

UNCLASSIFIED

Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

[REDACTED]
DOC_NBR: 1991ROME18180

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
[REDACTED]

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PAGE 01 ROME 18362 081758Z
ACTION EUR-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-13	ADS-00	CIAE-00	CFE-01	DPR-01	CSCE-01
	H-01	IMMC-01	INRE-00	INR-01	IO-19	L-03	NRRC-01
	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	PA-02	PM-01	PRS-01	P-01
	SB-01	SCT-03	SP-01	SS-01	TRSE-00	T-01	/057W
				-----9E0586 082026Z /65			

P 081750Z OCT 91
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9032
INFO SECDEF WASHDC
JCS WASHDC
USIA WASHDC 5991
USMISSION USNATO 1008
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
COMSIXTHFLT
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE//ECPA//ECJ5//
CNO WASHDC//O6/O9C//
COMFAIRMED NAPLES IT

UNCLAS ROME 18362

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

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

PAGE 02 ROME 18362 081758Z

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

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

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134

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

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

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

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

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PAGE 01 ROME 18408 091205Z
ACTION INR-01

INFO	LOG-00	ADS-00	AMAD-01	CIAE-00	DODE-00	EB-01	EUR-01
	H-01	INRE-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	PM-01	P-01	SP-01
	SSO-00	SS-01	T-01	/010W			
				-----9E4E16	091208Z	/46	

O 091153Z OCT 91
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9064

ROME 18408

STATE ALSO FOR P

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

1. -- ENTIRE TEXT.

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

3. BEGIN TEXT:

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

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

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

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REVIEW AUTHORITY: ERIC W. FLEISHER
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CHANNEL: n/a

HANDLING: n/a

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

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

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

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A123

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16 Apr 2002

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CHANNEL: n
HANDLING: B1, 1.5(D)

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PAGE 01 ROME 19453 01 OF 04 251444Z
ACTION EUR-01

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

-----A495EC 251449Z /45

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

SECTION 01 OF 04 ROME 19453

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

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: OVIP (BUSH, GEORGE), NATO, IT
SUBJECT: NATO SUMMIT: THE PRESIDENT'S BILATERAL
- MEETING WITH PM ANDREOTTI

REFS: (A) ROME 16667, (B) ROME 17537, (C) ROME
- 17685, (D) ROME 18167, (E) ROME 19404

1. - ENTIRE TEXT.
2. THE ONLY SUBSTANTIVE U.S.-ITALIAN EVENT LIKELY

PAGE 02 ROME 19453 01 OF 04 251444Z
TO BE SCHEDULED FOR THE NATO SUMMIT IN ROME IS THE
PRESIDENT'S MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER GIULIO
ANDREOTTI, OVER BREAKFAST AT THE AMBASSADOR'S
RESIDENCE, NOVEMBER 7. (WE ASSUME THAT SECRETARY
BAKER AND FOREIGN MINISTER DE MICHELIS WILL TAKE
PART IN THIS MEETING.) BESIDES A BRIEF BACKGROUND
NOTE, WE ADDRESS BELOW PRIMARILY MATTERS TO BE
DISCUSSED DURING THE NATO SUMMIT AND SECONDARILY
OTHER INTERNATIONAL AND SOME BILATERAL MATTERS.

EXTEND CLASSIFICATION

GENERAL BACKGROUND ON ITALY

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: ERIC W. FLEISHER
DATE/CASE ID: 3 OCT 2002 200102359
CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL REASON: 1.6(6)
DECLASSIFY AFTER: 25 OCT 2016

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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

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

EUROPEAN SECURITY DEBATE

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

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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

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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-03
	NRRC-01	NSAE-00	OIC-02	PA-01	PM-01	PRS-01	P-01
	SB-01	SP-01	SSO-00	SS-01	TRSE-00	T-01	USIE-00
	/053W						

-----A4961E 251450Z /45

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

SECTION 02 OF 04 ROME 19453

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

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(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

6.

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NATO LIAISON WITH EASTERN EUROPE

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

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

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COUNTRY, AND UNDER THAT UMBRELLA BEGIN THE
COOPERATIVE ENDEAVORS WE ALSO SUPPORT. [REDACTED]

B1

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

CROTONE

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

B1

MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROCESS

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

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CONFERENCE AND ON THE PROSPECTS FOR FURTHER
PROGRESS. BOTH ANDREOTTI AND DE MICHELIS HAVE
STRONGLY SUPPORTED U.S. EFFORTS THUS FAR. IN EARLY
[REDACTED]

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HE
UNDERTOOK A VISIT TO ISRAEL SEPTEMBER 4-5 TO

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ACTION EUR-01

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

-----A49674 251452Z /45

O 251443Z OCT 91
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9747
INFO WHITEHOUSE WASHDC IMMEDIATE

SECTION 03 OF 04 ROME 19453

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

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: OVIP (BUSH, GEORGE), NATO, IT
SUBJECT: NATO SUMMIT: THE PRESIDENT'S BILATERAL
- MEETING WITH PM ANDREOTTI

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

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

URUGUAY ROUND

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

B1

AID TO SOVIETS/EASTERN EUROPE

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

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CONTRIBUTIONS. THE ITALIANS WILL BE EAGER TO KNOW CURRENT U.S. THOUGHTS.

ALBANIA

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

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

YUGOSLAVIA SANCTIONS

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

[REDACTED]
DE MICHELIS HAS
BEEN TAKING THE LEAD IN RESISTING DOMESTIC PRESSURE
TO RECOGNIZE THE INDEPENDENCE OF THESE TWO
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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REPUBLICS AHEAD OF A NEGOTIATED SOLUTION WITHIN THE
EC.

GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE

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

RELATIONS WITH IRAN

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ACTION EUR-01

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

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142

CSCE-01	H-01	IMMC-01	INRE-00	INR-01	IO-19	L-03
NRRC-01	NSAE-00	OIC-02	PA-01	PM-01	PRS-01	P-01
SB-01	SP-01	SSO-00	SS-01	TRSE-00	T-01	USIE-00

/053W

-----A496B2 251453Z /45

O 251443Z OCT 91
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9748
INFO WHITEHOUSE WASHDC IMMEDIATE

SECTION 04 OF 04 ROME 19453

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

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: OVIP (BUSH, GEORGE), NATO, IT
SUBJECT: NATO SUMMIT: THE PRESIDENT'S BILATERAL
- MEETING WITH PM ANDREOTTI

16. ANDREOTTI MAY GO TO IRAN IN NOVEMBER. HIS
GOVERNMENT SUPPORTS INCREASED ECONOMIC AND
POLITICAL RELATIONS WITH IRAN. ITALIAN COMMERCIAL
INTEREST, ESPECIALLY IN HEAVY INDUSTRY, IS
INCREASING.

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ENTERPRISE FOR THE AMERICAS

17. [REDACTED]

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DE MICHELIS RECENTLY ANNOUNCED THAT ITALY WILL
PARTICIPATE, BUT THE ITALIAN TREASURY WILL NOT
PROVIDE ADDITIONAL FUNDS. THE FOREIGN MINISTRY IS
TRYING TO REPROGRAM EXISTING RESOURCES.

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HANDLING: n/a

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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.

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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
ACTION EUR-01

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

-----A69644 301827Z /46

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

ROME 19745

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

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: OVIP (BUSH, GEORGE), NATO, IT
SUBJECT: NATO SUMMIT: BRIEFING MEMO FOR
- PRESIDENT'S BILATERAL WITH PM ANDREOTTI

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

1. [REDACTED] - ENTIRE TEXT.
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

PAGE 02 ROME 19745 301823Z

2. THE EMBASSY BELIEVES IT IS IMPORTANT TO FLAG
TWO BILATERAL ITEMS FOR THE PRESIDENT BEFORE HIS
MEETING WITH PM ANDREOTTI: THE USTICA CASE (REF A,
PARA 19) AND THE AL-JAWARY CASE (OTHER REFTELS).

3. THE USTICA CASE IS ONE THAT ANDREOTTI MAY
RAISE. ALTHOUGH THE DISAPPEARANCE OF THE ITAVIA
DC-9 OVER THE TYRRHENIAN SEA OCCURRED 11 YEARS AGO,
THE UNSOLVED CAUSE OF THE CRASH CONTINUES TO
EXERCISE THE PUBLIC, THE MEDIA AND THE HIGHEST

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

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

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ACTION EUR-01

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

-----A82C5C 041438Z /38

O 041437Z NOV 91
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0029
INFO SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
JCS WASHDC
USIA WASHDC 6099
USMISSION USNATO 1057
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
COMSIXTHFLT
USCINCEUR VAHINGEN GE//ECPA//ECJ5
CNO WASHDC
COMFAIRMED NAPLES IT
USNMR SHAPE BE

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DEPT ALSO FOR P
USIA FOR EU, P/G

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

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

REF: ROME 19340

1. - ENTIRE TEXT.

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

EXTEND CLASSIFICATION

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

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EXPLAINING, HE SAID THAT A EUROPEAN FORCE MIGHT BE CALLED UPON TO UNDERTAKE MILITARY ACTION IN AN AREA NOT COVERED BY NATO OR IN EASTERN EUROPE. I ASKED HOW THE WEU WOULD MOVE THESE TROOPS WITHOUT U.S. TRANSPORTS AND LOGISTICAL SUPPORT.

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6. I ASKED THE MINISTER IF THE ISSUE OF THE INCREASED IMPORTANCE OF NATO'S SOUTHERN FLANK WAS RAISED.

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

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O 041437Z NOV 91
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0030
INFO SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
JCS WASHDC
USIA WASHDC 6100
USMISSION USNATO 1058
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK

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

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SUBJECT: MEETING WITH ITALIAN DEFENSE MINISTER

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.

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.
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PAGE 01 NAPLES 03512 071407Z
ACTION EUR-01

INFO	LOG-00	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-03
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	PRS-01	P-01	SNP-00	SP-00	SS-00	STR-17	TRSE-00
	T-01	USIE-00	/066W				

-----77E452 071408Z /38

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

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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

[REDACTED]

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

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

10. THE WANING ITALIAN ENTHUSIASM FOR THE RADICAL LEFT WAS ALSO REFLECTED IN THE NATIONAL PARLIAMENT ELECTION LAST APRIL WHEN MOST LEFTIST GROUPS DECIDED TO NOT RUN SLATES OF CANDIDATES. ONLY A FEW FAR LEFTIST CANDIDATES WERE ELECTED, AND THE ONCE NOTABLE GROUP OF INDEPENDENT LEFTISTS IN PARLIAMENT WAS NO MORE. NAPLES' GRAND OLD MAN OF THE FAR LEFT, MARCO PANELLA (FOUNDER OF THE RADICAL PARTY) RAN A LIST OF CANDIDATES BEARING HIS OWN NAME RATHER THAN TRYING TO REVIVE THE RADICAL PARTY AND ITS OLD IDEALS. INSTEAD, THE PANELLA

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LIST PLATFORM BASED ITS CAMPAIGN ON POLITICAL REFORM PROPOSALS WHILE ATTACKING THE "CORRUPT" POLITICAL ESTABLISHMENT. SIMILARLY, IN TUNE WITH THE SHIFT IN PUBLIC SENTIMENTS, THE GREENS IN SOUTH ITALY RAN ON MORE MODERATE PLATFORMS THAN IN THE PAST, AND FOCUSED ON ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL REFORM, AND ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES. THE GREENS HIGHLIGHTED THEIR SUPPORT FOR ANTI-ORGANIZED CRIME MEASURES

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(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. LEFTIST GROUPS OPPOSED TO THE PROPOSED DEPLOYMENT OF THE U.S. 401ST WING OF F-16S (FROM TORREJON SPAIN) TO CROTONE (A PLAN NIXED BY THE U.S. CONGRESS IN 1992) ACTIVELY SOUGHT TO USE ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES TO ROUSE PUBLIC OPPOSITION TO THE TRANSFER. ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS AND STUDIES ALSO STALLED THE PROPOSED TRANSFER OF MAJOR U.S. NAVAL FACILITIES TO CAPODICHINO (NAPLES AREA) FOR A NUMBER

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OF YEARS AND AT ONE POINT HAD APPEARED LIKELY TO BLOCK THE MOVE. THESE TWO EXPERIENCES CAN ONLY ENCOURAGE LEFTISTS TO VIEW ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STUDIES AS A PROMISING TOOL FOR OPPOSING AND PERHAPS DELAYING MILITARY BASING PLANS UNTIL THEY ARE OUTDATED BY 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 1992. THE KEY PROBLEM IS THAT THE LACK OF CONCRETE EVIDENCE ON THE CRASH AND THE INCOMPLETE RECORDS OF 1980 APPEAL TO CONGENITAL LEFTISTS AND A GENERAL ITALIAN PUBLIC THIRST FOR CONSPIRACIES. A RASH OF RECENT SPECULATIVE NEWSPAPER ARTICLES AND TV NEWSCLIPS HAVE SUGGESTED THAT AT LEAST ONE U.S. AIRCRAFT WAS INVOLVED AND THAT A

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COVERUP HAS BEEN GOING ON FOR YEARS.

13. SUCH INNUENDO HAS BEEN GOING ON FOR YEARS. SPECULATION WAS FURTHER INFLAMED WHEN JOURNALISTS HIGHLIGHTED ILL-CONCEIVED STATEMENTS BY ITALIAN DEFENSE MINISTER SALVO ANDO TO VISITING SECRETARY OF DEFENSE RICHARD CHENEY ON OCTOBER 25. TRUST IN THE U.S. MILITARY WAS LESSENED IN SOUTHERN ITALY BY NEGATIVE NEWS ARTICLES WITH SENSATIONALIST AND INACCURATE TITLES SUCH AS "ENOUGH LIES ON USTICA--ANDO OBTAINS COMMITMENT FROM CHENEY TO COLLABORATE." THESE ARTICLES OF COURSE FAILED TO MENTION THAT U.S. OFFICIALS HAVE CONSISTENTLY PROMISED TO AND HAVE COOPERATED WITH ITALIAN OFFICIALS IN THE VARIOUS INVESTIGATIONS CONDUCTED SINCE THE USTICA CRASH.

14. ONE OF THE MORE DAMAGING ASPECTS OF THE UNBALANCED PRESS COVERAGE IS THE IMPLICATION THAT MILITARY AIRCRAFT ENDANGER THE SAFETY OF CIVILIAN AIRCRAFT. SEVERAL ARTICLES IN SOUTHERN ITALIAN NEWSPAPERS SPECULATED THAT U.S. MILITARY AIRCRAFT, AND POSSIBLY AN ITALIAN FIGHTER JET AND/OR U.S. NAVY SHIPS, WERE ENGAGED IN A MILITARY EXERCISE IN THE VICINITY OF USTICA AND THAT THE CIVILIAN AIRLINER WAS SHOT DOWN BY AN ALLIED MISSILE. THESE INSINUATIONS ADD TO THE ITALIAN PUBLIC'S CONCERN AND COULD ENHANCE THE ITALIAN PUBLIC'S RELUCTANCE TO ACCEPT MILITARY FLIGHTS OR AIRCRAFT DEPLOYMENT

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IN AREAS PERCEIVED TO HAVE CONGESTED AIRSPACE.

YUGOSLAVIA AND THE ARAB STATES -- CLOSE TO SOUTH ITALY

15. THE FALL OF COMMUNISM IN EASTERN EUROPE HAS NOT ELIMINATED ALL THREATS TO ITALY'S SECURITY WORRIES, BUT HAS CHANGED THE NATURE OF SOME OF THEM. WE HAVE NOTED A QUICKNESS ON THE PART OF SOUTHERN ITALIAN POLITICIANS TO POINT TO YUGOSLAVIA AND ALBANIA AS AREAS OF SPECIAL CONCERN FOR SOUTHERN ITALIANS. THE FLOOD OF REFUGEES THAT BEGAN ARRIVING IN 1991 PRESENTED A VERY IMMEDIATE AND LARGE SCALE PROBLEM. THE PREFECT IN BARI MENTIONED TO US THAT ONE CANNOT ASSUME THAT THE ITALIAN AUTHORITIES WILL BE ABLE TO REPEAT THE SUCCESS THEY

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HAD THE LAST TIME IN TURNING BACK THE REFUGEES. SOUTHERN ITALY HAS SEVERAL COMMUNITIES ON THE COAST THAT HAVE ALBANIAN AND YUGOSLAVIAN ETHNIC POPULATIONS AND ARE NATURAL MAGNETS FOR FLEEING REFUGEES FROM THESE NATIONS. OTHER OFFICIALS IN PUGLIA MENTIONED THAT SEVERAL SMALL BANDS OF REFUGEES HAD BEEN CAUGHT SMUGGLING WEAPONS AND EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT THE COLLAPSE OF VARIOUS GOVERNMENTS IN EASTERN EUROPE MIGHT LEAD TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF A BLACK MARKET FOR WEAPONS TRANSITING ITALY. AN EASTERN EUROPEAN ARMS SMUGGLING OPERATION WAS

NOTE: NOT PASSED TO ABOVE ADDRESSEE(S)

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ACTION EUR-01

INFO	LOG-00	AGRE-00	AID-01	CEA-01	CIAE-00	COME-00	CTME-00
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	PRS-01	P-01	SNP-00	SP-00	SS-00	STR-17	TRSE-00
	T-01	USIE-00	/066W				

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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

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FOR SECTION INFO

ROME PLS PASS AMCONSULS FLORENCE, GENOA, PALERMO

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ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES--PREDICTABLE HEADACHES FOR MILITARY DEPLOYMENTS

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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. LEFTIST GROUPS OPPOSED TO THE PROPOSED DEPLOYMENT OF THE U.S. 401ST WING OF F-16S (FROM TORREJON SPAIN) TO CROTONE (A PLAN NIXED BY THE U.S. CONGRESS IN 1992) ACTIVELY SOUGHT TO USE ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES TO ROUSE PUBLIC OPPOSITION TO THE TRANSFER. ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS AND STUDIES ALSO STALLED THE PROPOSED TRANSFER OF MAJOR U.S. NAVAL FACILITIES TO CAPODICHINO (NAPLES AREA) FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS AND AT ONE POINT HAD APPEARED LIKELY TO BLOCK THE MOVE. THESE TWO EXPERIENCES CAN ONLY ENCOURAGE LEFTISTS TO VIEW ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STUDIES AS A PROMISING TOOL FOR OPPOSING AND PERHAPS DELAYING MILITARY BASING PLANS UNTIL THEY ARE OUTDATED BY EVENTS.

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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 AUTHORITIES AND COUNTER INACCURATE SPECULATIVE MEDIA COVERAGE THROUGHOUT THE YEARS, THIS ISSUE BECAME FRONT PAGE NEWS AGAIN IN 1992. THE KEY PROBLEM IS THAT THE LACK OF CONCRETE EVIDENCE ON THE CRASH AND THE INCOMPLETE RECORDS OF 1980 APPEAL TO CONGENITAL LEFTISTS AND A GENERAL ITALIAN PUBLIC THIRST FOR CONSPIRACIES. A RASH OF RECENT SPECULATIVE NEWSPAPER ARTICLES AND TV NEWSCLIPS HAVE SUGGESTED THAT AT LEAST ONE U.S. AIRCRAFT WAS INVOLVED AND THAT A COVERUP HAS BEEN GOING ON FOR YEARS.

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13. SUCH INNUENDO HAS BEEN GOING ON FOR YEARS. SPECULATION WAS FURTHER INFLAMED WHEN JOURNALISTS HIGHLIGHTED ILL-CONCEIVED STATEMENTS BY ITALIAN DEFENSE MINISTER SALVO ANDO TO VISITING SECRETARY OF DEFENSE RICHARD CHENEY ON OCTOBER 25. TRUST IN THE U.S. MILITARY WAS LESSENED IN SOUTHERN ITALY BY NEGATIVE NEWS ARTICLES WITH SENSATIONALIST AND INACCURATE TITLES SUCH AS "ENOUGH LIES ON USTICA-ANDO OBTAINS COMMITMENT FROM CHENEY TO COLLABORATE." THESE ARTICLES OF COURSE FAILED TO MENTION THAT U.S. OFFICIALS HAVE CONSISTENTLY PROMISED TO AND HAVE COOPERATED WITH ITALIAN OFFICIALS IN THE VARIOUS INVESTIGATIONS CONDUCTED SINCE THE USTICA CRASH.

14. ONE OF THE MORE DAMAGING ASPECTS OF THE UNBALANCED PRESS COVERAGE IS THE IMPLICATION THAT MILITARY AIRCRAFT ENDANGER THE SAFETY OF CIVILIAN AIRCRAFT. SEVERAL ARTICLES IN SOUTHERN ITALIAN NEWSPAPERS SPECULATED THAT U.S. MILITARY AIRCRAFT, AND POSSIBLY AN ITALIAN FIGHTER JET AND/OR U.S. NAVY SHIPS, WERE ENGAGED IN A MILITARY EXERCISE IN THE VICINITY OF USTICA AND THAT THE CIVILIAN AIRLINER WAS SHOT DOWN BY AN ALLIED MISSILE. THESE INSINUATIONS ADD TO THE ITALIAN PUBLIC'S CONCERN AND COULD ENHANCE THE ITALIAN PUBLIC'S RELUCTANCE TO ACCEPT MILITARY FLIGHTS OR AIRCRAFT DEPLOYMENT

IN AREAS PERCEIVED TO HAVE CONGESTED AIRSPACE.

YUGOSLAVIA AND THE ARAB STATES -- CLOSE TO SOUTH ITALY

15. THE FALL OF COMMUNISM IN EASTERN EUROPE HAS NOT ELIMINATED ALL THREATS TO ITALY'S SECURITY WORRIES, BUT HAS CHANGED THE NATURE OF SOME OF THEM. WE HAVE NOTED A QUICKNESS ON THE PART OF SOUTHERN ITALIAN POLITICIANS TO POINT TO YUGOSLAVIA AND ALBANIA AS AREAS OF SPECIAL CONCERN FOR SOUTHERN ITALIANS. THE FLOOD OF REFUGEES THAT BEGAN ARRIVING IN 1991 PRESENTED A VERY IMMEDIATE AND LARGE SCALE PROBLEM. THE PREFECT IN BARI MENTIONED TO US THAT ONE CANNOT ASSUME

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THAT THE ITALIAN AUTHORITIES WILL BE ABLE TO REPEAT THE SUCCESS THEY
HAD THE LAST TIME IN TURNING BACK THE REFUGEES. SOUTHERN ITALY HAS
SEVERAL COMMUNITIES ON THE COAST THAT HAVE ALBANIAN AND YUGOSLAVIAN
ETHNIC POPULATIONS AND ARE NATURAL MAGNETS FOR FLEEING REFUGEES FROM
THESE NATIONS. OTHER OFFICIALS IN PUGLIA MENTIONED THAT SEVERAL
SMALL BANDS OF REFUGEES HAD BEEN CAUGHT SMUGGLING WEAPONS AND
EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT THE COLLAPSE OF VARIOUS GOVERNMENTS IN EASTERN
EUROPE MIGHT LEAD TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF A BLACK MARKET FOR WEAPONS
TRANSITING ITALY. AN EASTERN EUROPEAN ARMS SMUGGLING OPERATION WAS

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ACTION EUR-01

INFO	LOG-00	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-03
	ADS-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OMB-01	OPIC-08	PA-01	PM-02
	PRS-01	P-01	SNP-00	SP-00	SS-00	STR-17	TRSE-00
	T-01	USIE-00	/066W				

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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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

NO CRYSTAL BALL FOR THE FUTURE OF WESTERN DEFENSE DOCTRINES

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

21. HOWEVER, THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT AND THE PARLIAMENTARIANS

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

DETTADIAN

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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
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED])

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REFTEL).

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

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

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

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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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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

PAGE 04 STATE 237427 191946Z
ASKED IF HE COULD SAY THAT IT HAD NEVER BEEN USED. SATTERFIELD REPLIED THAT HE COULD NOT RESPOND TO THIS QUESTION AT THIS TIME.

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

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

9. DOD PUBLIC AFFAIRS DESK OFFICERS SUCH AS SATTERFIELD ROUTINELY USE STANDARD REFERENCE MATERIAL TO PROVIDE INFORMATION REGARDING OUR MISSILE SYSTEMS. THROUGHOUT THE EXCHANGE WITH THE ITALIAN REPORTER, SATTERFIELD RESPONDED WITH INFORMATION IN THE PUBLIC RECORD REGARDING THE STANDARD MISSILE AND NAVAL OPERATIONS, IN THE SAME MANNER AS HE WOULD HAVE REPLIED TO AN AMERICAN REPORTER.

10. SATTERFIELD'S REMARKS TO THE ITALIAN REPORTER NOTWITHSTANDING, WE BELIEVE THAT YOU SHOULD CONTINUE TO USE THE SAME LANGUAGE THAT YOU HAVE BEEN USING (PER 89 STATE 204245) TO REPLY TO PRESS AND OTHER PUBLIC INQUIRIES. EAGLEBURGER

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16 Apr 2002

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CHANNEL: n/a
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PAGE 01 STATE 244578 251812Z
ORIGIN EUR-01

INFO LOG-00 ADS-00 AMAD-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INRE-00 INR-01
NSAE-00 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-01 /007R

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

APPROVED BY: EUR:RCALDWELL

EUR/WE:JHMADDEN

PA:RJBOUCHER

EUR/P:GGARLAND

EUR/RPM:MTAYLOR

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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 TYRRHENIAN 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
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HANDLING: n/a

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

[REDACTED]

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Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

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ORIGIN EUR-01

STATE 398364 062320Z

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-13	AMAD-01	CIAE-00	CFE-01	CSCE-01	HA-09
	H-01	IMMC-01	INRE-00	INR-01	IO-19	L-03	ADS-00
	NEA-01	NRRC-01	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01	PA-01
	PM-01	PRS-01	P-01	SB-01	SNP-01	SP-01	SS-01
	TRSE-00	T-01	/065R				

DRAFTED BY: EUR/WE:LJNIGRO:LJN

APPROVED BY: EUR:JHMADDEN

EUR/RPM:SCAINE

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 VAHINGEN GE//J-5//
USNMR SHAPE BE

STATE 398364

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: PREL, NATO, PINR, IT

SUBJECT: USTICA: UPDATING PRESS GUIDANCE

PAGE 02
REF: ROME 20689

STATE 398364 062320Z

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

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

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

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Date Printed:
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CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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REPORTED ITALIAN TRANSCRIPTS..."

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

-- IN PARA 17: DELETE THE LAST SENTENCE AND SUBSTITUTE

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

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

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-- IN PARA 30: DELETE FIRST SENTENCE, BEGINNING: "WE
CANNOT SPECULATE..."

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

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

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

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Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1992ROME00993

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a
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PAGE 01 ROME 00993 01 OF 02 171746Z
ACTION EUR-01

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

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O 171741Z JAN 92
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2875
INFO SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
JCS WASHDC
USIA WASHDC 6407
USMISSION USNATO 1146
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
COMSIXTHFLT
USCINCEUR VAHINGEN GE//ECPA//ECJ5//
CNO WASHDC//O6/O9C//
COMFAIRMED NAPLES IT
USNMR SHAPE BE
AMCONSUL MILAN

SECTION 01 OF 02 ROME 00993

STATE ALSO FOR P
USIA FOR EU, P/G

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

PAGE 02 ROME 00993 01 OF 02 171746Z

TAGS: PINR, NATO, PREL, IT

SUBJECT: USTICA UPDATE: 13 ITALIAN MILITARY
OFFICERS, INCLUDING FORMER CHIEFS OF STAFF,
IMPLICATED IN COVERUP OF USTICA AFFAIR

EXTEND CLASSIFICATION

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

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

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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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DOC_NBR: 1992ROME00993

CHANNEL: n/a

HANDLING: n/a

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

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

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

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

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Date Printed:

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DOC_NBR: 1992ROME00993

CHANNEL: n/a

HANDLING: n/a

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

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ABUSE OF STATE RECORDS, PERJURY BY A PUBLIC
OFFICIAL, DESTRUCTION OR HIDING OF OFFICIAL
RECORDS. GEN. MELILLO IS CHARGED WITH PRODUCING
FRAUDULENT RECORDS, ABUSE OF OFFICE, AND FOR
BEING AN ACCESSORY AFTER THE FACT.

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

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ACTION EUR-01

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

-----04DAB0 171748Z /38

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

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CHANNEL: n/a

HANDLING: n/a

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CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
COMSIXTHFLT
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE//ECPA//ECJ5//
CNO WASHDC//O6/O9C//
COMFAIRMED NAPLES IT
USNMR SHAPE BE
AMCONSUL MILAN

SECTION 02 OF 02 ROME 00993

STATE ALSO FOR P
USIA FOR EU, P/G

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

PAGE 02 ROME 00993 02 OF 02 171747Z
TAGS: PINR, NATO, PREL, IT
SUBJECT: USTICA UPDATE: 13 ITALIAN MILITARY
OFFICERS, INCLUDING FORMER CHIEFS OF STAFF,
IMPLICATED IN COVERUP OF USTICA AFFAIR

5. (U) THE IMPLICATION OF SUCH HIGH-RANKING OFFICERS RECEIVED WIDE PRESS COVERAGE AND HAS GENERATED CONSIDERABLE DEBATE WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT AND AMONG THE POLITICAL PARTIES. PREDICTABLY, THE LEFT WING HAS JUMPED INTO THE FRAY. ACHILLE OCCHETTO, 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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COLLEAGUES ARE SAYING THAT THE NOTIFICATIONS

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

8. (C)

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

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

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ESSENTIALLY POLITICALLY DRIVEN SCANDAL.

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Date Printed:

16 Apr 2002

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HANDLING: n/a

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Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1992ROME01087

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

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PAGE 01 ROME 01087 01 OF 02 211645Z
ACTION EUR-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-13	AID-01	AMAD-01	CIAE-00	CFE-01	CSCE-01
	HA-09	H-01	IMMC-01	INRE-00	INR-01	IO-19	L-03
	ADS-00	NEA-01	NRRC-01	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01
	PA-01	PM-01	PRS-01	P-01	SB-01	SCT-03	SNP-01
	SP-01	SS-01	TRSE-00	T-01	/069W		
				-----05985C	211645Z	/38	

O 211642Z JAN 92
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2934
INFO SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
JCS WASHDC
USIA WASHDC 6415
USMISSION USNATO 1148
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
COMSIXTHFLT
USCINCEUR VAHINGEN GE//ECPA//ECJ5//
CNO WASHDC//O6/O9C//
COMFAIRMED NAPLES IT
USNMR SHAPE BE
AMCONSUL MILAN

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STATE ALSO FOR P
USIA FOR EU, P/G

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

EXTEND CLASSIFICATION

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

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

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

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: ERIC W. FLEISHER
DATE/CASE ID: 28 OCT 2002 200102359
CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL REASON: 1.6(6)UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Date Printed:

16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1992ROME01087

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 CRASH. THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT IS NOT COMMENTING OFFICIALLY, THOUGH A FORMER HIGH-RANKING OFFICER RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN SAYS THAT IF THERE WAS AN EXCHANGE OF FIRE IN THE AIR, THEN IT INVOLVED THE U.S. OR ITALIAN AIR FORCE. END SUMMARY.

2. (U) ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS JANUARY 18

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

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

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CHANNEL: n/a

HANDLING: n/a

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

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

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ACTION EUR-01

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

-----059873 211646Z /38

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

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Date Printed:

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CHANNEL: n/a

HANDLING: n/a

166

COMSIXTHFLT

USCINCEUR VAHINGEN GE//ECPA//ECJ5//

CNO WASHDC//O6/O9C//

COMFAIRMED NAPLES IT

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AMCONSUL MILAN

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STATE ALSO FOR P

USIA FOR EU, P/G

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

PAGE 02 ROME 01087 02 OF 02 211645Z

TAGS: PINR, NATO, PREL, IT

SUBJECT: USTICA UPDATE: LATEST THEORIES POINT TO
FRENCH INVOLVEMENT IN CRASH; FRENCH ADMIRAL
POINTS THE FINGER AT U.S./ITALY

DOWN.

5. (U) WHEN ASKED BY "LA REPUBBLICA" ABOUT THE
NEW ALLEGATIONS, THE FRENCH EMBASSY IN ROME
REFUSED TO COMMENT. THE ARTICLE WONDERED WHY
THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT WAS UNWILLING TO SPEAK
WHEN THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE HAD OFFERED
ITS FULL COOPERATION AND HAD EVEN ALLOWED THE
DEPOSITIONS OF AMERICAN CITIZENS IN CONNECTION
WITH THE CASE.

6. (U) ADMIRAL PIERRE LACOSTE, A FORMER HEAD OF
THE FRENCH SECRET SERVICES, WHO AT THE TIME OF
THE USTICA INCIDENT WAS IN CHARGE OF THE FRENCH
FLEET IN THE MEDITERRANEAN, IS REPORTED TO HAVE
SAID ON JANUARY 18 THAT "IF ON THE EVENING OF
THE USTICA TRAGEDY ANY FRENCH AIRCRAFT WERE
INVOLVED, EVEN INDIRECTLY, IN AN AIR DUEL OR
SIMPLY IN A TRAGIC ACCIDENT, I WOULD HAVE
KNOWN. I PRESUME, BUT IT IS ONLY A THEORY, THAT
IF IT WAS A SHOOTING DOWN, IF THERE REALLY WERE
AN AIR DUEL, IT HAD TO HAVE INVOLVED U.S. OR
ITALIAN PLANES." THE "REPUBBLICA" ARTICLE THEN
NOTES THAT THE ADMIRAL'S COMMENT AND THE FRENCH
GOVERNMENT'S BEHAVIOR IS A REPLAY OF OFFICIAL
FRENCH BEHAVIOR FOLLOWING THE GREENPEACE

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CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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"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 INEVITABLY BE A MORE IN-DEPTH INVOLVEMENT BY THE EMBASSY, WE HAVE ASKED THE DEPARTMENT SEPTTEL TO FORWARD THE HISTORICAL FILES ON USTICA TO ROME. SECCHIA

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A143

Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1992ROME09299

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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PAGE 01 ROME 09299 01 OF 02 271724Z
ACTION EUR-01

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

-----374931 272304Z /38

R 271721Z MAY 92
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8228
SECDEF WASHDC
INFO JCS WASHDC
USIA WASHDC 7016
USMISSION USNATO
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
COMSIXTHFLT
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GM//ECPA//ECJ5//
CNO WASHDC//06/09C//
COMFAIRMED NAPLES IT
USNMR SHAPE BE

SECTION 01 OF 02 ROME 09299

STATE ALSO FOR P
USIA FOR EU, P/G

E.O. 12356: N/A

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

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

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

Page - 823

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

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Date Printed:

16 Apr 2002

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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. ERMANNIO BAZZOCHI, AN EXPERT HIRED BY SUPPORTERS OF SOME AIR FORCE

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

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

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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

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

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

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ACTION EUR-01

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

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R 271721Z MAY 92
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8229
SECDEF WASHDC
INFO JCS WASHDC
USIA WASHDC 7017
USMISSION USNATO
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
COMSIXTHFLT
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GM//ECPA//ECJ5//

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Date Printed:

16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1992ROME09299

CHANNEL: n/a

HANDLING: n/a

171.

CNO WASHDC//06/09C//
COMFAIRMED NAPLES IT
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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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A144

Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1992ROME14757

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a
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PAGE 01 ROME 14757 141626Z
ACTION EUR-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-16	AID-01	AMAD-01	CIAE-00	CFE-01	C-01
	HA-09	H-01	IMMC-01	INRE-00	INR-01	IO-19	L-03
	ADS-00	NEA-01	NRRC-01	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01
	PA-02	PM-01	PRS-01	P-01	SB-01	SCT-03	SNP-01
	SP-01	SS-01	TRSE-00	T-01	/073W		
				-----55E316	141938Z	/38	

R 141624Z AUG 92
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1766
SECDEF WASHDC
INFO JCS WASHDC
USIA WASHDC 7316
USMISSION USNATO
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
COMSIXTHFLT
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GM//ECPA//ECJ5//
CNO WASHDC//06/09C//
COMFAIRMED NAPLES IT
USNMR SHAPE BE

UNCLAS ROME 14757

STATE ALSO FOR P
USIA FOR EU, P/G

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

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

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Date Printed:
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DOC_NBR: 1992ROME14757

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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23, 1992.

2. THE INVESTIGATION FOCUSES ON THE CAUSE OF A CRASH IN 1980 OF AN ITAVIA DC-9 IN THE MEDITERRINEAN SEA NEAR THE ISLAND OF USTICA, NORTH OF SICILY. AS IS CUSTOMARY IN ITALY, A MAGISTRATE WAS APPOINTED TO INVESTIGATE THE MATTER. THE CAUSE OF THE CRASH WAS NEVER DETERMINED ALTHOUGH THERE HAS BEEN SPECULATION THAT IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN SHOT DOWN BY A LIBYAN MIG, THAT THERE WAS A BOMB ABOARD, OR THAT IT WAS MISTAKENLY FIRED UPON AS AN LIBYAN AIRCRAFT BY A FRENCH OR U.S. MISSILE.

3. IN OCTOBER 1988, ITALIAN PRIME MINISTER DE MITA NAMED A FORMAL COMMISSION TO LOOK INTO THE INCIDENT IN ADDITION TO THE ON-GOING INQUIRY OF THE MAGISTRATE. THE CONTROVERSY HAS SIMMERED FOR YEARS. BOTH THE TRAGEDY AND THE FAILURE TO DETERMINE THE CAUSE OF THE INCIDENT HAVE BEEN A MATTER OF ENORMOUS PUBLIC INTEREST IN ITALY FOR THE LAST TWELVE YEARS.

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

DOC_NBR: 1992ROME19313

CHANNEL: n/a
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ACTION EUR-01

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

-----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

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

EXTEND CLASSIFICATION

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

CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL REASON: 1.6(6)UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 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

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WITH SECDEF CHENEY OCTOBER 25 AND SPECIFICALLY ASKED THE U.S. TO "REPLY QUICKLY AND FULLY" TO THE REVELATIONS OF THE RECENTLY-PUBLISHED CONTROL TOWER TAPES (REFS). AS DESCRIBED IN REFS, THERE ARE UNSUBSTANTIATED CLAIMS THE TAPES MAY POINT TO THE PRESENCE OF ITALIAN OR U.S. MILITARY AIRCRAFT IN THE VICINITY OF USTICA SHORTLY AFTER THE CRASH.

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

4. (U) ROME'S CENTRIST DAILY "IL MESSAGGERO" OCTOBER 26 REMINDED READERS THAT THE INVESTIGATING MAGISTRATE (JUDGE PRIORE) RECENTLY DISCOVERED THAT "THE AMERICANS SECRETLY FORMED AN INVESTIGATING GROUP

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DOC_NBR: 1992ROME19313

CHANNEL: n/a

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

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ANDO."

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

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ACTION EUR-01

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

-----72A136 261922Z /38

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

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16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1992ROME19313

CHANNEL: n/a

HANDLING: n/a

178

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

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STATE ALSO FOR P
USIA FOR EU, P/G

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

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SUBJECT: USTICA: MOD ANDO' SUGGESTS FURTHER
INFORMATION FORTHCOMING FROM U.S. SOURCES

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

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

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Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1992ROME19410

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PAGE 01 ROME 19410 01 OF 03 271804Z
ACTION EUR-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-17	AID-01	AMAD-01	CIAE-00	CFE-00	C-01
	HA-09	H-01	IMMC-01	INRE-00	INR-01	IO-19	L-03
	ADS-00	NEA-01	NRRC-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01
	PA-01	PM-02	PRS-01	P-01	SB-00	SCT-03	SDEL-00
	SNP-00	SP-00	SS-00	TRSE-00	T-01	/068W	
				-----731565 271805Z /38			

O 271803Z OCT 92
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4651
SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
INFO JOINT STAFF WASHDC
DEPT JUSTICE WASHDC
USIA WASHDC 7606
USMISSION USNATO
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
COMSIXTHFLT
USCINCEUR VAHINGEN GM//ECPA//ECJ5//
CNO WASHDC//06/09C//
COMFAIRMED NAPLES IT
USNMR SHAPE BE

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

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

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

16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1992ROME19410

CHANNEL: n/a

HANDLING: n/a

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

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

(BEGIN STATEMENT)

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

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

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

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(END STATEMENT)

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

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

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ACTION EUR-01

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

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

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Date Printed:
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CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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COMSIXTHFLT
USCINCEUR VAHINGEN GM//ECPA//ECJ5//
CNO WASHDC//06/09C//
COMFAIRMED NAPLES IT
USNMR SHAPE BE

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

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

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"BUREAUCRATIC" TO A "POLITICAL" INQUIRY. ACCORDING
TO "L'UNITA" PM GIULIO AMATO WAS "PERSONALLY
INTERESTED" IN THE USTICA AFFAIR AND THIS FACT WAS
DRIVING THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT'S FOCUS ON THE ISSUE.
(COMMENT: SOME COMMENTATORS HAVE NOTED THAT AMATO,
AS A SOCIALIST, MAY BE CONCERNED THAT THE
SOCIALIST-SUPPORTED AIRLINE "ITAVIA," WHOSE PLANE
CRASHED NEAR USTICA, MAY BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR HUGE
MONETARY AWARDS TO THE FAMILIES OF USTICA CRASH
VICTIMS IF THE AIRLINE IS HELD LIABLE FOR THE CRASH.)

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

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NOTED THAT ANDO' ASKED SECDEF CHENEY TWICE "TO
EXPLAIN THE USTICA TRAGEDY." ACCORDING TO THE
ARTICLE, ANDO' THINKS THAT THE U.S. HAS INFORMATION,
UNKNOWN OR WITHHELD UNTIL NOW, THAT IS CRITICAL TO
THE USTICA INVESTIGATION.

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

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DOC_NBR: 1992ROME19410

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.

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ACTION EUR-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-17	AID-01	AMAD-01	CIAE-00	CFE-00	C-01
	HA-09	H-01	IMMC-01	INRE-00	INR-01	IO-19	L-03
	ADS-00	NEA-01	NRRC-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01
	PA-01	PM-02	PRS-01	P-01	SB-00	SCT-03	SDEL-00
	SNP-00	SP-00	SS-00	TRSE-00	T-01	/068W	
-----73159D 271807Z /38							

O 271803Z OCT 92
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4653
SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
INFO JOINT STAFF WASHDC
DEPT JUSTICE WASHDC
USIA WASHDC 7608
USMISSION USNATO
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
COMSIXTHFLT
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GM//ECPA//ECJ5//
CNO WASHDC//06/09C//
COMFAIRMED NAPLES IT
USNMR SHAPE BE

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

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

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Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

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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.

B1

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

SECCHIA

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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-03
	ADS-00	NEA-01	NRRC-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01
	PA-01	PM-02	PRS-01	P-01	SB-00	SCT-03	SNP-00
	SP-00	SS-00	TRSE-00	T-01	/068W		

-----739776 281840Z /38

O 281757Z OCT 92
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4716
SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
INFO JOINT STAFF WASHDC
DEPT JUSTICE WASHDC
USIA WASHDC 7610
USMISSION USNATO
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
COMSIXTHFLT
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE//ECPA//ECJ5//
CNO WASHDC//06/09C//
COMFAIRMED NAPLES IT
USNMR SHAPE BE

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

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E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: PINR, NATO, PREL, IT
SUBJECT: USTICA: AMBASSADOR DISCUSSES U.S. ASSISTANCE
TO ITALIAN INVESTIGATION; JUSTICE MINISTER MARTELLI'S
COMMENTS

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

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

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

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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

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

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

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HANDLING: n/a

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

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

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

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ACTION EUR-01

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

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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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HANDLING: n/a

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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

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E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: PINR, NATO, PREL, IT

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

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

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

6. (U) ROME'S CENTRIST DAILY "IL MESSAGGERO"
OCTOBER 28 REPORTED THAT JUSTICE MINISTER CLAUDIO
MARTELLI (FROM NEW YORK), RESPONDING TO THE

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HANDLING: n/a

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

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

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

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ACTION EUR-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-17	AID-01	AMAD-01	CIAE-00	CFE-00	C-01
	HA-09	H-01	IMMC-01	INRE-00	INR-01	IO-19	L-03
	ADS-00	NEA-01	NRRC-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01
	PA-01	PM-02	PRS-01	P-01	SB-00	SCT-03	SNP-00
	SP-00	SS-00	TRSE-00	T-01	/068W		
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O 281757Z OCT 92
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4718
SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
INFO JOINT STAFF WASHDC
DEPT JUSTICE WASHDC
USIA WASHDC 7612
USMISSION USNATO
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
COMSIXTHFLT
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE//ECPA//ECJ5//
CNO WASHDC//06/09C//
COMFAIRMED NAPLES IT
USNMR SHAPE BE

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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SUBJECT: USTICA: AMBASSADOR DISCUSSES U.S. ASSISTANCE
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COMMENTS

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

8. (C) COMMENT. BY SEPTTEL, 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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ACTION EUR-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-17	AID-01	AMAD-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-02	PM-02
	PRS-01	P-01	SB-00	SCT-03	SNP-00	SP-00	SS-00
	STR-17	TRSE-00	T-01	/088W			

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

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

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

1. (U) SUMMARY. THE ITALIAN PRESS REPORTED WIDELY

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

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

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

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HANDLING: n/a

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

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81 DEAD WAITING FOR JUSTICE, NOT INSULTS. THE INSERT
SAID THAT THE AMBASSADOR DID NOT REACT AS SHOULD A
REPRESENTATIVE OF A COUNTRY WITH THE STRONGEST
TRADITION OF INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM-- IRANGATE,
WATERGATE, IRAKGATE.

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

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ACTION EUR-01

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

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

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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

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E.O. 12356:N/A

TAGS: PINR, NATO, PREL, IT

SUBJECT: USTICA: FURTHER PRESS REPORTING; U.S.

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

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

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

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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.
SERWER

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A155

Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1992ROME19792

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

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PAGE 01 ROME 19792 01 OF 02 021754Z
ACTION EUR-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-17	AID-01	AMAD-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	P-01	SB-00	SCT-03	SNP-00	SP-00	STR-17
	TRSE-00	T-01	/087W				

-----758F51 021754Z /38

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//
COMFAIRMED NAPLES IT
USNMR SHAPE BE

SECTION 01 OF 02 ROME 19792

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

PAGE 02 ROME 19792 01 OF 02 021754Z

E.O. 12356:N/A
TAGS: PINR, NATO, PREL, IT
SUBJECT: USTICA: ITALIAN MOD BECOMES PLAINTIFF IN
LAWSUIT; RECONSTRUCTED ITAVIA DC-9 VIEWED BY PRESS

REF(S): (A) ROME 19567 (B) ROME 19535 (C) ROME
19492 AND PREVIOUS

EXTEND CLASSIFICATION

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

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

CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL REASON: 1.6(6) UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1992ROME19792

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

183

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)

PAGE 03 ROME 19792 01 OF 02 021754Z
"WITH EVERY MEANS AVAILABLE." ACCORDING TO "IL MESSAGGERO," ANDO'S DECISION IS THE FIRST OF ITS KIND AND WILL PUT HIM ON A COLLISION COURSE WITH THE 42 MILITARY OFFICERS CHARGED FOR THEIR PART IN THE USTICA INCIDENT OR THE ALLEGED COVER-UP THAT FOLLOWED (COMMENT. THESE CHARGES HAVE NOT YET GONE TO TRIAL.) THE LEFTIST, INDEPENDENT DAILY "LA REPUBBLICA" REPORTED NOVEMBER 1 THAT MOD ANDO' SAID, "I THINK THAT BECOMING A CIVIL PARTY WILL SHOW OUR DESIRE TO CLARIFY AN EVENT THAT CONTINUES TO DISTURB BOTH ITALY AND THE SOUL OF OUR ARMED FORCES WHICH IS OFTEN UNJUSTLY SUSPECTED OF INSUFFICIENT COOPERATION." ACCORDING TO ROME'S CENTRIST DAILY "IL TEMPO," ANDO'S DECISION NOW PITS "SOLDIER AGAINST SOLDIER."

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

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16 Apr 2002

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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	ACDA-17	AID-01	AMAD-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	P-01	SB-00	SCT-03	SNP-00	SP-00	STR-17
	TRSE-00	T-01	/087W				

-----758P63 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

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Date Printed:

16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1992ROME19792

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

183

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

PAGE 02 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
COMPLETED BY MARCH 31, 1993. ALSO ON DISPLAY WITH
THE ITAVIA DC-9 WAS A RECONSTRUCTION OF THE LIBYAN
MIG-23 THAT CRASHED IN SILA THREE WEEKS AFTER THE
USTICA INCIDENT, AND AN EXTRA AIRCRAFT FUEL TANK THAT
WAS RECOVERED FROM AN AREA NEAR THE DC-9 WRECKAGE.

6. (C) COMMENT

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SECCHIA

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Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1992ROME19911

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

A156

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PAGE 01 ROME 19911 01 OF 03 041127Z
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-03	ADS-00	NEA-01	NRRC-00
	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OES-09	OMB-01	PA-01	PM-02	PRS-01
	P-01	SCT-03	SDEL-00	SNP-00	SP-00	STR-17	TRSE-00
	T-01	/074W					

-----765FCB 041128Z /38

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

SECTION 01 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

EXTEND CLASSIFICATION

PAGE 02 ROME 19911 01 OF 03 041127Z
SUBJECT: USTICA: KEEPING THE U.S. BEYOND REPROACH

REF(S): ROME 19792

1. [REDACTED] - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SUMMARY. WE EXPECT THAT THE RECENT SPATE OF
PRESS COVERAGE OF THE USTICA AFFAIR IS RELATED TO THE
POLITICAL SITUATION IN ITALY [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] ALTHOUGH
THE U.S. HAS TAKEN THE BRUNT OF THE PRESS ATTENTION,

B1

Page - 888

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: ERIC W. FLEISHER
DATE/CASE ID: 28 OCT 2002 200102359
CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL REASON: 1.6(6) UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Date Printed:

16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 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, [REDACTED] TO DISABUSE THE PRESS OF THE IDEA THAT SOMEHOW THE UNITED STATES HAD BEEN SLOW TO RESPOND OR AMBIGUOUS IN ITS RESPONSES TO THE ITALIAN REQUESTS.

B1

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

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CHANNEL: n/a

HANDLING: n/a

184

LONGER BE SO CLEARLY DEFINED.

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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-03	ADS-00	NEA-01	NRRC-00
	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OES-09	OMB-01	PA-01	PM-02	PRS-01
	P-01	SCT-03	SDEL-00	SNP-00	SP-00	STR-17	TRSE-00
	T-01	/074W					

-----765FE3 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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Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1992ROME19911

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

184

USIA WASHDC 7638

SECTION 02 OF 03 ROME 19911

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

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

PAGE 02 ROME 19911 02 OF 03 041128Z
SUBJECT: USTICA: KEEPING THE U.S. BEYOND REPROACH

B1

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

B1

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

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Date Printed:
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DOC_NBR: 1992ROME19911

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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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.

B1

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Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1992ROME19911

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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B1

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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-03	ADS-00	NEA-01	NRRC-00
	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OES-09	OMB-01	PA-01	PM-02	PRS-01
	P-01	SCT-03	SDEL-00	SNP-00	SP-00	STR-17	TRSE-00
	T-01	/074W					

-----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

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UNCLASSIFIED

Date Printed:

16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1992ROME19911

CHANNEL: n/a

HANDLING: n/a

184

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SECCHIA

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Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1992ROME20358

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

188

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RELEASED IN FULL

PAGE 01 ROME 20358 01 OF 02 121726Z
ACTION EUR-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-17	AID-01	CIAE-00	COME-00	CFE-00	C-01
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	INRE-00	INR-01	IO-19	L-03	ADS-00	NEA-01	NRRC-00
	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01	PA-01	PM-02	PRS-01
	P-01	SB-00	SCT-03	SNP-00	SP-00	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//
COMFAIRMED NAPLES IT
USNMR SHAPE BE
AMEMBASSY PARIS

SECTION 01 OF 02 ROME 20358

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

PAGE 02 ROME 20358 01 OF 02 121726Z

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

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

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

Page - 918

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

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Date Printed:

16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1992ROME20358

CHANNEL: n/a

HANDLING: n/a

188

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

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

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Date Printed:

16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1992ROME20358

CHANNEL: n/a

HANDLING: n/a

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

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

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. I
HOPE MORE COMPLETE RESPONSES WILL THEN FOLLOW." THE
NEWSPAPER NOTED THAT ITALIAN AUTHORITIES HAVE ASKED
FOR AVAILABLE DATA RECORDINGS AND INFORMATION ABOUT
THE MOVEMENT OF FRENCH MILITARY UNITS BASED NEAR

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

-----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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Date Printed:

16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1992ROME20358

CHANNEL: n/a

HANDLING: n/a

188

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

SECTION 02 OF 02 ROME 20358

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

PAGE 02 ROME 20358 02 OF 02 121727Z

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

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

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

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CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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STRUCTURAL DEFECT. IT COULD HAVE BEEN AN ACCIDENT,
BUT WITHOUT DOUBT IT WAS AN EXTERNAL CAUSE."

5. (U) ROME'S CENTRIST DAILY "IL TEMPO" REPORTED
NOVEMBER 6 THAT ITALIAN AIR FORCE CHIEF OF STAFF
STELIO NARDINI DEFENDED THE ROLE OF THE AIR FORCE IN
THE USTICA AFFAIR AND SAID THE AIR FORCE OFFICERS
CRIMINALLY CHARGED ARE ENTITLED TO A FAIR TRIAL.
ACCORDING TO "IL TEMPO," NARDINI NOTED THAT THE
OFFICERS ARE INNOCENT UNTIL PROVEN GUILTY BUT "THE
PRESS, INSTEAD, ALREADY EXPECTS A GUILTY VERDICT."
NARDINI CRITICIZED THE WIDESPREAD NEGATIVE AND
SPECULATIVE PRESS COVERAGE ON USTICA AND EXPLAINED,
"THIS IS NOT ANY OLD STORY. THERE WERE 81 DEATHS.
EIGHTY-ONE ITALIANS WERE LOST. THESE ARE NOT THINGS
TO THROW AROUND LIGHTLY ON TELEVISION."

6. (C) COMMENT. THE CBS NEWS STORY IS INCORRECT
AND VIRTUALLY LIFTED FROM ITALIAN SOURCES, INCLUDING
THE MAJOR JOURNALIST COVERING THIS ISSUE. THAT WE
KNOW OF, CBS MADE NO ATTEMPT TO CHECK THEIR STORY
WITH USG AUTHORITIES. RECOMMEND THAT DEPARTMENT TAKE
A STRONG LINE REFUTING THE STORY, INCLUDING INFERENCE
THAT U.S. SOMEHOW HAS HELD BACK INFORMATION FROM
ITALIAN INVESTIGATORS. MOREOVER, IT SHOULD BE MADE
CLEAR THAT USS SARATOGA WAS IN PORT AND THAT NO U.S.
COMBAT AIRCRAFT WERE IN THE AREA AT THE TIME THE
PLANE WENT DOWN. REQUEST SOONEST DEPARTMENT GUIDANCE
REQUESTED REFTELS. SECCHIA

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A/61

Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1992ROME20453

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

RELEASED IN PART

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PAGE 01 ROME 20453 01 OF 02 131739Z
ACTION EUR-01

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

-----7A1795 131740Z /38

O 131727Z NOV 92
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5343
SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
DEPT JUSTICE WASHDC IMMEDIATE
USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7672
INFO JOINT STAFF WASHDC
USMISSION USNATO
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 20453

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

PAGE 02 ROME 20453 01 OF 02 131739Z

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

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

EXTEND CLASSIFICATION

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

UNCLASSIFIED

Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1992ROME20453

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

189

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

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

PAGE 03 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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Date Printed:
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DOC_NBR: 1992ROME20453

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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

PAGE 04 ROME 20453 01 OF 02 131739Z
IS A POLITICAL HICCUP, THE RUMORS ABOUT USTICA START
UP AGAIN."

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

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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
	DOT-00	EB-01	E-01	FAAE-00	HA-09	H-01	IMMC-01
	INRE-00	INR-01	IO-19	L-03	ADS-00	NEA-01	NRRC-00
	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01	PA-01	PM-02	PRS-01
	P-01	SB-00	SCT-03	SNP-00	SP-00	STR-17	TRSE-00
	T-01	/086W					

-----7A17AB 131741Z /38

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

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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."

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

6. (U) LEADING CONSERVATIVE DAILY "IL GIORNALE"
NOVEMBER 13 SAID THE INVESTIGATING MAGISTRATE (JUDGE
PRIORE) WOULD GO TO NAPLES NOVEMBER 13 TO INTERVIEW

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DOC_NBR: 1992ROME20453

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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WITNESSES AND GATHER DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE REGARDING

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

7. (C) COMMENT.

B1

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

PAGE 04
SECCHIA

ROME 20453 02 OF 02 131739Z

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UNCLASSIFIED

A162

Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1992ROME20465

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a
RELEASED IN PART
B1, 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
	DOT-00	EB-01	E-01	FAAE-00	HA-09	H-01	IMMC-01
	INRE-00	INR-01	IO-19	L-03	ADS-00	NEA-01	NRRC-00
	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01	PA-01	PM-02	PRS-01
	P-01	SB-00	SCT-03	SNP-00	SP-00	STR-17	TRSE-00
	T-01	USIE-00	/086W				

-----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 -.

2. 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) UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1992ROME20465

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

190

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END SUMMARY.

AMATO AGREES TO CALL ANDO' ...

3.

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UNCLASSIFIED

Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1992ROME20465

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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B1

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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
	DOT-00	EB-01	E-01	FAAE-00	HA-09	H-01	IMMC-01
	INRE-00	INR-01	IO-19	L-03	ADS-00	NEA-01	NRRC-00
	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01	PA-01	PM-02	PRS-01
	P-01	SB-00	SCT-03	SNP-00	SP-00	STR-17	TRSE-00
	T-01	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

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Date Printed:

16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1992ROME20465

CHANNEL: n/a

HANDLING: n/a

190

USMISSION USNATO
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
COMSIXTHFLT
USCINCEUR VAHINGEN 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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Date Printed:

16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1992ROME20465

CHANNEL: n/a

HANDLING: n/a

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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,

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

B1

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UNCLASSIFIED

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EXTEND CLASSIFICATION

A/66

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

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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
	PM-02	PRS-01	P-01	SB-00	SCT-03	SNP-00	SP-00
	SS-00	TRSE-00	T-01	/027W			

-----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: PREL, PGOV, MARR, IT
SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR MEETS WITH

B6

PAGE 02 ROME 20768 01 OF 02 191625Z

REF: ROME 20514 AND PREVIOUS

1. - ENTIRE TEXT.
2. SUMMARY. THE AMBASSADOR MET ON NOVEMBER 16

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

B6

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

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

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Date Printed:

16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1992ROME20768

CHANNEL: n/a

HANDLING: n/a

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THE NEWEST "MYSTERIES" RAISED. END SUMMARY.

3. THE AMBASSADOR BEGAN BY EXPLAINING THAT, DURING HIS THREE AND ONE-HALF YEARS IN ROME, HE HAD DEVELOPED A STRONG ADMIRATION AND FRIENDSHIP FOR

[REDACTED] AND RESPECT FOR HIS NEWSPAPER, AND THEREFORE HAD CHOSEN TO SPEAK WITH HIM NOW ABOUT OUR PROBLEMS AND FRUSTRATIONS REGARDING USTICA.

HE STRESSED THAT THE CONVERSATION WAS INTENDED AS BACKGROUND INFORMATION ONLY. THE AMBASSADOR NOTED WITH GRATITUDE THAT [REDACTED]

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

B1

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GOVERNMENT IS WORKING ON THE ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS THAT ARE OUTSTANDING.

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

5. [REDACTED] IN NAPLES TO SPEAK DIRECTLY WITH JUDGE PRIORE ON NOVEMBER 13 AND THUS TO RECORD HIS DENIAL. [REDACTED] A JOURNALIST FROM LA REPUBBLICA, WHO HAD NOT SPOKEN WITH THE JUDGE, WAS THE SOURCE OF ALLEGATIONS THAT DOCUMENTS AT THE NAPLES PORT HAD BEEN TAMPERED WITH.

B1, B6

6. THE AMBASSADOR NOTED THAT WHILE IT WAS QUITE

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Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

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HANDLING: n/a

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PROPER FOR [REDACTED] AS A JOURNALIST, TO QUOTE B6
JUDGE PRIORE, AMERICAN OFFICIALS WERE PROHIBITED BY
LAW FROM DISCUSSING REQUESTS FOR JUDICIAL
INFORMATION. [REDACTED]

B1

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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	L-03	ADS-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-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	/027W			

-----7C7935 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

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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
SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR MEETS WITH EDITOR OF [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] ON USTICA

B6

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B1

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

B1, B6

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

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

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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. [REDACTED] 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

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Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1992ROME20887

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

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PAGE 01 ROME 20887 01 OF 02 201649Z
ACTION EUR-01

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

-----7D01FF 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 VAHINGEN GE//ECPA//ECJ5//
CNO WASHDC//06/09C//
COMFAIRMED NAPLES IT
USNMR SHAPE BE
AMEMBASSY PARIS

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
THE FRENCH ABOUT POSITION OF THEIR AIRCRAFT CARRIER

REF(S): (A) ROME 20778 (B) ROME 20514 (C) ROME 20358
(D) STATE 377186

EXTEND CLASSIFICATION

1. (U) SUMMARY. MAJOR NEWSPAPERS NOVEMBER 20

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: ERIC W. FLEISHER
DATE/CASE ID: 29 OCT 2002 200102359
CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL REASON: 1.6(6) UNCLASSIFIED

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.

4. (U) CONCERNING REVELATIONS ABOUT FLATLEY'S ALLEGED STATEMENT TO ITALIAN MAGISTRATES IN DECEMBER 1991, "CORRIERE" AND "LA REPUBBLICA" INDICATE THAT THE "USS SARATOGA" CAPTAIN SAID THE SHIP LEFT PORT THAT DAY FOR "TWO OR THREE HOURS" AND THAT THE SIXTH FLEET TOOK AWAY THE SHIP'S RADAR RECORDINGS AFTER THE NIGHT OF CRASH. FROM THE PENTAGON A RESPONSE-- THAT A "RAPID" DEPARTURE FROM A PORT FOR A FEW HOURS IS TECHNICALLY IMPOSSIBLE. "IL MESSAGGERO" REPORTED A "NO COMMENT" FROM CIA SPOKESMAN PETER EARNEST ABOUT THE WORKING GROUP ALLEGEDLY PRESIDED OVER BY EMBASSY ROME CIA CHIEF DUANE DEWEY CLARIDGE IN THE WEEK AFTER THE DISASTER.

5. (U) IN A SEPARATE DEVELOPMENT, ROME'S CENTRIST

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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

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

-----7D0224 201651Z /38

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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CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

197

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

SECTION 02 OF 02 ROME 20887

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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HANDLING: n/a

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A169

Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1992ROME20930

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: B1, 1.5(D)
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PAGE 01 ROME 20930 01 OF 03 211128Z
ACTION EUR-01

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

-----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
REQUEST). END SUMMARY.

EXTEND CLASSIFICATION

POLISH AND RUSSIAN AID

Page - 996

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: ERIC W. FLEISHER
DATE/CASE ID: 29 OCT 2002 200102359
CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL REASON: 1.6(6)
DECLASSIFY AFTER: 21 NOV 2017

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16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1992ROME20930

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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

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

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

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

MILITARY ISSUES

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

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HANDLING: n/a

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

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

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

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

AMATO GOVERNMENT'S SURVIVABILITY

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ACTION EUR-01

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

-----7D5110 211129Z /38

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

SECTION 02 OF 03 ROME 20930

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E.O. 12356:DECL: OADR
TAGS: PGOV, ETRD, EFIN, IT
SUBJECT: A FRIENDLY VICE MINISTER LOOKS AT CURRENT
ISSUES

9. SPINI NOTED THE PROGRESS THAT PRIME MINISTER
AMATO HAD MADE IN ADDRESSING THE SERIOUS PROBLEMS
FACING ITALY. HE INDICATED THAT IN HIS TRAVELS
OUTSIDE THE COUNTRY HE NOTED THE CREDIBILITY AMATO
HAS OBTAINED IN DIRECTING ITALY'S EFFORTS. HE
BELIEVED THAT THE PROGNOSIS FOR THE CONTINUATION OF
THE GOVERNMENT BEYOND DECEMBER 1992 (WHEN FINANCE
LAWS ARE LIKELY TO BE APPROVED) HAD INCREASED.
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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URUGUAY ROUND

LO. [REDACTED] IN
REACHING AN AGREEMENT AND STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE
OF COMPLETING ACTION BEFORE THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION
LEFT OFFICE.

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SOCIALIST PARTY POLITICS

11. IN RESPONSE TO THE DCM'S QUERY, SPINI

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Date Printed:
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DOC_NBR: 1992ROME20930

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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A) .

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THE LEAGUES IN TUSCANY

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UNCLASSIFIED

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Date Printed:
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DOC_NBR: 1992ROME20930

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

NNNN

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ACTION EUR-01

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

-----7D5128 211130Z /38

R 211128Z NOV 92
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5698

SECTION 03 OF 03 ROME 20930

E.O. 12356:DECL: OADR
TAGS: PGOV, ETRD, EFIN, IT
SUBJECT: A FRIENDLY VICE MINISTER LOOKS AT CURRENT
ISSUES

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

USTICA

16. SPINI ASKED THE DCM AND POLMIN WHAT THEY

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Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1992ROME20930

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

199

THOUGHT ABOUT USTICA, THE LONG RUNNING SAGA OF A
DOWNED ITALIAN AIRCRAFT, WHICH HAS DEVELOPED INTO A

PAGE 02 ROME 20930 03 OF 03 211130Z
DAILY SERIES OF NEGATIVE NEWS STORIES INVOLVING THE
U.S. THE DCM, EXPRESSING SOME IRRITATION,

INDICATED THAT THE U.S. HAD PATIENTLY BEEN
COOPERATING WITH ITALY OVER THE LAST 12 YEARS ON
THE SUBJECT.

B1

17. THE DCM INDICATED THAT ITALIAN OFFICIALS WOULD
FIND IT DIFFICULT TO BE RECEIVED BY AMERICAN
CABINET MEMBERS IF USTICA BECAME THE ONLY ISSUE
THEY WISHED TO DISCUSS OR IT SO APPEARED IN THE
PRESS FOLLOWING SUCH VISITS. HE EXPANDED THIS TO
TELL SPINI

B1

NOW 12 YEARS LATER THE U.S. WAS BEING PUT IN THE
POSITION OF LOOKING GUILTY WHILE WE WERE IN FACT
NOT INVOLVED IN THE INCIDENT.

18. THE DCM STATED THAT WE WOULD GET OVER THIS
PROBLEM, BUT IT WAS BEST FOR ALL CONCERNED IF WE
LET THE INVESTIGATING MAGISTRATE DO HIS JOB AND NOT
HAVE MISLEADING, INCOMPLETE AND SLANTED STORIES IN
THE PRESS.

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YUGOSLAVIA SANCTIONS

19.

B1

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HANDLING: n/a

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B1

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

20. FINALLY, THE DCM MENTIONED THAT THEFT OF AMERICAN FILMS AND PIRATED VIDEO CASSETTES HAD BECOME A SERIOUS ISSUE. HE INFORMED SPINI THAT JACK VALENTI, HEAD OF THE U.S. MOTION PICTURE INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION WOULD BE IN ITALY IN DECEMBER TO RAISE THIS ISSUE.-SPINI, WHO MENTIONED THAT CULTURAL ISSUES FELL UNDER HIS JURISDICTION IN THE MINISTRY, OFFERED TO PROVIDE ANY ASSISTANCE HE COULD.

21. COMMENT:

B1

COBURN

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HANDLING: n/a
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ACTION EUR-01

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

-----7DC634 231629Z /38

O 231629Z NOV 92
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5727
SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
DEPT JUSTICE WASHDC IMMEDIATE
USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7708
INFO JOINT STAFF WASHDC
USMISSION USNATO
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
COMSIXTHFLT
USCINCEUR VAHINGEN GE//ECPA//ECJ5//
CNO WASHDC//06/09C//
COMFAIRMED NAPLES IT
USNMR SHAPE BE
AMEMBASSY PARIS

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

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

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

1. (U) SUMMARY. LEFTIST NEWSMAGAZINE "PANORAMA"

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

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CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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

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

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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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-03	ADS-00	NEA-01	NRRC-00
	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01	PA-01	PM-02	PRS-01
	P-01	SB-00	SCT-03	SNP-00	SP-00	STR-17	TRSE-00
	T-01	/086W					

-----7DC650 231629Z /38

O 231629Z NOV 92
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5728
SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
DEPT JUSTICE WASHDC IMMEDIATE
USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7709

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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

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

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

ACTIVITY AND LASTED ONLY A SHORT TIME.

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

(BEGIN TRANSLATION)

--USTICA: THE AMERICANS KNOW|

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

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

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OF A STRUCTURAL DEFECT OR BOMB ON BOARD.

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

--IT IS NOT POSSIBLE, FOR NOW, TO ESTABLISH THE ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITY OF THE AMERICANS IN THE (USTICA) AFFAIR. WHAT IS CERTAIN IS THAT THEY KNOW HOW IT HAPPENED AND THAT THEY HAVE INTERVENED TO HIDE IT.

--WE WANT THE TRUTH.

--WE ASK THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT TO TRULY PLEDGE ITSELF TO CLARIFY THE AFFAIR.

--OUR INDEPENDENCE REQUIRES THE TRUTH ON USTICA|

--YOUTH FRONT

(END INFORMAL TRANSLATION)

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

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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HANDLING: n/a

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

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Date Printed:

16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1992ROME21067

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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PAGE 01 ROME 21067 251005Z
ACTION DS-00

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

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P 241337Z NOV 92 ZDS
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5779
INFO AMCONSUL MILAN
AMCONSUL FLORENCE
AMCONSUL GENOA
AMCONSUL NAPLES
AMCONSUL PALERMO
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

UNCLAS ROME 21067

~~REDACTED~~ // PARA 1, MONTH
DEPT FOR DS/ITA, DSS/OP/EUR

FRANKFURT FOR RSSD AND CO CO "E"

CONSULATES FOR RSO/PSO
~~REDACTED~~

PAGE 02 ROME 21067 251005Z

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: ASEC

SUBJECT: PEACEFUL DEMONSTRATION AT AMEMBASSY ROME

1. LEAFLETS WERE HANDED OUT BY THE "FRONTE DELLA GIOVENTU" (MSI) IN FRONT OF AMEMBASSY ROME STARTING AT 1815 HOURS ON FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 1992. APPROXIMATELY 30 PEOPLE DISBANDED AFTER ABOUT 30 MINUTES WITHOUT INCIDENT.

2. SYNOPSIS OF THE LEAFLET IS THE U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN THE USTICA DISASTER WHEN 81 PERSONS LOST THEIR LIVES 12 YEARS AGO. IT GOES ON TO STATE THAT THE

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REVIEW AUTHORITY: ERIC W. FLEISHER
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201

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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HANDLING: n/a

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ACTION EUR-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-17	AID-01	A-01	CA-02	CCO-00	CIAE-00
	COME-00	CTME-00	CFE-00	C-01	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-01	NEA-01	NRRC-00
	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OCS-06	OIC-02	OMB-01	OPR-01	PA-01
	PM-02	PRS-01	P-01	SB-00	SCT-03	SNP-00	SP-00
	SR-00	SS-00	STR-17	TRSE-00	T-01	USSS-00	ASDS-01

/099W

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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//
COMFAIRMED NAPLES IT
USNMR SHAPE BE
AMEMBASSY PARIS

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

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

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

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CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

204

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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HANDLING: n/a

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

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

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

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

4. (U) CURRENT SALVAGE OPERATIONS ARE FOCUSED ON

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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-01	NEA-01	NRRC-00
	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OCS-06	OIC-02	OMB-01	OPR-01	PA-01
	PM-02	PRS-01	P-01	SB-00	SCT-03	SNP-00	SP-00
	SR-00	SS-00	STR-17	TRSE-00	T-01	USSS-00	ASDS-01

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

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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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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
REMINDING 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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Date Printed:

16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1992ROME21529

CHANNEL: n/a

HANDLING: n/a

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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
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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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Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

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CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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ACTION EUR-01

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

-----822054 041639Z /38

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 VAHINGEN GE//ECPA//ECJ5//
CNO WASHDC//06/09C//
COMFAIRMED NAPLES IT
USNMR SHAPE BE
AMEMBASSY PARIS

SECTION 01 OF 04 ROME 21706

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

PAGE 02 ROME 21706 01 OF 04 041638Z

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

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Date Printed:

16 Apr 2002

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CHANNEL: n/a

HANDLING: n/a

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

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AMBASSADOR HIGHLIGHTS U.S. COOPERATION

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

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

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

USTICA FAMILIES LAUNCH FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN

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ACTION EUR-01

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

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O 041637Z DEC 92
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6217
SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
DEPT JUSTICE WASHDC IMMEDIATE
USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7756
INFO JOINT STAFF WASHDC
USMISSION USNATO

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16 Apr 2002

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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

SECTION 02 OF 04 ROME 21706

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

PAGE 02 ROME 21706 02 OF 04 041639Z

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

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

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HANDLING: n/a

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AND SENATE PRESIDENT SPADOLINI SENT TELEGRAMS OF
SUPPORT TO BONFIETTI.

PRODUCER CLAIMS FILM ABOUT USTICA "BOYCOTTED"

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

EXPERT SAYS COLLISION CAUSED THE CRASH

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

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

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CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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

FULL TEXT OF AMBASSADOR'S PRESS STATEMENT

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ACTION EUR-01

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

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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//
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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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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HANDLING: n/a

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

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

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

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

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

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

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ACTION EUR-01

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CHANNEL: n/a

HANDLING: n/a

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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
	P-01	SB-00	SCT-03	SNP-00	SP-00	SS-00	STR-17
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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6219

SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

DEPT JUSTICE WASHDC IMMEDIATE

USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7758

INFO JOINT STAFF WASHDC

USMISSION USNATO

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK

COMSIXTHFLT

USCINCEUR VAHINGEN GE//ECPA//ECJ5//

CNO WASHDC//06/09C//

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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 21706 04 OF 04 041641Z

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR

TAGS: PINR, NATO, PREL, IT

SUBJECT: USTICA: ITALIAN PRESS REPORTS AMBASSADOR'S

PRESS STATEMENT; VICTIMS' FAMILIES HOLD PRESS

CONFERENCE TO RAISE FUNDS; CIVIL PLAINTIFFS' EXPERT

SAYS COLLISION CAUSED THE TRAGEDY

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

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

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

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CHANNEL: 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.

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

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

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

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

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

END TEXT.

SECCHIA
[REDACTED]

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Date Printed:
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PAGE 01 ROME 21765 070827Z
ACTION EUR-01

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INFO	LOG-00	AID-01	CIAE-00	C-01	DODE-00	EB-01	HA-09
	H-01	INRE-00	INR-01	L-03	ADS-00	NEA-01	NSAE-00
	NSCE-00	OMB-01	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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P 070824Z DEC 92
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6262

ROME 21765

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: PINR, PREL IT
SUBJECT: FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER DE MICHELIS'
- BIRTHDAY DINNER - TALK OF USTICA, GATT

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

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

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

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

UNCLASSIFIED

Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1992ROME21765

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

207

OF THE "BLAME AMERICA" CONSPIRACY THEORISTS) PURGATORI
WAS AN OUTSTANDING JOURNALIST. [REDACTED] STATED STRONGLY
THAT HE DIDN'T BELIEVE THAT PURGATORY COULD BE WRONG
ABOUT THE SARATOGA LEAVING THE PORT OF NAPLES. HE
HAD READ THE INTERVIEW OF U.S. ADMIRAL FLATLEY IN
THE ITALIAN MAGAZINE EUROPA, BUT HE STILL THOUGHT
PURGATORI HAD MORE INFORMATION THAN OTHERS. HE SAID:

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B1

5. THE AMBASSADOR AGAIN EXPLAINED THAT THE U.S. HAS
COOPERATED FULLY WITH THE ITALIAN INVESTIGATORS AND
EXPRESSED HIS PROFOUND DISMAY WITH "CORRIERE DELLA
SERA" PRINTING OUTRIGHT FALSEHOODS. [REDACTED]

B1

PAGE 03 ROME 21765 070827Z

6. ON FOREIGN MINISTRY PERSONNEL MATTERS, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] SAID THAT AMBASSADOR SERGIO BERLINGUER WILL
SOON BE GOING BACK TO THE MINISTRY. [REDACTED]

B1

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B1

[REDACTED] AND HE WILL SOON BE IN CHARGE OF
NEGOTIATIONS WITH CROATIA AND SLOVENIA.

B1

SERWER

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A178

Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1992ROME21826

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: 1/3, 1.5(E)

RELEASED IN PART

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PAGE 01 ROME 21826 01 OF 02 071631Z
ACTION EUR-01

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

-----82F2D1 071631Z /38

O 071629Z DEC 92
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6286
SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
DEPT JUSTICE WASHDC IMMEDIATE
USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7772
INFO JOINT STAFF WASHDC
USMISSION USNATO
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
COMSIXTHFLT
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE//ECPA//ECJ5//
CNO WASHDC//06/09C//
COMFAIRMED NAPLES IT
USNMR SHAPE BE
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 ROME 21826 01 OF 02 071631Z

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

EXTEND CLASSIFICATION

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

Page - 1062

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: ERIC W. FLEISHER
DATE/CASE ID: 29 OCT 2002 200102359
CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL REASON: 1.6(6) UNCLASSIFIED
DECLASSIFIED AFTER: 7 DEC 2017

UNCLASSIFIED

Date Printed:

16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1992ROME21826

CHANNEL: n/a

HANDLING: n/a

209

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

2. (U) THE ITALIAN MOD ISSUED A PRESS STATEMENT DECEMBER 5 FOLLOWING THE AMBASSADOR'S MEETING

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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Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1992ROME21826

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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(END INFORMAL EMBASSY TRANSLATION)

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

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

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ACTION EUR-01

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

-----82F30B 071632Z /38

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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Date Printed:

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

5. (C) COMMENT.

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Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1992ROME21826

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

209

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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Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1992ROME22238

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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PAGE 01 ROME 22238 01 OF 03 151811Z
ACTION EUR-01

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

-----8674A4 151816Z /45/38

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//
COMFAIRMED NAPLES IT
USNMR SHAPE BE
AMEMBASSY PARIS

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 ROME 22238

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

PAGE 02 ROME 22238 01 OF 03 151811Z

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

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

Page - 1079

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: 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,
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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

(BEGIN INFORMAL EMBASSY TRANSLATION)

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

--A: IF WE KNEW EVERYTHING, WE WOULD NEVER MAKE ANY ERRORS. AMERICA SOMETIMES MAKES ERRORS, BUT WHENEVER THAT HAPPENS, WE ADMIT IT.

--Q: YOU SPEAK OF ERRORS. COULDN'T IT HAVE BEEN THE ERROR OF ANOTHER COUNTRY?

--A: I DON'T KNOW. I DO NOT TALK ABOUT OTHER COUNTRIES. I DO NOT ACCUSE OTHER COUNTRIES AND I HOPE THAT OTHER COUNTRIES WOULD DO THE SAME. WHOEVER DOES THAT WITHOUT THE FACTS IS IRRESPONSIBLE. THE PROBLEM IS THAT, IN ITALY, ONE FEELS THAT THE U.S. CAN SEE EVERYTHING. I CAN ONLY SAY THAT OUR

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CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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SATELLITES DO NOT PHOTOGRAPH FRIENDLY COUNTRIES AND
ITALY IS A FRIENDLY COUNTRY.

--Q: ITALIAN JUDGES LOOK TO THE U.S. FOR
COOPERATION. IS IT POSSIBLE THAT THIS IS THE REASON
FOR SO MUCH FOCUS ON OUR DISAGREEMENTS?

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

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

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

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

--Q: A PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE, HEADED BY SENATOR

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PAGE 01 ROME 22238 02 OF 03 142007Z
ACTION EUR-01

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

-----860055 142008Z /38

O 142006Z DEC 92
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6567
SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
DEPT JUSTICE WASHDC IMMEDIATE
USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7810
INFO JOINT STAFF WASHDC
USMISSION USNATO

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Date Printed:
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CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

212

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

UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 03 ROME 22238

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

PAGE 02 ROME 22238 02 OF 03 142007Z

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

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

--A: I DO NOT HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF
A PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE.

--Q: IN THIS PERIOD, ALL THE ATTENTION HAS BEEN
FOCUSED ON THE "USS SARATOGA." MANY PEOPLE FEEL THAT
THE SHIP'S RADAR COULD CONTRIBUTE TO THE
INVESTIGATION. HOW DO YOU RESPOND?

--A: IN 1980, THE "USS SARATOGA" WAS FUNCTIONING
WITH 1950'S TECHNOLOGY AND WAS NOT ABLE TO
TAPE-RECORD ITS RADAR, EVEN IF THE RADAR WAS ON AT
THAT TIME. THE SHIP HAD NO SYSTEM OF AUTOMATED
RECORDING.

--Q: THEREFORE TAPES DO NOT EXIST?

--A: THAT NIGHT THE RADARS WERE NOT FUNCTIONING.
AND WHENEVER THE SHIP IS IN PORT, WE DO NOT USE THE
RADAR. IF WE ARE IN A FRIENDLY COUNTRY, WE TRUST
THEIR RADARS. IF WE HAD ACTIVATED OUR RADARS, ALL

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CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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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.

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--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

212

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

NNNN

PAGE 01 ROME 22238 03 OF 03 142010Z
ACTION EUR-01

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

-----86008B 142010Z /38

O 142006Z DEC 92
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6568
SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
DEPT JUSTICE WASHDC IMMEDIATE
USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7811
INFO JOINT STAFF WASHDC
USMISSION USNATO
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
COMSIXTHFLT
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE//ECPA//ECJ5//
CNO WASHDC//06/09C//
COMFAIRMED NAPLES IT
USNMR SHAPE BE
AMEMBASSY PARIS

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

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Date Printed:

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DOC_NBR: 1992ROME22238

CHANNEL: n/a

HANDLING: n/a

212

USEFUL INFORMATION FROM THE U.S., THE INVESTIGATION WILL NOW TURN TOWARDS OTHER COUNTRIES THAT HAVE NOT YET PROVIDED THE LEVEL OF COOPERATION AFFORDED BY THE U.S. (I.E., FRANCE, LIBYA, AND RUSSIA).

4. (U) "IL MESSAGGERO" NOTED THAT JUDGE PRIORE HAD BEEN UNABLE TO DEPOSE TWO U.S. OFFICIALS DURING HIS FOUR DAY STAY IN THE U.S.: DUANE CLARRIDGE, ALLEGED "EX-HEAD OF THE CIA IN ITALY," AND DICK COE, "MILITARY ATTACHE AND MEMBER OF THE USTICA WORKING WORKING GROUP AT THE EMBASSY." ACCORDING TO "IL MESSAGGERO," CLARRIDGE SAID NO ONE HAD ASKED HIM TO MEET JUDGE PRIORE "PERHAPS BECAUSE I HAD JUST RETURNED FROM A VACATION IN SWITZERLAND." COE WAS NOT AVAILABLE BECAUSE HIS FLIGHT FROM DALLAS TO WASHINGTON, D.C. WAS CANCELLED DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER.

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

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PAGE 03

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Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

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CHANNEL: n/a
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PAGE 01 ROME 22654 01 OF 02 211653Z
ACTION EUR-01

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

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O 211648Z DEC 92
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6913
SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
DEPT JUSTICE WASHDC IMMEDIATE
USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7832
INFO JOINT STAFF WASHDC
USMISSION USNATO
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
COMSIXTHFLT
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE//ECPA//ECJ5//
CNO WASHDC//06/09C//
COMFAIRMED NAPLES IT
USNMR SHAPE BE
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY PARIS

SECTION 01 OF 02 ROME 22654

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

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

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

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

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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

PAGE 03 ROME 22654 01 OF 02 211653Z
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

PAGE 04 ROME 22654 01 OF 02 211653Z
"THE CIA" IN THE SUMMER OF 1980 FOR HELP IN
IDENTIFYING A MIG-23 THAT CRASHED IN SOUTHERN ITALY.
THE ARTICLE SAID U.S. COLONEL WARREN WALTERS,
ALLEGEDLY AN EXPERT IN MIG'S, WAS SENT FROM A U.S.
BASE IN WEISBADEN, GERMANY TO ITALY TO HELP IDENTIFY
THE WRECKAGE. THE NEWSPAPER SAID WALTERS HAD TAKEN
SOME PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE RECOVERED MIG AND REPORTEDLY
HAD INFORMATION ABOUT THE MIG'S FLIGHT. "IL GIORNALE"
SAID WALTERS ADMITTED TAKING PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE MIG
WHEN QUESTIONED BY ITALIAN INVESTIGATORS WHO
INTERVIEWED HIM IN THE U.S.

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

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ACTION EUR-01

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

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

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213

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

SECTION 02 OF 02 ROME'22654

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

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

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

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

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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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O 111915Z FEB 92
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO ALL EUROPEAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS IMMEDIATE
ALL POLADS COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE
USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE 0000
NSC WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0000
AMCONSUL ST PETERSBURG IMMEDIATE
USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0000
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 0000
INFO JCS WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0000
SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0000

UNCLAS STATE 043093

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

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E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: OPRC
SUBJECT: EUR DAILY PRESS GUIDANCES - FEBRUARY 10, 1992

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

2. YUGOSLAVIA

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

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CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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Q: WAS THERE A REFERENDUM ON THE UN PEACEKEEPING EFFORT IN SO-CALLED KRAJINA? IF SO, WHAT WAS THE RESULT AND WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

A: -- NO, THERE WAS NO REFERENDUM. ON FEBRUARY 9 A NUMBER OF LOCAL SERBIAN LEADERS FROM WITHIN THE SO-CALLED "KRAJINA" IN CROATIA MET IN THE TOWN OF GLINA AND VOTED IN FAVOR OF ADOPTING THE VANCE PEACE PLAN.

-- I UNDERSTAND THAT LOCAL SERBIAN LEADER BABIC DISPUTES THE LEGITIMACY OF THOSE PROCEEDINGS AND IS CALLING FOR A REFERENDUM ON THE PLAN.

-- WE CONTINUE TO LOOK TOWARDS THE OFFICIAL PARTIES IN YUGOSLAVIA TO MAINTAIN THEIR PUBLIC COMMITMENT TO THE PEACE PLAN AND TO ENSURE ITS FULL IMPLEMENTATION.

-- IN REGARD TO THE SO-CALLED KRAJINA REPUBLIC, WE

PAGE 03 STATE 043093 111913Z
REITERATE THAT WE DO NOT RECOGNIZE TERRITORIAL CHANGES IN YUGOSLAVIA THAT HAVE BEEN ACHIEVED BY FORCE OR INTIMIDATION.

Q: WILL KRAJINA GO ALONG WITH THE PEACEKEEPING PLAN?

A: -- THE OPPOSITION FROM MR. BABIC REPRESENTS THE MAIN OBSTACLE TO IMPLEMENTATION OF THE VANCE PLAN. WE BELIEVE THAT THE LEADERSHIP OF SERBIA AND OF THE YUGOSLAV MILITARY HAVE A PARTICULAR RESPONSIBILITY AND OBLIGATION TO ENCOURAGE SERBIAN LEADERS IN CROATIA TO ACCEPT THE VANCE PLAN.

Q: IS TUDJMAN HAVING DOUBTS ABOUT THE PLAN?

A: -- IN A LETTER TO THE UN LAST THURSDAY, PRESIDENT TUDJMAN REAFFIRMED HIS FULL AND UNCONDITIONAL ACCEPTANCE OF THE VANCE PEACE PLAN. WE EXPECT HIM TO STICK TO THAT POSITION.

Q: DO YOU HAVE AN UPDATE ON THE FIGHTING? IS THE CEASEFIRE HOLDING?

A: -- REPORTS FROM OUR MISSIONS IN YUGOSLAVIA, UN

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

3. ITALY: 1980 USTICA AIR TRAGEDY

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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 MPN UNDER REVIEW. THE CONDUCT OF THESE ELECTIONS WILL BE A FACTOR IN OUR THINKING. NO DECISIONS HAVE BEEN MADE YET.

5. CANADA: AMBASSADOR NEY

-- AMBASSADOR NEY HAS INDICATED TO LEAVE HIS POST SOMETIME DURING THE FIRST HALF OF THIS YEAR. IN THE MEANTIME, HE

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

Q: WHAT ABOUT A REPLACEMENT?

A: -- THAT IS FOR THE WHITE HOUSE TO ANNOUNCE, WHEN IT IS APPROPRIATE.

-- WE ARE NOT AWARE OF ANY ANNOUNCEMENTS.

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ACTION EUR-01

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

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

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

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

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: ERIC W. FLEISHER
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REF(S): (A) 92 ROME 22654 (B) 92 ROME 22238
(C) 92 ROME 22111 AND PREVIOUS

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

2. (U) THE ITALIAN PRESS REPORTED WIDELY JANUARY

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

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HANDLING: n/a

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

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

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

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

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ACTION EUR-01

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

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R 191919Z JAN 93
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO USIA WASHDC 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 VAHINGEN GE//ECPA/ECJ5//

SECTION 02 OF 02 ROME 000862

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

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

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

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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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PAGE 01 ROME 01010 211647Z
ACTION EUR-01

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

-----92BA90 211901Z /38

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

ROME 001010

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

PAGE 02 ROME 01010 211647Z
E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: PINR, NATO, PREL, IT
SUBJECT: USTICA: SAVED BY THE (WEDDING) BELL --
ITALIAN PRESS REPORTS MARRIAGE PHOTOS SHOW "USS
SARATOGA" IN PORT THE NIGHT OF THE CRASH

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

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

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

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DOC_NBR: 1993ROME01010

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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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HANDLING: n/a

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CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a
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PAGE 01 ROME 02866 01 OF 02 201137Z
ACTION EUR-01

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

-----9E36C2 201137Z /38

P 201133Z FEB 93
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9108
INFO AMCONSUL MILAN
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
AMCONSUL NAPLES
AMEMBASSY TIRANA
AMEMBASSY VALLETTA
AMEMBASSY ZAGREB
AMEMBASSY BERN
AMEMBASSY LJUBLJANA
DIRFBI WASHDC
DEPT OF JUSTICE WASH DC
ALLEC COLLECTIVE
AMCONSUL PALERMO//POUCH
AMCONSUL FLORENCE//POUCH

EXTEND CLASSIFICATION

SECTION 01 OF 02 ROME 002866

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

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RECEPTION

REF: 92 ROME 22438

SUMMARY

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

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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
DECLASSIFY AFTER: 20 FEB 2018

UNCLASSIFIED

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. NO U.S. MEDIA THAT WE HAVE SEEN HAVE QUESTIONED ORLANDO ON THE NUMEROUS POSITIONS HE AND HIS PARTY HAVE TAKEN HOSTILE TO U.S. POSITIONS, SUCH AS EMBRACING ARAFAT ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS AND OPPOSING OPERATION DESERT STORM. END SUMMARY.

ITALIAN PRESS: AMAZED AND AMUSED

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2. (U) ITALIAN MEDIA REPORTS HAVE TAKEN A TONE OF SURPRISE AT THE LEVEL AND TONE OF COVERAGE LEOLUCA ORLANDO HAS RECEIVED FROM U.S. MEDIA DURING HIS ONGOING VISIT. THE "CORRIERE" ARTICLE, FOR EXAMPLE, TERMED "REVOLUTIONARY" THE FACT THAT LEFT-WING ORLANDO KEPT THE EDITORS OF THE "WALL STREET JOURNAL" WAITING FOR THEIR APPOINTMENT, BUT THEN RECEIVED A LAUDATORY HALF PAGE FEATURE. THE "CORRIERE" ARTICLE SAID THAT, AMONG ITALIAN POLITICAL FIGURES, ONLY FORMER FM DE MICHELIS AND FORMER PM CRAXI, AT THE TIME OF THE SIGONELLA INCIDENT, RECEIVED SUCH A LEVEL OF COVERAGE IN THE U.S. MEDIA.

3. (U) ROME LEADING DAILY "IL MESSAGGERO" NOTED THAT THE OCCURRENCE OF POSSIBLE SHIPMENTS OF URANIUM AND OTHER NUCLEAR MATERIAL FROM RUSSIA THROUGH ITALY WAS NOT A DISCOVERY OF ORLANDO'S, AS HE HAD SUGGESTED, BUT INSTEAD HAD FIRST BEEN BROUGHT TO PUBLIC ATTENTION BY FLORENCE PROSECUTOR VIGNA. ACCORDING TO "IL MESSAGGERO," THE HEAD OF THE FBI'S ANTIMAFIA

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

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

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

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

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

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PAGE 01 ROME 02866 02 OF 02 201137Z
ACTION EUR-01

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

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CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

225

...AND USTICA

7. (U) THE ITALIAN MEDIA ALSO REPORT THAT ORLANDO
TOLD U.S. OFFICIALS THAT THE U.S. AND ITALY MUST
"WORK TOGETHER ON INVESTIGATIONS IN PROGRESS. YOU
SHOULD HELP US TO SOLVE MYSTERIES. BEGINNING WITH THE
USTICA TRAGEDY."

SUMMARY

PAGE 03

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8. (C)

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PAGE 01 ROME 03648 01 OF 02 031818Z
ACTION EUR-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-17	AID-01	CIAE-00	COME-00	CFE-00	C-01
	OASY-00	DOT-00	EB-01	E-01	FAAE-00	HA-09	H-01
	IMMC-01	INR-00	IO-19	L-03	ADS-00	NEA-01	NRRC-00
	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01	PA-01	PM-02	PRS-01
	P-01	RPCS-01	SB-00	SCT-03	SNP-00	SP-00	SS-00
	STR-17	TRSE-00	T-00	/085W			

-----A29329 031923Z /43

P 031804Z MAR 93
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9592
SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
DEPT JUSTICE WASHDC PRIORITY
USIA WASHDC PRIORITY 8223
INFO USNMR SHAPE BE
COMFAIRMED NAPLES IT
CNO WASHDC//06/09C//
USCINCEUR VAHINGEN GE//ECPA/ECJ5//
COM SIXTHFLT
JOINT STAFF WASHDC
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
USMISSION USNATO

SECTION 01 OF 02 ROME 03648

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

PAGE 02 ROME 03648 01 OF 02 031818Z
E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PINR, NATO, PREL, IT
SUBJECT: USTICA: KGB COLONEL TELLS ITALIAN PRESS
THAT SOVIETS MONITORED USTICA SHOOT-DOWN BY AMERICAN
FIGHTERS; OLD ISSUES AIRED ANEW

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

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

Page - 1231

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

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CHANNEL: n/a

HANDLING: n/a

226

OF THE CIVILIAN AIRLINER NEAR USTICA IN 1980 BY A

U.S. FIGHTER AIRCRAFT BASED IN SARDINIA. DEFENSE MINISTER ANDO' AND INVESTIGATING MAGISTRATE PRIORE (AMONG OTHERS) WERE ALSO INTERVIEWED FOR COMMENTS. THE ITALIAN WIRE SERVICE "ANSA" PICKED UP THE INTERVIEW AND ALSO CARRIED A DENIAL BY THE PENTAGON OF U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN THE CRASH. IN OTHER USTICA COVERAGE, A LEADING WEEKLY NEWS MAGAZINE REHASHED OLD QUESTIONS AND ALLEGATION IN AN ARTICLE BASED ON CABLE TRAFFIC RELEASED UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT. END SUMMARY.

2. (U) ITALIAN RADIO "UNO" CARRIED AN INTERVIEW 3 MARCH WITH AN EX-KGB COLONEL PAVLOV, WHO CLAIMED THAT A SE CRET SOVIET RADAR IN LIBYA, IN THE COURSE OF MINITORING A NATO "LIVE-FIRE" EXERCISE, RECORDED THE 27 JUNE 1981 DOWNING OF THE CIVILIAN AIRLINER NEAR USTICA ISLAND BY A U.S. FIGHTER AIRCRAFT. HE CLAIMED THE AIRCRAFT HAD TAKEN OFF FROM A BASE ON SARDINIA

PAGE 03 ROME 03648 01 OF 02 031818Z
CND THAT THE MISSILE HAD "ESCAPED" CONTROL. HE ALSO NOTED THAT THE CIVILIAN AIRLINER WAS OUTSIDE NORMAL CIVIL AIR TRAFFIC CORRIDORS AT THE TIME.

3. (U) RADIO "UNO" ALSO INTERVIEWED (AMONG OTHERS) INVESTIGATING MAGISTRATE PRIORE AND DEFENSE MINISTER ANDO' FOR COMMENT ON PAVLOV'S ALLEGATIONS. PRIORE, WHILE ACKNOWLEDGING THAT PAVLOV'S ALLEGATIONS WOULD BE CAREFULLY EXAMINED, ALSO NOTED THAT THE SOVIET RADAR MENTIONED BY PAVLOV WOULD HAVE HAD TO BE EXCEPTIONALLY POWERFUL FOR THAT GENERATION OF TECHNOLOGY, ESPECIALLY TO BE ABLE TO IDENTIFY AT A RANGE OF 750 KMS. THE TYPE OF AIRCRAFT INVOLVED AND TO PICK OUT AN OBJECT THE SIZE OF AN AIR-TO-AIR MISSILE. PRIORE SAID HE WOULD FOLLOW UP WITH AN OFFICIAL INQUIRY TO THE RUSSIAN GOVERNMENT. (IN A SEPARATE INTERVIEW, FORMER SOVIET PRESIDENT GORBACHEV DENIED ANY KNOWLEDGE OF PAVLOV'S ALLEGATIONS, BUT URGED THE RUSSIAN GOVERNMENT TO BE COOPERATIVE.)

4. (U) IN HIS INTERVIEW, DEFENSE MINISTER ANDO' SAID THE ITALIAN DEFENSE MINISTRY WOULD COOPERATE FULLY WITH PRIORE'S INVESTIGATION WHILE BEING CAREFUL NOT TO DUPLICATE OR CONFUSE THE ISSUES. IN RESPONSE

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CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

226

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.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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5. (U) THE ITALIAN WIRE SERVICE "ANSA" PICKED UP THE RADIO "UNO" INTERVIEWS, INCLSDING A DENIAL BY DOD SPOKESMAN KEITH ARTERBURN THAT ANY U.S. NAVY SHIPS OR U.S. (COMBAT) AIRCRAFT WERE IN THE AREA AT THE TIME OF THE CRASH.

6. (U) SEVERAL 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

[REDACTED]

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ACTION EUR-01

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

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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 VAHINGEN GE//ECPA/ECJ5//
COM SIXTHFLT
JOINT STAFF WASHDC
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
USMISSION USNATO

SECTION 02 OF 02 ROME 003648

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

PAGE 02 ROME 03648 02 OF 02 031806Z

E.05 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: PINR, NATO, PREL, IT
SUBJECT: USTICA: KGB COLONEL TELLS ITALIAN PRESS
THAT SOVIETS MONITORED USTICA SHOOT-DOWN BY AMERICAN
FIGHTERS; OLD ISSUES AIRED ANEW

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

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PAGE 01 ROME 03732 01 OF 02 041733Z
ACTION EUR-01

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

-----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 VAHINGEN GE//ECPA/ECJ5//
COM SIXTHFLT
JOINT STAFF WASHDC

SECTION 01 OF 02 ROME 003732

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

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

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

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

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

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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: 1993ROME03732

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

227

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 HIRCAFT 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 TECHNICML PERSPECTIVE. INDEPENDENT LEFTIST DAILY "LA REPUBBLICA" REFERRED TO PAVLOV AS A "SELF-STYLED" EX-KGB AGENT AND RAN A SIDE ARTICLE REPORTING THAT THE PRESS OFFICE OF THE RUSSIAN ESPIONAGE SERVICE HAD DENIED ANY KNOWLEDGE OF PAVLOV. "LA REPUBBLICA" ALSO NOTED THAT TECHNICAL ERRORS IN PAVLOV'S ACCOUNT GAVE CAUSE FOR SKEPTICISM. THE PAPER NOTED IN PARTICULAR THAT:

-- IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO TELL FROM A RADAR SCREEN THAT A GIVEN AIRCRAFT BELONGED TO THE U.S. NAVY, OR THAT RADAR COULD PICK OUT OBJECTS AS SMALL AS AIR-TO-AIR MISSILES OR DEBRIS FROM AN EXPLODED AIRCRAFT;

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

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

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

5. (U) MOST PAPERS, HOWEVER, ATTEMPTED TO INTERPRED' PAVLOV'S ALLEGATIONS IN WAYS THAT MIGHT EXPLAIN THE CRASH. "LA REPUBBLICA" NOTED THAT PAVLOV'S VERSION OF EVENTS MIGHT MAKE SENSE IF THE SOVIET FACILITY IN QUESTION WERE REALLY A SIGNALS INTERCEPT OPERATION AND NOT A RADAR STATION. NOTED SECURITY ANALYST AT THE PRESTIGIOUS INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS INSTITUTE STEFANO SILVESTRI ALLEGEDLY SPECULATED IN THE LEFTIST (EX-COMMUNIST) "L'UNITA" ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF THE SOVIETS HAVING RECORDED THE EVENT VIA SPY SATELLITE.

#7. (U) THE PRESS REPORTS ON COMMENTS BY INVESTIGATING MAGISTRATE PRIORE THAT PAVLOV'S ALLEGATIONS WILL BE FOLLOWED UP IN MOSCOW (REPORTED REFTEL). THE FORMER CHAIRMAN OF THE PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE ON USTICA, LIBERO GUALTIERI, NOTED TO THE

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ACTION EUR-01

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

P 041731Z MAR 93 ZDK
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO DEPT JUSTICE WASHDC PRIORITY

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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 PAVLOV'S ACCOUNT EXPOSED
IMPROPER UTILIZATION OF ITALIAN MILITARY BASES, WHICH
STILL "ESCAPE ANY KIND OF CONTROL."

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HANDLING: B1, 1.5(D)

A192

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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	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OCS-06
	OIS-01	PA-01	PM-02	PRS-01	P-01	SP-00	SSO-00
	SS-00	TRSE-00	USIE-00	USSS-00	ASDS-01	/045W	
					-----A43C40 081327Z /38		

P 081316Z MAR 93
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9729
INFO JOINT STAFF WASHDC PRIORITY
SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
DEPTJUSTICE WASHDC PRIORITY
COM SIXTHFLT
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT
USEUCOM VAIHINGEN GE//ECLA//
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK

EXTEND CLASSIFICATION

SECTION 01 OF 03 ROME 003880

JUSTICE FOR CRIMINAL DIVISION

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

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CONCERNED ABOUT USTICA

REF: ROME 2704

1. [REDACTED] - ENTIRE TEXT.

SUMMARY

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

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: ERIC W. FLEISHER
DATE/CASE ID: 29 OCT 2002 200102359
CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL REASON: 1.6(6)
DECLASSIFY AFTER: 8 MAR 2018

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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.

W
LAW ENFORCEMENT COOPERATION
.0-

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

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

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CENTER.

5. [REDACTED] 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.

B1

SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY PROBLEM TO BE RESOLVED

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

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ACTION SCT-03

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-17	AID-01	A-01	CA-02	CCO-00	CG-00
	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	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OCS-06
	OIS-01	PA-01	PM-02	PRS-01	P-01	SP-00	SSO-00
	SS-00	TRSE-00	USIE-00	USSS-00	ASDS-01	/045W	

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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
DEPTJUSTICE WASHDC PRIORITY
COM SIXTHFLT
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT
RUSNNOGUSEUCOM VAIHINGEN GE//ECLA//
CINCUSNAVEU LONDON UK

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 NOTGO INTO DETAIL ON THE CHANGES, BUT SAID
HE EXPECTED THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS TO TAKE 5 THE
DRAHT DECREL THE WEEK FOLLOWINO PRIME MINISTER
AMATO'S RETURN (MARCH 4) FROM HIS TRIP TO PORTUGAL
AND SPAIN.

JURISDICTIONAL ISSUE CONCERNI:G U.S. SERVICEMEN

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

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HANDLING: n/a

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

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

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HANDLING: n/a

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USTICA AND THE IDEA OF AN INTERNATIONAL INVESTIGATION

9. ASSERTING THAT DURING THE EIGHT YEARS AFTER THE USTICA TRAGEDY THE GOI HAD BOTCHED ITS INVESTIGATION, CONSO POINTED TO THE NEED FOR AN INTERNATIONAL EFFORT. HE STRESSED THE IMPORTANT ROLE THE U.S. SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY COULD PLAY IN SUCH AN INVESTIGATION, WHICH HE SAID WOULD HAVE TO BE "TRANSPARENT." HE ALSO SAID THAT SELECTIVE LEAKS FROM THE ONGOING ITALIAN INVESTIGATION HAD BEEN DAMAGING. IN RESPONSE, THE CHARGE SAID THE U.S. HAD ALWAYS FULLY COOPERATED WITH ITALIAN REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION. INDEED, U.S. EXPERTS HAD /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	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OCS-06
	OIS-01	PA-01	PM-02	PRS-01	P-01	SP-00	SSO-00
	SS-00	TRSE-00	USIE-00	USSS-00	ASDS-01	/045W	

-----A43C55 081329Z /38

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//

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HANDLING: n/a

228

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

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CONCERNED ABOUT USTICA

SEEKING OFFICIAL USG INVOLVEMENT, BUT THE COOPERATION
OF THE U.S. SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY IN RESOLVING THE
MYSTERY OF THE CRASH OF THE PASSENGER AIRLINER NEAR
ITALY'S USTIA ISLAND. THE CHARGE CONCLUDED THAT THE
USG WO
ULD CONTINUE TO COOPERATE WITH INVESTIGATING
MAWSTRATE PRIORI AS IT HAS IN THE PAST. HE ALSO
EMPHASIZED THAT TO DATE THE SG HAD FOUND NO EVIDENCE
TO INDICATE ANY U.S. CONNECTION TO THE TRAGEDY.

WAR CRIMES TRIBUNAL FOR EX-YUGOSLAVIA

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

CHIEF OF STAFF ON UNBLOCKING PUBLIC CONTRACTS

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

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STAFF, FRANCO MELANDRI, DISCUSSED WITH CHARGE THE
ECONOMIC PROBLEMS ARISING FROM THE WIDENING
CORRUPTION SCANDALS. MELANDRI NOTED THAT FIRMS UNDER
INVESTIGATION FOR ILLEGAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO POLITICAL
PARTIES HAVE HAD ASSETS SEIZED, BRINGING THEIR WORK
TO A HALT AND CREATING UNEMPLOYMENTS PROBLEMS. HE
REMARKED THAT A POLITICAL CONSENSUS HAD NOT YET BEEN
FOUND TO RESOLVE THE PROBLEM, BUT UNDERLINED THE
URGENCY FOR ACTION. MELANDRI INDICATED THAT HE WAS
WORKING ON THIS ISSUE HIMSELF AND SUGGESTED THAT THE
SOLUTION WOULD BE TO DIVIDE THE JURIDICAL PROBLEMS
FACING CERTAIN FIRMS -- HE CITED THE WORK ON THE
ROME-PARIS HIGH SPEED RAILWAY -- FROM THEIR BUSINESS
OPERATIONS. HE ARGUED FOR HAVING CORPORATE OFFICERS
8
ACCUSED OF WRONGDOING SUBSTITUTED TO ALLOW THE WORK
OF FIRMS TO PROCEED UNDER THE INCREASED SUPERVISION
OF ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGES. (NOTE: A DECREE LAW ALONG
THESE LINES WAS ISSUED LATER THE SAME DAY. END
NOTE.) SERWER

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CHANNEL: n
HANDLING: B6
RELEASED IN PART

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PAGE 01 ROME 04128 101713Z
ACTION EUR-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-17	CIAE-00	CFE-00	C-01	OASY-00	ANHR-01
	H-01	IMMC-01	INR-00	IO-19	L-03	ADS-00	NRRC-00
	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	
				-----A564E4 101744Z /43			

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 VAHINGEN GE//ECPA/ECJ5//
COM SIXTHFLT
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
USMISSION USNATO
JOINT STAFF WASHDC
USNMR SHAPE BE
COMFAIRMED NAPLES IT

ROME 004128

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

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

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

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

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

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

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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.

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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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16 Apr 2002

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PAGE 01 ROME 07043 221504Z
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INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-17	CIAE-00	CFE-00	C-01	OASY-00	HA-09
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	P-01	SB-00	SNP-00	SP-00	SS-00	TRSE-00	T-00

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R 221509Z APR 93
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECDEF WASHDC
USIA WASHDC 8530
DEPT JUSTICE WASHDC
SECSTATE WASHDC 1534
INFO USNMR SHAPE BE
COMFAIRMED NAPLES IT
CNO WASHDC//06/09C//
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE//ECPA/ECJ5//
COM SIXTHFLT
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
JOINT STAFF WASHDC

ROME 007043

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

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
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231

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

PAGE 03 ROME 07043 221504Z
INTERVIEW ON ITALIAN STATION "GRL," THAT THE SE CRET RADAR SITE, UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE LIBYAN AIR FORCE CHIEF OF STAFF, WAS LOCATED AT MAITIGHE NEAR TRIPOLI. UTILIZING A COMPLEX SYSTEM OF RADAR AND SATELLITE SIGNALS, THE INSTALLATION COULD "SEE" FROM THE LIBYAN COAST TO SARDEGNA. SULIMOV SAID HE WAS THE CHIEF SOVIET RADAR INSTRUCTOR AT THE SITE AT THE TIME OF THE USTICA CRASH. HE WAS RESPONSIBLE, AS SUCH, FOR BOTH TRAINING LIBYAN TECHNICIANS AND SUPERVISING OPERATIONS FOR THE ENTIRE RADAR SYSTEM THAT THE SOVIET UNION HAD BUILT IN LIBYA.

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

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

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

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

6. (C) COMMENT. WE WILL CONTINUE TO POINT OUT, WHENEVER APPROPRIATE, THAT THERE WERE NO U.S. SHIPS OR AIRCRAFT IN THE AREA WHEN THE ITAVIA DC-9 CRASHED AND, CONTRARY TO PAVLOV AND SULIMOV'S CLAIMS, NO RADAR EXISTED AT THAT TIME (OR DOES NOW) WHICH IS CAPABLE OF OBSERVING A MISSILE ON A RADAR SCREEN AS BOTH SOVIETS HAVE ALSO CLAIMED.

7. (C) AS WITH OTHER LEADS FIRST DEVELOPED BY THE ITALIAN PRESS, WE SHOULD EXPECT INVESTIGATING MAGISTRATE PRIORE TO REQUEST FURTHER INFORMATION FROM THE U.S. BASED UPON SULIMOV'S CLAIMS. END COMMENT.

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ACTION EUR-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-17	CIAE-00	CFE-00	C-01	DODE-00	HA-09
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	P-01	SB-00	SNP-00	SP-00	SS-00	TRSE-00	T-00
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P 061335Z MAY 93
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2137
USIA WASHDC PRIORITY 8605
DEPT JUSTICE WASHDC PRIORITY
INFO USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY PARIS
CNO WASHDC//06/09C//
JOINT STAFF WASHDC
USNMR SHAPE BE
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE//ECPA/ECJ5//
COMFAIRMED NAPLES IT
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
COMSIXTHFLT

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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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: ERIC W. FLEISHER
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PRIORE, IN A TELEVISION INTERVIEW MAY 5, SAID THE INQUIRY INTO THE CAUSE OF THE CRASH OF AN ITALIAN PASSENGER JET NEAR THE ISLAND OF USTICA IN JUNE 1980 HAD BEEN HAMPERED BY MILITARY SECRECY, LOSS AND DESTRUCTION OF RELEVANT DOCUMENTS, INEXACT TESTIMONY BY WITNESSES, AND LACK OF FRENCH GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO OFFICIAL ITALIAN INQUIRIES. COMMENTS IN THE MEDIA ABOUT U.S. COOPERATION WITH PRIORE'S INVESTIGATION WERE NEUTRAL AND ACCURATE.

2. (C) SEPARATELY, THE LONG-AWAITED "EXPERTS' REPORT" WAS DELIVERED TO JUDGE PRIORE AND STIRRED NEW SPECULATION IN THE PRESS ABOUT THE MIG-23 FOUND IN SOUTHERN ITALY THREE WEEKS AFTER THE USTICA CRASH. IMPORTANTLY, THE REPORT'S ACCIDENT RECONSTRUCTION FINDINGS DID NOT RESOLVE THE "BOMB VS. MISSILE" QUESTION. THE REPORT SAID THE MIG-23 WAS PROBABLY NOT LIBYAN (AS OFFICIAL ITALIAN AND LIBYA STATEMENTS HAD PREVIOUSLY DECLARED) NOR DID IT HAVE SUFFICIENT FUEL TO FLY FROM LIBYA TO ITALY. PRESS COVERAGE

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ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE EXPERTS HAD CONFIRMED THE "USS SARATOGA" WAS IN PORT AT THE TIME OF THE CRASH. END SUMMARY.

JUDGE PRIORE INTERVIEW

3. (U) INVESTIGATING JUDGE PRIORE, INTERVIEWED ON ITALIAN TV STATION "RAI 3" MAY 5, SAID HIS BIGGEST DIFFICULTY IN CONDUCTING THE USTICA INQUIRY WAS THAT HE IS CONSTANTLY STUMBLING ONTO MILITARY SECRETS AND CLASSIFIED INFORMATION. ITALIAN NEWS SERVICE "ANSA" REPORTED THAT PRIORE ALSO SAID MUCH HAD HAPPENED DURING THE COURSE OF THE USTICA INVESTIGATION THAT WAS "NEGATIVE" - INCLUDING THE INTENTIONAL DESTRUCTION OF DOCUMENTS WHICH, UPON ANALYSIS, MIGHT HAVE POINTED TO THE CAUSE OF THE CRASH. PRIORE REPORTEDLY ACKNOWLEDGED, MOREOVER, THAT MANY IMPORTANT WITNESSES HAD DIED DURING THE INTERVENING YEARS AND THAT SOME, STILL AVAILABLE FOR TESTIMONY, COULD NO LONGER REMEMBER EVENTS SO LONG AGO.

4. (U) IN HIS INTERVIEW, PRIORE SAID HE WAS STILL

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WAITING FOR FRANCE'S RESPONSE TO SEVERAL ITALIAN
ROGATORIES ON THE PRESENCE OF TWO FRENCH AIRCRAFT
CARRIERS IN THE AREA AND "INTENSE" AIRCRAFT ACTIVITY
AT THE TIME OF THE TRAGEDY. PRIORE NOTED THAT,
HAVING FELT AS IF HE HAD RUN INTO A "BRICK WALL" WITH
THE FRENCH, HE WAS NEVERTHELESS HOPEFUL THAT THEY
WOULD GIVE HIM A FULL ACCOUNTING.

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5. (U) ASKED ABOUT A SO-CALLED SECRET LIBYAN RADAR
STATION NEAR TRIPOLI, PRIORE SAID ALTHOUGH HE HAD
ALREADY SENT FORMAL ROGATORIES TO MOSCOW THE RUSSIAN
AUTHORITIES HAD NOT YET OFFICIALLY ACKNOWLEDGED THEIR
RECEIPT. ANY FURTHER INQUIRIES INTO THESE CLAIMS,
INCLUDING A TRIP TO MOSCOW TO INTERVIEW POSSIBLE
WITNESSES, HAD TO AWAIT FORMAL RUSSIAN APPROVAL.

6. (U) THERE WERE ONLY TWO REFERENCES TO THE U.S.
DURING THE ENTIRE 10 MINUTE INTERVIEW. FIRST, A
VISIBLE NOTATION ON A CHART OF THE LOCATION OF THE
"USS SARATOGA" IN THE PORT OF NAPLES ON THE NIGHT OF
THE CRASH. SECOND, A "VOICE-OVER" WHICH, DESCRIBING
THE CHART AND ITS NUMEROUS NOTATIONS, REITERATED
OFFICIAL U.S. STATEMENTS THAT THE SARATOGA WAS IN
PORT AT THE TIME OF THE TRAGEDY. THE "VOICE-OVER"
ALSO DISTINGUISHED U.S. RESPONSIVENESS FROM APPARENT
FRENCH AND RUSSIAN INACTION IN THE FACE OF OFFICIAL
ITALIAN INQUIRIES.

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INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-17	CIAE-00	CFE-00	C-01	DODE-00	HA-09
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	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 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

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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

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7. (C) PRESS REPORTS MAY 6 SAID THE LONG-AWAITED
EXPERTS' REPORT (REFS) HAD FINALLY BEEN DELIVERED TO
JUDGE PRIORE. WIDELY COVERED IN THE ITALIAN MEDIA,
THE REPORT ALLEGEDLY RAISES SIGNIFICANT NEW DOUBTS
ABOUT BOTH THE MIG-23 FOUND IN SOUTHERN ITALY THREE
WEEKS AFTER THE USTICA CRASH, AS WELL AS WHETHER THE
USTICA CRASH WAS CAUSED BY AN INTERNAL OR EXTERNAL
EXPLOSION. THE REPORT'S ACCIDENT RECONSTRUCTION
FINDINGS DID NOT RESOLVE THE CENTRAL QUESTION OF THE
INVESTIGATION - THE IMMEDIATE CAUSE OF THE CRASH.
REGARDING THE U.S., THE COURT-APPOINTED EXPERTS

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CONFIRMED THAT THE "USS SARATOGA" WAS IN PORT AT THE TIME OF THE CRASH - NOTWITHSTANDING THE APPARENT IRREGULARITIES IN THE SHIP'S LOGS - AS WE HAVE ALWAYS MAINTAINED.

8. (U) LEADING CONSERVATIVE DAILY "IL GIORNALE" REPORTED THAT THE EXPERTS' FINDINGS INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING "REVELATIONS" ABOUT THE MIG-23 WHICH, UP TO

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NOW, WAS BELIEVED TO HAVE FLOWN NORTH FROM LIBYA AND, FOR UNEXPLAINED REASONS, CRASHED IN THE SILA MOUNTAINS OF SOUTHERN ITALY:

--THE MIG-23 COULD NOT POSSIBLY HAVE TAKEN OFF FROM LIBYA BECAUSE ITS FLIGHT RECORDER AND OTHER DATA INDICATE THAT THE PLANE DID NOT HAVE ENOUGH FUEL TO FLY THAT DISTANCE. ACCORDING TO EVIDENCE OBTAINED FROM A MIG PRODUCTION FACILITY IN DRESDEN, THE MIG'S FUEL TANKS HELD TOO LITTLE FUEL. IF IT HAD TAKEN OFF FROM LIBYA, OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS NOTED, IT WOULD HAVE CRASHED IN THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA. THIS FINDING CONTRADICTS OFFICIAL ITALIAN AIR FORCE AND GOVERNMENT OF LIBYA STATEMENTS THAT THE FLIGHT ORIGINATED IN LIBYA.

--THE MIG-23 COULD NOT POSSIBLY HAVE BEEN LIBYAN, EXPERTS (PROFESSOR DELLA MESE AND AN UNNAMED GERMAN) EXPLAINED, BECAUSE LIBYA DID NOT HAVE THAT SPECIFIC TYPE OF MIG IN ITS MILITARY ARSENAL AT THE TIME. CRUCIAL MARKINGS ON THE DAMAGED FUSILAGE CAN NOT BE AUTHORITATIVELY ATTRIBUTED TO LIBYA. THIS FINDING SIMILARLY CONTRADICTS OFFICIAL ITALIAN AIR FORCE AND GOVERNMENT OF LIBYA STATEMENTS THAT THE PLANE WAS LIBYAN.

--A DOCUMENT ATTRIBUTED TO "SISMI" (ITALIAN MILITARY INTELLIGENCE) INDICATES THAT THERE WAS INTENSE LIBYAN AIRCRAFT ACTIVITY IN THE AREA ON THE NIGHT OF THE CRASH. THE ITALIAN PRESS, WHILE ENGAGING IN WIDE-RANGING SPECULATION ABOUT THESE NEW MIG-23 FINDINGS, QUERIED WHETHER THE MIG WAS USED BY NATO

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FORCES IN A LIVE-FIRE EXERCISE THAT WENT WRONG.
EVIDENCE IN THE EXPERTS' REPORT INDICATE, MOREOVER,
THAT AN UNDETERMINED NUMBER OF LIBYAN PILOTS HAD BEEN
TRAINED AT THE DECIMOMANNU AIRBASE IN SARDINIA.

9. (U) LASTLY, JOURNALIST (ANDREA PURGATORI) NOTED
IN LEADING CENTRIST DAILY "CORRIERE DELLA SERA" THAT
U.S. MAJOR WARREN WALTERS AND CIA "STATION CHIEF"
DUANE CLARRIDGE INSPECTED THE CRASHED MIG-23 SOON
AFTER IT WAS DISCOVERED. ACCORDING TO PURGATORI,
WALTERS REFUSED TO RESPOND, ON THE BASIS OF NATIONAL
SECURITY, TO QUESTIONS ABOUT THE MIG'S NATIONALITY
POSED BY JUDGE PRIORE.

10. (C) COMMENT. WE WERE PLEASED TO NOTE THAT
PRIORE HAD FOCUSED HIS PERSONAL CRITIQUE OF THE
INVESTIGATION IN AREAS UNRELATED TO U.S. MILITARY
ACTIVITY AT THE TIME OF THE CRASH. FRENCH AND
RUSSIAN INACTION WAS CONTRASTED WITH U.S. RELATIVE
PROMPTNESS IN RESPONDING TO OFFICIAL ITALIAN
INQUIRIES. PRESS COVERAGE, WHILE FOCUSING ON NEW

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ACTION EUR-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-17	CIAE-00	CFE-00	C-01	DODE-00	HA-09
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	SSD-01	/061W					

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P 061335Z MAY 93
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2139
USIA WASHDC PRIORITY 8607
DEPT JUSTICE WASHDC PRIORITY
INFO USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY PARIS
CNO WASHDC//06/09C//
JOINT STAFF WASHDC

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COMFAIRMED NAPLES IT
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
COMSIXTHFLT

[REDACTED] SECTION 03 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

HYPOTHESES THAT MIGHT FIT THE "REVELATIONS" OF THE
EXPERTS' REPORT, UNIFORMLY ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE
SARATOGA WAS IN PORT AT THE TIME OF THE CRASH AS THE
U.S. HAS ALWAYS MAINTAINED.

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Date Printed:
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PAGE 01 ROME 09207 251552Z
ACTION EUR-01

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	PRS-01	P-01	SB-00	SCT-03	SNP-00	SP-00	SS-00
	TRSE-00	T-00	CORE-00	SSD-01	/064W		
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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//
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CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
USMISSION USNATO
JOINT STAFF WASHDC
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STATE ALSO FOR P; USIA FOR EU, P/G; DOJ FOR CRIM
DIV/OIA L. BARSELLA

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR

PAGE 02 ROME 09207 251552Z
TAGS: PINR, NATO, PREL, IT
SUBJECT: USTICA: ITALY NOTES CBS "EXPOSE" ON
USTICA; EX-ITALIAN AIR FORCE CAPTAIN SAYS ITAVIA DC-9
SHOT DOWN BY ITALIAN AIR FORCE FIGHTER

REF(S): (A) ROME 07985 AND PREVIOUS

1. (U) SUMMARY. U.S. INTEREST IN THE USTICA AFFAIR
WAS HIGHLIGHTED IN ITALY MAY 24 BY THE RE-BROADCAST
OF EXCERPTS FROM CBS NETWORK'S "60 MINUTES" PROGRAM
WHICH DEDICATED A SEGMENT OF ITS MOST RECENT SHOW TO

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

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ONGOING EFFORTS BY ITALIAN INVESTIGATORS TO DETERMINE THE CAUSE OF THE CRASH OF AN ITALIAN PASSENGER PLANE IN JUNE 1980 NEAR THE ISLAND OF USTICA. SEPARATELY, AN EX-ITALIAN AIR FORCE OFFICER CLAIMED THAT THE AIR CRASH THAT CAUSED THE DEATH OF HIS ITALIAN AIR FORCE COLLEAGUE AND FRIEND (ALESSANDRO MARCUCCI) FEBRUARY 2, 1992 WAS NOT ACCIDENTAL BUT THE RESULT OF MARCUCCI'S PRIOR TESTIMONY THAT THE ITAVIA DC-9 WAS SHOT DOWN BY AN ITALIAN AIR FORCE FIGHTER. END SUMMARY.

2. (U) ITALIAN NEWS SERVICE "ANSA" REPORTED MAY 24 THAT THE CBS NETWORK PROGRAM "60 MINUTES" DEDICATED A SEGMENT TO INVESTIGATING THE CAUSE OF THE ITAVIA DC-9 CRASH ON JUNE 27, 1980 NEAR THE ISLAND OF USTICA. "ANSA" SAID THE SHOW PROMOTED THE THEORY THAT THE PASSENGER PLANE HAD BEEN MISTAKENLY SHOT DOWN BY AN ITALIAN FIGHTER WHICH HAD LAUNCHED A MISSILE AGAINST A LIBYAN FIGHTER THAT WAS FLYING CLOSE TO THE CIVILIAN AIRCRAFT AT THE TIME OF THE INCIDENT.

PAGE 03 ROME 09207 251552Z
ACCORDING TO THE ITALIAN PRESS, THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE REFUSED TO GRANT AN INTERVIEW TO THE SHOW'S PRODUCERS AND THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE SIMPLY REITERATED, AS IT HAS OVER THE LAST 13 YEARS, THAT THERE WERE NO U.S. SHIPS OR AIRCRAFT NEAR THE CRASH SITE AT THE TIME OF THE TRAGEDY.

3. (U) SEPARATELY, AN EX-ITALIAN AIR FORCE CAPTAIN AND "RETE" BACKER (MARIO CIANCARELLA) CLAIMED THAT THE AIR CRASH WHICH KILLED HIS AIR FORCE COLLEAGUE AND FRIEND (ALESSANDRO MARCUCCI) FEBRUARY 2, 1992 IN THE ITALIAN ALPS WAS NOT ACCIDENTAL, AS THE INVESTIGATING MAGISTRATE DETERMINED, BUT AN INTENTIONAL ATTEMPT TO SILENCE MARCUCCI WHO HAD PREVIOUSLY TESTIFIED THAT THE ITAVIA DC-9 THAT CRASHED NEAR USTICA WAS ACCIDENTALLY SHOT DOWN BY AN ITALIAN AIR FORCE FIGHTER. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, MARCUCCI HAD PROOF THAT THE MIG-23 LATER FOUND IN THE SILA MOUNTAINS OF SOUTHERN ITALY (REFS) HAD TAKEN OFF FROM A MILITARY AIRPORT NEAR ROME (PRACTICA DI MARE) INSTEAD OF FROM TRIPOLI -- AS THE GOVERNMENTS OF ITALY AND LIBYA HAVE OFFICIALLY CLAIMED FOR YEARS -- AS PART OF A JOINT U.S.-ITALIAN SECRET SERVICE PLAN TO BOTH RETALIATE AGAINST LIBYAN

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Date Printed:

16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1993ROME09207

CHANNEL: n/a

HANDLING: n/a

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LEADER QADDAFI BY PLACING BLAME FOR THE TRAGEDY ON
LIBYA, AND BUILD SUPPORT FOR INSTALLING CRUISE
MISSILES AT COMISO, SICILY.

4. (C) COMMENT. AS YET, THE CBS SEGMENT HAS NOT
BEEN COVERED WIDELY BY THE NATIONAL MEDIA. WE SPOKE
MAY 25 WITH MOD FABBRI'S STAFF WHO CONFIRMED THAT

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

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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
	/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

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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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Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1993ROME11394

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

235

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

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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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DOC_NBR: 1993ROME11575

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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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	E-01	FAAE-00	HA-09	H-01
	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-19	JUSE-00	L-03	ADS-00	NRRC-00
	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01	PA-01	PM-02	PRS-01
	P-01	SB-00	SDEL-00	SNP-00	SP-00	SSO-00	SS-00
	STR-16	TRSE-00	T-00	TSKY-00	CORE-00	SSD-01	/078W
-----D213AD 011556Z /45							

O 011535Z JUL 93
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4423
SECDEF WASHDC//OUSDP-ISA-EUR//
USIA WASHDC 8913
DEPT JUSTICE WASHDC
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

1. (C) SUMMARY. AN AMERICAN "EXPERT" HIRED BY THE
FAMILIES OF USTICA VICTIMS THEORIZES THAT TWO
RADAR-GUIDED MISSILES -- U.S., FRENCH, SOVIET, OR

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

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CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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BRITISH -- BROUGHT DOWN THE ITAVIA COMMERCIAL AIRLINER IN 1980. THE EXPERT'S EVIDENCE PRESENTED AT A PRESS CONFERENCE FOLLOWING UPON THE HEELS OF THE BOLOGNA COMMEMORATION OF THE 13TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TRAGEDY, WILL CREATE MORE GRIST FOR JUDICIAL INVESTIGATORS. END SUMMARY.

2. (U) PRESS ATTENTION JUNE 30 AND JULY 1 TURNED ONCE AGAIN TO THE USTICA AFFAIR (THE UNEXPLAINED DOWNING OF AN ITALIAN COMMERCIAL AIRLINER ON JUNE 27, 1980), WITH NEW "REVELATIONS" THAT TWO RADAR-GUIDED MISSILES DOWNED THE AIRCRAFT. ROBERT SEWELL, REPORTEDLY A U.S. GOVERNMENT SPECIALIST WHOSE 40 YEARS EXPERIENCE ON MISSILE TECHNOLOGY -- INCLUDING MOST RECENTLY AT CHINA LAKE NAVAL MUNITIONS LABORATORIES (CALIFORNIA) -- DESCRIBED IN A PRESS CONFERENCE A PROBABLE MISTAKEN ATTACK ON THE AIRCRAFT WHICH COST THE LIVES OF ITS 81 PASSENGERS AND CREW. THE PRESS MADE CLEAR THAT SEWELL WAS HIRED BY THE ASSOCIATION MADE UP OF THE FAMILIES OF THE USTICA VICTIMS.

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3. (U) SEWELL CLAIMED THAT TWO POWERFUL DOUBLE-HEADED AIR-TO-AIR MISSILES (BOTH LAUNCHED FROM THE SAME AIRCRAFT) EXPLODED OUTSIDE THE AIRCRAFT, WRENCHING THE RIGHT MOTOR FROM THE WING AND PENETRATING THE FUSELAGE JUST FORWARD OF THE POINT WHERE THE WING ATTACHES TO THE FUSELAGE, AND JUST AFT OF THE COCKPIT. IT EXITED ON THE OPPOSITE SIDE OF THE AIRCRAFT. AS ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE THAT MISSILES BROUGHT DOWN THE AIRCRAFT, SEWELL CITES:

-- T4 AND TNT FOUND ON REMNANTS OF SUITCASES;

-- THE CUTS MADE BY THE MISSILES IN THE FUSELAGE (THE "SKIN") WHICH HAS BEEN BROUGHT UP FROM THE OCEAN BOTTOM AND RECONSTITUTED;

-- THE CARPET IN THE PASSENGER CABIN SHOWS THAT THE MISSILES ENTERED FROM BELOW AND PASSED OUT OF THE AIRCRAFT FUSELAGE FROM ABOVE.

4. (LOU) AS USUAL THERE ARE SEVERAL CONTRASTING VERSIONS OF WHAT SEWELL SAID. THE MOST AUTHORITATIVE APPEARED IN THE JULY 5 ISSUE OF "L'EUROPEO." IN THAT

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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

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INTERVIEW THAT APPEARED IN "IL TEMPO" JUNE 30,
SUGGESTED THAT THE MISSILES COULD HAVE BEEN:

- SOVIET AA7 APEX OR AN AA6 ACRID;
- FRENCH MATRA R 530;
- AMERICAN AIM 7 SPARROW, VERSION I OR F;
- ENGLISH SKYFLASH.

OTHER ARTICLES SAY THAT SEWELL BELIEVES THAT THE COMMERCIAL LINER GOT IN THE WAY OF AN ATTACK BY ONE FIGHTER AIRCRAFT AGAINST ANOTHER, AND WAS MISTAKENLY HIT.

5. (LOU) WHEN IT WAS NOTED IN THE COURSE OF THE PRESS CONFERENCE THAT NO ONE SURVIVED THE EXPLOSION (SUPPORTING THE THEORY THAT ALL DIED FROM IMMEDIATE DECOMPRESSION CAUSED BY A MISSILE AND NOT BY A BOMB), A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ORGANIZATION OF "FAMILIES OF MILITARY PERSONNEL FALLEN IN SERVICE TO THE COUNTRY", DIFFERED SHARPLY. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, THE

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PAGE 01 ROME 11575 02 OF 02 011545Z
ACTION EUR-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-17	CIAE-00	COME-00	CPE-00	C-01	OASY-00
	DOEE-00	DOTE-00	EB-01	E-01	FAAE-00	HA-09	H-01
	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-19	JUSE-00	L-03	ADS-00	NRRC-00
	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01	PA-01	PM-02	PRS-01

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HANDLING: n/a

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P-01	SB-00	SDEL-00	SNP-00	SP-00	SSO-00	SS-00
STR-16	TRSE-00	T-00	TSKY-00	CORE-00	SSD-01	/078W
-----D213C2 011557Z /45						

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
CNO WASHDC//06/09C//

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
SUBJECT: USTICA: AMERICAN "EXPERT" CLAIMS TWO
MISSILES HIT THE AIRCRAFT

REPRESENTATIVE POINTED OUT THAT THE CORPSE OF A
"CARABINIERE" (NATIONAL POLICE), FOUND AFTER THE
TRAGEDY, SHOWED SIGNS THAT AT LEAST ONE PERSON HAD
SURVIVED FOR SOME MINUTES AFTER THE EXPL
OSION. THE
ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE FURTHER QUESTIONED WHETHER
THE RADAR MISSILES CITED BY SEWELL WERE WIDELY USED
IN 1980.

6. (C) WE HAVE LEARNED THAT SEWELL WAS FIRST
CONTACTED BY "L'EUROPEO" JOURNALIST CLAUDIO GATTI AND
HAS BEEN ADVISING HIM ON THE CRASH FOR OVER TWO
YEARS. ONLY RECENTLY DID GATTI SUGGEST TO THE
ASSOCIATION OF THE FAMILIES OF USTICA VICTIMS THAT
THEY HIRE SEWELL AS AN EXPERT WITNESS.

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CHANNEL: 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.

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ROME 11575 02 OF 02 011545Z

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PAGE 01 ROME 12897 231801Z
ACTION EUR-01

INFO LOG-00 CIAE-00 OASY-00 TEDE-00 INR-00 ADS-00 NSAE-00
PM-02 CORE-00 /003W

-----DAA2D2 240041Z /38

R 231756Z JUL 93
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO DEPT OF JUSTICE WASH DC
USIA WASHDC 9037
SECDEF WASHDC//OUSD-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

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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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Date Printed:
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DOC_NBR: 1993ROME12897

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

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.

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CHANNEL: n/a
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PAGE 01 ROME 13346 301655Z
ACTION EUR-01

INFO LOG-00 CIAE-00 OASY-00 TEDE-00 INR-00 ADS-00 NSAE-00
PM-02 CORE-00 /003W

-----DD494B 301835Z /38

R 301649Z JUL 93
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO USIA WASHDC 9087
DEPT JUSTICE WASHDC
SECDEF WASHDC//OUSD-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

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

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Date Printed:
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HANDLING: n/a

239

AIRLINER NEAR THE ISLAND OF USTICA AND TO DETERMINE IF RUSSIAN ARCHIVES HELD ANY INFORMATION RELEVANT TO THE CASE. IN PUBLIC STATEMENTS, THE INVESTIGATORS REPEATEDLY COMPLIMENTED THE RUSSIANS' WILLINGNESS TO COOPERATE WITH THE INVESTIGATION, BUT REPORTEDLY ADMITTED THAT NO NEW FINDINGS EMERGED FROM 25-27 JULY VISIT TO MOSCOW.

2. JUDGE PRIORE WAS NOT ABLE TO MEET WITH ANY OF THE RUSSIAN OFFICIALS WHO HAVE PUBLICLY BLAMED U.S. MISSILES FOR THE CRASH. THE RUSSIANS REPORTEDLY DENIED ONCE AGAIN ANY KNOWLEDGE OF SELF-PROCLAIMED KGB OFFICIAL "GENERAL PAVLOV" WHO CLAIMED TO ITALIAN MEDIA IN MARCH THAT, FROM A SECRET RADAR FACILITY IN LIBYA, HE SAW TWO AMERICAN MISSILES DOWN THE DC-9 (REFTEL B).

3. THE PRESS ALSO REPORTED THAT GENERAL SALIMOV, WHO GAVE INTERVIEWS TO RADIO "GRL" IN WHICH HE CORROBORATED PAVLOV'S STORY (REFTEL C), WAS NOT

PAGE 03 ROME 13346 301655Z
AVAILABLE TO BE INTERVIEWED. THE LEFTIST, INDEPENDENT "LA REPUBBLICA" MENTIONED THAT PRIORE WAS ALSO UNABLE TO QUESTION A CAPTAIN IVANOV WHO REPORTEDLY EXPOUNDED THE SAME THEORY AS PAVLOV AND SALIMOV. WIRE REPORTS STATED THAT JUDGE PRIORE WILL RETURN TO MOSCOW IN MID-SEPTEMBER TO QUESTION THE RUSSIAN OFFICIALS.

SERWER

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Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1993ROME21806

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

A202
RELEASED IN FULL

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PAGE 01 ROME 21806 221026Z
ACTION EUR-01

INFO LOG-00 CIAE-00 OASY-00 TEDE-00 INR-00 ADS-00 NSAE-00
PM-02 /003W

-----1337AA 221038Z /38

R 221025Z DEC 93
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0790
INFO SECDEF WASHDC//OUSDP-ISA-EUR//
DIA WASHDC
AMCONSUL MILAN
DEPT JUSTICE WASHDC
COMSIXTHFLT
USIA WASHDC 9835
USMISSION USNATO
JOINT STAFF WASHDC
COMFAIRMED NAPLES IT
USCINCEUR VAHINGEN GE//ECPA/ECJ//
AMCONSUL FLORENCE//POUCH//
AMCONSUL NAPLES

ROME 021806

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

E.O. 1236: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PINR, NATO, PREL, IT
SUBJECT: USTICA INVESTIGATION WILL LIKELY BE
EXTENDED UNTIL DECEMBER, 1994

PAGE 02 ROME 21806 221026Z
REF: ROME 13346; DTG 301649Z JUL 93 AND PREVIOUS

1. - 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

Page - 1295

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: ERIC W. FLEISHER
DATE/CASE ID: 30 OCT 2002 200102359

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Date Printed:
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DOC_NBR: 1993ROME21806

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

241

VOTE IN FAVOR OF AN EXTENSION UNTIL DECEMBER 1994, A YEAR BEYOND ITS CURRENT EXPIRATION DATE.

3. THE INVESTIGATION FOCUSES ON THE CAUSE OF A CRASH IN 1980 OF AN ITAVIA DC-9 IN THE MEDITERRANEAN NEAR THE ISLAND OF USTICA, NORTH OF SICILY. THE CAUSE HAS NEVER BEEN DETERMINED. JUDICIAL AND POPULAR SPECULATION CENTERS AROUND SEVERAL THEORIES:

THAT THE AIRCRAFT WAS SHOT DOWN BY A LIBYAN MIG, THAT A BOMB ABOARD EXPLODED, OR THAT IT WAS MISIDENTIFIED AS A LIBYAN AIRCRAFT AND SHOT DOWN BY A FRENCH OR U.S. MISSILE. INVESTIGATORS IN THE CASE HAVE MADE REPEATED TREATY REQUESTS OF THE U.S. FOR INFORMATION ABOUT POSSIBLE INVOLVEMENT IN THE CRASH.

4. MAGISTRATES TOLD THE DOJ REPRESENTATIVE THAT THEY WOULD AWAIT THE U.S. RESPONSE TO THEIR OUTSTANDING REQUESTS AND THEN PROVIDE A COMPREHENSIVE LIST OF THOSE RESPONSES NEEDING CLARIFICATION. THEY PLAN TO FOLLOW-UP WITH ADDITIONAL INQUIRIES NECESSARY TO CONCLUDE U.S.

PAGE 03 ROME 21806 221026Z
COOPERATION. THE MAGISTRATES HOPE TO FINISH THE INTERNATIONAL ROGATORIES WELL BEFORE DECEMBER 1994 IN ORDER TO COMPLETE THE REPORT AND MAKE ANY CRIMINAL CHARGES BEFORE THE END OF 1994. IN REALITY, REQUESTS WILL LIKELY COME IN THROUGH LATE NEXT YEAR.

5. NAPLES' DAILY, "IL MATTINO" CARRIED ON DECEMBER 16 A CALL FROM THE ORGANIZATION OF THE VICTIMS' FAMILIES TO EXTEND THE LENGTH OF THE INVESTIGATION. THE ARTICLE NOTES THAT THE PARLIAMENT HAS UNTIL DECEMBER 31 TO APPROVE THE EXTENSION. IN THE STORY, THE GROUP'S PRESIDENT ASKED PRESIDENT CLINTON TO CLARIFY A MYSTERY: WAS THE AMERICAN AIRCRAFT CARRIER, "USS SARATOGA" IN NAPLES HARBOR THE NIGHT OF THE JUNE 27 CRASH? ALTHOUGH PHOTOGRAPHS WHICH CAME TO LIGHT IN DECEMBER 1992 SHOW THE CARRIER ANCHORED IN NAPLES HARBOR THE AFTERNOON OF THE TRAGEDY, THE THEORY THAT THE "USS SARATOGA" WAS IN THE AREA OF THE CRASH AND THAT ONE OF ITS FIGHTERS SHOT DOWN THE PASSENGER JET IS STILL IN LIMITED CIRCULATION. BARTHOLOMEW

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A205

Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1995ROME05135

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

RELEASED IN FULL

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PAGE 01 ROME 05135 01 OF 02 161252Z
ACTION EUR-01

INFO	LOG-00	COR-01	AID-00	CIAE-00	COME-00	OASY-00	DOTE-00
	EB-01	E-00	FAAE-00	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	LAB-01
	L-01	ADS-00	M-00	NEA-01	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OMB-01
	PA-02	PM-00	PRS-01	P-01	SCT-00	SP-00	SSO-00
	SS-00	STR-01	TRSE-00	T-00	PMB-00	DRL-09	G-00
	/022W						

-----BC0FE0 161304Z /45/38

O 051626Z APR 95
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6258
INFO USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2063
AMCONSUL NAPLES
AMCONSUL MILAN
AMCONSUL FLORENCE

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 ROME 005135

X - 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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DOC_NBR: 1995ROME05135

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

246

PROPOSED PRESS GUIDANCE FOLLOWS PARA 6. END
SUMMARY.

2. THE CORRIERE DELLA SERA AND IL MESSAGGERO APRIL 5 REPORTED THAT LUCIANO CARICO, AN ITAF NCO ON DUTY AT THE MARSALA AIR BASE THE NIGHT OF JUNE 27, 1980 RECENTLY VOLUNTEERED TO ADD INFORMATION TO HIS PREVIOUS STATEMENTS CONCERNING THE CRASH THAT NIGHT OF AN ITALIAN DC-9 AIRLINER NEAR THE SOUTHERN ITALIAN ISLAND OF USTICA (WHICH KILLED ALL 81 PERSONS ONBOARD). DURING A SIX-HOUR HEARING WITH ROME MAGISTRATE ROSARIO PRIORE, WHO IS INVESTIGATING THE USTICA CRASH, CARICO CONFIRMED THE TESTIMONY HE GAVE IN 1989 IN WHICH HE SAID THE MARSALA RADARS HAD TRACKED SEVERAL JETS FLYING NEAR THE AIRLINER JUST BEFORE THE CRASH. HE REPORTEDLY STATED THAT ONE JET WAS FLYING CLOSE AND FAST BEHIND THE DC-9, AS IF TO

PAGE 03 ROME 05135 01 OF 02 161252Z
OVERTAKE IT.

3. THE ARTICLES ALSO REPORTED THAT CARICO'S STATEMENTS MATCH THOSE OF SEVERAL AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS WHO WERE ON DUTY IN ROME'S CIAMPINO AIRPORT THE SAME NIGHT AND WHOM PRIORE RECENTLY CALLED TO TESTIFY. THE CONTROLLERS REPORTEDLY SAID THE TRAFFIC THEY SAW AROUND THE CIVILIAN AIRLINER HAD INITIALLY NOT CAUSED ANY ALARM BECAUSE A NOTAM HAD ADVISED THEM OF A U.S. MILITARY AIR EXERCISE SCHEDULED FOR THAT EVENING. WHEN THE CONTROLLERS WERE ASKED WHY THEY HAD NOT TESTIFIED BEFORE, ALL REPORTEDLY SAID THEY HAD NEVER BEEN ASKED.

4. ACCORDING TO THE ARTICLES, ABOUT TWO MONTHS AGO THE ITAF GAVE JUDGE PRIORE THE NAMES OF FIFTY-TWO MILITARY OFFICIALS WHO WERE ON DUTY AT CIAMPINO THE NIGHT OF THE CRASH. THE ITAF RECONSTRUCTED THE FULL LIST OF PERSONNEL FROM BUDGET-DEPARTMENT RECORDS. PREVIOUSLY, ITAF ONLY FURNISHED THE NAMES OF SIX DUTY PERSONNEL, SAYING THAT RECORDS OF DUTY PERSONNEL FOR THAT EVENING HAD BEEN DESTROYED.

5. THE ARTICLES ALSO SUGGEST THAT THE UNIDENTIFIED JETS ALLEGEDLY FLYING OVER USTICA AT THE TIME OF THE CRASH WERE AMERICAN FIGHTER JETS, BY CONFLATING THE STATEMENTS BY CARICO, THE CIAMPINO AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS, UNIDENTIFIED AIR RESCUE PERSONNEL, AND TAPES OF A CONVERSATION BETWEEN TWO AIR TRAFFIC

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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
	EB-01	E-00	FAAE-00	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	LAB-01
	L-01	ADS-00	M-00	NEA-01	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OMB-01
	PA-02	PM-00	PRS-01	P-01	SB-00	SCT-00	SP-00
	SSO-00	SS-00	STR-01	TRSE-00	T-00	PMB-00	DRL-09
	G-00	/021W					

-----BB2E8B 130733Z /38

O 051626Z APR 95
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6259
INFO USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2064
AMCONSUL NAPLES
AMCONSUL MILAN

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1995ROME05135

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

246

AMCONSUL FLORENCE

UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 ROME 005135

DEPT FOR EUR/WE; DOD FOR OSD/ISA (LAZARUS)

(TEXT)

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: PREL, IT

SUBJECT: NEW TESTIMONY IN USTICA CASE

COMMENT

PAGE 02 ROME 05135 02 OF 02 130732Z

7. WE ARE REPORTING THESE TWO PRESS ARTICLES FOR THE RECORD ONLY BECAUSE THIS LATEST TWIST TO THE USTICA SAGA INDICATES THAT AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS OTHER THAN NCO CARICO HAVE TESTIFIED THAT THEY SAW OTHER JET AIRCRAFT IN THE VICINITY OF THE AIRLINER BEFORE THE CRASH. ALSO NEW IS THE NEWS THAT THE ITAF HAS FURNISHED THE JUDICIARY WITH A COMPLETE LIST OF OFFICIALS ON DUTY AT CIAMPINO THE NIGHT OF THE CRASH. END COMMENT.

BARTHOLOMEW

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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A206

Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1996ROME00466

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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PTQ2371

PTQ2371

PAGE 01 ROME 00466 161621Z
ACTION EUR-01

INFO	LOG-00	CIAE-00	OASY-00	SRPP-00	EB-01	H-01	TEDE-00
	INR-00	L-01	ADS-00	M-00	NEA-01	NSAE-00	NSCE-00
	OMB-01	PA-02	PM-00	PRS-01	P-00	SP-00	SS-00
	TRSE-00	T-00	SNIS-00	NISC-00	PMB-00	DRL-09	G-00
	/018W						

-----1027BF 161635Z /49

R 161619Z JAN 96
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO RUEHC SECSTATE WASHDC 4357
SECDEF WASHDC
INFO AMCONSUL FLORENCE
AMCONSUL MILAN
AMCONSUL NAPLES
USIA WASHDC 3105

UNCLAS ROME 000466

SENSITIVE

DEPT FOR EUR/WE; DOD FOR OSD/ISA/ITALY (MILLER)

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: PREH, IT
SUBJECT: USTICA INVASTIGATION UPDATE

1. (U) LOCAL PRSS REPORTS INDICATE THAT ON DECEMBER
24, ROME PROSECUTOR ROSARIO PRIORE (RESPONSIBLE FOR

PAGE 02 ROME 00466 161621Z
INVESTIGATING THE UNEXPLAINED JULY 1980 CRASH OF AN
ITALIAN AIRLINER NEAR THE ISLAND OF USTICA) AND VENICE
PROSECUTOR CARLO MASTELLONI (WHO IS INVESTIGATING THE
DOWNING OF AN ITALIAN INTELLIGENCE ARGO 16 AIRCRAFT)
JOINTLY ORDERED A SEARCH OF THE ROME RESIDENCE OF
RETIRED CARABINIERI GENERAL (AND EX-SISMI OFFICIAL)
DEMETRIO COGLIANDRO. DURING THE SMARCH, PRIORE AND
MASTELLONI REPORTEDLY DISCOVERED OVER ONE HUNDRED FILES
CONTAINING ALLEGED "CONFIDENTIAL" INFORMATION ON USTICA

Page - 1358

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

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DOC_NBR: 1996ROME00466

CHANNEL: n/a

HANDLING: n/a

248

(ABOUT 20 FILES) AS WELL AS INFORMATION ON PROMINENT ITALIAN POLITICAL AND BUSINESS LEADERS, INCLUDING FORMER PRIME MINISTERS ANDREOTTI, CRAXI, DE MITA, AND BERLUSCONI, AS WELL AS OLIVETTI HEAD DE BENEDETTI; AND MATERIAL ON OTHER "UNSOLVED MYSTERIES" INCLUDING THE 1969 PIAZZA FONTANA TERRORIST BOMBING AND THE ALDO MORO KIDNAPPING.

2. (U) OTHER PRESS ACCOUNTS INDICATE THAT MATERIAL DISCOVERED AT THE COGLIANRO RESIDENCE THEORIZES THAT THE AIRLINER WAS ACCIDENTALLY DOWNED BY AN AIR-TO-AIR MISSILE DURING AN AIR BATTLE BETWEEN ALLIED (U.S. AND FRENCH) AND DIBAN AIRCRAFT, INCLUDING ONE CARRYING LIBYAN LEIDER MOAMMAR KHADDAFI. ACCORDING TO THIS THEORY, THE USTICA AIRLINER, WHICH WAS TWO HOURS LATE AND NOT EXPECTED IN THE AREA, WAS INADVERTENTLY DOWNED BY A FRENCH MISSILE IN THE MELEE. PRESS ACCOUNTS ALSO ALLEGE THAT A GROUND RADAR SITE IN MARSALA DETECTED AN UNUSUAL AMOUNT OF AIR TRAFFIC OVER THE USTICA AREA THE NIGHT THE INCIDENT OCCURED, AND THAT A TOTAL OF FIVE P-3 ORION AIRCRAFT FLEW CONSECUTIVE SEARCHES OVER THE CALABRIA REGION THAT NIGHT. COGLIANDRO'S NOTES

PAGE 03 ROME 00466 161621Z
REPORTEDLY CONCLUDED THAT THEN-PRIME MINISTER (LATER PRESIDENT) FRANCESCO COSSIGA MADE THE DECISION NOT TO REVEAL THE FACTS BEHIND THE DOWNING, FEARING A POSSIBLE POLITICAL CRISIS. (NOTE: COSSIGA JANUARY 11 DISMISSED AS ABSURD THESE ALLEGATIONS IN A TONGUE-IN-CHEEK LETTER TO THE LEADING ITALIAN DAILY CORRIERE DELLA SERA.)

3. (U) THE FILES DISCOVERED AT THE COGLIANDRO RESIDENCE REPORTEDLY COVER THE 1984-91 PERIOD, SUBSEQUENT TO HIS RETIREMENT FROM SISMI IN 1981. ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNTS, PROSECUTORS PRIORE AND MASTELLONI ARE NOW INVESTIGATING ALLEGATIONS THAT COGLIANDRO--WHO HAD SET UP HIS OWN PRIVATE INVESTIGATING AGENCY --WAS WORKING ON CONTRACT FOR SISMI DURING THIS PERIOD. PROSECUTOR PRIORE REPORTEDLY HAS ALSO SEIZED OTHER RELATED MATERIAL FROM SISMI STATIONS IN MILAN, NAPLES AND BARI, AS WELL AS FROM SISMI'S ROME HEADQUARTERS. PRIORE HAS FORWARDED EXCERPTS FROM THE MATERIAL DISCOVERED IN COGLIANDRO'S HOME TO VARIOUS ITALIAN JUDICIARY OFFICES. IN ADDITION, THE FILES WILL REPORTEDLY BE EXAMINED BY A PARLIAMENTARY JOINT

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Date Printed:

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DOC_NBR: 1996ROME00466

CHANNEL: n/a

HANDLING: n/a

248

OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE.

4. (SBU) COMMENT: WE REPORT THE FOREGOING @RESS
REPORTS ON THE LATEST TWIST IN THE LONG-PUNNING USTICA
SAGA FOR THE RECORD. INVESTIGATORS AND LOCAL PRESS
HAVE, AT DIFFERENT TIMES, PROPOSED VARIOUS SCENARIOS TO
EXPLAIN THE USTICA CRASH, INCLUDING THE POSSIBILITY OF
A BOMB EXPLOSION ON BOARD, AS WELL AS THE INVOLVEMENT
OF FIGHTER AIRCRAFT BELONGING TO: ITALY, FRANCE,

PAGE 04 ROME 00466 161621Z
ISRAEL, LIBYA, OR THE UNITED STATES. THE THEORY A LA
MODE APPEARS TO BE A GRAND SYNTHESIS POSITING A
CONSPIRACY AMONG THREE OF THESE NATIONS. BARTHOLOMEW

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A207

Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1996ROME00467

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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PTQ2343

PTQ2343

PAGE 01 ROME 00467 161624Z
ACTION EUR-01

INFO	LOG-00	AID-00	SMI-00	CIAE-00	SMEC-00	COME-00	OASY-00
	DOTE-00	SRPP-00	EB-01	E-00	FAAE-00	H-01	TEDE-00
	INR-00	LAB-01	L-01	ADS-00	M-00	NEA-01	NSAE-00
	NSCE-00	OMB-01	PA-02	PM-00	PRS-01	P-00	SCT-00
	SP-00	SSO-00	SS-00	STR-00	TRSE-00	T-00	PMB-00
	DRL-09	G-00	/019W				

-----1026A4 161624Z /38

R 161624Z JAN 96
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECDEF WASHDC
SECSTATE WASHDC 4358
INFO USIA WASHDC 3106
AMCONSUL NAPLES
AMCONSUL FLORENCE
AMCONSUL MILAN

UNCLAS ROME 000467

DEPT FOR EUR/WE; DOD FOR OSD/ISA/ITALY (MILLER)

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: PREL, IT
SUBJECT: USTICA INVESTIGATION UPDATE

1. (U) LOCAL PRESS REPORTS INDIBATE THAT ON DECEMBER

PAGE 02 ROME 00467 161624Z
24, ROME PROSECUTOR ROSARIO PRIORE (RESPONSIBLE FOR
INVESTIGATING THE UNEXPLAINED JULY 1980 CRASH OF AN
ITALIAN AIRLINER NEAR THE ISLAND OF USTICA) AND VENACE
PROSECUTOR CARL MASTELLONI (WHO IS INVESTIGATING THE
DOWNING OF AN ITALIAN INTELLIGENCE ARGO 16 AIRCRAFT)
JOINTLY ORDERED A SEARCH OF THE ROME RESIDENCE OF
RETIRED CARABINIERI GENERAL (AND EX-SISMI OFFICIAL)
DEMETRIO COGLIANDRO. DURING THE SEARCH, PRIORE AND
MASTELLONI REPORTEDLY DISCOVERED OVER ONE HUNDRED FILES

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Date Printed:
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DOC_NBR: 1996ROME00467

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

249

CONTAINING ALLEGED "CONFIDENTIAL" INFORMATION ON USTICA
(ABOUT 20 FILES) AS WELL AS INFORMATION ON PROMINENT

M
ITALIAN POLITICAL AND BUSINESS LEADERS, INCLUDING
FORMER PRIME MINISTERS ANDREOTTI, CRAXI, DE MITA, AND
BERLUSCONI, AS WELL AS OLIVETTI HEAD DE BENEDETTI; AND
MATERIAL ON OTHER "UNSOLVED MYSTERIES" INCLUDING THE
1969 PIAZZA FONTANA TERRORIST BOMBING AND THE ALDO MORO
KIDNAPPING.

2. (U) OTHER PRESS ACCOUNTS INDICATE THAT MATERIAL
DISCOVERED AT THE COGLIANDRO RESIDENCE THEORIZES THAT
THE AIRLINER WAS ACCIDENTALLY DOWNED BY AN AIR-TO-AIR
MISSILE DURING AN AIR BATTLE BETWEEN ALLIED (U.S. AND
FRENCH) AND LIBYAN AIRCRAFT, INCLUDING ONE CARRYING
LIBYAN LEADER MOAMMAR KHADDAFI. ACCORDING TO THIS
THEORY, THE USTICA AIRLINER, WHICH WAS TWO HOURS LATE
AND NOT EXPECTED IN THE AREA, WAS INADVERTENTLY DOWNED
BY A FRENCH MISSILE IN THE MELEE. PRESS ACCOUNTS ALSO
ALLEGES THAT A GROUND RADAR SITE IN MARSALA DETECTED AN
UNUSUAL AMOUNT OF AIR TRAFFIC OVER THE USTICA AREA THE
NIGHT THE INCIDENT OCCURRED, AND THAT A TOTAL OF FIVE P-

PAGE 03 ROME 00467 161624Z

3 ORION AIRCRAFT FLE CONSECUTIVE SEARCHES OVER THE
CALABRIA REGION THAT NIGHT. COGLIANDRO'S NOTES
REPORTEDLY CONCLUDED THAT THEN-PRIME MINISTER (LATER
PRESIDENT) FRANCESCO COSSIGA MADE THE DECISION NOT TO
REVEAL THE FACTS BEHIND THE DOWNING, FEARING A POSSIBLE
POLITICAL CRISIS. (NOTE: COSSIGA JANUARY 11 DISMISSED
AS ABSURD THESE ALLEGATIONS IN A TONGUE-IN-CHEEK LETTER
TO THE LEADING ITALIAN DAILY CORRIERE DELLA SERA.)

3. (U) THE FILES DISCOVERED AT THE COGLIANDRO
RESIDENCE REPORTEDLY COVER THE 1984-91 PERIOD,
SUBSEQUENT TO HIS RETIREMENT FROM SISMI IN 1981.
ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNTS, PROSECUTORS PRIORE AND
MASTELLONI ARE NOW INVESTIGATING ALLEGATIONS THAT
COGLIANDRO--WHO HAD SET UP HIS OWN PRIVATE
INVESTIGATING AGENCY--WAS WORKING ON CONTRACT FOR SISMI
DURING THIS PERIOD. PROSECUTOR PRIORE REPORTEDLY HAS
ALSO SEIZED OTHER RELATED MATERIAL FROM SISMI STATIONS
IN MILAN, NAPLES AND BARI, AS WELL AS FROM SISMI'S ROME
HEADQUARTERS. PRIORE HAS FORWARDED EXCERPTS FROM THE
MATERIAL DISCOVERED IN COGLIANDRO'S HOME TO VARIOUS
ITALIAN JUDICIARY OFFICES. IN ADDITION, THE FILES WILL

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Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

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

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UNCLASSIFIED

A209

Date Printed:
16 Apr 2002

DOC_NBR: 1996ROME03818

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

RELEASED IN FULL

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PTQ5838

PTQ5838

PAGE 01 ROME 03818 021512Z
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-00	FAAE-00
	INLB-01	H-01	IMMC-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00	LAB-01
	L-01	ADS-00	M-00	NEA-01	NRRC-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00
	OIC-02	PA-00	PM-00	PRS-00	P-00	SCT-00	SP-00
	SSO-00	SS-00	STR-00	TRSE-00	T-00	USIE-00	SSD-01
	PMB-00	DRL-09	G-00	/031W			

-----29FE89 021512Z /38

P 021503Z APR 96
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6652
INFO USMISSION USNATO
SECDEF WASHDC

UNCLAS ROME 003818

STATE FOR EUR/RPM AND EUR/WE
SECDEF FOR OSD/ISP/ITALY

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: PREL, MARR, NATO, IT
SUBJECT: PRODI, MIGONE COMMENTS ON USTICA INQUIRY

REF: ROME 03755

1. (U) IN PRESS COMMENTS CARRIED BY THE ITALIAN
PRESS AGENCY ANSA APRIL 2, ITALIAN SENATE FOREIGN

PAGE 02 ROME 03818 021512Z
AFFAIRS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN GIANGIACOMO MIGONE SAID
THAT THE ITALIAN PEOPLE, PARLIAMENT, AND GOVERNMENT
HAVE A RIGHT TO ASCERTAIN THE TRUTH BEHIND THE 1980
AIRLINER CRASH OFF THE ISLAND OF USTICA. MIGONE
SAID HE HAD NO DOUBT THAT THE NATO SECRETARY
GENERAL, FRIENDLY COUNTRIES, AND THE ALLIED POWERS
WILL PROVIDE ALL POSSIBLE COOPERATION IN RESOLVING
THE MATTER. MIGONE SAID THAT EVERY INSTITUTION IS
CAPABLE OF DISCLOSING CLASSIFIED INFORMATION IN A

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: ERIC W. FLEISHER
DATE/CASE ID: 30 OCT 2002 200102359

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Date Printed:
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DOC_NBR: 1996ROME03818

CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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MANNER WHICH SAFEGUARDS ITS OWN SECURITY, ESPECIALLY IF THE EVENTS TRANSPIRED IN THE DISTANT PAST. IF THERE ARE REASONS TO DENY INFORMATION, THESE REASONS SHOULD BE CLEARLY COMMUNICATED AND THE IDENTITY OF THOSE REFUSING TO PROVIDE THE INFORMATION CLEARLY SPECIFIED. MIGONE SAID THAT FM AGNELLI HAD BEEN REQUESTED BY THE SENATE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE TO TAKE ACTION IN PRESSING NATO TO COOPERATE WITH THE JUDICIAL INVESTIGATION; HE HAD NO DOUBT THAT FM AGNELLI WILL SEEK THE COOPERATION OF ALLIED GOVERNMENTS AND THE NATO SECRETARY GENERAL.

2. (U) IN SEPARATE COMMENTS, OLIVE TREE COALITION PRIME MINISTERIAL CANDIDATE ROMANO PRODI REMARKED THAT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD UNDERTAKE ALL NECESSARY INITIATIVES WITH NATO AUTHORITIES IN ORDER TO OBTAIN THE RELEASE OF THE RADAR TRACKS RELATING TO THE NIGHT OF THE INCIDENT. HE SAID IT WAS STILL UNACCEPTABLE THAT, SIXTEEN YEARS AFTER THE INCIDENT, THERE WERE STILL OBSTACLES TO ASCERTAINING THE TRUTH, TO WHICH THE FAMILIES OF THE VICTIMS AND ALL ITALIAN CITIZENS HAVE A RIGHT.

PAGE 03 ROME 03818 021512Z

3. (U) COMMENT: PRESS INTEREST IN THE USTICA STORY HAS SUBSIDED AFTER A BRIEF FLURRY OF ARTICLES, EDITORIALS, AND CRITICAL REMARKS FROM A NUMBER OF ITALIAN POLITICAL FIGURES IN THE WAKE OF THE REPORTED NATO REFUSAL TO PROVIDE INVESTIGATORS WITH CLASSIFIED RECORDS PERTAINING TO THE 1980 CRASH OF THE ITAVIA AIRLINER OFF THE ISLAND OF USTICA (REFTTEL). IN CONTRAST TO THE HEATED TONE OF SOME EARLIER COMMENTARIES, SOME OF WHICH EQUATED NATO'S REPORTED DENIAL AS A "HALF-ADMISSION" OF CULPABILITY IN THE CASE, MIGONE AND PRODI'S COMMENTS ARE MEASURED AND LOW-KEY, WITH MIGONE EVINCING CONFIDENCE THAT NATO AUTHORITIES WILL EXTEND ALL POSSIBLE COOPERATION IN RESOLVING THE MATTER. NEVERTHELESS, THEY SHARE THE WIDESPREAD FEELING IN ITALY THAT INVESTIGATORS HAVE AN OBLIGATION TO PURSUE--AND NATO AUTHORITIES SHOULD COOPERATE--IN FOLLOWING UP ALL POSSIBLE LEADS IN RESOLVING THE CASE. CREAGAN

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HANDLING: n/a

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PTQ8184

PAGE 01 ROME 04130 162124Z
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	L-01	ADS-00	M-00	NEA-01	NRRC-00	NSAE-00
	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01	PA-00	PM-00	PRS-00	P-00
	SCT-00	SP-00	SSO-00	STR-00	TRSE-00	T-00	USIE-00
	SSD-01	PMB-00	DRL-09	G-00	/033W		

-----2F2E37 162125Z /20

P 111548Z APR 96
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6907
INFO USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY
SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

ROME 004130

(TEXT PARA 6)

STATE FOR EUR/WE
SECDEF FOR OUSD/ISP/ITALY

E.O. 12958: DECL: 4/11/01
TAGS: PGOV, PREL, MARR, NATO, IT
SUBJECT: ITALIAN SENATE COMMITTEE HEARINGS ON USTICA
INVESTIGATION

REF: A) ROME 3883 B) ROME 3818 C) ROME 3755

PAGE 02 ROME 04130 162124Z

1. CLASSIFICATION -- AS MARKED. CLASSIFIED BY
AMBASSADOR BARTHOLOMEW FOR REASONS 1.5 (B) AND (D).
2. (U) THIS IS AN ACTION REQUEST. SEE PARA 4.
3. (U) SUMMARY/COMMENT: LEADING ROME DAILIES AND
THE ITALIAN NEWS SERVICE ANSA FEATURED COVERAGE OF
SENATE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE HEARINGS APRIL 9 ON

Page - 1

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: ERIC W. FLEISHER
DATE/CASE ID: 30 OCT 2002 200102359

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HANDLING: n/a

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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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DECLASSIFICATION NEEDED TO BE IN COMPLIANCE WITH NATO REGULATIONS AND MAY TAKE TIME. DINI ALSO SAID THAT ITALY'S REQUEST TO NATO DID NOT PRECLUDE PARALLEL APPROACHES TO OTHER ALLIED COUNTRIES, AND THAT THE INDICATIONS OF WILLINGNESS OBTAINED FROM WASHINGTON DURING THE RECENT VISIT OF PRESIDENT SCALFARO WERE ENCOURAGING.

6. (U) IN INTERPELLATIONS AFTER MFA UNDERSECRETARY

PAGE 04 ROME 04130 162124Z
GARDINI READ DINI'S LETTER, CENTER-RIGHT (AN)
SENATOR PORCARI CRITICIZED THE DINI MISSIVE AS "COLD AND BUREAUCRATIC," AND DEPLORED DINI'S ABSENCE, WHICH HE CALLED AN AFFRONT TO THE CITIZENS WHO LOST THEIR LIVES IN THE USTICA CRASH. PORCARI SAID NATO'S UNENTHUSIASTIC RESPONSE GAVE RISE TO THE SUSPICION THAT IT HAD SOMETHING TO HIDE. COMMUNIST RENEWAL SENATOR CUFFARO SAID THAT DINI'S LETTER WAS TOTALLY INADEQUATE, AND THAT NATO, WHICH HAD THE KEY TO UNLOCKING THE USTICA SECRET, DID NOT WANT TO USE IT. FELLOW RC SENATOR ROSSI QUERIED MFA UNDERSECRETARY GARDINI ABOUT THE WHEREABOUTS OF THE USS SARATOGA ON THE NIGHT OF THE INCIDENT.

7. (U) FORMER PRIME MINISTER (AND PPI SENATOR) ANDREOTTI DEFENDED THE DINI LETTER AS A SINCERE CONTRIBUTION TO 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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HANDLING: n/a

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8. (U) JUDGE PRIORE IN PRESS COMMENTS APRIL 10
APPLAUDED NATO'S APPARENT CHANGE IN ATTITUDE TOWARDS
RELEASE OF CLASSIFIED INFORMATION. HOWEVER, HE SAID
THAT THE CONDITIONS IMPOSED BY NATO WERE
INCOMPATIBLE WITH THE ITALIAN PENAL CODE AND MAKE IT
DIFFICULT FOR HIM TO CONDUCT HIS INVESTIGATION. FOR
EXAMPLE, HE SAID, EVIDENCE OBTAINED IN A RESTRICTED,
SECURE SETTING IS INADMISSIBLE UNDER ITALIAN LAWS.
HE ADDED THAT SOME EXPERTS WHO NEED TO CONSULT THIS
INFORMATION ARE NOT ITALIAN CITIZENS, AND, IN FACT,
ARE NOT CITIZENS OF NATO COUNTRIES.

9. INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF THE DINI LETTER FOLLOWS:

BEGIN TRANSLATION.

THE GOVERNMENT IS PLEASED WITH THE OPPORTUNITY
OFFERED BY THE THE SENATE FOREIGN AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE HEARING TO PROVIDE AN UPDATE ON THE
GOVERNMENT'S INITIATIVES REGARDING THE USTICA
INVESTIGATION DURING THE PAST FEW MONTHS.
BEFORE GOING FURTHER, IT IS PERHAPS OPPORTUNE
TO MENTION CERTAIN TECHNICAL AND PROCEDURAL
ASPECTS INDISPENSIBLE TO PROVIDING A FRAMEWORK
FOR DESCRIBING THE GOVERNMENT'S ACTIONS TO
DATE.

1. SPECIFIC REGULATIONS COVER THE PROTECTION
OF NATO CLASSIFIED DOCUMENTS, WHETHER
ORIGINATING FROM MEMBER COUNTRIES OR FROM NATO
ITSELF. THESE REGULATIONS ARE AIMED AT

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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HANDLING: n/a

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MECHANISM REQUIRES TIME TO ALLOW THE NECESSARY
TECHNICAL STEPS TO TAKE PLACE.

2. WITHIN THIS FRAMEWORK, THE GOI
EXPEDITIOUSLY AND IN A TIMELY MANNER FORWARDED
TO COMPETENT NATO AUTHORITIES THROUGH ITS
PERMANENT MISSION TO THE ATLANTIC COUNCIL
REQUESTS TO RELEASE CLASSIFIED NATO
DOCUMENTATION FROM NATIONAL JUDICIAL
AUTHORITIES WITHIN THE AMBIT OF PENAL
PROCEDURES AGAINST UNKNOWN PERPETRATORS OF THE
CRIME (UNDER ARTICLES 422 AND 428 OF THE PENAL
CODE) COMMITTED JUNE 27, 1980, OVER THE
TYRRHENIAN SEA (AKA THE "USTICA INCIDENT").
GOVERNMENT ACTIONS SINCE LAST SUMMER HAVE
CULMINATED WITH MY PERSONAL LETTER TO NATO SYG
SOLANA IN WHICH, RECALLING PREVIOUS GOI
REQUESTS, I SOLICITED FROM SYG SOLANA A
RESPONSE TO OUR REQUESTS. AS A RESULT OF THESE

PAGE 07 ROME 04130 162124Z
STEPS, THE NATO SYG RESPONDED WITH THREE
COMMUNICATIONS: ON JANUARY 29, 1996; FEBRUARY
14, 1996; AND LASTLY, APRIL 1, 1996. IN HIS
LETTERS, SYG SOLANA NOTED THE REGULATIONS FOR
PROTECTING CLASSIFIED NATO DOCUMENTATION;
PROVIDED THE CURRENT STATUS OF REQUEST FOR
SPECIFIC DOCUMENTS; AND EXPLAINED WHAT MEASURES
HAVE BEEN TAKEN BY THE SYG AND HIS LEGAL OFFICE
TO MEET, IN ACCORDANCE WITH ESTABLISHED
PROCEDURES AND REGULATIONS, OUR REQUEST TO
ALLOW USE OF THESE DOCUMENTS IN THE
INVESTIGATIONS NOW UNDERWAY. COPIES OF SYG
SOLANA'S LETTERS ARE AVAILABLE FOR FOREIGN
AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEMBERS WHO HAVE REQUESTED
THEM.

3. REGARDING THE CONTENTS (OF SOLANA'S
LETTERS), THE NATO SYG STATED THAT THE
DOCUMENTS REGARDING THE NATO CLASSIFIED
INFORMATION ARE AVAILABLE ONLY FOR THE
EXCLUSIVE USE BY ITALIAN JUDICIARY AUTHORITIES
FOR THE REASONS OUTLINED IN THE ITALIAN
REQUEST. OF THE CLASSIFIED DOCUMENTS
CONSIDERED RELEVANT TO THE INVESTIGATION ARE
FURNISHED ONLY TO AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL AWARE OF

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Date Printed:

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DOC_NBR: 1996ROME04130

CHANNEL: n/a

HANDLING: n/a

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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 NECESSARY, IN THE VIEW OF OTHER EXPERTS, FOR THE INVESTIGATION AND EXAMINATION OF RADAR RECORDS.

5. THE GOI BELIEVES THAT THE NATO SYG AND NATO AUTHORITIES HAVE GIVEN PROOF OF THEIR WILLINGNESS TO COLLABORATE WITHIN THE LIMITS IMPOSED BY THE NEED TO PROTECT COMMON SECURITY. THESE LIMITS ARE ESTABLISHED IN THE INTEREST OF ALL ALLIANCE MEMBERS, INCLUDING ITALY.

6. THE SEARCH FOR TRUTH AND THE NECESSARY TRANSPARENCY TO FULFILL THE PROCEDURES OF OUR JUDICIARY AUTHORITIES ARE THE OBJECTIVES WHICH THIS GOVERNMENT HAS FOLLOWED AND WHICH IT INTENDS TO CONTINUE TO FOLLOW. IT IS UP TO NATO TO INDICATE WHICH SPECIFIC AUTHORIZATIONS ARE NECESSARY TO SECURE THE EVENTUAL RELEASE OF CLASSIFIED INFORMATION BEYOND THAT ALREADY PROVIDED. IF DOCUMENTS REQUIRING DECLASSIFICATION ARE IDENTIFIED, THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT WILL MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO SEEK THEIR RELEASE WITH THE NATO SYG AND NATO MILITARY

PAGE 09 ROME 04130 162124Z
AUTHORITIES, FROM WHOM WE HAVE OBTAINED AN AGREEMENT, IN PRINCIPLE, TO DO SO. IF THE SYG

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Date Printed:
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CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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INDICATES THAT ONE OR MORE MEMBER COUNTRIES MUST PROVIDE ASSENT TO DECLASSIFY, THE GOI WILL EXAMINE WHICH DIPLOMATIC STEPS NEED TO BE UNDERTAKEN TO SUPPORT OUR REQUEST. IN LIGHT OF THE CONSTRUCTIVE COOPERATION FROM THE NATO SYG, THE GOI WILL CONTINUE ITS ACTIONS AIMED AT ALLOWING THE GATHERING OF ELEMENTS DEEMED NECESSARY FOR INVESTIGATIONS NOW UNDERWAY. AS INDICATED PREVIOUSLY, THIS DOES NOT EXCLUDE PARALLEL APPROACHES TO OTHER ALLIED COUNTRIES; ON THIS POINT, THE INDICATIONS OF WILLINGNESS TO COOPERATE RECENTLY OBTAINED IN WASHINGTON DURING THE VISIT OF PRESIDENT SCALFARO ARE ENCOURAGING.

CORDIALLY,

LAMBERTO DINI

10. END TRANSLATION. BARTHOLOMEW

NNNN
@@@OASYS@@@<CONCATENATED>
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PAGE 01 ROME 04130 01 OF 03 160126Z
ACTION EUR-01

INFO	LOG-00	COR-01	ACDA-10	ACDE-00	AID-00	CIAE-00	SMEC-00
	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	L-01	ADS-00	M-00	NEA-01	NRRC-00	NSAE-00
	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01	PA-00	PM-00	PRS-00	P-00
	SCT-00	SP-00	SSO-00	STR-00	TRSE-00	T-00	USIE-00
	SSD-01	PMB-00	DRL-09	G-00	/033W		

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P 111548Z APR 96
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6907
INFO USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY
SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

SECTION 01 OF 03 ROME 004130

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT PARA 6)

UNCLASSIFIED

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Date Printed:
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CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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STATE FOR EUR/WE
SECDEF FOR OUSD/ISP/ITALY

E.O. 12958: DECL: 4/11/01
TAGS: PGOV, PREL, MARR, NATO, IT
SUBJECT: ITALIAN SENATE COMMITTEE HEARINGS ON USTICA
INVESTIGATION

REF: A) ROME 3883 B) ROME 3818 C) ROME 3755

PAGE 02 ROME 04130 01 OF 03 160126Z

1. CLASSIFICATION -- AS MARKED. CLASSIFIED BY
AMBASSADOR BARTHOLOMEW FOR REASONS 1.5 (B) AND (D).

2. (U) THIS IS AN ACTION REQUEST. SEE PARA 4.

3. (U) SUMMARY/COMMENT: LEADING ROME DAILIES AND
THE ITALIAN NEWS SERVICE ANSA FEATURED COVERAGE OF
SENATE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE HEARINGS APRIL 9 ON
THE USTICINCIDENT. PRIME MINISTER DINI PROVIDED
BY LETTER AN UPDATE ON GOI EFFORTS TO OBTAIN
CLASSIFIED NATO DOCUMENTS ON THE 1980 AIRLINER
EXPLOSION. DINI SAID THAT NATO SYG-SOLANA HAD
EVINCED WILLINGNESS TO COOPERATE WITH ITALIAN
INVESTIGATORS, BUT ALSO SAID THAT NATO SECURITY
REGULATIONS MUST BE FOLLOWED. HE ALSO NOTED THE
"ENCOURAGING" RESULTS OBTAINED DURING THE RECENT
WASHINGTON VISIT OF PRESIDENT SCALFARO. DINI'S
NONAPPEARANCE AND "BUREAUCRATIC" TONE OF HIS LETTER
ENCOUNTERED SOME SNIPING FROM LEGISLATORS; IN
ADDITION, PPI SENATOR (AND FORMER PRIME MINISTER)
ANDREOTTI RECALLED PREVIOUS INITIATIVES TO SECURE
INFORMATION FROM THE USG, AND SUGGESTED FOCUSING ON
THE ACTIONS OF THE U.S. EMBASSY IN ROME IN THE WAKE
OF THE CRASH.

4. (C) EMBASSY IS RESPONDING TO LOCAL PRESS QUERIES
ON THE USTICA INVESTIGATION BY REFERRING THE MATTER
TO NATO. WE ALSO RECEIVED A REQUEST FROM THE
INVESTIGATING JUSTICE (VIA THE DEFENSE MINISTRY) FOR
A NATO CODING/DECODING MANUAL. WE ARE ALSO

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HANDLING: n/a

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PTQ9690

PTQ9690

PAGE 01 ROME 04191 121634Z
ACTION EUR-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-10	ACDE-00	AID-00	CIAE-00	SMEC-00	COME-00
	INL-01	OASY-00	DOYE-00	SRPP-00	EB-01	E-00	FAAE-00
	INLB-01	H-01	IMMC-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00	LAB-01
	L-01	ADS-00	M-00	NEA-01	NRRC-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00
	OIC-02	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
SUBJECT: "IL FOGLIO" ARTICLE ON USTICA INVESTIGATION

REF: A) ROME 03755; B) ROME 03818; C) ROME 03883

1. SUMMARY: IN AN APRIL 5 ARTICLE IN CENTER-RIGHT
DAILY "IL FOGLIO," DEFENSE MINISTER CORCIONE SAID THE

PAGE 02 ROME 04191 121634Z
ITALIAN GOVERNMENT WOULD REFER TO THE NORTH ATLANTIC
COUNCIL NATO'S REFUSAL TO ALLOW ACCESS TO CLASSIFIED
DOCUMENTS. MEANWHILE, AN EX-CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT
PARLIAMENTARIAN WHO SERVED AS UNDER-SECRETARY IN THE
FOREIGN MINISTRY AT THE TIME OF THE USTICA CRASH,
REPORTEDLY CRITICIZED THE INVESTIGATING MAGISTRATE'S
MOTIVES, SAYING HE HAS BECOME A "PRISONER OF THE
PROCESS" WHO IS AFRAID TO CONCLUDE HIS INVESTIGATION.
END SUMMARY.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: ERIC W. FLEISHER
DATE/CASE ID: 30 OCT 2002 200102359

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Date Printed:
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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

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DOC_NBR: 1996ROME04191

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

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PTQ4888

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ACTION EUR-01

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
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	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

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THE NIGHT OF JUNE 27, 1980. EIGHTY-ONE PERSONS WERE KILLED; THERE WERE NO SURVIVORS. JUDICIAL INVESTIGATIONS HAVE NOT YET UNCOVERED THE CAUSES OF THE CRASH. PRESS HEADLINES AGAIN IMPLY U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN THE DISASTER, BUT THE ONLY EVIDENCE APPEARS TO BE AN OLD A-6 CORSAIR RESERVE FUEL TANK FOUND UNDER WATER NEAR THE SITE OF THE CRASH. USIS, JUNE 18, ASKED THE DEPARTMENT FOR UPDATED GUIDANCE ON THE CASE. END SUMMARY.

2. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, A COMMISSION OF THREE EXPERTS WHICH HAS BEEN WORKING ON THE USTICA CASE WITH ROME PROSECUTOR ROSARIO PRIORE HAS COMPLETED ITS REPORT AND DEPOSITED ITS FINDINGS WITH THE ITALIAN JUDICIARY JUNE 16. THE EXPERT COMMITTEE'S FINDINGS WERE MADE POSSIBLE LARGELY BECAUSE OF THE ASSISTANCE FURNISHED BY NATO (PRIORE AND THE THREE EXPERTS TRAVELED TO BRUSSELS SIX TIMES SINCE OCTOBER 1996 TO CONSULT WITH NATO ON HOW TO READ AND INTERPRET RADAR TRACKS OF THE NIGHT OF THE CRASH; NATO OFFICIALS HAVE TRAVELED TO ITALY TO FURNISH FURTHER

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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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

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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			

-----C6CB27 181445Z /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

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CRASH ON THE EVENING OF JUNE 27, 1980. THERE WAS
NO AMERICAN INVOLVEMENT OF ANY KIND IN THE
DISASTER. END QUOTE.

BARTHOLOM
EW

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ACTION EUR-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-08	ACDE-00	INLB-01	AF-01	AID-00	ACQ-01
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	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

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"CORRIERE DELLA SERA" OCTOBER 26, CLAIMS THE U.S. MAY HAVE SIMULATED A LIBYAN MISSILE ATTACK AGAINST ITALY IN APRIL 1986, TO BRING ITALY "INTO LINE" ON ANTI-LIBYAN POSITIONS. PURGATORI CLAIMS THE ITALIANS HAVE NO HARD EVIDENCE TO PROVE THE MISSILES WERE TRULY LAUNCHED. HE SUGGESTS THAT THE MISSILE ATTACK MAY HAVE BEEN "ONE OF THE [U.S.'] LARGEST AND MOST SUCCESSFUL INTELLIGENCE AND DISINFORMATION OPERATIONS." HE NOTES THAT THE U.S. SAID IT HAD SATELLITE PHOTOS OF THE ATTACK, BUT CITES VARIOUS GOI KEY PLAYERS -- INCLUDING FORMER FM ANDREOTTI -- AS SAYING THEY HAVE NEVER SEEN THE PHOTOS. END SUMMARY.

WERE THE "BANGS" SUPERSONIC FLIGHTS?

2. ITALIAN "INVESTIGATIVE" JOURNALIST ANDREA PURGATORI, IN AN EXCLUSIVE ARTICLE IN THE LEADING ITALIAN NATIONAL DAILY "CORRIERE DELLA SERA" OCTOBER 26, STATES THAT, IN APRIL 1986, THE U.S. MAY HAVE SIMULATED STRIKES BY TWO LIBYAN SCUD-B

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MISSILES OFF THE COAST OF THE SOUTHERN ITALIAN ISLAND OF LAMPEDUSA. PURGATORI DOES NOT CITE A SPECIFIC SOURCE ("NOBODY SAYS IT OFFICIALLY, BUT MANY TODAY ARE CONVINCED...") BUT CLAIMS THE TWO "BANGS" WHICH "EVERYBODY" HEARD IN LAMPEDUSA ON APRIL 15, 1986, WERE CAUSED BY OVERHEAD FLIGHTS BY U.S. SUPERSONIC FIGHTER AIRCRAFT. PURGATORI ARGUES THAT THE SIMULATED ATTACK WAS MEANT TO BRING THE GOI (WHICH THE WHITE HOUSE BELIEVED TO BE PRO-PLO AND PRO-LIBYAN) AND THE ITALIAN PARLIAMENT (WHICH WAS GETTING READY TO DISCUSS THE U.S. AIR STRIKES AGAINST LIBYA THE PREVIOUS DAY AND WAS LIKELY TO TAKE AN ANTI-AMERICAN POSITION) "INTO LINE." ACCORDING TO PURGATORI, THE U.S. SIMULATION "MAY WELL HAVE BEEN ONE OF THE LARGEST AND MOST SUCCESSFUL INTELLIGENCE AND DISINFORMATION OPERATIONS CARRIED OUT BY THE AMERICANS."

WHERE ARE THE SATELLITE PHOTOS?

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CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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3. PURGATORI CLAIMS THAT THE ITALIANS HAVE NO HARD EVIDENCE TO PROVE THAT TWO MISSILES WERE LAUNCHED AGAINST ITALY. HE NOTES THAT U.S. SOURCES, "THROUGH NATO CHANNELS," AND U.S. PERSONNEL AT THE U.S. COAST GUARD-OPERATED LORAN BASE IN LAMPEDUSA WERE THE ONES TO GIVE THE ITALIANS THE INITIAL INFORMATION ABOUT A MISSILE ATTACK. ABOUT TWO HOURS LATER, "THE AMERICANS" TOLD THE ITALIANS THAT U.S. SATELLITES HAD

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PHOTOGRAPHED THE MISSILE-LAUNCHING RAMP AND THE LAUNCHES, AND HAD IDENTIFIED THE MISSILES AS SOVIET-MADE LIBYAN SCUD-B'S. (PURGATORI DOES NOT SPECIFY WHO OFFERED THIS INFORMATION, NOR TO WHOM IT WAS GIVEN.) PURGATORI CITES RETIRED GENERAL PIETRO GIANNATTASIO, FORMER ITALIAN DEFENSE MINISTER SPADOLINI'S CHEF-DE-CABINET AND NOW A MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT, AS SAYING, HOWEVER, THAT HE "REMEMBERED THE NEWS OF THE SATELLITE PHOTOS, BUT DID NOT REMEMBER SEEING THE PHOTOS THEMSELVES." PURGATORI ALSO CITES ITALIAN AMBASSADOR ANTONIO BADINI, FORMER DIPLOMATIC ADVISER TO THEN ITALIAN PRIME MINISTER CRAXI, AS SAYING HE HAD NOT SEEN THE PHOTOS EITHER. BADINI ALSO SAID THAT "ALL OF THE GOI'S EFFORTS IN THOSE HOURS WERE CONCENTRATED ON COOLING DOWN THE SITUATION."

WHERE IS THE EVIDENCE?

4. PURGATORI ADDS THAT AN ITALIAN NAVAL VESSEL SAILED TOWARD LIBYA SHORTLY AFTER THE ATTACK LOOKING FOR ENEMY SHIPS, BUT FOUND NONE. SIMILARLY, THE ITALIAN AIR FORCE SENT OUT TWO

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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 VAHINGEN GE//ECJ5/ECPLAD//
JOINT STAFF WASHDC
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
SECDEF WASHDC

UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 ROME 009357

E.O. 12958: N/A

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?

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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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PAGE 01 STATE 116007 200104Z
ORIGIN EUR-01

INFO	LOG-00	A-00	CIAE-00	OASY-00	DODE-00	OIGO-01	UTED-00
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	PRS-00	P-00	SP-00	ACAS-01	SNRO-00	PMB-00	/007R

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SOURCE: KODAKA.200008

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APPROVED BY: EUR/PPA:M THOMPSON- JONES

PA/PRESS (INFO):P A YOUNG, EUR/PPA:LCORWIN

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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

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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

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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 USOEC

1. THE FOLLOWING PRESS GUIDANCE WAS PREPARED AND
APPROVED BY THE BUREAU OF EUROPEAN AND CANADIAN AFFAIRS
AND OTHER SELECTED BUREAUS HANDLING ISSUES OF INTEREST TO
EUR POSTS FOR THE DEPARTMENT BRIEFING. QUESTIONS SHOULD
BE REFERRED TO MARY THOMPSON-JONES OR LARRY CORWIN, EUR
POLICY AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS.

TOPICS INCLUDE:

SALMON TALKS
ERBAKAN RESIGNING
VISIT OF ROMANIAN PRIME MINISTER
USTICA REPORT (ADDITION)

2. CANADA: SALMON TALKS

PAGE 03 STATE 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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CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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SUCCESSFULLY WRAP THIS UP.

3. TURKEY: ERBAKAN RESIGNING

DOES THE U.S. HAVE ANY POSITION ON ERBAKAN'S
RESIGNATION AND ON PROGRESS TOWARD THE FORMATION
OF A NEW GOVERNMENT IN TURKEY?

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- A: -- WE UNDERSTAND THAT PRIME MINISTER ERBAKAN HAS
RESIGNED AND THAT PRESIDENT DEMIREL IS MEETING
WITH VARIOUS PARTY LEADERS TODAY. WE DO NOT
KNOW WHEN A DECISION WILL BE MADE ON THE
FORMATION OF A NEW GOVERNMENT.
- AS THE SECRETARY HAS SAID, WE BELIEVE IT IS
ESSENTIAL THAT TURKEY CONTINUE TO DEVELOP IN A
SECULAR AND DEMOCRATIC FASHION AND THAT ISSUES
BE RESOLVED WITHOUT RESORT TO AN
EXTRACONSTITUTIONAL APPROACH.
- WE HAVE CONFIDENCE THAT CHANGES IN GOVERNMENT
WILL CONTINUE TO TAKE PLACE THROUGH THE
DEMOCRATIC PROCESS.
- WE ARE AWARE OF CLAIMS THAT THE USG IS
SUPPORTING ONE POLITICAL INSTITUTION OR GROUP
OVER ANOTHER. OUR MESSAGE IS CLEAR--WE DO NOT
SUPPORT ONE OR ANOTHER ELEMENT IN THE
POLITICAL DEBATE. ONLY THE TURKISH PEOPLE,
THROUGH THEIR CONSTITUTIONAL INSTITUTIONS, CAN
DECIDE HOW THEY MUST PROTECT THEIR DEMOCRATIC
FREEDOMS.
- WE WILL CONTINUE TO WATCH THE SITUATION
CLOSELY.

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4. STATEMENT BY JOHN DINGER, ACTING SPOKESMAN: VISIT OF
ROMANIAN PRIME MINISTER

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SECRETARY OF STATE AIBRIGHT MET WITH ROMANIAN PRIME MINISTER VICTOR CIORBEA AT THE STATE DEPARTMENT ON JUNE 18, AS PART OF A LONGER MEETING WITH DEPUTY SECRETARY TALBOTT, TO DISCUSS THE FUTURE OF U.S.-ROMANIAN RELATIONS AND ROMANIA'S INTEGRATION INTO TRANS-ATLANTIC AND EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS, INCLUDING NATO. SECRETARY ALBRIGHT APPLAUDED THE MANY POSITIVE CHANGES THAT HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN ROMANIA, ESPECIALLY IN RECENT MONTHS, WHICH THE PRIME MINISTER AND PRESIDENT CONSTANTINESCU HAVE DONE MUCH TO PROMOTE. SHE STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE TO THE UNITED STATES OF ITS RELATIONS WITH ROMANIA AND EXPLAINED THE FIRM COMMITMENT OF THE U.S. TO ENSURING THAT NATO REMAINS A POLITICALLY COHESIVE AND MILITARILY STRONG ALLIANCE AS IT ENLARGES, THAT THE MADRID SUMMIT MARKS THE BEGINNING AND NOT THE END OF A PROCESS, AND THAT THE U.S. LOOKS FORWARD TO FUTURE ENLARGEMENTS.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND DEPUTY SECRETARY REVIEWED THEIR RESPECTIVE VIEWS REGARDING NATO ENLARGEMENT, INCLUDING ROMANIA'S DETERMINATION TO BECOME A FULL MEMBER IN THE SHORTEST TIME POSSIBLE. THEY AGREED ON THE IMPORTANCE OF DEVELOPING A MEANINGFUL U.S.-ROMANIAN STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP, BASED ON A RECOGNITION OF ROMANIA'S STRATEGIC POSITION IN

PAGE 06

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SOUTHEASTERN EUROPE, AS WELL AS A COMMITMENT TO

SHARED VALUES AND A COMMON INTEREST IN STABILITY AND DEMOCRATIC PROGRESS. THE DEPUTY SECRETARY EXPLAINED THE REASONS FOR THE U.S. DECISION TO BACK ONLY THREE COUNTRIES FOR INCLUSION IN THE FIRST WAVE OF NATO EXPANSION. HE ALSO EXPRESSED FULL SUPPORT FOR ROMANIA'S GOAL OF INTEGRATION INTO EURO-ATLANTIC STRUCTURES. THE DEPUTY SECRETARY EXPRESSED HIS CONFIDENCE THAT ROMANIA IS ON TRACK AND WILL SUCCEED IF IT CONTINUES WITH POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC REFORM. IN THOSE NECESSARY BUT OFTEN PAINFUL REFORM EFFORTS, ROMANIA CAN COUNT ON THE FULL UNDERSTANDING AND PRACTICAL SUPPORT OF THE UNITED STATES.

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THE DEPUTY SECRETARY AND PRIME MINISTER AGREED ON THE NEED TO CONCENTRATE ON BUILDING STRONG, CONSTRUCTIVE RELATIONS FOR THE FUTURE. THE DEPUTY SECRETARY SAID THE TWO SIDES NEED TO MAKE CONCRETE AND EFFECTIVE THE STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP. THE PRIME MINISTER AND DEPUTY SECRETARY AGREED THAT THE PARTNERSHIP THEY DISCUSSED WILL BE ELABORATED BY THE TWO GOVERNMENTS OVER THE COMING WEEKS AND MONTHS, INCLUDING THROUGH THE EXCHANGE OF VISITS SUCH AS THE CURRENT ONE.

5. USTICA REPORT

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ITALIAN PRESS STORIES SAY THAT ITALY WILL RELEASE A NEW REPORT ON THE 1980 USTICA AIR DISASTER. THESE STORIES FURTHER ALLEGE THAT THE REPORT WILL BE BASED ON EXTENSIVE RESEARCH THROUGH NATO RECORDS, AND REPORTEDLY OUTLINES A SCENARIO OF POSSIBLE NATO INVOLVEMENT. WHAT IS THE U.S. RESPONSE TO THIS REPORT?

- A: -- NO ONE IN THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT HAS SEEN THE REPORT, AND SO WE ARE IN NO POSITION TO COMMENT SPECIFICALLY ON ANY ALLEGATIONS.
- WE WISH TO STRESS OUR STANDING POSITION, HOWEVER, WHICH IS THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT HAS ALWAYS PROVIDED AND WILL CONTINUE TO PROVIDE FULL COOPERATION TO ITALIAN JUDICIAL AUTHORITIES IN THEIR INVESTIGATION OF THE USTICA CRASH.
- AS WE HAVE STATED REPEATEDLY IN THE PAST, BOTH PUBLICLY AND TO ITALIAN AUTHORITIES, NO U.S. COMBAT SHIPS OR AIRCRAFT WERE OPERATING IN THE AREA OF THE CRASH ON THE EVENING OF JUNE 27, 1980. THERE WAS NO AMERICAN INVOLVEMENT OF ANY KIND IN THE DISASTER.

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P 021214Z SEP 99
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SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4403
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AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
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USIA

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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
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1. RUSSIAGATE
2. MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROCESS
3. KOSOVO PEACE PROCESS
4. WTO
5. 1980 USTICA AIR CRASH

TREATMENT

1. RUSSIAGATE

ALL MEDIA GIVE PROMINENT ATTENTION TO THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN THE RUSSIA-IMF FINANCIAL SCANDAL: REPORTS ABOUT THE POSSIBLE INVOLVEMENT OF DOZENS OF ADDITIONAL BANKS AROUND THE WORLD; AND THE "STORM" REPORTEDLY CAUSED BY U.S. TREASURY SECRETARY SUMMER'S STATEMENT -- IN AN INTERVIEW WITH USA TODAY -- THAT NO ADDITIONAL LOANS WILL BE MADE TO RUSSIA WITHOUT APPROPRIATE GUARANTEES. ALL REPORTS INDICATE THAT MOSCOW'S IMMEDIATE, "FURIOUS" REACTION AND THE JOLTS OF FINANCIAL MARKETS PROMPTED THE U.S. TREASURY DEPARTMENT

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TO LATER ISSUE A "CORRECTION". LEFT-LEANING, INFLUENTIAL LA REPUBBLICA (9/2) CARRIES THE TEXT OF TREASURY SECRETARY SUMMER'S INTERVIEW WITH USA TODAY UNDER THE HEADLINE: "NO MONEY TO YELTSIN WITHOUT NEW GUARANTEES'".

LEADING BUSINESS DAILY IL SOLE-24 ORE (9/2) CARRIES AN OP-ED BY JEFFREY SACHS, DIRECTOR OF THE HARVARD INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, HEADLINED: "POVERTY AND CORRUPTION ARE THE HERITAGE OF THE SOVIETS." SUBHEAD LINE: "GEOGRAPHY AND SCANT WESTERN SUPPORT ARE ALSO AT THE ROOTS OF RUSSIA'S FAILURE."

HEADLINES:

"WASHINGTON WANTS TO STOP LOANS NOW" (CORRIERE DELLA SERA)
"WASHINGTON THREATENS TO SUSPEND LOANS TO MOSCOW" (LA STAMPA)
"RUSSIAGATE, BANKS ARE THE TARGET" (FRONT PAGE, LA REPUBBLICA)
"RUSSIAN SHADOWS MAKE THE UNITED STATES TREMBLE" (IL SOLE-24 ORE)
"RUSSIAGATE, INVESTIGATIONS EXPAND ALL OVER THE WORLD" (IL MESSAGGERO)
"SCANDALS AND BOMBS, MOSCOW CRIES PLOT" (IL TEMPO)

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"THE UNITED STATES: NO MORE MONEY TO THE CORRUPT IN
RUSSIA" (IL GIORNALE)
"MONEY LAUNDERING, BANKS ALL OVER THE WORLD INVOLVED"
(L'UNITA')

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COMMENTS:

CENTRIST, INFLUENTIAL LA STAMPA (9/2) HOLDS IN A FRONT-
PAGE SUMMARY ABOUT RUSSIAGATE: "RUSSIAGATE HAS TURNED
INTO A STORM: U.S. TREASURY SECRETARY LARRY SUMMERS SAID
IN AN INTERVIEW THAT THE WHITE HOUSE INTENDS TO HALT THE
NEXT IMF LOANS TO RUSSIA. THE REACTION BY THE MOSCOW
GOVERNMENT WAS IMMEDIATE AND FORCED SUMMERS' OFFICE TO
ISSUE A CLARIFICATION: WE WANT TO PROCEED WITH THE
LOANS, BUT WE ASK FOR 'ADEQUATE' GUARANTEES."

WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT ANDREA DI ROBILANT WRITES IN
CENTRIST, INFLUENTIAL LA STAMPA (9/2): "THE CLINTON
ADMINISTRATION HAS FINALLY INTERVENED TO CHECK
'RUSSIAGATE' BUT HAS ENDED UP MAKING MOSCOW FURIOUS AND
CONFUSING THINGS EVEN FURTHER....ACCORDING TO U.S. MEDIA
REPORTS, THE INVESTIGATORS HAVE NOT YET SUCCEEDED IN

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ACTION EUR-01

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SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4404
ALL NATO POST COLLECTIVE
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AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY TIRANA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
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ENGFLDACT MED NAPLES IT//NI//
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FINDING ANY EVIDENCE OF THE VIOLATION OF U.S. ANTI-MONEYLAUNDERING LAWS. EVEN THOUGH THE VARIOUS ASPECTS OF THE OPERATION CONTINUE TO BE CONFUSED, STRONG PRESSURE IS ALREADY BEING EXERTED ON THE CLINTON ADMINISTRATION. AND, IN THE WAKE OF SUMMERS' UNFORTUNATE STATEMENT, IT IS EASY TO PREDICT THAT THE FIRE OF THE REPUBLICANS WILL NOW CONCENTRATE ON THE TREASURY SECRETARY IN ADDITION TO AL GORE....THIS IS AN ESPECIALLY DELICATE MOMENT FOR SUMMERS, WHO STILL HAS TO SHOW THAT HE IS, IF NOT AS GOOD AS RUBIN, AT LEAST UP TO HIS JOB."

"RUSSIA AND THE UNITED STATES AT LOGGERHEADS" A REPORT FROM NEW YORK BY ARTURO ZAMPAGLIONE IN LEFT-LEANING, INFLUENTIAL LA REPUBBLICA (9/2): "MOSCOW'S REACTION AND THE SHAKING OF THE FINANCIAL MARKETS...HAVE SUGGESTED TO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY TO SOFTEN SUMMERS' TONES. 'WE ARE NOT ASKING TO DELAY THE NEXT IMF PAYMENT TO MOSCOW,' A SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT, 'BUT ONLY TO ADOPT MEASURES TO CONTROL PAST AND FUTURE LOANS.'" THE CLARIFICATION BY THE TREASURY DEPARTMENT IS AN INDICATION OF THE EMBARRASSMENT OF CLINTON AND HIS

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COLLABORATORS: ON ONE SIDE, THE WHITE HOUSE IS CRITICIZED BY THE REPUBLICANS FOR ITS SUPERFICIAL LOANS TO MOSCOW 'KLEPTOCRATS;' AND ON THE OTHER, THE KREMLIN WON'T ACCEPT HASTY CONCLUSIONS."

A REPORT FROM NEW YORK IN CENTRIST, TOP-CIRCULATION CORRIERE DELLA SERA (9/2): "LAWRENCE SUMMERS DID NOT MINCE WORDS....IN AN INTERVIEW WITH USA TODAY, THE NEWLY APPOINTED SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY...GAVE A CLEAR SIGNAL ABOUT STOPPING THE FUNDS FOR MOSCOW....A 'NO' WHICH PROMPTED AN IMMEDIATE REACTION BOTH BY THE PUTIN GOVERNMENT AND BY INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL MARKETS, WHERE THE VALUE OF RUSSIAN DEBT TITLES HAS PLUNGED. SO MUCH SO THAT, A FEW HOURS LATER, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE TREASURY DEPARTMENT MADE A POINT TO CLARIFY THAT WASHINGTON HAS NO INTENTION, WHATSOEVER, OF STOPPING NEW LOANS: 'WE ASK FOR MORE GUARANTEES, NOT FOR THE END OF THE LOANS.' NOTWITHSTANDING THE VERBAL CORRECTIONS, HOWEVER, IT IS CLEAR THAT SUMMERS' WORDS ARE THE SIGNAL THAT THE CLINTON ADMINISTRATION, PUT TO THE ROPES BY THE SCANDAL, NO LONGER INTENDS TO REMAIN PASSIVE IN THE WAKE OF ACCUSATIONS THAT IT HAS PUSHED THE IMF TO GRANT LOANS WITHOUT BEING TOO FUSSY, WITH THE GOAL OF SUPPORTING YELTSIN."

"MOSCOW'S ANGER: 'A PLOT AGAINST OUR POWER'" -- A REPORT FROM MOSCOW, ALSO IN CENTRIST, TOP-CIRCULATION CORRIERE DELLA SERA (9/2): "MOSCOW FEELS BESIEGED AND DEFAMED, AND BLAMES THE WEST FOR THIS, ESPECIALLY A FEW NEWSPAPERS AND THE U.S. REPUBLICAN PARTY. THE RUSSIAN GOVERNMENT CLAIMS ITS CONSCIENCE IS CLEAR. IT DOES NOT

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DENY POSSIBLE AREAS OF CORRUPTION, BUT NO LONGER WANTS TO HEAR NONSENSE ABOUT THE ALLEGED IMPROPER USE OF LOANS AND INTERNATIONAL AID.

"MOSCOW-GATE" PROVOCATIVE, CLASSICAL LIBERAL DAILY IL FOGLIO (9/2) SAYS THAT "THERE HAS BEEN ONE ADDITIONAL LEAK FROM THE STATE DEPARTMENT: LAST JULY, STROBE TALBOTT CAME BACK FURIOUS FROM MOSCOW BECAUSE, FOR THE SECOND TIME, YELTSIN HAD EXERTED HIS RIGHT-OF-VETO AGAINST THE LAW TO MONITOR MONEY LAUNDERING, REQUESTED BY THE UNITED STATES AND VOTED FOR BY THE RUSSIAN PARLIAMENT. A DECISION WAS MADE AT THAT POINT TO 'DROP' YELTSIN AND, PROBABLY, TO LEAK THE NEWS THAT HAS LED TO THE INVESTIGATIONS."

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2. MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROCESS

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ACTION EUR-01

INFO LOG-00 AMAD-01 CIAE-00 UTED-00 TEDE-00 INR-00 NSAE-00
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AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
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MEDIA ARE GENERALLY OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE PROSPECTS OF AN ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN AGREEMENT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WYE ACCORDS AND SEE AN OFFICIAL SIGNING CEREMONY -- TO BE HELD TODAY IN EGYPT AT THE PRESENCE OF SECRETARY ALBRIGHT AMONG OTHERS -- AS VERY LIKELY. REPORTS UNDERLINE PRESIDENT CLINTON'S PERSONAL EFFORTS IN PROMOTING AN ACCORD, NOTING HIS TELEPHONE CALLS YESTERDAY TO ISRAELI PM BARAK AND PALESTINIAN LEADER ARAFAT. SOME COMMENTATORS, HOWEVER, WARN THAT "SKIRMISHES" CONTINUE BETWEEN THE NEGOTIATORS AND THAT THE MAIN PROBLEMS -- BORDERS AND SECURITY -- STILL REMAIN UNRESOLVED.

HEADLINES:

"BARAK-ARAFAT RACE TOWARDS PEACE" (CORRIERE DELLA SERA)
"ALBRIGHT TO THE MIDDLE EAST, AGREEMENT CLOSE" (IL SOLE-24 ORE)
"LAST SHIVERS: AGREEMENT BETWEEN ISRAELIS AND PALESTINIANS STUMBLES OVER POLITICAL PRISONERS" (IL MESSAGGERO)
"ISRAEL AND PALESTINE AGREE ON ALMOST EVERYTHING" (IL

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GIORNALE)
"ISRAEL-PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY CLOSE TO ACCORD"
(L'UNITA')

COMMENTS:

LORENZO CREMONESI REPORTS FROM JERUSALEM IN CENTRIST, TOP-CIRCULATION CORRIERE DELLA SERA (9/2): "AN AGREEMENT HAS VIRTUALLY BEEN ACHIEVED BY THE ISRAELIS AND THE PALESTINIANS. LATE LAST NIGHT THE IMPRESSION WAS THAT THE SIGNING OF THE AGREEMENT IN JERUSALEM WAS IMMINENT, LEADING TO TODAY'S OFFICIAL CEREMONY IN ALEXANDRIA, EGYPT, ATTENDED BY BARAK, ARAFAT, MUBARAK AND ALBRIGHT. YESTERDAY WAS A VERY HECTIC DAY. PRESIDENT CLINTON INTERVENED WITH LONG TELEPHONE CALLS TO BARAK AND ARAFAT IN ORDER TO PROMOTE THE DIALOGUE. AND THE EGYPTIANS ALSO EXERTED PRESSURE ON THE PALESTINIAN LEADER." THE ARTICLE CONCLUDES: "BY MID JANUARY, AN ADDITIONAL ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL OF 4 PERCENT SHOULD BEGIN. ALBRIGHT ALSO AIMS AT REOPENING THE 'ROAD' OF TALKS BETWEEN ISRAEL AND SYRIA. ON SATURDAY SHE WILL VISIT DAMASCUS TO MEET WITH PRESIDENT ASSAD."

"BARAK-ARAFAT, POSSIBLE AGREEMENT ON DETAILS DOES NOT

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DISPEL DOUBTS ABOUT A FUTURE TOGETHER" -- THE NEWS
ANALYSIS SECTION OF PROVOCATIVE, CLASSICAL LIBERAL DAILY
IL FOGLIO (9/2) IS LESS OPTIMISTIC: "FOR OBSERVERS WHO
FOLLOW THE NEGOTIATIONS FROM A DISTANCE, IT MAY SEEM
PARADOXICAL THAT, RIGHT AT THE TIME WHEN THE ISRAELIS
SHOW MAXIMUM INTEREST IN FINDING A PEACE COMPROMISE AND
ALL INTERNATIONAL MEDIATORS FROM EGYPT TO THE UNITED

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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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OF ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN NEGOTIATIONS DURING HER
VISIT....FOR ISRAEL, THIS MEANS AVOIDING AMERICAN
PRESSURE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WYE ACCORDS...AND
LEAVING ALBRIGHT WITH A SINGLE MAJOR ISSUE TO DEAL WITH:
PEACE WITH SYRIA OR, AT LEAST, THE IMMEDIATE RESUMPTION
OF THE NEGOTIATIONS WHICH WERE INTERRUPTED IN 1996. THE
U.S. ADMINISTRATION PREFERS TO REDUCE EXPECTATIONS FOR
THE ALBRIGHT MISSION."

UMBERTO DE GIOVANNANGELI WRITES IN PRO-DS (LEADING
GOVERNMENT PARTY) DAILY L'UNITA' (9/2): "IT'S A RACE
AGAINST TIME. SECRETARY ALBRIGHT ARRIVES IN ALEXANDRIA
TODAY. EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT MUBARAK PLANS TO HAVE AN
OFFICIAL CEREMONY FOR THE SIGNING OF THE LONG-SOUGHT
AGREEMENT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WYE ACCORDS. A
POSTPONEMENT WOULD BE A SLAP THAT THE EGYPTIAN 'KING'
CANNOT ACCEPT. A COMPROMISE IS BEING SOUGHT ON THE
NUMBER OF PALESTINIAN REFUGEES TO BE RELEASED BY THE
JEWISH STATE....AS HOURS GO BY, PRESSURES ON ARAFAT
INCREASE, AS MANY FEAR THE CONSEQUENCES OF A POSSIBLE
FAILURE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS. AMONG THEM, PRESIDENT
CLINTON. YESTERDAY WAS A DAY OF PHONE CALLS FOR HIM."

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3. KOSOVO PEACE PROCESS

COVERAGE OF KOSOVO ISSUES IS LIMITED TODAY, WITH MOST OF THE REPORTING FOCUSING ON THE ONGOING DOMESTIC DISPUTE OVER THE ALLEGED SCANDAL INVOLVING THE ITALIAN "RAINBOW OPERATION" AID EFFORTS.

A FEW REPORTS NOTE THAT ITALIAN GENERAL PIETRO FRISONE WAS SWORN IN YESTERDAY AS THE NEW COMMANDER OF "COMMUNICATION ZONE WEST," THE NATO HUMANITARIAN MISSION IN ALBANIA ("IN SUBSTANCE, THE CONTINUATION OF THE FORMER 'ALLIED HARBOUR-ALBANIAN FORCE' LED BY BRITISH GENERAL JOHN REITH," ACCORDING TO THE ARTICLES.)

"CLARK: 'MILOSEVIC WON'T RESPECT THE AGREEMENTS' -- CLARK WARNS MILOSEVIC THAT HE HAS TO RELEASE THE 7,000 ALBANIANS HE HAS SEIZED" MAURIZIO MOLINARI'S REPORT FROM WASHINGTON IN CENTRIST, INFLUENTIAL LA STAMPA (9/2) FOCUSES ON GENERAL CLARK'S REMARKS AT THE AMERICAN ENTERPRISE INSTITUTE AND NOTES: "CLARK DID NOT APPEAR WEAKENED AS A RESULT OF THE RECENT WHITE HOUSE DECISION TO REPLACE HIM AHEAD OF TIME AND ADDRESSED MILOSEVIC DIRECTLY." THE ARTICLE QUOTES EXTENSIVELY FROM GENERAL CLARK'S REMARKS.

"DRUGS AND WEAPONS, MAFIA ASSAILS KOSOVO" A REPORT FROM PRISTINA IN PRO-DS (LEADING GOVERNMENT PARTY) DAILY L'UNITA' (9/2) DEPICTS AS GLOOMY SITUATION AS FAR AS THE INCREASE OF ORGANIZED CRIME ACTIVITIES IN KOSOVO IS

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CONCERNED, ALSO BASED ON REPORTS PROVIDED BY ITALIAN CARABINIERI POLICE OFFICIALS OPERATING IN THE AREA.

4. WTO

"POST-RUGGIERO ERA: THREE-YEAR MANDATE BEGINS FOR MOORE"
A REPORT FROM GENEVA IN LEADING BUSINESS DAILY IL SOLE-24 ORE (9/2): "UPON HIS DEBUT AS WTO DIRECTOR, MIKE MOORE HAS BEFORE HIM AN OBSTACLE, A GOAL AND AN ORGANIZATIONAL TASK. THE OBSTACLE COMES FROM THE DISPUTE THAT HAS PRECEDED HIS NOMINATION: THE FORMER NEW ZEALAND LABOR UNION LEADER WILL HAVE TO GET RID OF THE LABEL OF 'MAN OF THE UNITED STATES' VERSUS SMALLER NATIONS....MOORE LAUNCHED A MESSAGE IN THAT DIRECTION

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YESTERDAY AS HE WAS SWORN IN....THE GOAL AHEAD FOR THE
NEW DIRECTOR IS INSTEAD ACHIEVING AN AGREEMENT WITH
CHINA, SO THAT BEIJING WILL ACCEPT JOINING THE WTO

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ACTION EUR-01

INFO LOG-00 AMAD-01 CIAE-00 UTED-00 TEDE-00 INR-00 NSAE-00
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-----F37454 021329Z /38

P 021214Z SEP 99
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO USIA WASHDC PRIORITY 2739
SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4407
ALL NATO POST COLLECTIVE
COMSIXTHFLT //019
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AMEMBASSY TIRANA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
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JOINT STAFF WASHDC
NAS SIGONELLA IT//PA//
USCINCEUR ALT SHAPE BE

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USIA

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USIA FOR R/MR, I/GEU, I/FW, I/FNY, B/VOA/X, D/P

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NAVSUPPACT FOR LT. SMITH/01E
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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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P 031442Z SEP 99
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TO USIA WASHDC PRIORITY 2751
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USS SIMON LAKE
JOINT STAFF WASHDC
NAS SIGONELLA IT//PA//
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USIA

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1980 USTICA AIR CRASH - SEPTEMBER 3, 1999

THIS REPORT WILL FOCUS ON SEPTEMBER 1-3 MEDIA COVERAGE

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ON USTICA.

ALL ITALIAN MEDIA DEVOTE INCREASING ATTENTION TO ITALIAN PROSECUTOR ROSARIO PRIORE'S CONCLUSION OF HIS NINE YEAR INVESTIGATION INTO THE 1980 USTICA AIR CRASH. FRONT-PAGE BOLD-HEADLINES, COMMENTARIES AND DETAILED FACTUAL ARTICLES WITH GRAPHS AND CHARTS FILL SEVERAL PAGES IN EACH DAILY.

ALL NEWSPAPERS FOCUS THEIR INTEREST ON THE FOLLOWING ASPECTS RESULTING FROM PRIORE'S REPORT: THE WALL OF SILENCE ERECTED AROUND THE TRAGEDY WAS THE RESULT OF ORDERS FROM A 'HIGH-LEVEL (POLITICAL)'; THE DC-9 WAS CAUGHT UP IN AN AIR FIGHT, SHOT DOWN OVER USTICA AND THERE HAS BEEN A 19-YEAR COVERUP ON NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVELS; DS (LEADING GOVERNMENT PARTY) SECRETARY, WALTER VELTRONI, HAS ASKED FRANCE, THE UNITED STATES AND GREAT BRITAIN TO HELP EXPLAIN THE DETAILS AND THE REASONS FOR THE AIR BATTLE; THE GOVERNMENT'S PROMISE, THROUGH PRIME MINISTER D'ALEMA, TO ASK ITS NATO

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ALLIES TO EXPLAIN THEIR ROLE IN THE USTICA AIR CRASH.

PRO-DS (LEADING GOVERNMENT PARTY) L'UNIT, (9/3)
COMMENTS: 'ON USTICA, WE MUST GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THINGS, AND ASK OUR ALLIES - JUST BECAUSE THEY ARE ALLIES - TO TELL US WHAT HAPPENED DURING THE NIGHT OF JUNE 27, 1980.' PALAZZO CHIGI ISSUED A STATEMENT: 'THE PRIME MINISTER IS CONSIDERING THE BEST COURSE TO FOLLOW IN ORDER TO CONTINUE CONTRIBUTING TO THE DEFINITIVE DISCOVERY OF THE TRUTH, INCLUDING THE ROLE OF OUR NATO ALLIES.' CALLING IT "MEASURED, BUT VERY CLEAR," L'UNITA CONTINUED: "THERE WAS AN (AMERICAN) AIRCRAFT CARRIER, THERE WERE PLANES, AND LIFE JACKETS...HELMETS...WERE FOUND IN THE AREA...RAHER STRONG EVIDENCE...WE CANNOT EXCLUDE THAT U.S. PLANES WERE CHASING AN ENEMY AIRCRAFT THAT NIGHT."

SEVERAL STORIES SPECULATE HEAVILY ON U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN THE USTICA TRAGEDY AND NOTE THAT PRIORE'S REPORT SEEMS TO INCLUDE AN ATTACK ON THE UNITED STATES.

ALESSANDRO FARRUGGIA LEADS IN CONSERVATIVE, TOP-CIRCULATION SYNDICATE LA NAZIONE (9/3), UNDER THE HEADLINE "USTICA, PRIORE POINTS TO THE UNITED STATES," "(THERE IS) TOO MUCH CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE AGAINST THE AMERICANS. ACCORDING TO PROSECUTOR ROSARIO PRIORE, "THE

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U.S. PRESENCE THAT NIGHT IS TOO OBVIOUS...THERE WERE THE
AIRCRAFT CARRIER, LIFE JACKETS AND PLANES...THESE
OBJECTS DEMONSTRATE THAT THERE WAS A U.S. PRESENCE.'
BUT (U.S.) JUDICIAL RESPONSIBILITY IS TOO FAR AWAY TO BE
CONSIDERED."

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UNDER ITS FRONT-PAGE HEADLINE "USTICA, PRIORE ATTACKS
THE UNITED STATES," LEFT-LEANING, INFLUENTIAL LA
REPUBBLICA (9/3) CITES A U.S. SPOKESMAN WHO EXPLICITLY
STATED THAT WASHINGTON INTENDS TO REMAIN SILENT BECAUSE
"IT IS BEST THAT THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT ADDRESS THE
ISSUE." THIS SAME STATEMENT IS PICKED UP BY OTHER
NEWSPAPERS AS WELL.

CORRIERE DELLA SERA (9/2) SPECULATES THAT PRIORE HAS
ALREADY INITIATED ANOTHER INVESTIGATION TO ASCERTAIN
HIGHER - POSSIBLY POLITICAL - RESPONSIBILITY, AND CITES
NATO DIPLOMATIC SOURCES: "WE GAVE ALL THE HELP WE COULD
HAVE GIVEN." ANDREA PURGATORI (THE JOURNALIST WHO BU
ILT
A CAREER ON BLAMING THE USTICA TRAGEDY ON THE U.S.)
QUOTES PRIORE IN CORRIERE DELLA SERA (9/2): "IT WAS AN
ACT OF TERRORISM...AN ATTACK AGAINST A HEAD OF STATE."
THEN PURGATORI DRAWS HIS OWN CONCLUSION: "THE VICTIM WAS

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ACTION EUR-01

INFO LOG-00 AMAD-01 CIAE-00 UTE-00 TEDE-00 INR-00 DCP-01
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P 031442Z SEP 99
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO USIA WASHDC PRIORITY 2752
SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4484
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JOINT STAFF WASHDC
NAS SIGONELLA IT//PA//
USCINCEUR ALT SHAPE BE

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USIA

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USIA FOR R/MR, I/GEU, I/FW, I/FNY, B/VOA/X, D/P
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SUBJECT:USIS ROME SPECIAL MEDIA REACTION REPORT ON THE
1980 USTICA AIR CRASH - SEPTEMBER 3, 1999

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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ACTION EUR-01

INFO LOG-00 AMAD-01 CIAE-00 UTED-00 TEDE-00 INR-00 DCP-01
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SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4485
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USS SIMON LAKE
JOINT STAFF WASHDC
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USIA

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USIA FOR R/MR, I/GEU, I/FW, I/FNY, B/VOA/X, D/P
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SUBJECT: USIS ROME SPECIAL MEDIA REACTION REPORT ON THE
1980 USTICA AIR CRASH - SEPTEMBER 3, 1999

"WHAT LOYALTY TOWARD USTICA" - AN UNSIGNED EDITORIAL IN PROVOCATIVE, CLASSICAL LIBERAL DAILY IL FOGLIO (9/3) ARGUES THAT DS PARTY LEADERS HAD BETTER STOP SPECULATING ABOUT THE THEORY OF "THE DOUBLE ALLEGIANCE" (TOWARD THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT AND TOWARD THE UNITED STATES) OF THE VARIOUS ITALIAN INSTITUTIONS.

"USTICA, THE MILITARY GENERALS' REVOLT: 'IF WE ARE RESPONSIBLE, THE (ITALIAN) GOVERNMENT IS AS WELL'" - FRONT-PAGE COMMENTARY BY PAOLO GUZZANTI IN LEADING, OPPOSITION DAILY IL GIORNALE (9/2) STATES THAT HE IS RESENTFUL AND DISTRESSED BY PRIORE'S INDICTMENT AS ARE MANY OTHER ITALIANS, AND NOTES: "IT IS TRUE THAT PART OF OUR COUNTRY IS NOW CELEBRATING BECAUSE A POLITICAL AND NOT A REAL TRUTH WAS DISCOVERED...PRIORE'S FINDINGS QUESTION THE VERY RESPONSIBILITY OF THE UNITED STATES IN THE USTICA TRAGEDY, DESCRIBING A BATTLE THAT NEVER EXISTED...THE USTICA INVESTIGATION IS BEING CLOSED IN A COMPLETELY FALSE, ALBEIT POLITICALLY CORRECT, FASHION."

"'USTICA, DEVASTATING SIDETRACKS'" - FIORENZA SARZANINI

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QUOTES LONG EXCEPTS

FROM PRIORE'S REPORT AND LEADS: "A 19 YEAR LONG SIDETRACKED (INVESTIGATION). IT IS AN IMPRESSIVE - AND WITHOUT PRECEDENT - SERIES OF FAILURES, LIES AND DESTRUCTIONS OF FILES. JUDGE PRIORE'S ANALYSIS OF THE ITALIAN AIR FORCE IS VERY HARSH. IN HIS SEVERE EVALUATION, PRIORE ALSO DISCUSSES THE 'POLITICAL LEVEL' WHICH HAS 'COVERED UP WHAT THEY DID'....PRIORE STATES THAT "THERE HAS BEEN A SPECIFIC WILL TO ERASE ANY EVIDENCE WHICH MIGHT ALLOW US TO TRACE RESPONSIBILITY.... GENERAL ZENO TASCIO (ONE OF THE DEFENDANTS) INTERVENED WITH THE INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES OF FOREIGN COUNTRIES, AND FIRST OF ALL WITH THE INTELLIGENCE OF (ITALY'S) PRINCIPAL ALLY...." SARZANINI THEN CONTINUES: "ON JULY 4, 1980, ARGIOLOS AND BOMPRESZI 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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NAS SIGONELLA IT//PA//
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TAGS: OPRC, KMDR, IT
SUBJECT:ROME MEDIA REACTION REPORT - FEBRUARY 1, 2000

THIS REPORT WILL FOCUS ON THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

1. AUSTRIA
2. DAVOS WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM/INTERNATIONAL ECONOMY
3. RUSSIA
4. U.S. POLITICS

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: ERIC W. FLEISHER
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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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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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PHILOSOPHY WITH SIMILAR SECURITY."

"LOOKING FOR EUROLAND" ARTURO GUATELLI COMMENTS ON THE FRONT-PAGE OF ROME CENTRIST DAILY IL MESSAGGERO (2/1): "EUROPE MARKS ITS TIME.....NOTWITHSTANDING ITS AMBITIOUS TARGETS...IT IS NOT AN ATTRACTIVE POLITICAL ENTITY IN PUBLIC OPINION....TODAY WE LOOK AT EUROPE WITH INDIFFERENCE, AS IF IT BECAME OLD TOO EARLY....NOTWITHSTANDING REASSURING REMARKS BY THE ECB, THE EURO LOSES GROUND DAY AFTER DAY....THE WORLD MOVES AHEAD. EUROPE IS STILL."

"THE RICH AND UNCERTAIN AMERICA IN DAVOS" A SHORT EDITORIAL IN PROVOCATIVE, CLASSICAL LIBERAL DAILY IL FOGLIO (2/1): "THIS YEAR'S INTERNATIONAL FORUM IN DAVOS TOOK PLACE IN A DIFFERENT CLIMATE THAN IN 1999....IN DAVOS IT WAS CLEAR HOW THE AMERICAN POLITICAL LEADERSHIP OF THE GLOBAL ECONOMY IS IN CRISIS. THE CLINTON ADMINISTRATION LINE OF OPPOSING JAPAN AND TRYING TO DIVIDE THE EUROPEANS IN ORDER TO GAIN MORE ROOM, LED US TO A STANDSTILL. HENCE, THE ANTI-GLOBALIZATION SPIRIT IN MONTREAL WHICH SCORED ITS FIRST VICTORY AGAINST THE WTO. WASHINGTON MADE A MESS OF THE IMF LEADERSHIP DEBATE, FUELING THE DISPUTE BETWEEN FRANCE AND GERMANY. IN DAVOS THEY TRIED TO FIND A REMEDY: BUT CERTAIN DESTABILIZING INITIATIVES CAN PRODUCE POISONED FRUITS. NOW THE GERMAN CANDIDACY TO THE IMF ...IS GAINING WEIGHT AGAIN....INDEED, IF THE U.S. WANTS THAT WE MOVE AHEAD ON THE PATH OF GLOBALIZATION, IT SHOULD HELP INSTEAD OF HINDERING EUROPE'S POLITICAL AUTHORITY."

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A REPORT BY DANILO TAINO FROM DAVOS IN CENTRIST, TOP-CIRCULATION CORRIERE DELLA SERA (2/1): "YESTERDAY THEY WERE TOGETHER ON THE DAVOS PODIUM....OBVIOUSLY, YESTERDAY NOBODY WON. BUT THE IDEOLOGICAL PLATFORMS WHICH DIVIDE THE TWO INTERNET KINGS WERE PRESENTED. IN GATES' WORLD, TECHNOLOGY IS THE QUEEN....IN CASE'S WORLD, PEOPLE ARE THE QUEEN."

STEFANO LEPRI REPORTS FROM DAVOS IN CENTRIST, INFLUENTIAL LA STAMPA (2/1): "THE NEWS OF THE DAY IS WHETHER THE DISPUTE OF BIG TECHNOLOGICAL BUSINESSES IS MADE MORE COMPLICATED BY THE ENTRANCE OF A THIRD CHALLENGER, VODAFONE. ALTHOUGH THE POWER OF THE TWO

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AMERICAN GIANTS IS SO BIG - GATES' MICROSOFT IN SOFTWARE, AND CASE'S AOL IN EVERYTHING WHICH IS INSIDE THE INTERNET - ALL EXPERTS RECOGNIZE THAT EUROPE IS AHEAD IN THE TELEPHONE BUSINESS."

"WHAT IS BEHIND ALBRIGHT'S REBUKE ON EUROPEAN

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CORRUPTION" A FRONT-PAGE EDITORIAL COMMENTARY FROM NEW YORK IN PROVOCATIVE, CLASSICAL LIBERAL DAILY IL FOGLIO (2/1) SPECULATES ON THE LATEST FOREIGN POLICY MOVES BY THE CLINTON ADMINISTRATION AND FOCUSES ON SECRETARY ALBRIGHT'S SPEECH...IN DAVOS, QUESTIONING WHY SECRETARY ALBRIGHT CENSURED IMPORTANT ALLIES LIKE FRANCE, ITALY, JAPAN AND EVEN THE U.K. FOR THEIR ALLEGED POOR ANTI-CORRUPTION RECORDS. CITING WILLIAM SAFIRE'S THESIS THAT THE U.S. IS MAD AT THE EUROPEANS FOR DISCLOSING RUSSIA'S SCANDALS, THE ARTICLE ARGUES THAT 'REALITY IS MORE COMPLEX.' HER REPRIMAND COULD HAVE BEEN "A THREAT AIMED AT THE EUROPEANS AFTER THE (U.S.) DEFEAT IN SEATTLE; OR THE EXPRESSION OF AMERICAN IRRITATION WITH THE DIFFICULTIES MET IN THE NOMINATION OF A NEW IMF DIRECTOR. THE...VERY TOUGH REBUKE ON CORRUPTION TOOK MANAGERS AND POLITICIANS BY SURPRISE... BUT, INDEED, IT DID NOT HAPPEN BY CHANCE BECAUSE THE AMERICANS ARRIVED IN DAVOS IN FORCE, LED BY BILL CLINTON AND FIVE SECRETARIES. CLINTON DID NOT SPOUT THE EXPECTED RHETORIC ON GLOBALIZATION...BUT ANNOUNCED THAT HE WILL CHANGE THE POLICY LINE HE HAS BEEN FOLLOWING FOR SEVEN YEARS: TO ACT AND PUSH TRADE EXPANSION BETWEEN THE U.S. AND THE REST OF THE WORLD. HE EXPLAINED THAT THAT STAGE IS OVER....THE ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN, TOGETHER WITH THE HUMILIATION SUFFERED IN SEATTLE BECAUSE OF THE INDIFFERENCE OR, EVEN WORSE, THE COMPLICITY OF THE

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EUROPEANS, IS THE KEY INSIGHT INTO AMERICAN BEHAVIOR IN DAVOS....PERHAPS IT WAS JUST A LESSON. IT HAPPENS OFTEN THAT SECRETARY ALBRIGHT USES FORCEFUL TONES AND THEN BACK-PEDALS. NOR IS THE CORRUPTION ISSUE AN EASY ONE FOR A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ADMINISTRATION WHICH IS ACCUSED OF BEING THE MOST CORRUPT IN THE HISTORY OF AMERICA."

3. RUSSIA

MEDIA REPORT ON SECRETARY ALBRIGHT'S MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER IGOR IVANOV AND UNDERLINE HER WARNING REMARKS TO RUSSIA ON THE WAR IN CHECHNYA. REPORTS ALSO PREVIEW SECRETARY ALBRIGHT'S MEETING WITH ACTING PRESIDENT VLADIMIR PUTIN.

HEADLINES:

"CHECHNYA: MOSCOW SAYS 'NO' TO THE U.S." (IL MESSAGGERO)

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"THE U.S. WARNS PUTIN: CHECHNYA WILL ISOLATE MOSCOW" (IL
SOLE-24 ORE)
"ICE IN MOSCOW BETWEEN ALBRIGHT AND IVANOV"" (IL
GIORNALE)
"CLASH BETWEEN ALBRIGHT AND IVANOV ON CHECHNYA"
(L'UNITA')

COMMENTS:

A REPORT FROM MOSCOW IN LEADING CONSERVATIVE, OPPOSITION
DAILY IL GIORNALE (2/1): "'RUSSIA 'HAS THE RIGHT TO

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DEFEND ITS OWN TERRITORY', BUT THE U.S. REMAINS CRITICAL
OF THE MILITARY MEANS IT IS USING IN CHECHNYA AGAINST
THE ISLAMIC REBELS, AND MAINTAINS THAT MOSCOW RISKS
DAMAGING ITS REPUTATION IN THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY.
THIS IS WHAT SECRETARY ALBRIGHT SAID IN A JOINT PRESS
CONFERENCE WITH FOREIGN MINISTER IVANOV....IVANOV AND
ALBRIGHT ALSO TALKED ABOUT 'STAR WARS'....THE HEAD OF
AMERICAN DIPLOMACY ACKNOWLEDGED THAT ON THIS ISSUE, AS
WELL AS ON CHECHNYA, THERE ARE 'DIFFERENT POINTS OF
VIEW.' "

A REPORT FROM MOSCOW IN PRO-DS (LEADING GOVERNMENT
PARTY) DAILY L'UNITA' (2/1): "ON THE FIRST DAY OF HER
MISSION TO MOSCOW, SECRETARY ALBRIGHT RECEIVED MANY
'NYETS' AND SOME SUGGESTIONS. HER VISIT WAS PROCEEDED
BY A RALLY ORGANIZED BY THE COMMUNISTS IN FRONT OF THE
AMERICAN EMBASSY TO PROTEST HER MEETING AT THE KREMLIN
'BECAUSE THE AMERICANS DEFEND THOSE GANGSTERS IN
CHECHNYA.'INDEED, TODAY'S MULTILATERAL MEETING IS

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TAGS: OPRC, KMDR, IT

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-YELTSIN MEN. IVANOV PRONOUNCED HIS FIRST 'NO' AND SUGGESTED THAT SHE... 'BE MORE INFORMED' ON WHAT IS TAKING PLACE IN CHECHNYA....TO MAKE THE CASE EVEN MORE COMPLICATED THERE IS THE ANDREI BABITSKI CASE, THE REPORTER FROM RADIO FREE EUROPE/RADIO LIBERTY WHO WAS ARRESTED BY THE RUSSIAN MILITARY IN GROZNY....THIS WAS JUST THE BEGINNING. EVERYTHING CAN CHANGE TODAY WHEN....ALBRIGHT WILL MEET WITH ACTING PRESIDENT PUTIN. IT SHOULD NOT BE RULED OUT THAT THE DATE FOR A MEETING BETWEEN CLINTON AND PUTIN WILL BE SET - PROBABLY BEFORE THE RUSSIAN PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION ON MARCH 26TH....NOTWITHSTANDING BASIC DIFFERENCES, IVANOV AND ALBRIGHT ALSO MADE A TINY GESTURE OF DETENTE AND SIGNED AN AGREEMENT WHICH SHOULD STRENGTHEN CONTROLS OVER TECHNOLOGY USED IN THE LAUNCHING OF THE U.S. SATELLITES FROM RUSSIAN SPACE STATIONS."

VLADIMIR SAPOSHNIKOV REPORTS FROM MOSCOW IN LEADING

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BUSINESS DAILY IL SOLE-24 ORE (2/1): "MANY EXPERTS MAINTAIN THAT ALBRIGHT'S VISIT REPRESENTS A UNIQUE OCCASION FOR THE WHITE HOUSE TO CARRY OUT A PERSONAL REVIEW OF PUTIN, THE FAVORITE CANDIDATE IN THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS."

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A REPORT FROM MOSCOW IN ROME CENTRIST DAILY IL MESSAGGERO (2/1): 'YESTERDAY'S MEETINGS IN MOSCOW PRESENTED A DIFFICULT BEGINNING FOR SECRETARY ALBRIGHT... BUT IT WAS JUST THE BEGINNING. EVERYTHING MIGHT CHANGE TODAY WHEN, BEFORE GOING TO CROATIA, ALBRIGHT WILL HAVE A PERSONAL MEETING WITH ACTING PRESIDENT PUTIN."

4. U.S. POLITICS

ITALIAN MEDIA PREVIEW TODAY'S PRIMARY IN NEW HAMPSHIRE WITH COLORFUL STORIES ON THE CONTESTANTS.

ALL DAILIES ALSO BRIEFLY REPORT THAT ILLINOIS GOVERNOR GEORGE RYAN ANNOUNCED A SUSPENSION OF THE DEATH SENTENCE IN HIS STATE.

HEADLINES:

"U.S. PRIMARY: THE RUN-UP OF THE LOSERS" (CORRIERE DELLA SERA)
"TODAY'S PRIMARY IN NEW HAMPSHIRE, THE FIRST REAL TEST FOR GORE AND BUSH" (IL SOLE-24 ORE)
"A GAME OF FOUR IN NEW HAMPSHIRE" (LA STAMPA)
"BUSH AND GORE TO THE CRUCIAL TEST" (IL MESSAGGERO)
"NEW HAMPSHIRE PRIMARY: STRIKES BELOW THE BELT AND COURTYARD BRAWLS" (L'UNITA')

COMMENTS:

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AUGUSTO MINZOLINI REPORTS FROM MANCHESTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE, IN CENTRIST, INFLUENTIAL LA STAMPA (2/1): "WHO WINS THE PRIMARY HERE...USUALLY BECOMES THE U.S. PRESIDENT. IT IS NOT A SCIENTIFIC FIGURE, BUT A DE-FACTO STATISTIC....IN ANY CASE, PEOPLE DO BELIEVE IN THIS....AND THE PRIMARY IN NEW HAMPSHIRE REPRESENTS A SENSITIVE SEISMOGRAPH OF THE POLITICAL CHANGES WHICH

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MODIFY AMERICANS' ORIENTATION.....THIS YEAR IS NO
DIFFERENT. THE CHALLENGERS, THE OUTSIDERS OF THESE
ELECTIONS, HAVE BET EVERYTHING ON TODAY'S VOTE....AND
SUDDENLY, THE ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN IGNITED. NO MORE
MINUETS OR FORMAL SMILES. EVEN THE TAME BRADLEY
REALIZED THAT...AND BEGAN TO HIT BACK."

SIEGMUND GINZBERG REPORTS FROM WASHINGTON IN PRO-DS
(LEADING GOVERNMENT PARTY) DAILY L'UNITA' (2/1): "IT IS
LIKE A WRESTLING MATCH....THE PRIMARY IN NEW HAMPSHIRE
OPENED THE WAY TO AN UNSEEMLY EXCHANGE OF INVECTIVES -
HITS BELOW THE BELT AMONG THE MAIN CANDIDATES. NOT

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TAGS: OPRC, KMDR, IT

SUBJECT:ROME MEDIA REACTION REPORT - FEBRUARY 1, 2000

AMONG THOSE WHO WILL FIGHT FOR THE WHITE HOUSE, BUT BETWEEN THOSE WHO, IN EACH OF THE TWO PARTIES, HOPE TO GET THE NOMINATION. AMONG THE DEMOCRATS THE BRAWL WAS BEGUN BY THE MORE GENTLEMANLY CANDIDATE, FORMER BASKET BALL CHAMPION BILL BRADLEY....NOR IS THE 'TONE' OF THE DEBATE VERY DIFFERENT AMONG THE REPUBLICANS."

"BRADLEY: THE GENTLEMAN CANDIDATE" -- UNDER THIS HEADLINE, LEFT LEANING, INFLUENTIAL LA REPUBBLICA (2/1) DEVOTES A FULL-PAGE STORY, WITH REFERENCE ON THE FRONT-PAGE, TO BILL BRADLEY WHO IS DEFINED BY SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT VITTORIO ZUCCONI AS "THE ONLY MAN FROM THE LEFT IN THIS PRIMARY."

4. WRECKAGE OF U.S. NAVY F-4J PHANTOM

MEDIA CONTINUE TO REPORT ABOUT THE WRECKAGE OF A U.S. NAVY F-4J THAT HAD BEEN FOUND EARLIER IN THE WEEK IN THE WATERS NEAR GAETA. REPORTS INCLUDED ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE EMBASSY IN ROME BASED ON DATA FROM THE U.S. NAVAL SAFETY CENTER (NORFOLK, VA) ABOUT THE MISHAP WHICH OCCURRED ON OCT. 23, 1974, INVOLVING TWO F-4J AIRCRAFT BASED ON THE USS SARATOGA.

HOWEVER, THE SUSPICION OF PLOTS AND CONSPIRACIES PREVAILS IN SOME REPORTS, ESPECIALLY CENTRIST, TOP-

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CIRCULATION CORRIERE DELLA SERA WHICH UNABASHEDLY CONTINUES TO LINK THE WRECKAGE, CALLED "PHANTOM II," TO THE USTICA INCIDENT.

STORIES ALSO NOTE THAT THE ROME PROSECUTORS WHO ARE CONDUCTING THE INVESTIGATION ON THE (USTICA) JUNE 27, 1980, TRAGEDY ASKED THE LATINA PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE FOR DOCUMENTATION ABOUT THE AIRCRAFT THAT CRASHED NEAR GAETA.

HEADLINES:

"THE MYSTERY OF THE PHANTOM PLANE REOPENS THE USTICA

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CASE - ROME PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE ASKS FOR DOCUMENTS: IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN SHOT DOWN IN THE FIGHT THAT COULD HAVE INVOLVED THE DC9" (SUB-HEADING) (CORRIERE DELLA SERA)
"THE MYSTERY OF THE U.S. F4 GOES TO THE USTICA PROSECUTORS - BUT THE U.S. EMBASSY CLARIFIES: ON OCTOBER 23, 1974, TWO JETS CRASHED" (SUB-HEADING) (LA REPUBBLICA)
"ROME' PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE ASK FOR THE DOCUMENTS OF THE F4 CRASHED IN GAETA" (IL GIORNALE)
"'ONLY ONE F4 CRASHED IN THE SEA' - THE NEW U.S. VERSION: ONE JET CAUGHT FIRE OFF GAETA, THE OTHER ONE LANDED IN MOLISE" (SUB-HEADING) (IL MESSAGGERO)
"THE U.S. IS READY TO COOPERATE ON USTICA - THE U.S. EMBASSY: 'THIS IS HOW THE TWO AIRCRAFTS CRASHED IN '74.' BUT ROME INVESTIGATORS WANT THE DOCUMENTS (SUB-HEADING)." (IL TEMPO)

COMMENTS:

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A REPORT IN CENTRIST, TOP-CIRCULATION CORRIERE DELLA SERA (2/1): "IN EFFECT, THE WRECKAGE OF THE PHANTOM PLANE ...REOPENS THE INVESTIGATION OF THE USTICA INCIDENT. THE FIRST OFFICIAL VERSION ISSUED BY THE U.S. EMBASSY...DID NOT DISPEL SUSPICIONS....THE SECOND OFFICIAL VERSION WAS RELEASED YESTERDAY BY THE AMERICAN EMBASSY, AFTER NEWSPAPERS HAD BEEN FOUND IN THEIR ARCHIVES THAT A PHANTOM...CRASHED NEAR CAMPOBASSO ON OCTOBER, 23, 1974....THIS NEW VERSION STATES THAT THE JET HICH LANDED IN CAMPOBASSO HAD AN EQUIPMENT FAILURE AND TRIED TO REACH AN AIRFIELD IN NAPLES, WHILE THE ONE WHICH CRASHED INTO THE SEA, AFTER HAVING ESCORTED IT, REMAINED WITHOUT GASOLINE ON ITS WAY BACK TO THE SARATOGA." THE REPORT CONCLUDES BY CITING AN ARTICLE PUBLISHED ON THE FRONT PAGE OF THE FRENCH DAILY LE MONDE YESTERDAY WHICH NOTED "HOW THE AMERICANS HAVE ALWAYS REFUSED TO COLLABORATE ON THE USTICA INVESTIGATION."

A REPORT IN LEFT-LEANING, INFLUENTIAL LA REPUBBLICA

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ACTION EUR-01

INFO LOG-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 UTED-00 TEDE-00 INR-00 NSAE-00

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CHANNEL: n/a
HANDLING: n/a

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME
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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: TWO AIRCRAFTS CRASHED ON OCT. 23, 1974....THE PILOTS OF THE F4 PLANE WHICH LANDED ON THE SEPINO AREA WERE RESCUED BY DOMENICO MOLINARA, WHO THEN DIED BACK IN 1986. HIS WIDOWER, MARIA PASQUALINA D'ALOIA, YESTERDAY SHOWED WITH PRIDE THE THANK-YOU LETTER FROM THE AMERICAN ARMED FORCE IN ITALY....INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS PROVIDE THAT IN CASE OF AN AIR ACCIDENT ON OUR TERRITORY, THE ITALIAN AUTHORITY MUST BE INFORMED. AND THIS OBLIGATION, ACCORDING TO ITALIAN DEFENSE SOURCES, WAS RESPECTED IN 1974. BUT IT IS NOT CLEAR IF IT IS PROVIDED THAT THE U.S. AUTHORITIES SHOULD GIVE ALL THE NECESSARY DATA FOR THE FINDING OF THE JET. IT IS CLEAR THAT IF DOCUMENTS OF AN AIR CRASH OF AN F 4J WITH THE SAME NUMBER AS THE

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ONE IN PONZA ARE FOUND IN THE ITALIAN DEFENSE ARCHIVES,
THE MYSTERY WOULD BE SOLVED. UNLESS WE MAKE THE
HYPOTHESIS THAT IN THE TWO DAYS IN WHICH THE WRECKAGE
DISAPPEARED... SOMEONE MANIPULATED IT. BUT THE OWNER OF
THE STORAGE WHERE THE WRECKAGE IS KEPT RULES OUT THIS:
DOMENICO PONTICELLA ASSURED 'I'VE NOT RECEIVED ANY
PRESSURES FROM THE U.S.' "

FIORENZA SARZANINI REPORTS IN ROME CENTRIST DAILY IL
MESSAGGERO (2/1): "THE AMERICAN EMBASSY ADJUSTS THE AIM
AND CHANGES VERSION OF THE ACCIDENT THAT OCCURED ON
OCTOBER 23, 1974....IN REALITY, THE NOTE ADDS MYSTERIES

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TO MYSTERIES. WHY THIS SUDDEN CHANGE OF VERSION? IS
THERE SOMETHING ELSE THEY WANT TO HIDE? IN ORDER TO
DISCOVER THIS, PROSECUTORS FROM THE ROME PROSECUTOR'S
OFFICE INVESTIGATING ON USTICA REQUESTED THEIR
COLLEAGUES FROM LATINA THE PROCEEDINGS ON THE
PHANTOM....IN MOLISE, MANY PEOPLE REMEMBER THAT
ACCIDENT. AND THEY TELL US THAT THE TWO AMERICAN
PILOTS....WERE BROUGHT TO THE CAMPOBASSO HOSPITAL...BUT
THAT AFTER A FEW HOURS THEY WERE TAKEN BY A U.S. NAVY
HELICOPTER AND WERE BROUGHT TO NAPLES AND THEN TO THE
U.S. IT WILL BE UP TO THE PROSECUTORS TO FIND IF THE
JET CRASHED IN GAETA WAS REALLY THE JET FLYING ON THE
SAME MISSION." FOGLIETTA

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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