT POSSIBLE. LIKEWISE, SHOULD THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT MAKE FURTHER REQUESTS TO STATE OR DOD, WE SEE EVERY BENEFIT IN ENSURING THAT ALL POSSIBLE EFFORTS ARE MADE TO BE OF ASSISTANCE IN THE MOST TIMELY MANNER POSSIBLE.
- 10. EMBASSY STRONGLY SUGGESTS THAT THE USTICA WORKING GROUP OF USIA, STATE, JUSTICE, AND DEFENSE OFFICIALS MEET TO ENSURE THAT OUR RESPONSES TO THE ITALIANS ARE AS CLEAR, CONCISE AND TIMELY AS POSSIBLE. WE WOULD PARTICULARLY DIRECT THE ATTENTION OF THE GROUP TO THE CURRENTLY OUTSTANDING JUDICIAL REQUESTS, AND TO PROVIDING CLEAR RESPONSES, INCLUDING CASES WHERE THE USG HAS NOTHING FURTHER TO ADD BY NOVEMBER 30. WE MAKE THIS SUGGESTION AS ONE MEANS TO DISPEL ANY SUGGESTION THAT THE USG HAS BEEN AMBIGUOUS IN ITS ANSWERS OR UNWILLING TO FURNISH ALL THE INFORMATION CURRENTLY AT ITS DISPOSAL.

| 11. | AMB. COMMENT. | |
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184 CHANNEL: n/a Date Printed: HANDLING: n/a 16 Apr 2002 DOC NBR: 1992ROME19911 B1 NNNN ROME 19911 03 OF 03 041128Z PAGE 01 ACTION EUR-01 CIAE-00 INFO LOG-00 ACDA-17 AID-01 AMAD-01 COME-00 CFE-00 C-01 DOEE-00 DOTE-00 EB-01 E-01 FAAE-00 HA-09 H-01 INRE-00 INR-01 L-03 ADS-00 NEA-01 NRRC-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 OES-09 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-02 PRS-01 SCT-03 SDEL-00 SNP-00 SP-00 STR-17 TRSE-00 P-01 T-01 /074W --------------765FE6 041128Z /38 P 041126Z NOV 92 FM AMEMBASSY ROME TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4972 INFO SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY DEPT JUSTICE WASHDC PRIORITY USMISSION USNATO CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE USNMR SHAPE BE USIA WASHDC 7639 SECTION 03 OF 03 ROME 19911 STATE FOR EUR/WE DOD FOR OSD/ISP JUSTICE FOR BARSELLA USIA FOR EU E.O. 12356:DECL: OADR TAGS: PARM, PGOV, IT PAGE 02 ROME 19911 03 OF 03 041128Z SUBJECT: USTICA: KEEPING THE U.S. BEYOND REPROACH B1

| Date Printed: 16 Apr 2002 | DOC_NBR: 1992ROME19911 | CHANNEL: n/a HANDLING: n/a | 184 |
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Date Printed: 16 Apr 2002

DOC NBR: 1992ROME20358

CHANNEL: n/a HANDLING: n/a 188

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PAGE 01 ROME 20358 01 OF 02 121726Z RELEASED IN FULL

ACTION EUR-01

LOG-00 ACDA-17 AID-01 COME-00 INFO CIAE-00 CFE-00 C-01 DOTE-00 EB-01 E-01 FAAE-00 HA-09 H-01 IMMC-01 INRE-00 INR-01 10-19 L = 03ADS-00 NEA-01 NRRC-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-02 PRS-01 P-01 SB-00 SCT-03 SNP-00 SP-00 STR-17 TRSE-00 T-01 /086W

-----799111 121727Z /38 O 121725Z NOV 92 FM AMEMBASSY ROME TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5287

SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

DEPT JUSTICE WASHDC IMMEDIATE

USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7664

INFO JOINT STAFF WASHDC USMISSION USNATO

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK

COMSIXTHFLT

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE//ECPA//ECJ5//

CNO WASHDC//06/09C//

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AMEMBASSY PARIS

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STATE ALSO FOR P; USIA FOR EU, P/G; DOJ FOR CRIM DIV/OIA L. BARSELLA

PAGE 02

ROME 20358 01 OF 02 121726Z

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR

TAGS: PINR, NATO, PREL, IT SUBJECT: USTICA: "CBS NEWS" SUGGESTS A U.S. COVER-UP; MOD ANDO' ASKS FRANCE TO REPLY TO QUESTIONS; AIR FORCE CHIEF OF STAFF PROTESTS "TRIAL BY TELEVISION"

REF(S): (A) ROME 19963 (B) ROME 19911 (C) ROME 19911 AND PREVIOUS

1. (U) SUMMARY. ITALIAN WIRE SERVICE "ANSA"

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE **REVIEW AUTHORITY: ERIC W. FLEISHER** DATE/CASE ID: 28 OCT 2002 200102359

UNCLASSIFIED



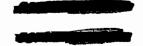
Date Printed: 16 Apr 2002

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CHANNEL: n/a HANDLING: n/a

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REPORTED NOVEMBER 12 THAT "CBS NEWS" IN ITS LEAD STORY NOVEMBER 11 SUGGESTED THAT THE U.S. HAS COVERED UP ITS RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CRASH OF A DC-9 PASSENGER PLANE ON JUNE 27, 1980 NEAR THE ISLAND OF USTICA. CITING IRREGULARITIES IN THE LOG BOOK OF THE "USS SARATOGA" FOR THE NIGHT OF THE TRAGEDY, THE "CBS" NEWS BROADCAST IMPLIED THAT AN AIR-TO-AIR MISSILE WAS THE PROBABLE CAUSE OF THE CRASH. SEPARATELY, ITALIAN PRESS REPORTS SAID ITALIAN MOD MINISTER ANDO' MET FRENCH MOD PIERRE JOXE NOVEMBER 10 TO REQUEST THAT THE FRENCH RESPOND TO OUTSTANDING REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THE USTICA CRASH. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS NOVEMBER 6, ANDO' SAID THE DC-9 WAS "SHOT DOWN" -- BUT THEN HE IMMEDIATELY "EXPLAINED" THAT HE MEANT THE CRASH WAS CAUSED BY SOME "EXTERNAL EVENT" RATHER THAN A STRUCTURAL DEFECT IN THE AIRCRAFT ITSELF. ITALIAN AIR FORCE CHIEF OF STAFF (NARDINI) PROTESTED THE APPARENT "TRIAL BY TELEVISION" OF AIR FORCE OFFICERS CHARGED IN THE USTICA AFFAIR. END SUMMARY.



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ITALIAN WIRE SERVICE "ANSA" REPORTED (U) NOVEMBER 12 THAT. FOR THE FIRST TIME IN TWELVE YEARS. AN AMERICAN TELEVISION NEWS PROGRAM HAD DEDICATED A SEGMENT TO THE USTICA AFFAIR. "ANSA" SAID "CBS NEWS" (BROADCAST ON THE FOLLOWING MORNING ON "TELE MONTECARLO" IN ITALY) HAD SUGGESTED THAT THE U.S. WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DOWNING OF THE ITAVIA DC-9 AND THAT THE USG HAD SUCCESSFULLY COVERED-UP ITS ACCORDING TO "ANSA," THE "CBS" NEWS INVOLVEMENT. PROGRAM INCLUDED INTERVIEWS WITH ITALIAN EXPERTS ON USTICA AND RELATIVES OF USTICA CRASH VICTIMS. NOTED THAT "CBS" ADVANCED THE THEORY THAT THE TRAGEDY THE "ANSA" WAS CAUSED BY AN AIR-TO-AIR MISSILE. ARTICLE ALSO SAID, "THE PENTAGON HAS ALWAYS DENIED THE INVOLVEMENT OF U.S. FORCES STATIONED IN THE MEDITERRANEAN AND HAS EMPHASIZED THAT THE AIRCRAFT CARRIER "SARATOGA" WAS ANCHORED AT NAPLES WITH ITS RADARS TURNED OFF." THE OFFICIAL U.S. VERSION, "CBS" EXPLAINED, HAS BEEN PLACED IN DOUBT BY EVIDENCE OBTAINED UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT BY "ANSA" REPORTED RELATIVES OF USTICA CRASH VICTIMS. THAT THE LOG BOOK OF THE "USS SARATOGA" WAS OF PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE: "THERE WERE FOUR OFFICIALS

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WHO SIGNED THE LOG BOOK ON THE DAY OF THE TRAGEDY BUT THE HANDWRITING IS ALL THE SAME."

(U) LEFTIST, INDEPENDENT DAILY "LA REPUBBLICA" NOVEMBER 11 REPORTED THAT THE USTICA CRASH "WAS AT THE CENTER" OF A BILATERAL MEETING BETWEEN ITALIAN MOD SALVO ANDO' AND FRENCH MOD PIERRE JOXE NOVEMBER

PAGE 04 ROME 20358 01 OF 02 121726Z 10 IN PARIS. ACCORDING TO "LA REPUBBLICA," ITALY HAD SENT SIX ROGATORIES ABOUT USTICA TO FRANCE: THREE HAVE NOT BEEN ANSWERED AT ALL AND "NEGATIVE OR INCOMPLETE" ANSWERS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED FOR THE OTHER THREE. THE ARTICLE REPORTED THAT ANDO' SAID, "I FOUND THAT JOXE IS INTERESTED IN COOPERATING. HE HAS ALSO PROMISED INITIAL RESPONSES BY THE WEU MINISTERIAL MEETING IN ROME NOVEMBER 20. AT THAT TIME, JOXE WILL FURNISH THE FIRST INFORMATION. HOPE MORE COMPLETE RESPONSES WILL THEN FOLLOW." NEWSPAPER NOTED THAT ITALIAN AUTHORITIES HAVE ASKED FOR AVAILABLE DATA RECORDINGS AND INFORMATION ABOUT THE MOVEMENT OF FRENCH MILITARY UNITS BASED NEAR

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ACTION EUR-01

INFO ACDA-17 LOG-00 AID-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 CFE-00 C-01 DOTE-00 EB-01 IMMC-01 E-01 FAAE-00 HA-09 H-01 INRE-00 INR-01 IO-19 NRRC-00 L-03ADS-00 NEA-01 PM-02 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-00 P-01 SNP-00 SB-00 SCT-03 STR-17 TRSE-00 T-01 /086W

-----799131 121727Z /38 O 121725Z NOV 92 FM AMEMBASSY ROME TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5288 SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE DEPT JUSTICE WASHDC IMMEDIATE USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7665 INFO JOINT STAFF WASHDC

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CHANNEL: n/a HANDLING: n/a

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USMISSION USNATO
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COMSIXTHFLT
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE//ECPA//ECJ5//
CNO WASHDC//06/09C//
COMFAIRMED NAPLES IT
USNMR SHAPE BE
AMEMBASSY PARIS

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STATE ALSO FOR P; USIA FOR EU, P/G; DOJ FOR CRIM DIV/OIA L. BARSELLA

PAGE 02

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E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: PINR, NATO, PREL, IT
SUBJECT: USTICA: "CBS NEWS" SUGGESTS A U.S. COVER-UP;
MOD ANDO' ASKS FRANCE TO REPLY TO QUESTIONS; AIR
FORCE CHIEF OF STAFF PROTESTS "TRIAL BY TELEVISION"

ITALY (I.E., IN CORSICA) ON THE NIGHT OF THE CRASH.

THE MEETING WITH JOXE IN PARIS WAS, IN PART, (U) A FOLLOW-UP TO ANDO'S REMARKS AT A PRESS CONFERENCE AT THE ITALIAN AIR FORCE ACADEMY NOVEMBER 5. ROME'S CENTRIST DAILY REPORTED NOVEMBER 6 THAT ANDO' SAID, "WE WILL ASK THE COOPERATION OF EVERY COUNTRY THAT IS ABLE TO HELP US ESTABLISH THE "WHO, HOW, AND WHY" THE DC-9 WAS SHOT DOWN." ACCORDING TO THE ITALIAN PRESS, THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME A GOVERNMENT MINISTER HAS CHARACTERIZED THE CAUSE OF THE USTICA CRASH AS A "SHOOTING DOWN." ASKED FOR FURTHER EXPLANATION, "IL MESSAGGERO" NOTED, ANDO' REMARKED, "I PREFER TO SPEAK OF AN "ACCIDENT" INSTEAD OF A "SHOOTING DOWN" BECAUSE I DO NOT WANT TO ADVANCE ANY PARTICULAR HYPOTHESIS. RATHER THAN PROMOTING A SPECIFIC SCENARIO, IT IS BETTER TO LEAVE THE DETERMINATION IN THE HANDS OF THE JUDGES." LEADING CONSERVATIVE DAILY "IL GIORNALE" NOVEMBER 6 REPORTED THAT ANDO' EXPLAINED HIS REFERENCE TO "SHOOTING DOWN": "WE SHOULD NOT EXAGGERATE. I MEANT AN ACCIDENT, AN EXTERNAL CAUSE." THE HEADLINE OF THE "IL GIORNALE" ARTICLE "ANDO': THE DC-9 WAS SHOT DOWN. A MINISTER ADMITS FOR THE FIRST TIME THAT IT WAS NOT A

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- 5. (U) ROME'S CENTRIST DAILY "IL TEMPO" REPORTED NOVEMBER 6 THAT ITALIAN AIR FORCE CHIEF OF STAFF STELIO NARDINI DEFENDED THE ROLE OF THE AIR FORCE IN THE USTICA AFFAIR AND SAID THE AIR FORCE OFFICERS CRIMINALLY CHARGED ARE ENTITLED TO A FAIR TRIAL. ACCORDING TO "IL TEMPO," NARDINI NOTED THAT THE OFFICERS ARE INNOCENT UNTIL PROVEN GUILTY BUT "THE PRESS, INSTEAD, ALREADY EXPECTS A GUILTY VERDICT." NARDINI CRITICIZED THE WIDESPREAD NEGATIVE AND SPECULATIVE PRESS COVERAGE ON USTICA AND EXPLAINED, "THIS IS NOT ANY OLD STORY. THERE WERE 81 DEATHS. EIGHTY-ONE ITALIANS WERE LOST. THESE ARE NOT THINGS TO THROW AROUND LIGHTLY ON TELEVISION."
- 6. (C) COMMENT. THE CBS NEWS STORY IS INCORRECT AND VIRTUALLY LIFTED FROM ITALIAN SOURCES, INCLUDING THE MAJOR JOURNALIST COVERING THIS ISSUE. THAT WE KNOW OF, CBS MADE NO ATTEMPT TO CHECK THEIR STORY WITH USG AUTHORITIES. RECOMMEND THAT DEPARTMENT TAKE A STRONG LINE REFUTING THE STORY, INCLUDING INFERENCE THAT U.S. SOMEHOW HAS HELD BACK INFORMATION FROM ITALIAN INVESTIGATORS. MOREOVER, IT SHOULD BE MADE CLEAR THAT USS SARATOGA WAS IN PORT AND THAT NO U.S. COMBAT AIRCRAFT WERE IN THE AREA AT THE TIME THE PLANE WENT DOWN. REQUEST SOONEST DEPARTMENT GUIDANCE REQUESTED REFTELS. SECCHIA



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ACTION EUR-01

LOG-00 ACDA-17 AID-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 CFE-00 C-01 INFO H-01 IMMC-01 DOTE-00 E-01 FAAE-00 HA-09 EB-01 ADS-00 NEA-01 NRRC-00 INRE-00 INR-01 IO-19 L-03NSCE-00 OIC-02 PA-01 PM-02 PRS-01 OMB-01 NSAE-00 SCT-03 SNP-00 SP-00 STR-17 TRSE-00 SB-00 P-01

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5343

SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

DEPT JUSTICE WASHDC IMMEDIATE

USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7672

INFO JOINT STAFF WASHDC

USMISSION USNATO

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK

COMSIXTHFLT

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE//ECPA//ECJ5//

CNO WASHDC//06/09C//

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AMEMBASSY PARIS

SECTION 01 OF 02 ROME 20453

STATE ALSO FOR P; USIA FOR EU, P/G; DOJ FOR CRIM DIV/OIA L. BARSELLA

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E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR

TAGS: PINR, NATO, PREL, IT

SUBJECT: USTICA: U.S. REPLIES TO ALLEGATIONS OF A COVER-UP; ITALIAN MOD SALVO ANDO' DENIES DOUBTING U.S. SINCERITY AND COOPERATION; JUDGE PRIORE LOOKS FOR PROOF ON THE "USS SARATOGA"

REF(S): (A) ROME 20358 (B) ROME 19963 (C) ROME 19911 AND PREVIOUS

EXTEND CLASSIFICATION

Page - 923

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE REVIEW AUTHORITY: ERIC W. FLEISHER DATE/CASE ID: 28 OCT 2002 200102359

CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL REASON: 1.6(6)UNCLASSIFIED

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Date Printed: 16 Apr 2002

DOC NBR: 1992ROME20453

CHANNEL: n/a HANDLING: n/a

189

MAJOR NEWSPAPERS NOVEMBER 13 SUMMARY. CARRIED THE "CATEGORICAL DENIAL" OF U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN THE USTICA CRASH GIVEN BY ASSISTANT SECDEF PETE WILLIAMS AT A PENTAGON BRIEFING. EXPLAINING THE LONG HISTORY OF U.S. COOPERATION IN THE 12 YEAR OLD INVESTIGATION, THE ITALIAN PRESS SAID WILLIAMS SPOKE OF U.S. "FRUSTRATION THAT ITALIAN LEADERS HAVE POLITICIZED A SERIOUS MATTER." IN REPLY, ITALIAN MOD SALVO ANDO' SAID HE HAD NEVER HAD ANY DOUBT ABOUT THE SINCERITY OF THE USG. ACCORDING TO "LA REPUBBLICA" NOVEMBER 13, ANDO' CLAIMED HE WAS ONLY TRYING TO COMPLETE THE INVESTIGATION AND SOLVE THE USTICA ITALIAN PRESS REPORTS ALSO INDICATED THAT THE INVESTIGATING MAGISTRATE (JUDGE PRIORE) WOULD GO TO NAPLES NOVEMBER 13 TO TAKE TESTIMONY FROM WITNESSES ABOUT THE WHEREABOUTS OF THE "USS SARATOGA" ON THE NIGHT OF THE USTICA CRASH. END SUMMARY.

2. (U) USTICA WAS A FRONT PAGE STORY IN MUCH OF THE NATIONAL PRESS NOVEMBER 13. MAJOR ITALIAN NEWSPAPERS

ROME 20453 01 OF 02 131739Z DESCRIBED THE "CBS NEWS" BROADCAST (TRANSMITTED IN ITALY NOVEMBER 12, REF A) AND GAVE FULL COVERAGE TO THE U.S. RESPONSE BY ASSISTANT SECDEF PETE WILLIAMS AT A PENTAGON PRESS BRIEFING NOVEMBER 12. RESPONDING TO SUGGESTIONS THAT THE U.S. HAD COVERED UP ITS RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE USTICA CRASH, SEVERAL ITALIAN NEWSPAPERS REPORTED WILLIAMS' "TOTAL, UNEQUIVOCAL, AND CATEGORICAL" DENIAL OF U.S. INVOLVEMENT. THE ITALIAN PRESS ALSO REPORTED WILLIAMS' EXPLANATION FOR THE SIMILARITY OF LOG BOOK ENTRIES FOR THE "USS SARATOGA"; HIS REITERATION THAT THERE WERE NO U.S. COMBAT AIRCRAFT OR SHIPS OPERATING IN THE AREA OF THE CRASH ON JUNE 27, 1980; HIS CONFIRMATION THAT THE "USS SARATOGA" WAS ANCHORED IN NAPLES AT THE TIME; AND HIS PLEDGE THAT THE USG WOULD CONTINUE, AS IT HAS ALWAYS DONE IN THE PAST, TO COOPERATE WITH ITALIAN AUTHORITIES INVESTIGATING THE CAUSE OF THE TRAGEDY.

3. (U) LEADING CENTRIST DAILY "CORRIERE DELLA SERA" NOVEMBER 13 REPORTED THAT WILLIAMS SAID THAT THE U.S. UNDERSTOOD ITALY'S DESIRE TO RESOLVE THIS CASE. THE U.S. HAD OFTEN RESPONDED TO ITALIAN REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION ABOUT USTICA ONLY TO RECEIVE THE SAME QUESTIONS AGAIN. WILLIAMS IS QUOTED AS SAYING,

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CHANNEL: n/a HANDLING: n/a 189

"THERE IS BARELY A CHANGE IN THE ITALIAN LEADERSHIP WHEN INTEREST IN THE USTICA AFFAIR ARISES ANEW. I BELIEVE THAT POLITICAL STRUGGLES BETWEEN PARTIES SHOULD NOT INTERFERE WITH THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE INVESTIGATION. IN EVERY CIVILIZED COUNTRY THERE ARE THEORIES OF CONSPIRACY. OUR RELATIONS WITH ITALY ARE EXCELLENT BUT IT IS FRUSTRATING THAT EVERY TIME THERE

ROME 20453 01 OF 02 131739Z IS A POLITICAL HICCUP, THE RUMORS ABOUT USTICA START UP AGAIN."

LEFTIST, INDEPENDENT DAILY "LA REPUBBLICA" NOVEMBER 13 SAID WILLIAMS DESCRIBED THE NUMEROUS DIPLOMATIC RESPONSES THAT THE U.S. HAS GIVEN ITALY OVER THE LAST FEW YEARS. WILLIAMS NOTED OFFICIAL U.S. LETTERS FROM UNDER SECDEFS WILLIAM TAFT (24 JANUARY 1988), DON ATWOOD (15 MAY 1989), AND PAUL WOLFOWITZ (4 DECEMBER 1990). "LA REPUBBLICA" ALSO REPORTED WILLIAMS' COMMENT: "WE TAKE THIS AFFAIR VERY SERIOUSLY BECAUSE ITALY IS AN IMPORTANT ALLY AND WE ARE ABOVE ALL INTERESTED IN THE DISCOVERY OF THE TRUTH BUT THERE IS NOTHING NEW AND, FOR THIS, IT IS

NNNN

PAGE 01 ROME 20453 02 OF 02 131739Z

ACTION EUR-01

INFO LOG-00 ACDA-17 AID-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 CFE-00 C-01 DOTE-00 EB-01 E-01 FAAE-00 HA-09 H-01 IMMC-01 ADS-00 NRRC-00 INRE-00 INR-01 10-19 L-03 NEA-01 NSCE-00 OIC-02 PA-01 PM-02 PRS-01 NSAE-00 OMB-01 SCT-03 SP-00 P-01 SB-00 SNP-00 STR-17 TRSE-00 T-01 /086W

-----7A17AB 131741Z /38

0 131727Z NOV 92 FM AMEMBASSY ROME TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5344 SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE DEPT JUSTICE WASHDC IMMEDIATE USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7673

Date Printed: 16 Apr 2002

DOC NBR: 1992ROME20453

CHANNEL: n/a HANDLING: n/a

189

INFO JOINT STAFF WASHDC
USMISSION USNATO
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
COMSIXTHFLT
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE//ECPA//ECJ5//
CNO WASHDC//06/09C//
COMFAIRMED NAPLES IT
USNMR SHAPE BE
AMEMBASSY PARIS

SECTION 02 OF 02 ROME 20453

STATE ALSO FOR P; USIA FOR EU, P/G; DOJ FOR CRIM DIV/OIA L. BARSELLA

PAGE 02

ROME 20453 02 OF 02 131739Z

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: PINR, NATO, PREL, IT
SUBJECT: USTICA: U.S. REPLIES TO ALLEGATIONS OF A
COVER-UP; ITALIAN MOD SALVO ANDO' DENIES DOUBTING
U.S. SINCERITY AND COOPERATION; JUDGE PRIORE LOOKS
FOR PROOF ON THE "USS SARATOGA"

WRONG TO DEFINE OUR POSITION AS "NEWLY HELPFUL."

- "LA REPUBBLICA" ALSO REPORTED THAT IMMEDIATELY AFTER HEARING ASD WILLIAMS' STATEMENTS, ITALIAN MOD SALVO ANDO' RESPONDED, "I AM GLAD TO HEAR THAT THE U.S. HAS REITERATED ITS COMMITMENT TO COOPERATE WITH EVERY POSSIBLE MEANS SO THAT THE INVESTIGATION CAN CONCLUDE OUICKLY AND PROPERLY. HAVE NEVER INFERRED OR EXPRESSED DOUBT ABOUT THE SINCERITY OF THEIR (USG) INTENTIONS. THE RECENT INITIATIVES BY THE ITALIAN MOD WERE NOT MEANT TO FEED NEW ARGUMENTS OR REKINDLE OLD ONES. THEY REFLECTED THE DESIRE OF THE DEFENSE MINISTRY AND THE ENTIRE ITALIAN COMMUNITY TO COMPLETE THIS DIFFICULT INVESTIGATION IN THE BEST WAY POSSIBLE. CONVINCED THAT THE U.S. WILL CONTINUE TO GIVE ITS FULL AND COMPLETE SUPPORT TO THE VARIOUS INITIATIVES AS IT HAS DONE UP TO NOW."
- 6. (U) LEADING CONSERVATIVE DAILY "IL GIORNALE" NOVEMBER 13 SAID THE INVESTIGATING MAGISTRATE (JUDGE PRIORE) WOULD GO TO NAPLES NOVEMBER 13 TO INTERVIEW

Date Printed: 16 Apr 2002

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CHANNEL: n/a HANDLING: n/a

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WITNESSES AND GATHER DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE REGARDING

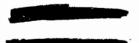


PAGE 03 ROME 20453 02 OF 02 131739Z THE EXACT WHEREABOUTS OF THE "USS SARATOGA" ON THE NIGHT OF THE USTICA CRASH. REITERATING SUGGESTIONS MADE BY "CBS NEWS" NOVEMBER 11 THAT THERE WERE IRREGULARITIES IN THE "SARATOGA'S" LOG BOOK, ROME'S CENTRIST DAILY "IL MESSAGGERO" REPORTED THAT USTICA INVESTIGATORS WERE LOOKING FOR INDEPENDENT PROOF THAT THE "USS SARATOGA" WAS, AS THE U.S. HAS ALWAYS CLAIMED, ANCHORED IN NAPLES HARBOR ON JUNE 27, 1980. (COMMENT. "IL GIORNALE" ALSO REPORTED THAT JUDGE PRIORE WOULD LISTEN TO FIVE WITNESSES "AMONG WHOM WERE SOME OFFICIALS OF THE US NAVY." WE HAVE CONTACTED THE NAVAL AUTHORITIES IN NAPLES AND GAETA AND THEY HAVE HAD NO SUCH CONTACT. JUDGE PRIORE IS AWARE THAT ANY REQUEST TO INTERVIEW A USG OFFICIAL MUST GO THROUGH PROPER USG CHANNELS.)

(C) COMMENT.

В1

THE ITALIAN PRESS, IN GENERAL, GAVE WIDE AND IN-DEPTH COVERAGE TO ASD WILLIAMS' REMARKS AT THE PENTAGON BRIEFING -- INCLUDING HIS POINTED COMMENT ABOUT USTICA AS A POLITICAL FOOTBALL. WILLIAMS' COMMENTS WERE HELPFUL IN DISPELLING RECENT PRESS COVERAGE OF THE AFFAIR AND FOCUS ON THE U.S. MILITARY. SEPTELS REPORT OUR APPROACHES TO GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ON THE USTICA QUESTION.



PAGE 04 SECCHIA ROME 20453 02 OF 02 131739Z

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Date Printed: 16 Apr 2002

DOC NBR: 1992ROME20465

CHANNEL: nRECEAS

HANDLING: Br. 1.5(D)

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PAGE 01 ROME 20465 01 OF 02 140626Z

ACTION EUR-01

INFO LOG-00 ACDA-17 AID-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 CFE-00 C-01 FAAE-00 HA-09 H-01 IMMC-01 DOTE-00 EB-01 E-01 **IO-19** L-03ADS-00 NEA-01 NRRC-00 INRE-00 INR-01 NSCE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-02 PRS-01 NSAE-00 SCT-03 SNP-00 SP-00 STR-17 TRSE-00 P-01 SB-00

/086W T-01 USIE-00

-----7A5517 140627Z /38

P 131922Z NOV 92 FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5359

SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

DEPT JUSTICE WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO JOINT STAFF WASHDC

USMISSION USNATO

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK

COMSIXTHFLT

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE//ECPA/ECJ5//

CNO WASHDC//06//09C//

COMFAIRMED NAPLES IT

USNMR SHAPE BE

AMEMBASSY PARIS

SECTION 01 OF 02 ROME 20465

STATE ALSO FOR P; DOJ FOR CRIM DIV/OIA L. BARSELLA

E.O. 12356:DECL: OADR

PAGE 02 ROME 20465 01 OF 02 140626Z

TAGS: PGOV, PREL, NATO, MARR, IT

SUBJECT: USTICA: THE AMBASSADOR GETS A SYMPATHETIC

HEARING TO HIS PROTEST

REF: STATE 368673 NOTAL **EXTEND CLASSIFICATION**

1. - ENTIRE TEXT -.

SUMMARY.

B1

Page - 928

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE REVIEW AUTHORITY: ERIC W. FLEISHER DATE/CASE ID: 28 OCT 2002 200102359

CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL REASON: 1.6(6)[JNCLASSIFIED]

| Date Printed: 16 Apr 2002 | DOC_NBR: 1992 | ROME20465 | CHANNEL: n/ | a /a | 190 |
|------------------------------|---------------|-----------|-------------|---------|-----|
| | | | | | B1 |
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| ••••• | D SUMMARY. | | | | |
| AMATO AGREES TO | CALL ANDO' | | - | | DI |
| 3. | | | | | B1 |
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CHANNEL: n/a 190 Date Printed: HANDLING: n/a DOC NBR: 1992ROME20465 16 Apr 2002 B1 NNNN PAGE 01 ROME 20465 02 OF 02 140626Z ACTION EUR-01 **INFO** LOG-00 ACDA-17 AID-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 CFE-00 C-01 DOTE-00 EB-01 E-01 FAAE-00 HA-09 H-01 IMMC-01 INRE-00 INR-01 IO-19 L-03ADS-00 NEA-01 NRRC-00 PM-02 PRS-01 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 P-01 SB-00 SCT-03 SNP-00 SP-00 STR-17 TRSE-00 T-01 USIE-00 /086W -----7A551B 140627Z /38 P 131922Z NOV 92 FM AMEMBASSY ROME TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5360 SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY DEPT JUSTICE WASHDC PRIORITY INFO JOINT STAFF WASHDC

Date Printed: 16 Apr 2002

DOC NBR: 1992ROME20465

CHANNEL: n/a HANDLING: n/a

190

USMISSION USNATO
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
COMSIXTHFLT
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE//ECPA/ECJ5//
CNO WASHDC//06//09C//
COMFAIRMED NAPLES IT
USNMR SHAPE BE
AMEMBASSY PARIS

SECTION 02 OF 02 ROME 20465

STATE ALSO FOR P; DOJ FOR CRIM DIV/OIA L. BARSELLA

E.O. 12356:DECL: OADR

PAGE 02 ROME 20465 02 OF 02 140626Z
TAGS: PGOV, PREL, NATO, MARR, IT
SUBJECT: USTICA: THE AMBASSADOR GETS A SYMPATHETIC
HEARING TO HIS PROTEST

B1

8. CRAXI ADVISED THE AMBASSADOR TO AVOID PUBLIC DISCUSSION OF SUCH DETAILS AND TO STICK TO THE ESSENTIAL POINTS: THE U.S. HAD NO PLANES IN THE

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DOC NBR: 1992ROME20465

CHANNEL: n/a HANDLING: n/a

190

IMMEDIATE VICINITY AND NO MISSILES WERE MISSING. THE

PAGE 03 ROME 20465 02 OF 02 140626Z
AMBASSADOR INDICATED THAT A GREAT DEAL OF DAMAGE HAS
ALREADY BEEN DONE, AND SOMETHING NEEDS TO BE DONE TO
REPAIR IT. CRAXI SAID HE WOULD TALK TO ANDO' AGAIN
TO MAKE SURE HE UNDERSTANDS THIS,/

В1

CRAXI ALSO

SAID HE WOULD MAKE HIS VIEWS KNOWN TO THE PRIME MINISTER (WHICH HE CLEARLY DID). SECCHIA

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UNCLEASE SHEET IFICATION

Date Printed: 16 Apr 2002

DOC NBR: 1992ROME20768

CHANNEL: n/a HANDLING: n/a

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RELEASED IN PART B1, 1.5(D), B6

PAGE 01 ROME 20768 01 OF 02 191625Z

ACTION EUR-01

INFO LOG-00 AID-01 CIAE-00 C-01 HA-09 H-01 INRE-00 INR-01 L-03 ADS-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 OMB-01 PA-01 SCT-03 PM-02 PRS-01 P-01 SB-00 SNP-00 SP-00

/027W TRSE-00 SS-00 T-01

---7C791F 191751Z /38

R 191625Z NOV 92

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5583

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

CJCS WASHDC

DEPT JUSTICE WASHDC

USIA WASHDC 7697

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION USNATO

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK

COMSIXTHFLT

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE//ECPA//ECJ5

CNO WASHDC//06/090//

COMFAIRMED NAPLES IT

USNMR SHAPE BE

SECTION 01 OF 02 ROME 20768

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: PGOV, MARR, PREL,

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR MEETS WITH

PAGE 02

ROME 20768 01 OF 02 1916252

REF: ROME 20514 AND PREVIOUS

- ENTIRE TEXT. 1.

THE AMBASSADOR MET ON NOVEMBER 16 2. SUMMARY.

B6

TO EXPLAIN SOME OF

THE FRUSTRATIONS THE U.S. HAS FELT IN DEALING WITH THE USTICA AFFAIR AND TO PROVIDE ANSWERS TO SOME OF

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE REVIEW AUTHORITY: THEODORE SELLIN DATE/CASE ID: 28 FEB 2003 200102359

UNCLASSIFIED

B6

B1

Date Printed: 16 Apr 2002

DOC NBR: 1992ROME20768

CHANNEL: n/a HANDLING: n/a

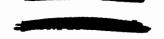
195

THE NEWEST "MYSTERIES" RAISED. END SUMMARY.

3. THE AMBASSADOR BEGAN BY EXPLAINING THAT, DURING HIS THREE AND ONE-HALF YEARS IN ROME, HE HAD DEVELOPED A STRONG ADMIRATION AND FRIENDSHIP FOR AND RESPECT FOR HIS NEWSPAPER, AND THEREFORE HAD CHOSEN TO SPEAK WITH HIM NOW ABOUT OUR PROBLEMS AND FRUSTRATIONS REGARDING USTICA. HE STRESSED THAT THE CONVERSATION WAS INTENDED AS BACKGROUND INFORMATION

ONLY. THE AMBASSADOR NOTED WITH GRATITUDE THAT HAD BEEN ONE OF THE FEW ITALIAN PAPERS

TO REPORT (USTICA INVESTIGATING MAGISTRATE) JUDGE PRIORE'S DENIAL OF ALLEGATIONS, RAMPANT IN THE ITALIAN PRESS OVER THE WEEKEND, THAT NAPLES PORT RECORDS RELATING TO THE LOCATION OF THE AIRCRAFT CARRIER SARATOGA AT THE TIME OF THE USTICA CRASH HAD BEEN "FALSIFIED." HE EMPHASIZED ONCE AGAIN THAT THE U.S. HAS ALWAYS COOPERATED FULLY WITH THE ITALIAN JUDICIAL INVESTIGATION, AND THAT OUR



PAGE 03 ROME 20768 01 OF 02 191625Z GOVERNMENT IS WORKING ON THE ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS THAT ARE OUTSTANDING.

4. THE AMBASSADOR REFERRED SPECIFICALLY TO SEVERAL OF THE INNUMERABLE FALSE ALLEGATIONS THAT HAVE APPEARED IN THE PRESS IN THE DECADE SINCE THE USTICA CRASH, NOTING THAT, EVEN WHEN THESE ALLEGATIONS HAVE BEEN DISPROVEN, THE NEWSPAPERS THAT PRINTED THEM HAVE NOT SEEN FIT TO PUBLISH RETRACTIONS. MORE RECENTLY, HE OBSERVED, NO ONE IN ITALY HAD BOTHERED TO NOTE THAT THE NOVEMBER 11 CBS EVENING NEWS STORY ON USTICA HAD BEEN THE WORK OF A SOLE CORRESPONDENT WHO HAD NOT SPOKEN WITH A SINGLE U.S. SOURCE.

| 5. / | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| a, astronomer as a second | IN NAPLES TO SPEAK |
| | ORE ON NOVEMBER 13 AND THUS |
| TO RECORD HIS DENIAL. | A |
| JOURNALIST FROM LA REPUT | BBLICA, WHO HAD NOT SPOKEN |
| WITH THE JUDGE, WAS THE | SOURCE OF ALLEGATIONS THAT |
| DOCUMENTS AT THE NAPLES | PORT HAD BEEN TAMPERED WITH |
| | |

B1, B6

6. THE AMBASSADOR NOTED THAT WHILE IT WAS QUITE

CHANNEL: n/a Date Printed: 195 DOC_NBR: 1992ROME20768 HANDLING: n/a 16 Apr 2002 PROPER FOR AS A JOURNALIST, TO QUOTE JUDGE PRIORE, AMERICAN OFFICIALS WERE PROHIBITED BY LAW FROM DISCUSSING REQUESTS FOR JUDICIAL INFORMATION. **B**1 a referrir marky of NNNN PAGE 01 ROME 20768 02 OF 02 191625Z ACTION EUR-01 INFO LOG-00 AID-01 CIAE-00 C-01 HA-09 H-01 INRE-00 INR-01 ADS-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-02 PRS-01 SP-00 P-01 SB-00 SCT-03 SNP-00 SS-00 TRSE-00 T-01 /027W ----- 191753Z /38 R 191625Z NOV 92 FM AMEMBASSY ROME TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5584 INFO SECDEF WASHDC CJCS WASHDC DEPT JUSTICE WASHDC USIA WASHDC 7698 AMEMBASSY PARIS USMISSION USNATO CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK

Date Printed: 16 Apr 2002

DOC NBR: 1992ROME20768

CHANNEL: n/a HANDLING: n/a 195

COMSIXTHFLT USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE//ECPA//ECJ5 CNO WASHDC//06/090// COMFAIRMED NAPLES IT USNMR SHAPE BE

SECTION 02 OF 02 ROME 20768

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: PREL, PGOV, MARR, IT

AMBASSADOR MEETS WITH EDITOR OF SUBJECT:

ON USTICA

B6

PAGE 02

20768 02 OF 02 191625Z ROME

B1

B1, B6

8. THE AMBASSADOR WENT ON TO NOTE CHARGES TMADE PRIMARILY BY "CORRIERE DELLA SERA" JOURNALIST ANDREA PURGATORI) THAT THE U.S. HAS RESPONDED TO ONLY 12 OF THE 25 INQUIRIES RECEIVED FROM ITALIAN AUTHORITIES ON THE USTICA AFFAIR. THE AMBASSADOR NOTED THAT IN SEVERAL OF THESE CASES, WE HAVE IN FACT RESPONDED TO THE INQUIRY, BUT OUR ANSWER WAS "NOT TO THE SATISFACTION OF THOSE WHO WANT TO HEAR SOMETHING ELSE." THE AMBASSADOR ADDED THAT IN HIS JUDGEMENT, ONLY SIX OF THE INQUIRIES REMAINED UNANSWERED, AND RESPONSES TO TWO OF THOSE SIX MAY ALREADY HAVE BEEN MADE THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS.

WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF EMBASSY MILITARY ELEMENTS, THE AMBASSADOR WENT ON TO SHED LIGHT ON SOME OF THE NEWEST USTICA "MYSTERIES" THAT APPEARED IN THE ITALIAN PRESS OVER THE WEEKEND:

--THE "FAST CRUISE" UNDERTAKEN BY THE SARATOGA ON JULY 2, 1980, WAS IN FACT NOTHING MORE THAN A STANDARD DRY RUN FOR AN UPCOMING EXIT FROM PORT. THIS PROCEDURE, THE AMBASSADOR POINTEDLY REMARKED, IS USUALLY FOLLOWED WHEN A SHIP HAS NOT BEEN AT SEA FOR SOME TIME, A FACT THAT PENDINELLI NOTED AS "IMPORTANT";

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DOC NBR: 1992ROME20768

CHANNEL: n/a HANDLING: n/a

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--THE VISIT OF THE PREFECT OF NAPLES ABOARD THE
SARATOGA ON JULY 1 WAS PURELY CEREMONIAL, AS THE
NAPLES DAILY "IL MATTINO" NOTED IN ITS REPORT OF
THE CEREMONY JULY 2, 1980.

LIKEWISE B1, B6
DESCRIBED THIS AS "IMPORTANT";

- --THE NOTATION "SARATOGA DEPARTING" IN THE SHIP'S LOG BOOKS REFERS TO THE COMMANDER OF THE SHIP, NOT THE SARATOGA ITSELF;
- --THE "READINESS IV" CONDITION OF THE SHIP WAS IN FACT THE LOWEST OF THE FOUR POSSIBLE CONDITIONS, THE NORMAL IN-PORT STATUS OF THE SHIP IN PEACETIME;
- --THE RECOPYING OF A SHIP'S LOGS IS STANDARD PROCEDURE ANY TIME THAT CERTAIN ENTRIES, FOR WHATEVER REASON, ARE ILLEGIBLE OR NOT IN PROPER FORM. IN SUCH CASES, THE ENTIRE PAGE ON WHICH THE ENTRY APPEARS MUST BE RECOPIED.

B1, B6

SECCHIA

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Date Printed: 16 Apr 2002

DOC NBR: 1992ROME20887

CHANNEL: nRELEASED-HVBART

Bf, 1.5(D) HANDLING:

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ROME 20887 01 OF 02 2016492 PAGE 01

ACTION EUR-01

AID-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 CFE-00 C-01 INFO LOG-00 ACDA-17 FAAE-00 H-01 IMMC-01 DOTE-00 EB-01 E-01 HA-09 ADS-00 NRRC-00 INRE-00 INR-01 10-19 L-03NEA-01 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-02 PRS-01 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SCT-03 SNP-00 SP-00 STR-17 TRSE-00 P-01 SB-00 T-01 /086W

------/D01FF 201650Z /38

O 201650Z NOV 92

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5664

SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

DEPT JUSTICE WASHDC IMMEDIATE

USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7705

INFO JOINT STAFF WASHDC

USMISSION USNATO

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK

COMSIXTHFLT

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE//ECPA//ECJ5//

CNO WASHDC//06/09C//

COMFAIRMED NAPLES IT

USNMR SHAPE BE

AMEMBASSY PARIS

(D) STATE 377186

SECTION 01 OF 02 ROME 20887

STATE ALSO FOR P; USIA FOR EU, P/G; DOJ FOR CRIM DIV/OIA L. BARSELLA

PAGE 02

ROME 20887 01 OF 02 201649Z

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR TAGS: PINR, NATO, PREL, IT SUBJECT: USTICA: PRESS SAYS THAT "SARATOGA'S" COMMANDER CONTRADICTS OFFICIAL US LINE; QUESTIONS TO

(A) ROME 20778 (B) ROME 20514 (C) ROME 20358 CLASSIFICATION REF(S):

(U) MAJOR NEWSPAPERS NOVEMBER 20 SUMMARY.

THE FRENCH ABOUT POSITION OF THEIR AIRCRAFT CARRIER

Page - 981,

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE REVIEW AUTHORITY: ERIC W. FLEISHER DATE/CASE ID: 29 OCT 2002 200102359

CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL REASON: 1.6(6)UNCLASSIFIED

Date Printed: 16 Apr 2002

DOC NBR: 1992ROME20887

CHANNEL: n/a HANDLING: n/a

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CARRIED REPORTS THAT US NAVY ADMIRAL JAMES FLATLEY HAS TOLD ITALIAN INVESTIGATING MAGISTRATE (JUDGE PRIORE) THAT THE "USS SARATOGA" LEFT NAPLES PORT THE NIGHT THAT AN ITALIAN PASSENGER PLANE CRASHED NEAR THE ISLAND OF USTICA ON JUNE 27, 1980. LEADING CENTRIST DAILY "CORRIERE DELLA SERA" NOVEMBER 20 SAID THIS EVIDENCE CAST DOUBT ON THE OFFICIAL US VERSION. ITALIAN MOD SALVO ANDO' DAMPENED PUBLIC EXPECTATION OF NEW FRENCH REVELATIONS ABOUT USTICA ON THE EVE OF THE WEU MINISTERIAL MEETING IN ROME TODAY. END SUMMARY.

- 2. (U) MAJOR ITALIAN NEWSPAPERS REPORTED WIDELY NOVEMBER 20 ON NEW ALLEGATIONS THAT US NAVY ADMIRAL JAMES FLATLEY, THEN COMMANDER OF THE "USS SARATOGA," TOLD ITALIAN AUTHORITIES THAT THE "USS SARATOGA" HAD LEFT NAPLES PORT THE NIGHT OF THE USTICA CRASH.
- 3. (U) THE ITALIAN PRESS REPORTED WIDELY THAT PENTAGON PRESS SPOKESMAN SATTERFIELD AND COLONEL
- PAGE 03 ROME 20887 01 OF 02 201649Z
 DAVID GARMER STRONGLY DENIED REPORTS THAT THE "USS
 SARATOGA" HAD LEFT NAPLES ON THE DAY OF THE CRASH.
 ACCORDING TO "CORRIERE DELLA SERA," SATTERFIELD SAID
 THAT "THE ITALIAN PRESS IS FREE TO REPORT WHAT IT
 WANTS, BUT THE "SARATOGA" WAS IN PORT AND THAT IS A
 FACT." ACCORDING TO DOD SOURCES, "CORRIERE" WRITES,
 FLATLEY'S STATEMENTS ARE NOT YET KNOWN OFFICIALLY,
 AND THEREFORE NO COMMENT COULD BE MADE.
- (U) CONCERNING REVELATIONS ABOUT FLATLEY'S ALLEGED STATEMENT TO ITALIAN MAGISTRATES IN DECEMBER 1991. "CORRIERE" AND "LA REPUBBLICA" INDICATE THAT THE "USS SARATOGA" CAPTAIN SAID THE SHIP LEFT PORT THAT DAY FOR "TWO OR THREE HOURS" AND THAT THE SIXTH FLEET TOOK AWAY THE SHIP'S RADAR RECORDINGS AFTER THE NIGHT OF CRASH. FROM THE PENTAGON A RESPONSE -- THAT "RAPID" DEPARTURE FROM A PORT FOR A FEW HOURS IS TECHNICALLY IMPOSSIBLE. "IL MESSAGGERO" REPORTED A "NO COMMENT" FROM CIA SPOKESMAN PETER EARNEST ABOUT THE WORKING GROUP ALLEGEDLY PRESIDED OVER BY EMBASSY ROME CIA CHIEF DUANE DEWEY CLARIDGE IN THE WEEK AFTER THE DISASTER.
- 5. (U) IN A SEPARATE DEVELOPMENT, ROME'S CENTRIST

Date Printed: 16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1992ROME20887

CHANNEL: n/a HANDLING: n/a

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DAILY "IL MESSAGGERO" REPORTED NOVEMBER 20 THAT ITALIAN MOD SALVO ANDO' SPOKE ABOUT USTICA WITH FRENCH MOD PIERRE JOXE PRIOR TO THE WEU DEFENSE MINISTERIAL MEETING IN ROME NOVEMBER 20. ACCORDING TO "IL MESSAGGERO," ANDO' SAID, "I HAVE HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLAIN TO MINISTER JOXE, IN ITALY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE WEU MINISTERIAL MEETING AND NOT TO

PAGE 04 ROME 20887 01 OF 02 201649Z
DISCUSS THE USTICA AFFAIR, THAT OUR INVESTIGATION IS
AT A MOST DELICATE JUNCTURE." IT WAS IMPORTANT FOR
EVERYONE TO COOPERATE IN THE SEARCH FOR THE TRUTH,
ANDO' REMARKED, ESPECIALLY SINCE ITALY HAS ONLY ASKED
THE FRENCH FOR INFORMATION, NOT FOR "MIRACLES."
ACCORDING TO THE NEWSPAPER, ALTHOUGH JOXE WOULD NOT
CARRY ANY NEW INFORMATION TO ITALY ABOUT USTICA,
ANDO' EXPLAINED THAT THE INVESTIGATION WAS A JUDICIAL
MATTER AND OUGHT TO BE HANDLED THROUGH PROPER
JUDICIAL CHANNELS--"ITALY WOULD NOT PRE-JUDGE
FRANCE'S RESPONSES."

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ACTION EUR-01

CFE-00 C-01 INFO LOG-00 ACDA-17 AID-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 H-01 IMMC-01 DOTE-00 FAAE-00 HA-09 EB-01 E-01 NRRC-00 NEA-01 INRE-00 INR-01 IO-19 L-03ADS-00 PM-02 PRS-01 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 SNP-00 TRSE-00 SP-00 STR-17 P-01 SB-00 SCT-03 T-01 /086W

O 201650Z NOV 92
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5665
SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
DEPT JUSTICE WASHDC IMMEDIATE
USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7706
INFO JOINT STAFF WASHDC
USMISSION USNATO
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK

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DOC NBR: 1992ROME20887

CHANNEL: n/a HANDLING: n/a

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STATE ALSO FOR P; USIA FOR EU, P/G; DOJ FOR CRIM DIV/OIA L. BARSELLA

PAGE 02

ROME 20887 02 OF 02 201650Z

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: PINR, NATO, PREL, IT
SUBJECT: USTICA: PRESS SAYS THAT "SARATOGA'S"
COMMANDER CONTRADICTS OFFICIAL US LINE; QUESTIONS TO
THE FRENCH ABOUT POSITION OF THEIR AIRCRAFT CARRIER

6. (U) "IL TEMPO" REPORTED THAT ACCORDING TO UNOFFICIAL SOURCES, THE FRENCH MAY PERMIT ITALIAN AUTHORITIES TO LOOK AT THE LOG BOOK OF THE FRENCH AIRCRAFT CARRIER "CLEMENCEAU" TO RESOLVE ANY QUESTIONS. PAPERS REPORT THAT THE "CLEMENCEAU" WAS IN THE FRENCH PORT OF TOULON AT THE TIME OF THE USTICA CRASH, ALTHOUGH THERE IS SOME QUESTION AS TO WHETHER IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN IN CORSICA. "IL TEMPO" REPORTED THAT THE "CLEMENCEAU" IS ACCOMPANIED BY A RADAR UNIT WHICH MIGHT HOLD CLUES ABOUT USTICA. THE ARTICLE INDICATED THAT THE FRENCH HAVE ONLY MADE STATEMENTS ABOUT THE WHEREABOUTS OF THE AIRCRAFT CARRIER, BUT PRESENTED NO PROOF; WHY, THEY ASK HYPOTHETICALLY, SHOULD THE FRENCH NOT BE ASKED FOR DOCUMENTATION?

| 7. (C) | |
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ACTION EUR-01

INFO LOG-00 AID-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 CTME-00 C-01 DODE-00 HA-09 H-01 EB-01 EXIM-06 E-01 FRB-03 INRE-00 INR-01 ITC-01 JUSE-00 LAB-04 L-03 ADS-00 NSCE-00 OMB-01 OPIC-08 PRS-01 NSAE-00 PA-01 PM-02 SCT-03 TRSE-00 P-01 SNP-00 SP-00 STR-17 T-01 USIE-00 /069W

-----7D50FC 211129Z /38

R 211128Z NOV 92 FM AMEMBASSY ROME TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5696

SECTION 01 OF 03 ROME 20930

E.O. 12356:DECL: OADR TAGS: PGOV, ETRD, EFIN, IT

SUBJECT: A FRIENDLY VICE MINISTER LOOKS AT CURRENT

ISSUES

REF(S): A) ROME 20627, B) ROME 20669

1. ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SUMMARY: THE DCM AND POLMIN MET NOVEMBER 18 WITH MFA UNDERSECRETARY SPINI, A SOCIALIST PARLIAMENTARIAN WHOSE PORTFOLIO AT THE MINISTRY INCLUDES RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES. WE DISCUSSED A RANGE OF ISSUES: AID TO POLAND AND RUSSIA, U.S. BASES IN ITALY, DURATION OF AMATO

PAGE 02 ROME 20930 01 OF 03 211128Z
GOVERNMENT, SOCIALIST PARTY POLITICS (INCLUDING
SPINI'S PROSPECTS FOR SUCCEEDING PARTY SECRETARY
CRAXI), INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY PROTECTION, THE
URUGUAY ROUND, AND YES USTICA (AT SPINI'S EXTEND CLASSIFICATION
REQUEST). END SUMMARY.

POLISH AND RUSSIAN AID

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3. THE DCM NOTED THAT THERE ARE TWO "HOT" ISSUES CONCERNING AID TO EASTERN EUROPE AND THE FORMER SOVIET UNION AT THE MOMENT: USE OF THE POLISH STABILIZATION FUND TO SUPPORT BANK PRIVATIZATION, AND THE NEED FOR QUICK ATTENTION TO PARIS CLUB RESCHEDULING OF RUSSIAN DEBT. WE EXPLAINED THAT

ITALIAN OFFICIALS HAD BEEN POSITIVE ABOUT COMMITTING THE ITALIAN \$100 MILLION CONTRIBUTION TO SUPPORT BANK PRIVATIZATION, BUT THAT LEGAL PROBLEMS SEEM TO REQUIRE REPAYMENT OF THE LOAN MONEY BEFORE IT CAN BE NEWLY COMMITTED. SPINI TOOK NOTES AND MADE IT CLEAR HE WOULD BE HELPFUL IN PUSHING FOR ITALY TO DO THE RIGHT THING.

4. SPINI NOTED THAT HE HAD LED THE ITALIAN DELEGATION TO THE TOKYO CONFERENCE ON AID TO THE FORMER USSR, WHICH IN SPINI'S VIEW HAD DONE WELL TO REORIENT EFFORTS TOWARD SPECIFIC REPUBLICS AND AWAY FROM THE EARLIER SECTORAL APPROACH.

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5. ON RUSSIA THE DCM STRESSED THE DELICACY OF YELTSIN'S POSITION SUGGESTING THAT IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THE WEST ARRANGE RESCHEDULING BEFORE THE FORTHCOMING MEETING OF THE PEOPLES' CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES IN DECEMBER. SPINI NOTED THE HIGH REGARD WITH WHICH GORBACHEV IS HELD IN ITALY AND THAT HIS TREATMENT BY YELTSIN IS A CAUSE OF CONCERN HERE. DCM RESPONDED THAT WHILE THE U.S. SHARES ITALY'S HIGH REGARD FOR GORBACHEV, YELTSIN WAS IN CHARGE AND IT SEEMED UNLIKELY THAT THE ALTERNATIVE TO YELTSIN WAS GORBACHEV. SPINI INDICATED HIS AGREEMENT.

MILITARY ISSUES

6. NOTING THAT SPINI REPRESENTED FLORENCE, THE DCM INQUIRED WHETHER HE HAD EVER VISITED CAMP DARBY LOCATED NEAR LIVORNO AND SUGGESTED THAT HE DO SO SOME TIME. HE EXPLAINED THE CARE WHICH THE OFFICIALS AT DARBY HAD TAKEN TO PROTECT THE

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ENVIRONMENT AND EXPLAINED TWO MAIN FUNCTIONS OF THE BASE: PREPOSITIONING MILITARY EQUIPMENT FOR RAPID DEPLOYMENT, STORAGE AND SHIPMMENT OF HUMANITARIAN SUPPLIES FOR USE IN AN EMERGENCY.

7. SPINI INDICATED THAT HE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN A VISIT TO DARBY AND NOTED THAT ITALIAN BOY SCOUTS

PAGE 04 ROME 20930 01 OF 03 211128Z
WERE THINKING OF REQUESTING PERMISSION TO HOLD ONE
OF THEIR JUBILEES THERE. DCM RESPONDED THAT THERE
IS A LARGE MILITARY EXERCISE PLANNED FOR THE SPRING
WHICH MIGHT CONFLICT WITH THE BASE'S ABILITY TO
HOST THE SCOUTS.

8. THE DCM ALSO GAVE A GENERAL EXPLANATION OF THE PLANS FOR BASING THE F-16S IN SIGONELLA WITH SUPPORT FACILITIES LOCATED **PN***COMISO. SPINI SEEMED UNAWARE OF THIS AND APPRECIATED THE INFORMATION.

AMATO GOVERNMENT'S SURVIVABILITY

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PAGE 01

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ACTION EUR-01

INFO LOG-00 AID-01 CIAE-00 CEA-01 COME-00 CTME-00 C-01 DODE-00 EB-01 EXIM-06 E-01 HA-09 H-01 FRB-03 INRE-00 ITC-01 INR-01 JUSE-00 LAB-04 L - 03ADS-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 OMB-01 OPIC-08 PM-02 PA-01 PRS-01 SCT-03 P-01 SNP-00 SP-00 STR-17 TRSE-00 T-01 USIE-00 /069W

R 211128Z NOV 92 FM AMEMBASSY ROME TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5697

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| E.O. 12356:DECL: TAGS: PGOV, ETR SUBJECT: A FRIE ISSUES | | CURRENT | |
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| AMATO HAD MADE I FACING ITALY. H OUTSIDE THE COUN HAS OBTAINED IN BELIEVED THAT TH THE GOVERNMENT B | THE PROGRESS THAT PRIME MINIS N ADDRESSING THE SERIOUS PROF E INDICATED THAT IN HIS TRAVE TRY HE NOTED THE CREDIBILITY DIRECTING ITALY'S EFFORTS. HE E PROGNOSIS FOR THE CONTINUAT EYOND DECEMBER 1992 (WHEN FINE TO BE APPROVED) HAD INCREASED | BLEMS ELS AMATO HE FION OF NANCE | |
| | COMPONENTS: | | |
| PAGE 02 R | OME 20930 02 OF 03 2111292 | Z | |
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| URUGUAY ROUND | | | |
| | EMENT AND STRESSED THE IMPORT FION BEFORE THE BUSH ADMINIST | | В1 |
| - | 2190 B | | |
| SOCIALIST PARTY | POLITICS | | |
| 11. IN RESPONSE | TO THE DCM'S QUERY, SPINI | | |
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| e de despera | ALEXANDER DE LA CONTRACTOR DE LA CONTRAC | | • |

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| PAGE 04 A). | ROME 2 | 0930 02 | OF 03 | 211129Z | | | |
| THE LEAGUES 1 | N TUSCANY | , | | | | | |
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CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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15. SPINI NOTED THEIR RELATIVELY POOR SHOWING MADE IN TUSCANY AND

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HOWEVER, HE QUICKLY NOTED THAT HE HAD WITNESSED THE BREAK UP OF YUGOSLAVIA, THE SOVIET UNION AND NOW CZECHOSLOVAKIA. THE PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH DISMANTLING A NATION STATE ARE SO

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PAGE 01 ROME 20930 03 OF 03 211130Z

ACTION EUR-01

INFO LOG-00 AID-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 CTME-00 C-01 DODE-00 EXIM-06 EB-01 E-01 FRB-03 HA-09 H-01 INRE-00 INR-01 ITC-01 JUSE-00 LAB-04 L-03 ADS-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 OMB-01 OPIC-08 PA-01 PM-02 PRS-01 P-01 SCT-03 SNP-00 SP-00 STR-17 TRSE-00 T-01 USIE-00 /069W

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SECTION 03 OF 03 ROME 20930

E.O. 12356:DECL: OADR

TAGS: PGOV, ETRD, EFIN, IT

SUBJECT: A FRIENDLY VICE MINISTER LOOKS AT CURRENT

ISSUES

COMPLEX BECAUSE OF THE DIVISION OF RESOURCES AND DEBTS THAT HE DID NOT THINK IT FEASIBLE.

USTICA

16. SPINI ASKED THE DCM AND POLMIN WHAT THEY

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| | USTICA, THE LONG RUNNING SAGA AIRCRAFT, WHICH HAS DEVELOPED | | |
| DAILY SERIES O | ROME 20930 03 OF 03 211130 F NEGATIVE NEWS STORIES INVOLVE EXPRESSING SOME IRRITATION, | | |
| | THE U.S. HAD PATIENTLY BEEN TH ITALY OVER THE LAST 12 YEAR | RS ON | B1 |
| | ことの意味 夢 へんけん 最初を出ると | | |
| FIND IT DIFFICT CABINET MEMBERS THEY WISHED TO | NDICATED THAT ITALIAN OFFICIAL JLT TO BE RECEIVED BY AMERICAN S IF USTICA BECAME THE ONLY IS DISCUSS OR IT SO APPEARED IN S SUCH VISITS. HE EXPANDED TH | i SSUE The | |
| TELL SPINI | S S S S S S S S S S S S S S S S S S S | | B1 |
| | ATER THE U.S. WAS BEING PUT IN OKING GUILTY WHILE WE WERE IN N THE INCIDENT. | | |
| PROBLEM, BUT IT | TATED THAT WE WOULD GET OVER TO WAS BEST FOR ALL CONCERNED INGATING MAGISTRATE DO HIS JOB OF THE TOTAL OF THE | F WE AND NOT | |
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| PAGE 03 | ROME 20930 03 OF 03 211130 | Z | |
| YUGOSLAVIA SANC | TIONS | | |
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| _ | F MANA CO. | | |
| INTELLECTUAL P | | | • |
| AMERICAN FILMS BECOME A SERIO JACK VALENTI, INDUSTRY ASSOC TO RAISE THIS CULTURAL ISSUE | THE DCM MENTIONED THAT THEFT OF AND PIRATED VIDEO CASSETTES IN US ISSUE. HE INFORMED SPINITH HEAD OF THE U.S. MOTION PICTURATION WOULD BE IN ITALY IN DESSUESPINI, WHO MENTIONED THE FELL UNDER HIS JURISDICTION RED TO PROVIDE ANY ASSISTANCE | HAD THAT RE ECEMBER HAT IN THE | |
| 21. COMMENT: | | | B1 |
| COBURN | | · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · | |
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ACTION EUR-01

C-01 ACDA-17 AID-01 CIAE-00 COME - 00 CFE-00 INFO LOG-00 EB-01 E-01 FAAE-00 HA-09 H-01 IMMC-01 DOTE-00 L-03 ADS-00 NEA-01 NRRC-00 INRE-00 INR-01 10-19 NSCE-00 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-02 PRS-01 SNP-00 SB-00 SCT-03 SP-00 STR-17 TRSE-00 P-01

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INFO JOINT STAFF WASHDC

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USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE//ECPA//ECJ5//

CNO WASHDC//06/09C//

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STATE ALSO FOR P: USIA FOR EU, P/G: DOJ FOR CRIM DIV/OIA L. BARSELLA

PAGE 02

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E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR

TAGS: PINR, NATO, PREL, IT SUBJECT: USTICA: "USS SARATOGA" DECK LOGS PUBLISHED;

FASCIST YOUTH GROUP DEMONSTRATES IN FRONT OF US **EMBASSY**

REF(S):

(A) ROME 20887 (B) ROME 20778 (C) ROME 20514 (D) STATE 377186

(U) SUMMARY. LEFTIST NEWSMAGAZINE "PANORAMA"

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE REVIEW AUTHORITY: ERIC W. FLEISHER DATE/CASE ID: 29 OCT 2002 200102359

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Date Printed: 16 Apr 2002

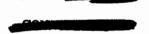
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PUBLISHED (NOVEMBER 29 EDITION) THE "SHIP'S DECK LOG" FOR THE "USS SARATOGA" WHICH HAD BEEN OBTAINED THROUGH THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT (FOIA) BY BOTH "PANORAMA" AND "GREENPEACE." THE ARTICLE NOTED ALLEGED INCONSISTENCIES IN THE ENTRIES FOR THE NIGHT OF JUNE 27, 1980 WHEN AN ITALIAN PASSENGER PLANE CRASHED NEAR THE ISLAND OF USTICA. SEPARATELY, MEMBERS OF A FASCIST YOUTH GROUP DEMONSTRATED NOVEMBER 20 IN FRONT OF THE US EMBASSY AGAINST AMERICAN "INVOLVEMENT" IN THE USTICA AFFAIR. END SUMMARY.

2. (U) LEFTIST NEWSMAGAZINE "PANORAMA" PUBLISHED (NOVEMBER 29 EDITION) PHOTOGRAPHIC COPIES OF THE "SHIP'S DECK LOG" OF THE AIRCRAFT CARRIER "USS SARATOGA" OBTAINED BY BOTH "PANORAMA" AND "GREENPEACE" THROUGH THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT (FOIA). THE ARTICLE INCLUDES PICTURES OF "SHIP'S DECK LOG SHEETS" FOR THE "USS SARATOGA" AND POINTS OUT ALLEGED INCONSISTENCIES IN THE ENTRIES FOR JUNE



PAGE 03 ROME 20985 01 OF 02 231628Z 27-28, 1980.

- 3. (U) "PANORAMA" SAID US NAVY OFFICERS PALMATIER AND FISHER WROTE, DURING THEIR WATCH FROM 2000 TO 2400 ON JUNE 27, 1980, THAT THE AIRCRAFT CARRIER WAS "ANCHORED AS BEFORE" IN NAPLES AND THAT THE SHIP'S BRIDGE COMMAND NOTED "ALL SECURE." (COMMENT. THE ITALIAN DC-9 PASSENGER PLANE CRASHED THAT NIGHT AT APPROXIMATELY 2100.) ACCORDING TO "PANORAMA," FIVE CONSECUTIVE WATCH ENTRIES, BEGINNING 0800 JUNE 27 AND ENDING 0400 JUNE 28, WERE WRITTEN IN THE SAME HANDWRITING. OTHER WATCH ENTRIES FOR JUNE AND JULY, "PANORAMA" EXPLAINED, WERE SOMETIMES DUPLICATED IN THE SAME HANDWRITING BUT NEVER FOR SUCH AN EXTENDED PERIOD OF TIME. THE NEWSMAGAZINE SAID EACH OF THESE FIVE WATCH ENTRIES REPORTED THAT THE SHIP WAS "ANCHORED" AND "EVERYTHING IN ORDER."
- 4. (U) THE ARTICLE ALSO CLAIMED THE TITLE OF THE DAILY LOG SHEETS INEXPLICABLY CHANGED FOR TWO WATCHES: FROM 1600 TO 2400 JUNE 27. "PANORAMA" NOTED THAT, FOR TWO WEEKS BEFORE THE TRAGEDY AND SOME DAYS AFTERWARD, THE LOG WAS ENTITLED "OPNAV 3100/99 S/N 0107-LF-031-0495" (WRITTEN ON THE FRONT AND BACK

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OF THE LOG). THE ARTICLE SAID THIS TITLE CHANGED TO "NAVPERS" FOLLOWED BY A DIFFERENT NUMBER SEQUENCE, AND WAS ONLY INSCRIBED ON THE FRONT OF THE LOG -- UNLIKE PREVIOUS AND SUBSEQUENT ENTRIES. "PANORAMA" ALSO REITERATED CLAIMS THAT THE AIRCRAFT CARRIER WENT ON A "FAST CRUISE" JULY 2 AND THAT THIS ACTIVITY WAS DOCUMENTED IN OTHER SHIP RECORDS AS A "DRILL."

PAGE 04 ROME 20985 01 OF 02 231628Z LASTLY, THE NEWSMAGAZINE NOTED ALLEGED INCONSISTENCIES IN US NAVY ADMIRAL JAMES FLATLEY'S RECONSTRUCTION OF EVENTS AS THEY HAVE BEEN REPORTED IN THE ITALIAN PRESS.

5. (U) SEPARATELY, THE YOUTH GROUP OF "MOVIMENTO SOCIALE ITALIANO" (FAR-RIGHT NEO-FASCIST PARTY) DEMONSTRATED NOVEMBER 20 IN FRONT OF THE US EMBASSY AGAINST US "KNOWLEDGE" OR "INVOLVEMENT" IN THE USTICA CRASH. APPROXIMATELY 35-40 MEMBERS OF MSI'S "FRONTE DELLA GIOVENTU'" GATHERED IN FRONT OF THE EMBASSY'S MAIN GATE AT 1830 AND STOOD PEACEFULLY WHILE CARRYING TORCHES. THE DEMONSTRATORS HANDED OUT FLIERS TO PASSERSBY. THE EVENT DID NOT DISTURB EMBASSY

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INFO LOG-00 ACDA-17 AID-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 CFE-00 C-01 DOTE-00 EB-01 E-01 FAAE-00 HA-09 H-01 IMMC-01 INRE-00 INR-01 IO-19 L-03 ADS-00 NRRC-00 NEA-01 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-02 PRS-01 P-01 SB-00 SCT-03 SNP-00 SP-00 STR-17 TRSE-00 T-01 /086W

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INFO JOINT STAFF WASHDC
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CNO WASHDC//06/09C//
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AMEMBASSY PARIS

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STATE ALSO FOR P; USIA FOR EU, P/G; DOJ FOR CRIM DIV/OIA L. BARSELLA

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E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: PINR, NATO, PREL, IT
SUBJECT: USTICA: "USS SARATOGA" DECK LOGS PUBLISHED;
FASCIST YOUTH GROUP DEMONSTRATES IN FRONT OF US
EMBASSY

ACTIVITY AND LASTED ONLY A SHORT TIME.

6. (U) AN INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF HAND-OUT FOLLOWS:

(BEGIN TRANSLATION)

-- USTICA: THE AMERICANS KNOW

--AFTER 12 YEARS OF OMISSIONS, COVER-UPS, AND SILENCE, FLASHES OF TRUTH HAVE FINALLY BEGUN TO EMERGE ABOUT THE USTICA TRAGEDY THAT KILLED 81 PEOPLE.

--ALTHOUGH IT HAS BEEN SUGGESTED MANY TIMES, NOW THERE IS A STRONGER POSSIBILITY THAT AMERICA WAS INVOLVED IN THE AFFAIR. IT APPEARS CERTAIN, IN FACT, THAT CONTRARY TO WHAT THE PENTAGON HAS ALWAYS SAID, THE AIRCRAFT CARRIER SARATOGA DID NOT REMAIN THAT NIGHT IN THE PORT OF NAPLES BUT LEFT FOR AN EXERCISE. IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN MORE CREDIBLE THAT A REAL BATTLE WAS FOUGHT IN OUR SKIES THAT NIGHT WHICH ACCIDENTALLY INVOLVED THE ITAVIA DC-9. IT IS CLEAR THAT OUR SECRET SERVICES WERE LEAVING A SERIES OF FALSE TRAILS BY SUPPORTING, TIME AFTER TIME, THEORIES

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CHANNEL: n/a HANDLING: n/a

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OF A STRUCTURAL DEFECT OR BOMB ON BOARD.



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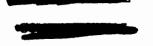
ROME 20985 02 OF 02 231629Z

--THE USTICA AFFAIR MAY ALSO BE LINKED TO THE TRAGEDY OF BOLOGNA. (COMMENT. A BOMB EXPLODED IN THE BOLOGNA TRAIN STATION ON AUGUST 2, 1980. AS WITH THE USTICA AFFAIR, THE BOLOGNA TRAGEDY HAS NEVER BEEN FULLY SOLVED.) IT WOULD BE GOOD TO REMEMBER THAT A COINCIDENCE CAUSED ALL THOSE INJURIES AT THE STATION; THE ATTEMPT HOWEVER HAD BEEN ORGANIZED DIFFERENTLY. PERHAPS THE BOLOGNA BOMBING WAS MEANT TO DEFLECT PUBLIC OPINION, OR IT WAS THE RESULT OF A VENDETTA BY A FOREIGN COUNTRY INVOLVED IN THE USTICA AFFAIR.

- --IT IS NOT POSSIBLE, FOR NOW, TO ESTABLISH THE ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITY OF THE AMERICANS IN THE (USTICA) AFFAIR. WHAT IS CERTAIN IS THAT THEY KNOW HOW IT HAPPENED AND THAT THEY HAVE INTERVENED TO HIDE IT.
- --WE WANT THE TRUTH.
- --WE ASK THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT TO TRULY PLEDGE ITSELF TO CLARIFY THE AFFAIR.
- --OUR INDEPENDENCE REQUIRES THE TRUTH ON USTICA
- --YOUTH FRONT

(END INFORMAL TRANSLATION)

7. (C) COMMENT. WE UNDERSTAND THAT WASHINGTON AGENCIES ARE WORKING TO PRESENT JUDICIAL RESPONSES TO ITALIAN AUTHORITIES BY NOVEMBER 30. EMBASSY BELIEVES



PAGE 04 ROME 20985 02 OF 02 231629Z
IT ABSOLUTELY CRITICAL THAT WE DO SO AS PART OF OUR
EFFORTS TO CLEAR UP ANY DOUBT THAT THE UNITED STATES
GOVERNMENT HAS NOT RESPONDED FULLY, ACCURATELY, AND
PUNCTUALLY TO ITALIAN REQUESTS. IN THE MEANTIME,
EMBASSY HAS BACKGROUNDED PRESS ON THE OBVIOUS
INCONSISTENCIES AND UNTRUTHS IN A NUMBER OF THEIR
STORIES. ONCE OUR JUDICIAL RESPONSES ARE PRESENTED

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TO THE ITALIANS, WE INTEND TO UNDERLINE WITH THE PM, FOREIGN MINISTER, DEFENSE MINISTER AND JUSTICE MINISTER OUR CONTINUING WILLINGNESS TO BE HELPFUL.

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ACTION DS-00

CA-02 INFO LOG-00 COR-01 ACDA-17 AID-01 AMAD-01 A-01 DODE-00 CCO-00 CG-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 CTME-00 C-01 EUR-01 FAAE-00 FBIE-00 FBO-01 HA-09 DOEE-00 EB-01 INR-01 INSE-00 JUSE-00 L-03 H-01 IMMC-01 INRE-00 NRCE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 OCS-06 OIS-01 ADS-00 M-01 PM-02 PRS-01 P-01 SCT-03 OMB-01 OPR-01 PA-02 SS-00 TRSE-00 USIE-00 USSS-00 SP-00 SR-00 SSO-00 ASDS-01 /062W

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5779

INFO AMCONSUL MILAN

AMCONSUL FLORENCE

AMCONSUL GENOA

AMCONSUL NAPLES

AMCONSUL PALERMO

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

UNCLAS ROME 21067

// PARA 1, MONTH

DEPT FOR DS/ITA, DSS/OP/EUR

FRANKFURT FOR RSSD AND CO CO "E"

CONSULATES FOR RSO/PSO

PAGE 02

ROME 21067 251005Z

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: ASEC

SUBJECT: PEACEFUL DEMONSTRATION AT AMEMBASSY ROME

- 1. LEAFLETS WERE HANDED OUT BY THE "FRONTE DELLA GIOVENTU" (MSI) IN FRONT OF AMEMBASSY ROME STARTING AT 1815 HOURS ON FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 1992. APPROXIMATELY 30 PEOPLE DISBANDED AFTER ABOUT 30 MINUTES WITHOUT INCIDENT.
- 2. SYNOPSIS OF THE LEAFLET IS THE U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN THE USTICA DISASTER WHEN 81 PERSONS LOST THEIR LIVES 12 YEARS AGO. IT GOES ON TO STATE THAT THE

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CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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USTICA DISASTER COULD ALSO BE CONNECTED TO THE BOMBING IN BOLOGNA. IN CLOSING, THE MSI LEAFLET ASKS THAT THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT DO ALL THAT IS NECESSARY TO CLARIFY THE FACTS.

- 3. COPY OF THE LEAFLET (ORIGINAL AND TRANSLATED) WILL BE POUCHED TO DS/ITA.
- 4. END REPORT.

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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ACTION EUR-01

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O 021654Z DEC 92 FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6093

SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

DEPT JUSTICE WASHDC IMMEDIATE

USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7746

INFO JOINT STAFF WASHDC

USMISSION USNATO

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK

COMSIXTHFLT

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE//ECPA//ECJ5//

CNO WASHDC//06/09C//

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E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR

TAGS: PINR, NATO, PREL, IT

SUBJECT: USTICA: BRITISH EXPERT SAYS BOMB EXPLOSION

CAUSED TRAGEDY; PRELIMINARY REPORT EXCLUDES

STRUCTURAL DEFECT, COLLISION AND MISSILE AS POSSIBLE

CAUSES.

REF(S): (A) ROME 21300 (B) ROME 21117 (C) ROME 20985

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE REVIEW AUTHORITY: ERIC W. FLEISHER DATE/CASE ID: 29 OCT 2002 200102359

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DOC NBR: 1992ROME21529

CHANNEL: n/a HANDLING: n/a

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AND PREVIOUS

- 1. (U) SUMMARY. ROME'S CENTRIST DAILY "IL TEMPO" REPORTED DECEMBER 2 THAT THE BRITISH "AIR ACCIDENTS INVESTIGATION BRANCH" INFORMED INVESTIGATING MAGISTRATE ROSARIO PRIORE THAT THE USTICA TRAGEDY WAS CAUSED BY A BOMB PLACED IN THE RIGHT, REAR SECTION OF THE ITAVIA DC-9 THAT CRASHED NEAR THE ISLAND OF USTICA ON JUNE 27, 1980. THE ARTICLE NOTED THAT "SENIOR INSPECTOR" CHRIS PROTHEROE (A BRITISH EXPERT WHO ALSO INVESTIGATED THE CAUSE OF THE LOCKERBIE DISASTER) PROVIDED A "PROVISIONAL HYPOTHESIS" TO JUDGE PRIORE IN JANUARY 1992 THAT EXCLUDED THE POSSIBILITY THAT A STRUCTURAL DEFECT, COLLISION, OR MISSILE COULD HAVE CAUSED THE USTICA CRASH. END SUMMARY.
- 2. (U) ROME'S CENTRIST DAILY "IL TEMPO" SAID BRITISH EXPERT CHRIS PROTHEROE OF THE "AIR ACCIDENTS INVESTIGATION BRANCH" PROVIDED A "PROVISIONAL
- PAGE 03 ROME 21529 01 OF 02 021654Z
 HYPOTHESIS" TO JUDGE PRIORE IN JANUARY 1992 THAT A
 BOMB EXPLODED ABOARD THE ITAVIA DC-9 THAT CRASHED
 TWELVE YEARS AGO. ACCORDING TO THE NEWSPAPER,
 PROTHEROE WAS A "SENIOR INSPECTOR" OF THE BRITISH
 INVESTIGATING TEAM HIRED BY JUDGE PRIORE TO EXAMINE
 THE LATEST AND MOST COMPREHENSIVE COLLECTION OF
 AIRCRAFT FRAGMENTS IN ORDER TO DETERMINE THE CAUSE OF
 THE TRAGEDY. THE PROVISIONAL HYPOTHESIS ALLEGEDLY
 DELIVERED TO JUDGE PRIORE HELD THAT A "SABOTAGE
 EXPLOSIVE" CAUSED THE STRUCTURAL COLLAPSE OF THE
 FUSILAGE. "IL TEMPO" SAID THE AIRCRAFT PROBABLY
 CONTINUED TO FLY FOR EIGHT MINUTES BEFORE BREAKING
 APART AND HITTING THE SEA SURFACE.
- 3. (U) THE HEADLINE FOR AN INSERT READ "NO OUTSIDE EXPLOSION." THE NEWSPAPER SUMMARIZED THE MAIN FINDINGS OF THE REPORT COMPILED BY THE "AIR ACCIDENTS INVESTIGATION BRANCH":
- --THE "FLATTENING" OBSERVED IN THE FRONT AND CENTRAL PARTS OF THE FUSILAGE WAS CONSISTENT WITH THAT NORMALLY SHOWN BY AN AIRCRAFT HITTING THE SEA SURFACE;
- -- THERE WERE FEW AIRCRAFT FRAGMENTS FROM THE RIGHT,



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REAR, UPPER PART OF THE FUSILAGE (KNOWN AS ZONE 3) AMONG ALL THE PIECES RECOVERED FROM THE SEABED;

--THE DEFORMATION OF SEATING, ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS, CARPETS, AND SEAT BELTS WAS CONSISTENT WITH AN INTERNAL EXPLOSION IN THE RIGHT, REAR SECTION OF THE PASSENGER CABIN;

PAGE 04

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--THERE WAS ABSOLUTELY NO EVIDENCE THAT EITHER A MISSILE OR ANOTHER AIRCRAFT HIT THE DC-9: NO MISSILE FRAGMENTS WERE FOUND NEAR THE WRECKAGE;
--TRACES OF A "SABOTAGE EXPLOSIVE BASED UPON TNT AND T4" WERE FOUND ON FRAGMENTS OF THE AIRCRAFT, AND STRUCTURAL EFFECTS OBSERVED BY THE INVESTIGATING TEAM WERE CONSISTENT WITH SUCH AN EXPLOSION; AND

--COMPUTER-AIDED SIMULATIONS SHOWED THAT AN EXPLOSION IN ZONE 3 WOULD PRECIPITATE THE EXACT TYPES OF STRUCTURAL COLLAPSE, FRAGMENTATION, AND DESCENT TRAJECTORIES OBSERVED DURING THE RECOVERY, RECONSTRUCTION, AND ANALYSIS OF THE AIRCRAFT.

4. (U) CURRENT SALVAGE OPERATIONS ARE FOCUSED ON

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ACTION EUR-01

INFO LOG-00 ACDA-17 AID-01 A-01 CA-02 CCO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 CTME-00 CFE-00 C-01 DOTE-00 DS-00 EB-01 E-01 FAAE-00 FBO-01 HA-09 H-01 IMMC-01 INRE-00 INR-01 IO-19 L-03 ADS-00 M - 01NEA-01 NRRC-00 OCS-06 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 OPR-01 PA-01 PRS-01 PM-02 P-01 SB-00 SCT-03 SNP-00 SP-00 SR-00 SS-00 STR-17 TRSE-00 T-01 USSS-00 ASDS-01 /099W

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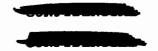
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CHANNEL: n/a HANDLING: n/a

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6094
SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
DEPT JUSTICE WASHDC IMMEDIATE
USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7747
INFO JOINT STAFF WASHDC
USMISSION USNATO
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
COMSIXTHFLT
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE//ECPA//ECJ5//
CNO WASHDC//06/09C//
COMFAIRMED NAPLES IT
USNMR SHAPE BE
AMEMBASSY PARIS

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PAGE 02 ROME 21529 02 OF 02 021655Z STATE ALSO FOR P; USIA FOR EU, P/G; DOJ FOR CRIM DIV/OIA L. BARSELLA

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: PINR, NATO, PREL, IT
SUBJECT: USTICA: BRITISH EXPERT SAYS BOMB EXPLOSION
CAUSED TRAGEDY; PRELIMINARY REPORT EXCLUDES
STRUCTURAL DEFECT, COLLISION AND MISSILE AS POSSIBLE
CAUSES.

LOCATING AIRCRAFT FRAGMENTS FROM THE RIGHT, REAR SECTION OF THE FUSILAGE WHICH, ACCORDING TO "IL TEMPO," MIGHT FURNISH DEFINITIVE EVIDENCE OF THE PROVISIONAL HYPOTHESIS OFFERED BY THE BRITISH EXPERTS.

- 5. (C) COMMENT. ALTHOUGH THIS TEAM OF BRITISH EXPERTS ALLEGEDLY HAD ACCESS TO ALL THE AIRCRAFT FRAGMENTS RECOVERED TO DATE, IT IS TOO EARLY TO CALL THEIR HYPOTHESIS ANYTHING BUT PRELIMINARY. WE ARE REMINDED THAT, OVER THE YEARS, USTICA INVESTIGATORS HAVE RECEIVED SEPARATE (AND OFTEN CONTRADICTORY) REPORTS FROM ITALIAN, GERMAN, AMERICAN, AND BRITISH ACCIDENT-RECONSTRUCTION EXPERTS.
- 6. (C) WE ARE ALSO NOT SURPRISED THAT "IL TEMPO," LONG KNOWN FOR ITS CLOSE CONTACT WITH THE ITALIAN MILITARY, HAS PUBLISHED AN UNCONFIRMED BRITISH REPORT SUPPORTING THE "BOMB THEORY" THAT THE ITALIAN AIR

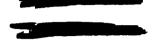
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FORCE HAS ADVOCATED FROM THE BEGINNING. WHILE WE HAVE NO REASON TO DOUBT THE AUTHENTICITY OF THE BRITISH REPORT, WE FIND IT INTERESTING THAT IT HAS



PAGE 03 ROME 21529 02 OF 02 021655Z NOW SURFACED AFTER LAYING DORMANT SINCE LAST JANUARY. THE PUBLICATION OF THE REPORT COULD WELL SPRING FROM RECENT PRESS COVERAGE WHICH ACCUSES THE ITALIAN AIR FORCE OF COMPLICITY IN THE USTICA AFFAIR. END COMMENT.

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ACTION EUR-01

COME-00 INFO LOG-00 ACDA-17 AID-01 CIAE-00 CFE-00 C-01 DOTE-00 EB-01 E-01 FAAE-00 HA-09 H-01 IMMC-01 INRE-00 INR-01 10-19 L-03ADS-00 NEA-01 NRRC-00 NSCE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-02 PRS-01 NSAE-00 SB-00 SCT-03 SNP-00 SP-00 SS-00 STR-17 P-01 TRSE-00 T-01 /086W

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O 041637Z DEC 92 FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6216

SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

DEPT JUSTICE WASHDC IMMEDIATE

USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7755

INFO JOINT STAFF WASHDC

USMISSION USNATO

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK

COMSIXTHFLT

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE//ECPA//ECJ5//

CNO WASHDC//06/09C//

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STATE ALSO FOR P; USIA FOR EU, P/G; DOJ FOR CRIM DIV/OIA L. BARSELLA

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E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: PINR, NATO, PREL, IT
SUBJECT: USTICA: ITALIAN PRESS REPORTS AMBASSADOR'S
PRESS STATEMENT; VICTIMS' FAMILIES HOLD PRESS
CONFERENCE TO RAISE FUNDS; CIVIL PLAINTIFFS' EXPERT
SAYS COLLISION CAUSED THE TRAGEDY

REF(S): (A) ROME 21529 (B) ROME 21300 (C) ROME 21117 AND PREVIOUS

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE REVIEW AUTHORITY: ERIC W. FLEISHER DATE/CASE ID: 29 OCT 2002 200102359

Date Printed: 16 Apr 2002

DOC NBR: 1992ROME21706

CHANNEL: n/a HANDLING: n/a

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SUMMARY. ITALIAN PRESS REPORTS DECEMBER 4 1. (U) CARRIED AMBASSADOR SECCHIA'S STRONG DEFENSE OF USG RESPONSIVENESS TO ITALIAN REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THE CRASH OF AN ITAVIA DC-9 PASSENGER PLANE NEAR THE ISLAND OF USTICA JUNE 27, 1980. THE AMBASSADOR ISSUED A PRESS STATEMENT DECEMBER 3 THAT SAID THE U.S. HAD RESPONDED TO 28 OUT OF 31 TOTAL JUDICIAL REQUESTS TO DATE AND THAT THERE WERE NO U.S. SHIPS OR COMBAT AIRCRAFT OPERATING IN THE AREA ON THE NIGHT OF THE CRASH. SEPARATELY, THE ASSOCIATION OF USTICA VICTIMS' FAMILIES HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE DECEMBER 3 TO RAISE FUNDS AND ANNOUNCE THE PUBLIC SUPPORT OF LEADING CENTRIST DAILY "CORRIERE DELLA SERA" AND LEFTIST WEEKLY NEWSMAGAZINE "PANORAMA" FOR ITS FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES. ACCORDING TO ROME'S CENTRIST DAILY "IL TEMPO," AN ITALIAN EXPERT WORKING FOR THE VICTIMS' FAMILIES IN THE CIVIL LAWSUIT SAID THERE WAS NO DOUBT ABOUT THE CAUSE OF THE CRASH --"THE DC-9 FELL AFTER COLLIDING WITH ANOTHER AIRCRAFT." END SUMMARY

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AMBASSADOR HIGHLIGHTS U.S. COOPERATION

(U) THE AMBASSADOR ISSUED A PRESS STATEMENT DECEMBER 3 STRONGLY DENYING U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN THE USTICA AFFAIR. (THE FULL TEXT OF THE AMBASSADOR'S STATEMENT APPEARS IN PARAGRAPH: 7:.) HIS COMPLETE STATEMENT WAS IMMEDIATELY DISSEMINATED BY ITALIAN WIRE SERVICE "ANSA." PORTIONS OF THE AMBASSADOR'S STATEMENT WERE REPRINTED IN ALL OF ITALY'S MAJOR NEWSPAPERS DECEMBER 4. IN HIS STATEMENT, THE AMBASSADOR ANNOUNCED THAT THE USG HAD RESPONDED TO 28 OUT OF THE 31 TOTAL JUDICIAL REQUESTS MADE BY ITALIAN AUTHORITIES IN THE COURSE OF THE 12 YEAR OLD INVESTIGATION. OF THE THREE OUTSTANDING REQUESTS, THE AMBASSADOR SAID TWO WERE FOR INTERVIEWS THAT HAVE ALREADY BEEN SCHEDULED FOR THE NEAR FUTURE. AS TO THE REMAINING ROGATORY, THE USG HAS REQUESTED A CLARIFICATION FROM INVESTIGATING MAGISTRATE ROSARIO PRIORE. UPON RECEIPT OF JUDGE PRIORE'S CLARIFICATION, THE AMBASSADOR REMARKED, WE WILL RESPOND AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.

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3. (U) THE AMBASSADOR ALSO NOTED THAT MUCH OF THE RECENT PRESS REPORTS ABOUT POSSIBLE U.S. INVOLVEMENT WAS NOTHING MORE THAN "RUMORS, SPECULATION, AND LEAKS FROM UNKNOWN SOURCES." THERE WERE NO FACTS TO SUBSTANTIATE ANY OF THE ACCUSATIONS AND INSINUATIONS AGAINST THE U.S. THE AMBASSADOR ASKED ITALIAN

PAGE 04 ROME 21706 01 OF 04 041638Z
JOURNALISTS TO REPORT ACCURATELY AND "RESPONSIBLY" ON
THE "UNSUBSTANTIATED LEAKS FROM ANONYMOUS SOURCES"
THAT PORTRAYED THE U.S. AS WITHHOLDING INFORMATION
FROM USTICA INVESTIGATORS AND FAILING TO COOPERATE
WITH ITALIAN AUTHORITIES. IN CLOSING HIS REMARKS,
THE AMBASSADOR PLEDGED CONTINUED U.S. ASSISTANCE AND
REITERATED OUR LONG-TERM COOPERATION IN THE
INVESTIGATION.

USTICA FAMILIES LAUNCH FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN

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INFO LOG-00 ACDA-17 AID-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 CFE-00 C-01 DOTE-00 EB-01 E-01 FAAE-00 HA-09 H-01 IMMC-01 INRE-00 INR-01 IO-19 L-03 ADS-00 NEA-01 NRRC-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-02 PRS-01 SB-00 SCT-03 P-01 SNP-00 SP-00 SS-00 STR-17 TRSE-00 T-01 /086W

O 041637Z DEC 92
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6217

DEPT JUSTICE WASHDC IMMEDIATE

USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7756

INFO JOINT STAFF WASHDC

SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USNATO

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CHANNEL: n/a HANDLING: n/a

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CNO WASHDC//06/09C//
COMFAIRMED NAPLES IT
USNMR SHAPE BE
AMEMBASSY PARIS

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STATE ALSO FOR P; USIA FOR EU, P/G; DOJ FOR CRIM DIV/OIA L. BARSELLA

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E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: PINR, NATO, PREL, IT
SUBJECT: USTICA: ITALIAN PRESS REPORTS AMBASSADOR'S
PRESS STATEMENT; VICTIMS' FAMILIES HOLD PRESS
CONFERENCE TO RAISE FUNDS; CIVIL PLAINTIFFS' EXPERT
SAYS COLLISION CAUSED THE TRAGEDY

LEADING CENTRIST DAILY "CORRIERE DELLA SERA" (U) DECEMBER 4 REPORTED THAT THE ASSOCIATION OF USTICA VICTIMS' FAMILIES HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE DECEMBER 3 TO INITIATE A NEW FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN. ACCORDING TO "CORRIERE," THE HEAD OF THE ASSOCIATION (MS. DARIA BONFIETTI) ANNOUNCED THAT "CORRIERE" AND LEFTIST WEEKLY NEWSMAGAZINE "PANORAMA" HAD GUARANTEED "FULL SUPPORT" FOR THE EFFORT. ROME'S CENTRIST DAILY "IL MESSAGGERO" DECEMBER 4 SAID VITTORIO CECCHI GORI, THE PRODUCER OF A SPECULATIVE FILM ABOUT THE USTICA AFFAIR ("IL MURO DI GOMMA"), HAS DECIDED TO RE-RELEASE THE MOVIE IN ROME, MILAN, AND OTHER PRINCIPAL CITIES. "IL MESSAGGERO" NOTED THAT GORI HAS PLEDGED ALL BOX OFFICE RECEIPTS TO THE ASSOCIATION IN SUPPORT OF ITS LITIGATION ACTIVITIES. THE ARTICLE SAID "RCS VIDEO" WILL DONATE RECEIPTS FROM VIDEOCASSETTE SALES OF THE MOVIE, AND ITALIAN TV STATION "TELEPIU' UNO" WILL BROADCAST THE FILM AGAIN DECEMBER 18. ACCORDING TO CENTRIST DAILY "LA STAMPA" DECEMBER 3, ASSOCIATION HEAD BONFIETTI CLAIMED THAT WITHOUT AN INFUSION OF FUNDS, THE OFFICE MIGHT HAVE TO CLOSE. "IL TEMPO" NOTED THAT ITALIAN MOD ANDO'



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PAGE 03 ROME 21706 02 OF 04 041639Z AND SENATE PRESIDENT SPADOLINI SENT TELEGRAMS OF SUPPORT TO BONFIETTI.

PRODUCER CLAIMS FILM ABOUT USTICA "BOYCOTTED"

5. (C) SEVERAL NATIONAL NEWSPAPERS ALSO REPORTED THAT MOVIE PRODUCER GORI SAID HIS FILM ABOUT THE USTICA AFFAIR HAD BEEN "BOYCOTTED" AT THE VENICE FILM FESTIVAL. "LA STAMPA" QUOTED GORI AS SAYING "THERE WERE NO GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AT ITS FIRST SHOWING. THEY WERE ALL SICK OR TOO BUSY, AND JIM BELUSHI (A MEMBER OF THE FESTIVAL'S JURY) WAS TOLD NOT TO CONSIDER THE FILM FOR A PRIZE." THE FILM WAS SO POORLY RECEIVED AT THE VENICE FESTIVAL, "LA STAMPA" REMARKED, THAT THE FIRST QUESTION TO THE FILM'S PRODUCERS WAS ABOUT THE SOUND-TRACK INSTEAD OF THE FILM'S POLITICAL CONTENT. (COMMENT. THE FILM IS, IN OUR OPINION, A HYPERVENTILATED MIX OF SPECULATION AND CONSPIRACY THEORY THAT, UNFORTUNATELY, IMPLIES THAT THE U.S. WAS SOMEHOW INVOLVED IN THE AFFAIR.)

EXPERT SAYS COLLISION CAUSED THE CRASH

6. (U) "IL TEMPO" REPORTED THAT MARIO VADACCHINO (A TECHNICAL EXPERT HIRED BY THE USTICA ASSOCIATION) CLAIMED THAT "THE DC-9 FELL AFTER COLLIDING WITH ANOTHER AIRCRAFT." THE ARTICLE NOTED THAT

PAGE 04 ROME 21706 02 OF 04 041639Z VADACCHINO, SPEAKING AT THE ASSOCIATION'S PRESS CONFERENCE YESTERDAY, BASED HIS CONCLUSION ON RADAR TRACKS OF OTHER AIRCRAFT FLYING IN THE AREA AT THE TIME OF THE INCIDENT. ASKED ABOUT A RECENT BRITISH REPORT SUGGESTING THAT A BOMB CAUSED THE TRAGEDY (REFS), VADACCHINO REPORTEDLY SAID, "IT WOULD BE ABSURD TO BELIEVE IN A BOMB THEORY WHEN ONE EXAMINES THE RADAR TRACKS. BUT THERE IS MORE. THE THEORY THAT AN INTERNAL BOMB CAUSED THE CRASH COLLAPSES UPON

Date Printed: 16 Apr 2002

DOC NBR: 1992ROME21706

CHANNEL: n/a HANDLING: n/a

206

AN EXAMINATION OF ITEMS FOUND IN THE WATERS NEAR USTICA."

FULL TEXT OF AMBASSADOR'S PRESS STATEMENT

NNNN

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ACTION EUR-01

INFO LOG-00 ACDA-17 AID-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 CFE-00 C-01 DOTE-00 FAAE-00 EB-01 E-01 HA-09 H-01 IMMC-01 INRE-00 IO-19 ADS-00 INR-01 L-03NEA-01 NRRC-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-02 PRS-01 P-01 SB-00 SCT-03 SNP-00 SP-00 SS-00 STR-17 TRSE-00 T-01 /086W

------8220B4 041640Z /38

O 041637Z DEC 92 FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6218

SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

DEPT JUSTICE WASHDC IMMEDIATE

USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7757

INFO JOINT STAFF WASHDC

USMISSION USNATO

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK

COMSIXTHFLT

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE//ECPA//ECJ5//

CNO WASHDC//06/09C//

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AMEMBASSY PARIS

SECTION 03 OF 04 ROME 21706

STATE ALSO FOR P; USIA FOR EU, P/G; DOJ FOR CRIM DIV/OIA L. BARSELLA

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Date Printed: 16 Apr 2002

DOC NBR: 1992ROME21706

CHANNEL: n/a HANDLING: n/a

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E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: PINR, NATO, PREL, IT
SUBJECT: USTICA: ITALIAN PRESS REPORTS AMBASSADOR'S
PRESS STATEMENT; VICTIMS' FAMILIES HOLD PRESS
CONFERENCE TO RAISE FUNDS; CIVIL PLAINTIFFS' EXPERT
SAYS COLLISION CAUSED THE TRAGEDY

7. (U) THE FULL TEXT OF THE AMBASSADOR'S PRESS STATEMENT DECEMBER 3 FOLLOWS:

BEGIN TEXT:

I AM ANNOUNCING TODAY THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT HAS DELIVERED TO ITALIAN AUTHORITIES THROUGH JUDICIAL CHANNELS OUR REPLIES TO REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION IN THE USTICA TRAGEDY THAT WERE STILL PENDING.

OUR RECORDS SHOW THAT A TOTAL OF 31 REQUESTS, IDENTIFIED BY THE DATES OF THE REQUESTS, FOR INFORMATION ON USTICA HAVE BEEN RECEIVED THROUGH THE OFFICIAL JUDICIAL CHANNEL. WITH THE DELIVERY OF THE NEW REPLIES, WE HAVE EXECUTED 28 OF THE 31 REQUESTS. EXECUTION OF TWO RECENT REQUESTS IS STILL IN PROGRESS. THESE TWO ARE REQUESTS FOR INTERVIEWS THAT ARE ALREADY SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE IN THE NEAR FUTURE. WE HAVE ASKED FOR CLARIFICATION OF ONE ASPECT OF THE THIRD REQUEST AND WILL EXECUTE IT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

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JUDICIAL REQUESTS ARE MADE UNDER A SPECIAL TREATY FOR
CRIMINAL MATTERS. THEY ARE LEGAL DOCUMENTS FROM THE
INVESTIGATING MAGISTRATE TRANSMITTED BY THE MINISTRY
OF JUSTICE TO OUR DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE. ANSWERS GO
TO JUDGE PRIORE, AND ITALIAN LAW REQUIRES HIM TO
MAINTAIN SECRECY. IF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT DID NOT
ALSO MAINTAIN SECRECY, HIS EFFORTS TO DO SO WOULD BE
DIMINISHED.

HOWEVER, BECAUSE WE HAVE RESPECTED JUDICIAL SECRECY, WE HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO ANSWER IRRESPONSIBLE ACCUSATIONS WHICH EVIDENCE GATHERED IN THE OFFICIAL JUDICIAL INQUIRY WOULD SHOW TO BE BASELESS. THE INVESTIGATING MAGISTRATES, AND NO ONE ELSE, KNOW HOW

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WELL WE HAVE COOPERATED, AND THEY HAVE NEVER EXPRESSED ANYTHING BUT APPRECIATION FOR OUR EFFORTS.

WE USE THE OFFICIAL TERM "EXECUTED/NOT EXECUTED," WHICH IS DESCRIBED IN THE TREATY OF MUTUAL ASSISTANCE, IN REFERRING TO THE DISPOSTION OF JUDICIAL QUESTIONS. WE DO NOT USE THE CHARACTERIZATIONS "POSITIVE/NEGATIVE," WHICH CAN BE SUBJECT TO MISINTERPRETATION AND CAN SUGGEST THE EXISTENCE OF A PRECONCEIVED BIAS AS TO WHAT THE RESPONSE TO AN INQUIRY SHOULD BE.

I HOPE THIS ANNOUNCEMENT WILL PUT AN END TO STORIES ABOUT AMERICAN RELUCTANCE OR FAILURE TO COOPERATE IN WHILE RECOGNIZING THAT THE THE USTICA INVESTIGATION. INVESTIGATION OF THE USTICA CASE IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT, MY

PAGE 04 ROME 21706 03 OF 04 041640ZGOVERNMENT HAS ALWAYS GIVEN FULL ASSISTANCE TO THE INVESTIGATION. TODAY'S ANNOUNCEMENT DEMONSTRATES THAT THE ASSURANCES OF COOPERATION GIVEN ITALIAN AUTHORITIES IN RECENT MONTHS BY DEFENSE SECRETARY CHENEY AND ATTORNEY GENERAL BARR HAVE BEEN CARRIED OUT FULLY.

WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE FAMILIES OF THE VICTIMS OF THE USTICA CRASH, NO ONE DESIRES MORE THAN THE U.S. AUTHORITIES THAT AN OBJECTIVE INVESTIGATION RESOLVE THE UNANSWERED QUESTIONS ABOUT USTICA. WE HAVE ALWAYS BELIEVED THAT A FULL INVESTIGATION WOULD SHOW THAT THE UNITED STATES HAD NO ROLE IN THE TRAGEDY.

I WOULD LIKE TO DIRECT AN APPEAL FOR REASON TO SOME ITALIAN MEDIA PERSONALITIES. I ASK THEM TO REVIEW THE RECORD OF THEIR REPORTING ON THE USTICA CASE.

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ACTION EUR-01

16 Apr 2002

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STR-17

CHANNEL: n/a 206 Date Printed: DOC NBR: 1992ROME21706 HANDLING: n/a 16 Apr 2002 CIAE-00 COME-00 CFE-00 ACDA-17 AID-01 C-01 INFO LOG-00 - FAAE-00 HA-09 H-01 IMMC-01 DOTE-00 EB-01 E-01 L-03 NRRC-00 10-19 ADS-00 NEA-01 INRE-00 INR-01 NSCE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-02 PRS-01 NSAE-00

SNP-00

TRSE-00 T-01 /086W -----8220D1 041641Z /38

SCT-03

O 041637Z DEC 92

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6219

SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

DEPT JUSTICE WASHDC IMMEDIATE

USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7758

INFO JOINT STAFF WASHDC

USMISSION USNATO

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK

COMSIXTHFLT

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE//ECPA//ECJ5//

CNO WASHDC//06/09C//

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SB-00

P-01

AMEMBASSY PARIS

SECTION 04 OF 04 ROME 21706

STATE ALSO FOR P; USIA FOR EU, P/G; DOJ FOR CRIM DIV/OIA L. BARSELLA

PAGE 02 ROME 21706 04 OF 04 041641Z

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: PINR, NATO, PREL, IT
SUBJECT: USTICA: ITALIAN PRESS REPORTS AMBASSADOR'S
PRESS STATEMENT; VICTIMS' FAMILIES HOLD PRESS
CONFERENCE TO RAISE FUNDS; CIVIL PLAINTIFFS' EXPERT
SAYS COLLISION CAUSED THE TRAGEDY

RECOGNIZE AND RESPECT THE RIGHT OF A FREE PRESS TO REPORT ON THIS IMPORTANT CASE. MY PLEA IS THAT THIS BE DONE RESPONSIBLY.

OVER THE PAST TWO MONTHS AMPLOOD OF PRESS REPORTS HAS SUGGESTED THAT THE UNITED STATES OR THE USS SARATOGA WAS SOMEHOW IMPLICATED IN THE INCIDENT.

HEADLINES HAVE STATED THAT THE U.S. LIED ABOUT THE

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CHANNEL: n/a HANDLING: n/a

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LOCATION OF THE SARATOGA ON JUNE 27, 1980. A
FRONT-PAGE EDITORIAL CARTOON DEPICTED ITS DECK
COVERED WITH THE CROSSES OF USTICA VICTIMS. MY
GOVERNMENT WAS ACCUSED OF BEING UNRESPONSIVE TO
ITALIAN REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION, OF HIDING BEHIND A
"NO COMMENT."

FROM WHERE I STAND, I SEE MY GOVERNMENT BEING TRIED AND CONVICTED IN THE PRESS ON THE BASIS OF SPECULATION AND UNSUBSTANTIATED LEAKS FROM ANONYMOUS SOURCES. WHILE DEPARTMENTS OF MY GOVERNMENT HAVE SPENT GREAT RESOURCES IN SEEKING ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS PUT TO US, WE HAVE BEEN PORTRAYED AS WITHHOLDING INFORMATION AND FAILING TO COOPERATE.

PAGE 03

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IN FACT, IN REVIEWING THE PRESS REPORTS OF THESE PAST TWO MONTHS, IT IS CLEAR THAT NO NEW EVIDENCE HAS BEEN PRESENTED WHICH CONTRADICTS OUR POSITION. RUMORS, SPECULATION, LEAKS FROM UNKNOWN SOURCES -- YES, THERE HAVE BEEN MANY OF THESE. BUT EVIDENCE AND HARD FACTS -- NO.

MY FEAR IS THAT ITALIAN NEWSPAPER READERS AND TELEVISION VIEWERS MAY CONCLUDE THAT BEHIND ALL THIS SMOKE THERE MUST BE FIRE -- THAT ACCUSATIONS OR INSINUATIONS, NO MATTER HOW INACCURATE OR IMPLAUSIBLE, IF REPEATED OFTEN ENOUGH, WILL COME TO BE ACCEPTED AS TRUE.

I WANT TO STATE IN THE STRONGEST TERMS THAT THE UNITED STATES HAD NO COMBAT SHIPS OR COMBAT AIRCRAFT IN THE AREA THAT COULD HAVE BROUGHT DOWN THE ITAVIA DC-9, AND THAT THE SARATOGA WAS IN NAPLES HARBOR AS WE HAVE SAID AND DOCUMENTED. THERE WERE NO U.S. OR NATO MANEUVERS BEING CARRIED ON IN THE MEDITERRANEAN AT THE TIME.

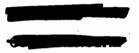
AS AMERICAN AMBASSADOR IN ITALY FOR THE PAST THREE AND ONE HALF YEARS, I HAVE LOOKED INTO THE CASE WITH THE GREATEST CARE AND ATTENTION. I AM FULLY SATISFIED BY THE ASSURANCES OF OUR MILITARY AUTHORITIES. HAD I EVER FOUND REASON TO BELIEVE THAT I WAS MISLED ON THIS VITAL MATTER, I WOULD HAVE RESIGNED MY POST.

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DOC_NBR: 1992ROME21706

CHANNEL: n/a HANDLING: n/a

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AS I PREPARE TO LEAVE MY POST IN ITALY, MY GREATEST
WISH IS THAT THIS TROUBLESOME CASE BE RESOLVED SOON
-- SO THAT THE FAMILIES OF THE VICTIMS HAVE THE
ANSWERS THEY SEEK; SO THAT THE ITALIAN PUBLIC IS
FULLY INFORMED, AND SO THAT THE CLOUD THAT THIS CASE
HAS CAST OVER U.S.-ITALIAN RELATIONS IS FULLY AND
FINALLY LIFTED.

END TEXT.

SECCHIA

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Date Printed: 16 Apr 2002

DOC NBR: 1992ROME21765

CHANNEL: n/a HANDLING: n/a



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PAGE 01

ROME 21765 070827Z

ACTION EUR-01

INFO LOG-00 AID-01 CIAE-00 C-01 DODE-00 EB-01 HA-09 H-01 INRE-00 INR-01 L-03ADS-00 NEA-01 NSAE-00 OMB-01 NSCE-00 PA-01 PM-02 PRS-01 P-01 SCT-03 SNP-00 SP-00 SS-00 TRSE-00 T-01 USIE-00 /029W

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6262

ROME 21765

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR TAGS: PINR, PREL IT

SUBJECT: FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER DE MICHELIS'

BIRTHDAY DINNER - TALK OF USTICA, GATT

1. ENTIRE TEXT.

- 2. SUMMARY: AMBASSADOR SECCHIA WAS INVITED TO A SMALL DINNER PARTY TO CELEBRATE THE BIRTHDAY OF FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER GIANNI DE MICHELIS. CONVERSATION TOUCHED UPON USTICA, UPCOMING FOREIGN MINISTRY PERSONNEL CHANGES, AND GATT. END SUMMARY.
- 3. AMBASSADOR SECCHIA WAS INVITED TO A DINNER PARTY IN HONOR OF FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER DE MICHELIS' 52ND BIRTHDAY ON NOVEMBER 26. THE HOST WAS CESARE PALADINO, A PERSONAL FRIEND OF DE MICHELIS. IN ATTENDANCE WAS

PAGE 02 ROME 21765 070827Z
THE FORMER RECTOR OF LOUIS UNIVERSITY, NOW SENATOR
SCONGNAMIGLIO (PLI); ING. PRESIDENTE INSLESS (ICE),
PARISI; ECONOMIC ADVISOR TO AMATO, AMBASSADOR
BALDOCCI; DIPLOMATIC ADVISOR TO AMATO, AMBASSADOR
VENTO; AND DEPUTY MARZO (PSI).

4. AS THE HOT TOPIC IN ITALY THESE DAYS IS THE U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN THE USTICA CRASH, CONVERSATION NATURALLY TURNED TO THIS SUBJECT. TOLD THE AMBASSADOR THAT "CORRIERE" REPORTER (AND LEADER

B1

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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: 19 NOV 2017

UNCLASSIFIED

| Date Printed: 16 Apr 2002 DOC_NBR: 1992ROME21765 | CHANNEL: n/a HANDLING: n/a | 207 |
|--|-------------------------------|----------------|
| OF THE "BLAME AMERICA" CONSPIRACY THEORISTS) WAS AN OUTSTANDING JOURNALIST. STATED THAT HE DIDN'T BELIEVE THAT PURGATORY COULD B ABOUT THE SARATOGA LEAVING THE PORT OF NAPLES HAD READ THE INTERVIEW OF U.S. ADMIRAL FLATLE THE ITALIAN MAGAZINE EUROPA, BUT HE STILL THO | STRONGLY E WRONG . HE Y IN | В1 |
| PURGATORI HAD MORE INFORMATION THAN OTHERS. | | В1 |
| 5. THE AMBASSADOR AGAIN EXPLAINED THAT THE U COOPERATED FULLY WITH THE ITALIAN INVESTIGATO EXPRESSED HIS PROFOUND DISMAY WITH "CORRIERE SERA" PRINTING OUTRIGHT FALSEHOODS. | RS AND | . B1 |
| | | |
| AGAILT TO THE STATE OF THE STAT | | |
| PAGE 03 ROME 21765 070827Z 6. ON FOREIGN MINISTRY PERSONNEL MATTERS, SAID THAT AMBASSADOR SERGIO BERLINGUI SOON BE GOING BACK TO THE MINISTRY. AND HE WILL SOON BE IN CHARGE OF | ER WILL | B1 B1 B1 |
| NEGOTIATIONS WITH CROATIA AND SLOVENIA. | | B1 |
| 正元於 時 極關於後國的政 與 與集物學。中立 | | |
| | | |
| SERWER | | |
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| NNNN Page - 1057 | | |

Date Printed: 16 Apr 2002

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ACTION EUR-01

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TRSE-00 T-01 /086W

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6286

SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

DEPT JUSTICE WASHDC IMMEDIATE

USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7772

INFO JOINT STAFF WASHDC

USMISSION USNATO

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK

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USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE//ECPA//ECJ5//

CNO WASHDC//06/09C//

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AMEMBASSY PARIS

SECTION 01 OF 02 ROME 21826

STATE ALSO FOR P; USIA FOR EU, P/G; DOJ FOR CRIM DIV/OIA L. BARSELLA

PAGE 02

21826 ROME 01 OF 02 071631Z

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR

TAGS: PINR, NATO, PREL, IT

SUBJECT: USTICA: ITALIAN MOD PRESS STATEMENT ACKNOWLEDGES AMBASSADOR'S PLEDGE OF CONTINUEDEXTEND CLASSIFICATION ASSISTANCE; JUDGE PRIORE DEPARTS FOR U.S.; NOTED USTICA JOURNALIST ANDREA PURGATORI ADMITS TO BREAKING JUDICIAL SECRECY

REF(S): (A) ROME 21766 (B) ROME 21706 (C) ROME 21529 AND PREVIOUS

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE REVIEW AUTHORITY: ERIC W. FLEISHER DATE/CASE ID: 29 OCT 2002 200102359

CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL REASON: 1.6(6)UNCLASSIFIED

DECLASSIEV AFTER: 7 DEC 2017

Date Printed: 16 Apr 2002

35 Sept. 1786

DOC NBR: 1992ROME21826

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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- 1. (U) SUMMARY. ITALIAN MOD TSSUED A SHORT PRESS STATEMENT DECEMBER 5 THAT EXPRESSED HOPE THAT U.S. AUTHORITIES WOULD ASSIST INVESTIGATING MAGISTRATE ROSARIO PRIORE DURING HIS VISIT TO THE U.S. THE MOD'S PRESS RELEASE ALSO ACKNOWLEDGED AMBASSADOR SECCHIA'S PLEDGE THAT THE USG WILL CONTINUE COOPERATING IN THE INVESTIGATION OF THE CRASH OF AN ITAVIA DC-9 PASSENGER PLANE NEAR THE ISLAND OF USTICA ON JUNE 27, 1980. ITALIAN PRESS REPORTS SAID JUDGE PRIORE WOULD DEPART DECEMBER 6 FOR THE US. TO INTERVIEW RICHARD COE AND U.S. NAVY ADMIRAL JAMES FLATLEY. SEPARATELY, LEFTWING DAILY "L'UNITA" PUBLISHED DECEMBER 7 AN INTERVIEW WITH NOTED USTICA JOURNALIST ANDREA PURGATORI WHO ADMITTED VIOLATING ITALIAN JUDICIAL SECRECY LAWS WHEN REPORTING ON THE USTICA AFFAIR OVER THE LAST 13 YEARS. END SUMMARY.
- 2. (U) THE ITALIAN MOD ISSUED A PRESS STATEMENT DECEMBER 5 FOLLOWING THE AMBASSADOR'S MEETING

PAGE 03 ROME 21826 01 OF 02 071631Z
DECEMBER 4 WITH MOD SALVO ANDO', DESCRIBED REF A.
NEWS OF THEIR MEETING WAS CARRIED ONLY BY ROME'S
CENTRIST DAILY "IL TEMPO." THE FULL TEXT OF THE
MOD'S PRESS STATEMENT FOLLOWS:

(BEGIN INFORMAL EMBASSY TRANSLATION)

- --MINISTER OF DEFENSE SALVO ANDO' RECEIVED THE AMBASSADOR OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, PETER SECCHIA, YESTERDAY AT PALAZZO BARACCHINI.
- --THEY DISCUSSED MANY DIFFERENT ISSUES OF MUTUAL INTEREST IN THE COURSE OF THEIR MEETING.
- --IN ANTICIPATION OF JUDGE PRIORE'S TRAVEL NEXT WEEK TO THE U.S., MINISTER ANDO', RECOGNIZING THE COOPERATION GIVEN BY THE UNITED STATES TO ITALIAN JUDICIAL INVESTIGATORS, HOPED THAT THE AMERICAN ADMINISTRATION AND, IN PARTICULAR, THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE WOULD ASSIST JUDGE PRIORE DURING HIS TRIP AND FACILITATE HIS WORK WHILE IN THE U.S.
- --AMBASSADOR SECCHIA CONFIRMED THE FULL COOPERATION OF THE USG IN THIS REGARD.

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(END INFORMAL EMBASSY TRANSLATION)

THE ITALIAN PRESS REPORTED DECEMBER 5 THAT (U) JUDGE PRIORE WILL TRAVEL TO THE U.S. THIS WEEK TO TAKE EVIDENCE AND TESTIMONY FROM RICHARD COE AND U.S. NAVY ADMIRAL JAMES FLATLEY. ROME'S CENTRIST DAILY

ROME 21826 01 OF 02 071631Z PAGE 04 "IL MESSAGGERO" DECEMBER 5 REPORTED THAT JUDGE PRIORE WOULD DEPART ITALY DECEMBER 6 AND BE ACCOMPANIED BY PUBLIC MINISTER GIOVANNI SALVI, COLONEL (CARABINIERI) MARCANTONIO BIANCHINI, AND OTHER OFFICIALS OF THE JUDICIAL POLICE. "IL MESSAGGERO" SAID JUDGE PRIORE'S DEPARTURE FOLLOWED THE ADJOURNMENT OF A MEETING HELD IN ROME AMONG THE VARIOUS TECHNICAL EXPERTS INVESTIGATING THE CAUSE OF THE CRASH. THE NEWSPAPER NOTED THAT THE EXPERTS HAD HELD WIDE-RANGING DISCUSSIONS WHICH, NEVERTHELESS, FOCUSED MAINLY ON A RECENT BRITISH REPORT THAT THE TRAGEDY WAS CAUSED BY A BOMB WHICH EXPLODED INSIDE THE AIRCRAFT. "IL MESSAGGERO" SAID THE TECHNICAL EXPERTS HAVE ALREADY DRAFTED A FINAL REPORT WHICH WILL BE SUBMITTED TO

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ACTION EUR-01

| INFO | LOG-00 DOTE-00 | ACDA-17 EB-01 | AID-01 E-01 | CIAE-00 FAAE-00 | COME-00 HA-09 | CFE-00 H-01 | C-01 IMMC-01 |
|------|-------------------|------------------|----------------|--------------------|------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| | DOIE-00 | PD-0T | E-OI | FAAL-UU | | | |
| | INRE-00 | INR-01 | IO-19 | L-03 | ADS-00 | NEA-01 | NRRC-00 |
| | NSAE-00 | NSCE-00 | OIC-02 | OMB-01 | PA-01 | PM-02 | PRS-01 |
| | P-01 | SB-00 | SCT-03 | SNP-00 | SP-00 | SS-00 | STR-17 |
| | TRSE-00 | T-01 | /086W | | | | |

O 071629Z DEC 92 FM AMEMBASSY ROME TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6287 SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE DEPT JUSTICE WASHDC IMMEDIATE USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7773

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CHANNEL: n/a HANDLING: n/a

209

INFO JOINT STAFF WASHDC
USMISSION USNATO
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
COMSIXTHFLT
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE//ECPA//ECJ5//
CNO WASHDC//06/09C//
COMFAIRMED NAPLES IT
USNMR SHAPE BE
AMEMBASSY PARIS

SECTION 02 OF 02 ROME 21826

STATE ALSO FOR P; USIA FOR EU, P/G; DOJ FOR CRIM DIV/OIA L. BARSELLA

PAGE 02

ROME 21826 02 OF 02 071631Z

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: PINR, NATO, PREL, IT
SUBJECT: USTICA: ITALIAN MOD PRESS STATEMENT
ACKNOWLEDGES AMBASSADOR'S PLEDGE OF CONTINUED U.S.
ASSISTANCE; JUDGE PRIORE DEPARTS FOR U.S.; NOTED
USTICA JOURNALIST ANDREA PURGATORI ADMITS TO BREAKING
JUDICIAL SECRECY

JUDGE PRIORE IN EARLY JANUARY 1993.

4. (U) SEPARATELY, LEFTWING DAILY "L'UNITA" PUBLISHED DECEMBER 7 AN INTERVIEW WITH NOTED USTICA JOURNLIST ANDREA PURGATORI WHO ADMITTED VIOLATING ITALIAN SECRECY LAWS WHEN REPORTING ON THE USTICA AFFAIR OVER THE LAST 13 YEARS. ASKED HOW MANY TIMES HE HAD VIOLATED THE JUDICIAL SECRECY LAWS, PURGATORI SAID, "ON THE AVERAGE OF ONCE FOR EVERY ARTICLE THAT I WROTE IN 13 YEARS. AND ALONG WITH ME, A GROUP OF MY COLLEAGUES THAT FOLLOW THIS AFFAIR. I ALSO THINK THAT, IF I HAD RESPECTED THE SECRECY LAWS, WE WOULD NOT BE WHERE WE ARE TODAY ON USTICA." PURGATORI ACKNOWLEDGED DURING THE INTERVIEW THAT HE HAD BEEN INDICTED IN JANUARY 1992 FOR VIOLATING THE SECRECY LAWS BY REPORTING ON CRIMINAL CHARGES BROUGHT AGAINST MILITARY OFFICERS ALLEGEDLY INVOLVED IN THE USTICA TRAGEDY. ACCORDING TO THE INTERVIEW, PURGATORI PAID A LIRE 250,000 (USD 200) FINE TO SETTLE THE CHARGES.

| 5. | (C) | COMMENT. | |
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Date Printed: 16 Apr 2002

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CHANNEL: n/a HANDLING: n/a

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B1

THE HEAT OF USTICA

APPEARS TO BE OFF THE U.S. RIGHT NOW. THE AMBASSADOR'S RECENT PUBLIC STATEMENTS, FLATLEY'S INTERVIEW, THE BRITISH REPORT BLAMING A BOMB ON BOARD, AND PRIORE'S TRIP TO THE U.S. HAVE ALL HELPED LESSEN PRESS HYSTERIA OVER UNSUBSTANTIATED CLAIMS THAT WE WERE SOMEHOW INVOLVED.

SECCHIA

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UNCLASSIFIED

Date Printed: 16 Apr 2002

DOC NBR: 1992ROME22238

CHANNEL: nRELEASE

HANDLING: n/a

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ACTION EUR-01

ACDA-17 CIAE-00 COME-00 CFE-00 INFO LOG-00 COR-01 AID-01 C-01 OASY-00 DOTE-00 EB-01 E-01 FAAE-00 HA-09 H-01 IMMC-01 INRE-00 INR-01 10-19 L - 03ADS-00 NEA-01 NRRC-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-02 PM-02 PRS-01 P-01 SB-00 SCT-03 SNP-00 SP-00 /088W SS-00 STR-17 TRSE-00 T-01

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O 142006Z DEC 92

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6566

SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

DEPT JUSTICE WASHDC IMMEDIATE

USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7809

INFO JOINT STAFF WASHDC

USMISSION USNATO

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK

COMSIXTHFLT

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE//ECPA//ECJ5//

CNO WASHDC//06/09C//

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AMEMBASSY PARIS

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 ROME 22238

STATE ALSO FOR P; USIA FOR EU, P/G; DOJ FOR CRIM DIV/OIA L. BARSELLA



PAGE 02

01 OF 03 ROME 22238 151811Z

CORRECTED COPY-TEXT

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: PINR, NATO, PREL, IT

SUBJECT: USTICA: AMBASSADOR SECCHIA DEFENDS U.S. COOPERATION IN PRESS INTERVIEW; ITALIAN PRESS REPORTS JUDGE PRIORE PLEASED WITH USG HELP DURING HIS VISIT TO U.S.

REF(S): (A) ROME 22111 (B) ROME 21956 (C) ROME 21826 AND PREVIOUS

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE REVIEW AUTHORITY: ERIC W. FLEISHER DATE/CASE ID: 29 OCT 2002 200102359

UNCLASSIFIED

Date Printed: 16 Apr 2002

DOC NBR: 1992ROME22238

CHANNEL: n/a HANDLING: n/a

212

1. (U) SUMMARY. AMBASSADOR SECCHIA STRONGLY
DEFENDED U.S. COOPERATION WITH ITALY ON THE USTICA
AFFAIR DURING AN INTERVIEW PUBLISHED DECEMBER 12 IN
ROME'S CENTRIST DAILY "IL MESSAGGERO." SEPARATELY,
THE NEWSPAPER REPORTED THAT INVESTIGATING MAGISTRATE
ROSARIO PRIORE SAID, UPON HIS RETURN FROM THE U.S.,
THAT HE HAD RECEIVED "EXCELLENT COOPERATION" FROM
AMERICAN AUTHORITIES AND HAD ESTABLISHED A GOOD
WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH THE PENTAGON. END SUMMARY.

INTERVIEW WITH AMBASSADOR SECCHIA

2. (U) DURING AN INTERVIEW PUBLISHED DECEMBER 12 IN ROME'S CENTRIST DAILY "IL MESSAGGERO," AMBASSADOR SECCHIA STRONGLY DEFENDED U.S. COOPERATION WITH ITALIAN AUTHORITIES INVESTIGATING THE CRASH OF AN ITAVIA DC-9 NEAR THE ISLAND OF USTICA ON JUNE 27,

PAGE 03 ROME 22238 01 OF 03 151811Z 1980. THE HEADLINES FOR THE INTERVIEW READ: "TO ACCUSE THE U.S. IS AN ACT OF IRRESPONSIBILITY; WHEN AMERICAN MAKES AN ERROR, WE ADMIT IT." AN INFORMAL EMBASSY TRANSLATION OF THE FULL INTERVIEW FOLLOWS:

(BEGIN INFORMAL EMBASSY TRANSLATION)

--Q: SOME FEEL THAT THE U.S. KNOWS WHAT HAPPENED THE EVENING OF THE USTICA DISASTER MR. AMBASSADOR, HOW DO YOU RESPOND?

THE CASES OF MANY

- --A: IF WE KNEW EVERYTHING, WE WOULD NEVER MAKE ANY ERRORS. AMERICA SOMETIMES MAKES ERRORS, BUT WHENEVER THAT HAPPENS, WE ADMIT IT.
- --Q: YOU SPEAK OF ERRORS. COULDN'T IT HAVE BEEN THE ERROR OF ANOTHER COUNTRY?
- --A: I DON'T KNOW. I DO NOT TALK ABOUT OTHER COUNTRIES. I DO NOT ACCUSE OTHER COUNTRIES AND I HOPE THAT OTHER COUNTRIES WOULD DO THE SAME. WHOEVER DOES THAT WITHOUT THE FACTS IS IRRESPONSIBLE. THE PROBLEM IS THAT, IN ITALY, ONE FEELS THAT THE U.S. CAN SEE EVERYTHING. I CAN ONLY SAY THAT OUR

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SATELLITES DO NOT PHOTOGRAPH FRIENDLY COUNTRIES AND ITALY IS A FRIENDLY COUNTRY.
--Q: ITALIAN JUDGES LOOK TO THE U.S. FOR COOPERATION. IS IT POSSIBLE THAT THIS IS THE REASON

COOPERATION. IS IT POSSIBLE THAT THIS IS THE REASON FOR SO MUCH FOCUS ON OUR DISAGREEMENTS?

--A: I DON'T KNOW BUT THIS DOES NOT JUSTIFY THE IRRESPONSIBLE ACCUSATIONS THAT HAVE BEEN MADE AGAINST

AGE 04 ROME 22238 01 OF 03

PAGE 04 ROME 22238 01 OF 03 151811Z
THE U.S. PERHAPS THIS HAS HAPPENED BECAUSE WE ARE
THE ONLY COUNTRY THAT COOPERATES AND RESPONDS TO THE
ITALIAN AUTHORITIES.

--Q: DO YOU THINK THAT PEOPLE HAVE TRIED TO DIVERT ATTENTION AWAY FROM ITALY TOWARDS THE U.S. IN ORDER TO HIDE SOMETHING HERE?

--A: BUT WHO SAYS THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT HAS DONE NOTHING IN ITALY TO GET TO THE TRUTH?

--Q: A PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE, HEADED BY SENATOR

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ACTION EUR-01

INFO LOG-00 ACDA-17 AID-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 CFE-00 C-01 OASY-00 DOTE-00 EB-01 E-01 FAAE-00 HA-09 H-01 IMMC-01 INRE-00 INR-01 10-19 L-03ADS-00 NEA-01 NRRC-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-02 PM-02 PRS-01 P-01 SB-00 SCT-03 SNP-00 SP-00 SS-00 /087W STR-17 TRSE-00 T-01

O 142006Z DEC 92
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6567
SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
DEPT JUSTICE WASHDC IMMEDIATE
USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7810

INFO JOINT STAFF WASHDC USMISSION USNATO

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CHANNEL: n/a HANDLING: n/a

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CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
COMSIXTHFLT
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE//ECPA//ECJ5//
CNO WASHDC//06/09C//
COMFAIRMED NAPLES IT
USNMR SHAPE BE
AMEMBASSY PARIS

UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 03 ROME 22238

STATE ALSO FOR P; USIA FOR EU, P/G; DOJ FOR CRIM DIV/OIA L. BARSELLA

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PAGE 02

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ROME 22238 02 OF 03 142007Z

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: PINR, NATO, PREL, IT
SUBJECT: USTICA: AMBASSADOR SECCHIA DEFENDS U.S.
COOPERATION IN PRESS INTERVIEW; ITALIAN PRESS REPORTS
JUDGE PRIORE PLEASED WITH USG HELP DURING HIS VISIT
TO U.S.

GUALTIERI, HAS POINTED THE FINGER AT SOME ITALIAN POLITICIANS AND MILITARY OFFICERS.

- --A: I DO NOT HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF A PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE.
- --Q: IN THIS PERIOD, ALL THE ATTENTION HAS BEEN FOCUSED ON THE "USS SARATOGA." MANY PEOPLE FEEL THAT THE SHIP'S RADAR COULD CONTRIBUTE TO THE INVESTIGATION. HOW DO YOU RESPOND?
- --A: IN 1980, THE "USS SARATOGA" WAS FUNCTIONING WITH 1950'S TECHNOLOGY AND WAS NOT ABLE TO TAPE-RECORD ITS RADAR, EVEN IF THE RADAR WAS ON AT THAT TIME. THE SHIP HAD NO SYSTEM OF AUTOMATED RECORDING.
- --Q: THEREFORE TAPES DO NOT EXIST?
- --A: THAT NIGHT THE RADARS WERE NOT FUNCTIONING. AND WHENEVER THE SHIP IS IN PORT, WE DO NOT USE THE RADAR. IF WE ARE IN A FRIENDLY COUNTRY, WE TRUST THEIR RADARS. IF WE HAD ACTIVATED OUR RADARS, ALL



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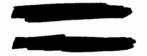
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THE TELEVISION BROADCASTS IN THE NAPLES AREA WOULD
HAVE GONE "TILT."

- --Q: TWO DAYS AGO, ADMIRAL FLATLEY CONFIRMED TO THE ITALIAN MAGISTRATES THAT THE "SARATOGA" HAD NOT MOVED FROM THE PORT OF NAPLES THAT NIGHT. NOW THE JUDGES WANT TO INTERVIEW DUANE CLARRIDGE. DO YOU THINK THIS WILL BE POSSIBLE?
- --A: I DON'T KNOW WHY SUCH IMPORTANCE IS GIVEN TO CLARRIDGE. HIS NAME NEVER APPEARS IN THE OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS I HAVE SEEN.
- --Q: BUT HE PARTICIPATED IN THE MEETINGS THAT WERE HELD IN THE EMBASSY AT ROME THE NIGHT OF THE TRAGEDY.
- --A: NOTHING STRANGE ABOUT THAT. IF TOMORROW THERE WERE AN AIR CRASH, I WOULD IMMEDIATELY CALL A MEETING TO FIND OUT IF THE U.S. WAS INVOLVED IN ANY WAY. WE ALSO MET AFTER THE BOMBINGS IN PALERMO IN WHICH JUDGES FALCONE AND BORSELLINO LOST THEIR LIVES. IF I HAD NOT DONE SO THE NIGHT OF THE USTICA DISASTER, I WOULD BE CRITICIZED AND, PERHAPS, ACCUSED OF NOT DOING ENOUGH FOR THE VICTIMS AND THEIR FAMILIES.
- --Q: DON'T YOU THINK THAT IT'S IMPORTANT TO KNOW THE RESULTS OF THOSE MEETINGS?
- --A: IF THAT MEETING WAS LIKE THOSE I HAVE PARTICIPATED IN, I CAN SAY THAT ONLY RARELY DO THEY ARRIVE AT A CONCLUSION.



PAGE 04 ROME 22238 02 OF 03 142007Z --Q: WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE LIBYAN MIG?

-- A: ABSOLUTELY NOTHING.

(END INFORMAL EMBASSY TRANSLATION)

JUDGE PRIORE RETURNS TO ITALY

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CHANNEL: n/a HANDLING: n/a

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3. (U) "IL MESSAGGERO" REPORTED SEPARATELY THAT INVESTIGATING MAGISTRATE (JUDGE) ROSARIO PRIORE SAID, AFTER HIS RETURN TO ITALY, "WE HAVE RECEIVED EXCELLENT COOPERATION AND HAVE ACQUIRED INFORMATION VERY USEFUL TO THE INVESTIGATION. WE HAVE ESTABLISHED A GOOD WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH THE

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PAGE 01 ROME 22238 03 OF 03 142010Z

ACTION EUR-01

INFO LOG-00 ACDA-17 AID-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 CFE-00 C-01 OASY-00 DOTE-00 EB-01 E-01 FAAE-00 HA-09 H-01 IMMC-01 INRE-00 INR-01 10-19 L-03 ADS-00 NEA-01 NRRC-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-02 PM-02 PRS-01 P-01 SB-00 SCT-03 SNP-00 SP-00 SS-00 /087W STR-17 TRSE-00 T-01 -----86008B 142010Z /38

O 142006Z DEC 92 FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6568

SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

DEPT JUSTICE WASHDC IMMEDIATE

USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7811

INFO JOINT STAFF WASHDC

USMISSION USNATO

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK

COMSIXTHFLT

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE//ECPA//ECJ5//

CNO WASHDC//06/09C// COMFAIRMED NAPLES IT

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AMEMBASSY PARIS

UNCLAS SECTION 03 OF 03 ROME 22238

PENTAGON THAT WILL YIELD GOOD RESULTS IN THE FUTURE AS WELL." THE ARTICLE NOTED THAT, HAVING OBTAINED

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USEFUL INFORMATION FROM THE U.S., THE INVESTIGATION WILL NOW TURN TOWARDS OTHER COUNTRIES THAT HAVE NOT YET PROVIDED THE LEVEL OF COOPERATION AFFORDED BY THE U.S. (I.E., FRANCE, LIBYA, AND RUSSIA). 4. (U) "IL MESSAGGERO" NOTED THAT JUDGE PRIORE HAD BEEN UNABLE TO DEPOSE TWO U.S. OFFICIALS DURING HIS FOUR DAY STAY IN THE U.S.: DUANE CLARRIDGE, ALLEGED "EX-HEAD OF THE CIA IN ITALY," AND DICK COE, "MILITARY ATTACHE AND MEMBER OF THE USTICA WORKING WORKING GROUP AT THE EMBASSY." ACCORDING TO "IL MESSAGGERO, " CLARRIDGE SAID NO ONE HAD ASKED HIM TO MEET JUDGE PRIORE "PERHAPS BECAUSE I HAD JUST RETURNED FROM A VACATION IN SWITZERLAND." COE WAS NOT AVAILABLE BECAUSE HIS FLIGHT FROM DALLAS TO WASHINGTON, D.C. WAS CANCELLED DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER.

5. (C) COMMENT. LONG-TIME READERS OF THE USTICA SAGA WILL NOTE THAT CONSPIRACY THEORIES SURROUNDING THIS AFFAIR BREED LIKE RABBITS. SEPTEL REPORTS ITALY'S DIFFICULTY IN GETTING ITS TROOPS ON THE GROUND IN SOMALIA. ROME'S CENTRIST DAILY "IL TEMPO" DECEMBER 14 REPORTED THAT U.S. MILITARY AUTHORITIES, IN REACTION TO JUDGE PRIORE'S PRESENCE IN THE U.S. TO GATHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE USTICA AFFAIR, MAY HAVE INTENTIONALLY DELAYED ITALY'S REQUEST FOR FLIGHT CLEARANCES.

SECCHIA

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ACTION EUR-01

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

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SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

DEPT JUSTICE WASHDC IMMEDIATE

USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7832

INFO JOINT STAFF WASHDC

USMISSION USNATO

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK

COMSIXTHFLT

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE//ECPA//ECJ5//

CNO WASHDC//06/09C//

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USNMR SHAPE BE

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

SECTION 01 OF 02 ROME 22654

STATE ALSO FOR P; USIA FOR EU, P/G; DOJ FOR CRIM

PAGE 02 ROME 22654 01 OF 02 211653Z DIV/OIA L. BARSELLA

E.O. 12356:DECL:OADR
TAGS: PINR, NATO, PREL, IT
SUBJECT: USTICA: ITALIAN PRESS REPORTS MARRIAGE
PHOTO SHOWS "USS SARATOGA" IN PORT; ITALIAN GENERAL
(TASCIO) DISMISSED FROM AIR FORCE

REF(S): (A) ROME 22238 (B) ROME 22111 (C) ROME 21956 AND PREVIOUS

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE REVIEW AUTHORITY: ERIC W. FLEISHER DATE/CASE ID: 29 OCT 2002 200102359

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- 1. (U) SUMMARY. ITALIAN PRESS REPORTS DECEMBER 21 SAID MARRIAGE PHOTOS SHOW THE "USS SARATOGA" IN NAPLES ON THE DAY AN ITAVIA DC-9 PASSENGER PLANE CRASHED NEAR THE ISLAND OF USTICA IN JUNE, 1980. SEPARATELY, NATIONAL NEWSPAPERS DECEMBER 18 REPORTED THAT MOD SALVO ANDO' HAD DISMISSED GENERAL ZENO TASCIO, INDICTED IN THE USTICA AFFAIR, FROM THE ITALIAN AIR FORCE. END SUMMARY.
- 2. (U) LEFTIST, INDEPENDENT DAILY "LA REPUBBLICA" REPORTED DECEMBER 21 THAT MARRIAGE PHOTOGRAPHS SHOW THE PRESENCE OF THE "USS SARATOGA" IN THE BAY OF NAPLES ON JUNE 27, 1980. THE NEWSPAPER SAID POLICE HAD SEARCHED MARRIAGE RECORDS FROM THE CITY OF NAPLES AND INVITED THE FIVE COUPLES WHO HAD REGISTERED THEIR MARRIAGES THAT DAY TO APPEAR FOR UNOFFICIAL QUESTIONING. EACH COUPLE WAS REQUESTED TO BRING THEIR MARRIAGE PHOTOGRAPH ALBUMS. ACCORDING TO "LA REPUBBLICA," INVESTIGATORS DETERMINED THAT PHOTOGRAPHS IDENTIFYING THE SHIP WERE TAKEN BETWEEN

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1800 - 1900 ON THE DAY OF THE CRASH. THE ARTICLE
SAID THE PICTURES CLEARLY SHOW THE OUTLINE OF AN
AIRCRAFT CARRIER, ALTHOUGH THE SHIP'S IDENTIFICATION
NUMBERS ARE NOT VISIBLE. THE NEWSPAPER SAID THE
PRESENCE OF THE SHIP IS "UNMISTAKABLE." EXPERTS ARE
NOW EXAMINING THE PRECISE ANGLES OF SHADOW ON THE
PHOTOGRAPHS TO DETERMINE THE EXACT TIME WHEN THE
PHOTOGRAPHS WERE TAKEN. THE ARTICLE CLOSED BY NOTING
THAT IT WOULD HAVE BEEN IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE "USS
SARATOGA" TO BE IN PORT BETWEEN 1800 - 1900 AND
DEPART IN TIME TO LAUNCH AIRCRAFT THAT WERE CAPABLE
OF CAUSING THE DISASTER BEFORE THE DC-9 REPORTEDLY
CRASHED AT 2054 THAT SAME NIGHT.

3. (U) THE ITALIAN PRESS SEPARATELY REPORTED DECEMBER 18 THAT MOD SALVO ANDO' HAD DISMISSED AIR FORCE GENERAL ZENO TASCIO FROM MILITARY SERVICE. ACCORDING TO LEADING CENTRIST DAILY "CORRIERE DELLA SERA," GENERAL TASCIO WAS AMONG THOSE INDICTED JANUARY 1991 FOR "HIGH TREASON" RESULTING FROM THEIR INVOLVEMENT IN THE USTICA AFFAIR. GENERAL TASCIO WAS DIRECTOR OF THE ITALIAN AIR FORCE'S INTELLIGENCE SERVICE ("SIOS") AT THE TIME OF THE USTICA CRASH AND, ACCORDING TO NEWS REPORTS, WAS INVOLVED IN RECOVERING

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THE AS-YET UNIDENTIFIED MIG FROM THE SILA MOUNTAINS, AND PASSING TO "SISMI" (MILITARY INTELLIGENCE SERVICE) THE FIRST TAPES OF RADAR TRACINGS FROM THE NIGHT OF THE CRASH.

4. (U) LEADING CONSERVATIVE DAILY "IL GIORNALE" DECEMBER 18 REPORTED THAT GENERAL TASCIO CONTACTED

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"THE CIA" IN THE SUMMER OF 1980 FOR HELP IN
IDENTIFYING A MIG-23 THAT CRASHED IN SOUTHERN ITALY.
THE ARTICLE SAID U.S. COLONEL WARREN WALTERS,
ALLEGEDLY AN EXPERT IN MIG'S, WAS SENT FROM A U.S.
BASE IN WEISBADEN, GERMANY TO ITALY TO HELP IDENTIFY
THE WRECKAGE. THE NEWSPAPER SAID WALTERS HAD TAKEN
SOME PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE RECOVERED MIG AND REPORTEDLY
HAD INFORMATION ABOUT THE MIG'S FLIGHT. "IL GIORNALE"
SAID WALTERS ADMITTED TAKING PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE MIG
WHEN QUESTIONED BY ITALIAN INVESTIGATORS WHO
INTERVIEWED HIM IN THE Urs

5. (C) COMMENT. WE WILL TAKE GOOD NEWS ON THE

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INFO LOG-00 ACDA-17 AID-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 CFE-00 C-01 OASY-00 DOTE-00 EB-01 E-01 FAAE-00 HA-09 H-01 IMMC-01 INRE-00 INR-01 IO-19 L-03 ADS-00 NEA-01 NSCE-00 OIC-02 NRRC-00 PM-02 NSAE-00 OMB-01 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-00 P-01 SB-00 SCT-03 SNP-00 SS-00 /086W STR-17 TRSE-00 T-01

O 211648Z DEC 92 FM AMEMBASSY ROME TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6914 SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE DEPT JUSTICE WASHDC IMMEDIATE USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7833

INFO JOINT STAFF WASHDC

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CHANNEL: n/a HANDLING: n/a

213

USMISSION USNATO
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
COMSIXTHFLT
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE//ECPA//ECJ5//
CNO WASHDC//06/09C//
COMFAIRMED NAPLES IT
USNMR SHAPE BE
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY PARIS

SECTION 02 OF 02 ROME 22654

STATE ALSO FOR P; USIA FOR EU, P/G; DOJ FOR CRIM

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PAGE 02 ROME 22654 02 OF 02 211654Z DIV/OIA L. BARSELLA

E.O. 12356:DECL:OADR
TAGS: PINR, NATO, PREL, IT
SUBJECT: USTICA: ITALIAN PRESS REPORTS MARRIAGE
PHOTO SHOWS "USS SARATOGA" IN PORT; ITALIAN GENERAL
(TASCIO) DISMISSED FROM AIR FORCE

USTICA AFFAIR FROM ANY QUARTER -- EVEN OLD WEDDING PICTURES. ALTHOUGH THIS WILL PROBABLY NOT BE THE LAST WORD ON THE WHEREABOUTS OF THE "SARATOGA" OR U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN OTHER ASPECTS OF THE CASE, THE PRESS WILL LIKELY NEXT FOCUS ON THE FINAL REPORT BY A TEAM OF INTERNATIONAL ACCIDENT RECONSTRUCTION EXPERTS, PRESENTLY DUE MID-JANUARY 1993.

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CHANNEL: nRELEASEDT

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ORIGIN EUR-01

INFO LOG-00 ACDA-15 AMAD-01 A-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 INRE-00 INR-01 IO-19 JUSE-00 ADS-00 NSAE-00 OES-09 OIC-02 OIG-01 OIS-01 PA-02 PRS-01 SIL-01 SP-01 SR-01

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DRAFTED BY: EUR/P: CTJORDAN APPROVED BY: EUR/P: MCPEARSON

EUR/ISCA: JFTEFFT PA/PRESS: PYOUNG

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AMCONSUL ST PETERSBURG IMMEDIATE USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0000

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 0000

INFO JCS WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0000 SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0000

UNCLAS STATE 043093

FOR PAOS GENEVA PASS TO NST AND CD DELS USIA PASS TO EU

PAGE 02 043093 111913Z STATE

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: OPRC

SUBJECT: EUR DAILY PRESS GUIDANCES - FEBRUARY 10, 1992

THE FOLLOWING ARE TODAY'S PRESS GUIDANCES OF EUROPEAN INTEREST PREPARED FOR THE DEPARTMENT'S DAILY PRESS BRIEFING. THE FOLLOWING GUIDANCES WERE NOT ADDRESSED AT TODAY'S BRIEFING.

2. YUGOSLAVIA

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE REVIEW AUTHORITY: ERIC W. FLEISHER DATE/CASE ID: 29 OCT 2002 200102359

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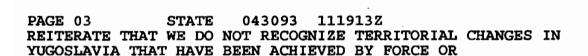
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DOC NBR: 1992STATE043093

CHANNEL: n/a HANDLING: n/a

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- Q: WAS THERE A REFERENDUM ON THE UN PEACEKEEPING EFFORT IN SO-CALLED KRAJINA? IF SO, WHAT WAS THE RESULT AND WHAT DOES IT MEAN?
- A: -- NO, THERE WAS NO REFERENDUM. ON FEBRUARY 9 A NUMBER OF LOCAL SERBIAN LEADERS FROM WITHIN THE SO-CALLED "KRAJINA" IN CROATIA MET IN THE TOWN OF GLINA AND VOTED IN FAVOR OF ADOPTING THE VANCE PEACE PLAN.
- -- I UNDERSTAND THAT LOCAL SERBIAN LEADER BABIC DISPUTES THE LEGITIMACY OF THOSE PROCEEDINGS AND IS CALLING FOR A REFERENDUM ON THE PLAN.
- -- WE CONTINUE TO LOOK TOWARDS THE OFFICIAL PARTIES IN YUGOSLAVIA TO MAINTAIN THEIR PUBLIC COMMITMENT TO THE PEACE PLAN AND TO ENSURE ITS FULL IMPLEMENTATION.
- -- IN REGARD TO THE SO-CALLED KRAJINA REPUBLIC, WE



- O: WILL KRAJINA GO ALONG WITH THE PEACEKEEPING PLAN?
- A: -- THE OPPOSITION FROM MR. BABIC REPRESENTS THE MAIN OBSTACLE TO IMPLEMENTATION OF THE VANCE PLAN. WE BELIEVE THAT THE LEADERSHIP OF SERBTATAND OF THE YUGOSLAV MILITARY HAVE A PARTICULAR RESPONSIBILITY AND OBLIGATION TO ENCOURAGE SERBIAN LEADERS IN CROATIA TO ACCEPT THE VANCE PLAN.
- Q: IS TUDJMAN HAVING DOUBTS ABOUT THE PLAN?
- A: -- IN A LETTER TO THE UN LAST THURSDAY, PRESIDENT TUDJMAN REAFFIRMED HIS FULL AND UNCONDITIONAL ACCEPTANCE OF THE VANCE PEACE PLAN. WE EXPECT HIM TO STICK TO THAT POSITION.
- Q: DO YOU HAVE AN UPDATE ON THE FIGHTING? IS THE CEASEFIRE HOLDING?
- A: -- REPORTS FROM OUR MISSIONS IN YUGOSLAVIA, UN

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MILITARY OBSERVERS, AND LOCAL MEDIA INDICATE THAT THE CEASEFIRE IS HOLDING FAIRLY WELL DESPITE SPORADIC VIOLATIONS.

3. ITALY: 1980 USTICA AIR TRAGEDY

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- Q: WAS THE ITALIAN AIRLINER DOWNED NEAR USTICA IN THE MEDITERRANEAN IN 1980 SHOT DOWN BY A NATO MISSILE?
- A: I WOULD REFER YOU TO NATO FOR ANY COMMENT ON THAT.

(IF ASKED)

- Q: WAS THE U.S. MILITARY -- AS A PART OF NATO, FOR EXAMPLE -- INVOLVED IN THE **INCIDENT?
- A: -- I WOULD REFER YOU TO THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE FOR ANY COMMENT ON THAT.
- Q: HOW IS THE U.S. COOPERATING WITH THE ITALIAN JUDICIAL INVESTIGATIONS OF THE INCIDENT?
- A: -- I BELIEVE THAT WE ARE COOPERATING, BUT I WOULD HAVE TO REFER YOU TO THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE FOR THEIR COMMENT ON THAT.
- 4. ROMANIA: LOCAL ELECTIONS
- Q: WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE ELECTIONS IN ROMANIA? WERE THEY FREE AND FAIR? WILL THE U.S. NOW RESTORE MFN FOR ROMANIA?
- A: -- IT'S TOO SOON TO COMMENT IN DETAIL. WE EXPECT TO RECEIVE IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS THE ASSESSMENT OF OUR EMBASSY AND FINAL REPORTS OF ELECTION OBSERVERS WHO HAVE BEEN

PAGE 05 STATE 043093 111913Z FOLLOWING BOTH THE CAMPAIGN AND THE VOTING.

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- -- VOTER TURN-OUT IS REPORTED TO BE ABOUT 70 PERCENT.
- -- THE ELECTIONS THEMSELVES APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN CONDUCTED WITHOUT SERIOUS INCIDENT OR VIOLENCE, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE NORTHERN TOWN OF SAPINTA. THERE, A DISPUTE OVER THE MAYORAL CANDIDATES DISRUPTED THE VOTING AND SOME LOW-LEVEL VIOLENCE REPORTEDLY OCCURRED.
- -- EARLY REPORTS SHOW THERE MAY BE RUN-OFF ELECTIONS FOR MAYOR IN SOME CITIES, INCLUDING BUCHAREST.
- -- WE REPEAT, HOWEVER, THAT WE NEED FAR MORE INFORMATION BEFORE COMMENTING ON THE ELECTIONS AS A WHOLE.

(IF ASKED)

- -- THERE WERE REPORTS OF SOME ORGANIZATIONAL PROBLEMS DURING THE CAMPAIGN PERIOD WHICH ARE OF CONCERN TO US AND WHICH WE ARE PRESENTLY EVALUATING.
- -- WE CONTINUE TO KEEP THE QUESTION OF MFN UNDER REVIEW. THE CONDUCT OF THESE ELECTIONS WILL BE A FACTOR IN OUR THINKING. NO DECISIONS HAVE BEEN MADE YET.
- 5. CANADA: AMBASSADOR NEY
- -- AMBASSADOR NEY HAS INDICATED TO LEAVE HIS POST SOMETIME DURING THE FIRST HALF OF THIS YEAR. IN THE MEANTIME, HE

PAGE 06 STATE 043093 111913Z IS U.S. AMBASSADOR TO CANADA AND HAS THE PRESIDENT'S FULL CONFIDENCE AND SUPPORT.

- Q: WHAT ABOUT A REPLACEMENT?
- A: -- THAT IS FOR THE WHITE HOUSE TO ANNOUNCE, WHEN IT IS APPROPRIATE.
- -- WE ARE NOT AWARE OF ANY ANNOUNCEMENTS.

KANTER

and the state of the state of

Date Printed: 16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1993ROME00862

CHANNEL: nRELEASED INZEUL

HANDLING: n/a

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PAGE 01 ROME 00862 01 OF 02 191927Z

ACTION EUR-01

INFO LOG-00 ACDA-17 AID-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 CFE-00 C-01 CISA-02 EB-01 E-01 FAAE-00 HA-09 OASY-00 DOTE-00 H-01 IMMC-01 INRE-00 INR-01 **IO-19** L-03 ADS-00 NRRC-00 OIC-02 NEA-01 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-02 PRS-01 P-01 SB-00 SCT-03 SNP-00 SP-00 SS-00 STR-17 TRSE-00 T-01 /088W

-----91E349 192001Z /38

R 191919Z JAN 93 FM AMEMBASSY ROME TO USIA WASHDC 7929 DEPT JUSTICE WASHDC SECSTATE WASHDC 7795 SECDEF WASHDC INFO COM SIXTHFLT CNO WASHDC//06/09C// CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK USMISSION USNATO JOINT STAFF WASHDC AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS AMEMBASSY PARIS AMEMBASSY MOSCOW USNMR SHAPE BE COMPAIRMED NAPLES IT USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE//ECPA/ECJ5//

SECTION 01 OF 02 ROME 000862

PAGE 02 ROME 00862 01 OF 02 191927Z STATE ALSO FOR P; USIA FOR EU, P/G; DOJ FOR CRIM DIV/OIA L. BARSELLA

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: PINR, NATO, PREL, IT
SUBJECT: USTICA: ITALIAN PRESS REPORTS SUSPICIOUS
DEATH OF ITALIAN EX-AIR FORCE GENERAL BOEMIO;
ACCIDENT EXPERT ROBBED OF RADAR DATA; EX-SOVIET GRU
CAPTAIN SAYS U.S. SHOT DOWN PLANE DURING MILITARY
EXERCISE

Page - 1209

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE REVIEW AUTHORITY: ERIC W. FLEISHER DATE/CASE ID: 29 OCT 2002 200102359

Date Printed: 16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1993ROME00862

CHANNEL: n/a HANDLING: n/a

222

REF(S): (A) 92 ROME 22654 (B) 92 ROME 22238 (C) 92 ROME 22111 AND PREVIOUS

SUMMARY. ITALIAN PRESS REPORTS JANUARY (U) 14-19 SAID ITALIAN EX-AIR FORCE GENERAL ROBERTO BOEMIO WAS ATTACKED AND KILLED DURING AN APPARENT ROBBERY IN BRUSSELS. BOEMIO HAD BEEN CHIEF OF STAFF FOR THE THIRD AIR REGION, HEADQUARTERED IN BARI, AT THE TIME AN ITAVIA DC-9 PASSENGER CRASHED NEAR THE ISLAND OF USTICA ON JUNE 27, 1980. SEPARATELY, THE ITALIAN PRESS REPORTED THAT A RETIRED SOVIET MILITARY INTELLIGENCE (GRU) AGENT CLAIMED A U.S. FIGHTER ACCIDENTLY SHOT DOWN THE DC-9 DURING A MILITARY EXERCISE. LASTLY, THE PRESS FOCUSED ON THE MISFORTUNE OF SWEDISH ACCIDENT RECONSTRUCTION EXPERT (GUNNO GUNNVAL), WHO WAS ROBBED IN A ROME TRAIN STATION, LOSING COPIES OF FLOPPY DISKS CONTAINING DATA ON THE USTICA CRASH. END SUMMARY.

2. (U) THE ITALIAN PRESS REPORTED WIDELY JANUARY

191927Z PAGE 03 ROME 00862 01 OF 02 14-19 ON THE VIOLENT DEATH OF RETIRED ITALIAN AIR FORCE GENERAL ROBERTO BOEMIO WHO, AT THE TIME OF THE USTICA CRASH, WAS CHIEF OF STAFF FOR THE THIRD AIR REGION. HEADQUARTERED IN BARI, THIS COMMAND EXERCISED OPERATIONAL CONTROL AND SUPERVISION OVER THE RADAR AND AIR DEFENSE SYSTEMS FOR SOUTHERN ITALY. BOEMIO WAS ATTACKED JANUARY 12 OUTSIDE HIS HOME IN BRUSSELS BY TWO ASSAILANTS WHO STABBED HIM THREE TIMES; THE LAST TIME DIRECTLY INTO HIS HEART THROUGH SEVERAL LAYERS OF CLOTHES. HE IMMEDIATELY LOST CONSCIOUSNESS AND DIED A FEW HOURS LATER IN A LOCAL HOSPITAL. THE ITALIAN MEDIA SPECULATED THAT BOEMIO, INDICTED ALONG WITH OTHER HIGH MILITARY OFFICIALS FOR HIS ROLE IN THE USTICA AFFAIR, WAS PROFESSIONALLY KILLED TO PREVENT HIM FROM TESTIFYING FURTHER ABOUT THE MILITARY'S INVOLVEMENT IN THE TRAGEDY. PRESS ACCOUNTS POINT TO THE APPARENT PRE-PLANNING OF THE ATTACK, THE SPECIFIC STABBING TECHNIQUE, AND THE LACK OF ANY OTHER CREDIBLE MOTIVE (COMMENT. BOEMIO'S WALLET REPORTEDLY REMAINED IN HIS POCKET.) AS PROOF THAT HE WAS KILLED EITHER FOR HIS PREVIOUS TESTIMONY OR FOR WHAT HE MIGHT ADD TO INVESTIGATING JUDGE PRIORE'S CONTINUING INQUIRIES. LEFTIST, INDEPENDENT DAILY "LA REPUBBLICA" JANUARY 16

Date Printed: 16 Apr 2002

DOC NBR: 1993ROME00862

CHANNEL: n/a HANDLING: n/a

222

REPORTED THAT BELGIAN AUTHORITIES HAVE ALREADY ASKED FOR INFORMATION COLLECTED BY ITALIAN USTICA INVESTIGATORS.

3. (U) SEPARATELY, NATIONAL NEWSPAPERS REPORTED WIDELY JANUARY 15 THAT SWEDISH ACCIDENT RECONSTRUCTION SPECIALIST (GUNNO GUNNVAL), APPOINTED

ROME 00862 01 OF 02 191927Z PAGE 04 BY JUDGE PRIORE TO THE TEAM OF EXPERTS WHOSE FINAL REPORT ON THE CAUSE OF THE CRASH IS DUE AT THE END OF THE MONTH, WAS ROBBED AT A ROME RAILWAY STATION AND LOST A BRIEFCASE HOLDING COPIES OF FLOPPY DISKS THAT CONTAINED DATA ON THE USTICA CRASH. (COMMENT. FROM PRESS REPORTS ABOUT THE ROBBERY, IT APPEARS THAT GUNNVAL'S BRIEFCASE WAS LIFTED LIKE THOSE OF NUMEROUS OTHER UNSUSPECTING VISITORS TO ITALY WHO ARE THE VICTIMS OF PETTY THEFT. THERE WAS NO INDICATION THAT HE WAS TARGETED FOR HIS INVOLVEMENT WITH THE EXPERT TEAM APPOINTED BY JUDGE PRIORE. END COMMENT.) CENTRIST DAILY "LA STAMPA" NOTED JANUARY 15 THAT NO HARM HAD ACTUALLY BEEN DONE: GUNNVAL HAD PRUDENTLY MADE BACK-UP COPIES OF HIS DISKS BEFORE TRAVELING TO ROME.

4. (U) LASTLY, ANTONIO PURGATOR
I IN "CORRIERE DELLA
SERA" JANUARY 19 REPORTED THAT RETIRED SOVIET
MILITARY INTELLIGENCE (GRU) CAPTAIN (ANATOLIJ
IVANOV), IN AN INTERVIEW WITH ITALIAN PRIVATE

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PAGE 01 ROME 00862 02 OF 02 191928Z ACTION EUR-01

ACTION EUR-01

| INFO | LOG-00 | ACDA-17 | AID-01 | CIAE-00 | COME-00 | CFE-00 | C-01 |
|------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|--------|
| | OASY-00 | DOTE-00 | CISA-02 | EB-01 | E-01 | FAAE-00 | HA-09 |
| | H-01 | IMMC-01 | INRE-00 | INR-01 | IO-19 | L-03 | ADS-00 |
| | NEA-01 | NRRC-00 | NSAE-00 | NSCE-00 | OIC-02 | OMB-01 | PA-01 |
| | PM-02 | PRS-01 | P-01 | SB-00 | SCT-03 | SNP-00 | SP-00 |
| | SS-00 | STR-17 | TRSE-00 | T-01 | /088W | • | |

Date Printed: 16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1993ROME00862

CHANNEL: n/a HANDLING: n/a

222

-----91E354 192001Z /38

R 191919Z JAN 93 FM AMEMBASSY ROME TO USIA WASHDC 7930 DEPT JUSTICE WASHDC SECSTATE WASHDC 7796 SECDEF WASHDC INFO COM SIXTHFLT CNO WASHDC//06/09C// CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK USMISSION USNATO JOINT STAFF WASHDC AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS AMEMBASSY PARIS AMEMBASSY MOSCOW USNMR SHAPE BE COMFAIRMED NAPLES IT USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE//ECPA/ECJ5//

SECTION 02 OF 02 ROME 000862

PAGE 02 ROME 00862 02 OF 02 191928Z STATE ALSO FOR P; USIA FOR EU, P/G; DOJ FOR CRIM DIV/OIA L. BARSELLA

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: PINR, NATO, PREL, IT
SUBJECT: USTICA: ITALIAN PRESS REPORTS SUSPICIOUS
DEATH OF ITALIAN EX-AIR FORCE GENERAL BOEMIO;
ACCIDENT EXPERT ROBBED OF RADAR DATA; EX-SOVIET GRU
CAPTAIN SAYS U.S. SHOT DOWN PLANE DURING MILITARY
EXERCISE

TELEVISION CHANNEL "GRL," SAID A U.S. NAVY FIGHTER ACCIDENTLY FIRED A MISSILE AND SHOT DOWN THE ITAVIA DC-9 PASSENGER PLANE DURING A MILITARY EXERCISE. ACCORDING TO "CORRIERE," IVANOV COMPARED THIS ACCIDENT TO THE SOVIET DOWNING OF KOREAN AIR 007 SEVERAL YEARS AGO. THE ARTICLE SAID IVANOV WAS ASSIGNED TO GRU "ITALIAN AFFAIRS" AT THE TIME OF THE USTICA CRASH AND WORKED WITH A GROUP OF SOVIET MILITARY INTELLIGENCE EXPERTS ON THE TRAGEDY. ASKED ABOUT THE WHEREABOUTS OF THE "USS SARATOGA" AT THE TIME, IVANOV REPORTEDLY SAID HE COULD NOT CONFIRM THE SHIP WAS IN PORT AS THE USG HAS REPEATEDLY CLAIMED

Date Printed: 16 Apr 2002

DOC NBR: 1993ROME00862

CHANNEL: n/a HANDLING: n/a

222

"CORRIERE" REPORTED THAT IVANOV BASED HIS CONCLUSIONS ON GRU ARCHIVES CONTAINING BOTH SOVIET AND ITALIAN DOCUMENTS. ACCORDING TO THE ARTICLE, IVANOV NOTED THAT SOVIET SUBMARINES ROUTINELY TRACKED U.S. MILITARY SHIP MOVEMENTS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN AND UNDOUBTEDLY SURVEILLED THE "SARATOGA." IVANOV CATEGORICALLY DENIED THAT THE SOVIET UNION HAD ANY RELATIONSHIP TO THE LIBYAN MIG-23 FOUND IN THE

PAGE 03 ROME 00862 02 OF 02 191928Z MOUNTAINS OF SOUTHERN ITALY SEVERAL WEEKS AFTER THE USTICA CRASH.

5. (C) COMMENT. THE DEATH OF BOEMIO -PARTICULARLY IF BELGIAN POLICE ARE UNABLE TO COME UP
WITH OTHER MOTIVES FOR THE CRIME -- AND THE
"REVELATIONS" OF THE FORMER SOVIET OFFICIAL ARE NEW
GRIST FOR THE USTICA MILL. THE INVESTIGATING JUDGE
UNDOUBTEDLY WILL BE OBLIGED TO FOLLOW UP BOTH.
STRANGELY, ACCORDING TO INFORMED ITALIAN MOD SOURCES,
THE RUSSIAN GOVERNMENT HAS CHOSEN NOT TO ACCEPT THE
ITALIAN ROGATORY ON THE USTICA INVESTIGATION.

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Date Printed: 16 Apr 2002

DOC NBR: 1993ROME01010

CHANNEL: nRELEASED INTELLI

HANDLING: n/a

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PAGE 01 ROME 01010 211647Z

ACTION EUR-01

C-01 LOG-00 ACDA-17 AID-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 CFE-00 INFO OASY-00 DOTE-00 EB-01 E-01 FAAE-00 HA-09 H-01 IMMC-01 INRE-00 INR-01 10-19 L-03 ADS-00 **NEA-01** NRRC-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-02 PRS-01 P-01 SB-00 SCT-03 SNP-00 SP-00 SS-00 /086W TRSE-00 T-01 STR-17

R 211635Z JAN 93
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO DEPT JUSTICE WASHDC
SECDEF WASHDC
SECSTATE WASHDC 7878
USIA WASHDC 7943
INFO JOINT STAFF WASHDC
COMFAIRMED NAPLES IT
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE//ECPA/ECJ5//
USMISSION USNATO
COM SIXTHFLT
CNO WASHDC//06/09C//
USNMR SHAPE BE
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK

ROME 001010

STATE ALSO FOR P; USIA FOR EU, P/G; DOJ FOR CRIM DIV/OIA L. BARSELLA

PAGE 02 ROME 01010 21164

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: PINR, NATO, PREL, IT
SUBJECT: USTICA: SAVED BY THE (WEDDING) BELL -ITALIAN PRESS REPORTS MARRIAGE PHOTOS SHOW "USS
SARATOGA" IN PORT THE NIGHT OF THE CRASH

REF(S): (A) ROME 00862 (B) 92 ROME 22654 (C) 92 ROME 22238 AND PREVIOUS

1. (U) SUMMARY. ITALIAN PRESS REPORTS JANUARY 21 SAID MARRIAGE PHOTOGRAPHS, TRADITIONALLY TAKEN NEAR

Page - 1214

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE REVIEW AUTHORITY: ERIC W. FLEISHER DATE/CASE ID: 29 OCT 2002 200102359

Date Printed: 16 Apr 2002

DOC NBR: 1993ROME01010

CHANNEL: n/a HANDLING: n/a

223

NAPLES BAY, SHOWED THAT THE "USS SARATOGA" WAS IN PORT JUST BEFORE AND AFTER AN ITAVIA DC-9 PASSENGER PLANE CRASHED NEAR THE ISLAND OF USTICA IN JUNE 1980. LEFTIST, INDEPENDENT DAILY "LA REPUBBLICA" REPORTED THAT FIVE SEPARATE PHOTOGRAPHS CONTAIN "VERY CLEAR" IMAGES OF THE SHIP ANCHORED IN THE PORT OF NAPLES JUNE 27 AND 28, 1980. END SUMMARY. 2. (U) NATIONAL NEWSPAPERS REPORTED WIDELY JANUARY 21 THAT INVESTIGATING MAGISTRATE PRIORE HAD RECEIVED, PURSUANT TO HIS OFFICIAL REQUEST, OVER 300 MARRIAGE PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN AT LOCAL PLACES OF INTEREST JUNE 27-28, 1980 DURING THE TRADITIONAL ROUND OF POST-NUPTIAL FESTIVITIES FOR ITALIAN NEWLYWEDS IN NAPLES. OF THIS NUMBER, FIVE PHOTOGRAPHS SHOW THE PRESENCE OF THE "USS SARATOGA" IN NAPLES BAY JUST BEFORE AND AFTER THE USTICA TRAGEDY. "LA REPUBBLICA" NOTED, "THE IMAGE OF THE SHIP IS VERY CLEAR AND ONE CAN EVEN SEE THE SHIP'S DISTINCTIVE NUMBERS THROUGH A MAGNIFYING GLASS." PRESS ACCOUNTS SAID THAT, ALTHOUGH JUDGE PRIORE WOULD NOW TRY TO DETERMINE THE

PAGE 03 ROME 01010 211647Z EXACT TIME THAT EACH PHOTOGRAPH WAS TAKEN, IT WAS APPARENT THAT THE SHIP WAS ANCHORED IN NAPLES PORT 1700 (LOCAL TIME) JUNE 27 AND EARLY MORNING JUNE 28.

- 3. (U) A REFRAIN WE HAVE HEARD BEFORE WAS REPLAYED BY ANTONIO PURGATORI IN "CORRIERE DELLA SERA" WHEN HE SPECULATED THAT THE "SARATOGA" COULD HAVE VENTURED OUT FROM PORT AND RETURNED WITHIN THE APPROXIMATELY 12 HOURS DURING WHICH THERE WERE NO PHOTOGRAPHS. BY AND LARGE, HOWEVER, PRESS REPORTS ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE PHOTOGRAPHS CONSTITUTED STRONG SUPPORT FOR U.S. CLAIMS THAT THE SHIP WAS IN PORT AT THE TIME OF THE CRASH.
- 4. (C) COMMENT. WE WERE PLEASED TO SEE INDEPENDENT CORROBORATION THAT THE "SARATOGA" WAS IN PORT AT THE TIME OF THE CRASH, AND FROM A SOURCE PARTICULARLY FAMILIAR TO EVERY ITALIAN -- WEDDING "SNAPS" THAT ARE TRADITIONALLY TAKEN AT LOCAL PLACES OF INTEREST IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING MARRIAGE. WE ALSO NOTE THAT, BY ASSIDUOUSLY FOLLOWING THE UNSOLICITED SUGGESTION TO REQUEST SUCH WEDDING PICTURES (REF B), JUDGE PRIORE DISPLAYED THE INITIATIVE AND THOROUGHNESS FOR WHICH HE IS WELL KNOWN.

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CHANNEL: n/a HANDLING: n/a

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Date Printed: 16 Apr 2002

DOC NBR: 1993ROME02866

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PAGE 01 ROME 02866 01 OF 02 201137Z

ACTION EUR-01

INFO LOG-00 AID-01 CA-02 CIAE-00 C-01 DEAE-00 OASY-00 DODE-00 CISA-02 OIGO-01 HA-09 H-01 INM-02 INR-00 ADS-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 OCS-06 OMB - 01 PA-01 L-03P-01 SCT-03 RPCS-01 SNP-00 SP-00 PM-02 PRS-01

SS-00 TRSE-00 T-01 USIE-00 /040W -----9E36C2 201137Z /38

P 201133Z FEB 93

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9108

INFO AMCONSUL MILAN

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMCONSUL NAPLES

AMEMBASSY TIRANA

AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

AMEMBASSY ZAGREB

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY LJUBLJANA

DIRFBI WASHDC

DEPT OF JUSTICE WASH DC

ALLEC COLLECTIVE

AMCONSUL PALERMO//POUCH

AMCONSUL FLORENCE//POUCH

EXTEND CLASSIFICATION

SECTION 01 OF 02 ROME 002866

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: PREL, PGOV, OVIP, CJAN, SNAR, IT

SUBJECT: ITALIAN PRESS SURPRISED AT ORLANDO'S U.S.

PAGE 02 ROME 02866 01 OF 02 201137Z

RECEPTION

REF: 92 ROME 22438

SUMMARY

1. (U) ITALIAN NEWSPAPERS HAVE TREATED U.S. REACTION

Page - 1225

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE REVIEW AUTHORITY: ERIC W. FLEISHER DATE/CASE ID: 29 OCT 2002 200102359

CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL REASON: 1.6(6)UNCLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFY AFTER: 20 FER 2018

Date Printed: 16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1993ROME02866

CHANNEL: n/a HANDLING: n/a 225

TO "LA RETE" LEADER LEOLUCA ORLANDO'S ONGOING VISIT WITH SURPRISE. A STORY IN LEADING MILAN DAILY "CORRIERE DELLA SERA" FEBRUARY 18 LISTS STATEMENTS U.S. NEWSPAPERS HAVE QUOTED HIM AS HAVING MADE ABOUT HIS ROLE IN UNCOVERING ALLEGED SHIPMENTS OF RUSSIAN. NUCLEAR MATERIAL THROUGH ITALY, AND CONCLUDES, AMAZED, THAT "THEY ARE TAKING ORLANDO AT HIS WORD." ACCORDING TO ANOTHER ACCOUNT, "AT THE STATE DEPARTMENT, AT THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT, AND AT THE FBI, ORLANDO ASKED THE AMERICA OF BILL CLINTON TO NO LONGER PROTECT, AS IT DID FOR DECADES IN THE PAST, ITALIAN POLITICIANS WHO COLLUDE WITH THE MAFIA AND ORGANIZED CRIME." HIS CONVERSATIONS WERE ALSO REPORTED TO HAVE DEALT WITH THE USTICA AFFAIR. U.S. MEDIA THAT WE HAVE SEEN HAVE QUESTIONED ORLANDO ON THE NUMEROUS POSITIONS HE AND HIS PARTY HAVE TAKEN HOSTILE TO U.S. POSITIONS, SUCH AS EMBRACING ARAFAT ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS AND OPPOSING OPERATION DESERT STORM. END SUMMARY.

ITALIAN PRESS: AMAZED AND AMUSED

PAGE 03 ROME 02866 01 OF 02 201137Z

- 2. (U) ITALIAN MEDIA REPORTS HAVE TAKEN A TONE OF SURPRISE AT THE LEVEL AND TONE OF COVERAGE LEOLUCA ORLANDO HAS RECEIVED FROM U.S. MEDIA DURING HIS ONGOING VISIT. THE "CORRIERE" ARTICLE, FOR EXAMPLE, TERMED "REVOLUTIONARY" THE FACT THAT LEFT-WING ORLANDO KEPT THE EDITORS OF THE "WALL STREET JOURNAL" WAITING FOR THEIR APPOINTMENT, BUT THEN RECEIVED A LAUDATORY HALF PAGE FEATURE. THE "CORRIERE" ARTICLE SAID THAT, AMONG ITALIAN POLITICAL FIGURES, ONLY FORMER FM DE MICHELIS AND FORMER PM CRAXI, AT THE TIME OF THE SIGONELLA INCIDENT, RECEIVED SUCH A LEVEL OF COVERAGE IN THE U.S. MEDIA.
- (U) ROME LEADING DAILY "IL MESSAGGERO" NOTED THAT THE OCCURRENCE OF POSSIBLE SHIPMENTS OF URANIUM AND OTHER NUCLEAR MATERIAL FROM RUSSIA THROUGH ITALY WAS NOT A DISCOVERY OF ORLANDO'S, AS HE HAD SUGGESTED, BUT INSTEAD HAD FIRST BEEN BROUGHT TO PUBLIC ATTENTION BY FLORENCE PROSECUTOR VIGNA. ACCORDING TO "IL MESSAGGERO, " THE HEAD OF THE FBI'S ANTIMAFIA

Date Printed: 16 Apr 2002

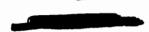
DOC NBR: 1993ROME02866

CHANNEL: n/a HANDLING: n/a

225

SECTION, JIM MOODY, HAD "CONFIRMED" ORLANDO'S STATEMENTS BY SAYING "I KNOW OF SOME EPISODES IN WHICH NUCLEAR MATERIAL HAS BEEN STOLEN FROM THE EX-USSR WITH THE INTENTION OF SELLING IT ON THE WORLD MARKET."

4. (U) THE ARTICLE DEVOTES SEVERAL PARAGRAPHS TO ORLANDO'S INTERVIEW WITH "U.S.A. TODAY" ON THIS TOPIC, IN WHICH HIS COMPANION, "LA RETE" SENATOR



PAGE 04 ROME 02866 01 OF 02 201137Z CARMINE MANCUSO, PALERMO, CHARGED THAT A SHIPMENT OF TWO KILOGRAMS AND 200 GRAMS OF ENRICHED URANIUM AT THIRTY PER CENT OF PURITY WAS OFFERED FOR SALE FOR TWO MILLION DOLLARS. "IT ARRIVED IN MUNICH FROM POLAND, "SAID MANCUSO. "THEN, LAST OCTOBER, WITHIN THE BORDERS OF AUSTRIA AND (THE ITALIAN PROVINCE OF) FRIULI (BORDERING ON AUSTRIA), PEOPLE WERE ARRESTED WHO WERE TRYING TO LOAD M-18 HELICOPTERS AND SOME SHIPS FROM THE RED ARMY DESTINED FOR LIBYA AND OTHER ARAB COUNTRIES." THE "MESSAGGERO" ARTICLE CONCLUDES, AMAZED, THAT "THEY TOOK ORLANDO AT HIS WORD."

THE U.S. SHOULD "NO LONGER" PROTECT ITALIAN MAFIA

5. (U) AMONG THE STATEMENTS ORLANDO IS REPORTED TO HAVE MADE IS THE FOLLOWING: "AMERICA SHOULD NO LONGER PROTECT ITALIAN POLITICIANS WHO COLLUDE WITH THE

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PAGE 01 ROME 02866 02 OF 02 201137Z

ACTION EUR-01

INFO LOG-00 AID-01 CA-02 CIAE-00 C-01 DEAE-00 OASY-00 H-01 DODE-00 CISA-02 OIGO-01 HA-09 INM-02 INR-00 L-03 ADS-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 OCS-06 OMB-01 PA-01 SP-00 PM-02 PRS-01 P-01 RPCS-01 SCT-03 SNP-00 SS-00 TRSE-00 T-01 USIE-00 /040W ----9E36C5 201138Z /38

Date Printed: 16 Apr 2002

DOC NBR: 1993ROME02866

CHANNEL: n/a HANDLING: n/a

225

P 201133Z FEB 93 FM AMEMBASSY ROME TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9109 INFO AMCONSUL MILAN AMEMBASSY BELGRADE AMEMBASSY VIENNA AMCONSUL NAPLES AMEMBASSY TIRANA AMEMBASSY VALLETTA AMEMBASSY ZAGREB AMEMBASSY BERN AMEMBASSY LJUBLJANA The second of DIRFBI WASHDC DEPT OF JUSTICE WASH DC ALLEC COLLECTIVE AMCONSUL PALERMO//POUCH AMCONSUL FLORENCE//POUCH

SECTION 02 OF 02 ROME 002866

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR TAGS: PREL, PGOV, OVIP, CJAN, SNAR, IT SUBJECT: ITALIAN PRESS SURPRISED AT ORLANDO'S U.S.

PAGE 02 ROME 02866

ROME 02866 02 OF 02 201137Z

RECEPTION

MAFIA AND CRIMINAL ORGANIZATIONS, AS IT DID FOR DECADES IN THE PA
ST. THE COLD WAR IS OVER, AND
CERTAIN MEN NO LONGER NEED TO BE MAINTAINED IN POWER." HE IS REPORTED TO HAVE SAID THIS AT THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, THE FBI, AND THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WHERE THE "CORRIERE" ARTICLE HAD ORLANDO MEETING WITH "THE HEAD OF THE EUROPEAN DEPARTMENT OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT."

6. (U) "WHENEVER SOMETHING USED TO GO BADLY IN ITALY, (FORMER PMS) GIULIO ANDREOTTI AND BETTINO CRAXI WOULD GO TO AMERICA TO ASK FOR HELP...BUT TIMES HAVE CHANGED AND THE 'NOMENKLATURA' OF THE COLD WAR IS NO LONGER NECESSARY FOR MAINTAINING INTERNATIONAL EQUILIBRIUM," HE IS REPORTED TO HAVE TOLD THE NATIONAL PRESS CLUB.

| Date Printed: 0 16 Apr 2002 DOC_NBR: 1993ROME02866 | CHANNEL: n/a HANDLING: n/a | 225 |
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| 7. (U) THE ITALIAN MEDIA ALSO REPORT THAT ORLAND TOLD U.S. OFFICIALS THAT THE U.S. AND ITALY MUST "WORK TOGETHER ON INVESTIGATIONS IN PROGRESS. YOUS SHOULD HELP US TO SOLVE MYSTERIES. BEGINNING WITH USTICA TRAGEDY." | טט | |
| PAGE 03 ROME 02866 02 OF 02 201137Z | | |
| 8. (C) | | В |
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Date Printed: 16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1993ROME03648

CHANNEL: nRELEASED INSELLI

HANDLING: n/a

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PAGE 01 ROME 03648 01 OF 02 031818Z

ACTION EUR-01

COME-00 C-01 INFO LOG-00 ACDA-17 AID-01 CIAE-00 CFE-00 OASY-00 DOTE-00 EB-01 E-01 FAAE-00 HA-09 H-01 IMMC-01 INR-00 **IO-19** L-03ADS-00 NEA-01 NRRC-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-02 PRS-01 P-01 RPCS-01 SB-00 SCT-03 SNP-00 SP-00 SS-00

STR-17 TRSE-00 T-00 /085W

-----A29329 031923Z /43

P 031804Z MAR 93

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9592

SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

DEPT JUSTICE WASHDC PRIORITY

USIA WASHDC PRIORITY 8223

INFO USNMR SHAPE BE

COMFAIRMED NAPLES IT

CNO WASHDC//06/09C//

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE//ECPA/ECJ5//

COM SIXTHFLT

JOINT STAFF WASHDC

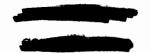
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK

USMISSION USNATO

SECTI

SECTION 01 OF 02 ROME 03648

STATE ALSO FOR P; USIA FOR EU, P/G; DOJ FOR CRIM DIV/OIA L. BARSELLA



PAGE 02 ROME 03648 01 OF 02 031818Z

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR

TAGS: PINR, NATO, PREL, IT

SUBJECT: USTICA: KGB COLONEL TELLS ITALIAN PRESS THAT SOVIETS MONITORED USTICA SHOOT-DOWN BY AMERICAN FIGHTERS; OLD ISSUES AIRED ANEW

REF(S): (A) ROME 01010 AND PREVIOUS

1. (C) SUMMARY: ITALIAN RADIO 3 MARCH CARRIED AN INTERVIEW WITH AN EX-KGB COLONEL WHO CLAIMED THAT A SOVIET RADAR IN LIBYA HAD MONITORED THE SHOOTING DOWN

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE REVIEW AUTHORITY: ERIC W. FLEISHER DATE/CASE ID: 29 OCT 2002 200102359

Date Printed: 16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1993ROME03648

CHANNEL: n/a HANDLING: n/a 226

OF THE CIVILIAN AIRLINER NEAR USTICA IN 1980 BY A

- U.S. FIGHTER AIRCRAFT BASED IN SARDINIA. DEFENSE MINISTER ANDO' AND INVESTIGATING MAGISTRATE PRIORE (AMONG OTHERS) WERE ALSO INTERVIEWED FOR COMMENTS. THE ITALIAN WIRE SERVICE "ANSA" PICKED UP THE INTERVIEW AND ALSO CARRIED A DENIAL BY THE PENTAGON OF U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN THE CRASH. IN OTHER USTICA COVERAGE, A LEADING WEEKLY NEWS MAGAZINE REHASHED OLD QUESTIONS AND ALLEGATION IN AN ARTICLE BASED ON CABLE TRAFFIC RELEASED UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT. END SUMMARY.
- 2. (U) ITALIAN RADIO "UNO" CARRIED AN INTERVIEW 3
 MARCH WITH AN EX-KGB COLONEL PAVLOV, WHO CLAIMED THAT
 A SE CRET SOVIET RADAR IN LIBYA, IN THE COURSE OF
 MINITORING A NATO "LIVE-FIRE" EXERCISE, RECORDED THE
 27 JUNE 198 DOWNING OF THE CIVILIAN AIRLINER NEAR
 USTICA ISLAND BY A U.S. FIGHTER AIRCRAFT. HE CLAIMED
 THE AIRCRAFT HAD TAKEN OFF FROMA BASE ON SARDINIA
- PAGE 03 ROME 03648 01 OF 02 031818Z
 CND THAT#HE MISSILE HAD "ESCAPED" CONTROL. HE ALSO
 NOTED THAT THE CIVILIAN AIRLINER WAS OUTSIDE NORMAL
 CIVIL AIR TRAFFIC CORRIDORS AT THE TIME.
- (U) RADIO "UNO" ALSO INTERVIEWED (AMONG OTHERS) INVESTIGATING MAGISTR-TE PRIORE AND DEFENSE MINISTER ANDO' FOR COMMENT ON PAVLOV'S ALLEGATIONS. PRIORE, WHILE ACKNOWLEDGING THAT PAVLOV'S ALLEGATIONS WOULD BE CAREFULLY EXAMINED, ALSO NOTED THAT THE SOVIET RADAR MENTIONEX BY PAVLOV WOULD HAVE HAD TO BE EXCEPTIONALLY POWERFUL FOR THAT GENERATION OF TECHNOLOGY, ESPECIALLY TO BE ABLE TO IDENTIFY AT A RANGE OF 750 KMS. THE TYPE OF AIRCRAFT INVOLVED AND TO PICK OUT AN OBJECT THE SIZE OF AN AIR-TO-AIR MISSILE. PRIORE SAID HE WOULD FOLLOW UP WITH AN OFFICIAL INQUIRY TO THE RUSSIAN GOVERNMENT. (IN A SEPARATE INTERVIEW, FORMER SOVIET PRESIDENT GORBACHEV DENIED ANY KNOWLEDGE OF PAVLOV'S ALLEGATIONS, BUT URGED THE RUSSIAN GOVERNMENT TO BE COOPERATIVE.)
- 4. (U) IN HIS INTERVIEW, DEFENSE MINISTER ANDO'SAID THE ITALIAN DEFENSE MINISTRY WOULD COOPERATE FULLY WITH PRIORE'S INVESTIGATION WHILE BEING CAREFUL NOT TO DUPLICATE OR CONFUSE THE ISSUES. IN RESPONSE

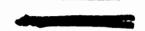
Date Printed: 16 Apr 2002

DOC NBR: 1993ROME03648

CHANNEL: n/a HANDLING: n/a

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TO QUESTIONS, ANDO' ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE USTICA CASE WAS BEING PURSUED ON A POLITICAL AS WELL AS JUDICIAL TRACK. HE NOTED IN THIS CONTEXT HIS VISIT TO WASHINGTON LATER THIS MONTH, ALTHOUGH HE SAID HE WOULD MEET AGAIN WITH PRIORE TO SEE WHAT IF ANYTHING THE DEFENSE MINISTRY COULD DO TO SUPPORT THE JUDICIAL INVESTIGATION OF THESE NEW ALLEGATIONS.



PAGE 04

ROME 03648 01 OF 02 031818Z

- 5. (U) THE ITALIAN WIRE SERVICE "ANSA" PICKED UP THE RADIO "UNO" INTERVIEWS, INCLSDING A DENIAL BY DOD SPOKESMAN KEITH ARTERBURN THAT ANY U.S.NAVY SHIPS OR U.S. (COMBAT) AIRCRAFT WERE IN THE AREA AT THE TIME OF THE CRASH.
- 6. (U) SEVERAC DAYS PRIOR TO THE PAVLOV
 ALLEGATIONS, THE LEADING ITALIAN NEWS WEEKLY
 "PANORAMA" RAN A LONG ARTICLE REITERATING NUMEROUS
 PAST ALLEGATIONS AND "QUESTIONS" REGARDING THE USTICA
 CASE, BASED ON CABLE TRAFFIC OBTAINED IN WASHINGTON
 THROUGH THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT.
- 7. (C) COMMENT: WE INTEND TO RESPOND TO ANY PRESS INQUIRIES ON THE PAVLOV AND OTHER ALLEGATIONS WITH PREVIOUSLY APPROVED PRESS GUIDANCE DENYING THE PRESENCE OF U.S. COMBAT FORCES IN THE AREA AT THE TIME OF THE CRASH AND EMPHASIZING OUR CONTINUING COOPERATION WITH GOI INVESTIGATIONS. WE HAVE ALREADY INDICATED TO ANDO'S STAFF THAT USTICA WOULD NOT BE A WELCOME SUBJECT FOR DISCUSSION IN ANDO'S MEETING WITH

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ACTION EUR-01

| INFO | LOG-00 OASY-00 IMMC-01 NSAE-00 | ACDA-17 DOTE-00 INR-00 | EB-01 IO-19 | CIAE-00 E-01 L-03 | COME-00 FAAE-00 ADS-00 | CFE-00 HA-09 NEA-01 | C-01 H-01 NRRC-00 |
|------|---|------------------------------|----------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| | NSAE-00 | NSCE-00 | OIC-02 | OMB-01 | PA-01 | PM-02 | PRS-01 |
| | P-01 | RPCS-01 | SB-00 | SCT-03 | SNP-00 | SP-00 | SS-00 |

Date Printed: 16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1993ROME03648

CHANNEL: n/a HANDLING: n/a

226

STR-17 TRSE-00 T-00

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P 031804Z MAR 93
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9593
SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
DEPT JUSTICE WASHDC PRIORITY
USIA WASHDC PRIORITY 8224
INFO USNMR SHAPE BE
COMFAIRMED NAPLES IT
CNO WASHDC//06/09C//
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE//ECPA/ECJ5//
COM SIXTHFLT
JOINT STAFF WASHDC
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
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STATE ALSO FOR P; UQJA FOR EU, P/G; DOJ FOR CRIM DIV/OIA L. BARSELLA

PAGE 02

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E.O5 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: PINR, NATO, PREL, IT
SUBJECT: USTICA: KGB COLONEL TELLS ITALIAN PRESS
THAT SOVIETS MONITORED USTICA SHOOT-DOWN BY AMERICAN
FIGHTERS; OLD ISSUES AIRED ANEW

SECDEF ASPIN, A POINT WHICH WE WILL REINFORCE AT THE NEXT OPPORTUNITY. END COMMENT.

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Date Printed: 16 Apr 2002

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PAGE 01 ROME 03732 01 OF 02 041733Z

ACTION EUR-01

OASY-00 DOTE-00 EB-01 COME-00 C-01 INFO LOG-00 CIAE-00 L-03ADS-00 INR-00 E-01 FAAE-00 HA-09 H-01 PRS-01 P-01 PA-01 PM-02 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 T-00 /040W STR-17 SP-00 SS-00 SNP-00

-----A3186A 041836Z /45

P 041731Z MAR 93
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO DEPT JUSTICE WASHDC PRIORITY
SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
USIA WASHDC PRIORITY 8230
SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9639
INFO CINCUSNAV-UR LONDON UK
USMISSION USNATO
USNMR SHAPE BE
COMFAIRMED NAPLES IT
CNO WASHDC//06/09C//
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE//ECPA/ECJ5//
COM SIXTHFLT

SECTION 01 OF 02 ROME 003732

STATE ALSO FOR P; USIA FOR EU, P/G; DOJ FOR CRIM DIV/OIA L. BARSELLA

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR TAGS: PINR, NATO, PREL, IT

JOINT STAFF WASHDC

PAGE 02 ROME 03732 01 OF 02 041733Z SUBJECT: USQICA: ALLEGATIONS BY EX-KGB COLONEL WIDELY REPORTED, DOUBTED (BUT...)

REF(S): (A) ROME 03648 AND PREVIOUS

1. (U) SUMMARY/COMMENT: THE ALLEGATIONS MADE BY "SELF-STYLED" EX-KGB COLONEL PAVLOV THAT U.S. NAVY FIGHTERS TAKING OFF FROM A BASE IN SARDINIA SHOT DOWN AN ITALIAN CIVIL AIRLINER IN 1980 RECEIVED EXTENSIVE COVERAGE IN THE 4 MARCH ITALIAN PRESS. RUSSIAN GOVERNMENT REPORTEDLY DENIES ANY KNOWLEDGE OF

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE REVIEW AUTHORITY: ERIC W. FLEISHER DATE/CASE ID: 29 OCT 2002 200102359

UNCLASSIFIED

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PAVLOV. TECHNICAL EXPERTS CAST DOUBTS ON ALLEGED SOVIET RADAR CAPABILITIES, BUT MOST ARTICLES SEARCHED FOR SOME GRAINS OF TRUTH. LIKE SO MANY OTHER THEORIES ON THE USTICA CASE, THIS ONE PROMISES TO BECOME A PERSISTENT ELEMENT OF USTICA LORE.

- 2. (C) SUMMARY/COMMENT CONTINUED: FOR POST'S INFORMATION, WE COULD USE A MILITARY JUDGMENT ON THE RUSSIAN'S REMARKS. WE INTEND TO USE CURRENT GUIDANCE TO DEBUNK PAVLOV'S STATEMENT, BUT WOULD FIND IT HELPFUL TO HAVE OUR MILITARY'S JUDGMENT IN OUR BACK POCKET. IN PARTICULAR, WE WOULD APPRECIATE INFORMATION ON THE POSSIBILITY OF A RADAR STATION IN LIBYA PICKING UP THE DETAILED INFORMATION CLAIMED BY PAVLOV. END SUMMARY/COMMENT.
- 3. (U) THE 4 MARCH ITALIAN PRINT MEDIA CARRIED EXTENSIVE COVERAGE OF THE RADIO "UNO" INTERVIEW WITH ALLEGED EX-KGB COLONEL ALEXEI PAVLOV, WHO CLAIMED TO HAVE WITNESSED FROM A "SEC RET" SOVIET RADAR FACILITY

PAGE 03 ROME 03732 01 OF 02 041733Z
IN LIBYA A U.S. NAVY HIRCRAFT ACCIDENTALLY SHOOT DOWN
THE ITALIAN AIRLINER ON THE EVENING OF 27 JUNE 1980
(REFTEL) 6

- 4. (U) ALONG WITH SUMMARIES (AND IN SOME CASES EXCERPTS FROM THE INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPT) OF PAVLOV'S ALLEGATIONS, MOST PAPERS CARRY COMMENTS BY GOI OFFICIALS AND TECHNICAL EXPERTS THAT CAST DOUBT ON PAVLOV'S ACCOUNT, PARTICULARLY FROM A TECHNICAL PERSPECTIVE. INDEPENDENT LEFTIST DAILY "LA REPUBBLICA" REFERRED TO PAVLOV AS A "SELF-STYLED" EX-KGB AGENT AND RAN A SIDE ARTICLE REPORTING THAT THE PRESS OFFICE OF THE RUSSIAN ESPIONAGE SERVICE HAD DENIED ANY KNOWLEDGE OF PAVLOV. "LA REPUBBLICA" ALSO NOTED THAT TECHNICAL ERRORS IN PAVLOV'S ACCOUNT GAVE CAUSE FOR SKEPTICISM. THE PAPER NOTED IN PARTICULAR THAT:
- -- IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO TELL FROM A RADAR SCREEN THAT A GIVEN AIRCRAFT BELONGED TO THE U.S. NAVY, OR THAT RADAR COULD PICK OUT OBJECTS AS SMALL AS AIR-TO-AIR MISSILES OR DEBRIS FROM AN EXPLODED AIRCRAFT;

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CHANNEL: n/a HANDLING: n/a

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-- IT WAS ALSO UNLIKELY THAT A POWERFUL RADAR FACILITY SUCH AS THAT DESCRIBED BY PAVLOV COULD REMAIN S ECRET FOR LONG;

-- NO KNOWN RADAR HAD THE RANGE TO COVER THE CRASH AREA AND SARDINIA (FROM WHICH PAVLOV SAID THE U.S. AIRCRAFT TOOK OFF) FROM THE TRIPOLI AREA.

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THESE FACTORS WERE CITED BY OTHER PAPERS AS WELL, SOME OF WHICH QUOTED EXPERTS.

5. (U) MOST PAPERS, HOWEVER, ATTEMPTED TO INTERPRED' PAVLOV'S ALLEGATIONS IN WAYS THAT MIGHT EXPLAIN THE CRASH. "LA REPUBBLICA" NOTED THAT PAVLOV'S VERSION OF EVENTS MIGHT MAKE SENSE IF THE SOVIET FACILITY IN QUESTION WERE REALLY A SIGNALS INTERCEPT OPERATION AND NOT A RADAR STATION. NOTED SECURITY ANALYST AT THE PRESTIGIOUS INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS INSTITUTE STEFANO SILVESTRI ALLEGEDLY SPECULATED IN THE LEFTIST (EX-COMMUNIST) "L'UNITA" ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF THE SOVIETS HAVING RECORDED THE EVENT VIA SPY SATELLITE. #7. (U) THE PRESS REPORTS ON COMMENTS BY INVESTIGATING MAGISTRATE PRIORE THAT PAVLOV'S ALLEGATIONS WILL BE FOLLOWED UP IN MOSCOW (REPORTED REFTEL). THE FORMER CHAIRMAN OF THE PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE ON USTICA, LIBERO GUALTIERI, NOTED TO THE

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ACTION EUR-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 C-01 OASY-00 DOTE-00 EB-01 INFO LOG-00 ADS-00 E-01 FAAE-00 HA-09 H-01 INR-00 L-03 P-01 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-02 PRS-01 STR-17 TRSE-00 T-00 SP-00 /040W SNP-00 SS-00 -----A31878 041837Z /45

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO DEPT JUSTICE WASHDC PRIORITY

Date Printed: 16 Apr 2002

DOC NBR: 1993ROME03732

CHANNEL: n/a HANDLING: n/a

227

SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
USIA WASHDC PRIORITY 8231
SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9640
INFO CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
USMISSION USNATO
USNMR SHAPE BE
COMFAIRMED NAPLES IT
CNO WASHDC//06/09C//
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE//ECPA/ECJ5//
COM SIXTHFLT
JOINT STAFF WASHDC

SECTION 02 OF 02 ROME 003732

STATE ALSO FOR P; USIA FOR EU, P/G; DOJ FOR CRIM DIV/OIA L. BARSELLA

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR

TAGS: PINR, NATO, PREL, IT

PAGE 02 ROME 03732 02 OF 02 041738Z SUBJECT: USTICA: ALLEGATIONS BY EX-KGB COLONEL WIDELY REPORTED, DOUBTED (BUT...)

PRESS THAT MANY OF THE ANSWERS TO THE USTICA TRAGEDY COULD BE FOUND IN ITALY, NOT ABROAD. A PARLIAMENTARIAN FROM THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF THE LEFT (EX-COMMUNIST) NOTED THAT PAVLOY'S ACCOUNT EXPOSED IMPROPER UTILIZATION OF ITALIAN MILITARY BASES, WHICH STILL "ESCAPE ANY KIND OF CONTROL."

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Date Printed: 16 Apr 2002

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ACTION SCT-03

INFO LOG-00 ACDA-17 AID-01 A-01 CA-02 CCO-00 CG-00 COME-00 CIAE-00 CTME-00 C-01 OASY-00 DOEE-00 DS-00 FAAE-00 FBIE-00 EB-01 EUR-01 IMMC-01 INR-00 INSE-00 ADS-00 L-03 M-01 NRCE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 OCS-06 OIS-01 PA-01 PM-02 PRS-01 P-01 SP-00 SSO-00 SS-00 TRSE-00 USIE-00 USSS-00 /045W ASDS-01

P 081316Z MAR 93
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9729
INFO JOINT STAFF WASHDC PRIORITY

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EXTEND CLASSIFICATION

SECTION 01 OF 03 ROME 003880

JUSTICE FOR CRIMINAL DQVISION

E.O. 12356:DECL: OADR

TGS: PTER, PINS, MARR, CJAN, IT

SUBJECT: JUSTICE MINISTER CORO: OPEN AND

COOPERATIVE ON ORGANIZED CRIME AND SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY

AND JURISDICTION OVER U.S. MILITARY POSONNEL BUT

PAGE 02 ROME 03880 01 OF 03 0813242

CONCERNED ABOUT USTICA

REF: ROME 2704

1. - ENTIRE TEXT.

SUMMARY

2. IN A MARCH 3 MEETING WITH THE CHARGE, JUSTICE

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE REVIEW AUTHORITY: ERIC W. FLEISHER DATE/CASE ID: 29 OCT 2002 200102359

CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL REASON: 1.6(6)[JNCLASSIFIED]

DECLASSIFY AFTER: 8 MAR 2018

Date Printed: 16 Apr 2002

DOC NBR: 1993ROME03880

CHANNEL: n/a HANDLING: n/a 228

MINISTER GIOVANNI CONSO EXPRESSED AGREEMENT ON THE VALUE OF CLOSE BILATERAL COOPERATION AGAINST TERRORISM AND ORGANIZED CRIME. HE SAID A GOVERNMENTAL DECREE BEING PREPARED WOULD AMEND ITALIAN LAW ON SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY AND SHOULD AMELIORATE U.S. CONCERNS WITH RESPECT TO SEIZED PROPERTY. AMENDING ITALY'S NEW CRIMINAL CODE TO PROVIDE U.S. AUTHORITIES THE OPPORTUNITY TO REQUEST JURISDICTION IN CRIMINAL CASES INVOLVING U.S. MILITARY PERSONNEL, HOWEVER, WILL TAKE CONSIDERABLE TIME AND WORK. [

B1

CONSO EXPRESSED STRONG INTEREST IN ORGANIZING AN INTERNATIONAL INVESTIGATION OF THE 1980 USTICA INCIDENT DRAWING ON THE U.S. SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY. IN RESPONSE THE CHARGE SAID THE U.S. HAD ALWAYS COOPERATED FULLY WITH ITALIAN REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION BUT COULD NOT PARTICIPATE IN SUCH AN



PAGE '03" ROME 03880 01 OF 03 081324Z INVESTIGATION BECAUSE IT IS UNDER SUSPICION OF HAVING PLAYED A ROLE IN THE TRAGEDY. END SUMMARY.

3. CHARGE SERWER PAID AN INTRODUCTORY CALL ON NEWLY APPOINTED JUSTICE MINISTER CONSO ON MARCH 3. CONSO'S CHIEF OF STAFF, DR. FRANCO MELANDRI, SAT IN& AS DID EMBASSY DOJ ATTACHE AK' POLOFF.

LAW ENFORCEMENT COOPERATION - - - - - - - - - .0- -

4. STARTINGOFF THE MEETING WITH A DISCUSSION ON BILATERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT COOPERATION, CONSO AGREED THAT THE U.S.-ITALIAN RELATIONSHIP IN THIS AREA HAD BEEN VERY FRUITFUL. HE SAID THAT DESPITE THE DIFFERENCES IN OUR LEGAL SYSTEMS, COOPERATION HAD BEEN SUSTAINED BY COMMON INTERESTS AND GOOD WILL. HE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT OUR CLOSE COOPERATION IN FIGHTING TERRORISM AND ORGANIZED CRIME WOULD CONTINUE. HE LAMENTED THE PRACTICE OF SOME COURTS OF WEARING OUT FORMER MAFIOSI TURNED STATE'S WITNESSES, REFERRING TO THE PRACTICE BY BOTH ITALY AND THE U.S. OF CALLING BACK WITNESSES TO APPEAR IN TRIALS AND NOT

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B1

CONSO SAID THAT SMALL RELYING ON PREVIOUS TESTIMONY. DISCREPANCIES IN THE TESTIMONY OF STATE'S WITNESSES, WHICH EMERGE IN THE COURSE OF REPEATED DEPOSITIONS, OUGHT NOT TO BE USED BY THE COURTS TO THROW OUT THE EVIDENCE. CONSO ALSO VOICED RESPECT FOR U.S. COUNTER-TERRORISM POLICY AND UNDERSTANDING FOR THE RECENT BOMB EXPLOSION UNDER THE NEW YORK WORLD TRADE

PAGE 04

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CENTER.

5. ſ

AND SAID

THIS FACT UNDERSCORED THE IMPORTANCE THE U.S. ATTACHED TO OUR COOPERATION IN THIS AREA. HE NOTED THAT COOPERATION HAD BEEN GOOD ON EXTRADITION REQUESTS AND WITNESS EXCHANGES, AND SAID HE HOPED THIS WOULD CONTINUE WITH EACH SIDE BEING SENSITIVE TO THE OTHER'S NEEDS.

SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY PROBLEM TO BE RESOLVED

T8#CHARGE CONTRASTED OUR CLOSE LAW ENFORCEMENT COOPERATION WITH THE SIUATION WITH RESPECT TO HE PROBLEO OF SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY FOR U.S. PROPERTY. OCONSO GAVE ASSURANCES THAT THE JUSTICE MINISTRY WAS SEIZED WITH THE PROBLEM AND PREDICTED THAT CORRECTIVE STEP

S WOULDOOON BE TAKEN. HE REMARKED THAT THE

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ACTION SCT-03

A-01 INFO LOG-00 ACDA-17 AID-01 CA-02 CCO-00 CG-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 CTME-00 C-01 OASY-00 DOEE-00 DS-00 EB-01 EUR-01 FAAE-00 FBIE-00 IMMC-01 INR-00 INSE-00 L-03 ADS-00 NRCE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 M-01 OCS-06 OIS-01 PA-01 PM-02 PRS-01 P-01 SSO-00 SP-00 SS-00 TRSE-00 USIE-00 USSS-00 ASDS-01 /045W

Date Printed: 16 Apr 2002

DOC NBR: 1993ROME03880

CHANNEL: n/a HANDLING: n/a

228

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P 081316Z MAR 93
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9730
INFO JOINT STAF WASHDC PRIORITY
SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
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SECTION 02 OF 03 ROME 03880

JUSTICE FOR CRIMINAL DIVISIN

E.O. 12356:DECL: OADR



PAGE 02 ROME 03880 02 OF 03 081324Z
TAGS: PTER, PINS, MARR, CJAN, IT
SUBJECT: JUSTICE MINISTER CONSO: OPN AND
COOPERATIVE ON ORGANIZED CRIME AND SOVEREIN IMMUNITY
AND JURISDICTION OVER U.S. MILITARY PRSONNEL BUT
CONCERNED ABOUT USTICA

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS HAD RECENTLY RETURNED A DRAFT DECREE WITH THE REQUES THAT MINOR CHANGES BE MADE TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT RLATED CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS. CONSO DID NOTOGO INTO DETAIL ON THE CHANGES, BUT SAID HE EXPECTED THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS TO TAKE 5 THE DRAHT DECREL THE WEEK FOLLOWING PRIME MINISTER AMATO'S RETURN (MARCH 4) FROM HIS TRIP TO PORTUGAL AND SPAIN.

JURISDICTIONAL ISSUE CONCERNI: G U.S. SERVICEMEN

7. NOTING THAT THERE ARE 17,000 U.. MILITARY PERSONNEL STATIONED IN ITALY, THE CHRGE BROUGHT UP THE ISSUE OF CRIMINAL JURISDICTIO AND THE PROBLEMS RECENTLY CREATED BY A REVISIONBY ITALY'S CRIMINAL CODE WHICH NOW DOES NOT ALLO THE U.S. AUTHORITIES TO BE INFORMED OF A DEVELOPING ITALIAN INVESTIGATION IN TIME TO MAKE A REQUET FOR JURISDICTION UNDER THE TERMS OF THE STATUSOF FORCES AGREEMENT (SOFA). THE

Date Printed: 16 Apr 2002

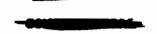
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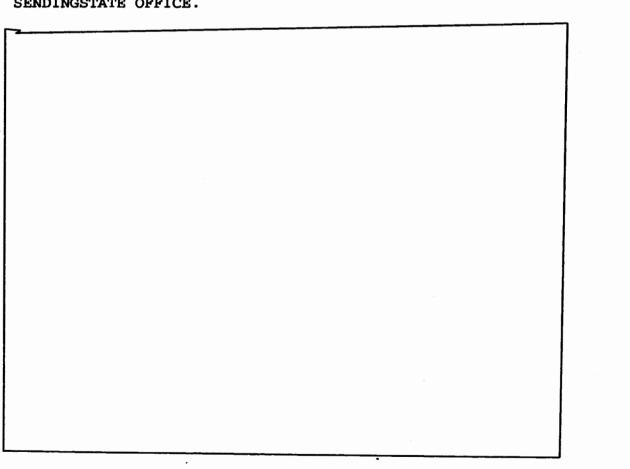
228

B1

CHARGE NOTED THT THE TERMS OF THE SOFA CALL FOR ITALY TO RESPON TO U.S. REQUESTS FOR ITALY TO WAIVE JURISDICTION AND THAT U.S. LAWS ALMOST ALWAYS CARRY STIFFER PNALTIES. WHILE THERE MIGHT OFTEN BE



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LEGITIMATE EASONS WHY THE ITALIANS MIGHT NOT AGREE
TO WAIVEJURISDICTION, THE NEW CRIMINAL CODE CLOSED
OFF AY OPPORTUNITY FOR A U.S. REQUEST TO BE
CONSIDERED ON ITS MERITS. CONSO EXPRESSED
UNDERSTANDING FO THE U.S. PROBLEM, BUT OPINED THAT
LEGAL COMPLICTIONS WOULD MAKE UNRAVELLING THIS KNOT
A LONG AN DIFFICULT PROCESS. HE ARRANGED FOR A
MINISTRY FFICIAL TO BE IN TUCH WITH THE EMBASSY'S
SENDINGSTATE OFFICE.



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DOC NBR: 1993ROME03880

CHANNEL: n/a HANDLING: n/a 228

USTICA AND THE IDEA OF AN INTERNATIONAL INVESTIGATION

9. ASSERTING THAT DURING THE EIGHT YEARS AFTER THE USTICA TRAGEDY THE GOI HAD BOTCHED ITS INVESTIGATION. CONSO POINTED TO THE NEED FOR AN INTERNATIONAL EFFORT. HE STRESSED THE IMPORTANT ROLE THE U.S. SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY COULD PLAY IN SUCH AN INVESTIGATION, WHICH HE SAID WOULD HAVE TO BE "TRANSPARENT." HE ALSO SAID THAT SELECTIVE LEAKS FROM THE ONGOING ITALIAN INVESTIGATION HAD BEEN DAMAGING. IN RESPONSE, THE CHARGE SAID THE U.S. HAD ALWAYS FULLY COOPERATED WITH ITALIAN REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION. INDEED, U.S. EXPERTS HAD /ARTINIPATED IN TECHNICAL ASSESSMENTS OURINGQE 1980'S, THOUGH E HAD NEVER , OKEDAT THE PL E WRECKAGE. MORE RECENTLY THE UN. HAD OME UNDER SUSPICION IN THE ITALIAN MEDIA FOR POSSIBLE COMPLICITY IN THE USTICA TRAGEDY, WHICH LIKELY RULED OUT THE POSSIBILITY OF UR. PARTICIPATION ON THE GROUNDS THAT THE PUBLIC MIGHT POSSIBLY PERCEIVE A ; ONFLICT OF INTEREST. CONSO PRESSED THE POINT, CLARIFYING THAT HE WAS NOT

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ACTION SCT-03

| INFO | LOG-00 | ACDA-17 | AID-01 | A-01 | CA-02 | CCO-00 | CG-00 |
|------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| | CIAE-00 | COME-00 | CTME-00 | C-01 | OASY-00 | DOEE-00 | DS-00 |
| | EB-01 | EUR-01 | FAAE-00 | FBIE-00 | IMMC-01 | INR-00 | INSE-00 |
| - | L-03 | ADS-00 | M-01 | NRCE-00 | NSAB-00 | NSCE-00 | OCS-06 |
| | OIS-01 | PA-01 | PM-02 | PRS-01 | P-01 | SP-00 | SSO-00 |
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P 081316Z MAR 93 FM AMEMBASSY ROME TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9731 INFO JOINT STAFF WASHDC PRIORITY SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY DEPTJUSTICE WASHDC PRIORITY COM SIXTHFLT USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT USEUCOM VAIHINGEN GE//ECLA//



Date Printed: 16 Apr 2002

DOC NBR: 1993ROME03880

CHANNEL: n/a HANDLING: n/a

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CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK

SECTION 03 OF 03 ROME 003880

JUSTICE FOR CRIMINAL DIVISION

E.O. 12356:DECL: OADR
TAGS: PTER, PINS, MARR, CJAN, IT
SUBJECT: JUSTICE MINISTER CONSO: OPEN AND
COOPERATIVE ON ORGANIZED CRIME AND SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY
AND JURISDICTION OVER U.S. MILITARY PERSONNEL BUT

PAGE 02 ROME 03880 03 OF 03 081325Z CONCERNED ABOUT USTICA

SEEKING OFFICIAL USG INVOLVEMENT, BUT THE COOPERATION OF THE U.S. SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY IN RESOLVING THE MYSTERY OF THE CRASH OF THE PASSENGER AIRLINER NEAR ITALY'S USTIA ISLAND. THE CHARGE CONCLUDED THAT THE USG WO

ULD CONTINUE TO COOPERATE WITH INVESTIGATING MAWSTRATE PRIORI AS IT HAS IN THE PAST. HE ALSO EMPHASIZED THAT TO DATE THE SG HAD FOUND NO EVIDENCE TO INDICATE ANY U.S. CONNECTION TO THE TRAGEDY.

WAR CRIMES TRIBUNAL FOR EX-YUGOSLAVIA

10. AT THE END OF THEIR MEETING, THE CHARGE ASKED AOT CONSO'S WORKAS THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SPECIAL PANEL WHICH FORMULATED ITALY'S PROPOSAL SUBMITTED TO THE UN ON THE CREATION OF A WAR CRIMES TRIBUNAL. CONSO REMARKED THAT HE HAD ALWAYS FELT THAT THE SUPPORT OF THE U.S. FOR THIS INITIATIVE WOULD BE CRUCIAL AND THAT ONE OF ITALY'S AIMS IN PRESENTING ITS PROPOSAL WAS TO PUSH THE U.S. TO SUPPORT THE CREATION OF SUCH A TRIBUNAL.

CHIEF OF STAFF ON UNBLOCKING PUBLIC CONTRACTS

11. IN A PRELIMINARY CONVERSATION, CONSO'S CHIEF OF

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PAGE 03 ROME 03880 03 OF 03 STAFF, FRANCO MELANDRI, DISCUSSED WITH CHARGE THE ECONOMIC PROBLEMS ARISING FROM THE WIDENING CORRUPTION SCANDALS. MELANDRI NOTED THAT FIRMS UNDER INVESTIGATION FOR ILLEGAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO POLITICAL PARTIES HAVE HAD ASSESTS SEIZED, BRINGING THEIR WORK TO A HALT AND CREATING UNEMPLOYMENTS PROBLEMS. HE REMARKED THAT A POLITICAL CONSENSUS HAD NOT YET BEEN FOUND TO RESOLVE THE PROBLEM, BUT UNDERLINED THE URGENCY FOR ACTION. MELANDRI INDICATED THAT HE WAS WORKING ON THIS ISSUE HIMSELF AND SUGGESTED THAT THE SOLUTION WOULD BE TO DIVIDE THE JURIDICAL PROBLEMS FACING CERTAIN FIRMS -- HE CITED THE WORK ON THE ROME-PARIS HIGH SPEED RAILWAY -- FROM THEIR BUSINESS OPERATIONS. HE ARGUED FOR HAVING CORPORATE OFFICERS OCCUSED OF WRONGDOING SUBSTITUTED TO ALLOW TE WORK

QCCUSED OF WRONGDOING SUBSTITUTED TO ALLOW TE WORK OF FIMS TO SROCEGD UNDER THE INCREASED SUPERVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGES. (NOTE: A DECREE LAW ALONG THESE LINES WAS ISSUED LATER THE SAME DAY. END NOTE.) SERWER

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Date Printed:

16 Apr 2002

DOC NBR: 1993ROME04128

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PAGE 01 ROME 04128 101713Z

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NSAE-00 NSCE-00 OIC-02 PA-01 PM-02 PRS-01 P-01

SB-00 SP-00 SS-00 TRSE-00 T-00 /051W

P 101712Z MAR 93
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9867
USIA WASHDC PRIORITY 8264
SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
DEPT JUSTICE WASHDC PRIORITY
INFO CNO WASHDC//06/09C//
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE//ECPA/ECJ5//
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USMISSION USNATO

JOINT STAFF WASHDC

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ROME 004128

STATE ALSO FOR P; USIA FOR EU, P/G; DOJ FOR CRIM DIV/OIA L. BARSELLA

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR TAGS: PINR, NATO, PREL, IT

PAGE 02 ROME 04128 101713Z SUBJECT: USTICA: RUSSIAN AUTHORITIES REFUTE CLAIMS BY "EX-KGB COLONEL" ALEXEI PAVLOV

REF(S): (A) ROME 03732 AND PREVIOUS

1. (U) SUMMARY. ACCORDING TO THE ITALIAN PRESS, RUSSIAN AUTHORITIES HAVE DENIED CLAIMS BY "EX-KGB COLONEL" ALEXEI PAVLOV THAT U.S. NAVY AIRCRAFT SHOT DOWN AN ITALIAN PASSENGER JET NEAR THE ISLAND OF USTICA IN JUNE 1980. END SUMMARY.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE REVIEW AUTHORITY: ERIC W. FLEISHER DATE/CASE ID: 29 OCT 2002 200102359



Date Printed: 16 Apr 2002

DOC NBR: 1993ROME04128

CHANNEL: n/a HANDLING: n/a

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- 2. (U) THE ITALIAN PRESS REPORTED MARCH 4 THAT THE "RUSSIAN INTELLIGENCE SERVICE" PRESS OFFICE HAD NO RECORD OF ALEXEI PAVLOV, THE SELF-STYLED EX-KGB COLONEL WHO CLAIMED THAT U.S. NAVY AIRCRAFT SHOT DOWN AN ITALIAN PASSENGER JET NEAR THE ISLAND OF USTICA IN JUNE 1980. ITALIAN NEWSPAPERS HAD RECENTLY PUBLISHED ALLEGATIONS BY PAVLOV (REF) WHICH WERE IMMEDIATELY DISMISSED BY ITALIAN MILITARY EXPERTS. PAVLOV CLAIMED TO HAVE SEEN THE EVENT FROM A SUPERSE CRET SOVIET RADAR INSTALLATION IN LIBYA. LEFTIST, INDEPENDENT DAILY "LA REPUBBLICA" NOTED THAT EX-KGB CHIEF VLADIMIR KRJUCHKOV EMPHATICALLY STATED, "WE HAVE NEVER BEEN IN POSSESSION OF THE INFORMATION OF WHICH PAVLOV SPEAKS."
- 2. (U) LEADING CENTRIST DAILY "CORRIERE DELLA SERA" MARCH 5 REPORTED SEPARATELY THAT EX-SOVIET LEADER IGOR LIGACHEV, PROMOTING A RECENT BOOK IN ITALY, SAID, "I HAVE NEVER HEARD OF A SUPERSEC RET BASE IN TRIPOLI WHOSE RADAR WAS CAPABLE OF FOLLOWING EVENTS



PAGE 03 ROME 04128 101713Z

OVER USTICA." LIGACHEV ALSO DENIED HAVING EVER HEARD

OF AN INTELLIGENCE AGENT NAMED "PAVLOV."

| 3. | (C) | COMMENT. | ١ |
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4. (C) SINCE PAVLOV'S ALLEGATIONS WERE FIRST PUBLISHED, THERE HAS BEEN LITTLE PRESS FOLLOW-UP, EXCEPT THAT, UNLIKE OTHER USTICA "REVELATIONS" WHICH LEAVE MOST SPECULATION UNANSWERED, ITALIAN NEWSPAPERS HAVE CARRIED STRONG DENUNCIATIONS OF PAVLOV'S STORY ALONGSIDE HIS CLAIMS. ITALIAN MILITARY EXPERTS POINTED OUT THE TECHNICAL IMPOSSIBILITY OF OBSERVING WHAT PAVLOV CLAIMED TO HAVE WITNESSED. END COMMENT.

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Date Printed: 16 Apr 2002

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PAGE 01 ROME 07043 221504Z

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R 221509Z APR 93 FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECDEF WASHDC

USIA WASHDC 8530

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JOINT STAFF WASHDC

ROME 007043

STATE ALSO FOR P; USIA FOR EU, P/G; DOJ FOR CRIM DIV/OIA L. BARSELLA

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PAGE 02

ROME 07043 221504Z

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR

TAGS: PINR, NATO, PREL, IT

SUBJECT: USTICA: SOVIET GENERAL CLAIMS U.S.

INVOLVED IN CRASH

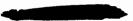
REF(S): (A) ROME 04128 AND PREVIOUS

1. (U) SUMMARY. ITALIAN PRESS REPORTS APRIL 22 SAID SOVIET GENERAL (RET) YURI SULIMOV CORROBORATED PREVIOUS CLAIMS BY "EX-KGB COLONEL" ALEXEI PAVLOV THAT U.S. NAVY AIRCRAFT SHOT DOWN AN ITALIAN

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE REVIEW AUTHORITY: ERIC W. FLEISHER DATE/CASE ID: 29 OCT 2002 200102359

UNCLASSIFIED



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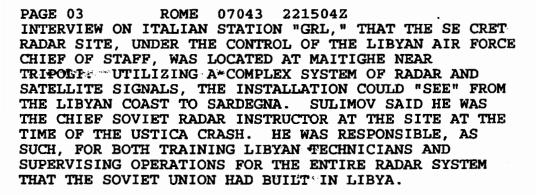
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PASSENGER JET NEAR THE ISLAND OF USTICA IN JUNE 1980 (REFS). EMBASSY ROME DENIED THESE ALLEGATIONS AND REITERATED THAT THERE WERE NO U.S. SHIPS OR AIRCRAFT IN THE AREA AT THE TIME OF THE CRASH. WE EXPECT INVESTIGATING MAGISTRATE PRIORE TO REQUEST FURTHER INFORMATION FROM THE U.S. BASED UPON SULIMOV'S STATEMENTS. END SUMMARY.

- 2. (U) ITALIAN MEDIA REPORTS APRIL 22 SAID RETIRED SOVIET GENERAL (YURI SULIMOV) CORROBORATED CLAIMS MADE BY SELF-STYLED EX-KGB COLONEL ("ALEXEI PAVLOV") WHO CLAIMED THAT U.S. NAVY AIRCRAFT SHOT DOWN AN ITALIAN PASSENGER JET NEAR THE ISLAND OF USTICA IN JUNE 1980. ITALIAN NEWSPAPERS HAD RECENTLY PUBLISHED PAVLOV'S ALLEGATIONS WHICH WERE IMMEDIATELY DISMISSED BY ITALIAN MILITARY EXPERTS AND RUSSIAN AUTHORITIES (REFS). PAVLOV CLAIMED TO HAVE SEEN THE EVENT FROM A SUPERSE CRET SOVIET RADAR INSTALLATION IN LIBYA.
- 3. (U) GENERAL SULIMOV CLAIMED, DURING A RADIO



4. (U) ALTHOUGH NOT ON DUTY THAT NIGHT, SULIMOV CLAIMED TO HAVE HEARD FIRST-HAND FROM HIS COLLEAGUES WHO ALLEGEDLY WITNESSED THE EVENTS LEADING UP TO THE CRASH. ACCORDING TO SULIMOV, THE ITALIAN PASSENGER JET WAS SHOT DOWN BY A MISSILE FIRED BY A U.S. NAVY AIRCRAFT THAT HAD TAKEN OFF FROM A BASE IN SARDEGNA. THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR TO LIBYA (ANISSIMOV) WAS IMMEDIATELY INFORMED OF THESE EVENTS AND A REPORT ON THE CRASH WAS FORWARDED SOON AFTERWARDS TO THE SOVIET ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF. SULIMOV SUGGESTED THAT THIS REPORT COULD PROBABLY STILL BE FOUND IN THE ARCHIVES OF THE "TENTH DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF

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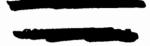
DOC NBR: 1993ROME07043

CHANNEL: n/a HANDLING: n/a

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IN MOSCOW." ASKED WHY RUSSIA HAD BEEN SILENT FOR ALL THE INTERVENING YEARS, SULIMOV NOTED THAT SOVIET AUTHORITIES WANTED, ABOVE ALL, TO MAINTAIN THE SECRECY OF THE MAITIGHE INSTALLATION.

5. (U) SEVERAL MAJOR NEWSPAPERS ALSO CARRIED BOTH EMBASSY ROME'S DENIAL OF THESE ALLEGATIONS AND OUR



PAGE 04 ROME 07043 221504Z
REITERATION THAT NO U.S. SHIPS OR AIRCRAFT WERE IN
THE AREA AT THE TIME OF THE CRASH.

- 6. (C) COMMENT. WE WILL CONTINUE TO POINT OUT, WHENEVER APPROPRIATE, THAT THERE WERE NO U.S. SHIPS OR AIRCRAFT IN THE AREA WHEN THE ITAVIA DC-9 CRASHED AND, CONTRARY TO PAVLOV AND SULIMOV'S CLAIMS, NO RADAR EXISTED AT THAT TIME (OR DOES NOW) WHICH IS CAPABLE OF OBSERVING A MISSILE ON A RADAR SCREEN AS BOTH SOVIETS HAVE ALSO CLAIMED.
- 7. (C) AS WITH OTHER LEADS FIRST DEVELOPED BY THE ITALIAN PRESS, WE SHOULD EXPECT INVESTIGATING MAGISTRATE PRIORE TO REQUEST FURTHER INFORMATION FROM THE U.S. BASED UPON SULIMOV'S CLAIMS. END COMMENT.

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ACTION EUR-01

INFO LOG-00 ACDA-17 CIAE-00 CFE-00 C-01 DODE-00 HA-09 H-01 IMMC-01 INR-00 10-19 L-03ADS-00 NRRC-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 OIC-02 OMB - 01 PA-01 PM-02 PRS-01 P-01 SB-00 SNP-00 SP-00 SS-00 TRSE-00 T-00

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P 061335Z MAY 93

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2137

USIA WASHDC PRIORITY 8605

DEPT JUSTICE WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO USMISSION USNATO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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SECTION 01 OF 03 ROME 007985

STATE ALSO FOR P; USIA FOR EU, P/G; DOJ FOR CRIM

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DIV/OIA L. BARSELLA

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR

TAGS: PINR, NATO, PREL, IT

SUBJECT: USTICA: JUDGE PRIORE DISCUSSES

SHORTCOMINGS OF INVESTIGATION; EXPERTS' REPORT STIRS

NEW SPECULATION ON MIG-23

REF(S): (A) ROME 07043 AND PREVIOUS

1. (C) SUMMARY. INVESTIGATING JUDGE ROSARIO

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CHANNEL: n/a HANDLING: n/a

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PRIORE, IN A TELEVISION INTERVIEW MAY 5, SAID THE INQUIRY INTO THE CAUSE OF THE CRASH OF AN ITALIAN PASSENGER JET NEAR THE ISLAND OF USTICA IN JUNE 1980 HAD BEEN HAMPERED BY MILITARY SECRECY, LOSS AND DESTRUCTION OF RELEVANT DOCUMENTS, INEXACT TESTIMONY BY WITNESSES, AND LACK OF FRENCH GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO OFFICIAL ITALIAN INQUIRIES. COMMENTS IN THE MEDIA ABOUT U.S. COOPERATION WITH PRIORE'S INVESTIGATION WERE NEUTRAL AND ACCURATE.

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2. (C) SEPARATELY, THE LONG-AWAITED "EXPERTS' REPORT" WAS DELIVERED TO JUDGE PRIORE AND STIRRED NEW SPECULATION IN THE PRESS ABOUT THE MIG-23 FOUND IN SOUTHERN ITALY THREE WEEKS AFTER THE USTICA CRASH. IMPORTANTLY, THE REPORT'S ACCIDENT RECONSTRUCTION FINDINGS DID NOT RESOLVE THE "BOMB VS. MISSILE" QUESTION. THE REPORT SAID THE MIG-23 WAS PROBABLY NOT LIBYAN (AS OFFICIAL ITALIAN AND LIBYA STATEMENTS HAD PREVIOUSLY DECLARED) NOR DID IT HAVE SUFFICIENT FUEL TO FLY FROM LIBYA TO ITALY. PRESS COVERAGE



PAGE 03 ROME 07985 01 OF 03 061337Z ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE EXPERTS HAD CONFIRMED THE "USS SARATOGA" WAS IN PORT AT THE TIME OF THE CRASH. END SUMMARY.

JUDGE PRIORE INTERVIEW

16 Apr 2002

- 3. (U) INVESTIGATING JUDGE PRIORE, INTERVIEWED ON ITALIAN TV STATION "RAI 3" MAY 5, SAID HIS BIGGEST DIFFICULTY IN CONDUCTING THE USTICA INQUIRY WAS THAT HE IS CONSTANTLY STUMBLING ONTO MILITARY SECRETS AND CLASSIFIED INFORMATION. ITALIAN NEWS SERVICE "ANSA" REPORTED THAT PRIORE ALSO SAID MUCH HAD HAPPENED DURING THE COURSE OF THE USTICA INVESTIGATION THAT WAS "NEGATIVE" INCLUDING THE INTENTIONAL DESTRUCTION OF DOCUMENTS WHICH, UPON ANALYSIS, MIGHT HAVE POINTED TO THE CAUSE OF THE CRASH. PRIORE REPORTEDLY ACKNOWLEDGED, MOREOVER, THAT MANY IMPORTANT WITNESSES HAD DIED DURING THE INTERVENING YEARS AND THAT SOME, STILL AVAILABLE FOR TESTIMONY, COULD NO LONGER REMEMBER EVENTS SO LONG AGO.
- 4. (U) IN HIS INTERVIEW, PRIORE SAID HE WAS STILL

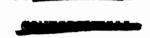
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WAITING FOR FRANCE'S RESPONSE TO SEVERAL ITALIAN ROGATORIES ON THE PRESENCE OF TWO FRENCH AIRCRAFT CARRIERS IN THE AREA AND "INTENSE" AIRCRAFT ACTIVITY AT THE TIME OF THE TRAGEDY. PRIORE NOTED THAT, HAVING FELT AS IF HE HAD RUN INTO A "BRICK WALL" WITH THE FRENCH, HE WAS NEVERTHELESS HOPEFUL THAT THEY WOULD GIVE HIM A FULL ACCOUNTING.



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5. (U) ASKED ABOUT A SO-CALLED SECRET LIBYAN RADAR STATION NEAR TRIPOLI, PRIORE SAID ALTHOUGH HE HAD ALREADY SENT FORMAL ROGATORIES TO MOSCOW THE RUSSIAN AUTHORITIES HAD NOT YET OFFICIALLY ACKNOWLEDGED THEIR RECEIPT. ANY FURTHER INQUIRIES INTO THESE CLAIMS, INCLUDING A TRIP TO MOSCOW TO INTERVIEW POSSIBLE WITNESSES, HAD TO AWAIT FORMAL RUSSIAN APPROVAL.

6. (U) THERE WERE ONLY TWO REFERENCES TO THE U.S. DURING THE ENTIRE 10 MINUTE INTERVIEW. FIRST, A VISIBLE NOTATION ON A CHART-OF THE LOCATION OF THE "USS SARATOGA" IN THE PORT OF NAPLES ON THE NIGHT OF THE CRASH. SECOND, A "VOICE-OVER" WHICH, DESCRIBING THE CHART AND ITS NUMEROUS NOTATIONS, REITERATED OFFICIAL U.S. STATEMENTS THAT THE SARATOGA WAS IN PORT AT THE TIME OF THE TRAGEDY. THE "VOICE-OVER" ALSO DISTINGUISHED U.S. RESPONSIVENESS FROM APPARENT FRENCH AND RUSSIAN INACTION IN THE FACE OF OFFICIAL ITALIAN INQUIRIES.

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INFO LOG-00 ACDA-17 CIAE-00 CFE-00 DODE-00 HA-09 C-01 H-01 IMMC-01 INR-00 L-03 IO-19 ADS-00 NRRC-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 OIC-02 PA-01 PM-02 PRS-01 OMB-01 SS-00 TRSE-00 T-00 P-01 SB-00 SNP-00 SP-00 /061W SSD-01

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Date Printed: 16 Apr 2002

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CHANNEL: n/a HANDLING: n/a

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P 061335Z MAY 93 FM AMEMBASSY ROME TO SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2138 USIA WASHDC PRIORITY 8606 DEPT JUSTICE WASHDC PRIORITY INFO USMISSION USNATO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW AMEMBASSY BONN AMEMBASSY PARIS CNO WASHDC//06/09C// JOINT STAFF WASHDC USNMR SHAPE BE USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE//ECPA/ECJ5// COMFAIRMED NAPLES IT CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK COMSIXTHFLT

SECTION 02 OF 03 ROME 007985

STATE ALSO FOR P; USIA FOR EU, P/G; DOJ FOR CRIM

PAGE 02 ROME 07985 02 OF 03 061337Z DIV/OIA L. BARSELLA

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: PINR, NATO, PREL, IT
SUBJECT: USTICA: JUDGE PRIORE DISCUSSES
SHORTCOMINGS OF INVESTIGATION; EXPERTS' REPORT STIRS
NEW SPECULATION ON MIG-23

NE W SPECULATION ON MIG-23

7. (C) PRESS REPORTS MAY 6 SAID THE LONG-AWAITED EXPERTS' REPORT (REFS) HAD FINALLY BEEN DELIVERED TO JUDGE PRIORE. WIDELY COVERED IN THE ITALIAN MEDIA, THE REPORT ALLEGEDLY RAISES SIGNIFICANT NEW DOUBTS ABOUT BOTH THE MIG-23 FOUND IN SOUTHERN ITALY THREE WEEKS AFTER THE USTICA CRASH, AS WELL AS WHETHER THE USTICA CRASH WAS CAUSED BY AN INTERNAL OR EXTERNAL EXPLOSION. THE REPORT'S ACCIDENT RECONSTRUCTION FINDINGS DID NOT RESOLVE THE CENTRAL QUESTION OF THE INVESTIGATION - THE IMMEDIATE CAUSE OF THE CRASH. REGARDING THE U.S., THE COURT-APPOINTED EXPERTS

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CONFIRMED THAT THE "USS SARATOGA" WAS IN PORT AT THE TIME OF THE CRASH - NOTWITHSTANDING THE APPARENT IRREGULARITIES IN THE SHIP'S LOGS - AS WE HAVE ALWAYS MAINTAINED.

8. (U) LEADING CONSERVATIVE DAILY "IL GIORNALE" REPORTED THAT THE EXPERTS' FINDINGS INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING "REVELATIONS" ABOUT THE MIG-23 WHICH, UP TO

PAGE 03 ROME 07985 02 OF 03 061337Z NOW, WAS BELIEVED TO HAVE FLOWN NORTH FROM LIBYA AND, FOR UNEXPLAINED REASONS, CRASHED IN THE SILA MOUNTAINS OF SOUTHERN ITALY:

--THE MIG-23 COULD NOT POSSIBLY HAVE TAKEN OFF FROM LIBYA BECAUSE ITS FLIGHT RECORDER AND OTHER DATA INDICATE THAT THE PLANE DID NOT HAVE ENOUGH FUEL TO FLY THAT DISTANCE. ACCORDING TO EVIDENCE OBTAINED FROM A MIG PRODUCTION FACILITY IN DRESDEN, THE MIG'S FUEL TANKS HELD TOO LITTLE FUEL. IF IT HAD TAKEN OFF FROM LIBYA, OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS NOTED, IT WOULD HAVE CRASHED IN THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA. THIS FINDING CONTRADICTS OFFICIAL ITALIAN AIR FORCE AND GOVERNMENT OF LIBYA STATEMENTS THAT THE FLIGHT ORIGINATED IN LIBYA.

--THE MIG-23 COULD NOT POSSIBLY HAVE BEEN LIBYAN, EXPERTS (PROFESSOR DELLA MESE AND AN UNNAMED GERMAN) EXPLAINED, BECAUSE LIBYA DID NOT HAVE THAT SPECIFIC TYPE OF MIG IN ITS MILITARY ARSENAL AT THE TIME. CRUCIAL MARKINGS ON THE DAMAGED FUSILAGE CAN NOT BE AUTHORITATIVELY ATTRIBUTED TO LIBYA. THIS FINDING SIMILARLY CONTRADICTS OFFICIAL ITALIAN AIR FORCE AND GOVERNMENT OF LIBYA STATEMENTS THAT THE PLANE WAS LIBYAN.

--A DOCUMENT ATTRIBUTED TO "SISMI" (ITALIAN MILITARY INTELLIGENCE) INDICATES THAT THERE WAS INTENSE LIBYAN AIRCRAFT ACTIVITY IN THE AREA ON THE NIGHT OF THE CRASH. THE ITALIAN PRESS, WHILE ENGAGING IN WIDE-RANGING SPECULATION ABOUT THESE NEW MIG-23 FINDINGS, QUERIED WHETHER THE MIG WAS USED BY NATO

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FORCES IN A LIVE-FIRE EXERCISE THAT WENT WRONG. EVIDENCE IN THE EXPERTS' REPORT INDICATE, MOREOVER, THAT AN UNDETERMINED NUMBER OF LIBYAN PILOTS HAD BEEN TRAINED AT THE DECIMOMANNU AIRBASE IN SARDINIA.

- 9. (U) LASTLY, JOURNALIST (ANDREA PURGATORI) NOTED IN LEADING CENTRIST DAILY "CORRIERE DELLA SERA" THAT U.S. MAJOR WARREN WALTERS AND CIA "STATION CHIEF" DUANE CLARRIDGE INSPECTED THE CRASHED MIG-23 SOON AFTER IT WAS DISCOVERED. ACCORDING TO PURGATORI, WALTERS REFUSED TO RESPOND, ON THE BASIS OF NATIONAL SECURITY, TO QUESTIONS ABOUT THE MIG'S NATIONALITY POSED BY JUDGE PRIORE.
- 10. (C) COMMENT. WE WERE PLEASED TO NOTE THAT PRIORE HAD FOCUSED HIS PERSONAL CRITIQUE OF THE INVESTIGATION IN AREAS UNRELATED TO U.S. MILITARY ACTIVITY AT THE TIME OF THE CRASH. FRENCH AND RUSSIAN INACTION WAS CONTRASTED WITH U.S. RELATIVE PROMPTNESS IN RESPONDING TO OFFICIAL ITALIAN INQUIRIES. PRESS COVERAGE, WHILE FOCUSING ON NEW

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INFO LOG-00 ACDA-17 CIAE-00 CFE-00 C-01 DODE-00 HA-09 ADS-00 IMMC-01 NRRC-00 H-01 INR-00 IO-19 L-03 NSCE-00 OIC-02 OMB - 01 PA-01 PM-02 PRS-01 NSAE-00 SB-00 SNP-00 SS-00 TRSE-00 T-00 P-01 SP-00 SSD-01 /061W

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TO SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
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DEPT JUSTICE WASHDC PRIORITY
INFO USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY PARIS
CNO WASHDC//06/09C//
JOINT STAFF WASHDC

Date Printed: 16 Apr 2002

DOC NBR: 1993ROME07985

CHANNEL: n/a HANDLING: n/a

232

USNMR SHAPE BE
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE//ECPA/ECJ5//
COMFAIRMED NAPLES IT
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
COMSIXTHFLT

SECTION 03 OF 03 ROME 007985

STATE ALSO FOR P; USIA FOR EU, P/G; DOJ FOR CRIM

PAGE 02 ROME 07985 03 OF 03 061338Z DIV/OIA L. BARSELLA

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: PINR, NATO, PREL, IT
SUBJECT: USTICA: JUDGE PRIORE DISCUSSES
SHORTCOMINGS OF INVESTIGATION; EXPERTS' REPORT STIRS
NEW SPECULATION ON MIG-23

HYPOTHESES THAT MIGHT FIT THE "REVELATIONS" OF THE EXPERTS' REPORT, UNIFORMLY ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE SARATOGA WAS IN PORT AT THE TIME OF THE CRASH AS THE U.S. HAS ALWAYS MAINTAINED.

SERWER

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Date Printed: 16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1993ROME09207

CHANNEL: nRELEASED INZELOLI

HANDLING: n/a

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PAGE 01 ROME 09207 251552Z

ACTION EUR-01

C-01 OASY-00 HA-09 ACDA-17 CIAE-00 CFE-00 INFO LOG-00 ADS-00 10-19 L-03 IMMC-01 TEDE-00 INR-00 H-01 PA-01 PM-02 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 NRRC-00 SCT-03 SNP-00 SP-00 SS-00 P-01 PRS-01 SB-00

TRSE-00 T-00 CORE-00 SSD-01 /064W

------C3A63B 252019Z /61

P 251548Z MAY 93
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO USIA WASHDC PRIORITY 8701
SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2891
DEPT JUSTICE WASHDC PRIORITY
INFO COMFAIRMED NAPLES IT
CNO WASHDC//06/09C//
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE//ECPA/ECJ5//
COMSIXTHFLT

COMSIXTHFLT CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK

USMISSION USNATO

JOINT STAFF WASHDC

USNMR SHAPE BE

ROME 009207

STATE ALSO FOR P; USIA FOR EU, P/G; DOJ FOR CRIM DIV/OIA L. BARSELLA

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR

PAGE 02 ROME 09207 251552Z
TAGS: PINR, NATO, PREL, IT
SUBJECT: USTICA: ITALY NOTES CBS "EXPOSE" ON
USTICA; EX-ITALIAN AIR FORCE CAPTAIN SAYS ITAVIA DC-9
SHOT DOWN BY ITALIAN AIR FORCE FIGHTER

REF(S): (A) ROME 07985 AND PREVIOUS

1. (U) SUMMARY. U.S. INTEREST IN THE USTICA AFFAIR WAS HIGHLIGHTED IN ITALY MAY 24 BY THE RE-BROADCAST OF EXCERPTS FROM CBS NETWORK'S "60 MINUTES" PROGRAM WHICH DEDICATED A SEGMENT OF ITS MOST RECENT SHOW TO

Page - 1262

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE REVIEW AUTHORITY: ERIC W. FLEISHER DATE/CASE ID: 29 OCT 2002 200102359

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UNCLASSIFIED

Date Printed: 16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1993ROME09207

CHANNEL: n/a HANDLING: n/a

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ONGOING EFFORTS BY ITALIAN INVESTIGATORS TO DETERMINE THE CAUSE OF THE CRASH OF AN ITALIAN PASSENGER PLANE IN JUNE 1980 NEAR THE ISLAND OF USTICA. SEPARATELY, AN EX-ITALIAN AIR FORCE OFFICER CLAIMED THAT THE AIR CRASH THAT CAUSED THE DEATH OF HIS ITALIAN AIR FORCE COLLEAGUE AND FRIEND (ALESSANDRO MARCUCCI) FEBRUARY 2, 1992 WAS NOT ACCIDENTAL BUT THE RESULT OF MARCUCCI'S PRIOR TESTIMONY THAT THE ITAVIA DC-9 WAS SHOT DOWN BY AN ITALIAN AIR FORCE FIGHTER. END SUMMARY.

2. (U) ITALIAN NEWS SERVICE "ANSA" REPORTED MAY 24 THAT THE CBS NETWORK PROGRAM "60 MINUTES" DEDICATED A SEGMENT TO INVESTIGATING THE CAUSE OF THE ITAVIA DC-9 CRASH ON JUNE 27, 1980 NEAR THE ISLAND OF USTICA. "ANSA" SAID THE SHOW PROMOTED THE THEORY THAT THE PASSENGER PLANE HAD BEEN MISTAKENLY SHOT DOWN BY AN ITALIAN FIGHTER WHICH HAD LAUNCHED A MISSILE AGAINST A LIBYAN FIGHTER THAT WAS FLYING CLOSE TO THE CIVILIAN AIRCRAFT AT THE TIME OF THE INCIDENT.

PAGE 03 ROME 09207 251552Z
ACCORDING TO THE ITALIAN PRESS, THE U.S. DEPARTMENT
OF STATE REFUSED TO GRANT AN INTERVIEW TO THE SHOW'S
PRODUCERS AND THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE SIMPLY
REITERATED, AS IT HAS OVER THE LAST 13 YEARS, THAT
THERE WERE NO U.S. SHIPS OR AIRCRAFT NEAR THE CRASH
SITE AT THE TIME OF THE TRAGEDY.

SEPARATELY, AN EX-ITALIAN AIR FORCE CAPTAIN AND "RETE" BACKER (MARIO CIANCARELLA) CLAIMED THAT THE AIR CRASH WHICH KILLED HIS AIR FORCE COLLEAGUE AND FRIEND (ALESSANDRO MARCUCCI) FEBRUARY 2, 1992 IN THE ITALIAN ALPS WAS NOT ACCIDENTAL, AS THE INVESTIGATING MAGISTRATE DETERMINED, BUT AN INTENTIONAL ATTEMPT TO SILENCE MARCUCCI WHO HAD PREVIOUSLY TESTIFIED THAT THE ITAVIA DC-9 THAT CRASHED NEAR USTICA WAS ACCIDENTALLY SHOT DOWN BY AN ITALIAN AIR FORCE FIGHTER. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, MARCUCCI HAD PROOF THAT THE MIG-23 LATER FOUND IN THE SILA MOUNTAINS OF SOUTHERN ITALY (REFS) HAD TAKEN OFF FROM A MILITARY AIRPORT NEAR ROME (PRACTICA DI MARE) INSTEAD OF FROM TRIPOLI -- AS THE GOVERNMENTS OF ITALY AND LIBYA HAVE OFFICIALLY CLAIMED FOR YEARS -- AS PART OF A JOINT U.S.-ITALIAN SECRET SERVICE PLAN TO BOTH RETALIATE AGAINST LIBYAN

Date Printed: 16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1993ROME09207

CHANNEL: n/a HANDLING: n/a

233

LEADER QADDAFI BY PLACING BLAME FOR THE TRAGEDY ON LIBYA, AND BUILD SUPPORT FOR INSTALLING CRUISE MISSILES AT COMISO, SICILY.

4. (C) COMMENT. AS YET, THE CBS SEGMENT HAS NOT BEEN COVERED WIDELY BY THE NATIONAL MEDIA. WE SPOKE MAY 25 WITH MOD FABBRI'S STAFF WHO CONFIRMED THAT



PAGE 04 ROME 09207 251552Z
THEY HOPED TO AVOID THE ISSUE ALTOGETHER DURING
SECRETARY OF DEFENSE ASPIN'S VISIT TO ROME MAY 31.

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Date Printed: 16 Apr 2002

DOC NBR: 1993ROME11394

CHANNEL: nRELEASED IN2BUL

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PAGE 01 ROME 11394 281629Z

ACTION EUR-01

INFO LOG-00 CIAE-00 C-01 OASY-00 HA-09 H-01 INR-00 L-03 ADS-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-02 PRS-01 P-01 SNP-00 SP-00 SS-00 TRSE-00 T-00

PRS-01 P-01 /021W

-----DOBEAF 290342Z /21

R 281623Z JUN 93

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO USIA WASHDC 8902

DEPT JUSTICE WASHDC

SECDEF WASHDC//OUSDP-ISA-EUR//

SECSTATE WASHDC 4307

INFO JOINT STAFF WASHDC

CNO WASHDC//06/09C//

USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

COMFAIRMED NAPLES IT

COMSIXTHFLT

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE//ECPA/ECJ5//

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK

USMISSION USNATO

USNMR SHAPE BE

ROME 011394

STATE ALSO FOR P; USIA FOR EU, P/G; DOJ FOR CRIM DIV/OIA (L. BARSELLA)

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR

PAGE 02 ROME 11394 281629Z

TAGS: PINR, NATO, PREL, IT

SUBJECT: USTICA: TRAGEDY'S 13TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATED; JUSTICE MINISTER PROMISES TO KEEP CASE OPEN; POLICE CHIEF SAYS PLANE BROUGHT DOWN BY BOMB

REF(S): ROME 9207 AND PREVIOUS

1. (U) THE ITALIAN PRESS REPORTED EXTENSIVELY JUNE 28 ON COMMEMORATIVE ACTIVITIES HELD IN BOLOGNA AND PALERMO ON THE OCCASION OF THE THIRTEENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE JUNE 27, 1980, DOWNING OF A COMMERCIAL ITAVIA

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE REVIEW AUTHORITY: ERIC W. FLEISHER DATE/CASE ID: 29 OCT 2002 200102359

Date Printed: 16 Apr 2002

DOC NBR: 1993ROME11394

CHANNEL: n/a HANDLING: n/a

235

JETLINER NEAR THE ISLAND OF USTICA. ACTIVITIES INCLUDED A DEMONSTRATION IN BOLOGNA (WHERE THE JUSTICE MINISTER SPOKE -- SEE BELOW), A SYMBOLIC FLIGHT FROM BOLOGNA TO PALERMO OVER THE SITE OF THE CRASH, AND A CONCERT IN PALERMO. PARTICIPANTS INCLUDED FAMILY MEMBERS OF THE VICTIMS, PRESS, AND POLITICIANS. (SEVERAL PAPERS NOTED THE PRESENCE OF A CBS REPORTER ON THE SYMBOLIC FLIGHT.) THE BOLOGNA RALLY TOOK PLACE AT THE FUTURE SITE OF THE "MEMORIAL MUSEUM" WHERE FAMILY MEMBERS HOPE TO PLACE THE REMAINS OF THE AIRLINER, ALONG WITH INVESTIGATIVE RECORDS AND OTHER MEMORABILIA, ONCE THE INVESTIGATION HAS BEEN COMPLETED.

2. (U) MINISTER OF GRACE AND JUSTICE CONSO WAS AMONG THE SPEAKERS IN BOLOGNA. ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNTS, HE NOTED THAT THE JUDICIAL INVESTIGATION HEADED BY JUDGE PRIORE WAS DUE TO BE COMPLETED BY THE END OF 1993. HE PROMISED TO EXTEND THE DEADLINE IF NECESSARY AND TO ENSURE THE CASE FILE WOULD BE NOT BE

PAGE 03 ROME 11394 281629Z CLOSED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE USUAL STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS, BUT WOULD REMAIN OPEN AND AVAILABLE FOR FUTURE INVESTIGATIONS. THE PRESS ALSO REPORTED THAT CONSO, EXPRESSING FULL SUPPORT FOR THE JUDICIAL INVESTIGATION, UNDERTOOK TO SEE THAT ALL ROGATORIES TO OTHER GOVERNMENTS WERE ANSWERED. CONSO REPORTEDLY SAID THAT OUT OF 60 ROGATORIES TO VARIOUS GOVERNMENTS, ONLY 44 HAD BEEN ANSWERED SATISFACTORILY. "FULL COLLABORATION" HAD BEEN GIVEN BY GERMANY, THE U.K., SPAIN, MALTA AND BELGIUM, WHILE OUTSTANDING REQUESTS REMAINED WITH THE U.S., RUSSIA, AND FRANCE. (COMMENT: CONSO WAS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT THE U.S. HAD ANSWERED 22 OUT OF 26 INQUIRIES; ACCORDING TO EMBASSY RECORDS, THE USG HAS RESPONDED TO 36 OUT OF 39, AND TWO OF THE THREE REQUESTS NOT YET ANSWERED WERE SUBMITTED LESS THAN A MONTH AGO. END COMMENT.) CONSO REPORTEDLY POINTED OUT THAT EGYPT AND IRAN HAD YET TO RESPOND TO ANY ROGATORIES.

3. (U) THE PRESS ALSO COVERED A CONTROVERSY STIMULATED BY NATIONAL POLICE CHIEF PARISI IN TESTIMONY BEFORE THE PARLIAMENT LAST WEEK. PARISI REPORTEDLY SAID THAT FOREIGN EXPERTS HAD CONCLUDED THAT THE PREPONDERANCE OF EVIDENCE SUPPORTED THE

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CHANNEL: n/a HANDLING: n/a

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THEORY THAT THE USTICA AIRLINER WAS BROUGHT DOWN BY A BOMB INSTEAD OF A MISSILE. VICTIMS' FAMILY MEMBERS, THEIR LAWYERS, AND VARIOUS PARLIAMENTARIANS QUICKLY DENOUNCED PARISI'S STATEMENT, CONTENDING THAT THAT THE BOMB THEORY HAD BEEN DISCREDITED BY A RECENT REPORT, ALSO BY FOREIGN EXPERTS, THAT INDICATED THE PRESENCE OF TNT AND "T4" EXPLOSIVES IN SEVERAL BAGS



PAGE 04 ROME 11394 281629Z RECOVERED FROM THE WRECKAGE. THESE TWO EXPLOSIVES, THEY CONTENDED, WERE COMMON TO MOST TYPES OF AIR-TO-AIR MISSILE WARHEADS.

4. (C) COMMENT: ON AN INFORMAL BASIS, WE ARE RESPONDING TO THE PRESS THAT THE USG CONTINUES TO BE FULLY COOPERATIVE WITH THE ITALIAN INVESTIGATION. WHOEVER WRITES CONSO'S SPEECHES -- IF THE MINISTER WAS QUOTED CORRECTLY -- HAS NOT UPDATED THE NUMBER OF ROGATORIES SUBMITTED TO THE USG. WE WILL BRING THIS TO THE ATTENTION OF THE GRACE AND JUSTICE MINISTRY.

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Date Printed: 16 Apr 2002

DOC NBR: 1993ROME11575

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PAGE 01 ROME 11575 01 OF 02 011544Z

ACTION EUR-01

INFO LOG-00 ACDA-17 CIAE-00 COME-00 CFE-00 C-01 OASY-00 DOEE-00 DOTE-00 EB-01 FAAE-00 E-01 HA-09 H-01 JUSE-00 ADS-00 TEDE-00 INR-00 **IO-19** L-03NRRC-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 PA-01 PM-02 PRS-01 P-01 SB-00 SDEL-00 SNP-00 SP-00 SSO-00 SS-00 STR-16 T-00 TSKY-00 CORE-00 SSD-01 /078W TRSE-00

O 011535Z JUL 93 FM AMEMBASSY ROME TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4423 SECDEF WASHDC//OUSDP-ISA-EUR// USIA WASHDC 8913 DEPT JUSTICE WASHDC INFO USNMR SHAPE BE

USMISSION USNATO

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE//ECPA/ECJ5//

COMSIXTHFLT

COMFAIRMED NAPLES IT USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

JOINT STAFF WASHDC

CNO WASHDC//06/09C//

SECTION 01 OF 02 ROME 011575

STATE ALSO FOR P; USIA FOR EU, P/G; DOJ FOR CRIM DIV/OIA (L. BARSELLA)

PAGE 02

ROME 11575 01 OF 02 011544Z

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR TAGS: MARR, PARM, PREL, IT

SUBJECT: USTICA: AMERICAN "EXPERT" CLAIMS TWO

MISSILES HIT THE AIRCRAFT

REF: **ROME 11394**

(C) SUMMARY. AN AMERICAN "EXPERT" HIRED BY THE FAMILIES OF USTICA VICTIMS THEORIZES THAT TWO RADAR-GUIDED MISSILES -- U.S., FRENCH, SOVIET, OR

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE REVIEW AUTHORITY: ERIC W. FLEISHER DATE/CASE ID: 29 OCT 2002 200102359

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Date Printed: 16 Apr 2002

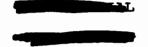
DOC_NBR: 1993ROME11575

CHANNEL: n/a HANDLING: n/a

236

BRITISH -- BROUGHT DOWN THE ITAVIA COMMERICAL AIRLINER IN 1980. THE EXPERT'S EVIDENCE PRESENTED AT A PRESS CONFERENCE FOLLOWING UPON THE HEELS OF THE BOLOGNA COMMEMORATION OF THE 13TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TRAGEDY, WILL CREATE MORE GRIST FOR JUDICIAL INVESTIGATORS. END SUMMARY.

2. (U) PRESS ATTENTION JUNE 30 AND JULY 1 TURNED ONCE AGAIN TO THE USTICA AFFAIR (THE UNEXPLAINED DOWNING OF AN ITALIAN COMMERCIAL AIRLINER ON JUNE 27, 1980), WITH NEW "REVELATIONS" THAT TWO RADAR-GUIDED MISSILES DOWNED THE AIRCRAFT. ROBERT SEWELL, REPORTEDLY A U.S. GOVERNMENT SPECIALIST WHOSE 40 YEARS EXPERIENCE ON MISSILE TECHNOLOGY -- INCLUDING MOST RECENTLY AT CHINA LAKE NAVAL MUNITIONS LABORATORIES (CALIFORNIA) -- DESCRIBED IN A PRESS CONFERENCE A PROBABLE MISTAKEN ATTACK ON THE AIRCRAFT WHICH COST THE LIVES OF ITS 81 PASSENGERS AND CREW. THE PRESS MADE CLEAR THAT SEWELL WAS HIRED BY THE ASSOCIATION MADE UP OF THE FAMILIES OF THE USTICA VICTIMS.



PAGE 03

ROME 11575 01 OF 02 011544Z

- 3. (U) SEWELL CLAIMED THAT TWO POWERFUL DOUBLE-HEADED AIR-TO-AIR MISSILES (BOTH LAUNCHED FROM THE SAME AIRCRAFT) EXPLODED OUTSIDE THE AIRCRAFT, WRENCHING THE RIGHT MOTOR FROM THE WING AND PENETRATING THE FUSELAGE JUST FORWARD OF THE POINT WHERE THE WING ATTACHES TO THE FUSELAGE, AND JUST AFT OF THE COCKPIT. IT EXITED ON THE OPPOSITE SIDE OF THE AIRCRAFT. AS ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE THAT MISSILES BROUGHT DOWN THE AIRCRAFT, SEWELL CITES:
- -- T4 AND TNT FOUND ON REMNANTS OF SUITCASES;
- -- THE CUTS MADE BY THE MISSILES IN THE FUSELAGE (THE "SKIN") WHICH HAS BEEN BROUGHT UP FROM THE OCEAN BOTTOM AND RECONSTITUTED;
- -- THE CARPET IN THE PASSENGER CABIN SHOWS THAT THE MISSILES ENTERED FROM BELOW AND PASSED OUT OF THE AIRCRAFT FUSELAGE FROM ABOVE.
- 4. (LOU) AS USUAL THERE ARE SEVERAL CONTRASTING VERSIONS OF WHAT SEWELL SAID. THE MOST AUTHORITATIVE APPEARED IN THE JULY 5 ISSUE OF "L'EUROPEO." IN THAT

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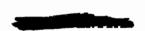
Date Printed: 16 Apr 2002

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CHANNEL: n/a HANDLING: n/a

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INTERVIEW SEWELL SAYS THAT THE AIRCRAFT WAS ATTACKED DIRECTLY, AND RULED OUT THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE MISSILES WERE FIRED BY ACCIDENT. HE WAS SAID TO BE CONVINCED THAT IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO FIND FRAGMENTS OF THE MISSILES IN QUESTION ON THE OCEAN BOTTOM AT A DISTANCE OF 3 TO 5 NAUTICAL MILES FROM THE POINT WHERE THE USTICA AIRCRAFT EXPLODED. SEWELL, IN AN

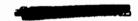


PAGE 04 ROME 11575 01 OF 02 011544Z INTERVIEW THAT APPEARED IN "IL TEMPO" JUNE 30, SUGGESTED THAT THE MISSILES COULD HAVE BEEN:

- -- SOVIET AA7 APEX OR AN AA6 ACRID;
- -- FRENCH MATRA R 530;
- -- AMERICAN AIM 7 SPARROW, VERSION I OR F;
- -- ENGLISH SKYFLASH.

OTHER ARTICLES SAY THAT SEWELL BELIEVES THAT THE COMMERCIAL LINER GOT IN THE WAY OF AN ATTACK BY ONE FIGHTER AIRCRAFT AGAINST ANOTHER, AND WAS MISTAKENLY HIT.

5. (LOU) WHEN IT WAS NOTED IN THE COURSE OF THE PRESS CONFERENCE THAT NO ONE SURVIVED THE EXPLOSION (SUPPORTING THE THEORY THAT ALL DIED FROM IMMEDIATE DECOMPRESSION CAUSED BY A MISSILE AND NOT BY A BOMB), A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ORGANIZATION OF "FAMILIES OF MILITARY PERSONNEL FALLEN IN SERVICE TO THE COUNTRY", DIFFERED SHARPLY. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, THE



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INFO LOG-00 ACDA-17 CIAE-00 COME-00 CFE-00 C-01 OASY-00 DOEE-00 DOTE-00 EB-01 E-01 FAAE-00 HA-09 H-01 TEDE-00 INR-00 IO-19 JUSE-00 L-03ADS-00 NRRC-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-02 PRS-01

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DOC NBR: 1993ROME11575

CHANNEL: n/a HANDLING: n/a 236

SB-00 P-01 STR-16

SDEL-00 SNP-00 SP-00 TRSE-00 T-00 TSKY-00 CORE-00 SSD-01

SSO-00 SS-00 /078W

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O 011535Z JUL 93 FM AMEMBASSY ROME TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4424 SECDEF WASHDC//OUSDP-ISA-EUR// USIA WASHDC 8914 DEPT JUSTICE WASHDC INFO USNMR SHAPE BE USMISSION USNATO CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE//ECPA/ECJ5// COMSIXTHFLT COMFAIRMED NAPLES IT USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT JOINT STAFF WASHDC

SECTION 02 OF 02 ROME 011575

STATE ALSO FOR P; USIA FOR EU, P/G; DOJ FOR CRIM DIV/OIA (L. BARSELLA)

PAGE 02

ROME 11575 02 OF 02 011545Z

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR TAGS: MARR, PARM, PREL, IT

CNO WASHDC//06/09C//

SUBJECT: USTICA: AMERICAN "EXPERT" CLAIMS TWO MISSILES HIT THE AIRCRAFT

REPRESENTATIVE POINTED OUT THAT THE CORPSE OF A "CARABINIERE" (NATIONAL POLICE), FOUND AFTER THE TRAGEDY, SHOWED SIGNS THAT AT LEAST ONE PERSON HAD SURVIVED FOR SOME MINUTES AFTER THE EXPL OSION. THE ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE FURTHER QUESTIONED WHETHER THE RADAR MISSILES CITED BY SEWELL WERE WIDELY USED IN 1980.

(C) WE HAVE LEARNED THAT SEWELL WAS FIRST CONTACTED BY "L'EUROPEO" JOURNALIST CLAUDIO GATTI AND HAS BEEN ADVISING HIM ON THE CRASH FOR OVER TWO YEARS. ONLY RECENTLY DID GATTI SUGGEST TO THE ASSOCIATION OF THE FAMILIES OF USTICA VICTIMS THAT THEY HIRE SEWELL AS AN EXPERT WITNESS.

Date Printed: 16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1993ROME11575

CHANNEL: n/a HANDLING: n/a

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7. (C) COMMENT. THE SEWELL "REVELATIONS" WILL GIVE THE INVESTIGATING JUDGES FURTHER PATHS TO FOLLOW. SEVERAL MONTHS AGO, AS HE NOTES IN HIS INTERVIEW, SEWELL CONTACTED THE EMBASSY AND EXPLAINED HIS MISSION. WE GAVE HIM NO ENCOURAGEMENT, NOR DID WE SUGGEST IN ANY WAY THAT THE USG SANCTIONED HIS INVOLVEMENT IN THE CASE.

SERWER

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ROME 11575 02 OF 02 011545Z

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Date Printed: 16 Apr 2002

DOC NBR: 1993ROME12897

CHANNEL: nRELEASED IN EULI

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ROME 12897

PAGE 01 ACTION EUR-01

INFO LOG-00 CIAE-00 OASY-00 TEDE-00 INR-00 ADS-00 NSAE-00

PM-02 CORE-00 /003W

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231801Z

R 231756Z JUL 93
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO DEPT OF JUSTICE WASH DC
USIA WASHDC 9037
SECDER WASHDC //OUSDR-ISA-FUR

SECDEF WASHDC//OUSDP-ISA-EUR//

SECSTATE WASHDC 5346

INFO DIA WASHDC

AMCONSUL NAPLES

USMISSION USNATO

AMCONSUL FLORENCE

AMCONSUL MILAN

COMFAIRMED NAPLES IT

COMSIXTHFLT

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE//ECPA/ECJ5//

CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE

JOINT STAFF WASHDC

USNMR SHAPE BE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

CNO WASHDC//06/09C//

UNCLAS ROME 012897

STATE FOR EUR/WE; USIA FOR EU, P/G; DOJ FOR CRIM DIV/OIA L. BARSELLA

PAGE 02

ROME 12897 231801Z

E.O. 12356:N/A

TAGS: PINR, NATO, PREL, IT, RS

SUBJECT: USTICA PRESS UPDATE

REF: ROME 11575 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: PRESS INTEREST IN THE USTICA CASE (IN WHICH A CIVIL AIRLINER CRASHED IN THE TYRHENIAN SEA NEAR THE ISLAND OF USTICA) REMAINS HIGH. RECENT PRESS ARTICLES NOTE AN UPCOMING TRIP BY THE

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE REVIEW AUTHORITY: ERIC W. FLEISHER DATE/CASE ID: 30 OCT 2002 200102359

UNCLASSIFIED

Date Printed: 16 Apr 2002

DOC NBR: 1993ROME12897

CHANNEL: n/a HANDLING: n/a

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INVESTIGATING MAGISTRATE TO MOSCOW, A "NEW LIBYAN ANGLE, CRITICISM OF THE INVESTIGATION BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE INVESTIGATING PARLIAMENTARY COMMISSION, AND A FEW KIND WORDS ABOUT U.S. COOPERATION. END SUMMARY.

- 2. THE PRESS REPORTED RECENTLY THAT RUSSIAN AUTHORITIES HAVE AGREED TO COLLABORATE WITH ITALIAN MAGISTRATES INVESTIGATING THE USTICA TRAGEDY. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, INVESTIGATING MAGISTRATE PRIORE IS SCHEDULED TO MEET WITH RUSSIAN OFFICIALS IN MOSCOW BEFORE THE END OF JULY. THE ITALIANS ARE SEEKING RUSSIAN ASSISTANCE IN IDENTIFYING THE NATIONALITY OF A MIG 23 AIRCRAFT WHICH WAS FOUND WRECKED IN CALABRIA ON 18 JULY, 1980. THE AIRCRAFT IS SUSPECTED OF HAVING PLAYED A ROLE IN THE USTICA CRASH.
- 3. JUDGE PRIORE HEARD THE TESTIMONY OF PIERLUIGI SCARPA, ACCOUNTANT AND COMMERCIAL OFFICER OF AERITALIA ON 20 JULY IN VENICE. ACCORDING TO PRESS

PAGE 03 ROME 12897 231801Z
REPORTS SCARPA CLAIMED THAT, WORKING THROUGH ITALIAN,
GERMAN, AND ENGLISH COMPANIES, LIBYA ACQUIRED AT
LEAST TEN C-130 AIRCRAFT FROM A U.S. COMPANY FROM
1978-1980. ACCORDING TO HIS ACCOUNT, AERITALIA
ADAPTED THE AIRCRAFT FOR MILITARY USE AT ITS FACILITY
IN MESTRE (NEAR VENICE). INFERRING FROM THIS THAT
LIBYA HAD EASY ACCESS TO ITALIAN FACILITIES AT THE
TIME OF THE USTICA TRAGEDY, THE ARTICLE GOES ON TO
SPECULATE THAT THAT THE MIG 23 FOUND IN CALABRIA
COULD HAVE TAKEN OFF FROM AN ITALIAN AIRPORT SECRETLY
PUT AT LIBYA'S DISPOSAL BY ITALIAN AUTHORITIES.

4. THE RECENTLY REELECTED PRESIDENT OF THE PARLIAMENTARY COMMISSION INVESTIGATING THE USTICA CRASH, LIBERO GUALTIERI, DISPARAGED THE MANNER IN WHICH THE USTICA INVESTIGATION HAS BEEN CONDUCTED OVER ITS 13 YEAR HISTORY. IN AN INTERVIEW WITH NEWS WEEKLY "L'EUROPEO," HE DENOUNCED THE INVESTIGATION AS THE WORST-RUN EVER INQUIRY OF A SERIOUS INCIDENT AND CALLED IT TAMPERED WITH FROM THE BEGINNING.

5. THE PRESS REPORTED THAT INVESTIGATING MAGISTRATES SAID THAT ALL HYPOTHESES ABOUT THE CAUSE OF THE CRASH WERE STILL VALID. IN COMMENTS TO THE PRESS, ONE OF THE MAGISTRATES (SALVI) ANNOUNCED THAT BEGINNING 29

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CHANNEL: n/a HANDLING: n/a

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JULY DR. HELDE, A GERMAN MISSILE EXPERT, WOULD MAKE AN INDEPENDENT EVALUATION OF AMERICAN CONSULTANT ROBERT SEWELL'S ALLEGATIONS THAT THE AIRLINER WAS DOWNED BY TWO MISSILES (REFTEL). IN A STATEMENT TO JOURNALISTS SALVI REPORTEDLY CREDITED THE U.S. FOR ITS WIDE-RANGING COLLABORATION WITH THE INVESTIGATION. THOUGH HE CLAIMED (INCORRECTLY) THAT

990 1 8 A G

PAGE 04 ROME 12897 231801Z
ONE U.S. RESPONSE WAS STILL PENDING (THREE ARE
OUTSTANDING), SALVI ALLOWED THAT THE U.S. HAD ALREADY
RESPONDED TO MULTIPLE INQUIRIES.

SERWER

NNNN

Date Printed: 16 Apr 2002

DOC NBR: 1993ROME13346

CHANNEL: nRELEASED INZEULI HANDLING: n/a

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PAGE 01

ROME 13346 301655Z

ACTION EUR-01

INFO LOG-00

OASY-00

TEDE-00 INR-00

ADS-00 NSAE-00

PM-02

CORE-00 /003W

CIAE-00

-----DD494B 301835Z /38

R 301649Z JUL 93

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO USIA WASHDC 9087

DEPT JUSTICE WASHDC

SECDEF WASHDC//OUSDP-ISA-EUR//

SECSTATE WASHDC 5610

INFO DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE//ECPA/ECJ5//

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE

USMISSION USNATO

JOINT STAFF WASHDC

AMCONSUL NAPLES

AMCONSUL FLORENCE

AMCONSUL MILAN

COMFAIRMED NAPLES IT

USNMR SHAPE BE

CNO WASHDC//06/09C//

COMSIXTHFLT

UNCLAS ROME 013346

STATE FOR EUR/WE; USIA FOR EU, P/G; DOJ FOR CRIM DIV/OIA L. BARSELLA

11111

PAGE 02

ROME 13346 301655Z

E.O. 12356:N/A

TAGS: PINR, NATO, PREL, IT, RS

SUBJECT: USTICA PRESS UPDATE: DRY WELL IN RUSSIA

REFS: A) ROME 12897 B) ROME 04128 C) ROME 07043

1. JULY 27-29 PRESS REPORTS COVERED INVESTIGATING JUDGE PRIORE'S TRIP TO MOSCOW TO ATTEMPT TO QUESTION RUSSIAN OFFICIALS WHO HAVE ALLEGED U.S. RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE 1980 CRASH OF A CIVILIAN

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE REVIEW AUTHORITY: ERIC W. FLEISHER DATE/CASE ID: 30 OCT 2002 200102359



Date Printed: 16 Apr 2002

DOC NBR: 1993ROME13346

CHANNEL: n/a HANDLING: n/a 239

AIRLINER NEAR THE ISLAND OF USTICA AND TO DETERMINE IF RUSSIAN ARCHIVES HELD ANY POPPRIATION RELEVANT TO THE CASE. IN PUBLIC STATEMENTS, THE INVESTIGATORS REPEATEDLY COMPLIMENTED THE RUSSIANS' WILLINGNESS TO COOPERATE WITH THE INVESTIGATION, BUT REPORTEDLY ADMITTED THAT NO NEW FINDINGS EMERGED FROM 25-27 JULY VISIT TO MOSCOW.

- 2. JUDGE PRIORE WAS NOT ABLE TO MEET WITH ANY OF THE RUSSIAN OFFICIALS WHO HAVE PUBLICLY BLAMED U.S. MISSILES FOR THE CRASH. THE RUSSIANS REPORTEDLY DENIED ONCE AGAIN ANY KNOWLEDGE OF SELF-PROCLAIMED KGB OFFICIAL "GENERAL PAVLOV" WHO CLAIMED TO ITALIAN MEDIA IN MARCH THAT, FROM A SECRET RADAR FACILITY IN LIBYA, HE SAW TWO AMERICAN MISSILES DOWN THE DC-9 (REFTEL B).
- 3. THE PRESS ALSO REPORTED THAT GENERAL SALIMOV, WHO GAVE INTERVIEWS TO RADIO "GRL" IN WHICH HE CORROBORATED PAVLOV'S STORY (REFTEL C), WAS NOT

PAGE 03 ROME 13346 301655Z
AVAILABLE TO BE INTERVIEWED. THE LEFTIST,
INDEPENDENT "LA REPUBBLICA" MENTIONED THAT PRIORE WAS
ALSO UNABLE TO QUESTION A CAPTAIN IVANOV WHO
REPORTEDLY EXPOUNDED THE SAME THEORY AS PAVLOV AND
SALIMOV. WIRE REPORTS STATED THAT JUDGE PRIORE WILL
RETURN TO MOSCOW IN MID-SEPTEMBER TO QUESTION THE
RUSSIAN OFFICIALS.

SERWER

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Date Printed: 16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1993ROME21806

CHANNEL: nRBLEASED IN TAULI

HANDLING: n/a

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PAGE 01 ROME 21806 221026Z

ACTION EUR-01

INFO LOG-00 CIAE-00 OASY-00 TEDE-00 INR-00 ADS-00 NSAE-00

PM-02 /003W

-----1337AA 221038Z /38

R 221025Z DEC 93
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0790
INFO SECDEF WASHDC//OUSDP-ISA-EUR//
DIA WASHDC
AMCONSUL MILAN
DEPT JUSTICE WASHDC
COMSIXTHFLT
USIA WASHDC 9835
USMISSION USNATO
JOINT STAFF WASHDC
COMFAIRMED NAPLES IT
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE//ECPA/ECJ//
AMCONSUL FLORENCE//POUCH//
AMCONSUL NAPLES

ROME 021806

STATE FOR EUR/WE; USIA FOR EU, P/G; DOJ FOR CRIM DIV/OIA L. BARSELLA

E.O. 1236: DECL: OADR TAGS: PINR, NATO, PREL, IT

SUBJECT: USTICA INVESTIGATION WILL LIKELY BE

EXTENDED UNTIL DECEMBER, 1994

PAGE 02 ROME 21806 221026Z

REF: ROME 13346; DTG 301649Z JUL 93 AND PREVIOUS

1. ENTIRE TEXT.

2. IN A DECEMBER 1 MEETING, USTICA INVESTIGATING MAGISTRATES ROSARIO PRIORE AND GIOVANNI SALVI TOLD EMBASSY SENIOR DOJ REPRESENTATIVE THAT THE ITALIAN SENATE HAD APPROVED EXTENDING THE INVESTIGATION OF THE USTICA CRASH AND THAT THE CHAMBER WOULD PROBABLY

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DOC NBR: 1993ROME21806

CHANNEL: n/a HANDLING: n/a

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VOTE IN FAVOR OF AN EXTENSION UNTIL DECEMBER 1994, A YEAR BEYOND ITS CURRENT EXPIRATION DATE.

3. THE INVESTIGATION FOCUSES ON THE CAUSE OF A CRASH IN 19BO OF AN ITAVIA DC-9 IN THE MEDITERRANEAN NEAR THE ISLAND OF USTICA, NORTH OF SICILY. THE CAUSE HAS NEVER BEEN DETERMINED. JUDICIAL AND POPULAR SPECULATION CENTERS AROUND SEVERAL THEORIES:

THAT THE AIRCRAFT WAS SHOT DOWN BY A LIBYAN MIG, THAT A BOMB ABOARD EXPLODED, OR THAT IT WAS MISIDENTIFIED AS A LIBYAN AIRCRAFT AND SHOT DOWN BY A FRENCH OR U.S. MISSILE. INVESTIGATORS IN THE CASE HAVE MADE REPEATED TREATY REQUESTS OF THE U.S. FOR INFORMATION ABOUT POSSIBLE INVOLVEMENT IN THE CRASH.

4. MAGISTRATES TOLD THE DOJ REPRESENTATIVE THAT THEY WOULD AWAIT THE U.S. RESPONSE TO THEIR OUTSTANDING REQUESTS AND THEN PROVIDE A COMPREHENSIVE LIST OF THOSE RESPONSES NEEDING CLARIFICATION. THEY PLAN TO FOLLOW-UP WITH ADDITIONAL INQUIRIES NECESSARY TO CONCLUDE U.S.

PAGE 03 ROME 21806 221026Z
COOPERATION. THE MAGISTRATES HOPE TO FINISH THE
INTERNATIONAL ROGATORIES WELL BEFORE DECEMBER 1994
IN ORDER TO COMPLETE THE REPORT AND MAKE ANY
CRIMINAL CHARGES BEFORE THE END OF 1994. IN
REALITY, REQUESTS WILL LIKELY COME IN THROUGH LATE
NEXT YEAR.

5. NAPLES' DAILY, "IL MATTINO" CARRIED ON DECEMBER 16 A CALL FROM THE ORGANIZATION OF THE VICTIMS' FAMILIES TO EXTEND THE LENGTH OF THE INVESTIGATION. THE ARTICLE NOTES THAT THE PARLIAMENT HAS UNTIL DECEMBER 31 TO APPROVE THE EXTENSION. IN THE STORY, THE GROUP'S PRESIDENT ASKED PRESIDENT CLINTON TO CLARIFY A MYSTERY: WAS THE AMERICAN AIRCRAFT CARRIER, "USS SARATOGA" IN NAPLES HARBOR THE NIGHT OF THE JUNE 27 CRASH? ALTHOUGH PHOTOGRAPHS WHICH CAME TO LIGHT IN DECEMBER 1992 SHOW THE CARRIER ANCHORED IN NAPLES HARBOR THE AFTERNOON OF THE TRAGEDY, THE THEORY THAT THE "USS SARATOGA" WAS IN THE AREA OF THE CRASH AND THAT ONE OF ITS FIGHTERS SHOT DOWN THE PASSENGER JET IS STILL IN LIMITED CIRCULATION. BARTHOLOMEW

Date Printed: 16 Apr 2002

DOC NBR: 1995ROME05135

CHANNEL: nRELEASED INZEULI

HANDLING: n/a

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PAGE 01 ROME 05135 01 OF 02 161252Z

ACTION EUR-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 OASY-00 DOTE-00 AID-00 INFO COR-01 LOG-00 INR-00 LAB-01 FAAE-00 H-01 TEDE-00 EB-01 E-00NSAE-00 NSCE-00 NEA-01 OMB-01 M - 00L-01 ADS-00 SCT-00 SP-00 SSO-00 P-01 PA-02 PM-00 PRS-01 DRL-09 G-00 TRSE-00 T-00 PMB-00 SS-00 STR-01 /022W

-----BC0FE0 161304Z /45/38

O 051626Z APR 95
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6258
INFO USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2063
AMCONSUL NAPLES
AMCONSUL MILAN

AMCONSUL FLORENCE

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 ROME 005135

Y - PARA 3 AND REMOVING

CLASSIFICATION FROM MIDDLE OF TEXT

DEPT FOR EUR/WE; DOD FOR OSD/ISA (LAZARUS)

E.O. 12356: N/A TAGS: PREL, IT

SUBJECT: NEW TESTIMONY IN USTICA CASE

PAGE 02 ROME 05135 01 OF 02 161252Z

SUMMARY

1. TWO LEADING ITALIAN NEWSPAPERS APRIL 5 REPORTED THAT AN ITALIAN AIR FORCE NCO HAS VOLUNTEERED FURTHER TESTIMONY THAT HE SAW SEVERAL JETS FLYING NEAR THE AIRLINER PRIOR TO THE CRASH. REPORTS ALSO NOTE THAT SEVERAL AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS PROVIDED SIMILAR TESTIMONY, AND THAT THE ITALIAN AIR FORCE RECENTLY FURNISHED THE JUDICIARY WITH A LIST OF FIFTY-TWO MILITARY PERSONNEL ON DUTY AT CIAMPINO THE NIGHT OF THE CRASH. THE ARTICLES ALSO SUGGEST THAT THESE JETS MIGHT HAVE BEEN AMERICAN. EMBASSY

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE REVIEW AUTHORITY: ERIC W. FLEISHER DATE/CASE ID: 30 OCT 2002 200102359



Date Printed: 16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1995ROME05135

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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PROPOSED PRESS GUIDANCE FOLLOWS PARA 6. END SUMMARY.

2. THE CORRIERE DELLA SERA AND IL MESSAGGERO APRIL 5 REPORTED THAT LUCIANO CARICO, AN ITAF NCO ON DUTY AT THE MARSALA AIR BASE THE NIGHT OF JUNE 27, 1980 RECENTLY VOLUNTEERED TO ADD INFORMATION TO HIS PREVIOUS STATEMENTS CONCERNING THE CRASH THAT NIGHT OF AN ITALIAN DC-9 AIRLINER NEAR THE SOUTHERN ITALIAN ISLAND OF USTICA (WHICH KILLED ALL 81 PERSONS ONBOARD). DURING A SIX-HOUR HEARING WITH ROME MAGISTRATE ROSARIO PRIORE, WHO IS INVESTIGATING THE USTICA CRASH, CARICO CONFIRMED THE TESTIMONY HE GAVE IN 1989 IN WHICH HE SAID THE MARSALA RADARS HAD TRACKED SEVERAL JETS FLYING NEAR THE AIRLINER JUST BEFORE THE CRASH. HE REPORTEDLY STATED THAT ONE JET WAS FLYING CLOSE AND FAST BEHIND THE DC-9, AS IF TO

PAGE 03 ROME 05135 01 OF 02 161252Z OVERTAKE IT.

- 3. THE ARTICLES ALSO REPORTED THAT CARICO'S STATEMENTS MATCH THOSE OF SEVERAL AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS WHO WERE ON DUTY IN ROME'S CIAMPINO AIRPORT THE SAME NIGHT AND WHOM PRIORE RECENTLY CALLED TO TESTIFY. THE CONTROLLERS REPORTEDLY SAID THE TRAFFIC THEY SAW AROUND THE CIVILIAN AIRLINER HAD INITIALLY NOT CAUSED ANY ALARM BECAUSE A NOTAM HAD ADVISED THEM OF A U.S. MILITARY AIR EXERCISE SCHEDULED FOR THAT EVENING. WHEN THE CONTROLLERS WERE ASKED WHY THEY HAD NOT TESTIFIED BEFORE, ALL REPORTEDLY SAID THEY HAD NEVER**BEEN ASKED.
- 4. ACCORDING TO THE ARTICLES, ABOUT TWO MONTHS AGO THE ITAF GAVE JUDGE PRIORE THE NAMES OF FIFTY-TWO MILITARY OFFICIALS WHO WERE ON DUTY AT CIAMPINO THE NIGHT OF THE CRASH. THE ITAF RECONSTRUCTED THE FULL LIST OF PERSONNEL FROM BUDGET-DEPARTMENT RECORDS. PREVIOUSLY, ITAF ONLY FURNISHED THE NAMES OF SIX DUTY PERSONNEL, SAYING THAT RECORDS OF DUTY PERSONNEL FOR THAT EVENING HAD BEEN DESTROYED.
- 5. THE ARTICLES ALSO SUGGEST THAT THE UNIDENTIFIED JETS ALLEGEDLY FLYING OVER USTICA AT THE TIME OF THE CRASH WERE AMERICAN FIGHTER JETS, BY CONFLATING THE STATEMENTS BY CARICO, THE CIAMPINO AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS, UNIDENTIFIED AIR RESCUE PERSONNEL, AND TAPES OF A CONVERSATION BETWEEN TWO AIR TRAFFIC

Date Printed: 16 Apr 2002

DOC NBR: 1995ROME05135

CHANNEL: n/a HANDLING: n/a

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CONTROLLERS AT CIAMPINO WHEN THE DC-9 RADAR TRACK DISAPPEARED FROM THE SCREEN. IN THAT CONVERSATION,

PAGE 04 ROME 05135 01 OF 02 161252Z ONE CONTROLLER REPORTEDLY ASKED ANOTHER WHERE THE "U.S. AIRCRAFT CARRIER" WAS AT THAT MOMENT AND TOLD THE OTHER CONTROLLER TO CALL THE U.S. EMBASSY IN ROME.

6. EMBASSY PROPOSES TO USE THE FOLLOWING PRESS GUIDANCE TO RESPOND TO POTENTIAL QUERIES ON THIS MATTER:

BEGIN TEXT:

THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT HAS ALWAYS PROVIDED, AND WILL CONTINUE TO PROVIDE, FULL COOPERATION TO ITALIAN JUDICIAL AUTHORITIES IN THEIR INVESTIGATION OF THE USTICA CRASH.

AS NOTED REPEATEDLY IN THE PAST, WE HAVE INFORMED ITALIAN AUTHORITIES THAT NO U.S. COMBAT SHIPS OR AIRCRAFT WERE OPERATING IN THE AREA OF THE CRASH ON THE EVENING OF JUNE 27, 1980.

END TEXT.

PAGE 01 ROME 05135 02 OF 02 130732Z ACTION EUR-01

INFO LOG-00 AID-00 CIAE-00 SMEC-00 COME-00 OASY-00 DOTE-00 FAAE-00 H-01 TEDE-00 INR-00 EB-01 E-00 LAB-01 L-01 ADS-00 M-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 OMB-01 NEA-01 PA-02 PM-00 PRS-01 SB-00 P-01 SCT-00 SP-00 SSO-00 SS-00 STR-01 TRSE-00 T-00 PMB-00 DRL-09 G-00 /021W

-----BB2E8B 130733Z /38

O 051626Z APR 95
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6259
INFO USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2064
AMCONSUL NAPLES
AMCONSUL MILAN

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DOC_NBR: 1995ROME05135

CHANNEL: n/a HANDLING: n/a

246

AMCONSUL FLORENCE

UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 ROME 005135

DEPT FOR EUR/WE; DOD FOR OSD/ISA (LAZARUS)

(TEXT)

E.O. 12356: N/A TAGS: PREL, IT

SUBJECT: NEW TESTIMONY IN USTICA CASE

COMMENT

PAGE 02

ROME 05135 02 OF 02 130732Z

7. WE ARE REPORTING THESE TWO PRESS ARTICLES FOR THE RECORD ONLY BECAUSE THIS LATEST TWIST TO THE USTICA SAGA INDICATES THAT AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS OTHER THAN NCO CARICO HAVE TESTIFIED THAT THEY SAW OTHER JET AIRCRAFT IN THE VICINITY OF THE AIRLINER BEFORE THE CRASH. ALSO NEW IS THE NEWS THAT THE ITAF HAS FURNISHED THE JUDICIARY WITH A COMPLETE LIST OF OFFICIALS ON DUTY AT CIAMPINO THE NIGHT OF THE CRASH. END COMMENT.

BARTHOLOMEW

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Date Printed: 16 Apr 2002

DOC NBR: 1996ROME00466

CHANNEL: nRELEASED IN2FULI

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<<<<.>>>> PT02371

PTQ2371

PAGE 01

ROME 00466 161621Z

ACTION EUR-01

CIAE-00 OASY-00 SRPP-00 EB-01 INFO LOG-00 H-01 TEDE-00 INR-00 L-01ADS-00 M-00 NEA-01 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 OMB-01 PA-02 PM-00 PRS-01 P-00 SP-00 SS-00 SNIS-00 NISC-00 PMB-00 DRL-09 G-00 TRSE-00 T-00

/018W

-----1027BF 161635Z /49

R 161619Z JAN 96 FM AMEMBASSY ROME TO RUEHC SECSTATE WASHDC 4357 SECDEF WASHDC INFO AMCONSUL FLORENCE AMCONSUL MILAN AMCONSUL NAPLES USIA WASHDC 3105

UNCLAS ROME 000466

SENSITIVE

DEPT FOR EUR/WE; DOD FOR OSD/ISA/ITALY (MILLER)

E.O. 12958: N/A TAGS: PREH, IT

SUBJECT: USTICA INVASTIGATION UPDATE

1. (U) LOCAL PRSS REPORTS INDICATE THAT ON DECEMBER 24, ROME PROSECUTOR ROSARIO PRIORE (RESPONSIBLE FOR

PAGE 02 ROME 00466 161621Z
INVESTIGATING THE UNEXPLAINED JULY 1980 CRASH OF AN
ITALIAN AIRLINER NEAR THE ISLAND OF USTICA) AND VENICE
PROSECUTOR CARLO MASTELLONI (WHO IS INVESTIGATING THE
DOWNING OF AN ITALIAN INTELLIGENCE ARGO 16 AIRCRAFT)
JOINTLY ORDERED A SEARCH OF THE ROME RESIDENCE OF
RETIRED CARABINIERI GENERAL (AND EX-SISMI OFFICIAL)
DEMETRIO COGLIANDRO. DURING THE SMARCH, PRIORE AND
MASTELLONI REPORTEDLY DISCOVERED OVER ONE HUNDRED FILES
CONTAINING ALLEGED "CONFIDENTIAL" INFORMATION ON USTICA

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE REVIEW AUTHORITY: ERIC W. FLEISHER DATE/CASE ID: 30 OCT 2002 200102359

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CHANNEL: n/a HANDLING: n/a

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(ABOUT 20 FILES) AS WELL AS INFORMATION ON PROMINENT ITALIAN POLITICAL AND BUSINESS LEADERS, INCLUDING FORMER PRIME MINISTERS ANDREOTTI, CRAXI, DE MITA, AND BERLUSCONI, AS WELL AS OLIVETTI HEAD DE BENEDETTI; AND MATERIAL ON OQHER "UNSOLVED MYSTERIES" INCLUDING THE 1969 PIAZZA FONTANA TERRORIST BOMBING AND THE ALDO MORO KIDNAPPING.

2. (U) OTHER PRESS ACCOUNTS INDICATE THAT MATERIAL DISCOVERED AT THE COGLIANRO RESIDENCE THEORIZES THAT THE AIRLINER WAS ACCIDENTALLY DOWNED BY AN AIR-TO-AIR MISSILE DURING AN AIR BATTLE BETWEEN ALLIED (U.S. AND FRENCH) AND DIBAN AIRCRAFT, INCLUDING ONE CARRYING LIBYAN LEIDER MOAMMAR KHADDAFI. ACCORDING TO THIS THEORY, THE USTICA AIRLINER, WHICH WAS TWO HOURS LATE ND NOT EXPECTED IN THE AREA, WAS INADVERTENTLY DOWNED BY A FRENCH ISSILE IN THE MELEE. PRESS ACCOUNTS ALSO ALLEGE THAT A GROUND RADAR SITE IN MARSALA DETECTED AN UNUSUAL AMOUNT OF AIR TRAFFIC OVER THE USTICA AREA THE NIGHT THE INCIDENT OCCURED, AND THAT A TOTAL OF FIVE P-3 ORION AIRCRAFT FLEW CONSECUTIVE SEARCHES OVER THE CALABRIA REGION THAT NIGHT. COGLIANDRO'S NOTES

PAGE 03 ROME 00466 161621Z
REPORTEDLY CONCLUDED THAT THEN-PRI
E MINISTER (LATER
PRESIDENT) FRANCEWCO COSSIGA MADE THE DECISION NOT TO
REVEAL THE FACTS BEHIND THE DOWNING, FEARING A POSSIBLE
POLITICAL CRISIS. (NOTE: COSSIGA ANUARY 11 DISMISSED
AS ABSURD THESE ALLEGATIONS IN A TONGUE-IN-CHEEK LETTER
TO THE LEADING ITALIAN DAILY CORRIERE DELLA SERA.)

3. (U) THE FILES DISCOVERED AT THE COGLIANDRO RESIDENCE REPORTEDLY COVER THE 1984-91 PERIOD, SUBSEQUENT TO HIS RETIREMENT FROM SISMI IN 1981.

ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNTS, PROSECUTORS PRIORE AND MASTELLONI ARE NOW INVESTIGATING ALLEGATIONS THAT COGLIANDRO--WHO HAD SET UP HIS OWN PRIVATE INVESTIGATING AGENCY --WAS WORKING ON CONTRACT OR SISMI DURING THIS PERIOF. PROSECUTOR PRIORE REPORTEDLY HAS ALSO SEIZED OTHER RELATED MATERIAL FROM SISMI STATIONS IN MILAN, NAPLES AND BARI, AC WEQL AS FROM SISMI'S ROME HEADQUARTERS. PRIORE HAS FORWARDED EXCERPTS FROM THE MATERIAL DISCOVERED IN COGLIANDRO'S HOME TO VARIOUS ITALIAN JUDICIARY OFFICES. IN ADDITION, THE FILES WILL REPORTEDLY BE EXAMINED BY A PARLIAMENTARYJOINT

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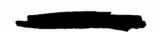
DOC_NBR: 1996ROME00466

CHANNEL: n/a HANDLING: n/a

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OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE.

4. (SBU) COMMENT: WE REPORT THE FOREGOING @RESS REPORTS ON THE LATEST TWIST IN THE LONG-PUNNING USTICA SAGA FOR THE RECORD. INVESTIGATORS AND LOCAL PRESS HAVE, AT DIFFERENT TIMES, PROPOSED VARIOUS SCENARIOS TO EXPLAIN THE USTICA CRASH, INCLUDING THE POSSIBILITY OF A BOMB EXPLOSION ON BOARD, AS WELL AS THE INVOLVEMENT OF FIGHTER AIRCRAFT BELONGING TO: ITALY, FRANCE,



PAGE 04 ROME 00466 161621Z ISRAEL, LIBYA, OR THE UNITED STATES. THE THEORY A LA MODE APPEARS TO BE A GRAND SYNTHESIS POSITING A CONSPIRACY AMONG THREE OF THESE NATIONS. BARTHOLOMEW



NNNN

Date Printed: 16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1996ROME00467

CHANNEL: n.R.ELEASED IN2001LI

HANDLING: n/a

<<<<.>>>> PTQ2343

PTQ2343

PAGE 01 ROME 00467 161624Z

ACTION EUR-01

COME-00 OASY-00 SMI-00 CIAE-00 SMEC-00 INFO LOG-00 AID-00 EB-01 SRPP-00 E-00 FAAE-00 H-01 TEDE-00 DOTE-00 ADS-00 M - 00NEA-01 NSAE-00 INR-00 LAB-01 L-01PM-00 PRS-01 P-00 SCT-00 OMB-01 PA-02 NSCE-00 PMB-00 SS-00 STR-00 TRSE-00 T-00 SSO-00 SP-00 /019W DRL-09 G-00

-----1026A4 161624Z /38

R 161624Z JAN 96 FM AMEMBASSY ROME TO SECDEF WASHDC SECSTATE WASHDC 4358 INFO USIA WASHDC 3106 AMCONSUL NAPLES AMCONSUL FLORENCE AMCONSUL MILAN

UNCLAS ROME 000467

DEPT FOR EUR/WE; DOD FOR OSD/ISA/ITALY (MILLER)

E.O. 12958: N/A TAGS: PREL, IT

SUBJECT: USTICA INVESTIGATION UPDATE

1. (U) LOCAL PRESS REPORTS INDIBATE THAT ON DECEMBER

PAGE 02 ROME 00467 161624Z
24, ROME PROSECUTOR ROSARIO PRIORE (RESPONSIBLE FOR
INVESTIGATING THE]NEXPLAINED JULY 1980 CRASH OF AN
ITALIAN AIRLINER NEAR THE ISLAND OF USTICA) AND VENACE
PROSECUTOR CARL MASTELLONI (WHO IS INVESTIGATING THE
DOWNING OF AN ITALIIN INTELLIGENCE ARGO 16 AIRCRAFT)
JOINTLY ORDERED A SEARCH OF THE ROME RESIDENCE OF
RETIRED CARABINIERI GENERAL (AND EX-SISMI OFFICIAL)
DEMETRIO COGLIANDRO. DURING THE SEARCH, PRIORE AND
MASTELLONI REPORTEDLY DISCOVERED OVER ONE HUNDRED FILES

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE REVIEW AUTHORITY: ERIC W. FLEISHER DATE/CASE ID: 30 OCT 2002 200102359

UNCLASSIFIED

Date Printed: 16 Apr 2002

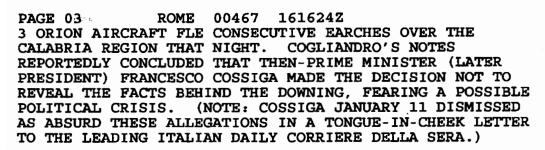
DOC NBR: 1996ROME00467

CHANNEL: n/a HANDLING: n/a

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COJTAINING ALLEGED "CONFIDENTIAL" INFORMATION ON USTICA (ABOUT 20 FILES) AS WELL AS INFORMATION ON PROMINENT M
ITALIAN POLITICAL AND BUSINESS LEADERS, INCLUDING FORMER PRIME MINISTERS ANDREOTTI, CRAXI, DE MITA, AND BERLUSCONI, AS WELL AS OLIVETTI HEAD DE BENEDETTI; AND MATERIAL ON OTHER "UNSOLVED MYSTERIES" INCLUDING THE 1969 PIAZZA FGNTANA TERRORIST BOMBING AND THE ALDO MORO KIDNAPPING.

2. (U) OTHER PRESS ACCOUNTS INDICATE THAT MATERIAL DISCOVERED AT THE COGLIANDRO RESIDENCE THEORIZES THAT THE AIRLINER WAS ACCIDENTALLY DOWNED BY AN AIR-TO-AIR MISSILE DURING AN AIR BATTLE BETWEEN ALLIED (U.S. AND FRENCH) AND LIBYAN AIRCRAFT, INCLUDING ONE CARRYING LIBYAN LEADER MOAMMAR KHADDAFI. ACCORDING TO THIS THEORY, THE USTICA AIRLINER, WHICH WAS TWO HOURS LATE AND NOT EXPECTED IN THE AREA, WAS INADVERTENTLY DOWNED BY A FRENCH MISSILE IN THE MELEE. PRESS ACCOUNTS ALSO ALLEGE THAT A GROUND RADAR SITE IN MARSALA DETECTED AN UNUSUAL AMOUNT OF AIR TRAFFYC OVER THE USTICA AREA THE NIGHT THE INCIDENT OCCURED, AND THAT A TOTAL OF FIVE P-



3. (U) THE FILES DISCOVERED AT THE COGLIANDRO RESIDENCE REPORTEDLY COVER THE 1984-91 PERIOD, SUBSEQUENT TO HIS RETIREMENT FROM SISMI IN 1981. ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNTS, PROSECUTORS PRIORE AND MASTELLONI ARE NOW INVESTIGATING ALLEGATIONS THAT COGLIANDRO--WHO HAD SET UP HIS OWN PRIVATE INVESTIGATING AGENCY--WAS WORKING O CONTRAT FOR SISMI DURING THIS PERIOD. PROSECUTOR PRIORE REPORTEDLY HASQ ALSO SEIZED OTHER RELATED MATERIAL FROM SISMI STATIONS I MILAN, NAPLES AND BARI, AS WELL AS FROM SISMI'S ROME HEADQUARTERS. PRIORE HAS FORWARDED EXCERPTS FROM THE MATERIAL DISCOVERED IN COGLIANDRO'S HOME TO VARIOUS ITALIAN JUDICIARY OFFICES. IN ADDITION, THE FILES WILL

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DOC_NBR: 1996ROME00467

CHANNEL: n/a HANDLING: n/a

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REPORTEDLY BE EXAMINED BY A PARLIAMENTARY JOINT OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE.

4. (SBU) COMMENT: WE REPORT THE FOREGOING PRESS REPORTS ON THE LATEST TWIST IN THE LONG-RUNNING USTICA SAGA FOR THE RECORD. INVESTIGATORS AND LOCAL PRESS HAVE, AT DIFFERENT TIMES, PROPOSED VARIOUS SCENARIOS TO EXPLAIN THE USTICA CRASH, INCLUDING THE POSSIBILITY OF A BOMB EXPLOSION ON BOARD, AS WELL AS THE INVOLVEMENT

PAGE 04 ROME 00467 161624Z
OF FIGHTER AIRCRAFT BELONGING TO: ITALY, FRANCE,
ISRAEL, LIBYA, OR THE UNITED STATES. THE THEORY A LA
MODE APPEARS TO BE A GRAND SYNTHESIS POSI\IFG A
CONSPIRACY AMONG THREE OF THESE NATIONS. BARTHOLOMEW

NNNN



Date Printed: 16 Apr 2002

DOC NBR: 1996ROME03818

CHANNEL: n/RELEASED IN2FUL

HANDLING: n/a

<<<<.>>>> PT05838

PT05838

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PAGE 01 ROME 03818 021512Z

ACTION EUR-01

SMEC-00 COME-00 CIAE-00 ACDE-00 AID-00 INFO LOG-00 ACDA-10 FAAE-00 SRPP-00 EB-01 E-00 INL-01 OASY-00 DOTE-00 INR-00 IO-00 LAB-01 INLB-01 H-01 IMMC-01 TEDE-00 NSAE-00 NRRC-00 NSCE-00 ADS-00 M-00 NEA-01 L-01 SP-00 OIC-02 PA-00 PM-00 PRS-00 P-00 SCT-00 SSD-01 SSO-00 .SS-00 STR-00 TRSE-00 T-00 USIE-00 /031W PMB-00 DRL-09 G-00

P 021503Z APR 96 FM AMEMBASSY ROME TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6652 INFO USMISSION USNATO SECDEF WASHDC

UNCLAS ROME 003818

STATE FOR EUR/RPM AND EUR/WE SECDEF FOR OSD/ISP/ITALY

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PREL, MARR, NATO, IT

SUBJECT: PRODI, MIGONE COMMENTS ON USTICA INQUIRY

REF: ROME 03755

1. (U) IN PRESS COMMENTS CARRIED BY THE ITALIAN PRESS AGENCY ANSA APRIL 2, ITALIAN SENATE FOREIGN

PAGE 02 ROME 03818 021512Z
AFFAIRS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN GIANGIACOMO MIGONE SAID
THAT THE ITALIAN PEOPLE, PARLIAMENT, AND GOVERNMENT
HAVE A RIGHT TO ASCERTAIN THE TRUTH BEHIND THE 1980
AIRLINER CRASH OFF THE ISLAND OF USTICA. MIGONE
SAID HE HAD NO DOUBT THAT THE NATO SECRETARY
GENERAL, FRIENDLY COUNTRIES, AND THE ALLIED POWERS
WILL PROVIDE ALL POSSIBLE COOPERATION IN RESOLVING
THE MATTER. MIGONE SAID THAT EVERY INSTITUTION IS
CAPABLE OF DISCLOSING CLASSIFIED INFORMATION IN A

Page - 1369

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE REVIEW AUTHORITY: ERIC W. FLEISHER DATE/CASE ID: 30 OCT 2002 200102359

Date Printed: 16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1996ROME03818

CHANNEL: n/a HANDLING: n/a

251

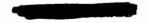
MANNER WHICH SAFEGUARDS ITS OWN SECURITY, ESPECIALLY IF THE EVENTS TRANSPIRED IN THE DISTANT PAST. IF THERE ARE REASONS TO DENY INFORMATION, THESE REASONS SHOULD BE CLEARLY COMMUNICATED AND THE IDENTITY OF THOSE REFUSING TO PROVIDE THE INFORMATION CLEARLY SPECIFIED. MIGONE SAID THAT FM AGNELLI HAD BEEN REQUESTED BY THE SENATE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE TO TAKE ACTION IN PRESSING NATO TO COOPERATE WITH THE JUDICIAL INVESTIGATION; HE HAD NO DOUBT THAT FM AGNELLI WILL SEEK THE COOPERATION OF ALLIED GOVERNMENTS AND THE NATO SECRETARY GENERAL.

2. (U) IN SEPARATE COMMENTS, OLIVE
TREE COALITION PRIME MINISTERIAL CANDIDATE ROMANO
PRODI REMARKED THAT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD UNDERTAKE
ALL NECESSARY INITIATIVES WITH NATO AUTHORITIES IN
ORDER TO OBTAIN THE RELEASE OF THE RADAR
TRACKS RELATING TO THE NIGHT OF THE INCIDENT. HE
SAID IT WAS STILL UNACCEPTABLE THAT, SIXTEEN YEARS
AFTER THE INCIDENT, THERE WERE STILL OBSTACLES TO
ASCERTAINING THE TRUTH, TO WHICH THE FAMILIES OF THE
VICTIMS AND ALL ITALIAN CITIZENS HAVE A RIGHT.



PAGE 03 ROME 03818 021512Z

(U) COMMENT: PRESS INTEREST IN THE USTICA STORY HAS SUBSIDED AFTER A BRIEF FLURRY OF ARTICLES, EDITORIALS, AND CRITICAL REMARKS FROM A NUMBER OF ITALIAN POLITICAL FIGURES IN THE WAKE OF THE REPORTED NATO REFUSAL TO PROVIDE INVESTIGATORS WITH CLASSIFIED RECORDS PERTAINING TO THE 1980 CRASH OF THE ITAVIA AIRLINER OFF THE ISLAND OF USTICA (REFTEL). IN CONTRAST TO THE HEATED TONE OF SOME EARLIER COMMENTARIES, SOME OF WHICH EQUATED NATO'S REPORTED DENIAL AS A "HALF-ADMISSION" OF CULPABILITY IN THE CASE, MIGONE AND PRODI'S COMMENTS ARE MEASURED AND LOW-KEY, WITH MIGONE EVINCING CONFIDENCE THAT NATO AUTHORITIES WILL EXTEND ALL POSSIBLE COOPERATION IN RESOLVING THE MATTER. NEVERTHELESS, THEY SHARE THE WIDESPREAD FEELING IN ITALY THAT INVESTIGATORS HAVE AN OBLIGATION TO PURSUE--AND NATO AUTHORITIES SHOULD COOPERATE -- IN FOLLOWING UP ALL POSSIBLE LEADS IN RESOLVING THE CASE. CREAGAN



Date Printed: 10 May 2002

DOC NBR: 1996ROME04130

CHANNEL: nRELEASED

HANDLING: n/a

<<<<.>>>> PTQ8184

PTQ8184

162125Z /20

ROME 04130 162124Z PAGE 01

ACTION EUR-01

INFO LOG-00 COR-01 ACDA-10 ACDE-00 AID-00 CIAE-00 SMEC-00 COME-00 INL-01 OASY-00 DOTE-00 SRPP-00 EB-01 E-00 FAAE-00 INLB-01 IMMC-01 H-01 TEDE-00 INR-00 10-00 LAB-01 ADS-00 L-01 M - 00NEA-01 NRRC-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-00 PM-00 PRS-00 P-00 SCT-00 SP-00 SSO-00 STR-00 TRSE-00 T-00 USIE-00 SSD-01 PMB-00 DRL-09 G-00 /033W

----2F2E37

P 111548Z APR 96 FM AMEMBASSY ROME TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6907 INFO USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY

SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

ROME 004130

(TEXT PARA 6)

STATE FOR EUR/WE SECDEF FOR OUSD/ISP/ITALY

E.O. 12958: DECL: 4/11/01 TAGS: PGOV, PREL, MARR, NATO, IT

SUBJECT: ITALIAN SENATE COMMITTEE HEARINGS ON USTICA

INVESTIGATION

REF: A) ROME 3883 B) ROME 3818 C) ROME 3755

PAGE 02

ROME 04130 162124Z

- CLASSIFICATION -- AS MARKED. CLASSIFIED BY AMBASSADOR BARTHOLOMEW FOR REASONS 1.5 (B) AND (D).
- 2. (U) THIS IS AN ACTION REQUEST. SEE PARA 4.
- (U) SUMMARY/COMMENT: LEADING ROME DAILIES AND THE ITALIAN NEWS SERVICE ANSA FEATURED COVERAGE OF SENATE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE HEARINGS APRIL 9 ON

Page - 1

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE REVIEW AUTHORITY: ERIC W. FLEISHER DATE/CASE ID: 30 OCT 2002 200102359



Date Printed: 10 May 2002

DOC_NBR: 1996ROME04130

CHANNEL: n/a HANDLING: n/a

THE USTICINCIDENT. PRIME MISTER DINI PROVIDED BY LETTER AN UPDATE ON GOI EFFORTS TO OBTAIN CLASSIFIED NATO DOCUMENTS ON THE 1980 AIRLINER EXPLOSION. DINI SAID THAT NATO SYG SOLANA HAD EVINCED WILLINGNESS TO COOPERATE WITH ITALIAN INVESTIGATORS, BUT ALSO SAID THAT NATO SECURITY REGULATIONS MUST BE FOLLOWED. HE ALSO NOTED THE "ENCOURAGING" RESULTS OBTAINED DURING THE RECENT WASHINGTON VISIT OF PRESIDENT SCALFARO. DINI'S NONAPPEARANCE AND "BUREAUCRATIC" TONE OF HIS LETTER ENCOUNTERED SOME SNIPING FROM LEGISLATORS; IN ADDITION, PPI SENATOR (AND FORMER PRIME MINISTER) ANDREOTTI RECALLED PREVIOUS INITIATIVES TO SECURE INFORMATION FROM THE USG, AND SUGGESTED FOCUSING ON THE ACTIONS OF THE U.S. EMBASSY IN ROME IN THE WAKE OF THE CRASH.

4. (C) EMBASSY IS RESPONDING TO LOCAL PRESS QUERIES ON THE USTICA INVESTIGATION BY REFERRING THE MATTER TO NATO. WE ALSO RECEIVED A REQUEST FROM THE INVESTIGATING JUSTICE (VIA THE DEFENSE MINISTRY) FOR A NATO CODING/DECODING MANUAL. WE ARE ALSO

PAGE 03 ROME 04130 162124Z
REFERRING THAT REQUEST TO NATO. THE NATO HAT IS
OFTEN SEEN TO BE ON THE USG. GIVEN THAT PRESIDENT
SCALFARO HAS ALREADY RAISED THE ISSUE OF ACCESS TO
NATO MATERIAL WITH PRESIDENT CLINTON DURING HIS
RECENT WASHINGTON VISIT, AND THAT PRIME MINISTER
DINI HAS SIGNALLED THAT ITALY MAY MAKE PARALLEL
APPROACHES TO ALLIED GOVERNMENTS (INCLUDING,
PRESUMABLY, THE U.S.), WE WOULD WELCOME A READOUT
FROM USNATO ON THE STATUS OF ITALY'S REQUEST FOR
NATO CLASSIFIED DOCUMENTS. END SUMMARY/COMMENT.

5. (U) LEADING DAILIES AND THE ITALIAN NEWS SERVICE ANSA PROVIDED WIDE COVERAGE OF THE APRIL 9 SENATE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE HEARINGS ON THE 1980 EXPLOSION ABOARD A COMMERCIAL AIRLINER NEAR THE ITALIAN ISLAND OF USTICA. PRIME MINISTER DINI SENT THE SENATE A LETTER OUTLINING STEPS HE HAS TAKEN TO SECURE NATO'S COOPERATION IN OBTAINING CLASSIFIED INFORMATION WHICH MAY PERTAIN TO THE INCIDENT. (TEXT OF LETTER FOLLOWS PARA 9). DINI NOTED THAT NATO SYG SOLANA HAD EVINCED WILLINGNESS TO COOPERATE WITH ITALIAN INVESTIGATORS, BUT ALSO WARNED THAT



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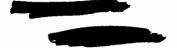
SCALFARO WERE ENCOURAGING.

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CHANNEL: n/a HANDLING: n/a

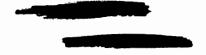
DECLASSIFICATION NEEDED TO BE IN COMPLIANCE WITH NATO REGULATIONS AND MAY TAKE TIME. DINI ALSO SAID THAT ITALY'S REQUEST TO NATO DID NOT PRECLUDE PARALLEL APPROACHES TO OTHER ALLIED COUNTRIES, AND THAT THE INDICATIONS OF WILLINGNESS OBTAINED FROM WASHINGTON DURING THE RECENT VISIT OF PRESIDENT

(U) IN INTERPELLATIONS AFTER MFA UNDERSECRETARY



04130 162124Z PAGE 04 ROME GARDINI READ DINI'S LETTER, CENTER-RIGHT (AN) SENATOR PORCARI CRITICIZED THE DINI MISSIVE AS "COLD AND BUREAUCRATIC, " AND DEPLORED DINI'S ABSENCE, WHICH HE CALLED AN AFFRONT TO THE CITIZENS WHO LOST THEIR LIVES IN THE USTICA CRASH. PORCARI SAID NATO'S UNENTHUSIASTIC RESPONSE GAVE RISE TO THE SUSPICION THAT IT HAD SOMETHING TO HIDE. COMMUNIST RENEWAL SENATOR CUFFARO SAID THAT DINI'S LETTER WAS TOTALLY INADEQUATE, AND THAT NATO, WHICH HAD THE KEY TO UNLOCKING THE USTICA SECRET, DID NOT WANT TO USE IT. FELLOW RC SENATOR ROSSI QUERIED MFA UNDERSECRETARY GARDINI ABOUT THE WHEREABOUTS OF THE USS SARATOGA ON THE NIGHT OF THE INCIDENT.

(U) FORMER PRIME MINISTER (AND PPI SENATOR) ANDREOTTI DEFENDED THE DINI LETTER AS A SINCERE CONTRIBUTION T THE INVESTIGATION, BUT ADDED THAT DINI IGNORED INITIATIVES TAKEN BY PREVIOUS GOVERNMENTS, INCLUDING HIS OWN. HE REPORTEDLY RECALLED THAT ADM. FLATLEY IN 1990 STATED THAT RADAR TECHNICIANS ON THE USS SARATOGA HAD NOTICED AN ANOMALY ON THEIR RADAR SCREENS ON THE NIGHT OF THE INCIDENT, WHICH WAS REPORTED TO FLATLEY'S SUPERIORS. ANDREOTTI SAID THAT HE HAD TASKED THE ITALIAN NATO MISSION AND THE ITALIAN AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON WITH VERIFYING THIS STATEMENT, BUT IT HAD BEEN DENIED BY THEN-SACEUR GENERAL GALVIN AND CJCS ADM CROWE. ANDREOTTI SAID IT MIGHT ALSO BE USEFUL TO QUERY THE US EMBASSY IN ROME REGARDING THEIR ACTIONS IMMEDIATELY IN THE WAKE OF THE CRASH.



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Date Printed: 10 May 2002

DOC_NBR: 1996ROME04130

CHANNEL: n/a HANDLING: n/a

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PAGE 05 ROME 04130 162124Z

8. (U) JUDGE PRIORE IN PRESS COMMENTS APRIL 10
APPLAUDED NATO'S APPARENT CHANGE IN ATTITUDE TOWARDS
RELEASE OF CLASSIFIED INFORMATION. HOWEVER, HE SAID
THAT THE CONDITIONS IMPOSED BY NATO WERE
INCOMPATIBLE WITH THE ITALIAN PENAL CODE AND MAKE IT
DIFFICULT FOR HIM TO CONDUCT HIS INVESTIGATION. FOR
EXAMPLE, HE SAID, EVIDENCE OBTAINED IN A RESTRICTED,
SECURE SETTING IS INADMISSIBLE UNDER ITALIAN LAWS.
HE ADDED THAT SOME EXPERTS WHO NEED TO CONSULT THIS
INFORMATION ARE NOT ITALIAN CITIZENS, AND, IN FACT,
ARE NOT CITIZENS OF NATO COUNTRIES.

9. INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF THE DINI LETTER FOLLOWS:

BEGIN TRANSLATION.

THE GOVERNMENT IS PLEASED WITH THE OPPORTUNITY OFFERED BY THE THE SENATE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE HEARING TO PROVIDE AN UPDATE ON THE GOVERNMENT'S INITIATIVES REGARDING THE USTICA INVESTIGATION DURING THE PAST FEW MONTHS. BEFORE GOING FURTHER, IT IS PERHAPS OPPORTUNE TO MENTION CERTAIN TECHNICAL AND PROCEDURAL ASPECTS INDISPENSIBLE TO PROVIDING A FRAMEWORK FOR DESCRIBING THE GOVERNMENT'S ACTIONS TO DATE.

1. SPECIFIC REGULATIONS COVER THE PROTECTION OF NATO CLASSIFIED DOCUMENTS, WHETHER ORIGINATING FROM MEMBER COUNTRIES OR FROM NATO ITSELF. THESE REGULATIONS ARE AIMED AT



PAGE 06 ROME 04130 162124Z

PROTECTING THE COMMON SECURITY OF ALL NATO
MEMBERS, AND DERIVE FROM A RECIPROCAL
COMMITMENT BY ALL MEMBERS. ACCESS TO THESE
DOCUMENTS IS ALLOWED EXCLUSIVELY TO PERSONS
WITH SECURITY CLEARANCES BECAUSE OF THEIR
DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES, ON A "NEED TO
KNOW" BASIS. THERE ARE STRICT PROCEDURES FOR
DECLASSIFICATION AND DISCLOSURE OF CLASSIFIED

DOCUMENTATION. FOR THE DOCUMENTS AND INFORMATION OF BROAD COMMON INTEREST, THE CONSENT OF MEMBER COUNTRIES AND INTERESTED NATO BODIES MUST BE OBTAINED. THIS COMPLEX

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DOC_NBR: 1996ROME04130

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MECHANISM REQUIRES TIME TO ALLOW THE NECCESSARY TECHNICAL STEPS TO TAKE PLACE.

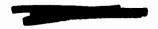
WITHIN THIS FRAMEWORK, THE GOI EXPEDITIOUSLY AND IN A TIMELY MANNER FORWARDED TO COMPETENT NATO AUTHORITIES THROUGH ITS PERMANENT MISSION TO THE ATLANTIC COUNCIL REQUESTS TO RELEASE CLASSIFIED NATO DOCUMENTATION FROM NATIONAL JUDICIAL AUTHORITIES WITHIN THE AMBIT OF PENAL PROCEDURES AGAINST UNKNOWN PERPETRATORS OF THE CRIME (UNDER ARTICLES 422 AND 428 OF THE PENAL CODE) COMMITTED JUNE 27, 1980, OVER THE TYRRHENIAN SEA (AKA THE "USTICA INCIDENT"). GOVERNMENT ACTIONS SINCE LAST SUMMER HAVE CULMINATED WITH MY PERSONAL LETTER TO NATO SYG SOLANA IN WHICH, RECALLING PREVIOUS GOI REQUESTS, I SOLICITED FROM SYG SOLANA A RESPONSE TO OUR REQUESTS. AS A RESULT OF THESE

PAGE 07 ROME 04130 162124Z STEPS, THE NATO SYG RESPONDED WITH THREE COMMUNICATIONS: ON JANUARY 29, 1996; FEBRUARY 14 , 1996; AND LASTLY, APRIL 1, 1996. IN HIS LETTERS, SYG SOLANA NOTED THE REGULATIONS FOR PROTECTING CLASSIFIED NATO DOCUMENTATION; PROVIDED THE CURRENT STATUS OF REQUEST FOR SPECIFIC DOCUMENTS; AND EXPLAINED WHAT MEASURES HAVE BEEN TAKEN BY THE SYG AND HIS LEGAL OFFICE TO MEET, IN ACCORDANCE WITH ESTABLISHED PROCEDURES AND REGULATIONS, OUR REQUEST TO ALLOW USE OF THESE DOCUMENTS IN THE INVESTIGATIONS NOW UNDERWAY. COPIES OF SYG SOLANA'S LETTERS ARE AVAILABLE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEMBERS WHO HAVE REQUESTED THEM.

3. REGARDING THE CONTENTS (OF SOLANA'S LETTERS), THE NATO SYG STATED THAT THE DOCUMENTS REGARDING THE NATO CLASSIFIED INFORMATION ARE AVAILABLE ONLY FOR THE EXCLUSIVE USE BY ITALIAN JUDICIARY AUTHORITIES FOR THE REASONS OUTLINED IN THE ITALIAN REQUEST. OF THE CLASSIFIED DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED RELEVANT TO THE INVESTIGATION ARE FURNISHED ONLY TO AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL AWARE OF

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Date Printed: 10 May 2002

DOC_NBR: 1996ROME04130

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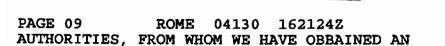
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THE NEED TO SAFEGUARD THE INFORMATION. THE SYG'S RESPONSE TO REPEATED GOI REQUESTS INDICATES THAT ACCESS/USE OF CLASSIFIED NATO DOCUMENTS FOR JUDICIAL REASONS ARE POSSIBLE UNDER THE CONDITION THAT THIS TAKES PLACE DURING HEARINGS BEHIND CLOSED DOORS, AND THAT



PAGE 08 ROME 04130 162124Z ESTABLISHED SECURITY PROCEDURES ARE FOLLOWED. THESE CRITERIA INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING: RELEVANCE TO THE CASE; NEED TO KNOW; AND AN ADEQUATE AND VALID SECURITY CLEARANCE.

- 4. WITHIN THE ABOVE FRAMEWORK, JUDICIAL INVESTIGATORS, IN THE PERSON OF JUDGE PRIORE, HAVE ALREADY OBTAINED A VIEW OF MOD/ITALIAN AIR FORCE DOCUMENTS DEEMED NECCESSARY, IN THE VIEW OF OTHER EXPERTS, FOR THE INVESTIGATION AND EXAMINATION OF RADAR RECORDS.
- 5. THE GOI BELIEVES THAT THE NATO SYG AND NATO AUTHORITIES HAVE GIVEN PROOF OF THEIR WILLINGNESS TO COLLABORATE WITHIN THE LIMITS IMPOSED BY THE NEED TO PROTECT COMMON SECURITY. THESE LIMITS ARE ESTABLISHED IN THE INTEREST OF ALL ALLIANCE MEMBERS, INCLUDING ITALY.
- 6. THE SEARCH FOR TRUTH AND THE NECESSARY TRANSPARENCY TO FULFILL THE PROCEDURES OF OUR JUDICIARY AUTHORITIES ARE THE OBJECTIVES WHICH THIS GOVERNMENT HAS FOLLOWED AND WHICH IT INTENDS TO CONTINUE TO FOLLOW. IT IS UP TO NATO TO INDICATE WHICH SPECIFIC AUTHORIZATIONS ARE NECESSARY TO SECURE THE EVENTUAL RELEASE OF CLASSIFIED INFORMATION BEYOND THAT ALREADY PROVIDED. IF DOCUMENTS REQUIRING DECLASSIFICATION ARE IDENTIFIED, THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT WILL MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO SEEK THEIR RELEASE WITH THE NATO SYG AND NATO MILITARY



AGREEMENT, IN PRINCIPLE, TO DO SO. IF THE SYG

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INDICATES THAT ONE OR MORE MEMBER COUNTRIES
MUST PROVIDE ASSENT TO DECLASSIFY, THE GOI WILL
EXAMINE WHICH DIPLOMATIC STEPS NEED TO BE
UNDERTAKEN TO SUPPORT OUR REQUEST. IN LIGHT OF
THE CONSTRUCTIVE COOPERATION FROM THE NATO SYG,
THE GOI WILL CONTINUE ITS ACTIONS AIMED AT
ALLOWING THE GATHERING OF ELEMENTS DEEMED
NECESSARY FOR INVESTIGATIONS NOW UNDERWAY. AS
INDICATED PREVIOUSLY, THIS DOES NOT EXCLUDE
PARALLEL APPROACHES TO OTHER ALLIED COUNTRIES;
ON THIS POINT, THE INDICATIONS OF WILLINGNESS
TO COOPERATE RECENTLY OBTAINED IN WASHINGTON
DURING THE VISIT OF PRESIDENT SCALFARO ARE
ENCOURAGING.

CORDIALLY,

PTQ4950

LAMBERTO DINI

10. END TRANSLATION. BARTHOLOMEW

NNNN @@@OASYS@@@<CONCATENATED>

PTQ4950

PAGE 01 ROME 04130 01 OF 03 160126Z ACTION EUR-01

INFO LOG-00 COR-01 ACDA-10 ACDE-00 AID-00 CIAE-00 SMEC-00 COME-00 INL-01 OASY-00 DOTE-00 SRPP-00 EB-01 E-00 FAAE-00 INLB-01 H-01 IMMC-01 TEDE-00 INR-00 IO-00 LAB-01 ADS-00 L-01 M-00NEA-01 NRRC-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 OIC-02 PM-00 OMB-01 PA-00 PRS-00 P-00 SCT-00 TRSE-00 T-00 USIE-00 SP-00 SSO-00 STR-00 SSD-01 PMB-00 G-00 /033W DRL-09

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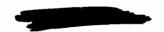
P 111548Z APR 96 FM AMEMBASSY ROME TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6907 INFO USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

SECTION 01 OF 03 ROME 004130

CORRECTEDCOPY (TEXT PARA 6)

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160126Z /64



Date Printed: 16 Apr 2002

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CHANNEL: n/a HANDLING: n/a

254

STATE FOR EUR/WE SECDEF FOR OUSD/ISP/ITALY

E.O. 12958: DECL: 4/11/01 TAGS: PGOV, PREL, MARR, NATO, IT SUBJECT: ITALIAN SENATE COMMITTEE HEARINGS ON USTICA INVESTIGATION

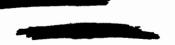
REF: A) ROME 3883 B) ROME 3818 C) ROME 3755



PAGE 02

ROME 04130 01 OF 03 160126Z

- 1. CLASSIFICATION -- AS MARKED. CLASSIFIED BY AMBASSADOR BARTHOLOMEW FOR REASONS 1.5 (B) AND (D).
- (U) THIS IS AN ACTION REQUEST. SEE PARA 4.
- (U) SUMMARY/COMMENT: LEADING ROME DAILIES AND THE ITALIAN NEWS SERVICE ANSA FEATURED COVERAGE OF SENATE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE HEARINGS APRIL 9 ON THE USTICINCIDENT. PRIME MISTER DINI PROVIDED BY LETTER AN UPDATE ON GOI EFFORTS TO OBTAIN CLASSIFIED NATO DOCUMENTS ON THE 1980 AIRLINER EXPLOSION. DINI SAID THAT NATO SYG-SOLANA HAD EVINCED WILLINGNESS TO COOPERATE WITH ITALIAN INVESTIGATORS, BUT ALSO SAID THAT NATO SECURITY REGULATIONS MUST BE FOLLOWED. HE ALSO NOTED THE "ENCOURAGING" RESULTS OBTAINED DURING THE RECENT WASHINGTON VISIT OF PRESIDENT SCALFARO. DINI'S NONAPPEARANCE AND "BUREAUCRATIC" TONE OF HIS LETTER ENCOUNTERED SOME SNIPING FROM LEGISLATORS; IN ADDITION, PPI SENATOR (AND FORMER PRIME MINISTER) ANDREOTTI RECALLED PREVIOUS INITIATIVES TO SECURE INFORMATION FROM THE USG, AND SUGGESTED FOCUSING ON THE ACTIONS OF THE U.S. EMBASSY IN ROME IN THE WAKE OF THE CRASH.
- 4. (C) EMBASSY IS RESPONDING TO LOCAL PRESS QUERIES ON THE USTICA INVESTIGATION BY REFERRING THE MATTER TO NATO. WE ALSO RECEIVED A REQUEST FROM THE INVESTIGATING JUSTICE (VIA THE DEFENSE MINISTRY) FOR A NATO CODING/DECODING MANUAL. WE ARE ALSO



Date Printed: 16 Apr 2002

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CHANNEL: nAELEASE

HANDLING: n/a

<<<<.>>>> PTQ9690

PTQ9690

04191 121634Z PAGE 01 ROME

ACTION EUR-01

INFO LOG-00 ACDA-10 ACDE-00 AID-00 CIAE-00 SMEC-00 COME-00 INL-01 OASY-00 DOTE-00 SRPP-00 EB-01 E-00FAAE-00 IMMC-01 INLB-01 H-01 TEDE-00 INR-00 **IO-00** LAB-01 NRRC-00 L-01 ADS-00 M - 00NEA-01 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 OIC-02 PA-00 PM-00 PRS-00 P-00 SCT-00 SP-00 SSO-00 SS-00 STR-00 TRSE-00 T-00 USIE-00 SSD-01 PMB-00 DRL-09 G-00 /031W

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R 121625Z APR 96 FM AMEMBASSY ROME TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6955 INFO SECDEF WASHDC USMISSION USNATO

UNCLAS ROME 004191

STATE FOR EUR/RPM AND EUR/WE SECDEF FOR OSD/ISP/ITALY

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PREL, MARR, NATO, IT

"IL FOGLIO" ARTICLE ON USTICA INVESTIGATION SUBJECT:

A) ROME 03755; B) ROME 03818; C) ROME 03883

SUMMARY: IN AN APRIL 5 ARTICLE IN CENTER-RIGHT DAILY "IL FOGLIO," DEFENSE MINISTER CORCIONE SAID THE

PAGE 02 ROME 04191 121634Z ITALIAN GOVERNMENT WOULD REFER TO THE NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL NATO'S REFUSAL TO ALLOW ACCESS TO CLASSIFIED DOCUMENTS. MEANWHILE, AN EX-CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT PARLIAMENTARIAN WHO SERVED AS UNDER-SECRETARY IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY AT THE TIME OF THE USTICA CRASH, REPORTEDLY CRITICIZED THE INVESTIGATING MAGISTRATE'S MOTIVES, SAYING HE HAS BECOME A "PRISONER OF THE PROCESS" WHO IS AFRAID TO CONCLUDE HIS INVESTIGATION. END SUMMARY.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE REVIEW AUTHORITY: ERIC W. FLEISHER DATE/CASE ID: 30 OCT 2002 200102359

UNCLASSIFIED



Date Printed: 16 Apr 2002

DOC NBR: 1996ROME04191

CHANNEL: n/a HANDLING: n/a

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- 2. "IL FOGLIO," A SMALL-CIRCULATION (30,000) CENTER-RIGHT TABLOID SPECIALIZING IN POLITICAL NEWS AND COMMENTARY, CHARGED THAT RAI TELEVISION'S NEWSCAST (TG3) WAS LEADING A "LEFTIST" CAMPAIGN AGAINST NATO'S REFUSAL TO RELEASE ALL THE DOCUMENTS REQUESTED ON USTICA. ACCORDING TO "IL FOGLIO," THE NEWSCAST IS CONVINCED THAT NATO'S DENIAL INDICATES THAT SOMETHING IS BEING HIDDEN. USTICA INVESTIGATING MAGISTRATE ROSARIO PRIORE SAID IN A TG3 INTERVIEW ON APRIL 4 THAT THE U.S. HAS FAILED TO RESPOND TO THREE LETTERS ROGATORY IN THE LAST YEAR. COMMENT: IN FACT, THREE REQUESTS FROM THE FALL OF 1995 WERE ANSWERED THE WEEK OF APRIL 8. END COMMENT)
- 3. "IL FOGLIO" QUOTES DEFENSE MINISTER DOMENICO CORCIONE AT LENGTH EXPLAINING THAT NATO, "AN ALLIANCE IN WHICH ITALY HAS FULL MEMBERSHIP," ACTED ACCORDING TO ITS RULES. CORCIONE REPORTEDLY SAID THE CURRENT POLEMIC ABOUT NATO'S REFUSAL IS POLITICALLY MOTIVATED, AND THAT THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT WOULD REFER THE QUESTION TO THE NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL, SO

PAGE 03 ROME 04191 121634Z
THAT EACH COUNTRY COULD TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR NATO'S DECISION.

- 4. INVESTIGATING MAGISTRATE ROASARIO PRIORE REPORTEDLY TOLD "IL FOGLIO" THAT HE HAD ASKED FOR NATO MANUALS THAT WOULD ENABLE A CORRECT READING OF DATA ALREADY IN HIS POSSESSION. PRIORE HAS SAID THAT HE WOULD REQUEST AN EXTENSION ON THE JUNE 30 DEADLINE FOR HIS INVESTIGATION. SINCE HIS INVESTIGATION OPERATES UNDER AN EXEMPTION OF THE 1989 CRIMINAL CODE REVISION, PARLIAMENT MUST ULTIMATELY GRANT THE EXTENSION.
- 5. GIUSEPPE ZAMBERLETTI, EX-CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT PARLIAMENTARIAN WHO SERVED AS UNDER-SECRETARY IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY AT THE TIME OF THE USTICA CRASH, EXPRESSED SKEPTICISM ABOUT PRIORE'S MOTIVES. HE TOLD "IL FOGLIO," HE BELIEVES PRIORE HAS BECOME A "PRISONER OF THE PROCESS" WHO FEARS CLOSING HIS INVESTIGATION WITHOUT HAVING DONE EVERYTHING POSSIBLE IN ORDER NOT TO BE BLAMED FOR HAVING OMITTED A LINE OF INQUIRY THAT COULD HAVE PROVED THE EXISTENCE OF A

Date Printed: 16 Apr 2002

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CHANNEL: n/a HANDLING: n/a

255

MISSILE. ZAMBERLETTI, WHO REPORTEDLY SUPPORTS NATO'S REACTION, IS A PRIME EXPONENT OF THE "LIBYAN BOMB" THEORY, WHICH HOLDS THAT THE USTICA TRAGEDY IS LINKED TO THE JULY 1980 BOMBING OF THE BOLOGNA TRAIN STATION--AND THAT BOTH WERE LIBYAN RETALIATION FOR ITALY'S 1980 DIPLOMATIC OVERTURES TOWARD THEN-PRO-LIBYA MALTA.
BARTHOLOMEW

PAGE 04

ROME 04191 121634Z

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PTQ4888

PAGE 01 ROME 05427 01 OF 02 181445Z

ACTION EUR-01

INFO LOG-00 ACDA-08 ACDE-00 INLB-01 AID-00 CIAE-00 SMEC-00 COME-00 INL-01 OASY-00 DOEE-00 DOTE-00 SRPP-00 DS-00 EB-00 E-00 FAAE-00 UTED-00 H-01 IMMC-01 TEDE-00 IO-00 LAB-01 L-01 ADS-00 NEA-01 INR-00 M - 00NRRC-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 OIC-02 PA-00 PM-00 PRS-00 CIO-00 SCT-00 SP-00 SSO-00 SS-00 STR-00 P-00 T-00 USIE-00 SNRO-00 SSD-01 PMB-00 DSCC-00 TRSE-00 PRME-01 DRL-09 G-00 /029W

-----C6CB20 181445Z /38

P 181443Z JUN 97
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8332
INFO AMCONSUL FLORENCE
AMCONSUL NAPLES
AMCONSUL MILAN
USMISSION USNATO
SECDEF WASHDC
AMEMBASSY PARIS

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 ROME 005427

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PREL, NATO, IT

SUBJECT: USTICA DISASTER MAKES PRESS HEADLINES

AGAIN

SUMMARY

PAGE 02

ROME 05427 01 OF 02 181445Z

1. THE 1980 CRASH OF AN ITALIAN CIVILIAN AIRLINER NEAR THE ITALIAN SOUTHERN ISLAND OF USTICA HAS AGAIN MADE HEADLINES JUNE 18 IN THE ITALIAN PRESS. THE COVERAGE STEMS FROM LEAKS TO THE PRESS HIGHLIGHTING THE CONCLUSIONS OF A COMMISSION OF THREE EXPERTS STUDYING THE CASE (WITH NATO'S ASSISTANCE). THE AIRLINER CRASHED

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE REVIEW AUTHORITY: ERIC W. FLEISHER DATE/CASE ID: 30 OCT 2002 200102359

UNCLASSIFIED

Date Printed: 16 Apr 2002

DOC NBR: 1997ROME05427

CHANNEL: n/a HANDLING: n/a

260

THE NIGHT OF JUNE 27, 1980. EIGHTY-ONE PERSONS WERE KILLED; THERE WERE NO SURVIVORS. JUDICIAL INVESTIGATIONS HAVE NOT YET UNCOVERED THE CAUSES OF THE CRASH. PRESS HEADLINES AGAIN IMPLY U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN THE DISASTER, BUT THE ONLY EVIDENCE APPEARS TO BE AN OLD A-6 CORSAIR RESERVE FUEL TANK FOUND UNDER WATER NEAR THE SITE OF THE CRASH. USIS, JUNE 18, ASKED THE DEPARTMENT FOR UPDATED GUIDANCE ON THE CASE. END SUMMARY.

2. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, A COMMISSION OF THREE EXPERTS WHICH HAS BEEN WORKING ON THE USTICA CASE WITH ROME PROSECUTOR ROSARIO PRIORE HAS COMPLETED ITS REPORT AND DEPOSITED ITS FINDINGS WITH THE ITALIAN JUDICIARY JUNE 16. THE EXPERT COMMITTEE'S FINDINGS WERE MADE POSSIBLE LARGELY BECAUSE OF THE ASSISTANCE FURNISHED BY NATO (PRIORE AND THE THREE EXPERTS TRAVELED TO BRUSSELS SIX TIMES SINCE OCTOBER 1996 TO CONSULT WITH NATO ON HOW TO READ AND INTERPRET RADAR TRACKS OF THE NIGHT OF THE CRASH; NATO OFFICIALS HAVE TRAVELED TO ITALY TO FURNISH FURTHER

PAGE 03 ROME 05427 01 OF 02 181445Z ASSISTANCE).

- 3. ACCORDING TO PRESS LEAKS, THE COMMITTEE PRODUCED A SEVEN-HUNDRED PAGE ANALYSIS WITH THREE THOUSAND PAGES OF ATTACHMENTS WHICH ALLEGEDLY PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING SCENARIO:
- -- ONE OR TWO ALLEGEDLY LIBYAN FIGHTER AIRCRAFT FLEW INTO THE ITALIAN AIRLINER'S "RADAR SHADOW CONE" TO ESCAPE RADAR DETECTION, WITH ONE OF THE TWO FIGHTERS ALLEGEDLY FLYING UNDER THE ITALIAN AIRLINER.
- THREE ITALIAN F-104'S TOOK OFF ON AN OFFICIAL TRAINING MISSION FROM THE ITALIAN MILITARY AIRPORT OF GROSSETO, NORTHWEST OF ROME. THEIR FLIGHT PLAN WAS GROSSETO-FLORENCE-BOLOGNA-VILLAFRANCA-GROSSETO. THEIR RADAR TRACKS SHOW THEM AS FOLLOWING THE CIVILIAN AIRLINER SOUTH OVER FLORENCE. THEY WERE CALLED BACK TO BASE BEFORE THE END OF THE MISSION. SHORTLY BEFORE LANDING IN GROSSETO, ONE OF THE F-104'S SENT THE



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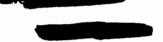
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260

ALARM CODE SIGNAL.

-- SEVEN OR EIGHT FRENCH AIR FORCE AIRCRAFT WERE FLYING OVER CORSICA AND ELBA AFTER 5 P.M. THE NIGHT OF THE CRASH. RADAR TRACKS SHOW ONE AIRCRAFT ALLEGEDLY POINTING TOWARD THE CIVILIAN AIRLINER.

-- RADAR TRACKS FOLLOW AN ALLEGED FRAGMENT OF



PAGE 04 ROME 05427 01 OF 02 181445Z
THE ITALIAN AIRLINER (WHICH HAD BY THEN EXPLODED)
UNTIL THE FRAGMENT SANK INTO THE TYRRHENIAN SEA
NEAR USTICA. YEARS LATER, THE ITALIANS FOUND AN
OLD A-6 CORSAIR RESERVE TANK UNDER WATER AT THAT
POINT.

-- THE CIVILIAN AIRLINER'S RADAR TRACK DID NOT DISSOLVE AFTER THE EXPLOSION, BUT CONTINUED TO TRAVEL SOUTH TOWARD SICILY (INDICATING AN ALLEGED FUGITIVE AIRCRAFT TRYING TO FLEE).

PRESS ACCOUNTS IMPLY THAT A MISSILE OR MISSILES FIRED AT THE LIBYAN AIRCRAFT STRUCK THE CIVILIAN FLIGHT BY MISTAKE. THERE HAS BEEN NO OFFICIAL STATEMENT REGARDING ANY OF THE FOREGOING.

4. USIS, JUNE LB, ASKED THE DEPARTMENT FOR AN UPDATED PRESS GUIDANCE ON USTICA. THE GUIDANCE THE MISSION IS CURRENTLY USING STATES:

BEGIN QUOTE: THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT HAS ALWAYS PROVIDED AND WILL CONTINUE TO PROVIDE FULL COOPERATION TO ITALIAN JUDICIAL AUTHORITIES IN THEIR INVESTIGATION OF THE USTICA CRASH. AS WE HAVE STATED REPEATEDLY IN THE PAST, BOTH PUBLICLY AND TO ITALIAN AUTHORITIES, NO U.S. COMBAT SHIPS

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ACTION EUR-01

| Date Printed: 16 Apr 2002 | | DOC_NBR: 1997ROME05427 | | | CHANNEL: n/a HANDLING: n/a | | | 260 |
|------------------------------|---------|------------------------|---------|---------|-------------------------------|---------|---------|-----|
| INFO | LOG-00 | ACDA-08 | ACDE-00 | INLB-01 | AID-00 | CIAE-00 | SMEC-00 | |
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| | INR-00 | IO-00 | LAB-01 | L-01 | ADS-00 | M-00 | NEA-01 | |
| | NRRC-00 | NSAE-00 | NSCE-00 | OIC-02 | PA-00 | PM-00 | PRS-00 | |
| | P-00 | CIO-00 | SCT-00 | SP-00 | SSO-00 | SS-00 | STR-00 | |
| | TRSE-00 | T-00 | USIE-00 | SNRO-00 | SSD-01 | PMB-00 | DSCC-00 | |
| | PRME-01 | DRL-09 | G-00 | /029W | | | | |
| | | | | C6CB2 | 7 181445 | Z /38 | | |

P 181443Z JUN 97
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8333
INFO AMCONSUL FLORENCE
AMCONSUL NAPLES
AMCONSUL MILAN
USMISSION USNATO
SECDEF WASHDC
AMEMBASSY PARIS

UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 ROME 005427

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PREL, NATO, IT

SUBJECT: USTICA DISASTER MAKES PRESS HEADLINES

AGAIN

OR AIRCRAFT WERE OPERATING IN THE AREA OF THE

PAGE 02 ROME 05427 02 OF 02 181445Z CRASH ON THE EVENING OF JUNE 27, 1980. THERE WAS NO AMERICAN INVOLVEMENT OF ANY KIND IN THE DISASTER. END QUOTE.

BARTHOLOM EW

41 1998 334 1 P

NNNN

Date Printed: 16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1997ROME09357

CHANNEL: nRELEASED INSTULI

HANDLING: n/a

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PTQ4339

PAGE 01 ROME 09357 01 OF 02 281555Z

ACTION EUR-01

| INFO | LOG-00 | ACDA-08 | ACDE-00 | INLB-01 | AF-01 | AID-00 | ACQ-01 |
|------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-----------|---------|
| | CIAE-00 | SMEC-00 | INL-01 | C-01 | OASY-00 | DOBE-00 | SRPP-00 |
| | DS-00 | FBIE-00 | UTED-00 | H-01 | IM-01 | TEDE - 00 | INR-00 |
| | L-01 | ADS-00 | M-00 | NEA-01 | NSAE-00 | NSCE-00 | OMB-01 |
| | PA-00 | PM-00 | PRS-00 | P-00 | CIO-00 | SP-00 | SSO-00 |
| | SS-00 | TRSE-00 | T-00 | USIE-00 | SNIS-00 | NISC-00 | PMB-00 |
| | DSCC-00 | PRM-10 | PRME-01 | DRL-04 | G-00 | MR-00 | /034W |

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O 281556Z OCT 97

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2138

INFO AMCONSUL NAPLES

AMCONSUL MILAN

AMCONSUL FLORENCE

AFSOUTH NAPLES IT

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE//ECJ5/ECPLAD// ~

JOINT STAFF WASHDC

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

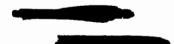
AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

SECDEF WASHDC

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 ROME 009357

E.O. 12958: N/A



PAGE 02 ROME 09357 01 OF 02 281555Z
TAGS: PREL, PINR, MARR, MOPS, XI, XF, LI, IT
SUBJECT: ITALIAN PRESS: DREDGING UP THE PAST AT
LAMPEDUSA

SUMMARY

1. ITALIAN "INVESTIGATIVE" JOURNALIST ANDREA PURGATORI, IN THE ITALIAN LEADING NATIONAL DAILY

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE REVIEW AUTHORITY: ERIC W. FLEISHER DATE/CASE ID: 30 OCT 2002 200102359

UNCLASSIFIED

Date Printed: 16 Apr 2002

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CHANNEL: n/a HANDLING: n/a

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"CORRIERE DELLA SERA" OCTOBER 26, CLAIMS THE U.S. MAY HAVE SIMULATED A LIBYAN MISSILE ATTACK AGAINST ITALY IN APRIL 1986, TO BRING ITALY "INTO LINE" ON ANTI-LIBYAN POSITIONS. PURGATORI CLAIMS THE ITALIANS HAVE NO HARD EVIDENCE TO PROVE THE MISSILES WERE TRULY LAUNCHED. HE SUGGESTS THAT THE MISSILE ATTACK MAY HAVE BEEN "ONE OF THE [U.S.'] LARGEST AND MOST SUCCESSFUL INTELLIGENCE AND DISINFORMATION OPERATIONS." HE NOTES THAT THE U.S. SAID IT HAD SATELLITE PHOTOS OF THE ATTACK, BUT CITES VARIOUS GOI KEY PLAYERS -- INCLUDING FORMER FM ANDREOTTI -- AS SAYING THEY HAVE NEVER SEEN THE PHOTOS. END SUMMARY.

WERE THE "BANGS" SUPERSONIC FLIGHTS?

2. ITALIAN "INVESTIGATIVE" JOURNALIST ANDREA PURGATORI, IN AN EXCLUSIVE ARTICLE IN THE LEADING ITALIAN NATIONAL DAILY "CORRIERE DELLA SERA" OCTOBER 26, STATES THAT, IN APRIL 1986, THE U.S. MAY HAVE SIMULATED STRIKES BY TWO LIBYAN SCUD-B

ROME 09357 01 OF 02 281555Z PAGE 03 MISSILES OFF THE COAST OF THE SOUTHERN ITALIAN ISLAND OF LAMPEDUSA. PURGATORI DOES NOT CITE A SPECIFIC SOURCE ("NOBODY SAYS IT OFFICIALLY, BUT MANY TODAY ARE CONVINCED...") BUT CLAIMS THE TWO "BANGS" WHICH "EVERYBODY" HEARD IN LAMPEDUSA ON APRIL 15, 1986, WERE CAUSED BY OVERHEAD FLIGHTS BY U.S. SUPERSONIC FIGHTER AIRCRAFT. PURGATORI ARGUES THAT THE SIMULATED ATTACK WAS MEANT TO BRING THE GOI (WHICH THE WHITE HOUSE BELIEVED TO BE PRO-PLO AND PRO-LIBYAN) AND THE ITALIAN PARLIAMENT (WHICH WAS GETTING READY TO DISCUSS THE U.S. AIR STRIKES AGAINST LIBYA THE PREVIOUS DAY AND WAS LIKELY TO TAKE AN ANTI-AMERICAN POSITION) "INTO LINE." ACCORDING TO PURGATORI, THE U.S. SIMULATION "MAY WELL HAVE BEEN ONE OF THE LARGEST AND MOST SUCCESSFUL INTELLIGENCE AND DISINFORMATION OPERATIONS CARRIED OUT BY THE AMERICANS."

WHERE ARE THE SATELLITE PHOTOS?

Date Printed: 16 Apr 2002

DOC NBR: 1997ROME09357

CHANNEL: n/a HANDLING: n/a

261

3. PURGATORI CLAIMS THAT THE ITALIANS HAVE NO HARD EVIDENCE TO PROVE THAT TWO MISSILES WERE LAUNCHED AGAINST ITALY. HE NOTES THAT U.S. SOURCES, "THROUGH NATO CHANNELS," AND U.S. PERSONNEL AT THE U.S. COAST GUARD-OPERATED LORAN BASE IN LAMPEDUSA WERE THE ONES TO GIVE THE ITALIANS THE INITIAL INFORMATION ABOUT A MISSILE ATTACK. ABOUT TWO HOURS LATER, "THE AMERICANS" TOLD THE ITALIANS THAT U.S. SATELLITES HAD



ROME 09357 01 OF 02 281555Z PAGE 04 PHOTOGRAPHED THE MISSILE-LAUNCHING RAMP AND THE LAUNCHES, AND HAD IDENTIFIED THE MISSILES AS SOVIET-MADE LIBYAN SCUD-B'S. (PURGATORI DOES NOT SPECIFY WHO OFFERED THIS INFORMATION, NOR TO WHOM IT WAS GIVEN.) PURGATORI CITES RETIRED GENERAL PIETRO GIANNATTASIO, FORMER ITALIAN DEFENSE MINISTER SPADOLINI'S CHEF-DE-CABINET AND NOW A MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT, AS SAYING, HOWEVER, THAT HE "REMEMBERED THE NEWS OF THE "SATELLITE PHOTOS, BUT DID NOT REMEMBER SEEING THE PHOTOS THEMSELVES." PURGATORI ALSO CITES ITALIAN AMBASSADOR ANTONIO BADINI, FORMER DIPLOMATIC ADVISER TO THEN ITALIAN PRIME MINISTER CRAXI, AS SAYING HE HAD NOT SEEN THE PHOTOS EITHER. BADINI ALSO SAID THAT "ALL OF THE GOI'S EFFORTS IN THOSE HOURS WERE CONCENTRATED ON COOLING DOWN THE SITUATION."

WHERE IS THE EVIDENCE?

4. PURGATORI ADDS THAT AN ITALIAN NAVAL VESSEL SAILED TOWARD LIBYA SHORTLY AFTER THE ATTACK LOOKING FOR ENEMY SHIPS, BUT FOUND NONE. SIMILARLY, THE ITALIAN AIR FORCE SENT OUT TWO



NNNNPTQ4341



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PAGE 01 ROME 09357 02 OF 02 281555Z ACTION EUR-01

INFO LOG-00 ACDA-08 ACDE-00 INLB-01 AF-01 AID-00 ACQ-01

| Date Printed: 16 Apr 2002 | DOC_NBR: 1997ROME09357 | | | CHANNEL: n/a HANDLING: n/a | | | 261 | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|---------|---------|-------------------------------|---------|---------|-----|--|
| CIAE-00 | SMEC-00 | INL-01 | C-01 | OASY-00 | DOEE-00 | SRPP-00 | | |
| DS-00 | FBIE-00 | UTED-00 | H-01 | IM-01 | TEDE-00 | INR-00 | | |
| L-01 | ADS-00 | M-00 | NEA-01 | NSAE-00 | NSCE-00 | OMB-01 | | |
| PA-00 | PM-00 | PRS-00 | P-00 | CIO-00 | SP-00 | SSO-00 | | |
| SS-00 | TRSE-00 | T-00 | USIE-00 | SNIS-00 | NISC-00 | PMB-00 | | |
| DSCC-00 | PRM-10 | PRME-01 | DRL-04 | G-00 | /034W | | | |
| F44AFE 281556Z /38 | | | | | | | | |

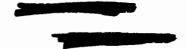
O 281556Z OCT 97

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2139
INFO AMCONSUL NAPLES
AMCONSUL MILAN
AMCONSUL FLORENCE
AFSOUTH NAPLES IT
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE//ECJ5/ECPLAD//
JOINT STAFF WASHDC
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
SECDEF WASHDC

UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 ROME 009357

E.O. 12958: N/A



PAGE 02 ROME 09357 02 OF 02 281555Z
TAGS: PREL, PINR, MARR, MOPS, XI, XF, LI, IT
SUBJECT: ITALIAN PRESS: DREDGING UP THE PAST AT
LAMPEDUSA

F-104S INTERCEPTORS, BUT THE AIRCRAFT DID NOT DETECT ANY FLIGHT ACTIVITY IN THE AREA.
MOREOVER, ACCORDING TO PURGATORI, ONE LOCAL
"EYEWITNESS" WHO IN 1986 TOLD THE PRESS HE HAD
SEEN THE MISSILES HIT THE WATER; HAS SINCE
RETRACTED ("NOBODY HERE SAW ANYTHING AND IF THEY
SAY THE CONTRARY, THEY ARE LYING," THE EYEWITNESS
SAID). IN ADDITION, ACCORDING TO PURGATORI,
SEVERAL MONTHS AFTER THE ALLEGED ATTACK, THE
ITALIAN NAVY SEARCHED FOR THE REMAINS OF THE SCUD
MISSILES OFF THE COAST OF LAMPEDUSA, BUT FOUND
NONE.

FORMER FM ANDREOTTI: DID IT HAPPEN?

Date Printed: 16 Apr 2002

DOC NBR: 1997ROME09357

CHANNEL: n/a HANDLING: n/a

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5. SENATOR GIULIO ANDREOTTI, WHO WAS ITALY'S FOREIGN MINISTER AT THE TIME OF THE EVENTS, IN AN INTERVIEW WITH PURGATORI IN "CORRIERE DELLA SERA" OCTOBER 28, SAID THE ATTACK AGAINST LAMPEDUSA "WAS SOME SORT OF RESPONSE TO THE AMERICAN STRIKES" AGAINST LIBYA A FEW HOURS EARLIER, "SOMETHING QADHAFI HAD TO DO, BECAUSE HE HAD TO DO SOMETHING." ANDREOTTI, HOWEVER, AVOIDED ANSWERING A SPECIFIC QUESTION ON WHETHER THE LIBYAN STRIKE AGAINST ITALY DID ACTUALLY OCCUR. HE SAID, "AH WELL...AT ANY RATE, WE DID NOT GIVE

PAGE 03 ROME 09357 02 OF 02 281555Z IT MUCH IMPORTANCE. WE INTERPRETED IT AS A DEMONSTRATIVE, BUT INTENTIONALLY HARMLESS ACTION." HE ADDED HE HAD NEVER SEEN THE U.S. SATELLITE PHOTOS OF THE MISSILE LAUNCHES, AND CONCLUDED, "IT IS STRANGE, COME TO THINK OF IT, BECAUSE A WAR ACTION OF THAT KIND SHOULD HAVE SPARKED" A STRONG REACTION. THE ONLY PRESS STATEMENT CLAIMING THAT THE ATTACK DID HAPPEN CAME FROM CURRENT LAMPEDUSA MAYOR, SALVATORE MARTELLO. ACCORDING TO MARTELLO, THE MISSILES "WERE REAL MISSILES AND WERE AIMED-AT LAMPEDUSA," CAUSING THE AMERICANS AT THE LORAN BASE TO FLEE.

PURGATORI AND USTICA

6. PURGATORI'S ARTICLE IS DATELINED LAMPEDUSA AND APPEARS TO BE BASED ON CONVERSATIONS WITH LOCAL RESIDENTS, INCLUDING FORMER LAMPEDUSA MAYOR FRAGALA. PURGATORI IS KNOWN FOR HIS INVESTIGATIVE PIECES, IN PARTICULAR HIS ARTICLES ON THE 1980 USTICA AIR CRASH. (ACCORDING TO PURGATORI, THE ITALIAN CIVILIAN AIRLINER WHICH CRASHED NEAR THE SOUTHERN ITALIAN ISLAND OF USTICA KILLING EVERYONE ON BOARD WAS DOWNED BY A MISSILE DURING AN AIR BATTLE BETWEEN THE U.S., LIBYA, AND POSSIBLY FRANCE.)

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Date Printed: 16 Apr 2002

DOC NBR: 1997STATE116007

CHANNEL: nRELEASED IN280L

HANDLING: n/a

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PTQ0067

PTQ0067

PAGE 01 STATE 116007 200104Z

ORIGIN EUR-01

INFO LOG-00 A-00 CIAE-00 OASY-00 DODE-00 OIGO-01 UTED-00 TEDE-00 INR-00 ADS-00 NSAE-00 OIG-04 PA-00 PM-00 PRS-00 P-00 SP-00 ACAS-01 SNRO-00 PMB-00 /007R

116007

SOURCE: KODAKA.200008

DRAFTED BY: EUR/PPA:M E ROBINSON:MER -- 06/19/97 647-6925 EURPA 006

APPROVED BY: EUR/PPA:M THOMPSON- JONES

PA/PRESS (INFO):P A YOUNG, EUR/PPA:LCORWIN

-----C777D9 200105Z /38

O R 200100Z JUN 97

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ALMATY IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BAKU IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BRATISLAVA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KIEV IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LJUBLJANA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MINSK IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY RIGA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TALLINN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TASHKENT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TBILISI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY VILNIUS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY YEREVAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ZAGREB IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL MARSEILLE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SARAJEVO IMMEDIATE

PAGE 02 STATE 116007 200104Z
AMEMBASSY CHISINAU IMMEDIATE

INFO USIA WASHDC 0000

UNCLAS STATE 116007

ROME ALSO FOR VATICAN, USVIENNA FOR OSCE OR UNVIE

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE REVIEW AUTHORITY: ERIC W. FLEISHER DATE/CASE ID: 30 OCT 2002 200102359

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Date Printed: 16 Apr 2002

DOC NBR: 1997STATE116007

CHANNEL: n/a HANDLING: n/a

262

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: OPRC

SUBJECT: REVISED EUR DAILY PRESS GUIDANCE - JUNE 19, 1997

PLEASE PASS TO ALL PAOS USIA PLEASE PASS TO EEN AND WEU, PARIS ALSO FOR USOECD

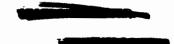
· William Property.

1. THE FOLLOWING PRESS GUIDANCE WAS PREPARED AND APPROVED BY THE BUREAU OF EUROPEAN AND CANADIAN AFFAIRS AND OTHER SELECTED BUREAUS HANDLING ISSUES OF INTEREST TO EUR POSTS FOR THE DEPARTMENT BRIEFING. QUESTIONS SHOULD BE REFERRED TO MARY THOMPSON-JONES OR LARRY CORWIN, EUR POLICY AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS.

TOPICS INCLUDE:

SALMON TALKS
ERBAKAN RESIGNING
VISIT OF ROMANIAN PRIME MINISTER
USTICA REPORT (ADDITION)

CANADA: SALMON TALKS



PAGE 03

STATE 116

116007 200104Z

- Q: WHAT CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT PACIFIC SALMON NEGOTIATIONS?
- A: -- SALMON NEGOTIATIONS RESUMED ON WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18, IN VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLOMBIA. ANOTHER SESSION BEGAN AT 9:30 THIS MORNING, PACIFIC TIME.
 - -- THE TALKS ARE SCHEDULED TO RUN THROUGH FRIDAY, JUNE 20.

HOW ARE THE TALKS GOING?

- A: -- IT IS TOO EARLY TO TELL.
- Q: WHAT IF THEY DON'T REACH AGREEMENT BY THE 20TH?
- A: -- I DON'T WANT TO SPECULATE ABOUT THAT. WE ARE NEGOTIATING IN GOOD-FAITH TOWARD AN AGREEMENT OUR NEGOTIATOR CAN TAKE BACK TO THE STAKEHOLDERS. WE HOPE WE CAN QUICKLY AND

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SUCCESSFULLY WRAP THIS UP.

3. TURKEY: ERBAKAN RESIGNING

DOES THE U.S. HAVE ANY POSITION ON ERBAKAN'S RESIGNATION AND ON PROGRESS TOWARD THE FORMATION OF A NEW GOVERNMENT IN TURKEY?

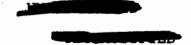
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- A:
- WE UNDERSTAND THAT PRIME MINISTER ERBAKAN HAS RESIGNED AND THAT PRESIDENT DEMIREL IS MEETING WITH VARIOUS PARTY LEADERS TODAY. WE DO NOT KNOW WHEN A DECISION WILL BE MADE ON THE FORMATION OF A NEW GOVERNMENT.
- -- AS THE SECRETARY HAS SAID, WE BELIEVE IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT TURKEY CONTINUE TO DEVELOP IN A SECULAR AND DEMOCRATIC FASHION AND THAT ISSUES BE RESOLVED WITHOUT RESORT TO AN EXTRACONSTITUTIONAL APPROACH.
- -- WE HAVE CONFIDENCE THAT CHANGES IN GOVERNMENT

WILL CONTINUE TO TAKE PLACE THROUGH THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS.

- -- WE ARE AWARE OF CLAIMS THAT THE USG IS SUPPORTING ONE POLITICAL INSTITUTION OR GROUP OVER ANOTHER. OUR MESSAGE IS CLEAR--WE DO NOT SUPPORT ONE OR ANOTHER ELEMENT IN THE POLITICAL DEBATE. ONLY THE TURKISH PEOPLE, THROUGH THEIR CONSITUTIONAL INSITUTIONS, CAN DECIDE HOW THEY MUST PROTECT THEIR DEMOCRATIC FREEDOMS.
- -- WE WILL CONTINUE TO WATCH THE SITUATION CLOSELY.



PAGE 05 STATE 116007 200104Z 4. STATEMENT BY JOHN DINGER, ACTING SPOKESMAN: VISIT OF ROMANIAN PRIME MINISTER

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SECRETARY OF STATE AIBRIGHT MET WITH ROMANIAN PRIME MINISTER VICTOR CIORBEA AT THE STATE DEPARTMENT ON JUNE 18, AS PART OF A LONGER MEETING WITH DEPUTY SECRETARY TALBOTT, TO DISCUSS THE FUTURE OF U.S.-ROMANIAN RELATIONS AND ROMANIA'S INTEGRATION INTO TRANS-ATLANTIC AND EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS, INCLUDING NATO. SECRETARY ALBRIGHT APPLAUDED THE MANY POSITIVE CHANGES THAT HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN ROMANIA, ESPECIALLY IN RECENT MONTHS, WHICH THE PRIME MINISTER AND PRESIDENT CONSTANTINESCU HAVE DONE MUCH TO PROMOTE. SHE STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE TO THE UNITED STATES OF ITS RELATIONS WITH ROMANIA AND EXPLAINED THE FIRM COMMITMENT OF THE U.S. TO ENSURING THAT NATO REMAINS A POLITICALLY COHESIVE AND MILITARILY STRONG ALLIANCE AS IT ENLARGES, THAT THE MADRID SUMMIT MARKS THE BEGINNING AND NOT THE END OF A PROCESS, AND THAT THE U.S. LOOKS FORWARD TO FUTURE ENLARGEMENTS.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND DEPUTY SECRETARY REVIEWED THEIR RESPECTIVE VIEWS REGARDING NATO ENLARGEMENT, INCLUDING ROMANIA'S DETERMINATION TO BECOME A FULL MEMBER IN THE SHORTEST TIME POSSIBLE. THEY AGREED ON THE IMPORTANCE OF DEVELOPING A MEANINGFUL U.S.-ROMANIAN STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP, BASED ON A RECOGNITION OF ROMANIA'S STRATEGIC POSITION IN

PAGE 06

STATE 116007 200104Z SOUTHEASTERN EUROPE, AS WELL AS A COMMITMENT TO

SHARED VALUES AND A COMMON INTEREST IN STABILITY AND DEMOCRATIC PROGRESS. THE DEPUTY SECRETARY EXPLAINED THE REASONS FOR THE U.S. DECISION TO BACK ONLY THREE COUNTRIES FOR INCLUSION IN THE FIRST WAVE OF NATO EXPANSION. HE ALSO EXPRESSED FULL SUPPORT FOR ROMANIA'S GOAL OF INTEGRATION INTO EURO-ATLANTIC STRUCTURES. THE DEPUTY SECRETARY EXPRESSED HIS CONFIDENCE THAT ROMANIA IS ON TRACK AND WILL SUCCEED IF IT CONTINUES WITH POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC REFORM. IN THOSE NECESSARY BUT OFTEN PAINFUL REFORM EFFORTS, ROMANIA CAN COUNT ON THE FULL UNDERSTANDING AND PRACTICAL SUPPORT OF THE UNITED STATES.

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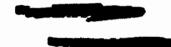
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THE DEPUTY SECRETARY AND PRIME MINISTER AGREED ON THE NEED TO CONCENTRATE ON BUILDING STRONG, CONSTRUCTIVE RELATIONS FOR THE FUTURE. THE DEPUTY SECRETARY SAID THE TWO SIDES NEED TO MAKE CONCRETE AND EFFECTIVE THE STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP. THE PRIME MINISTER AND DEPUTY SECRETARY AGREED THAT THE PARTNERSHIP THEY DISCUSSED WILL BE ELABORATED BY THE TWO GOVERNMENTS OVER THE COMING WEEKS AND MONTHS, INCLUDING THROUGH THE EXCHANGE OF VISITS SUCH AS THE CURRENT ONE.

5. USTICA REPORT



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ITALIAN PRESS STORIES SAY THAT ITALY WILL RELEASE
A NEW REPORT ON THE 1980 USTICA AIR DISASTER.
THESE STORIES FURTHER ALLEGE THAT THE REPORT WILL
BE BASED ON EXTENSIVE RESEARCH THROUGH NATO
RECORDS, AND REPORTEDLY OUTLINES A SCENARIO OF
POSSIBLE NATO INVOLVEMENT. WHAT IS THE U.S.
RESPONSE TO THIS REPORT?

- A:
- -- NO ONE IN THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT HAS SEEN THE REPORT, AND SO WE ARE IN NO POSITION TO COMMENT SPECIFICALLY ON ANY ALLEGATIONS.
- -- WE WISH TO STRESS OUR STANDING POSITION, HOWEVER, WHICH IS THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT HAS ALWAYS PROVIDED AND WILL CONTINUE TO PROVIDE FULL COOPERATION TO ITALIAN JUDICIAL AUTHORITIES IN THEIR INVESTIGATION OF THE USTICA CRASH.
- -- AS WE HAVE STATED REPEATEDLY IN THE PAST, BOTH PUBLICLY AND TO ITALIAN AUTHORITIES, NO U.S. COMBAT SHIPS OR AIRCRAFT WERE OPERATING IN THE AREA OF THE CRASH ON THE EVENING OF JUNE 27, 1980. THERE WAS NO AMERICAN INVOLVEMENT OF ANY KIND IN THE DISASTER.

MINIMIZE CONSIDERED PICKERING



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AMEMBASSY TIRANA

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THIS REPORT FOCUSES ON THE FOLLOWING ISSUES:

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE REVIEW AUTHORITY: ERIC W. FLEISHER DATE/CASE ID: 30 OCT 2002 200102359

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- 1. RUSSIAGATE
- 2. MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROCESS
- KOSOVO PEACE PROCESS
- 4. WTO
- 5. 1980 USTICA AIR CRASH

TREATMENT

1. RUSSIAGATE

ALL MEDIA GIVE PROMINENT ATTENTION TO THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN THE RUSSIA-IMF FINANCIAL SCANDAL: REPORTS ABOUT THE POSSIBLE INVOLVEMENT OF DOZENS OF ADDITIONAL BANKS AROUND THE WORLD; AND THE "STORM" REPORTEDLY CAUSED BY U.S. TREASURY SECRETARY SUMMER'S STATEMENT -- IN AN INTERVIEW WITH USA TODAY -- THAT NO ADDITIONAL LOANS WILL BE MADE TO RUSSIA WITHOUT APPROPRIATE GUARANTEES. ALL REPORTS INDICATE THAT MOSCOW'S IMMEDIATE, "FURIOUS" REACTION AND THE JOLTS OF FINANCIAL MARKETS PROMPTED THE U.S. TREASURY DEPARTMENT

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TO LATER ISSUE A "CORRECTION". LEFT-LEANING,
INFLUENTIAL LA REPUBBLICA (9/2) CARRIES THE TEXT OF
TREASURY SECRETARY SUMMER'S INTERVIEW WITH USA TODAY
UNDER THE HEADLINE: "NO MONEY TO YELTSIN WITHOUT NEW
GUARANTEES'".

LEADING BUSINESS DAILY IL SOLE-24 ORE (9/2) CARRIES AN OP-ED BY JEFFREY SACHS, DIRECTOR OF THE HARVARD INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, HEADLINED: "POVERTY AND CORRUPTION ARE THE HERITAGE OF THE SOVIETS." SUBHEAD LINE: "GEOGRAPHY AND SCANT WESTERN SUPPORT ARE ALSO AT THE ROOTS OF RUSSIA'S FAILURE."

HEADLINES:

- "WASHINGTON WANTS TO STOP LOANS NOW" (CORRIERE DELLA SERA)
- "WASHINGTON THREATENS TO SUSPEND LOANS TO MOSCOW" (LA STAMPA)
- "RUSSIAGATE, BANKS ARE THE TARGET" (FRONT PAGE, LA REPUBBLICA)
- "RUSSIAN SHADOWS MAKE THE UNITED STATES TREMBLE" (IL SOLE-24 ORE)
- "RUSSIAGATE, INVESTIGATIONS EXPAND ALL OVER THE WORLD" (IL MESSAGGERO)
- "SCANDALS AND BOMBS, MOSCOW CRIES PLOT" (IL TEMPO)

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"THE UNITED STATES: NO MORE MONEY TO THE CORRUPT IN RUSSIA" (IL GIORNALE)
"MONEY LAUNDERING, BANKS ALL OVER THE WORLD INVOLVED"
(L'UNITA')

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CENTRIST, INFLUENTIAL LA STAMPA (9/2) HOLDS IN A FRONT-PAGE SUMMARY ABOUT RUSSIAGATE: "RUSSIAGATE HAS TURNED INTO A STORM: U.S. TREASURY SECRETARY LARRY SUMMERS SAID IN AN INTERVIEW THAT THE WHITE HOUSE INTENDS TO HALT THE NEXT IMF LOANS TO RUSSIA. THE REACTION BY THE MOSCOW GOVERNMENT WAS IMMEDIATE AND FORCED SUMMERS' OFFICE TO ISSUE A CLARIFICATION: WE WANT TO PROCEED WITH THE LOANS, BUT WE ASK FOR 'ADEQUATE' GUARANTEES."

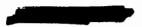
WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT ANDREA DI ROBILANT WRITES IN CENTRIST, INFLUENTIAL LA STAMPA (9/2): "THE CLINTON ADMINISTRATION HAS FINALLY INTERVENED TO CHECK 'RUSSIAGATE" BUT HAS ENDED UP MAKING MOSCOW FURIOUS AND CONFUSING THINGS EVEN FURTHER...ACCORDING TO U.S. MEDIA REPORTS, THE INVESTIGATORS HAVE NOT YET SUCCEEDED IN

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SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4404
ALL NATO POST COLLECTIVE
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AMCONSUL FLORENCE
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY TIRANA
AMEMBASSY TIRANA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
NAVSUPPACT LA MADDALENA IT
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COMSUBGRU EIGHT



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JOINT STAFF WASHDC
NAS SIGONELLA IT//PA//
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FINDING ANY EVIDENCE OF THE VIOLATION OF U.S. ANTIMONEYLAUNDERING LAWS. EVEN THOUGH THE VARIOUS ASPECTS
OF THE OPERATION CONTINUE TO BE CONFUSED, STRONG
PRESSURE IS ALREADY BEING EXERTED ON THE CLINTON
ADMINISTRATION. AND, IN THE WAKE OF SUMMERS'
UNFORTUNATE STATEMENT, IT IS EASY TO PREDICT THAT THE
FIRE OF THE REPUBLICANS WILL NOW CONCENTRATE ON THE
TREASURY SECRETARY IN ADDITION TO AL GORE....THIS IS AN
ESPECIALLY DELICATE MOMENT FOR SUMMERS, WHO STILL HAS TO
SHOW THAT HE IS, IF NOT AS GOOD AS RUBIN, AT LEAST UP TO
HIS JOB."

"RUSSIA AND THE UNITED STATES AT LOGGERHEADS" A REPORT FROM NEW YORK BY ARTURO ZAMPAGLIONE IN LEFT-LEANING, INFLUENTIAL LA REPUBBLICA (9/2): "MOSCOW'S REACTION AND THE SHAKING OF THE FINANCIAL MARKETS...HAVE SUGGESTED TO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY TO SOFTEN SUMMERS' TONES. 'WE ARE NOT ASKING TO DELAY THE NEXT IMF PAYMENT TO MOSCOW,' A SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT, 'BUT ONLY TO ADOPT MEASURES TO CONTROL PAST AND FUTURE LOANS." THE CLARIFICATION BY THE TREASURY DEPARTMENT IS AN INDICATION OF THE EMBARRASSMENT OF CLINTON AND HIS

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COLLABORATORS: ON ONE SIDE, THE WHITE HOUSE IS CRITICIZED BY THE REPUBLICANS FOR ITS SUPERFICIAL LOANS TO MOSCOW 'KLEPTOCRATS;' AND ON THE OTHER, THE KREMLIN WON'T ACCEPT HASTY CONCLUSIONS."

A REPORT FROM NEW YORK IN CENTRIST, TOP-CIRCULATION CORRIERE DELLA SERA (9/2): "LAWRENCE SUMMERS DID NOT MINCE WORDS....IN AN INTERVIEW WITH USA TODAY, THE NEWLY APPOINTED SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY...GAVE A CLEAR SIGNAL ABOUT STOPPING THE FUNDS FOR MOSCOW....A 'NO' WHICH PROMPTED AN IMMEDIATE REACTION BOTH BY THE PUTIN GOVERNMENT AND BY INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL MARKETS, WHERE THE VALUE OF RUSSIAN DEBT TITLES HAS PLUNGED. SO MUCH SO THAT, A FEW HOURS LATER, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE TREASURY DEPARTMENT MADE A POINT TO CLARIFY THAT WASHINGTON HAS NO INTENTION, WHATSOEVER, OF STOPPING NEW LOAMS: 'WE ASK FOR MORE GUARANTEES, NOT FOR THE END OF THE LOANS.' NOTWITHSTANDING THE VERBAL CORRECTIONS, HOWEVER, IT IS CLEAR THAT SUMMERS' WORDS ARE THE SIGNAL THAT THE CLINTON ADMINISTRATION, PUT TO THE ROPES BY THE SCANDAL, NO LONGER INTENDS TO REMAIN PASSIVE IN THE WAKE OF ACCUSATIONS THAT IT HAS PUSHED THE IMF TO GRANT LOANS WITHOUT BEING TOO FUSSY, WITH THE GOAL OF SUPPORTING YELTSIN."

"MOSCOW'S ANGER: 'A PLOT AGAINST OUR POWER'" -- A REPORT FROM MOSCOW, ALSO IN CENTRIST, TOP-CIRCULATION CORRIERE DELLA SERA (9/2): "MOSCOW FEELS BESIEGED AND DEFAMED, AND BLAMES THE WEST FOR THIS, ESPECIALLY A FEW NEWSPAPERS AND THE U.S. REPUBLICAN PARTY. THE RUSSIAN GOVERNMENT CLAIMS ITS CONSCIENCE IS CLEAR. IT DOES NOT

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DENY POSSIBLE AREAS OF CORRUPTION, BUT NO LONGER WANTS
TO HEAR NONSENSE ABOUT THE ALLEGED IMPROPER USE OF LOANS
AND INTERNATIONAL AID.

"MOSCOW-GATE" PROVOCATIVE, CLASSICAL LIBERAL DAILY IL FOGLIO (9/2) SAYS THAT "THERE HAS BEEN ONE ADDITIONAL LEAK FROM THE STATE DEPARTMENT: LAST JULY, STROBE TALBOTT CAME BACK FURIOUS FROM MOSCOW BECAUSE, FOR THE SECOND TIME, YELTSIN HAD EXERTED HIS RIGHT-OF-VETO AGAINST THE LAW TO MONITOR MONEY LAUNDERING, REQUESTED BY THE UNITED STATES AND VOTED FOR BY THE RUSSIAN PARLIAMENT. A DECISION WAS MADE AT THAT POINT TO 'DROP' YELTSIN AND, PROBABLY, TO LEAK THE NEWS THAT HAS LED TO THE INVESTIGATIONS."

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2. MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROCESS

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MEDIA ARE GENERALLY OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE PROSPECTS OF AN ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN AGREEMENT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WYE ACCORDS AND SEE AN OFFICIAL SIGNING CEREMONY -- TO BE HELD TODAY IN EGYPT AT THE PRESENCE OF SECRETARY ALBRIGHT AMONG OTHERS -- AS VERY LIKELY. REPORTS UNDERLINE PRESIDENT CLINTON'S PERSONAL EFFORTS IN PROMOTING AN ACCORD, NOTING HIS TELEPHONE CALLS YESTERDAY TO ISRAELI PM BARAK AND PALESTINIAN LEADER ARAFAT. SOME COMMENTATORS, HOWEVER, WARN THAT "SKIRMISHES" CONTINUE BETWEEN THE NEGOTIATORS AND THAT THE MAIN PROBLEMS -- BORDERS AND SECURITY -- STILL REMAIN UNRESOLVED.

HEADLINES:

"BARAK-ARAFAT RACE TOWARDS PEACE" (CORRIERE DELLA SERA)
"ALBRIGHT TO THE MIDDLE EAST, AGREEMENT CLOSE" (IL SOLE24 ORE)

"LAST SHIVERS: AGREEMENT BETWEEN ISRAELIS AND PALESTINIANS STUMBLES OVER POLITICAL PRISONERS" (IL MESSAGGERO)

"ISRAEL AND PALESTINE AGREE ON ALMOST EVERYTHING" (IL

PAGE 03 ROME 06001 03 OF 05 021329Z GIORNALE)
"ISRAEL-PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY CLOSE TO ACCORD"
(L'UNITA')

COMMENTS:

LORENZO CREMONESI REPORTS FROM JERUSALEM IN CENTRIST, TOP-CIRCULATION CORRIERE DELLA SERA (9/2): "AN AGREEMENT HAS VIRTUALLY BEEN ACHIEVED BY THE ISRAELIS AND THE PALESTINIANS. LATE LAST NIGHT THE IMPRESSION WAS THAT THE SIGNING OF THE AGREEMENT IN JERUSALEM WAS IMMINENT, LEADING TO TODAY'S OFFICIAL CEREMONY IN ALEXANDRIA, EGYPT, ATTENDED BY BARAK, ARAFAT, MUBARAK AND ALBRIGHT. YESTERDAY WAS A VERY HECTIC DAY. PRESIDENT CLINTON INTERVENED WITH LONG TELEPHONE CALLS TO BARAK AND ARAFAT IN ORDER TO PROMOTE THE DIALOGUE. AND THE EGYPTIANS ALSO EXERTED PRESSURE ON THE PALESTINIAN LEADER." ARTICLE CONCLUDES: "BY MID JANUARY, AN ADDITIONAL ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL OF 4 PERCENT SHOULD BEGIN. ALBRIGHT ALSO AIMS AT REOPENING THE 'ROAD' OF TALKS BETWEEN ISRAEL AND SYRIA. ON SATURDAY SHE WILL VISIT DAMASCUS TO MEET WITH PRESIDENT ASSAD."

"BARAK-ARAFAT, POSSIBLE AGREEMENT ON DETAILS DOES NOT

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DISPEL DOUBTS ABOUT A FUTURE TOGETHER" -- THE NEWS
ANALYSIS SECTION OF PROVOCATIVE, CLASSICAL LIBERAL DAILY
IL FOGLIO (9/2) IS LESS OPTIMISTIC: "FOR OBSERVERS WHO
FOLLOW THE NEGOTIATIONS FROM A DISTANCE, IT MAY SEEM
PARADOXICAL THAT, RIGHT AT THE TIME WHEN THE ISRAELIS
SHOW MAXIMUM INTEREST IN FINDING A PEACE COMPROMISE AND
ALL INTERNATIONAL MEDIATORS FROM EGYPT TO THE UNITED

PAGE 04 ROME 06001 03 OF 05 0213292 STATES WORK WITH STRONG COMMITMENT AND OPTIMISM TOWARD THE SAME GOAL, THE NEGOTIATIONS SEEM ABOUT TO GET STUCK. YET THAT IS NOT A COINCIDENCE....BOTH ARAFAT AND BARAK HAVE SHOWN GOOD INTENTIONS IN TRYING TO 'AMEND,' 'ENRICH' AND 'IMPROVE' THE WYE ACCORDS....BUT THIS HAS LED THE NEGOTIATORS TO DEAL WITH INCREASINGLY COMPLICATED PROBLEMS. IN ORDER TO OVERCOME THE CRISIS OVER THE WYE ACCORDS, IT WAS NECESSARY TO ACHIEVE A COMPROMISE ON THE RELEASE OF POLITICAL PRISONERS...AND ALL THE MOST SERIOUS TANGLES REMAIN: THE DEFINITION OF BORDERS, THE LEGITIMIZATION OF A SOVEREIGN PALESTINIAN STATE, THE THORNY ISSUE OF JERUSALEM, THE ISSUE OF PALESTINIAN REFUGEES, THE PROBLEM OF SETTLEMENTS."

SANDRO MANOR REPORTS FROM JERUSALEM IN LEADING BUSINESS DAILY IL SOLE-24 ORE (9/2): "BARAK HAS MANAGED TO CONVINCE ALBRIGHT NOT TO BECOME INVOLVED WITH THE HEART

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USS SIMON LAKE
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E.O. 12958: N/A SUBJECT: USIS ROME MEDIA REACTION REPORT - SEPTEMBER 2, 1999

OF ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN NEGOTIATIONS DURING HER VISIT...FOR ISRAEL, THIS MEANS AVOIDING AMERICAN PRESSURE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WYE ACCORDS...AND LEAVING ALBRIGHT WITH A SINGLE MAJOR ISSUE TO DEAL WITH: PEACE WITH SYRIA OR, AT LEAST, THE IMMEDIATE RESUMPTION OF THE NEGOTIATIONS WHICH WERE INTERRUPTED IN 1996. THE U.S. ADMINISTRATION PREFERS TO REDUCE EXPECTATIONS FOR THE ALBRIGHT MISSION."

UMBERTO DE GIOVANNANGELI WRITES IN PRO-DS (LEADING GOVERNMENT PARTY) DAILY L'UNITA' (9/2): "IT'S A RACE AGAINST TIME. SECRETARY ALBRIGHT ARRIVES IN ALEXANDRIA TODAY. EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT MUBARAK PLANS TO HAVE AN OFFICIAL CEREMONY FOR THE SIGNING OF THE LONG-SOUGHT AGREEMENT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WYE ACCORDS. A POSTPONEMENT WOULD BE A SLAP THAT THE EGYPTIAN 'KING' CANNOT ACCEPT. A COMPROMISE IS BEING SOUGHT ON THE NUMBER OF PALESTINIAN REFUGEES TO BE RELEASED BY THE JEWISH STATE...AS HOURS GO BY, PRESSURES ON ARAFAT INCREASE, AS MANY FEAR THE CONSEQUENCES OF A POSSIBLE FAILURE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS. AMONG THEM, PRESIDENT CLINTON. YESTERDAY WAS A DAY OF PHONE CALLS FOR HIM."

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3. KOSOVO PEACE PROCESS

COVERAGE OF KOSOVO ISSUES IS LIMITED TODAY, WITH MOST OF THE REPORTING FOCUSING ON THE ONGOING DOMESTIC DISPUTE OVER THE ALLEGED SCANDAL INVOLVING THE ITALIAN "RAINBOW OPERATION" AID EFFORTS.

A FEW REPORTS NOTE THAT ITALIAN GENERAL PIETRO FRISONE WAS SWORN IN YESTERDAY AS THE NEW COMMANDER OF "COMMUNICATION ZONE WEST," THE NATO HUMANITARIAN MISSION IN ALBANIA ("IN SUBSTANCE, THE CONTINUATION OF THE FORMER 'ALLIED HARBOUR-ALBANIAN FORCE' LED BY BRITISH GENERAL JOHN REITH, " ACCORDING TO THE ARTICLES.)

"CLARK: 'MILOSEVIC WON'T RESPECT THE AGREEMENTS' -CLARK WARNS MILOSEVIC THAT HE HAS TO RELEASE THE 7,000 ALBANIANS HE HAS SEIZED" MAURIZIO MOLINARI'S REPORT FROM WASHINGTON IN CENTRIST, INFLUENTIAL LA STAMPA (9/2) FOCUSES ON GENERAL CLARK'S REMARKS AT THE AMERICAN ENTERPRISE INSTITUTE AND NOTES: "CLARK DID NOT APPEAR WEAKENED AS A RESULT OF THE RECENT WHITE HOUSE DECISION TO REPLACE HIM AHEAD OF TIME AND ADDRESSED MILOSEVIC DIRECTLY." THE ARTICLE QUOTES EXTENSIVELY FROM GENERAL CLARK'S REMARKS.

"DRUGS AND WEAPONS, MAFIA ASSAILS KOSOVO" A REPORT FROM PRISTINA IN PRO-DS (LEADING GOVERNMENT PARTY) DAILY L'UNITA' (9/2) DEPICTS AS GLOOMY SITUATION AS FAR AS THE INCREASE OF ORGANIZED CRIME ACTIVITIES IN KOSOVO IS

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4. WTO

"POST-RUGGIERO ERA: THREE-YEAR MANDATE BEGINS FOR MOORE" A REPORT FROM GENEVA IN LEADING BUSINESS DAILY IL SOLE-24 ORE (9/2): "UPON HIS DEBUT AS WTO DIRECTOR, MIKE MOORE HAS BEFORE HIM AN OBSTACLE, A GOAL AND AN ORGANIZATIONAL TASK. THE OBSTACLE COMES FROM THE DISPUTE THAT HAS PRECEDED HIS NOMINATION: THE FORMER NEW ZEALAND LABOR UNION LEADER WILL HAVE TO GET RID OF THE LABEL OF 'MAN OF THE UNITED STATES' VERSUS SMALLER NATIONS....MOORE LAUNCHED A MESSAGE IN THAT DIRECTION

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YESTERDAY AS HE WAS SWORN IN....THE GOAL AHEAD FOR THE NEW DIRECTOR IS INSTEAD ACHIEVING AN AGREEMENT WITH CHINA, SO THAT BEIJING WILL ACCEPT JOINING THE WTO

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P 021214Z SEP 99
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JOINT STAFF WASHDC

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USIA

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SOONEST....FINALLY, HIS FIRST ORGANIZATIONAL TASK:
PREPARING THE THIRD WTO MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE TO BE
HELD IN SEATTLE, WASHINGTON IN THREE MONTHS. WITHOUT A
LEADER SINCE THE END OF APRIL...THE WTO IS BEHIND WITH
PREPARATIONS FOR THAT CONFERENCE."

5. 1980 USTICA AIR CRASH

CONSIDERABLE MEDIA COVERAGE HAS BEEN DEVOTED OVER THE LAST TWO DAYS TO THE CONCLUSION OF ITALIAN PROSECUTOR ROSARIO PRIORE'S INVESTIGATION INTO THE 1980 USTICA AIR CRASH. PRIORE OFFICIALLY ACCEPTED THAT THE CRASH WAS DUE TO A DOG FIGHT BETWEEN FOREIGN MILITARY AIRCRAFT AND ORDERED THAT FOUR FORMER AIR FORCE GENERALS STAND TRIAL ON CHARGES OF HIGH TREASON. A NUMBER OF OTHER HIGH-RANKING OFFICERS WERE ALSO INDICTED FOR COVERING UP THE REAL CAUSES OF THE INCIDENT AND PUTTING INVESTIGATORS ON THE WRONG TRACK.

DS (LEADING GOVERNMENT PARTY) SECRETARY WALTER VELTRONI IS QUOTED IN TODAY'S PRESS AS SAYING: "I WANT TO UNDERLINE THE GREAT WORK DONE BY PRIORE. IT SEEMS TO ME

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HE HAD THE STRENGTH, AND EVEN THE COURAGE, TO SHED LIGHT
ON WHAT HAPPENED THAT NIGHT." DS SENATOR DARIA
BONFIETTI, CHAIRWOMAN OF THE ASSOCIATION OF THE FAMILIES
OF THE USTICA VICTIMS REPORTEDLY SAID THAT THE
GOVERNMENT SHOULD ASK THE U.S., ENGLAND AND LIBYA WHY
THEIR PLANES WERE FLYING OVER USTICA ON JUNE 27, 1980.
TODAY'S PRO-DS (LEADING GOVERNMENT PARTY) DAILY L'UNITA'
(9/2) CARRIES THIS FRONT-PAGE HEADLINE: "DS PARTY
EXPECTS ALLIES TO TELL THE TRUTH ABOUT USTICA." THE
PAPER ADDS THAT DS SECRETARY VELTRONI HAS ASKED THAT
FRANCE, THE UNITED STATES AND GREAT BRITAIN SHOULD HELP
EXPLAIN THE DETAILS AND THE REASONS FOR THE AIR BATTLE.
CENTRIST, TOP-CIRCULATION CORRIERE DELLA SERA (9/2)
SPECULATES THAT PRIORE HAS ALREADY INITIATED ANOTHER
INVESTIGATION TO ASCERTAIN HIGHER - POSSIBLY POLITICAL RESPONSIBILITIES, AND CITES NATO DIPLOMATIC SOURCES AS
STATING: "WE GAVE ALL THE HELP WE COULD HAVE GIVEN."

A SEPARATE SPECIAL REPORT WRAPPING UP THIS WEEK'S COVERAGE WILL BE SENT TOMORROW. CALLAHAN

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THIS REPORT WILL FOCUS ON SEPTEMBER 1-3 MEDIA COVERAGE

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ON USTICA.

ALL ITALIAN MEDIA DEVOTE INCREASING ATTENTION TO ITALIAN PROSECUTOR ROSARIO PRIORE'S CONCLUSION OF HIS NINE YEAR INVESTIGATION INTO THE1980 USTICA AIR CRASH. FRONT-PAGE BOLD-HEADLINES, COMMENTARIES AND DETAILED FACTUAL ARTICLES WITH GRAPHS AND CHARTS FILL SEVERAL PAGES IN EACH DAILY.

ALL NEWSPAPERS FOCUS THEIR INTEREST ON THE FOLLOWING ASPECTS RESULTING FROM PRIORE'S REPORT: THE WALL OF SILENCE ERECTED AROUND THE TRAGEDY WAS THE RESULT OF ORDERS FROM A 'HIGH-LEVEL (POLITICAL)'; THE DC-9 WAS CAUGHT UP IN AN AIR FIGHT, SHOT DOWN OVER USTICA AND THERE HAS BEEN A 19-YEAR COVERUP ON NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVELS; DS (LEADING GOVERNMENT PARTY) SECRETARY, WALTER VELTRONI, HAS ASKED FRANCE, THE UNITED STATES AND GREAT BRITAIN TO HELP EXPLAIN THE DETAILS AND THE REASONS FOR THE AIR BATTLE; THE GOVERNMENT'S PROMISE, THROUGH PRIME MINISTER D'ALEMA, TO ASK ITS NATO

PAGE 03 ROME 06079 01 OF 03 031559Z ALLIES TO EXPLAIN THEIR ROLE IN THE USTICA AIR CRASH.

PRO-DS (LEADING GOVERNMENT PARTY) L'UNIT, (9/3)
COMMENTS: 'ON USTICA, WE MUST GET TO THE BOTTOM OF
THINGS, AND ASK OUR ALLIES - JUST BECAUSE THEY ARE
ALLIES - TO TELL US WHAT HAPPENED DURING THE NIGHT OF
JUNE 27, 1980.' PALAZZO CHIGI ISSUED A STATEMENT: 'THE
PRIME MINISTER IS CONSIDERING THE BEST COURSE TO FOLLOW
IN ORDER TO CONTINUE CONTRIBUTING TO THE DEFINITIVE
DISCOVERY OF THE TRUTH, INCLUDING THE ROLE OF OUR NATO
ALLIES.'" CALLING IT "MEASURED, BUT VERY CLEAR," L'UNITA
CONTINUED: "THERE WAS AN (AMERICAN) AIRCRAFT CARRIER,
THERE WERE PLANES, AND LIFE JACKETS...HELMETS...WERE
FOUND IN THE AREA...RAHER STRONG EVIDENCE...WE CANNOT
EXCLUDE THAT U.S. PLANES WERE CHASING AN ENEMY AIRCRAFT
THAT NIGHT."

SEVERAL STORIES SPECULATE HEAVILY ON U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN THE USTICA TRAGEDY AND NOTE THAT PRIORE'S REPORT SEEMS TO INCLUDE AN ATTACK ON THE UNITED STATES.

ALESSANDRO FARRUGGIA LEADS IN CONSERVATIVE, TOP-CIRCULATION SYNDICATE LA NAZIONE (9/3), UNDER THE HEADLINE "USTICA, PRIORE POINTS TO THE UNITED STATES," "(THERE IS) TOO MUCH CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE AGAINST THE AMERICANS. ACCORDING TO PROSECUTOR ROSARIO PRIORE, "THE

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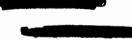
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U.S. PRESENCE THAT NIGHT IS TOO OBVIOUS...THERE WERE THE AIRCRAFT CARRIER, LIFE JACKETS AND PLANES...THESE OBJECTS DEMONSTRATE THAT THERE WAS A U.S. PRESENCE.'
BUT (U.S.) JUDICIAL RESPONSIBILITY IS TOO FAR AWAY TO BE CONSIDERED."

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UNDER ITS FRONT-PAGE HEADLINE "USTICA, PRIORE ATTACKS
THE UNITED STATES," LEFT-LEANING, INFLUENTIAL LA
REPUBBLICA (9/3) CITES A U.S. SPOKESMAN WHO EXPLICITLY
STATED THAT WASHINGTON INTENDS TO REMAIN SILENT BECAUSE
"IT IS BEST THAT THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT ADDRESS THE
ISSUE." THIS SAME STATEMENT IS PICKED UP BY OTHER
NEWSPAPERS AS WELL.

CORRIERE DELLA SERA (9/2) SPECULATES THAT PRIORE HAS ALREADY INITIATED ANOTHER INVESTIGATION TO ASCERTAIN HIGHER - POSSIBLY POLITICAL - RESPONSIBILITY, AND CITES NATO DIPLOMATIC SOURCES: "WE GAVE ALL THE HELP WE COULD HAVE GIVEN." ANDREA PURGATORIE OF JOURNALIST WHO BUILT

A CAREER ON BLAMING THE USTICA TRAGEDY ON THE U.S.)
QUOTES PRIORE IN CORRIERE DELLA SERA (9/2): "IT WAS AN
ACT OF TERRORISM...AN ATTACK AGAINST A HEAD OF STATE."
THEN PURGATORI DRAWS HIS OWN CONCLUSION: "THE VICTIM WAS



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JOINT STAFF WASHDC
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USIA

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SUPPOSED TO HAVE BEEN GADHAFI."

HEADLINES:

(9/3)

"USTICA, BEFORE THE DISASTERS COMMITTEE" (FRONT PAGE IL TEMPO)

"USTICA/PRIORE ACCUSES THE UNITED STATES AND FRANCE -THE GOVERNMENT: WE WILL SEARCH THE TRUTH WITHIN NATO" (FRONT PAGE IL MESSAGGERO)

"USTICA, THE UNITED STATES KNOWS THE TRUTH - THE (ITALIAN) GOVERNMENT MUST NOW TAKE ACTION" (FRONT PAGE LA STAMPA)

"USTICA, INVESTIGATIONS ON (ITALIAN) POLITICIANS BY PARLIAMENT" (CORRIERE DELLA SERA)

"THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT ASKS ITS ALLIES FOR THE TRUTH" (IL SOLE-24 ORE)

(9/2)

"USTICA, THE WAR (WAS) FOUGHT ONLY IN THE DOSSIERS" (IL RESTO DEL CARLINO)

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"USTICA, NO CULPRITS FOR THE MANSLAUGHTER" (IL TEMPO)
"FOUR GENERALS (ARE) UNDER ACCUSATION FOR USTICA" (LA
STAMPA)
"THAT BARRIER OF SILENCE AND LIES" (LA STAMPA)
"DC9, INVESTIGATION OVER POLITICAL COVER UP" (CORRIERE
DELLA SERA)
"USTICA, FOUR GENERALS ACCUSED OF HIGH BETRAYAL" (IL
SOLE-24 ORE)

(9/1)

"USTICA, INVESTIGATION (IS) FINISHED, "THERE WAS AN AIR FIGHT'" (FRONT PAGE CORRIERE DELLA SERA)
USTICA, FINAL ACT - MILITARY GENERALS IN COURT" (FRONT PAGE LA REPUBBLICA)
"USTICA, THERE WAS AN AIR FIGHT: THE DC9 CAUGHT DURING A SECRET OPERATION" (FRONT PAGE IL MESSAGGERO)
"PRIORE'S TRUTH: A MISSILE PULLED DOWN THE DC9 IN
USTICA" (IL RESTO DEL CARLINO)
"USTICA WAS AN 'ACT OF WAR''' - FOUR GENERALS IN COURT"
(L'UNIT")
"THE USTICA DC9 (WAS) CAUGHT UP IN AN AIR FIGHT" (IL TEMPO)

COMMENTS:

"'THE UNITED STATES HIDES THE MYSTERY'" - AN ARTICLE BY GIOVANNI BIANCONI LEADS IN CENTRIST, INFLUENTIAL LA STAMPA (9/3): "IN SEVERAL PASSAGES (OF HIS INDICTMENT), PROSECUTOR ROSARIO PRIORE ALLEGES THAT THE TRUTH ABOUT THE USTICA TRAGEDY MIGHT LIE WITH THE UNITED STATES, ADDING REGRETFULLY THAT IT IS VERY LIKELY THAT IT (THE TRUTH) WILL NEVER BE DISCOVERED BECAUSE OF...THE

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AMERICANS." BIANCONI CONTINUES QUOTING THE MAGISTRATE'S INDICTMENT AS WRITING: "'A DIRECT INVOLVEMENT OF SOME U.S. AIRCRAFT WAS DEMONSTRATED EVEN THOUGH NOT PROVED, WHILE THEY WERE ENGAGED, EITHER ARMED OR UNARMED, IN MANEUVERS OR IN TRANSFERS.' (THERE WERE) MILITARY AIRCRAFT WHOSE CHARACTERISTICS MATCH EXCLUSIVELY WITH THE PRESENCE OF AN AIRCRAFT CARRIER.'" ACCORDING TO BIANCONI, PRIORE THEN ADDS: "THEREFORE, THE PRESENCE OF SEVERAL INDICATORS OR, MORE CONCRETELY, OF SUSPECTS... AGAINST THE UNITED STATES CANNOT BE DENIED."

"THE NOISE OF INDIGNATION" - FRONT PAGE COMMENTARY BY ANDREA PURGATORI IN CENTRIST TOP-CIRCULATION CORRIERE DELLA SERA (9/3) CONCLUDES: "IF CERMIS HAD OCCURRED AT

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NIGHT, RATHER THAN DURING THE DAY, AND WITHOUT WITNESSES, WOULD SOMEONE HAVE PROPOSED THE ARREST OF THE OWNER OF THE CABLE LIFT ON CHARGES OF MALFUNCTIONING OF THE GONDOLA?'

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USIA

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"WHAT LOYALTY TOWARD USTICA" - AN UNSIGNED EDITORIAL IN PROVOCATIVE, CLASSICAL LIBERAL DAILY IL FOGLIO (9/3) ARGUES THAT DS PARTY LEADERS HAD BETTER STOP SPECULATING ABOUT THE THEORY OF "THE DOUBLE ALLEGIANCE" (TOWARD THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT AND TOWARD THE UNITED STATES) OF THE VARIOUS ITALIAN INSTITUTIONS.

"USTICA, THE MILITARY GENERALS' REVOLT: "IF WE ARE RESPONSIBLE, THE (ITALIAN) GOVERNMENT IS AS WELL'" - FRONT-PAGE COMMENTARY BY PAOLO GUZZANTI IN LEADING, OPPOSITION DAILY IL GIORNALE (9/2) STATES THAT HE IS RESENTFUL AND DISTRESSED BY PRIORE'S INDICTMENT AS ARE MANY OTHER ITALIANS, AND NOTES: "IT IS TRUE THAT PART OF OUR COUNTRY IS NOW CELEBRATING BECAUSE A POLITICAL AND NOT A REAL TRUTH WAS DISCOVERED...PRIORE'S FINDINGS QUESTION THE VERY RESPONSIBILITY OF THE UNITED STATES IN THE USTICA TRAGEDY, DESCRIBING A BATTLE THAT NEVER EXISTED...THE USTICA INVESTIGATION IS BEING CLOSED IN A COMPLETELY FALSE, ALBEIT POLITICALLY CORRECT, FASHION."

"'USTICA, DEVASTATING SIDETRACKS'" - FIORENZA SARZANINI

PAGE 03 ROME 06079 03 OF 03 031600Z OUOTES LONG EXCEPTS

FROM PRIORE'S REPORT AND LEADS: "A

19 YEAR LONG SIDETRACKED (INVESTIGATION). IT IS AN

IMPRESSIVE - AND WITHOUT PRECEDENT - SERIES OF FAILURES,

LIES AND DESTRUCTIONS OF FILES. JUDGE PRIORE'S ANALYSIS

OF THE ITALIAN AIR FORCE IS VERY HARSH. IN HIS SEVERE

EVALUATION, PRIORE ALSO DISCUSSES THE 'POLITICAL LEVEL'

WHICH HAS 'COVERED UP WHAT THEY DID'...PRIORE STATES

THAT "THERE HAS BEEN A SPECIFIC WILL TO ERASE ANY

EVIDENCE WHICH MIGHT ALLOW US TO TRACE

RESPONSIBILITY.... GENERAL ZENO TASCIO (ONE OF THE

DEFENDANTS) INTERVENED WITH THE INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES OF

FOREIGN COUNTRIES, AND FIRST OF ALL WITH THE

INTELLIGENCE OF (ITALY'S) PRINCIPAL ALLY....'" SARZANINI

THEN CONTINUES: "ON JULY 4, 1980, ARGIOLAS AND BOMPREZZI

OFFICIALS VISITED THE (MILITARY) AIRPORT OF BOCCADIFALCO

(PALERMO). OFFICIALLY, THEY HAD TO REVIEW THE SPOILS OF

THE DC9. THEIR REAL PURPOSE WAS, INDEED (ACCORDING TO

PRIORE), "TO VERIFY THE RELIABILITY OF THE NEWS ABOUT A

POSSIBLE CRASH WITH AN AMERICAN AIRCRAFT.'"

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"USTICA, THE REVOLT OF THE GENERALS, VELTRONI (DS, LEADING GOVERNMENT PARTY, LEADER) WANTS TO TRY NATO INSTEAD" - MARCO VENTURA QUESTIONS IN LEADING OPPOSITION DAILY (9/2) IL GIORNALE: "JUDGE ANTONIO PRIORE'S TRUTH ABOUT USTICA IS THAT "IT WAS MAINLY AN ACT OF WAR...AN INTERNATIONAL POLICE OPERATION.'" VENTURA COMMENTS THAT FOLLOWING PRIORE'S INDICTMENT THE LEFT CHEERS, THE OPPOSITION IS SKEPTICAL, WHILE COMMUNISTS AND THE GREENS POINT TO NATO. CALLAHAN



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JOINT STAFF FOR J-5 LCDR. FC PANDOLFE

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E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: OPRC, KMDR, IT

SUBJECT: ROME MEDIA REACTION REPORT - FEBRUARY 1, 2000

THIS REPORT WILL FOCUS ON THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

- 1. AUSTRIA
- 2. DAVOS WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM/INTERNATIONAL ECONOMY
- RUSSIA
- 4. U.S. POLITICS

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5. WRECKAGE OF U.S. NAVY F-4J PHANTOM

TREATMENT

1. AUSTRIA

THE LEADING STORY IN ALL MEDIA IS THE DECISION BY 14 EUROPEAN UNION NATIONS TO TAKE AN UNPRECEDENTED MOVE AND OSTRACIZE FELLOW MEMBER AUSTRIA IN THE EVENT THAT THE FREEDOM PARTY OF FAR-RIGHT LEADER JOERG HAIDER ENTERS INTO A GOVERNMENT COALITION. GIVEN THE HUGE AMOUNT OF COVERAGE, A SPECIAL MEDIA REACTION REPORT WILL FOLLOW.

2. DAVOS WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM/ INTERNATIONAL ECONOMY

REPORTS FROM THE WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM IN DAVOS EXAMINE THE DEBATE AMONG THE THREE MEDIA AND COMPUTERS MOGULS: BILL GATES, STEVE CASE AND NEWCOMER SUMNER REDSTONE ABOUT THE FUTURE OF THE INTERNET.

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THE RISE OF THE DOLLAR VIS-A-VIS THE EURO RECEIVES
FRONT-PAGE COVERAGE IN MOST DAILIES, WHERE THE STRENGTH
OF THE U.S. ECONOMY IS SPELLED OUT. ALSO WIDELY REPORTED
ARE ECB PRESIDENT WIM DUISEMBERG'S REMARKS FROM DAVOS
ABOUT THE EURO'S VALUE ON FOREIGN EXCHANGES BEING AN
"IMPORTANT FACTOR" IN THE CENTRAL BANK'S ASSESSMENT OF
INFLATION RISK, AND ARE MOSTLY INTERPRETED AS A SIGN
THAT THE ECB MIGHT ACT TO RAISE ITS KEY SHORT-TERM RATE.
REPORTS ALSO FOCUS ON THE FORTHCOMING MEETING OF THE
FEDERAL RESERVE BOARD.

AMONG OTHER STATEMENTS, MEDIA PICK UP THE REMARKS OF CARLO AZEGLIO CIAMPI, ITALIAN PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC (AND FORMER MINISTER OF THE TREASURY), THAT "THE EURO HAS POSITIVE ECONOMIC FOUNDATIONS...BUT EUROPE IS LAGGING BEHIND THE U.S. IN THE AREA OF INNOVATION. WE HAVE TO UNDERSTAND THE IMPORTANCE OF THE NEED TO CARRY OUT STRUCTURAL REFORMS IN THE LABOR AND CAPITAL MARKETS."

HEADLINES (FRONT-PAGE):

"DOLLAR BREAKS THROUGH 2,000 LIRE EXCHANGE RATE" (LA REPUBBLICA)

"RECORD DOLLAR: IT IS WORTH MORE THAN 2,000 LIRE" (CORRIERE DELLA SERA)

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"DOLLAR OVER 2,000 LIRE" (LA STAMPA)

"HISTORICAL MINIMUM: MORE THAN 2,000 LIRE FOR A DOLLAR"

(IL MESSAGGERO)

HEADLINES:

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"BILL GATES: WE WILL NOT FOLLOW AOL. MICROSOFT LOOKS AT TECHNOLOGY" (CORRIERE DELLA

SERA)

"GATES-CASE: ONLY ONE NET, TWO DIFFERENT VISIONS" (IL

SOLE-24 ORE)

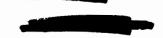
"EUROPE PLAYS 'THE SPOILER' BETWEEN BILL GATES AND STEVE

CASE" (LA STAMPA)

"THE TWO INTERNET KINGS MEET IN DAVOS" (L'UNITA')

COMMENTS:

"THE AMERICAN CHALLENGE" -- MARIO PLATERO COMMENTS ON THE FRONT-PAGE OF LEADING BUSINESS DAILY IL SOLE-24 ORE (2/1): "TODAY THE AMERICAN ECONOMY IS KNOCKING AT HISTORY'S DOORS ONCE AGAIN. ON FEBRUARY 1ST THE UNPRECEDENTED BOOM OF THE '90S OVERCAME THE PREVIOUS ONE OF THE '60S....IF WE COMPARE THE TWO WE CAN UNDERSTAND ALAN GREENSPAN'S OBSESSIVE ATTENTION TO INFLATION. THE



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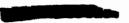
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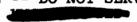
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NAVSUPPACT FOR LT. SMITH/01E
JOINT STAFF FOR J-5 LCDR. FC PANDOLFE

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TAGS: OPRC, KMDR, IT
SUBJECT:ROME MEDIA REACTION REPORT - FEBRUARY 1, 2000

AIM IS TO EXTEND THE PRESENT RECOVERY EVEN FURTHER INTO THE FUTURE....WITH THE "NEW ECONOMY" OF THE YEAR 2000 IN THE U.S. THERE IS AN ATMOSPHERE OF INVULNERABILITY, AT LEAST UNTIL THE NEXT SCARE IN THE STOCK MARKET WILL PREVAIL." PLATERO THEN EXAMINES THE GOOD PERFORMANCE OF THE U.S. ECONOMY AND CONCLUDES: "IN PRESENT CONDITIONS, THE WEAKNESS OF THE EURO DOES NOT TAKE THE AMERICAN MARKET BY SURPRISE. SINCE EUROPE DOES NOT CARRY OUT SIGNIFICANT STRUCTURAL REFORMS THAT MIGHT ALLOW IT TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF NEW TECHNOLOGIES, IT IS VERY UNLIKELY THAT IT CAN HAVE HIGHER GROWTH RATES THAN AMERICA."

"A CURRENCY IN INTENSIVE CARE" -- ANDREA BONANNI COMMENTS ON THE FRONT-PAGE OF CENTRIST, TOP-CIRCULATION CORRIERE DELLA SERA (2/1): "'A DOLLAR IS WORTH A DOLLAR. BUT HOW MUCH IS THE EURO WORTH?'. BEHIND THIS BITTER REMARK BY A HIGH-LEVEL EUROPEAN OFFICER...THERE IS ALL THE EUROPEAN PSYCHO-DRAMA BEFORE THE WEAKNESS OF THE EURO...A BIG WORLD POWER WHICH RELIES ON A HUGE DOMESTIC MARKET MUST GOVERN ITS CURRENCY AND LOOK EXCLUSIVELY AT ITS OWN DOMESTIC INTERESTS....THESE ARE THE PARAMETERS ON WHICH THE AMERICAN INTEREST RATES POLICY IS BASED. THE FACT THAT THE EFFECT OF ITS CHOICES PRODUCES A STRENGTHENING OR WEAKENING OF THE DOLLAR, IS EVERYONE'S ELSE BUSINESS....INDEED, HOWEVER, THE REAL PROBLEM IS THAT EUROPE IS NOT ABLE TO IMPOSE THE SAME

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PAGE 03 ROME 00627 02 OF 06 012028Z PHILOSOPHY WITH SIMILAR SECURITY."

"LOOKING FOR EUROLAND" ARTURO GUATELLI COMMENTS ON THE FRONT-PAGE OF ROME CENTRIST DAILY IL MESSAGGERO (2/1): "EUROPE MARKS ITS TIME....NOTWITHSTANDING ITS AMBITIOUS TARGETS...IT IS NOT AN ATTRACTIVE POLITICAL ENTITY IN PUBLIC OPINION....TODAY WE LOOK AT EUROPE WITH INDIFFERENCE, AS IF IT BECAME OLD TOO EARLY....NOTWITHSTANDING REASSURING REMARKS BY THE ECB, THE EURO LOSES GROUND DAY AFTER DAY....THE WORLD MOVES AHEAD. EUROPE IS STILL."

"THE RICH AND UNCERTAIN AMERICA IN DAVOS" A SHORT EDITORIAL IN PROVOCATIVE, CLASSICAL LIBERAL DAILY IL FOGLIO (2/1): "THIS YEAR'S INTERNATIONAL FORUM IN DAVOS TOOK PLACE IN A DIFFERENT CLIMATE THAN IN 1999....IN DAVOS IT WAS CLEAR HOW THE AMERICAN POLITICAL LEADERSHIP OF THE GLOBAL ECONOMY IS IN CRISIS. THE CLINTON ADMINISTRATION LINE OF OPPOSING JAPAN AND TRYING TO DIVIDE THE EUROPEANS IN ORDER TO GAIN MORE ROOM, LED US TO A STANDSTILL. HENCE, THE ANTI-GLOBALIZATION SPIRIT IN MONTREAL WHICH SCORED ITS FIRST VICTORY AGAINST THE WTO. WASHINGTON MADE A MESS OF THE IMF LEADERSHIP DEBATE, FUELING THE DISPUTE BETWEEN FRANCE AND GERMANY. DAVOS THEY TRIED TO FIND A REMEDY: BUT CERTAIN DESTABILIZING INITIATIVES CAN PRODUCE POISONED FRUITS. NOW THE GERMAN CANDIDACY TO THE IMF ...IS GAINING WEIGHT AGAIN....INDEED, IF THE U.S. WANTS THAT WE MOVE AHEAD ON THE PATH OF GLOBALIZATION, IT SHOULD HELP INSTEAD OF HINDERING EUROPE'S POLITICAL AUTHORITY."

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A REPORT BY DANILO TAINO FROM DAVOS IN CENTRIST, TOPCIRCULATION CORRIERE DELLA SERA (2/1): "YESTERDAY THEY
WERE TOGETHER ON THE DAVOS PODIUM...OBVIOUSLY,
YESTERDAY NOBODY WON. BUT THE IDEOLOGICAL PLATFORMS
WHICH DIVIDE THE TWO INTERNET KINGS WERE PRESENTED. IN
GATES' WORLD, TECHNOLOGY IS THE QUEEN...IN CASE'S
WORLD, PEOPLE ARE THE QUEEN."

STEFANO LEPRI REPORTS FROM DAVOS IN CENTRIST, INFLUENTIAL LA STAMPA (2/1): "THE NEWS OF THE DAY IS WHETHER THE DISPUTE OF BIG TECHNOLOGICAL BUSINESSES IS MADE MORE COMPLICATED BY THE ENTRANCE OF A THIRD CHALLENGER, VODAFONE. ALTHOUGH THE POWER OF THE TWO

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AMERICAN GIANTS IS SO BIG - GATES' MICROSOFT IN SOFTWARE, AND CASE'S AOL IN EVERYTHING WHICH IS INSIDE THE INTERNET - ALL EXPERTS RECOGNIZE THAT EUROPE IS AHEAD IN THE TELEPHONE BUSINESS."

"WHAT IS BEHIND ALBRIGHT'S REBUKE ON EUROPEAN



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CORRUPTION" A FRONT-PAGE EDITORIAL COMMENTARY FROM NEW YORK IN PROVOCATIVE, CLASSICAL LIBERAL DAILY IL FOGLIO (2/1) SPECULATES ON THE LATEST FOREIGN POLICY MOVES BY THE CLINTON ADMINISTRATION AND FOCUSES ON SECRETARY ALBRIGHT'S SPEECH...IN DAVOS, QUESTIONING WHY SECRETARY ALBRIGHT CENSURED IMPORTANT ALLIES LIKE FRANCE, ITALY, JAPAN AND EVEN THE U.K. FOR THEIR ALLEGED POOR ANTI-CORRUPTION RECORDS. CITING WILLIAM SAFIRE'S THESIS THAT THE U.S. IS MAD AT THE EUROPEANS FOR DISCLOSING RUSSIA'S SCANDALS, THE ARTICLE ARGUES THAT 'REALITY IS MORE COMPLEX.' HER REPRIMAND COULD HAVE BEEN "A THREAT AIMED AT THE EUROPEANS AFTER THE (U.S.) DEFEAT IN SEATTLE; OR THE EXPRESSION OF AMERICAN IRRITATION WITH THE DIFFICULTIES MET IN THE NOMINATION OF A NEW IMF DIRECTOR. THE...VERY TOUGH REBUKE ON CORRUPTION TOOK MANAGERS AND POLITICIANS BY SURPRISE... BUT, INDEED, IT DID NOT HAPPEN BY CHANCEQECAUSE THE AMERICANS ARRIVED IN DAVOS IN FORCE, LED BY BILL CLINTON AND FIVE SECRETARIES. CLINTON DID NOT SPOUT THE EXPECTED RHETORIC ON GLOBALIZATION...BUT ANNOUNCED THAT HE WILL CHANGE THE POLICY LINE HE HAS BEEN FOLLOWING FOR SEVEN YEARS: TO ACT AND PUSH TRADE EXPANSION BETWEEN THE U.S. AND THE REST OF THE WORLD. HE EXPLAINED THAT THAT STAGE IS OVER....THE ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN, TOGETHER WITH THE HUMILIATION SUFFERED IN SEATTLE BECAUSE OF THE INDIFFERENCE OR, EVEN WORSE, THE COMPLICITY OF THE

PAGE 03 ROME 00627 03 OF 06 012029Z EUROPEANS, IS THE KEY INSIGHT INTO AMERICAN BEHAVIOR IN DAVOS....PERHAPS IT WAS JUST A LESSON. IT HAPPENS OFTEN THAT SECRETARY ALBRIGHT USES FORCEFUL TONES AND THEN BACK-PEDALS. NOR IS THE CORRUPTION ISSUE AN EASY ONE FOR A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ADMINISTRATION WHICH IS ACCUSED OF BEING THE MOST CORRUPT IN THE HISTORY OF AMERICA."

3. RUSSIA

MEDIA REPORT ON SECRETARY ALBRIGHT'S MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER IGOR IVANOV AND UNDERLINE HER WARNING REMARKS TO RUSSIA ON THE WAR IN CHECHNYA. REPORTS ALSO PREVIEW SECRETARY ALBRIGHT'S MEETING WITH ACTING PRESIDENT VLADIMIR PUTIN.

HEADLINES:

"CHECHNYA: MOSCOW SAYS 'NO' TO THE U.S." (IL MESSAGGERO)

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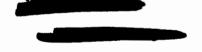
"THE U.S. WARNS PUTIN: CHECHNYA WILL ISOLATE MOSCOW" (IL SOLE-24 ORE)
"ICE IN MOSCOW BETWEEN ALBRIGHT AND IVANOV"" (IL GIORNALE)
"CLASH BETWEEN ALBRIGHT AND IVANOV ON CHECHNYA"
(L'UNITA')

COMMENTS:

A REPORT FROM MOSCOW IN LEADING CONSERVATIVE, OPPOSITION DAILY IL GIORNALE (2/1): "'RUSSIA 'HAS THE RIGHT TO

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DEFEND ITS OWN TERRITORY', BUT THE U.S. REMAINS CRITICAL
OF THE MILITARY MEANS IT IS USING IN CHECHNYA AGAINST
THE ISLAMIC REBELS, AND MAINTAINS THAT MOSCOW RISKS
DAMAGING ITS REPUTATION IN THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY.
THIS IS WHAT SECRETARY ALBRIGHT SAID IN A JOINT PRESS
CONFERENCE WITH FOREIGN MINISTER IVANOV...IVANOV AND
ALBRIGHT ALSO TALKED ABOUT 'STAR WARS'...THE HEAD OF
AMERICAN DIPLOMACY ACKNOWLEDGED THAT ON THIS ISSUE, AS
WELL AS ON CHECHNYA, THERE ARE 'DIFFERENT POINTS OF
VIEW.'"

A REPORT FROM MOSCOW IN PRO-DS (LEADING GOVERNMENT PARTY) DAILY L'UNITA' (2/1): "ON THE FIRST DAY OF HER MISSION TO MOSCOW, SECRETARY ALBRIGHT RECEIVED MANY 'NYETS' AND SOME SUGGESTIONS. HER VISIT WAS PROCEEDED BY A RALLY ORGANIZED BY THE COMMUNISTS IN FRONT OF THE AMERICAN EMBASSY TO PROTEST HER MEETING AT THE KREMLIN 'BECAUSE THE AMERICANS DEFEND THOSE GANGSTERS IN CHECHNYA.'....INDEED, TODAY'S MULTILATERAL MEETING IS



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SUBJECT:ROME MEDIA REACTION REPORT - FEBRUARY 1, 2000

THE REAL DAY WHEN THEY WILL DEAL WITH VARIOUS ISSUES ON THE PEACE PROCESS IN THE MIDDLE EAST. YESTERDAY SECRETARY ALBRIGHT SPENT HER TIME 'EXAMINING' THE POST-IVANOV PRONOUNCED HIS FIRST 'NO' AND YELTSIN MEN. SUGGESTED THAT SHE...'BE MORE INFORMED' ON WHAT IS TAKING PLACE IN CHECHNYA....TO MAKE THE CASE EVEN MORE COMPLICATED THERE IS THE ANDREI BABITSKI CASE, THE REPORTER FROM RADIO FREE EUROPE/RADIO LIBERTY WHO WAS ARRESTED BY THE RUSSIAN MILITARY IN GROZNY....THIS WAS JUST THE BEGINNING. EVERYTHING CAN CHANGE TODAY WHEN ALBRIGHT WILL MEET WITH ACTING PRESIDENT PUTIN. IT SHOULD NOT BE RULED OUT THAT THE DATE FOR A MEETING BETWEEN CLINTON AND PUTIN WILL BE SET - PROBABLY BEFORE THE RUSSIAN PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION ON MARCH 26TH....NOTWITHSTANDING BASIC DIFFERENCES, IVANOV AND ALBRIGHT ALSO MADE A TINY GESTURE OF DETENTE AND SIGNED AN AGREEMENT WHICH SHOULD STRENGTHEN CONTROLS OVER TECHNOLOGY USED IN THE LAUNCHING OF THE U.S. SATELLITES FROM RUSSIAN SPACE STATIONS."

VLADIMIR SAPOSHNIKOV REPORTS FROM MOSCOW IN LEADING

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BUSINESS DAILY IL SOLE-24 ORE (2/1): "MANY EXPERTS MAINTAIN THAT ALBRIGHT'S VISIT REPRESENTS A UNIQUE OCCASION FOR THE WHITE HOUSE TO CARRY OUT A PERSONAL REVIEW OF PUTIN, THE FAVORITE CANDIDATE IN THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS."

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A REPORT FROM MOSCOW IN ROME CENTRIST DAILY IL MESSAGGERO (2/1): 'YESTERDAY'S MEETINGS IN MOSCOW PRESENTED A DIFFICULT BEGINNING FOR SECRETARY ALBRIGHT... BUT IT WAS JUST THE BEGINNING. EVERYTHING MIGHT CHANGE TODAY WHEN, BEFORE GOING TO CROATIA, ALBRIGHT WILL HAVE A PERSONAL MEETING WITH ACTING PRESIDENT PUTIN."

4. U.S. POLITICS

ITALIAN MEDIA PREVIEW TODAY'S PRIMARY IN NEW HAMPSHIRE WITH COLORFUL STORIES ON THE CONTESTANTS.

ALL DAILIES ALSO BRIEFLY REPORT THAT ILLINOIS GOVERNOR GEORGE RYAN ANNOUNCED A SUSPENSION OF THE DEATH SENTENCE IN HIS STATE.

HEADLINES:

"U.S. PRIMARY: THE RUN-UP OF THE LOSERS"" (CORRIERE DELLA SERA)
"TODAY'S PRIMARY IN NEW HAMPSHIRE, THE FIRST REAL TEST FOR GORE AND BUSH" (IL SOLE-24 ORE)
"A GAME OF FOUR IN NEW HAMPSHIRE" (LA STAMPA)
"BUSH AND GORE TO THE CRUCIAL TEST" (IL MESSAGGERO)
"NEW HAMPSHIRE PRIMARY: STRIKES BELOW THE BELT AND COURTYARD BRAWLS" (L'UNITA')

COMMENTS:

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AUGUSTO MINZOLINI REPORTS FROM MANCHESTER, NEW
HAMPSHIRE, IN CENTRIST, INFLUENTIAL LA STAMPA (2/1):
"WHO WINS THE PRIMARY HERE...USUALLY BECOMES THE U.S.
PRESIDENT. IT IS NOT A SCIENTIFIC FIGURE, BUT A DEFACTO STATISTIC....IN ANY CASE, PEOPLE DO BELIEVE IN
THIS....AND THE PRIMARY IN NEW HAMPSHIRE REPRESENTS A
SENSITIVE SEISMOGRAPH OF THE POLITICAL CHANGES WHICH

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MODIFY AMERICANS' ORIENTATION....THIS YEAR IS NO DIFFERENT. THE CHALLENGERS, THE OUTSIDERS OF THESE ELECTIONS, HAVE BET EVERYTHING ON TODAY'S VOTE...AND SUDDENLY, THE ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN IGNITED. NO MORE MINUETS OR FORMAL SMILES. EVEN THE TAME BRADLEY REALIZED THAT...AND BEGAN TO HIT BACK."

SIEGMUND GINZBERG REPORTS FROM WASHINGTON IN PRO-DS (LEADING GOVERNMENT PARTY) DAILY L'UNITA' (2/1): "IT IS LIKE A WRESTLING MATCH....THE PRIMARY IN NEW HAMPSHIRE OPENED THE WAY TO AN UNSEEMLY EXCHANGE OF INVECTIVES - HITS BELOW THE BELT AMONG THE MAIN CANDIDATES. NOT



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AMONG THOSE WHO WILL FIGHT FOR THE WHITE HOUSE, BUT BETWEEN THOSE WHO, IN EACH OF THE TWO PARTIES, HOPE TO GET THE NOMINATION. AMONG THE DEMOCRATS THE BRAWL WAS BEGUN BY THE MORE GENTLEMANLY CANDIDATE, FORMER BASKET BALL CHAMPION BILL BRADLEY....NOR IS THE 'TONE' OF THE DEBATE VERY DIFFERENT AMONG THE REPUBLICANS."

"BRADLEY: THE GENTLEMAN CANDIDATE" -- UNDER THIS HEADLINE, LEFT LEANING, INFLUENTIAL LA REPUBBLICA (2/1) DEVOTES A FULL-PAGE STORY, WITH REFERENCE ON THE FRONT-PAGE, TO BILL BRADLEY WHO IS DEFINED BY SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT VITTORIO ZUCCONI AS "THE ONLY MAN FROM THE LEFT IN THIS PRIMARY."

WRECKAGE OF U.S. NAVY F-4J PHANTOM

MEDIA CONTINUE TO REPORT ABOUT THE WRECKAGE OF A U.S. NAVY F-4J THAT HAD BEEN FOUND EARLIER IN THE WEEK IN THE WATERS NEAR GAETA. REPORTS INCLUDED ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE EMBASSY IN ROME BASED ON DATA FROM THE U.S. NAVAL SAFETY CENTER (NORFOLK, VA) ABOUT THE MISHAP WHICH OCCURRED ON OCT. 23, 1974, INVOLVING TWO F-4J AIRCRAFT BASED ON THE USS SARATOGA.

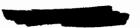
HOWEVER, THE SUSPICION OF PLOTS AND CONSPIRACIES PREVAILS IN SOME REPORTS, ESPECIALLY CENTRIST, TOP-

PAGE 03 ROME 00627 05 OF 06 012030Z CIRCULATION CORRIERE DELLA SERA WHICH UNABASHEDLY CONTINUES TO LINK THE WRECKAGE, CALLED "PHANTOM II," TO THE USTICA INCIDENT.

STORIES ALSO NOTE THAT THE ROME PROSECUTORS WHO ARE CONDUCTING THE INVESTIGATION ON THE (USTICA) JUNE 27, 1980, TRAGEDY ASKED THE LATINA PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE FOR DOCUMENTATION ABOUT THE AIRCRAFT THAT CRASHED NEAR GAETA.

HEADLINES:

"THE MYSTERY OF THE PHANTOM PLANE REOPENS THE USTICA



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CASE - ROME PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE ASKS FOR DOCUMENTS: IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN SHOT DOWN IN THE FIGHT THAT COULD HAVE INVOLVED THE DC9" (SUB-HEADING) (CORRIERE DELLA SERA) "THE MYSTERY OF THE U.S. F4 GOES TO THE USTICA PROSECUTORS - BUT THE U.S. EMBASSY CLARIFIES: ON OCTOBER 23, 1974, TWO JETS CRASHED" (SUB-HEAING) (LA REPUBBLICA) "ROME' PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE ASK FOR THE DOCUMENTS OF THE F4 CRASHED IN GAETA" (IL GIORNALE) "'ONLY ONE F4 CRASHED IN THE SEA' - THE NEW U.S. VERSION: ONE JET CAUGHT FIRE OFF GAETA, THE OTHER ONE LANDED IN MOLISE" (SUB-HEADING) (IL MESSAGGERO) "THE U.S. IS READY TO COOPERATE ON USTICA - THE U.S. EMBASSY: 'THIS IS HOW THE TWO AIRCRAFTS CRASHED IN '74.' BUT ROME INVESTIGATORS WANT THE DOCUMENTS (SUB-HEADING)." (IL TEMPO)

COMMENTS:

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012030Z A REPORT IN CENTRIST, TOP-CIRCULATION CORRIERE DELLA SERA (2/1): "IN EFFECT, THE WRECKAGE OF THE PHANTOM PLANE ... REOPENS THE INVESTIGATION OF THE USTICA INCIDENT. THE FIRST OFFICIAL VERSION ISSUED BY THE U.S. EMBASSY...DID NOT DISPEL SUSPICIONS....THE SECOND OFFICIAL VERSION WAS RELEASED YESTERDAY BY THE AMERICAN EMBASSY, AFTER NEWSPAPERS HAD BEEN FOUND IN THEIR ARCHIVES THAT A PHANTOM...CRASHED NEAR CAMPOBASSO ON OCTOBER, 23, 1974....THIS NEW VERSION STATES THAT THE JET HICH LANDED IN CAMPOBASSO HAD AN EQUIPMENT FAILURE AND TRIED TO REACH AN AIRFIELD IN NAPLES, WHILE THE ONE WHICH CRASHED INTO THE SEA, AFTER HAVING ESCORTED IT, REMAINED WITHOUT GASOLINE ON "ITS WAY BACK TO THE SARATOGA." THE REPORT CONCLUDES BY CITING AN ARTICLE PUBLISHED ON THE FRONT PAGE OF THE FRENCH DAILY LE MONDE YESTERDAY WHICH NOTED "HOW THE AMERICANS HAVE ALWAYS REFUSED TO COLLABORATE ON THE USTICA INVESTIGATION."

A REPORT IN LEFT-LEANING, INFLUENTIAL LA REPUBBLICA



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INFO LOG-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 UTED-00 TEDE-00 INR-00 NSAE-00

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P 011202Z FEB 00 FM AMEMBASSY ROME TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7849 ALL NATO POST COLLECTIVE COMSIXTHFLT //019 AMCONSUL FLORENCE AMEMBASSY TIRANA AMEMBASSY MOSCOW NAVSUPPACT LA MADDALENA IT ENGFLDACT MED NAPLES IT//NI// COMSUBGRU EIGHT COMSUBRON TWO TWO JOINT STAFF WASHDC NAS SIGONELLA IT//PA// USCINCEUR ALT SHAPE BE

UNCLAS SECTION 06 OF 06 ROME 000627

STATE FOR EUR/WE, EUR/RPM, INR, PA INR/R/MR, I/GEU, I/FW, I/FNY, B/VOA/X, D/P NAVSUPPACT FOR LT. SMITH/01E JOINT STAFF FOR J-5 LCDR. FC PANDOLFE

PERISHABLE INFORMATION -- DO NOT SERVICE

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E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: OPRC, KMDR, IT

SUBJECT: ROME MEDIA REACTION REPORT - FEBRUARY 1, 2000

(2/1): "THE AMERICAN EMBASSY GAVE FURTHER DETAILS: AIRCRAFTS CRASHED ON OCT. 23, 1974....THE PILOTS OF THE F4 PLANE WHICH LANDED ON THE SEPINO AREA WERE RESCUED BY DOMENICO MOLINARA, WHO THEN DIED BACK IN 1986. HIS WIDOWER, MARIA PASQUALINA D'ALOIA, YESTERDAY SHOWED WITH PRIDE THE THANK-YOU LETTER FROM THE AMERICAN ARMED FORCE IN ITALY....INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS PROVIDE THAT IN CASE OF AN AIR ACCIDENT ON OUR TERRITORY, THE ITALIAN AUTHORITY MUST BE INFORMED. AND THIS OBLIGATION, ACCORDING TO ITALIAN DEFENSE SOURCES, WAS RESPECTED IN 1974. BUT IT IS NOT CLEAR IF IT IS PROVIDED THAT THE U.S. AUTHORITIES SHOULD GIVE ALL THE NECESSARY DATA FOR IT IS CLEAR THAT IF DOCUMENTS THE FINDING OF THE JET. OF AN AIR CRASH OF AN F 4J WITH THE SAME NUMBER AS THE

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ONE IN PONZA ARE FOUND IN THE ITALIAN DEFENSE ARCHIVES, THE MYSTERY WOULD BE SOLVED. UNLESS WE MAKE THE HYPOTHESIS THAT IN THE TWO DAYS IN WHICH THE WRECKAGE DISAPPEARED... SOMEONE MANIPULATED IT. BUT THE OWNER OF THE STORAGE WHERE THE WRECKAGE IS KEPT RULES OUT THIS: DOMENICO PONTICELLA ASSURED 'I'VE NOT RECEIVED ANY PRESSURES FROM THE U.S.'"

FIORENZA SARZANINI REPORTS IN ROME CENTRIST DAILY IL MESSAGGERO (2/1): "THE AMERICAN EMBASSY ADJUSTS THE AIM AND CHANGES VERSION OF THE ACCIDENT THAT OCCURED ON OCTOBER 23, 1974....IN REALITY, THE NOTE ADDS MYSTERIES

ROME 00627 06 OF 06 012030Z PAGE 03 TO MYSTERIES. WHY THIS SUDDEN CHANGE OF VERSION? THERE SOMETHING ELSE THEY WANT TO HIDE? IN ORDER TO DISCOVER THIS, PROSECUTORS FROM THE ROME PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE INVESTIGATING ON USTICA REQUESTED THEIR COLLEAGUES FROM LATINA THE PROCEEDINGS ON THE PHANTOM....IN MOLISE, MANY PEOPLE REMEMBER THAT ACCIDENT. AND THEY TELL US THAT THE TWO AMERICAN PILOTS....WERE BROUGHT TO THE CAMPOBASSO HOSPITAL...BUT THAT AFTER A FEW HOURS THERY WERE TAKEN BY A U.S. NAVY HELICOPTER AND WERE BROUGHT TO NAPLES AND THEN TO THE IT WILL BE UP TO THE PROSECUTORS TO FIND IF THE JET CRASHED IN GAETA WAS REALLY THE JET FLYING ON THE SAME MISSION." FOGLIETTA

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>