Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet
Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. cable	Re: Italian Defense Policy: Scene-Setter for Visit of ASD Frank Kramer, Feb. 11 (7 pages)	02/08/1999	P1/b(1)

COLLECTION:
Clinton Presidential Records
NSC Cables
Jan 1999 - Dec 2000 ([Cavalese…])
OA/Box Number: 530000

FOLDER TITLE:
[02/04/1999 - 03/12/1999]

2019-0047-F
ke6006

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [a)(5) of the PRA]
P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.
PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).
RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
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b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

Cable

PREC: IMMEDIATE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: OAAUZYUW RUEHCAA1159 0350512-UUUU--RHEHNSC.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: O P 040510Z FEB 99
LINE4: FM SECSTATE WASHDC
OSRI: RUEHC
DTG: 040510Z FEB 99
ORIG: SECSTATE WASHDC
TO: RUEHKB/AMEMBASSY BAKU IMMEDIATE 1180
RUEHBW/AMEMBASSY BELGRADE IMMEDIATE 7678
RUEHSL/AMEMBASSY BRATISLAVA IMMEDIATE 1040
RUEHTA/AMEMBASSY ALMATY IMMEDIATE 1282
RUEHCH/AMEMBASSY CHISINAU IMMEDIATE 3062
RUEHKV/AMEMBASSY KIEV IMMEDIATE 7770
RUEHLJ/AMEMBASSY LJUBLJANA IMMEDIATE 5491
RUEHMRE/AMCONSUL MARSEILLE IMMEDIATE 6921
RUEHSK/AMEMBASSY MINSK IMMEDIATE 7224
RUEHRA/AMEMBASSY RIGA IMMEDIATE 7957
RUEHVJ/AMEMBASSY SARAJEVO IMMEDIATE 0063
RUEHTL/AMEMBASSY TALLINN IMMEDIATE 5037
RUEHNT/AMEMBASSY TASHKENT IMMEDIATE 6095
RUEHTG/AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA IMMEDIATE 0056
RUEHTI/AMEMBASSY TIRANA IMMEDIATE 1370
RUEHUNV/USMISSION UNVIE VIENNA IMMEDIATE
RUEHVL/AMEMBASSY VILNIUS IMMEDIATE 7249
RUEHYE/AMEMBASSY YEREVAN IMMEDIATE 0022
RUEHVB/AMEMBASSY ZAGREB IMMEDIATE 3604
EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE
RUEHLZ/AMCONSUL LEIPZIG PRIORITY 1788
RUEHMZ/AMCONSUL MUNICH PRIORITY 4184
RUEHSR/AMCONSUL STRASBOURG PRIORITY 2841
RUFGNOA/USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE//ECPA PRIORITY
INFO: RUEHDA/AMCONSUL ADANA PRIORITY 3877
RUEHIT/AMCONSUL ISTANBUL PRIORITY 4950
RUEATRS/TREASURY DEPT WASHDC 2454
RUEHIA/USIA WASHDC 7884
RUETIAA/DIRNSA FT GEORGE G MEADE
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC 1962
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC 6672
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC 5583
RUCPDOC/USDOC WASHDC 4984
SUBJ: EUR DAILY PRESS GUIDANCE - FEBRUARY 3, 1999

TEXT:

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 06 STATE 021159

PLEASE PASS TO ALL PAOS USIA PLEASE PASS TO EEN AND WEU

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: OPRO
SUBJECT: EUR DAILY PRESS GUIDANCE - FEBRUARY 3, 1999

1. THE FOLLOWING PRESS GUIDANCE WAS PREPARED AND APPROVED BY THE BUREAU OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS AND OTHER SELECTED BUREAUS HANDLING ISSUES OF INTEREST TO EUR POSTS FOR THE DEPARTMENT BRIEFING. QUESTIONS SHOULD BE REFERRED TO DOUGLAS EBNER, SUSAN ELBOW, ARIC SCHWAN (BOSNIA), OR MARK SMITH (KOSOVO), EUR POLICY AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS.

TOPICS INCLUDE:

SERBIA (KOSOVO): KOSOVO
GERMANY: DEUTSCHE BANK SAYS NEW YORK'S DELAY THREATENS MERGER - EIZENSTAT SAYS AS SERIOUS AS SWISS BANK ACCOUNT
FRANCE: FRENCH HISTORICAL COMMISSION MEMBER SAYS U.S. BANKS IN PARIS COOPERATED WITH NAZIS

TURKEY: RULES OF ENGAGEMENT FOR OPERATION NORTHERN WATCH
ITALY: CERMIS/CAVALESE ACCIDENT ONE YEAR ANNIVERSARY
MACEDONIA: VISIT OF MACEDONIAN PRIME MINISTER

2. SERBIA (KOSOVO): KOSOVO

SITUATION UPDATE

-- REPORTS FROM THE EMBASSY TODAY INDICATE KOSOVO HAS BEEN QUIET OVER THE PAST TWENTY-FOUR HOURS. THE MOOD IN PRISTINA IS SAID TO BE OPTIMISTIC AFTER THE KLA GENERAL STAFF ANNOUNCEMENT YESTERDAY OF PARTICIPATION IN THE RAMBOUILLET TALKS.

-- TENSIONS REMAIN HIGH IN MANY PARTS OF THE PROVINCE, INCLUDING PODUJEVO, RACAK, AND DRENICA. WHILE THERE IS NO FIGHTING GOING ON, IN ALL THREE AREAS KDOM AND KVM HAVE SEEN INCREASING POTENTIAL FOR CONFRONTATION. THEY ARE WORKING TODAY TO TRY TO DEFUSE THESE TROUBLE SPOTS.

NEGOTIATONS UPDATE

-- WE WELCOME YESTERDAY'S ANNOUNCEMENT BY KLA SPOKESMAN JAKUP KRASNIQI (KRAHS-NEE-CHEE) THAT IT WILL SEND A DELEGATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SETTLEMENT NEGOTIATIONS AT RAMBOUILLET BEGINNING SATURDAY. REPORTS INDICATE KRASNIQI (KRAHS-NEE-CHEE), RAME BUJA, (BOO-YAH), SOKOL BASOTA (BAH-SHOW-TAH), HASIM THAQI (THAH-CHEE) AND BARDYL MAHMUTI (MAH-MOO-TEE) WILL BE THE KLA REPRESENTATIVES AT RAMBOUILLET.

-- ALONG WITH THE KLA, ALL KOSOVAR ALBANIAN POLITICAL PARTIES, AS WELL AS A NUMBER OF INDEPENDENT INTELLECTUALS, HAVE AGREED TO PARTICIPATE.

-- AMBASSADOR CHRIS HILL IS NOW IN BELGRADE, WHERE HE IS SCHEDULED TO MEET WITH SERBIAN REPUBLIC PRESIDENT MILUTINOVIC (MEE-LOO-TEE-NO-VITCH) THIS EVENING.

AMBASSADOR HILL IS EXPECTED TO DEPART FROM BELGRADE TOMORROW FOR PARIS.
UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 06 STATE 021159

PLEASE PASS TO ALL PAOS USIA PLEASE PASS TO EEN AND WEU

E.O. 12958: N/A
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SUBJECT: EUR DAILY PRESS GUIDANCE - FEBRUARY 3, 1999

GROUND FORCES

Q: HAS THE U.S. DECIDED TO COMMIT GROUND TROOPS TO KOSOVO? WILL THEY BE UNDER FOREIGN COMMAND?

-- THE U.S. HAS NO PLANS TO INTRODUCE FORCES INTO A NON-PERMISSIVE ENVIRONMENT.

-- IT IS PREMATURE TO SPECULATE ON WHAT KIND OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY PRESENCE MIGHT BE NEEDED IN CONNECTION WITH A SETTLEMENT, SINCE WE DON'T HAVE A SETTLEMENT YET.

-- NO DECISIONS HAVE YET BEEN MADE REGARDING WHAT, IF ANY, CONTRIBUTION THE U.S. WOULD MAKE TO A POST-SETTLEMENT NATO FORCE IN KOSOVO. ANY SUCH DECISION WOULD BE MADE BY THE PRESIDENT AFTER CONSULTATIONS WITH THE CONGRESS AND OUR ALLIES.

-- THE SECRETARY, ALONG WITH SECDEF COHEN, NSA BERGER, AND GENERAL SHELTON, HELD CONSULTATIONS WITH THE BIPARTISAN LEADERSHIP OF THE HOUSE YESTERDAY. THEY WILL CONTINUE THOSE CONSULTATIONS WITH THE BIPARTISAN LEADERSHIP OF THE SENATE TODAY.

-- WE WELCOME THE STATEMENTS BY OUR ALLIES OF WILLINGNESS TO PROVIDE GROUND TROOPS FOR AN EVENTUAL NATO POST-SETTLEMENT FORCE IN KOSOVO.

-- SINCE KOSOVO FALLS WITHIN AFSOUTH'S AREA OF OPERATIONS, THE COMMANDER OF A NATO FORCE IN KOSOVO, WHATEVER HIS NATIONALITY OR THE NATIONALITY OF TROOPS UNDER HIS COMMAND, WOULD REPORT TO THE AMERICAN CINCSOUTH, ADMIRAL ELLIS. ADMIRAL ELLIS, OF COURSE, REPORTS TO SACEUR, AMERICAN GENERAL WESLEY CLARK.

Q: ANY COMMENT ON TODAY'S NYT ARTICLE CONTAINING DETAILS OF THE SETTLEMENT PLAN?

-- I AM NOT GOING TO GET INTO THE DETAILS OF A SETTLEMENT PLAN WHICH HAS YET TO BE TABLED, LET ALONE NEGOTIATED AND AGREED UPON BY THE PARTIES AT RAMBOUILLET.

-- I WILL NOT GO BEYOND THE GENERAL PRINCIPLES WHICH WE HAVE STATED PREVIOUSLY: THE SETTLEMENT PLAN PROVIDES GREATLY ENHANCED AUTONOMY FOR KOSOVO, PRESERVES THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF THE FRY, AND PROTECTS THE RIGHTS OF ALL ETHNIC GROUPS.

-- DURING THE THREE YEAR INTERIM PERIOD, KOSOVO WOULD HAVE A SUBSTANTIAL DEGREE OF AUTONOMY OVER KEY GOVERNMENT FUNCTIONS -- E.G., TAXES, FINANCING, POLICE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM, HEALTH CARE -- REALIZED THROUGH THEIR OWN LEGISLATIVE, EXECUTIVE, AND JUDICIAL BODIES.

-- THE PLAN DRAWS NO CONCLUSIONS ABOUT THE FINAL STATUS OF KOSOVO, WHICH WILL BE DECIDED FOLLOWING THE THREE YEAR INTERIM PERIOD.

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Q: WHAT ABOUT THE ISSUE OF SERBIAN TROOP LEVELS? WHAT IS YOUR RESPONSE TO THE LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT FROM SENATOR MCCONNELL AND REP. SMITH SAYING THEY WOULD OPPOSE SENDING U.S. TROOPS IF ANY SERBIAN SECURITY FORCES REMAIN IN KOSOVO?

-- AS I HAVE SAID, WE HAVE NO INTENTION OF SENDING U.S. FORCES INTO A NON-PERMISSIVE ENVIRONMENT.

-- THE QUESTION OF WHETHER FRY AND SERBIAN SECURITY FORCES REMAIN IN KOSOVO AFTER A SETTLEMENT IS A MATTER TO BE AGREED UPON BY THE TWO SIDES AT RAMBOUILLET.

-- WE HAVE ALWAYS MAINTAINED THAT THE NUMBER OF FRY AND SERBIAN SECURITY FORCES IN KOSOVO IS FAR TOO LARGE, AND THAT THIS HAS BEEN A PRIMARY CAUSE OF THE FIGHTING IN KOSOVO.

-- WHEN HE MET WITH GENS. CLARK AND NAUMANN IN OCTOBER, FRY PRESIDENT MILOSEVIC AGREED TO SUBSTANTIALLY REDUCE THE NUMBER OF HIS SECURITY FORCES IN KOSOVO. UNFORTUNATELY, HE HAS NOT KEPT THAT PROMISE. THE NATO STATEMENT ISSUED ON SATURDAY, JANUARY 30, 15 MEANT TO ENSURE THAT BELGRADE COMPLIES WITH ALL ITS COMMITMENTS.

-- IN CONTRAST TO THE SITUATION IN OCTOBER, THE QUESTION OF FRY AND SERBIAN SECURITY FORCES IN KOSOVO MUST NOW BE RESOLVED NOT ONLY WITH BELGRADE, BUT ALSO WITH THE KOSOVAR ALBANIAN SIDE AT RAMBOUILLET. WE BELIEVE THAT ANY AGREEMENT THE TWO SIDES REACH THERE SHOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO US AS WELL.

3. GERMANY: DEUTSCHE BANK SAYS NEW YORK'S DELAY THREATENS MERGER - EIZENSTAT SAYS AS SERIOUS AS SWISS BANK CASE

Q: THE CEO OF GERMANY'S BIGGEST BANK, DEUTSCHE BANK, SAID THAT THE ECONOMIC REASONING BEHIND HIS BANK'S $10 BILLION TAKEOVER OF BANKERS TRUST WILL BECOME

QUESTIONABLE THE LONGER NEW YORK DELAYS IN GRANTING ITS APPROVAL OF THE MERGER. UNDER SECRETARY EIZENSTAT SAID THAT THE DEUTSCHE BANK CASE IS HEADED FOR A CONFRONTATION AND IT COULD BECOME AS SERIOUS AS THE SWISS BANK CASE. WHAT'S YOUR REACTION?

A: -- DECISIONS REGARDING SUCH MERGERS SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ON THEIR MERITS AND BANKING CRITERIA, AND NOT BURDENED BY EXTRANEOUS ISSUES. BY BELAYING SUCH MERGERS, NEW YORK AND OTHER JURISDICTIONS COULD RISK ENDANGERING THEIR OWN COMPETITIVENESS IN ATTRACTING AND RETAINING WORLD CLASS FIRMS, THE INCOME THEY GENERATE AND THE JOBS THEY SUPPORT.

-- THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT HAS PROPOSED A NATIONAL FOUNDATION TO RESOLVE ANY OUTSTANDING CLAIMS FROM THE HOLOCAUST-ERA AND WORLD WAR II. GERMAN BANKS AND GERMAN COMPANIES ARE HAVING DISCUSSIONS WITH THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT ON THE PROPOSED FOUNDATION.

-- WE COMMEND THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT FOR ITS INITIATIVE IN THIS MATTER AND NOTE THAT GERMANY HAS IMPLEMENTED A MAJOR COMPENSATION PROGRAM OVER THE PAST HALF CENTURY THAT
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E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: OPRO
SUBJECT: EUR DAILY PRESS GUIDANCE - FEBRUARY 3, 1999

AMOUNTED TO 100 BILLION MARKS (60 BILLION DOLLARS.

-- WE BELIEVE THAT WE CAN ACHIEVE MORE THROUGH COOPERATION AND DIALOGUE THAN THROUGH SUCH THREATS.

-- WE URGE ALL PARTIES ON BOTH SIDES OF THE ATLANTIC TO WORK TOGETHER IN A SPIRIT OF COOPERATION TO RESOLVE THESE ISSUES.

4. FRANCE: FRENCH HISTORICAL COMMISSION MEMBER SAYS U.S. BANKS IN PARIS COOPERATED WITH NAZIS

Q: THE WASHINGTON TIMES SAYS THAT U.S. BANKS TURNED OVER THE ASSETS OF FRENCH JEWS IN PARIS TO THE NAZIS, YET WERE FREE TO ACT OTHERWISE PRIOR TO PEARL HARBOR. WHAT'S YOUR REACTION?

A: -- WE WELCOME THE EFFORTS OF HISTORICAL COMMISSIONS TO DEVELOP INFORMATION REGARDING THE DISPOSITION OF JEWISH ASSETS DURING TRAGIC PERIOD IN HISTORY. HOWEVER, AS WE HAVE NOT SEEN THE HISTORICAL COMMISSION'S REPORT, WE ARE UNABLE TO COMMENT ON IT.

-- WE HOPE THAT THE CONCERNED U.S. BANKS ARE COOPERATING WITH THE FRENCH HISTORICAL COMMITTEE
TO DETERMINE THE FACTS. THIS WOULD ALSO APPEAR TO BE AN APPROPRIATE MATTER FOR THE U.S. PRESIDENTIAL ADVISORY

COMMISSION ON HOLOCAUST ASSETS.

5. TURKEY: RULES OF ENGAGEMENT FOR OPERATION NORTHERN WATCH (ONW)

Q: WHAT IS YOUR REACTION TO TURKISH DEFENSE MINISTER SAMI TURK1S STATEMENT THAT THE RULES OF ENGAGEMENT FOR ONW NEED TO BE REDEFINED?

A: -- TURKEY IS A VITAL NATO ALLY THAT CONTINUES TO PROVIDE CRITICAL SUPPORT FOR INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS TO ENSURE THAT IRAQ COMPLIES WITH U.N. SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS. IN PARTICULAR, WE ARE VERY APPRECIATIVE OF BEING ABLE TO SHARE INCIRLIK AIR BASE FOR THE PURPOSES OF OPERATION NORTHERN WATCH.

-- WE UNDERSTAND THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO CHANGE TO TURKISH RESOLVE IN THIS REGARD.

-- WE CONTINUOUSLY CONSULT WITH OUR TURKISH ALLIES ON THE OPERATIONAL DETAILS OF OPERATION NORTHERN WATCH.

(IF PRESSED)

-- I'M NOT GOING TO GET INTO THE DETAILS OF RULES OF ENGAGEMENT OR THE SUBSTANCE OF OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH TURKEY.

6. ITALY: CERMIS/CAVALESE ACCIDENT ONE YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Q: IT'S BEEN A YEAR SINCE A U.S. MILITARY AIRCRAFT CUT A SKI GONDOLA CABLE AND CAUSED THE DEATH OF 20 PEOPLE IN CAVALESE, ITALY. IS THE USG DOING ANYTHING TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE TRAGEDY ON ITS ANNIVERSARY?

UNCLAS SECTION 05 OF 06 STATE 021159

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A: -- A U.S. DELEGATION, HEADED BY JAMES CUNNINGHAM, CHARGE D'AFFAIRES OF THE U.S. EMBASSY IN ROME, RUTH VAN HEUVEN, U.S. CONSUL GENERAL IN MILAN, AND MAJOR GENERAL RONALD RICHARD, THE PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE COMMANDANT OF THE U.S. MARINE CORPS, PAID THEIR RESPECTS AND ATTENDED COMMEMORATION CEREMONIES IN THE TOWN OF CAVALESE ON FEBRUARY 2 AND 3. OUR THOUGHTS REMAIN WITH ALL THOSE LIVES AFFECTED BY THE TRAGEDY, BUT ESPECIALLY THE VICTIMS AND THEIR FAMILIES.

(IF PRESSED)

Q: WHAT ABOUT COMPENSATION FOR THE FAMILIES OF THE VICTIMS? ISN'T THE U.S. PUTTING COMPENSATION FOR PROPERTY DAMAGES BEFORE PERSONAL CLAIMS?

A: -- NO, THAT IS NOT TRUE. TO DATE, U.S. FINANCIAL COMPENSATION HAS ONLY GONE TO FAMILIES OF THE VICTIMS. THE UNITED STATES CONTINUES TO WORK CLOSELY
WITH THE ITALIAN MINISTRY OF DEFENSE TO ENSURE THAT ALL CLAIMS RESULTING FROM THE TRAGEDY ARE HANDLED EXPEDITIOUSLY UNDER SOFA (STATUS OF FORCES AGREEMENT) PROCEDURES. WE ARE COMMITTED TO DOING OUR PART, AS PROVIDED FOR UNDER THE SOFA TREATY, TO SETTLE ALL CLAIMS.

-- WE UNDERSTAND THAT SOME FAMILIES OF THE VICTIMS HAVE NOT YET SUBMITTED CLAIMS TO THE ITALIAN MINISTRY OF DEFENSE. WE URGE THEM TO PRESENT THEIR CLAIMS SO THAT THEY CAN BE PROCESSED.

(IF RAISED)

Q: THE U.S. CASE AGAINST THE MARINE PILOT AND NAVIGATOR OF THE AIRCRAFT INVOLVED IS COMING TO TRIAL ALMOST SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE ACCIDENT. IS THERE A CONNECTION?

A: -- NO.

Q: WAS THERE POLITICAL PRESSURE ON THE MARINE CORPS TO FILE CRIMINAL CHARGES AGAINST THE CREW?

A: -- NO. THAT CHARGE IS FALSE. AT NO TIME WAS THERE AN EFFORT TO INTERFERE WITH OR ATTEMPT TO INFLUENCE IN ANY WAY

THE LEGAL PROCEEDINGS REGARDING THE AIRMEN INVOLVED IN THE CAVALESE ACCIDENT. OUR

-- EFFORTS THROUGHOUT HAVE BEEN FOCUSED EXCLUSIVELY ON ENSURING A THOROUGH, FAIR INVESTIGATION OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THIS TRAGEDY. WE HAVE ALSO SOUGHT TO TAKE STEPS TO PREVENT A SIMILAR OCCURRENCE IN THE FUTURE.

Q: DID THE PRESIDENT AND FORMER PM PRODI TALK? DID PRODI THREATEN TO CLOSE BASES?

A: -- THE PRESIDENT CALLED PM PRODI AFTER THE ACCIDENT TO EXPRESS HIS SORROW AND TELL HIM THAT THERE WOULD BE A FULL, FAIR, AND OPEN INVESTIGATION OF THE ACCIDENT, WITH THE HOPE OF ENSURING THAT SUCH A TRAGEDY COULD NOT HAPPEN AGAIN. PM PRODI DID NOT THREATEN TO CLOSE BASES. AS "60 MINUTES"
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SAID, THE ALLEGATION OF ITALIAN PRESSURE IS A "RUMOR".

Q: HAS THIS ACCIDENT CAUSED PROBLEMS IN THE BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP WITH ITALY?

A: -- NO, OUR GOVERNMENTS CONTINUE TO WORK WELL AND CLOSELY TOGETHER, BOTH IN RESPONSE TO THE CAVALESE TRAGEDY AND ON A BROAD RANGE OF FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES.

7. MACEDONIA: VISIT OF MACEDONIAN PRIME MINISTER

Q: ANY DETAILS ON VISIT TO WASHINGTON OF MACEDONIAN PRIME MINISTER GEORGIEVSKI?

A: -- MACEDONIAN PRIME MINISTER LJUBCO GEORGIEVSKI (LE-YUB-CHO GEORGE-EE-YEV-SKEE) ARRIVED IN WASHINGTON YESTERDAY EVENING FROM NEW YORK, AND DEPARTS ON SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6. HE MET WITH SECRETARY ALBRIGHT THIS MORNING, AND WILL ATTEND THE NATIONAL PRAYER BREAKFAST TOMORROW.

-- DURING HIS STAY IN WASHINGTON, HE IS ALSO MEETING WITH MEMBERS OF CONGRESS, SECRETARY OF DEFENSE COHEN, AND OTHER SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS.

-- IN NEW YORK, AMONG OTHER SCHEDULED EVENTS, HE MET WITH U.N. SECRETARY GENERAL ANNAN, AND ALSO MET WITH BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVES.

Q: WHAT DID HE DISCUSS WITH SECRETARY ALBRIGHT?

A: -- SECRETARY ALBRIGHT AND MACEDONIAN PRIME MINISTER GEORGIEVSKI DISCUSSED THE PROGRESS OF MACEDONIAN POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC REFORMS, RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE REGION, AND RELATED U.N. AND NATO DEPLOYMENTS. SECRETARY ALBRIGHT PRAISED THE MACEDONIAN GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT TO ECONOMIC REFORM AND WESTERN ORIENTATION, AND THE MODEL IT IS DEVELOPING FOR INTERETHNIC RELATIONS, AND NOTED THE DESIRE ON BOTH SIDES FOR CLOSER COOPERATION AND CONSULTATION ON MATTERS OF MUTUAL INTEREST.

-- THE SECRETARY REITERATED OUR APPRECIATION OF THE MACEDONIAN GOVERNMENT'S FIRM SUPPORT OF NATO EFFORTS TO BRING STABILITY TO KOSOVO, INCLUDING THE AGREEMENT TO HOST THE NATO EXTRACTION FORCE (XFOR).

MINIMIZE CONSIDERED
ALBRIGHT

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 06
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<^TOR>990204001953 M3677203

DIST:

SIT: NSC
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SIT: NSC

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker
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NSC Cables
Jan 1999 - Dec 2000 ([Cavalese…])
OA/Box Number: 530000

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[02/04/1999 - 03/12/1999]

2019-0047-F
ke6006

RESTRICTION CODES

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Cable

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 13526
Department of State Guidelines, November 6, 2015
By KDE NARA, Date 7/15/24
2019-0047-F

PREC: ROUTINE
CLASS: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
LINE1: RAACZYUW RUEHMIL0099 0431711-CCCC--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNY CCCCC ZZH
LINE3: R 121711Z FEB 99
LINE4: FM AMCONSUL MILAN
OSRI: RUEHMIL
DTG: 121711Z FEB 99
ORIG: AMCONSUL MILAN
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RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 5690
INFO: RUEHRO/AMEMBASSY ROME 1207
RUEHRON/AMCONSUL NAPLES 1964
RUEHROF/AMCONSUL FLORENCE 0228
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC
RUEHOL/AMEMBASSY BONN 0622
RUEHRL/USOFFICE BERLIN 0014
SUBJ: BELGIAN ACCOUNT OF CAVALESE MEETING: WAY OFF THE MARK

TEXT:

////////////////////////// INCOMPLETE MESSAGE //////////////////////////

~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ SECTION 02 OF 03 MILAN 000099

BERLIN PLEASE PASS TO AMCONSUL LEIPZIG; DEPT FOR EUR/WE,EUR/UBI AND EUR/PPA
BRUSSELS AND BONN ALSO FOR PAO

E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/10/04
TAGS: MARR, PGOV, PREL, IT, BE
SUBJECT: BELGIAN ACCOUNT OF CAVALESE MEETING: WAY OFF THE MARK

REF: A) BRUSSELS 00965, B) MILAN 87

HAD EMERGED FROM CONVERSATIONS WITH THE LAWYERS CONVINCED THAT THE LAWYERS WERE REALLY SEEKING PUBLICITY TO FURTHER THEIR APPROACH TO SEEKING COMPENSATION. INITIALLY, BASED ON THIS ADVICE, IT WAS THE CHARGE'S INCLINATION NOT TO MEET WITH THE FAMILIES. HOWEVER, THE FAMILIES WERE STAYING IN THE SAME HOTEL, AND WE MET SEVERAL OF THEM IN THE SUCCEEDING HOURS. AS A RESULT, AND BASED ON CG'S RECOMMENDATION THAT THE NEGATIVE CONSEQUENCES OF APPEARING TO "STIFF" THE FAMILIES WOULD BE WORSE THAN THE NEGATIVE FALLOUT OF ANY ATTEMPT BY THE LAWYERS TO USE SUCH A MEETING TO THEIR ADVANTAGE, THE CHARGE AGREED TO MEET WITH THE FAMILIES, PROVIDED THEY WERE NOT ACCOMPANIED BY THEIR

LAWYERS.

6. (U) LATER ON IN THE AFTERNOON, DON KING, APPROACHED THE BPAO AT THE HOTEL AND TOLD HIM THAT THE BELGIAN FAMILIES WOULD BE DINING TOGETHER AT 6:30 PM IN THE HOTEL AND THEY WOULD BE GRATEFUL IF SOMEONE FROM THE USG MET WITH THEM AT THAT TIME. BPAO TOLD KING THAT IF A MEETING WERE TO TAKE PLACE, IT WOULD HAVE TO OCCUR AFTER THE CONCERT AND THAT NO LAWYERS COULD BE PRESENT. KING AGREED TO THESE TERMS AND SAID HE WOULD ADVISE THE FAMILIES. KING ADVISED BPAO THAT HE WAS SEEKING WAYS TO CUT THROUGH RED TAPE AND WANTED ACCESS TO MATERIAL IN THE USA SO THAT HE COULD FILE HIS CLAIM IN THE USA. BPAO TOLD HIM TO SPEAK TO THE STATE SENDING OFFICE IN THE US EMBASSY IN ROME. HE SAID HE HAD, BUT HE WAS NOT GETTING ANYWHERE WITH THEM. BPAO TOLD KING HE WAS NOT A LAWYER AND WAS NOT ABLE TO ADVISE HIM ON HOW TO PROCEED OTHER THAN THROUGH THE SENDING OFFICE. IN A SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATION WITH THE EYSKENS FAMLLY, CG EXPRESSED REGRET THAT IT WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE TO MEET WITH THE FAMILIES AT DINNER, BUT THAT IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE AFTER DINNER AND THE EYSKENS EXPRESSED PLEASURE OVER THAT POSSIBIITY.

MEETING WITH BELGIAN FAMILIES:
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7. (U) FOLLOWING THE CONCERT, THE BELGIAN FAMILIES GATHERED IN A PRIVATE ROOM OFF THE LOBBY OF THE HOTEL TO MEET WLTH THE CHARGE. IT WAS AT FIRST NOT CLEAR THAT THEY WERE ACTUALLY COMING AND KNEW ABOUT THE MEETING. CG, DPO AND BPAO WERE ALSO PRESENT. CHARGE EXPRESSED HIS CONDOLENCES ON BEHALF OF THE USG, AND SAID HE WAS PREPARED TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS THEY MAY HAVE. THE MEETING LASTED ABOUT ONE HOUR, AND WAS CONDUCTED IN ENGLISH. THE CG TRANSLATED FROM TIME TO TIME INTO DUTCH WHEN FAMILY MEMBERS INDICATED THAT THEY WERE NOT SURE THEY UNDERSTOOD CHARGE'S COMMENTS. AS INDICATED REF B (PARAS 4,5) THEIR COMMENTS QUESTIONS RANGED FROM LOW-LEVEL FLIGHTS AND THE NEED TO BAN THEM, THEIR APPREHENSION THAT A COURT MARTIAL IN THE U.S. WOULD FAVOR THE ACCUSED MARINES, INEQUITIES OF THE COMPENSATION PROCESS (INCLUDING THE OFT-MENTIONED CANARD THAT THE CABLECAR WAS RECEIVING U.S. FUNDING AND THE FAMILIES WERE NOT) AND PROBLEMS AND DIFFICULTIES WITH THE CLAIMS PROCESS. IN ANSWER, THE CHARGE REVIEWED THE REQUIREMENTS NECESSARY FOR SETTLING CLAIMS UNDER THE TREATY OF LONDON. HE EMPHASIZED THAT THE CLAIMS MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE ITALLAN MINISTRY OF DEFENSE. SEVERAL OF THE BELGIANS OBJECTED, SAYING THAT 1) IT WAS DIFFICULT FOR BELGIANS TO COMPLETE PAPERWORK IN ITALIAN; 2) THAT THE ITALIAN BUREAUCRACY WOULD TAKE TOO LONG; AND 3) THAT ALL THE MATERIAL FOR SETTLING CLAIMS WAS IN THE US AND HARD TO OBTAIN.

8.(U). THE CHARGE SPOKE VERY CAREFULLY. ALTHOUGH HE REPEATED THAT THE SOFA REQUIRED THAT THE CLAIM BE FILED IN ITALY, AND NOT IN THE U.S., AT NO TIME DID HE SAY THAT THE FAMLLIES COULD NOT FILE IN ANY PARTICULAR PLACE OR SHOULD FILE IN ANY PARTICULAR WAY. HE STRESSED THAT HE WAS NOT IN A POSITION TO GIVE THE FAMILIES LEGAL ADVICE, THAT HOW THEY PROCEEDED WAS BETWEEN THEM AND THEIR LAWYERS. HE
~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ SECTION 03 OF 03 MILAN 000099

BERLIN PLEASE PASS TO AMCONSUL LEIPZIG; DEPT FOR EUR/WE,EUR/UBI AND EUR/PPA
BRUSSELS AND BONN ALSO FOR PAO

E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/10/04
TAGS: MARR, PGOV, PREL, IT, BE
SUBJECT: BELGIAN ACCOUNT OF CAVALESE MEETING: WAY OFF THE MARK

REF: A) BRUSSELS 00965, B) MILAN 87

COMMISERATED WITH THE FAMILIES' PROBLEMS WITH ITALIAN VERSUS ENGLISH, BUT SAID THAT FILING CLAIMS IN ANY ANOTHER COUNTRY WOULD BE DIFFICULT, THAT EVEN IN THE U.S. THERE WOULD BE FORM AND BUREAUCRACY TO DEAL WITH. (THE BELGIAN PERSISTED IN COMPLAINING ABOUT THE CLAIM PROCESS.)

9.(U) THE CG EXPLAINED THAT 10 CLAIMS HAD ALREADY BEEN FILED BY OTHER FAMILIES AND THAT IT WAS HER UNDERSTANDING THAT THE ITALIAN MINISTRY OF DEFENSE WOULD SOON BE RESPONDING ON SOME OF THESE CLAIMS. THIS INFORMATION APPEARED TO BE A SURPRISE TO THE BELGIAN FAMILIES.

COMMENT:

10.(~~C~~). IN RECONSTRUCTING THE SUCCESSION OF EVENTS, AND IN READING SUMMARIES OF BELGIAN PRESS COMMENTARY ON THIS SUBJECT, IT IS CLEAR THAQBELGIANS' LAWYERS HAVE CONSISTENTLY REPRESENTED TO THE PUBLIC THE FEELINGS AND WISHES OF THE BELGIAN FAMILIES IN WAYS THAT WERE NOT EVIDENT TO US IN OUR MEETING. WHILE THE FAMILIES WERE UPSET AND AT TIMES EMOTIONAL, LT WAS OUR IMPRESSION THAT THEY UNDERSTOOD THE DISCUSSION. ALTHOUGH THEY WERE NOT SIGNALLING ANY SENSE THAT THEIR CONCERNS WERE BEING MET, THEY SEEMED GRATEFUL FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET AND AIR THESE CONCERNS. IT IS ENTIRELY POSSIBLE THAT SOME MISUNDERSTANDINGS AROSE BECAUSE OF LACK OF ENGLISH COMPREHENSION, AND THAT AT LEAST SOME OF THE FAMILIES WERE NOT AWARE THAT THEIR ATTORNEYS WERE ASKING REPEATEDLY FOR A MEETING, REPRESENTING THIS AS THEIR WISH. BUT IT IS CLEAR THAT THE PUBLIC RECORD BEARS CORRECTION REGARDING WHO ASKED FOR THE MEETINGS AND WHAT WAS SAID.

VAN HEUVEN

SECT: SECTION: 02 OF 03
<^SECT>SECTION: 03 OF 03

SSN: 0099
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RUFNPKD/USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT//INTAFF//
RHDLCNE/CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK//00/013/014/016//
RUFDIII/CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GE
RHFQAAA/CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE
RUEHMIL/AMCONSUL MILAN 2720
RUEHRON/AMCONSUL NAPLES 1899
RUEHROF/AMCONSUL FLORENCE 2430
SUBJ: CGIL AGAIN DEMANDS RIGHT TO REPRESENT ITALIAN WORKERS AT MILITARY BASES USED BY U.S. FORCES

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 13526
Department of State Guidelines, November 6, 2015
By KDE NARA, Date 7/15/24
2019-0047-F

TEXT:

~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ SECTION 01 OF 02 ROME 001084

CINCUSNAVEUR ALSO FOR CPCC

E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/19/09
TAGS: MARR, ELAB, PREL, PGOV, IT
SUBJECT: CGIL AGAIN DEMANDS RIGHT TO REPRESENT ITALIAN WORKERS AT MILITARY BASES USED BY U.S. FORCES

REF: 97 ROME 9930

1. (U) CLASSIFIED BY A/DCM MARGARET DEAN. REASON 1.5 (D)

SUMMARY
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2. ~~(C)~~ AN AFFILIATE OF THE GENERAL ITALIAN CONFEDERATION OF LABOR (CGIL) HAS RENEWED ITS DEMAND THAT IT BE PERMITTED TO ORGANIZE ITALIAN WORKERS AT MILITARY BASES IN ITALY USED BY U.S. FORCES. THE CGIL AFFILIATE SAYS ITS DEMAND IS SUPPORTED BY THE ITALIAN CONFEDERATION OF WORKERS' UNIONS (CISL) AND THE ITALIAN UNION OF LABOR (UIL), WHOSE CORRESPONDING AFFILIATES CURRENTLY DO REPRESENT BASE WORKERS. THE UNION, WHICH HAS WAITED MORE THAN A YEAR SINCE LAST PRESSING THE MATTER,

EMPHASIZED ITS WISH TO RESOLVE THE ISSUE AMICABLY, WITHOUT PRESS POLEMICS.

3. (C) IN PARALLEL WITH THE UNION'S APPROACH, ITALIAN SENIOR UNDERSECRETARY OF DEFENSE MASSIMO BRUTTI HAS CONVEYED HIS INTEREST AND CONCERN. THESE COMMENTS INDICATE THAT THE ISSUE OF CGIL BEING ALLOWED TO REPRESENT WORKERS ON BASES IN ITALY USED BY U.S. FORCES IS FAR FROM DEAD. END SUMMARY.

CGIL RE-PRESENTS ITS DEMAND

4. (SBU) THE FEDERATION OF ITALIAN COMMERCIAL, TOURISM, AND SERVICE WORKERS (FILCAMS) IS AN AFFILIATE OF THE CGIL. IN DECEMBER, FILCAMS SECRETARY GENERAL ALDO AMORETTI REQUESTED A MEETING WITH NEWLY ARRIVED LABCOUNS. ON 2/2, LABCOUNS MET AMORETTI AND PIETRO RUFFOLO, DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL OF FILCAMS, AT FILCAMS HEADQUARTERS IN ROME.

5. (C) THE MEETING WAS CORDIAL, RELAXED, AND FREE FLOWING FOR THE FIRST HALF HOUR, ESTABLISHING BACKGROUND FACT THAT VIEWS OF FILCAMS LEADERS ON GLOBALIZATION, TRADE, WORKER RIGHTS, AND RELATED ISSUES TRACK SUBSTANTIALLY WITH THOSE OF USG. THIS CONTEXT SET, AMORETTI (WHOSE CHANGED BODY LANGUAGE COMMUNICATED UNEASE) SAID HE HAD TO BROACH A "CONTENTIOUS" MATTER. AMORETTI REFERRED TO FILCAMS' EFFORT, DATING AT LEAST TO 1994, TO BE ALLOWED TO REPRESENT DIRECT-HIRE ITALIAN WORKERS AT BASES IN ITALY USED BY U.S. FORCES. AMORETTI AND RUFFOLO PRESENTED COPIES OF CORRESPONDENCE INVOLVING CGIL SECRETARY GENERAL SERGIO COFFERATI WITH (THEN) U.S. AMBASSADOR TO ITALY REGINALD BARTHOLOMEW AND (THEN) ITALIAN MINISTER OF DEFENSE BENIAMINO ANDREATTA. THE PURPOSE OF THIS CORRESPONDENCE, AS WAS ALSO THE PURPOSE OF THE 2/2 MEETING WITH LABCOUNS, WAS TO SEEK A REVERSAL OF THE DE FACTO PROHIBITION ON CGIL ORGANIZING AT THE BASES. THE UNION'S LAST CONTACT WITH THE U.S. MISSION ON THIS MATTER, AMORETTI SAID, HAD BEEN IN DECEMBER 1997. THE CGIL'S RIGHT TO ORGANIZE WORKERS, AMORETTI AND RUFFOLO POINTED OUT, WAS BASED NOT ONLY ON INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION OF "CORE LABOR STANDARDS" BUT, IN THIS PARTICULAR CASE, WAS ENDORSED BY FILCAMS' CISL AND UIL AFFILIATE COUNTERPARTS. AMORETTI AND RUFFOLO TOOK PAINS TO EMPHASIZE THAT THEY SOUGHT AN AMICABLE RESOLUTION OF THE ISSUE, WITHOUT PRESS POLEMICS; BUT, THEY ALSOO STRESSED, TIME ENOUGH HAS ELAPSED AND THE MATTER MUST BE RESOLVED.

MINISTRY OF DEFENSE INTEREST

6. (C) ON 20 JANUARY, ADMIRAL JAMES ELLIS (CINCUSNAVEUR) MET WITH ITALIAN THEN-AIR FORCE CHIEF OF STAFF, GENERAL MARIO ARPINO IN ROME. ON THE MARGINS OF THE OPERATIONAL ASPECTS OF THIS MEETING, ARPINO STRESSED THE INTEREST OF ITALIAN SENIOR UNDERSECRETARY OF DEFENSE MASSIMO BRUTTI IN THE "UNION ISSUE AT SIGONELLA." ARPINO NOTED THAT BRUTTI WAS A "FORMER COMMUNIST" WHO REMAINED VERY INTERESTED IN ITALIAN LABOR ISSUES. (EMBASSY COMMENT: DESPITE HIS LEFTIST POLITICAL ROOTS, BRUTTI HAS BEEN AN EXCELLENT PARTNER AND FRIEND OF THE UNITED STATES IN HIS ROLE AS UNDERSECRETARY OF DEFENSE. HE WORKED CLOSELY AND EFFECTIVELY WITH U.S. REPRESENTATIVES, FOR EXAMPLE, TO CONTROL THE POLITICAL FALLOUT OF THE FEBRUARY 1998 AIR ACCIDENT AT CAVALESE. WE EXPECT HIS APPROACH TO THE LABOR ISSUE WILL BE COLLEGIAL AND NONCONFRONTATIONAL, BUT HE WILL EXPECT THE U.S. TO WORK WITH HIM IN THE SAME COLLABORATIVE AND CONSTRUCTIVE FASHION THAT HE ALWAYS HAS SHOWN IN DEALING WITH

US. END COMMENT.)

BACKGROUND
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7. (S) IN PREVIOUS CABLES ON THIS ISSUE, EMBASSY HAS NOTED THAT THE CGIL IS THE TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION ASSOCIATED WITH DEMOCRATS OF THE LEFT (DS), THE MAIN PARTY IN ITALY'S CURRENT

~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ SECTION 02 OF 02 ROME 001084

CINCUSNAVEUR ALSO FOR CPCC

E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/19/09
TAGS: MARR, ELAB, PREL, PGOV, IT
SUBJECT: CGIL AGAIN DEMANDS RIGHT TO REPRESENT ITALIAN WORKERS AT MILITARY BASES USED BY U.S. FORCES

GOVERNING COALITION. (THE DS IS ALSO THE PARTY OF CURRENT PRIME MINISTER MASSIMO D'ALEMA AND DEFENSE MINISTRY UNDERSECRETARY BRUTTI.) BEFORE 1989, THE DS WAS KNOWN AS THE ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY (PCI). THIS ACCOUNTED FOR THE EXCLUSION OF THE CGIL FROM REPRESENTING WORKERS AT MILITARY BASES USED BY U.S. FORCES DURING THE COLD WAR ERA. OVER THE LAST DECADE, THE DS HAS MOVED SOLIDLY INTO THE POLITICAL MAINSTREAM, WITH VIEWS COMPARABLE TO THOSE OF THE LABOUR PARTY IN THE UK, THE FRENCH SOCIALISTS, OR THE GERMAN SPD. WITH THE DS AS THE CORE OF THE LAST TWO ITALIAN GOVERNMENTS, WHICH HAVE CONTINUED DECADES-LONG CLOSE COOPERATION BETWEEN THE U.S. AND ITALY, THE CGIL FINDS IT DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND WHY IT SHOULD REMAIN SHUT OUT FROM REPRESENTING WORKERS ON THE BASES. (INDEED, THE CGIL'S MOVE TOWARD THE MAINSTREAM OF THE INTERNATIONAL DEMOCRATIC FREE TRADE UNION MOVEMENT HELPED PAVE THE WAY FOR SIMILAR MAINSTREAMING OF THE PCI/DS.)
FOGLIETTA

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 02
<^SECT>SECTION: 02 OF 02

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RUFGNOA/USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE IMMEDIATE
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RUFPAFW/31FW AVIANO AB IT IMMEDIATE
RUEHXP/ALL NATO POST COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE
SUBJ: ITALIAN REACTION TO CAVALESE VERDICT

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 13526
Department of State Guidelines, November 6, 2015
By KDE NARA, Date 7/15/24
2019-0047-F

TEXT:

~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ ROME 001457

E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/04/09
TAGS: PREL, PGOV, MARR, IT, NATO, US
SUBJECT: ITALIAN REACTION TO CAVALESE VERDICT

1. CLASSIFIED BY: ERIC TERZUOLO, ACTING POLITICAL MINISTER-COUNSELOR, FOR REASONS: 1.5 (B) AND (D).

SUMMARY AND COMMENT
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2. (~~S~~) ITALIAN PM D'ALEMA ARRIVED IN WASHINGTON JUST AS ITALIANS ACROSS THE POLITICAL SPECTRUM WERE REACTING WITH ANGER AND DISAPPOINTMENT TO THE "NOT GUILTY" VERDICT IN THE TRIAL OF THE CAVALESE ACCIDENT PILOT. IN THE VIEW OF THE POLITICAL LEADERSHIP AND THE PUBLIC, THE TRIAL DID NOT ANSWER THE QUESTION OF WHO WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE LOSS OF TWENTY LIVES THAT DAY. ITALY HAS EXPERIENCED A NUMBER OF TRAGEDIES THAT ITS JUDICIAL AUTHORITIES HAVE NEVER BEEN ABLE TO UNRAVEL, BUT THE ITALIANS EXPECT BETTER FROM US. THE HARSHEST CRITICISMS ATTACK THE UNITED STATES FOR TREATING ITALY AS A "COLONY." BUT EVEN LEADERS WITH A GOOD UNDERSTANDING OF U.S. JURISPRUDENCE AND WHO HAVE WORKED WITH US CLOSELY IN ADDRESSING THE AFTERMATH OF THE ACCIDENT ARE DISCONCERTED AND BELIEVE THE VERDICT HAS LEFT THEM EXPOSED TO POLITICAL ATTACK.

3. ~~(C)~~ IN THE IMMEDIATE TERM, THE EMOTIONAL IMPACT IS LIKELY TO DAMAGE THE ITALIAN SPIRIT OF COOPERATION WITH THE U.S., SLOWING DOWN PROJECTS AND MAKING THE GOI LESS RECEPTIVE TO USG REQUESTS. BUT BY STEERING A STEADY COURSE, DEMONSTRATING OUR RESPECT FOR OUR ITALIAN PARTNERS, AND REMINDING THEM BY OUR ACTIONS OF THE BENEFITS TO ITALY OF OUR COOPERATION, WE CAN GET THROUGH THE INITIAL NEGATIVE REACTION. WE SHOULD NOT BE SURPRISED, HOWEVER, BY AN ITALIAN INITIATIVE TO REVIEW THE LEGAL JURISDICTION PROVISIONS OF THE NATO STATUS OF FORCES AGREEMENT, UNDER WHICH THE U.S. EXERCISED ITS PRIMARY JURISDICTION IN THE CAVALESE CASE. THE GOVERNMENT HERE WILL BE UNDER PRESSURE FOR GREATER TRANSPARENCY REGARDING THE AGREEMENTS ON BASING OF U.S. FORCES IN ITALY, AND WILL HAVE TO DEFEND AGAINST CHARGES THAT BILATERAL AND NATO AGREEMENTS HAVE NOT SUFFICIENTLY PROTECTED ITALIAN SOVEREIGNTY AND INTERESTS. THE ITALIANS ALSO WILL BE LOOKING FOR SOME LEGAL OR POLITICAL STRATEGEM TO ENSURE THAT SOMEONE HAS TO ACCEPT CLEAR RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CAVALESE TRAGEDY. THE ITALIANS REMEMBER PRESIDENT CLINTON'S ELOQUENT REMARKS AFTER THE ACCIDENT AND WILL PAY CLOSE ATTENTION TO HIS COMMENTS AFTER HIS MEETING WITH PM D'ALEMA. END SUMMARY AND COMMENT.

REACTION OF ITALIAN GOVERNMENT AND PARTIES OF THE GOVERNING COALITION
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4. (U) PRIME MINISTER MASSIMO D'ALEMA (DEMOCRATS OF THE LEFT - DS): "I AM SURE THAT WE WILL FIND A SOLUTION TOGETHER, NOT ONLY FOR ITALY, BUT ALSO FOR THE INTERESTS OF THE UNITED STATES AND ITS INTERNATIONAL IMAGE."

-- "WE APPLIED THE (SOFA) AND WE REMAIN CONVINCED THAT THE UNITED STATES IS A NATION OF LAW. WE ASK THAT JUSTICE BE DONE AND WE WILL EXPLORE ALL ROADS TO OBTAIN IT."

-- "ITALY DOES NOT WANT SUMMARY JUSTICE, BUT CANNOT SAY TO HER CITIZENS THAT NO ONE IS RESPONSIBLE."

DEFENSE MINISTER CARLO SCOGNAMIGLIO: "A VERDICT THAT GOES AGAINST THE EXPECTATIONS OF THOSE WHO BELIEVE IN JUSTICE."

-- "WHEN THE (NATO SOFA) COMES UP FOR REVIEW (SIC), ITALY WILL BEAR IN MIND THE EXPERIENCE OF THIS CASE."

-- AFTER A CONVERSATION WITH DEFENSE SECRETARY COHEN, THE MOD ADDED THAT A REVIEW OF INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS SHOULD NOT "BE AT THE EXPENSE OF THE HISTORICAL AND LASTING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN TWO PEOPLE AND TWO GOVERNMENTS."

JUSTICE MINISTER DILIBERTO (ITALIAN COMMUNISTS - PDCI): "WE LIVE IN A STATE OF LAW AND NO ONE WANTS OR IS LOOKING FOR A SCAPEGOAT. THERE IS THE OBLIGATION TO FIND OUT THE TRUTH."
CHAIRMAN OF THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES DEFENSE COMMITTEE VALDO SPINI (LABOR PARTY): "THIS IS A DECISION THAT IN NO WAY TOOK INTO CONSIDERATION THE ITALIAN AUTHORITIES' BAN ON LOW-ALTITUDE FLYING."

-- "WE NEED TO EXPLORE POSSIBLE MEANS OF APPEAL, INCLUDING INTERNATIONAL."

FORMER PRIME MINISTER ROMANO PRODI (DEMOCRATS): "I AM VERY SORROWFUL."

LEADER OF THE DEMOCRATS OF THE LEFT WALTER VELTRONI: "I CANNOT HELP BUT FEEL AMAZEMENT, INDIGNATION AND SORROW. THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT CANNOT AVOID TAKING RESPONSIBILITY, ABOVE ALL IN THE HUMAN CONTEXT, FOR THE DRAMA THE FAMILIES ARE LIVING."

CHAIRMAN OF THE CHAMBER FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE ACHILLE OCCHETTO (DEMOCRATS OF THE LEFT): "A HORRIFYING VERDICT. IN THE FACE OF SO MANY DEATHS IT IS AN ACT OF ARROGANCE AND A BREACH OF TRUST."

INTERIOR MINISTER ROSA RUSSO JERVOLINO (ITALIAN PEOPLE'S PARTY - PPI) - "AN ABSOLUTELY UNACCEPTABLE VERDICT. WE HAVE THE GREATEST RESPECT FOR THE AMERICAN JUDICIARY, BUT HERE IN ITALY WE HAVE 20 DEAD. WE ARE NOT ASKING FOR REVENGE; WE ARE ASKING FOR JUSTICE."

PRESIDENT OF THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES LUCIANO VIOLANTE (DEMOCRATS OF THE LEFT): IN A MESSAGE OF CONDOLENCE TO THE AUTHORITIES IN THE CAVALESE AREA: "COURT DECISIONS MUST BE RESPECTED, EVEN WHEN THEY APPEAR UNJUST."

LEADER OF THE ITALIAN COMMUNISTS ARMANDO COSSUTTA: "IT IS SHAMEFUL. WE ARE NOT AN AMERICAN COLONY. OUR NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY NEEDS TO BE RESTORED."

CHAIRMAN OF SENATE COMMITTEE ON MASSACRES GIOVANNI PELLEGRINO (DEMOCRATS OF THE LEFT): "I AM NOT SAYING THAT WE SHOULD DISMANTLE THE ENTIRE DEFENSE SYSTEM (NATO). THERE ARE OTHERS AREAS OF CONFLICT, FOR EXAMPLE THE BALKANS AND THE MIDDLE EAST." THINGS HAVE CHANGED - "WHY NOT UPDATE THE ACCORD?"

OPPOSITION REACTION
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5. (U) NATIONAL ALLIANCE (AN) LEADER GIANFRANCO FINI - "D'ALEMA MUST BE FIRM IN ASKING THE U.S. AUTHORITIES FOR CLARIFICATION. THE PILOT'S RESPONSIBILITY SEEMED CERTAIN, EVEN IF WE DON'T KNOW THE REASONS BEHIND THE VERDICT. HOWEVER, THE VERDICT OF THE U.S. MILITARY COURT DOES APPEAR TO DENY THE EVIDENCE."
FORZA ITALIA CHAMBER WHIP ENRICO LA LOGGIA - "IF INSTEAD OF FOCUSING ON TRYING OCALAN AND PINOCHET IN ITALY (THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT) WOULD DEAL WITH INCREASING THE COUNTRY'S CREDIBILITY, WE WOULD NOT HAVE TO SUBMIT TO SUCH A HUMILIATING VERDICT."

COMMUNIST RENEWAL LEADER FAUSTO BERTINOTTI - COMMENTING THAT THERE IS A NEED TO REVISIT THE PRESENCE OF US BASES IN ITALY: "IT'S NOT JUST THE ACQUITTAL OF THE PILOT - IT'S THE WHOLE SYSTEM."

-- "IT IS THE DE FACTO VIOLATION OF A NATION'S SOVEREIGNTY."

FOGLIETTA

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01
SSN: 1457
TOR: 990305092220 M3728172
DIST:

SIT: NSC

Cable

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SUBJ: BELGIAN REACTION TO CAVELESE VERDICT

TEXT:

UNCLAS BRUSSELS 001548

SENSITIVE

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: PREL, PGOV, MARR, IT, NATO, US, BE
SUBJECT: BELGIAN REACTION TO CAVELESE VERDICT

REFTEL: BRUSSELS 1535 (NOTAL)

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED--PROTECT ACCORDINGLY.

1. (SBU) SUMMARY: THE AMBASSADOR WAS CONVOKED TO MEET WITH THE MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND JUSTICE FOLLOWING THE ACQUITTAL OF RICHARD ASHBY, THE MARINE PILOT INVOLVED IN THE CAVALESE TRAGEDY. THE AIM OF THE MEETING WAS TO HEAR FROM THE AMBASSADOR PRIOR TO ISSUING A BELGIAN GOVERNMENT PRESS STATEMENT. THE GOB HAS BEEN UNDER PRESSURE FROM THE PRESS FOR A STATEMENT. THE BELGIANS AGREED TO CLEAR THE STATEMENT WITH THE EMBASSY. WE WILL SEND TEXT OF THEIR PROPOSED RELEASE BY SEPTEL AS SOON AS RECEIVED. THE MEETING WENT WELL AND WE BELIEVE THE STATEMENT WILL BE AIMED AT CALMING LOCAL EMOTIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. (U) THE FLEMISH PRESS HAS REACTED STRONGLY TO THE ACQUITTAL OF MARINE PILOT RICHARD ASHBY. ALL OF THE

BELGIAN VICTIMS WERE FLEMISH. FRENCH LANGUAGE COVERAGE WAS MORE MODERATE AND VERY LIMITED. AS A RESULT OF THE PRESS COVERAGE, THE ACQUITTAL WAS ONE OF THE SUBJECTS DISCUSSED AT THE WEEKLY FRIDAY MORNING BELGIAN CABINET MEETING. AT THAT MEETING IT WAS DECIDED TO CONVOKE THE AMBASSADOR TO MEET WITH BOTH THE MINISTERS OF JUSTICE AND OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS IN ORDER FOR THE AMBASSADOR TO PROVIDE THE GOVERNMENT AN EXPLANATION. OFFICIALLY THE GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT SAY ANYTHING UNTIL IT HEARD FROM THE AMBASSADOR. (N.B. EVEN BEFORE THE CABINET MEETING, JUSTICE MINISTER TONY VAN PARYS TOLD A FLEMISH RADIO STATION: "I CANNOT IMAGINE THAT UNDER THE BELGIAN JUDICIAL SYSTEM SUCH A VERDICT WOULD HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE. I WILL RAISE THE ISSUE WITH THE PRIME MINISTER AT THE CABINET TO SEE WHAT STEPS CAN BE TAKEN. BUT I HAVE TO ADMIT MY SENSE OF JUSTICE HAS BEEN VIOLATED.")

3. (SBU) FOREIGN MINISTER ERIC DERYCKE AND JUSTICE MINISTER VAN PARYS WERE ACCOMPANIED BY THE FORMER'S JUDICIAL AFFAIRS ADVISOR, RUDI VEESTRAETEN, AND BY THE LATTER'S INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS ADVISOR, PETER GIJSELS. THE FOREIGN MINISTER OPENED THE MEETING AND SET THE TONE OF THE SESSION WHICH WAS COOPERATIVE. VAN PARYS EMPHASIZED THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S MAIN CONCERN WAS TO PUT OUT A STATEMENT THAT WAS REASSURING TO THE FAMILIES.

4. (SBU) THE AMBASSADOR ASSURED THE BELGIANS THAT THE ACQUITTAL IN NO WAY AFFECTED THE FAMILIES' RIGHT TO MAKE CLAIMS THROUGH THE ITALIAN COURTS, NOR DID IT ABSOLVE THE US FROM ITS RESPONSIBILITY. HE POINTED OUT THAT THE JURY HAD THE BENEFIT OF HEARING ALL OF THE EVIDENCE. HE NOTED A STATEMENT ON BELGIAN RADIO BY ONE OF THE AMERICAN LAWYERS FOR THE BELGIAN FAMILIES WHO HAD STATED THAT "THE TRIAL SHOWED THAT ASHBY HAD BEEN SENT OUT WITH A BAD AIRPLANE, A BAD MAP, BAD INSTRUCTIONS AND A BAD TRAINING." THE AMBASSADOR RENEWED TO THE FAMILIES VIA THE MINISTERS OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY.

5. (SBU) FOLLOWING THE MEETING, MINISTRY OFFICIALS ARE DRAFTING A PRESS RELEASE, WHICH THEY AGREED TO CLEAR WITH THE EMBASSY. WE WILL CABLE TEXT BY SEPTEL WHEN IT IS RECEIVED.

6. (SBU) COMMENT: OBVIOUSLY, THE WHOLE PURPOSE OF THE MEETING WAS TO ALLOW THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT TO PUT OUT A STATEMENT NOTING THAT THEY HAD RAISED THE MATTER WITH THE AMBASSADOR. WE MADE SUGGESTIONS ON WHAT THAT MIGHT INCLUDE, AND THE BELGIANS APPEAR INTENT ON COMING OUT WITH SOMETHING THAT IN NO WAY WILL BE HURTFUL TO OUR RELATIONS. HOPEFULLY, PANDERING TO LOCAL CONSTITUENCIES WILL NOT GET IN THE WAY.
CHESHES

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 1548

TOR: 990305110055 M3728447

DIST:

SIT: ALLEN ANDREASEN BAKER BANDLER BELL BLACK BLINKEN BOUCHARD BROWN

BUTLER DAVIDSON DEROSA EBITZ GORDON KRASS MCELDOWNEY PETERMAN PIMENTEL
SAPIRO VONLIPSEY WITKOWSKY
SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: IMMEDIATE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: OAAUZYUW RUEHBSA1558 0641704-UUUU--RHEHNSC.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: O 051704Z MAR 99
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
OSRI: RUEHBS
DTG: 051704Z MAR 99
ORIG: AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2233
INFO: RUEHRO/AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE 0147
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
RUEACMC/CMC WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
RULSMCA/CDRMCDEC QUANTICO IMMEDIATE
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC IMMEDIATE
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
RUFQAAA/USNMR SHAPE BE//INTAF// IMMEDIATE
RUCBLFK/MARFORLANT LN ELEM NORFOLK VA IMMEDIATE
RUFPAHQ/16AF AVIANO AB IT IMMEDIATE
RUFPAFW/31FW AVIANO AB IT IMMEDIATE
RUEHXP/ALL NATO POST COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE
SUBJ: BELGIAN GOVERNMENT RELEASE RE CONVOKING AMBASSADOR ON CAVELESE VERDICT

TEXT:

UNCLAS BRUSSELS 001558

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: PREL, PGOV, MARR, IT, NATO, US, BE
SUBJECT: BELGIAN GOVERNMENT RELEASE RE CONVOKING AMBASSADOR ON CAVELESE VERDICT

REF: BRUSSELS 1548

1. BELOW IS THE EMBASSY'S ROUGH TRANSLATION OF THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT'S PRESS RELEASE TO BE ISSUED THIS AFTERNOON. WE MADE TWO PROPOSED TWO CHANGES IN PARAS 3 AND 4 WHICH THE MINISTER'S JUDICIAL ADVISOR SAID WERE ACCEPTABLE. THE PARTS WE RECOMMENDED REMOVING APPEAR IN PARENTHESIS. EMBASSY SUGGESTIONS APPEAR IN QUOTES.

2. THE MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND OF JUSTICE CONVOKED THE AMBASSADOR OF THE UNITED STATES THIS AFTERNOON IN ORDER TO DEMONSTRATE THE EMOTION OF THE FAMILIES FOLLOWING THE DECISION OF THE MILITARY TRIBUNAL WHICH ACQUITTED PILOT RICHARD ASHBY YESTERDAY, AND IN ORDER TO ASK HIM FOR EXPLANATIONS CONCERNING THE CONTINUATION OF THE EXAMINATION OF THE RESPONSIBILITIES IN THE CAVALESE ACCIDENT.

DURING THE CONVERSATION, THE AMBASSADOR OF THE UNITED

STATES AGAIN MADE KNOWN HIS PROFOUND SADNESS ABOUT THE EVENTS WHICH OCCURRED AT CAVALESE AND HIS COMPASSION TOWARD THE BELGIAN FAMILIES, PARTICULARLY ON THE OCCASION OF THE ACQUITTAL OF THE PILOT.

THE AMERICAN DIPLOMAT BROUGHT OUT TO THE MINISTERS NEW ELEMENTS RELATIVE TO THE DECISION OF THE MILITARY TRIBUNAL. "AMONG OTHERS" HE (THUS ANNOUNCED) "CITED THE REMARKS" OF THE ATTORNEY FOR THE BELGIAN FAMILIES, MR. DON KING, WHO HAD DECLARED THIS MORNING, IN A FIRST REACTION, TO ACCEPT THE DECISION OF THE JUDGE. THE ATTORNEY HAD INDICATED UNDERSTANDING OF THE JURY WHICH HAD EXONERATED THE PILOT OF PERSONAL, PENAL RESPONSIBILITY IN THE STRICT SENSE. IN EFFECT, THE PILOT HAD BEEN FLYING AN AIRCRAFT WITH A DEFECTIVE ALTIMETER, HAD BEEN CARRYING AN ERRONEOUS MAP, AND HAD RECEIVED BAD INSTRUCTIONS FROM HIS SUPERIORS.

THE AMBASSADOR ALSO CONFIRMED THAT THE DECISION OF THE MILITARY TRIBUNAL DOES NOT DIMINISH THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE AMERICAN STATE. THIS RESPONSIBILITY IS ESTABLISHED, AND THE PENTAGON WILL PAY (ALL) REPARATIONS "DECIDED BY THE ITALIAN COURTS" WHICH ARE DUE TO THE FAMILIES UNDER TERMS OF THE SOFA TREATY. THE UNITED STATES WILL ASSURE MOREOVER THE ACCOMPANYING OF THE FAMILIES IN THE PROCEDURES WHICH THEY MUST STILL UNDERTAKE.

THE MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND OF JUSTICE CONFIRM FINALLY THEIR COMMITMENT TO FOLLOW THE AFFAIR CLOSELY IN BELGIUM AND TO HELP THE FAMILIES. THIS SHOULD CONTRIBUTE TO OBTAINING AS RAPIDLY AS POSSIBLE THE PAYMENT OF REPARATIONS.
CHESHES

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 1558

TOR: 990305121017 M3728630

DIST:

SIT: ALLEN ANDREASEN BAKER BANDLER BELL BLACK BLINKEN BOUCHARD BROWN BUTLER DAVIDSON DEROSA EBITZ GORDON KRASS MCELDOWNEY PETERMAN PIMENTEL SAPIRO VONLIPSEY WITKOWSKY
SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: IMMEDIATE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: OAAUZYUW RUEHCAA2299 0650700-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: O P 060657Z MAR 99
LINE4: FM SECSTATE WASHDC
OSRI: RUEHC
DTG: 060657Z MAR 99
ORIG: SECSTATE WASHDC
TO: RUEHKB/AMEMBASSY BAKU IMMEDIATE 0000
RUEHBW/AMEMBASSY BELGRADE IMMEDIATE 0000
RUEHSL/AMEMBASSY BRATISLAVA IMMEDIATE 0000
RUEHTA/AMEMBASSY ALMATY IMMEDIATE 0000
RUEHCH/AMEMBASSY CHISINAU IMMEDIATE 0000
RUEHKV/AMEMBASSY KIEV IMMEDIATE 0000
RUEHLJ/AMEMBASSY LJUBLJANA IMMEDIATE 0000
RUEHMRE/AMCONSUL MARSEILLE IMMEDIATE 0000
RUEHSK/AMEMBASSY MINSK IMMEDIATE 0000
RUEHRA/AMEMBASSY RIGA IMMEDIATE 0000
RUEHVJ/AMEMBASSY SARAJEVO IMMEDIATE 0000
RUEHTL/AMEMBASSY TALLINN IMMEDIATE 0000
RUEHNT/AMEMBASSY TASHKENT IMMEDIATE 0000
RUEHTG/AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA IMMEDIATE 0000
RUEHTI/AMEMBASSY TIRANA IMMEDIATE 0000
RUEHUNV/USMISSION UNVIE VIENNA IMMEDIATE
RUEHVL/AMEMBASSY VILNIUS IMMEDIATE 0000
RUEHYE/AMEMBASSY YEREVAN IMMEDIATE 0000
RUEHVB/AMEMBASSY ZAGREB IMMEDIATE 0000
EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE
RUEHLZ/AMCONSUL LEIPZIG PRIORITY 0000
RUEHMZ/AMCONSUL MUNICH PRIORITY 0000
RUEHSR/AMCONSUL STRASBOURG PRIORITY 0000
RUFGNOA/USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE//ECPA PRIORITY
INFO: RUEHDA/AMCONSUL ADANA PRIORITY 0000
RUEHIT/AMCONSUL ISTANBUL PRIORITY 0000
RUEHIA/USIA WASHDC 0000
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC 0000
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC 0000
RUETIAA/DIRNSA FORT GEORGE G MEADE MD
SUBJ: EUR DAILY PRESS GUIDANCE - MARCH 5, 1999

TEXT:

UNCLAS STATE 042299

PLEASE PASS TO ALL PAOS USIA PLEASE PASS TO EEN AND WEU

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: OPRC
SUBJECT: EUR DAILY PRESS GUIDANCE - MARCH 5, 1999

1. THE FOLLOWING PRESS GUIDANCE WAS PREPARED AND APPROVED BY THE BUREAU OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS AND OTHER SELECTED BUREAUS HANDLING ISSUES OF INTEREST TO EUR POSTS FOR THE DEPARTMENT BRIEFING. QUESTIONS SHOULD BE REFERRED TO DOUGLAS EBNER, SUSAN ELBOW, ARIC SCHWAN (BOSNIA), OR MARK SMITH (KOSOVO), EUR POLICY AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS.

TOPICS INCLUDE:

SERBIA (KOSOVO): KOSOVO
ITALY: CAVALESE - PM D'ALEMA REACTION AND AMB. FOGLIETTA STATEMENT
TURKEY: GREEK-TURKISH TENSIONS
GERMANY: GERMAN DEATH PENALTY CASE
GERMANY: MEETINGS IN GERMANY ON HOLOCAUST ISSUES
SERBIA (BELGRADE): LIFTING OF AUTHORIZED DEPARTURE
EU: BANANA DISPUTE WITH THE EU

2. SERBIA (KOSOVO): KOSOVO

SITUATION UPDATE

-- WE HAVE NO REPORTS OF MAJOR FIGHTING UNDERWAY TODAY IN KOSOVO. MOVEMENT AND REDEPLOYMENT OF VJ AND POLICE UNITS CONTINUES AND TENSIONS REMAIN HIGH IN MANY AREAS.

-- THE FIGHTING MONITORED BY THE KVM IN THE MIJALIC (ME-YAH-LITCH) AREA NEAR VUCITRN (VOO-CHEE-TERN) YESTERDAY REPORTEDLY RESULTED IN THE DEATH OF TWO SERBS. A THIRD SERB VJ SOLDIER IS REPORTED MISSING.

REPORTS FROM THE MACEDONIAN SIDE OF THE BORDER WITH KOSOVO INDICATE NOW THAT SOME 5,000 VILLAGERS FROM NORTH AND WEST OF DJENERAL JANKOVIC FLED THEIR HOMES DURING RECENT FIGHTING. OF THOSE1 SOME 1,200 CROSSED INTO MACEDONIAN TERRITORY.

Q: ANYTHING FURTHER ON SENATOR DOLE'S VISIT? HAVE THE FRY AUTHORITIES REFUSED TO ISSUE HIM A VISA?

-- SENATOR DOLE WAS NOT ISSUED A VISA BY THE FRY. AS A RESULT, HE IS MEETING TODAY IN SKOPJE WITH A NUMBER OF MEMBERS OF THE KOSOVAR ALBANIAN RAMBOUILLET DELEGATION, WHO HAVE TRAVELLED TO SKOPJE FROM KOSOVO.

-- OTHER KOSOVAR ALBANIANS WITH WHOM SENATOR DOLE INTENDED TO MEET COULD NOT CROSS THE BORDER TO SKOPJE, BECAUSE THEY DO NOT HAVE THE NECESSARY DOCUMENTS. SENATOR DOLE DID SPEAK BY PHONE WITH KLA REPRESENTATIVE JAQUP KRASNIQI.

-- SENATOR DOLE IS ENCOURAGING THE KOSOVAR ALBANIANS TO SIGN ON TO THE RAMBOUILLET ACCORDS FOR AN INTERIM POLITICAL SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT.

-- SENATOR DOLE WILL CONTINUE MEETING WITH THE GROUP THIS

EVENING, AND WILL DEPART FROM SKOPJE TOMORROW MORNING FOR LONDON.

-- WE REGRET THE FRY'S REFUSAL TO ISSUE A VISA TO SENATOR DOLE. SENATOR DOLE'S VISIT IS INTENDED TO ADVANCE THE PROSPECTS FOR A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT IN KOSOVO, AND IT IS THUS IN THE INTERESTS OF ALL THE PEOPLE OF THE FRY.

Q: ANY COMMENT ON REPORTS THAT BELGRADE IS STRENGTHENING ITS FORCES ON KOSOVO'S BORDERS TO REPEL ATTACKS BY TERRORISTS?

-- THE U.S. IS CONCERNED BY THE RECENT BUILDUP OF FRY TROOPS ALONG THE NORTHERN BORDER OF KOSOVO, WHICH MAY INDICATE AN IMPENDING OFFENSIVE INTO KOSOVO. APPROXIMATELY 9,000 TO 10,000 TROOPS HAVE BEEN MOVED NEAR THE BORDERS OF KOSOVO, ALONG WITH ABOUT 100 TANKS, CLOSE TO 100 ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIERS AND 100 ARTILLERY PIECES.

-- WE ARE ALSO CONCERNED BY THE BUILDUP OF VJ AND MUP FORCES NEAR THE MACEDONIAN BORDER, AND BY THE RECENT FIGHTING BETWEEN THOSE FORCES AND THE KLA.

-- WE CALL UPON BOTH SIDES TO RESPECT THE CEASE-FIRE AND AVOID PROVOCATIVE ACTIONS.

Q: ANY REACTION TO STATEMENTS BY THE BRITISH CHIEF OF OPERATIONS OF KVM THAT HE DOES NOT THINK THE MISSION CAN CONTINUE TO STAGGER ON BECAUSE OF THE HOSTILE ENVIRONMENT?

-- THE SAFETY OF INTERNATIONAL PERSONNEL IN KOSOVO IS NATURALLY A PRIORITY OF THE FIRST ORDER. OSCE PERSONNEL IN KOSOVO ARE OPERATING IN A STATE OF HEIGHTENED ALERT.

-- WE BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT THE OSCE IS CARRYING OUT AN IMPORTANT MONITORING AND LOCAL CONFLICT RESOLUTION MISSION IN KOSOVO AND THAT IT WILL CONTINUE ITS WORK.

-- THE CURRENT ENVIRONMENT IS A SERIOUS CONCERN. THE OSCE MISSION WOULD BE WITHDRAWN IF ITS SAFETY COMES INTO SERIOUS QUESTION. NATOFS EXTRACTION FORCE IN THE FYROM STANDS READY TO ASSIST IF REQUESTED TO DO SO.

-- MISSION OFFICIALS HAVE TOLD US THAT THEY CAN PULL OUT VERY QUICKLY, ESPECIALLY IF THEY HAVE SOME ADVANCE WARNING.

-- WE EXPECT THE FRY AUTHORITIES TO FULFILL THEIR OBLIGATION UNDER THE OSCE-FRY AGREEMENT TO FULLY GUARANTEE THE SECURITY OF ALL KVM VERIFIERS.

Q: ANYTHING NEW ON THE VISIT OF KLA REPRESENTATIVES BEEN INVITED TO WASHINGTON?

-- AN INVITATION HAS BEEN EXTENDED TO KLA REPRESENTATIVES TO VISIT THE U.S.

-- THE PURPOSE OF SUCH A VISIT WOULD BE TO URGE KLA

REPRESENTATIVES TO SUPPORT THE INTERIM SETTLEMENT PLAN, AND

TO DISCUSS THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE KLA, CONSISTENT WITH THE AGREEMENT.

-- THE PRECISE TIMING OF A VISIT AND THE LIST OF THOSE COMING ARE STILL BEING WORKED OUT.

-- FOR THE TIME BEING, THE WORK THEY ARE DOING IN GATHERING SUPPORT FOR THE AGREEMENT IS THE PRIORITY.

(IF ASKED)

Q: HAVE THE FRY AUTHORITIES GIVEN ASSURANCES THAT THEY WILL ALLOW KLA REPRESENTATIVES TO TRAVEL TO THE U.S?

-- WHEN THE DETAILS OF A VISIT ARE CONFIRMED, WE WILL OF COURSE RAISE THIS ISSUE WITH THE AUTHORITIES IN BELGRADE.

Q: IS AMBASSADOR HOLEROOKE GOING TO BELGRADE?

-- I CANNOT CONFIRM SUCH REPORTS.

-- A NUMBER OF POSSIBLE VISITS TO THE REGION BY U.S. AND EUROPEAN OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN CONSIDERED, BUT THERE HAS BEEN NO DECISION TO SEND AMB. HOLBROOKE TO BELGRADE.

3. ITALY: CAVALESE-PM D'ALEMA REACTION AND AMB. FOGLIETTA STATEMENT

Q: PM D'ALEMA SAID HE WAS BAFFLED BY THE VERDICT. WHAT IS YOUR RESPONSE? WILL THIS NOW BE ON THE AGENDA FOR THE PRESIDENT'S MEETINGS?

A: -- WE HAVE HEARD THE NEWS REPORTS REGARDING PRIME MINISTER DFALEMALS REACTION TO YESTERDAYFS VERDICTS. WE EXPECT THAT THE PRESIDENT AND THE PRIME MINISTER WILL LIKELY DISCUSS THIS AND OTHER ASPECTS OF THE CAVALESE ACCIDENT DURING THEIR MEETINGS TODAY. I WOULD REFER YOU TO THE WHITE HOUSE FOR A READOUT OF THOSE MEETINGS.

-- I WOULD UNDERSCORE THAT WE UNDERSTAND THE DEPTH OF FEELING IN ITALY AND ELSEWHERE REGARDING THIS ACCIDENT. WE, TOO, WERE DEEPLY SADDENED BY THIS TRAGEDY. WE WERE AND ARE COMMITTED TO DOING OUR PART, AS PROVIDED FOR UNDER THE SOFA TREATY.

Q: AMBASSADOR FOGLIETTA IN ROME SAID HE WAS SHOCKED BY THE VERDICT AND THAT THE PILOTS WERE AT FAULT FOR FLYING

TOO LOW AND TOO FAST. AREN'T YOU SHOCKED? HOW DO EXPLAIN THE VERDICT IF THE PILOTS WERE AT FAULT?

A: -- AS I SAID, WE UNDERSTAND THE DEPTH OF FEELING WHICH SURROUNDS THIS ISSUE. WE REGRET THAT THIS ACCIDENT RESULTED IN THE DEATHS OF 20 PEOPLE AND IN LOSS OF PROPERTY TO THE TOWN OF CAVALESE.

-- OUR EFFORTS THROUGHOUT HAVE BEEN FOCUSED EXCLUSIVELY ON ENSURING FAIR AND TRANSPARENT PROCESS AND TO TAKE STEPS TO PREVENT A SIMILAR OCCURRENCE IN THE FUTURE.
WE UNDERSTAND THAT THERE ARE FURTHER LEGAL PROCEEDINGS UNDERWAY REGARDING THIS CASE AND THEREFORE IT WOULD BE INAPPROPRIATE FOR US TO COMMENT FURTHER ON THE VERDICTS.

4. TURKEY: GREEK-TURKISH TENSIONS

Q: HAS THE U.S. SENT FORMAL DIPLOMATIC NOTES TO ANKARA AND THENS REGARDING TENSIONS IN THE REGION?

A: -- AS YOU KNOW, WE DON'T DISCUSS DIPLOMATIC EXCHANGES. WE HAVE SAID, HOWEVER, MANY TIMES THAT WE BELIEVE THE TURKISH AND GREEK GOVERNMENTS SHOULD TONE DOWN THEIR PUBLIC RHETORIC AND DISCUSS ISSUES BETWEEN THEM IN DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS.

Q: THERE HAVE BEEN PRESS REPORTS THAT THE CHARGE AT EMBASSY ATHENS CALLED ON THE FOREIGN AND DEFENSE MINISTRIES YESTERDAY. WHAT'S GOING ON? IS THIS ABOUT THE AEGEAN? THE ARMS COPERATION WITH RUSSIA? OCALAN? SOMETHING ELSE?

A: -- OUR AMBASSADORS AND CHARGES ROUTINELY CALL ON FOREIGN AND DEFENSE MINISTRIES TO DISCUSS A RANGE OF ISSUES. WE DO NOT DIVULGE THE DETAILS OF OUR DIPLOMATIC CONTACTS.

(IF PRESSED)

-- IN THE COURSE OF OUR DIPLOMATIC CONTACTS IN BOTH ATHENS AND ANKARA, WE HAVE BEEN COUNSELLING OUR ALLIES TO RESTRAIN THEIR RHETORIC AND WORK TO REDUCE BILATERAL TENSION.

5. GERMANY: GERMAN DEATH PENALTY CASE

Q: THE GERMANS ARE SAYING WE VIOLATED INTERNATIONAL LAW. DID WE?

A: -- WE DO NOT HAVE ENOUGH FACTS ABOUT THE CONSULAR NOTIFICATION ISSUE TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE VIENNA CONVENTION ON CONSULAR RELATIONS WAS VIOLATED. IN PARTICULAR, WE NEED TO INVESTIGATE FURTHER WHETHER AND WHEN AUTHORITIES IN ARIZONA WHO WOULD HAVE BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR NOTIFICATION BECAME AWARE THAT THE LAGRANDS WERE GERMAN NATIONALS BUT NOT UNITED STATES NATIONALS.

-- WITH RESPECT TO THE EXECUTION ITSELF, THERE HAS NOT BEEN ANY VIOLATION OF INTERNATIONAL LAW. IMPOSITION OF THE DEATH PENALTY ON THE LAGRANDS WAS NOT CONTRARY TO INTERNATIONAL LAW. THE LAST-MINUTE PROVISIONAL MEASURES ORDER OF THE INTERNATTONAL COURT OF JUSTICE DIRECTED THE U.S. GOVERNMENT TO PROVIDE A COPY OF THE ORDER TO THE GOVERNOR OF ARIZONA, WHICH WE DID. APART FROM THAT, IT ASKED THE GOVERNOR TO STAY THE EXECUTION, BUT THIS WAS A STATEMENT OF WHAT THE COURT THOUGHT THE GOVERNOR SHOULD DO,

AND NOT A LEGAL OBLIGATION.

Q: HAS THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT SENT A DIPLOMATIC PROTEST ON THE EXECUTION OF WALTER LAGRAND?

A: -- NO, THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAS NOT RECEIVED A DIPLOMATIC PROTEST ON THE EXECUTION OF WALTER LAGRAND.

6. GERMANY: MEETINGS IN GERMANY ON HOLOCAUST ISSUES

Q: WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE MEETINGS IN GERMANY ON HOLOCAUST ISSUES, TAKING PLACE MARCH 5, 6 AND 9TH?

A: -- THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT IS HAVING A SERIES OF MEETINGS IN BONN ON MARCH 5, 6 AND 9 TO CONTINUE CONSULTATIONS WITH INTERESTED PARTIES ON THE FOUNDATION INITIATIVE OF GERMAN ENTERPRISES: REMEMBRANCE, RESPONSIBILITY AND FUTURE, WHICH WAS FORMALLY ANNOUNCED ON FEBRUARY 16. THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT, WHICH SUPPORTS THE GERMAN INITIATIVE, PARTICIPATED IN THESE MEETINGS.

-- ON MARCH 5, CHANCELLERY MINISTER HOMBACH IS HOLDING A MEETING WITH CERTAIN LEADERS OF GERMAN AND AMERICAN JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS. UNITED STATES UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE STUART EIZENSTAT IS PARTICIPATING IN THIS MEETING, AS WELL AS A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL.

-- ON MARCH 6, UNDER SECRETARY EIZENSTAT WILL MEET WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF GERMAN INDUSTRY TO DISCUSS THE INITIATIVE AND RELATED ISSUES.

-- ON MARCH 9, CHANCELLERY MINISTER HOMBACH WILL MEET WITH A REPRESENTATIVE GROUP OF U.S. ATTORNEYS FOR PERSONS WHO HAVE BROUGHT CLASS ACTION LAWSUITS IN THE UNITED STATES AGAINST GERMAN COMPANIES, IN ORDER TO HEAR THEIR VIEWS ON THESE MATTERS. U.S. AMBASSADOR KORNBLUM WILL PARTICIPATE IN THIS MEETING.

-- THIS SERIES OF MEETINGS IS INTENDED TO CLARIFY THE VIEWS AND INTERESTS OF THE PARTICIPANTS AND SHOULD PROVE USEFUL IN DEVELOPING AND IMPLEMENTING THE DETAILS OF THE GERMAN FOUNDATION INITIATIVE.

(IF ASKED)

Q: WHAT WAS DISCUSSED DURING THESE MEETINGS?

A: -- THESE WERE CONFIDENTIAL CONSULTATIONS. IT HINDERS THE PROCESS OF DEVELOPING THE FOUNDATION INITIATIVE TO AIR THE VIEWS EXPRESSED IN PUBLIC.

(IF ASKED)

Q: WERE THE CLASS ACTION LAWSUITS DISCUSSED?

A: -- THE LAWSUITS WERE DISCUSSED AT THESE MEETINGS. HOWEVER, THESE WERE NOT SETTLEMENT NEGOTIATIONS. RATHER,

THE MEETINGS PROVIDED AN OPPORTUNITY FOR VIEWS TO BE EXCHANGED AND CLARIFIED.

7. SERBIA (BELGRADE) : LIFTING OF AUTHORIZED DEPARTURE

Q: HAS THE DEPARTMENT LIFTED AUTHORIZED DEPARTURE STATUS FOR EMBASSY BELGRADE?

A: -- THE DEPARTMENT HAS LIFTED THE AUTHORIZED DEPARTURE STATUS FOR THE U.S. EMBASSY IN BELGRADE. THIS CHANGE PERMITS THE RETURN OF USG EMPLOYEES WHO HAD DEPARTED BELGRADE UNDER AUTHORIZED DEPARTURE, AND OF THEIR DEPENDENTS.

-- THE DEPARTMENT WILL CONTINUE TO MONITOR CLOSELY THE SECURITY SITUATION FOR THE U.S. EMBASSY IN BELGRADE.

Q: WILL THE EMBASSY BE OPEN FOR FULL SERVICES, INCLUDING ROUTINE CONSULAR MATTERS, COMMERCIAL REPRESENTATION, ETC?

A: -- NORMAL EMBASSY OPERATIONS WILL BE RESUMED TO THE FULLEST EXTENT POSSIBLE.

Q: WHAT ABOUT DEPENDENTS WHO HAVE LEFT THE FRY?

A: -- WITH THE LIFTING OF AUTHORIZED DEPARTURE, DEPENDENTS OF MISSION EMPLOYEES MAY RETURN TO BELGRADE.

Q: WHAT GUIDANCE DOES THE DEPARTURE OFFER FOR PRIVATE CITIZENS?

A: -- THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE CONTINUES TO WARN U.S. CITIZENS AGAINST TRAVEL TO SERBIA-MONTENEGRO. WE URGE THOSE U.S. CITIZENS REMAINING IN SERBIA-MONTENEGRO TO CAREFULLY EVALUATE THEIR PERSONAL SECURITY SITUATION AND TO DEPART THE COUNTRY, IF THEY DEEM IT APPROPRIATE.

8. EU: BANANA DISPUTE WITH THE EU

Q: IS WITHHOLDING LIQUIDATION AN ILLEGAL ACTION, AS THE EU CLAIMS?

A: -- NO. BY WITHHOLDING LIQUIDATION, WE ARE PRESERVING OUR RIGHTS TO SUSPEND CONCESSIONS IN THE AMOUNT OF DAMAGES THAT WILL BE AUTHORIZED BY THE ARBITRATORS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TIMETABLE PRESCRIBED BY THE WTO DISPUTE SETTLEMENT UNDERSTANDING. WE ARE NOT TAKING THIS STEP LIGHTLY, BUT ONLY AFTER MONTHS OF INTENSE EFFORTS TO FIND A SOLUTION TO THIS PROBLEM. THE KEY ISSUE HERE IS NOT BANANAS OR CASHMERE SWEATERS, BUT THE APPLICATION OF WTO RULES. WE CONTINUE TO PURSUE EVERY AVENUE TO REACH A MUTUALLY-ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION THAT IS CONSISTENT WITH WTO RULES.

Q: DOES THE U.S. DECISION TO WITHHOLD LIQUIDATION OF CUSTOMS DUTIES VIOLATE OUR WTO OBLIGATIONS?

A: - - NO. WE ARE NOT SUSPENDING TARIFF CONCESSIONS AT

THIS TIME, PENDING A RULING OF THE WTO ARBITRATORS ON THE AMOUNT OF U.S. DAMAGES AS A RESULT OF THE EU'S DISCRIMINATORY BANANA IMPORT REGIME. THE ACTION ANNOUNCED ON MARCH 3 PROTECTS OUR ABILITY TO EXERCISE OUR RIGHT TO SUSPEND TARIFF CONCESSIONS ON SELECTED EU IMPORTS, RETROACTIVELY TO MARCH 3, AS AUTHORIZED BY THE WTO DISPUTE SETTLEMENT UNDERSTANDING, WITHIN THE TIME FRAME ESTABLISHED BY THE WTO RULES.

Q: HOW EXACTLY DOES WITHHOLDING LIQUIDATION WORK?

A: -- WHEN GOODS ARE IMPORTED, U.S. CUSTOMS DETERMINES THE AMOUNT OF DUTY TO BE LEVIED, OR LIQUIDATED. IN THIS CASE, AS OF MARCH 3, IMPORTERS OF EU PRODUCTS ON THE RETALIATION LIST WILL NOT BE BILLED FOR THE DUTY AMOUNT (THE LIQUIDATION WILL BE WITHHELD) UNTIL THE FINAL LEGAL DETERMINATION IS MADE ON WHICH PRODUCTS WILL BE AFFECTED -- CONSISTENT WITH THE LEVEL OF SUSPENSION OF CONCESSIONS AUTHORIZED BY THE ARBITRATION PANEL. IMPORTERS OF THE PRODUCTS IN QUESTION WILL, HOWEVER, BE REQUIRED TO POST A BOND.

Q: WILL THE POSTPONEMENT OF THE ARBITRATORS' FINAL DECISION MEAN AN ENDLESS LOOP OF LITIGATION?

A: -- NO. WE BELIEVE THE ARBITRATORS ARE MAKING A GOOD FAITH EFFORT TO DETERMINE THE LEVEL OF DAMAGES CAUSED BY THE EU'S CONTINUED NON-COMPLIANCE WITH WTO RECOMMENDATIONS TO BRING ITS BANANA IMPORT REGIME IN LINE WITH ITS WTO OBLIGATIONS. THEY HAVE REQUESTED THAT BOTH THE U.S. AND THE EU PROVIDE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION BY MARCH 15 TO DETERMINE THE AMOUNT OF DAMAGES THAT THE U.S. CAN CLAIM.

Q: BY ASKING FOR MORE INFORMATION, ARE THE ARBITRATORS INDICATING THAT THEY INTEND TO REDUCE THE U.S. ESTIMATE OF $520 MILLION IN DAMAGES?

A: -- WE CAN'T PREDICT WHAT THE ARBITRATORS WILL DO, GIVEN THE COMPLEXITY OF BOTH THE EU'S BANANA IMPORT REGIME AND THE VARIABLES THAT NEED TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT. HOWEVER, WE ARE PREPARED TO WORK WITH THE ARBITRATORS AND PROVIDE FURTHER INFORMATION ON OUR CALCULATIONS.

Q: HAS THE U.S. ACTION CLOSED THE DOOR TO FURTHER CONSULTATIONS WITH THE EU?

A: -- NO. WE HAVE BEEN IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION AND REMAIN OPEN TO A NEGOTIATED SOLUTION TO THIS ISSUE.

Q: DOES THE U.S. ACTION UNDERMINE THE WTO, AS THE EU ALLEGES?

A: -- OUR DECISION TO WITHHOLD LIQUIDATION ON EU IMPORTS AS OF MARCH 3 WILL ALLOW US TO PROTECT OUR WTO RIGHTS WHILE THE WTO ARBITRATORS MAKE THEIR FINAL DECISION. WE WILL NOT COLLECT HIGHER DUTIES UNTIL THE ARBITRATORS MAKE THEIR FINAL DETERMINATION.

Q: DO THE U.S. ACTIONS HARM BANANA PRODUCERS IN THE CARIBBEAN?

A: -- OUR WTO CASE IS AGAINST THE EU, NOT THE CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES. WE SUPPORT TARIFF PREFERENCES FOR THE CARIBBEAN, AND WILL SEEK TO ENSURE THAT THEY ARE INCLUDED IN ANY PACKAGE THAT WE NEGOTIATE WITH THE EU. WE BELIEVE WE CAN FIND A WTO-COMPATIBLE SOLUTION AND HAVE CONSULTED WITH THE CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES ON THIS. WE ARE READY DO SO AGAIN.

MINIMIZE CONSIDERED
PICKERING

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 2299

TOR: 990306020907 M3730070

DIST:

SIT: NSC

Cable

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 13526
Department of State Guidelines, November 6, 2015
By KOE NARA, Date 7/15/24
2019-0047-F

PREC: IMMEDIATE
CLASS: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
LINE1: OAACZYUW RUEHROA1546 0671752-CCCC--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNY CCCCC ZZH
LINE3: O 081752Z MAR 99
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY ROME
OSRI: RUEHRO
DTG: 081752Z MAR 99
ORIG: AMEMBASSY ROME
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0066
INFO: RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC IMMEDIATE
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
RUFQAAA/USNMR SHAPE BE//INTAF// IMMEDIATE
RUFGNOA/USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE IMMEDIATE
RHFQAAA/CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE IMMEDIATE
RUFNPKD/USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT//INTAFF// IMMEDIATE
RUCBLFK/MARFORLANT NORFOLK VA IMMEDIATE
RUFPAHQ/16AF AVIANO AB IT IMMEDIATE
RUFPAFW/31FW AVIANO AB IT IMMEDIATE
RUEHXP/ALL NATO POST COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE
SUBJ: FURTHER ITALIAN REACTION TO CAVALESE VERDICT

TEXT:

~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ ROME 001546

E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/04/09
TAGS: PREL, PGOV, MARR, IT, NATO, US
SUBJECT: FURTHER ITALIAN REACTION TO CAVALESE VERDICT

1. CLASSIFIED BY: ERIC TERZUOLO, ACTING POLITICAL MINISTER-COUNSELOR, FOR REASONS: 1.5 (B) AND (D).

SUMMARY AND COMMENT
---

2. (~~C~~) IN RESPONSE TO THE ACQUITTAL OF THE PILOT INVOLVED IN THE CAVALESE ACCIDENT, POLITICAL FIGURES ACROSS THE ITALIAN POLITICAL SPECTRUM CONTINUE TO CALL FOR SOME FORM OF REVIEW OF NATO AND BILATERAL AGREEMENTS GOVERNING THE PRESENCE OF U.S. FORCES AND/OR USE OF BASES IN ITALY. ONLY FAR LEFT AND EXTREME RIGHT POLITICAL GROUPS, HOWEVER, ARE CALLING FOR CLOSURE OF THE BASES. PRIME MINISTER D'ALEMA WILL GO BEFORE PARLIAMENT ON WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON 3/10 TO REPORT ON THE CAVALESE VERDICT.

3. (~~C~~) STATEMENTS BY SPOKESMEN OF THE MAIN PARTNERS IN THE GOVERNING COALITION HAVE BEEN, ON THE WHOLE, BALANCED, STRESSING THE NEED TO PRESERVE U.S./ITALY COOPERATION. THE ITALIAN COMMUNISTS (PDCI) AND GREENS

HAVE BEEN MOST VOCIFEROUS IN THEIR PROTESTS. ONLY THE PDCI HAS CALLED FOR THE CLOSURE OF ALL "FOREIGN AND U.S." BASES IN ITALY. THE GREENS APPEAR TO BE LIMITING THEIR DEMANDS TO FULL DISCLOSURE OF THE TERMS OF ALL NATO AND BILATERAL AGREEMENTS AND A RENEGOTIATION OF THE BASING AGREEMENTS. WITHOUT THE GREENS AND THE PDCI THE GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT RETAIN A MAJORITY IN PARLIAMENT. IT IS UNLIKELY, HOWEVER, THAT EITHER OF THESE SMALL PARTIES WOULD TRY TO BRING DOWN THE GOVERNMENT; ANY INFLUENCE AND POWER THEY HAVE IS DUE PRECISELY TO THEIR PRESENCE IN THE GOVERNMENT. END SUMMARY AND COMMENT.

FURTHER REACTIONS FROM GOVERNMENT LEADERS AND COALITION PARTIES

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3. (U) FROM A 3/8 INTERVIEW WITH FOREIGN MINISTER LAMBERTO DINI IN LEADING NATIONAL DAILY "CORRIERE DELLA SERA" :

-- "THE ALLIANCE WITH THE UNITED STATES AND ITALY'S LOYALTY TO NATO ARE NOT UNDER DISCUSSION. THIS DOES NOT MEAN. HOWEVER, THAT WE WILL NOT CLAIM OUR DUE."

-- "LOYALTY TO NATO IS A DISTINCT ISSUE FROM THE CAVALESE ACCIDENT....NEW RULES NEED TO BE DEVELOPED SO THAT SUCH A TRAGEDY WILL NOT OCCUR AGAIN. WE ARE FIRMLY ASKING FOR MAXIMUM SEVERITY IN PUNISHING THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE TRAGEDY, BUT WE ARE NOT CONFUSING ISSUES THAT ARE DIFFERENT."

-- RESPONDING TO A QUESTION ASKING WHAT ITALY GOT OUT OF THE CLINTON/D'ALEMA MEETING: "A REVIEW OF THE REGULATIONS THAT GOVERN THE OPERATION OF THE BASES WAS SET IN MOTION, INCLUDING SECURITY REGULATIONS." HE ADDED: "THERE ARE CERTAIN BASE OPERATIONAL REGULATIONS THAT ARE BILATERAL ISSUES. HOWEVER, WE CANNOT BILATERALLY CHANGE THINGS CONNECTED TO THE NATO TREATIES."

-- "EACH (NATO) COUNTRY'S JURISDICTION OVER ITS OWN SOLDIERS IS SOMETHING THAT REGARDS THE ALLIANCE AS A WHOLE. WE WILL BE CONSULTING (OUR ALLIES), WE NEED TO REFLECT ON THIS."

4. (U) PRIME MINISTER MASSIMO D'ALEMA IN A 3/8 ANSA REPORT:

-- "IT SEEMS PREMATURE TO THINK ABOUT DISCUSSING THE LONDON TREATY (NATO SOFA) THAT REGULATES THE JURIDICAL STATUS OF NATO ARMED FORCES OPERATING ABROAD. CERTAINLY, IF JUSTICE CANNOT BE DONE ON THE BASIS OF THAT CONVENTION, WE COULD THINK IT OVER. THE PROBLEM, HOWEVER, IS NOT ONLY OURS, BUT ALSO THAT OF ALL COUNTRIES THAT SIGNED THE CONVENTION. WE TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THE LONDON TREATY AFTER THE ACCIDENT AT

RAMSTEIN IN GERMANY. IN THAT CASE THE ITALIAN AIR FORCE WAS TRIED IN ITALY. THEREFORE, IN THE (CAVALESE) CASE, WE DID NOT DO ANY FAVORS FOR THE US." (NOTE: D'ALEMA IS REFERRING TO THE 1988 CRASH OF THE ITALIAN AIRFORCE'S ACROBATIC TEAM AT AN AIR SHOW,

WHICH KILLED 70 SPECTATORS AND WOUNDED 400. THE TRIAL ENDED IN AN ACQUITTAL IN 1990. SATURDAY'S EDITION OF "L'UNITA'," THE PARTY ORGAN OF D'ALEMA'S DEMOCRATS OF THE LEFT, RAN TWO SHORT ARTICLES RECALLING THE FACTS OF THE RAMSTEIN DISASTER AS WELL AS THE 1990 CRASH OF A ITALIAN MILITARY AIRCRAFT THAT KILLED 12 STUDENTS AND INJURED 90 WHEN IT HIT A SECONDARY SCHOOL. IN THIS CASE AS WELL, THE PILOT AND TWO OTHER OFFICERS WERE EVENTUALLY ACQUITTED.)

5. (U) LEADER OF THE ITALIAN COMMUNISTS ARMANDO COSSUTTA

-- "WE HAVE TO EVICT THE U.S. BASES FROM OUR TERRITORY BECAUSE THEY ARE DANGEROUS AND THERE IS NO FURTHER NEED FOR THEIR EXISTENCE."

-- "EUROPE SHOULD HAVE A SECURITY SYSTEM THAT IS INDEPENDENT OF THE U.S."

6. (U) GREENS LEADER SENATOR LUIGI MANCONI:

-- "WE MUST RENEGOTIATE THE STATUS OF THE U.S. AND NATO BASES AND REVISIT THE TREATIES, STARTING FROM THE 1951 LONDON CONVENTION AND THE 1954 BILATERAL ACCORD WITH THE U.S. THE FIRST THING TO DO IS TO MAKE PUBLIC THE TWO IMPLEMENTATION PROTOCOLS WHICH ARE STILL SECRET."

7. (U) PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE GIAN GIACOMO MIGONE (DEMOCRATS OF THE LEFT):

-- "I'M NOT ONE OF THOSE WHO THINKS THE BASES SHOULD BE CLOSED. HOWEVER, MORE ITALIAN CONTROL OVER NATO BASES IN ITALY IS NECESSARY."

OPPOSITION REACTION
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8. (U) NATIONAL ALLIANCE LEADER GIANFRANCO FINI:

-- "I AGREE WITH THE IDEA OF A BILATERAL REVIEW OF THE NATO ACCORDS, HOWEVER, IN THE HOPE THAT THE EXTREME LEFT WILL NOT USE THIS DISTURBING VERDICT TO UNLEASH A CAMPAIGN AGAINST NATO."

9. (U) FORZA ITALIA SENATOR VINCENZO MANCA, RESPONDING TO STATEMENTS BY ITALIAN COMMUNISTS LEADER ARMANDO COSSUTTA:

-- "HIS (COSSUTTA'S) ARE ALL DEMAGOGIC STATEMENTS

THAT, TAKING ADVANTAGE OF A JUDICIAL ACCIDENT, EXPOSE
AN ATAVISTIC POLITICAL ATTACK BY THE LEFT ON THE U.S.
AND THE WESTERN ORIENTATION OF OUR COUNTRY."

FOGLIETTA

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 1546

TOR: 990309081918 M3733739

DIST:

SIT: ANDREASEN BANDLER BELL BLACK BLINKEN BOUCHARD BRADEN BUTLER DAVIDSON
EBITZ FLANAGAN GLADURA GORDON MCCARTHY MCELDOWNEY PETERMAN PIMENTEL
SAPIRO SHERMAN STROMSETH SUM2 UYEHARA VONLIPSEY WARDS WITKOWSKY
SIT: NSC
PRT: SIT{C2}

Cable

PREC: IMMEDIATE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: OAAUZYUW RUEHMIL0165 0671109-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: O 081109Z MAR 99
LINE4: FM AMCONSUL MILAN
OSRI: RUEHMIL
DTG: 081109Z MAR 99
ORIG: AMCONSUL MILAN
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5750
INFO: RUEHRO/AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY 1289
RUEHNP/AMCONSUL NAPLES 1992
RUEHFL/AMCONSUL FLORENCE 0256
RUEHIA/USIA WASHDC 0505
RUEHBS/AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS 0287
RUEHOL/AMEMBASSY BONN 0639
RUEHTC/AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE 0076
SUBJ: CAVALESE-RELATED ANTI-U.S. ACTIONS

TEXT:

UNCLAS MILAN 000165

DEPT FOR EUR/WE AND DS/DSS

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: ASEC, PGOV, PREL, MARR, IT
SUBJECT: CAVALESE-RELATED ANTI-U.S. ACTIONS

1. ON FRIDAY MARCH 5 AT 1715, A GROUP OF APPROXIMATELY TWENTY INDIVIDUALS FROM THE "HUMANISTIC PARTY" GATHERED ACROSS FROM THE MILAN CONSULATE TO PROTEST THE ACQUITTAL OF CAPTAIN ASHBY WHOSE PLANE SEVERED A SKI LIFT CABLE IN CAVALESE RESULTING IN THE DEATH OF TWENTY PEOPLE. THE GROUP, USING A MEGAPHONE, CALLED FOR:

-- A RE-TRIAL OF ASHBY IN ITALY;
-- THE DISMANTLEMENT OF U.S. BASES IN ITALY;
-- THE WITHDRAWAL OF ITALY FROM NATO.

2. POLICE FORCED THE GROUP TO MOVE FURTHER AWAY FROM THE CONSULATE AND WARNED THAT OTHER DEMONSTRATORS COULD BE ON THE WAY. THEY NEVER MATERIALIZED, ALTHOUGH CONSULATE EMPLOYEES TOOK THE PRECAUTION OF DEPARTING THROUGH AN ALTERNATE EXIT. POLICE PRESENCE WAS MORE THAN ADEQUATE.

3. MEANWHILE, CONSULATE AND CONSULAR AGENCIES HAVE RECEIVED A STEADY FLOW OF HATE CALLS (AND SOME FAXES),CALLING US ASSASSINS AND TELLING US TO "GO HOME." ONE THREATENING CALL, RECEIVED LATE MARCH 5,

THREATENED THAT 200 AMERICANS WOULD DIE -- TEN FOR
EVERY INNOCENT VICTIM KILLED IN THE CAVALESE TRAGEDY.
VANHEUVEN

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 0165

TOR: 990308070242 M3731534

DIST:

SIT: ALLEN ANDREASEN BAKER BANDLER BELL BLACK BLINKEN BOUCHARD BRADEN
BROWN BUTLER DAVIDSON DEROSA EBITZ FLANAGAN GORDON KRASS MCELDOWNEY
PETERMAN PIMENTEL SAPIRO STROMSETH UYEHARA VONLIPSEY WITKOWSKY
SIT: NSC

Cable

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 13526
Department of State Guidelines, November 6, 2015
By YDE NARA, Date 7/15/24
2019-0047-F

PREC: PRIORITY
CLASS: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
LINE1: PAACZYUW RUEHROA1539 0671556-CCCC--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNY CCCCC ZZH (TAO)
LINE3: P 081556Z MAR 99
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY ROME
OSRI: RUEHRO
DTG: 081556Z MAR 99
ORIG: AMEMBASSY ROME
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0060
INFO: RUEAWJA/DEPT OF JUSTICE WASHDC
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC
SUBJ: ITALIAN JUSTICE MINISTER CLAIMS SHIFT IN U.S. STANCE ON BARALDINI TRANSFER

TEXT:

~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ ROME 001539

E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/08/09
TAGS: PREL, PGOV, PTER, IT
SUBJECT: ITALIAN JUSTICE MINISTER CLAIMS SHIFT IN U.S. STANCE ON BARALDINI TRANSFER

1. (U) ACCORDING TO THE LOCAL PRESS, THE GOI HAS ANNOUNCED THAT PRESIDENT CLINTON AND PRIME MINISTER D'ALEMA AGREED TO HAVE U.S. ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO AND ITALIAN JUSTICE MINISTER DILIBERTO MEET TO DISCUSS THE BARALDINI CASE, IN PARTICULAR THE CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH SILVIA BARALDINI COULD SERVE OUT HER SENTENCE IN ITALY.

2. (U) DILIBERTO IS TOUTING THIS PURPORTED SHIFT IN U.S. POLICY ON THE BARALDINI CASE AS AN ACHIEVEMENT FOR THE D'ALEMA GOVERNMENT AND FOR HIMSELF. IN A 3/8 INTERVIEW IN DAILY "LA REPUBBLICA", HE ANNOUNCED THAT, SINCE HIS NOMINATION AS JUSTICE MINISTER, HE HAS BEEN WORKING BEHIND THE SCENES TO FIND A SOLUTION TO THE BARALDINI CASE. DILIBERTO DESCRIBED THE BARALDINI CASE AS TOTALLY POLITICAL, ADDING THAT IT CAN BE RESOLVED IF THERE IS THE POLITICAL WILL TO DO SO. DILIBERTO SAID HE WILL ASK THAT HIS APPOINTMENT WITH ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO BE SET UP AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

3. (U) WHEN ASKED ABOUT A CONNECTION BETWEEN THE BARALDINI CASE AND THE MARCH 4 VERDICT IN THE CAVALESE CASE, DILIBERTO CLAIMED THAT THE CAVALESE VERDICT COULD PUT ITALY IN AN ADVANTAGEOUS POSITION WHEN DISCUSSING BARALDINI WITH THE USG. HE STATED THAT HIS PREDECESSOR, NOT HE, MADE THE DECISION TO GIVE UP JURISDICTION IN THE CAVALESE CASE. (NOTE: IN FACT, THE NATO STATUS OF FORCES AGREEMENT GAVE THE U.S. PRIMARY JURISDICTION, AND THE USG TURNED DOWN THE GOI REQUEST TO WAIVE JURISDICTION). DILIBERTO WENT ON TO STATE THAT IT WOULD BE A

GOOD IDEA TO REVIEW THE SOFA, WHICH THE ITALIANS REFER TO AS THE LONDON TREATY.

4. (U) PRIME MINISTER D'ALEMA CRITICIZED ITALIAN POLITICIANS WHO ARE CALLING FOR THE U.S. TO TRANSFER BARALDINI TO ITALY TO ATONE FOR THE CAVALESE VERDICT. D'ALEMA SAID THE DECISION TO HAVE RENO AND DILIBERTO MEET TO DISCUSS BARALDINI WAS MADE BEFORE THE CAVALESE VERDICT WAS RENDERED. (NOTE: IN FACT, HOWEVER, THE MEETING THAT WAS SCHEDULED BEFORE THE VERDICT WAS BETWEEN DOJ AAG JAMES ROBINSON AND DIRECTOR GENERAL OF PENAL AFFAIRS AT THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE GIORGIO LATTANZI). MINISTER, DILIBERTO MADE IT CLEAR HE SAW THE BARALDINI CASE AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO SCORE IMPORTANT POINTS WITH PUBLIC OPINION IN ITALY. THE LINKAGE HE MAKES TO THE CAVALESE VERDICT ALSO IS NO SURPRISE, SINCE DILIBERTO'S PARTY OF THE ITALIAN COMMUNISTS (PDCI), ALONG WITH THE GREENS, IS ARGUING FOR AN END TO BASING OF NATO FORCES IN ITALY. WITHOUT THE COMMUNISTS AND THE GREENS, THE D'ALEMA GOVERNMENT DOES NOT HAVE A MAJORITY IN PARLIAMENT, SO THE LEVERAGE OF THESE SMALL PARTIES EXCEEDS THEIR NUMERICAL WEIGHT. TO PUT IN BLUNTLY, DILIBERTO IS HINTING AT BLACKMAIL, I.E. GIVE ME BARALDINI, OR I WILL PUT THE BASES AT RISK. WHETHER DILIBERTO REALLY COULD BRING DOWN THE GOVERNMENT OVER THE BASING ISSUE IS QUESTIONABLE, BUT HE WILL USE THE THREAT TO PRESSURE HIS GOVERNMENT PARTNERS TO KEEP THE BARALDINI CASE ON THE FRONT BURNER.

FOGLIETTA

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 1539

TOR: 990308114518 M3732052

DIST:

SIT: ALLEN ANDREASEN BABBITT BAKER BANDLER BELL BLACK BLINKEN BOUCHARD BROWN BUSBY BUTLER DAVIDSON DEROSA EBITZ GORDON GUARNIERI KRASS MCELDOWNEY NAPLAN PETERMAN PIMENTEL SAPIRO SCHWARTZ STROMSETH VACCARO VONLIPSEY WIPPMAN WITKOWSKY
SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: IMMEDIATE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: OAAUZYUW RUEHROA1538 0671552-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: O 081552Z MAR 99
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY ROME
OSRI: RUEHRO
DTG: 081552Z MAR 99
ORIG: AMEMBASSY ROME
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0059
INFO: RUEHFL/AMCONSUL FLORENCE 2573
RUEHMIL/AMCONSUL MILAN 2837
RUEHNP/AMCONSUL NAPLES 1980
SUBJ: DEMONSTRATION IN FRONT OF EMBASSY

TEXT:

UNCLAS ROME 001538

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: ASEC, IT
SUBJECT: DEMONSTRATION IN FRONT OF EMBASSY

1. EXPRESSING THEIR DISSATISFACTION WITH THE ACQUITTAL OF USMC CAPT. RICHARD ASHBY IN CONNECTION WITH THE CAVALESE CASE, APPROXIMATELY 80 INDIVIDUALS DEMONSTRATED IN FRONT OF THE CHANCERY ON MARCH 7, BETWEEN 12 NOON AND 1300 HOURS.

2. CHANTING ANTI-AMERICAN SLOGANS, THE RIGHT WING GROUP REPRESENTING THE FRONTE NAZIONALE, BURNED AN AMERICAN FLAG AT THE END OF THE DEMONSTRATION. POLICE COVERAGE WAS ADEQUATE, AND DEMONSTRATORS DISPERSED WITHOUT ANY FURTHER INCIDENTS.

FOGLIETTA

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01
SSN: 1538
TOR: 990308105247 M3731934
DIST:

SIT: ANDREASEN BANDLER BELL BLACK BLINKEN BOUCHARD GORDON PETERMAN PIMENTEL SUM2 VONLIPSEY WITKOWSKY
SIT: NSC
PRT: SIT{C2}

Cable

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 13526
Department of State Guidelines, November 6, 2015
By VDE NARA, Date 7/15/24
2019-0047-F

PREC: IMMEDIATE
CLASS: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
LINE1: OAACZYUW RUEHROA1546 0671752-CCCC--RHEHNSC.
LINE2: ZNY CCCCC ZZH
LINE3: O 081752Z MAR 99
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY ROME
OSRI: RUEHRO
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RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
RUFQAAA/USNMR SHAPE BE//INTAF// IMMEDIATE
RUFGNOA/USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE IMMEDIATE
RHFQAAA/CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE IMMEDIATE
RUFNPKD/USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT//INTAFF// IMMEDIATE
RUCBLFK/MARFORLANT NORFOLK VA IMMEDIATE
RUFPAHQ/16AF AVIANO AB IT IMMEDIATE
RUFPAFW/31FW AVIANO AB IT IMMEDIATE
RUEHXP/ALL NATO POST COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE
SUBJ: FURTHER ITALIAN REACTION TO CAVALESE VERDICT

TEXT:

////////////////////////// INCOMPLETE MESSAGE //////////////////////////

~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ SECTION 01 OF 02 ROME 001546

E.O. 1298: DECL: 03/04/09
TAGS: PREL, PGOV, MARR, IT, NATO, US
SUBJECT: FURTHER ITALIAN REACTION TO CAVALESE VERDICT

1. CLASSIFIED BY: ERIC TERZUOLO, ACTING POLITICAL MINISTER-COUNSELOR, FOR REASONS: 1.5 (B) AND (D).

SUMMARY AND COMMENT
---

2. ~~(C)~~ IN RESPONSE TO THE ACQUITTAL OF THE PILOT INVOLVED IN THE CAVALESE ACCIDENT, POLITICAL FIGURES ACROSS THE ITALIAN POLITICAL SPECTRUM CONTINUE TO CALL FOR SOME FORM OF REVIEW OF NATO AND BILATERAL AGREEMENTS GOVERNING THE PRESENCE OF U.S. FORCES AND/OR USE OF BASES IN ITALY. ONLY FAR LEFT AND EXTREME RIGHT POLITICAL GROUPS, HOWEVER, ARE CALLING FOR CLOSURE OF THE BASES. PRIME MINISTER D'ALEMA WILL GO BEFORE PARLIAMENT ON WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON 3/10 TO REPORT ON THE CAVALESE VERDICT.

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IN THE GOVERNING COALITION HAVE BEEN, ON THE WHOLE, BALANCED, STRESSING THE NEED TO PRESERVE U.S./ITALY COOPERATION. THE ITALIAN COMMUNISTS (PDCI) AND GREENS HAVE BEEN MOST VOCIFEROUS IN THEIR PROTESTS. ONLY THE PDCI HAS CALLED FOR THE CLOSURE OF ALL "FOREIGN AND U.S." BASES IN ITALY. THE GREENS APPEAR TO BE LIMITING THEIR DEMANDS TO FULL DISCLOSURE OF THE TERMS OF ALL NATO AND BILATERAL AGREEMENTS AND A RENEGOTIATION OF THE BASING AGREEMENTS. WITHOUT THE GREENS AND THE PDCI THE GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT RETAIN A MAJORITY IN PARLIAMENT. IT IS UNLIKELY, HOWEVER, THAT EITHER OF THESE SMALL PARTIES WOULD TRY TO BRING DOWN THE GOVERNMENT; ANY INFLUENCE AND POWER THEY HAVE IS DUE PRECISELY TO THEIR PRESENCE IN THE GOVERNMENT. END SUMMARY AND COMMENT.

FURTHER REACTIONS FROM GOVERNMENT LEADERS AND COALITION PARTIES

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-- RESPONDING TO A QUESTION ASKING WHAT ITALY GOT OUT OF THE CLINTON/D'ALEMA MEETING: "A REVIEW OF THE REGULATIONS THAT GOVERN THE OPERATION OF THE BASES WAS SET IN MOTION, INCLUDING SECURITY REGULATIONS." HE ADDED: "THERE ARE CERTAIN BASE OPERATIONAL REGULATIONS THAT ARE BILATERAL ISSUES. HOWEVER, WE CANNOT BILATERALLY CHANGE THINGS CONNECTED TO THE NATO TREATIES."

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4. (U) PRIME MINISTER MASSIMO D'ALEMA IN A 3/8 ANSA REPORT:

-- "IT SEEMS PREMATURE TO THINK ABOUT DISCUSSING THE LONDON TREATY (NATO SOFA) THAT REGULATES THE JURIDICAL STATUS OF NATO ARMED FORCES OPERATING ABROAD. CERTAINLY, IF JUSTICE CANNOT BE DONE ON THE BASIS OF THAT CONVENTION, WE COULD THINK IT OVER.

THE PROBLEM, HOWEVER, IS NOT ONLY OURS, BUT ALSO THAT OF ALL COUNTRIES THAT SIGNED THE CONVENTION. WE TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THE LONDON TREATY AFTER THE ACCIDENT AT RAMSTEIN IN GERMANY. IN THAT CASE THE ITALIAN AIR FORCE WAS TRIED IN ITALY. THEREFORE, IN THE (CAVALESE) CASE, WE DID NOT DO ANY FAVORS FOR THE US." (NOTE: D'ALEMA IS REFERRING TO THE 1988 CRASH OF THE ITALIAN AIRFORCE'S ACROBATIC TEAM AT AN AIR SHOW,

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 02

SSN: 1546

TOR: 990308125503 M3732207

DIST:

SIT: NSC

Cable

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 13526
Department of State Guidelines, November 6, 2015
By VDE NARA, Date 7/15/24
2019-0047-F

PREC: IMMEDIATE
CLASS: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
LINE1: OAACZYUW RUEHROA1546 0671752-CCCC--RHEHNSC.
LINE2: ZNY CCCCC ZZH
LINE3: O 081752Z MAR 99
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY ROME
OSRI: RUEHRO
DTG: 081752Z MAR 99
ORIG: AMEMBASSY ROME
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0067
INFO: RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC IMMEDIATE
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
RUFQAAA/USNMR SHAPE BE//INTAF// IMMEDIATE
RUFGNOA/USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE IMMEDIATE
RHFQAAA/CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE IMMEDIATE
RUFNPKD/USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT//INTAFF// IMMEDIATE
RUCBLFK/MARFORLANT NORFOLK VA IMMEDIATE
RUFPAHQ/16AF AVIANO AB IT IMMEDIATE
RUFPAFW/31FW AVIANO AB IT IMMEDIATE
RUEHXP/ALL NATO POST COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE
SUBJ: FURTHER ITALIAN REACTION TO CAVALESE VERDICT

WHICH KILLED 70 SPECTATORS AND WOUNDED 400. THE
TRIAL ENDED IN AN ACQUITTAL IN 1990. SATURDAY'S
EDITION OF "L'UNITA'," THE PARTY ORGAN OF D'ALEMA'S

TEXT:

////////////////////////// INCOMPLETE MESSAGE //////////////////////////

~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ SECTION 02 OF 02 ROME 001546

E.O. 1298: DECL: 03/04/09
TAGS: PREL, PGOV, MARR, IT, NATO, US
SUBJECT: FURTHER ITALIAN REACTION TO CAVALESE VERDICT

WHICH KILLED 70 SPECTATORS AND WOUNDED 400. THE
TRIAL ENDED IN AN ACQUITTAL IN 1990. SATURDAY'S
EDITION OF "L'UNITA'," THE PARTY ORGAN OF D'ALEMA'S
DEMOCRATS OF THE LEFT, RAN TWO SHORT ARTICLES
RECALLING THE FACTS OF THE RAMSTEIN DISASTER AS WELL
AS THE 1990 CRASH OF A ITALIAN MILITARY AIRCRAFT THAT
KILLED 12 STUDENTS AND INJURED 90 WHEN IT HIT A
SECONDARY SCHOOL. IN THIS CASE AS WELL, THE PILOT
AND TWO OTHER OFFICERS WERE EVENTUALLY ACQUITTED.)

5. (U) LEADER OF THE ITALIAN COMMUNISTS ARMANDO
COSSUTTA:

-- "WE HAVE TO EVICT THE U.S. BASES FROM OUR
TERRITORY BECAUSE THEY ARE DANGEROUS AND THERE IS NO

FURTHER NEED FOR THEIR EXISTENCE."

-- "EUROPE SHOULD HAVE A SECURITY SYSTEM THAT IS INDEPENDENT OF THE U.S."

6. (U) GREENS LEADER SENATOR LUIGI MANCONI:

-- "WE MUST RENEGOTIATE THE STATUS OF THE U.S. AND NATO BASES AND REVISIT THE TREATIES, STARTING FROM THE 1951 LONDON CONVENTION AND THE 1954 BILATERAL ACCORD WITH THE U.S. THE FIRST THING TO DO IS TO MAKE PUBLIC THE TWO IMPLEMENTATION PROTOCOLS WHICH ARE STILL SECRET."

7. (U) PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE GIAN GIACOMO MIGONE (DEMOCRATS OF THE LEFT):

-- "I'M NOT ONE OF THOSE WHO THINKS THE BASES SHOULD BE CLOSED. HOWEVER, MORE ITALIAN CONTROL OVER NATO BASES IN ITALY IS NECESSARY."

OPPOSITION REACTION
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8. (U) NATIONAL ALLIANCE LEADER GIANFRANCO FINI:

-- "I AGREE WITH THE IDEA OF A BILATERAL REVIEW OF THE NATO ACCORDS, HOWEVER, IN THE HOPE THAT THE EXTREME LEFT WILL NOT USE THIS DISTURBING VERDICT TO UNLEASH A CAMPAIGN AGAINST NATO."

9. (U) FORZA ITALIA SENATOR VINCENZO MANCA, RESPONDING TO STATEMENTS BY ITALIAN COMMUNISTS LEADER ARMANDO COSSUTTA:

-- "HIS (COSSUTTA'S) ARE ALL DEMAGOGIC STATEMENTS THAT, TAKING ADVANTAGE OF A JUDICIAL ACCIDENT, EXPOSE AN ATAVISTIC POLITICAL ATTACK BY THE LEFT ON THE U.S. AND THE WESTERN ORIENTATION OF OUR COUNTRY."

FOGLIETTA

SECT: SECTION: 02 OF 02
SSN: 1546
TOR: 990311112042 M3738261
DIST:

SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: IMMEDIATE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: OAAUZYUW RUEHROA1603 0691943-UUUU--RHEHNSC.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: O 101943Z MAR 99
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY ROME
OSRI: RUEHRO
DTG: 101943Z MAR 99
ORIG: AMEMBASSY ROME
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RUFGNOA/USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE IMMEDIATE
RHFQAAA/CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE IMMEDIATE
RUCBSDD/USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT//INTAF// IMMEDIATE
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RUFPAFW/31FW AVIANO AB IT IMMEDIATE
RUEHXP/ALL NATO POST COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE
RUEHMIL/AMCONSUL MILAN 2861
RUEHFL/AMCONSUL FLORENCE 2589
RUEHNP/AMCONSUL NAPLES 1989
SUBJ: PM D'ALEMA REPORTS TO CHAMBER ON CAVALESE VERDICT

TEXT:

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 ROME 001603

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: PREL, PGOV, MARR, LT, NATO, US
SUBJECT: PM D'ALEMA REPORTS TO CHAMBER ON CAVALESE VERDICT

REF: ROME 1457

1. (U) PRIME MINISTER MASSIMO D'ALEMA APPEARED BEFORE THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES TODAY 3/10 AT 5:00 PM TO REPORT ON THE U.S. MILITARY COURT'S VERDICT IN THE CAVALESE CASE. DURING THE SESSION, D'ALEMA ANNOUNCED THAT THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT WOULD PROVIDE PARLIAMENT WITH THE TEXT OF THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON BASES SIGNED IN 1995 (NOTE: GENERALLY REFERED TO AS THE 'SHELL AGREEMENT'), WHICH HE SAID INTRODUCED NEW NORMS AND RESTRICTIONS FOR EACH AND EVERY BASE. HE SAID 'THERE IS A COMMON COMMLTMENT TO UPDATE THE ACCORDS BETWEEN OUR COUNTRY AND THE UNITED STATES CONCERNING THE OPERATIONAL ASPECTS OF BASES PRESENT ON ITALIAN TERRITORY. THE (1995) MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WAS THE BEGINNING OF THAT PROCESS OF UPDATING.'

2. (SBU) BEFORE OPENING THE DEBATE, THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO ANNOUNCE

D

THAT THE TEXT OF THE 1954 BILATERAL ACCORD BETWEEN ITALY & THE U.S WOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE JUDICIAL AUTHORITIES WHO HAD REQUESTED LT. WIE SERVLCE REPORTS MENTION THE MILITARY PROSECUTOR
'

OFFICE IN PADUA AND THE TRENTO CIVILLAN PROSEUTOR'S OFFICE AS HAVING REQUESTED THE DOCUMET. (NOTE: WE ARE TOLD THAT D'ALEMA RECEIVED REPORT THAT THE TRENTO PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE ALREAD HAD SEEN THE DOCUMENT TEXT 'UNOFFICIALLY" ATSOME POINT FOLLOWING THE ACCIDENT.)

3. () FURTHER D'ALEMA COMMENTS :

.... 'I FRANKLY TOD PRESIDENT CLINTON AND NATO SECRETARY GENERAL SLANA THAT, IF RESPONSIBILLTY FOR THE CAVALESE TRAGDY IS NOT DETFRMINED, IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO REVEW AND UPDATE THE 1951 NATO ACCORDS.'

.... 'I THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE TRAGEDY WERE NOT IDENTIIED, IT WOULD BE THE PROOF THAT THE CURRENT NORM ARE INADEQUATE.'

4. (U) GOVERNING COALITION COMENTS :

FORMER PRIME MINISTER ROMANO PRODI (THE EMOCRATS): IF YOU WANT AN IN-DEPTH REVIEW OF THEAGREEMENTS FOR NATO BASES IN ITALY, AND NOT JUSTMINOR ADJUSTMENTS, IT WLLL BE NECESSARY TO HAVE 'ADEEP CHANGE IN EUROPE IN THE WAY IT CONCEIVES IT COMMON DEFENSE SYSTEM.' HE AGREED WITH D'ALEMA O 'THE NECESSLTY OF RETHINKING THE ADEQUACY OF INERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS AFTER THE GEOPOLITICAL CHANGS FOLLOWING 1989', BUT ARGUED THAT WILL BE POSSILE ONLY IF EUROPE WILL PROVIDE ITSELF WITH A COMON DEFENSE SYSTEM.

.... ITALIAN PEOPLE'S PARTY (PI) ANTONELLO SORO : THE CAVALESE TRAGED
Y
SHOULD CAUSE US TO REFLECT AND WORK 'TO RE-BALANCE THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE U.S. AND EUROPE WITHIN THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE, WHICH TODAY STILL TENDS TO BE AN ALLIANCE BETWEEN UNEQUALS.... NATURALLY NATO IS NOT UP FOR DLSCUSSION.' ACHIEVING THIS BALANCE WILL BE POSSIBLE BY 'REINFORCING EUROPEAN SECURITY POLICY WITHIN THE ALLIANCE ITSELF.'

.... ITALIAN COMMUNLSTS LEADER ARMANDO COSSUTTA: REGARDING THE 'NATO' BASES, 'THE SITUATION LS TO BE REVIEWED, RE-EXAMLNED AND SET INTO THE FRAMEWORK OF A EUROPEAN AGREEMENT.' HE WENT ON TO OBSERVE THAT THE "U.S. BASES" CONTAIN 'EXTREMELY POWERFUL NUCLEAR DEVICES, 10
0
TIMES MORE DEADLY THAN THAT USED AT HLROSHIMA... 18 BOMBS AT AVIANO, 11 AT GHEDID WHO KNOWS HOW MANY ELSEWHERE.'

.... PRESIDENT OF THE DEFENSE COMMISSION VALDO SPINI (LABOR PARTY): W
E
DO NOT INTEND TO BRING UP FOR DISCUSSION 'LTALY'S SOLIDARITY WLTH NAT
O
OR IT'S RELATIONSHIP WITH THE UNITED STATES ... SINCE 1951 OUR COUNTR
Y
HAS GROW AND THE SITUATION IS RLPE FOR A REEXAMINATION AMONG ALL NATO PARTNERS OF THE LONDON CONVENTION ON JUDICIAL JURISDLCTION FOR ACCIDE
NT
AND CRIMES THAT HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH MILITARY ACTIONS IN A STRICT

SENSE.' THE TECHNICAL ACCORDS, LN TERMS OF THE ASPECTS THAT ARE NOT STRICTLY TLED TO SECURLTY, SHOULD BE MADE PUBLIC.'

.... DEMOCRATIC UNION FOR THE REPUBLIC (UDR) LEADER GABRIELE CIMADORO: 'WE HAVE NO INTENTION OF RIDING ON EMOTIONS OR ANTI-AMERICA N
SENTIMENT TO PUT NATO UNDER DISCUSSION, HOWEVER IT LS NECESSARY TO QUICKLY DETERMINE RESPONSIBILITY.'

5. (U) OPPOSITION COMMENTS :

NATIONAL ALLIANCE (AN) CHAMBER LEADER GUSTAVO SELVA: 'I WANT TO REMIND COMMUNLST RFNEWAL AND THE ITALIAN COMMUNISTS THAT LENRICO
UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 ROME 001603

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: PREL, PGOV, MARR, LT, NATO, US
SUBJECT: PM D'ALEMA REPORTS TO CHAMBER ON CAVALESE VERDICT

BERLINGUER (LEADER OF THE ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY IN THE 1970'S) CALL ED
NATO THE UMBRELLA THAT GUARANTEES OUR SECURITY.' HE HOPED FOR A NEW ROLE FOR NATO 'TO DEFEND BOTH IN EUROPE AND THE UNITED STATES FRO M
TERRORLSM THAT COMES FROM THE SOUTH.'

6. (U) FORMER FOREIGN MLNISTER AND FORZA LTALIA (FI) LIEADER ANTONIO MARTLNO:

THE EXISTING ACCORDS FOR THE PRESENCE OF NATO BASES HAVE BEEN VIOLATED THE PRIME MINISTER SHOULD HAVE TOLD US HOW IT CAME THAT INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS WERE NOT RESPECTED.' FOGLIETTA

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 02
<^SECT>SECTION: 02 OF 02

SSN: 1603
<^SSN>1603

TOR: 990310144344 M3736593
<^TOR>990310144345 M3736594

DIST:

SIT: ALLEN ANDREASEN BAKER BANDLER BELL BLACK BLINKEN BOUCHARD BROWN BUTLER CROWLEY DAVIDSON DEROSA EBITZ GORDON HAMMER KRASS LEAVY MCCAUSLAND MCELDOWNEY PETERMAN PIMENTEL SAPIRO VONLIPSEY WITKOWSKY
SIT: NSC

Cable

PREC: PRIORITY
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: PAAUZYUW RUEHROA1630 0701502-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: P 111502Z MAR 99
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY ROME
OSRI: RUEHRO
DTG: 111502Z MAR 99
ORIG: AMEMBASSY ROME
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0151
INFO: RUEAWJA/DEPT OF JUSTICE WASHDC
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC
SUBJ: ITALY: BARALDINI DE-LINKS HER
TEXT:

UNCLAS ROME 001630

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: PREL, PGOV, PTER, IT
SUBJECT: ITALY: BARALDINI DE-LINKS HER CASE FROM U.S. "ATONEMENT" FOR CAVALESE VERDICT

REF: ROME 1539

1. THE MARCH 11 EDITION OF LEADING DAILY "CORRIERE DELLA SERA" FEATURED A TELEPHONE INTERVIEW WITH SILVIA BARALDINI FROM HER U.S. PRISON. BARALDINI SAID PRIME MINISTER D'ALEMA WAS RIGHT IN CRITICIZING THOSE CALLING FOR HER TRANSFER IN ATONEMENT FOR THE CAVALESE TRIAL VERDICT. BARALDINI CHARACTERIZED THE TWO EVENTS AS UNRELATED AND SAID THE VICTIMS' FAMILIES EXPECT JUSTICE AND IT WOULD BE A BETRAYAL TO THEM TO FORGIVE THE U.S. FOR CAVALESE IN EXCHANGE FOR HER EXTRADITION. SHE ADDED THAT HER PROBLEM NEEDS TO BE RESOLVED BECAUSE, AFTER SERVING SEVENTEEN YEARS IN PRISON, IT IS TIME TO DO SO.

2. BARALDINI SAID THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THE U.S. HAS OFFICIALLY STATED IT WANTS TO FIND A SOLUTION TO HER CASE AND CONCRETE PROPOSALS HAVE BEEN PUT FORTH. SHE EXPRESSED HER WILLINGNESS TO SERVE OUT THE REST OF HER SENTENCE IN PRISON IF SHE IS TRANSFERRED TO ITALY, BECAUSE SHE WANTS TO BE NEAR HER MOTHER WHO IS EIGHTY-TWO YEARS OLD AND IN ILL HEALTH. WHEN ASKED ABOUT HER MEDICAL CONDITION, BARALDINI

COMPLAINED THAT SHE HAS NOT HAD A MEDICAL CHECK-UP IN TWO YEARS AND WAS REFUSED A CANCER SCREENING TEST IN 1998 ON THE GROUNDS THAT IT WAS UNNECESSARY. SHE SAID SHE DOES NOT WANT A POLITICAL CAREER, BUT PLEDGED TO CONTINUE FIGHTING FOR RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, AND AGAINST AIDS, RACISM, AND THE DEATH PENALTY.

3. BORIS BIANCHERI, DIRECTOR OF ANSA WIRE SERVICE, AND FORMER AMBASSADOR TO WASHINGTON, LONDON, AND TOKYO, AUTHORED AN EDITORIAL ON BARALDINI'S TRANSFER IN THE MARCH 11 EDITION OF CENTRIST DAILY "LA STAMPA". BIANCHERI BELIEVES IT IS APPROPRIATE FOR THE U.S. TO ALLOW BARALDINI TO RETURN TO ITALY IN ORDER TO APPEASE THE NEGATIVE REACTION TO THE CAVALESE VERDICT. BIANCHERI DISMISSED CHARGES THAT THIS WOULD CONSTITUTE A SWAP BETWEEN THE LIVING AND THE DEAD. HE SAID THE U.S. CANNOT DO ANYTHING TO MODIFY THE CAVALESE VERDICT, BUT IT CAN TAKE ACTION IN THE BARALDINI CASE. BIANCHERI NOTED THAT THE U.S. IS CONCERNED THAT BARALDINI WILL BE RELEASED UPON ARRIVAL IN ITALY AND SUGGESTED GRANTING HER PAROLE OR PARDON IN THE U.S. IN ORDER TO AVOID THIS OUTCOME. HE SAID HE HOPES THE U.S. AND ITALY WILL WANT TO RESOLVE THE CASE, ADDING THAT BARALDINI HAS A RIGHT TO RESPECT AND TO RELEASE FROM JAIL, BUT NOT TO THE STATUS OF HEROINE.

FOGLIETTA

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 1630

TOR: 990311105130 M3738192

DIST:

SIT: ALLEN ANDREASEN BAKER BELL BLACK BLINKEN BOUCHARD BROWN DAVIDSON DEROSA KRASS MCCAUSLAND PETERMAN PIMENTEL SAPIRO VONLIPSEY WITKOWSKY
SIT: NSC

Cable

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 13526
Department of State Guidelines, November 6, 2015
By KDE NARA, Date 7/15/24
Q619-0047-F

PREC: IMMEDIATE
CLASS: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
LINE1: OAACZYUW RUEHROA1631 0701527-CCCC--RHEHNSC.
LINE2: ZNY CCCCC ZZH
LINE3: O 111527Z MAR 99
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY ROME
OSRI: RUEHRO
DTG: 111527Z MAR 99
ORIG: AMEMBASSY ROME
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0152
INFO: RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
RUEHXP/ALL NATO POST COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC IMMEDIATE
RUFQAAA/USNMR SHAPE BE//INTAF// IMMEDIATE
RUFGNOA/USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE IMMEDIATE
RHFQAAA/CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE IMMEDIATE
RUFNPKD/USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT//INTAF// IMMEDIATE
RUCBLFK/MARFORLANT NORFOLK VA IMMEDIATE
RUFPAHQ/16AF AVIANO AB IT IMMEDIATE
RUFPAFW/31FW AVIANO AB IT IMMEDIATE
RUEHROF/AMCONSUL FLORENCE 2597
RUEHMIL/AMCONSUL MILAN 2866
RUEHRON/AMCONSUL NAPLES 1991
SUBJ: ITALY: CAVALESE VERDICT AFTERMATH
TEXT:

~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ SECTION 01 OF 02 ROME 001631

STATE FOR EUR/WE, EUR/RPM
SECDEF FOR OASD/ISA

E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/10/04
TAGS: PREL, MCAP, NATO, IT
SUBJECT: ITALY: CAVALESE VERDICT AFTERMATH

REF: ROME 1603

1. CLASSIFIED BY: JAMES CUNNINGHAM, DEPUTY CHIEF OF MISSION.
REASON: 1.5 (B) AND (D).

2. (U) ACTION REQUEST -- SEE PARA 9.

SUMMARY
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3. ~~(C)~~ AS REPORTED REFTEL, PM D'ALEMA APPEARED BEFORE PARLIAMENT MARCH 10 TO ANNOUNCE THE GOVERNMENT OF ITALY'S RESPONSE TO THE ACQUITTAL OF MARINE CAPTAIN ASHBY. IN A STATEMENT IN WHICH HE COMBINED FIRMNESS OF PURPOSE WITH SOLID SUPPORT FOR THE U.S. PRESENCE IN ITALY, HE STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF IDENTIFYING CLEARLY WHO WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE TRAGEDY, AND SAID A FAILURE TO

DO SO WOULD DEMONSTRATE THAT THE AGREEMENTS GOVERNING THE PRESENCE OF U.S. FORCES IN ITALY WERE INADEQUATE AND COULD LEAD TO RE-EXAMINATION OF THE NATO SOFA. THE GOI WILL MAKE AVAILABLE THE TEXT OF THE CLASSIFIED 1954 BILATERAL INFRASTRUCTURE AGREEMENT TO THE MILITARY PROSECUTORS INVESTIGATING THE ROLE OF THE ITALIAN MILITARY IN THE ACCIDENT, AS WELL AS TO THE TRENTO PROSECUTOR, WHICH SOUGHT TO TRY THE MARINES HERE IN ITALY. D'ALEMA SAID THE U.S. AND ITALY, UNDER THE AUSPICES OF SECRETARY COHEN AND MOD SCOGNAMIGLIO WILL CONDUCT NEGOTIATIONS ON THE SECURITY OF, AND ON THE RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR, OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES AT THE BASES ON ITALIAN TERRITORY. THE TEXT OF THE UNCLASSIFIED 1995 "SHELL" AGREEMENT (THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING CONCERNING THE USE AND INSTALLATION/INFRASTRUCTURE BY U.S. FORCES IN ITALY) WILL BE PROVIDED TO PARLIAMENT. D'ALEMA'S COMMENTS, AND THOSE OF HIGH-LEVEL OFFICIALS MAKE CLEAR THAT THE ITALIAN UNDERSTANDING OF THE REVIEW AGREED BY PRESIDENT CLINTON AND PM D'ALEMA IS MUCH BROADER THAN THAT OUTLINED IN THE PENTAGON'S MARCH 10 STATEMENT, WITH WHICH THE MOD DISAGREED. WE WILL NEED TO WORK CLOSELY WITH THE ITALIANS IN THE COMING DAYS, AND WE STRONGLY URGE THAT ALL CONTACTS WITH THE GOI AS WE DEFINE NEXT STEPS GO THROUGH THE EMBASSY (PLEASE ALSO SEE ACTION REQUEST PARA 9). WE CAN MANAGE THIS REVIEW AND CONTINUING UNHAPPINESS HERE, BUT MISTAKES COULD ALSO COST US DEARLY IN TERMS OF THE SECURITY PARTNERSHIP AND OPERATIONAL FLEXIBILITY. EQUALLY IMPORTANT, WE MUST ENSURE THAT OTHER ASPECTS OF OUR BILATERAL COOPERATION AND CONSULTATIONS REMAIN ON TRACK.

4. ~~(C)~~ WE UNDERSTAND THAT SOME U.S. OFFICIALS MAY BE CONSIDERING WHETHER TO DELAY PLANNED TRAVEL HERE. THE U.S. MUST NOT PUT ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH ITALY ON HOLD. IN FACT, IT IS CRUCIAL TO DEMONSTRATE THE CONTINUITY AND VIBRANCY OF THAT RELATIONSHIP. THAT WILL HELP THE CAVALESE VERDICT RECEDE. PRESIDENT CLINTON MET WITH PM D'ALEMA IN THE IMMEDIATE AFTERMATH OF THE VERDICT. DEPUTY SECRETARY OF STATE TALBOTT ARRIVED IN ROME SOON THEREAFTER. DEPUTY COMMERCE SECRETARY MALLETT ARRIVED ON MONDAY THE 8TH. THIS SENDS THE RIGHT MESSAGE. END SUMMARY

5. ~~(C)~~ IN HIS COMMENTS TO THE PARLIAMENT, D'ALEMA FOCUSED ON THE NEED TO IDENTIFY AND PUNISH THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE TRAGEDY, AND TO ENSURE THAT SUCH A TRAGEDY NEVER OCCURS AGAIN. AS PART OF THIS PROCESS, D'ALEMA ANNOUNCED THAT THE GOI WOULD MAKE AVAILABLE TO ITALIAN JUDICIARY THE TEXT OF THE CLASSIFIED BILATERAL INFRASTRUCTURE AGREEMENT (BIA). HE DID NOT ELABORATE FURTHER ON THE AGREEMENT, NOR DID HE CALL FOR ITS DECLASSIFICATION. (NOTE: HIS STAFF LATER CONFIRMED THAT IT IS NOT D'ALEMA'S INCLINATION TO PUSH FOR DECLASSIFICATION OF THE BIA AT THIS TIME.) D'ALEMA, NOTING THE COMMITMENT OF BOTH THE U.S AND ITALY TO UPDATING THE U.S.-ITALIAN DEFENSE SECURITY RELATIONSHIP, ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT HE WOULD MAKE AVAILABLE TO PARLIAMENT THE 1995 "SHELL" AGREEMENT.

6. ~~(C)~~ D'ALEMA MADE IT CLEAR THAT ITALY INSISTS, AS HE TOLD THE PRESIDENT, THAT RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CAVALESE ACCIDENT BE CLEARLY IDENTIFIED. "IF AT THE END OF THE JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS UNDERWAY IN THE UNITED STATES THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE ... TRAGEDY IS NOT ASCERTAINED, THE NEED FOR ADAPTATION AND UPDATING OF (THE AGREEMENTS GOVERNING BASING IN ITALY AND THE PRESENCE OF U.S. FORCES) WOULD BE ACCENTUATED, BECAUSE THE INADEQUACY OF THE AGREEMENTS WOULD BE EVIDENT." HE DID NOT GO INTO DETAILS OF EXACTLY HOW SUCH A REVIEW WOULD TAKE PLACE AND OR FAR IT WOULD GO.

(NOTE: WE UNDERSTAND THAT D'ALEMA'S STATEMENTS HAVE TRIGGERED SOME CONCERN AT THE MOD. AS ONE SENIOR OFFICIAL PUT IT: "SOME OF THE AGREEMENTS COULD BE EASILY ADDRESSED. SOME WOULD BE VERY
~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ SECTION 02 OF 02 ROME 001631

STATE FOR EUR/WE, EUR/RPM
SECDEF FOR OASD/ISA

E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/10/04
TAGS: PREL, MCAP, NATO, IT
SUBJECT: ITALY: CAVALESE VERDICT AFTERMATH

DIFFICULT. OTHERS SHOULD NOT BE TOUCHED AT ALL.") D'ALEMA ALSO STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE U.S., AND PRAISED THE PRESIDENT'S HANDLING OF THE CAVALESE ISSUE DURING THEIR MEETING.

7. ~~(C)~~ FROM A POLITICAL POINT OF VIEW, THE PM'S OFFICE REGARDED D'ALEMA'S APPEARANCE BEFORE PARLIAMENT AS SUCCESSFUL IN DEFUSING TROUBLE. D'ALEMA SPOKE TO A NEARLY EMPTY CHAMBER, AND THE SUBSEQUENT PREPARED STATEMENTS BY REPS OF THE VARIOUS PARTY GROUPS WERE ON THE WHOLE TEMPERATE, IF PREDICTABLY CRITICAL. EVEN ARMANDO COSSUTTA OF THE ITALIAN COMMUNISTS (PDCI), WHO IS CALLING FOR AN END TO U.S. BASING IN ITALY, WAS RESTRAINED. PM'S OFFICE UNDERLINED PARLIAMENT'S VERY POSITIVE RESPONSE TO D'ALEMA'S COMMITMENT TO PROVIDE THE 1995 "SHELL AGREEMENT." (EMBASSY NOTE: D'ALEMA SPOKE OF THE SHELL AGREEMENT AS HAVING BEEN COVERED BY "CONFIDENTIALITY," EVEN THOUGH IT IS IN FACT UNCLASSIFIED.)

8. ~~(C)~~ EMBASSY DISCUSSIONS MARCH 10 WITH MOD AND PM'S OFFICE INDICATED A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN USG AND GOI VIEWS ON THE DOD/MOD "REVIEW" AGREED BY THE PRESIDENT AND PM D'ALEMA MARCH 5 IN WASHINGTON. WE REPEATEDLY UNDERLINED THE PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT THAT THE REVIEW WOULD ADDRESS AIR SAFETY MEASURES TO ENSURE THAT NO CAVALESE-TYPE ACCIDENT EVER HAPPENED AGAIN. THE ITALIANS HERE INSISTED THAT THERE HAD BEEN AGREEMENT ON A BROADER REVIEW, TO INCLUDE WHAT TYPES OF ACTIVITY THE U.S. CONDUCTS IN ITALY AND THE ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF ITALIAN AUTHORITIES VIS-A-VIS THOSE ACTIVITIES. (IN HIS STATEMENT TO PARLIAMENT, D'ALEMA SAID THE REVIEW WOULD "ALLOW US TO SPEED UP THE REDEFINITION OF ALL SPECIFIC PROCEDURES RELATIVE TO EXERCISES AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES BY U.S. FORCES IN ITALY, WITH THE AIM OF ACHIEVING CONDITIONS OF ABSOLUTE SECURITY FOR THE POPULATION.") OUR GOI INTERLOCUTORS INSISTED THAT, IN THEIR VIEW, THE 3/10 PENTAGON PRESS RELEASE ANNOUNCING ADMIRAL PRUEHER'S APPOINTMENT TO HEAD THE U.S. SIDE IN THE REVIEW FOCUSED EXCLUSIVELY ON SAFETY MEASURES AND THUS CAPTURED ONLY PARTIALLY THE GOI UNDERSTANDING OF THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT AND D'ALEMA. THEY SAID THE GOI WOULD CONSIDER THE STATEMENT AS A "STARTING POINT" OR "POINT ONE OF A LONGER AGENDA." (COMMENT: OFFICIALS WERE DISPLEASED THAT THE PENTAGON STATEMENT WAS RELEASED WITHOUT TAKING ACCOUNT OF ROME'S CONCERNS. EMBASSY, HOWEVER, MADE CLEAR THAT THE PENTAGON HAD CONSULTED WITH ITALIAN AMBASSADOR SALLEO IN WASHINGTON AND BELIEVED IT HAD AN ITALIAN OKAY ON THE ANNOUNCEMENT.)

9. ~~(C)~~ UPON INSTRUCTION BY CINCEUR GENERAL CLARK, CINCUSAFE GENERAL JUMPER WILL VISIT ROME MARCH 15 TO DISCUSS WITH ITALIAN CHOD, GENERAL ARPINO, THE AIR SAFETY MEASURES IN PLACE FOR U.S.

SQUADRONS FORCES IN ITALY. ACTION REQUEST: IN ADVANCE OF GENERAL JUMPER'S VISIT, EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE FURTHER DETAIL ON THE PROCESS AND TIMING ENVISAGED FOR THE PRUEHER REVIEW. END ACTION REQUEST. THE ITALIANS HAVE NAMED AIR FORCE GENERAL LEONARDO TRICARICO TO LEAD THE ITALIAN TEAM, WHICH WILL ALSO INCLUDE MAJOR GENERAL VALTER SINI (ITA), CURRENTLY THE CHIEF OF LOGISTICS, DEFENSE GENERAL STAFF.

FOGLIETTA

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 02
<^SECT>SECTION: 02 OF 02

SSN: 1631
<^SSN>1631

TOR: 990311103439 M3738156
<^TOR>990311103529 M3738157

DIST:

SIT: ALLEN ANDREASEN BAKER BANDLER BELL BLACK BLINKEN BOUCHARD BROWN BUTLER DAVIDSON DEROSA EBITZ GORDON KRASS MCCAUSLAND MCELDOWNEY PETERMAN PIMENTEL SAPIRO VONLIPSEY WITKOWSKY
SIT: NSC

Cable

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 13526
Department of State Guidelines, November 6, 2015
By KOE NARA, Date 7/15/24
2019-0047-F

PREC: IMMEDIATE
CLASS: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
LINE1: OAACZYUW RUEHROA1671 0711741-CCCC--RHEHAAX.
LINE2: ZNY CCCCC ZZH
LINE3: O 121741Z MAR 99
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY ROME
OSRI: RUEHRO
DTG: 121741Z MAR 99
ORIG: AMEMBASSY ROME
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0190
INFO: RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
RUFQAAA/USNMR SHAPE BE
RUFGNOA/USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
RHFQAAA/CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE
RUFNPKD/USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT
RUFPAHQ/16AF AVIANO AB IT
RUFPAFW/31FW AVIANO AB IT
SUBJ: ITALY REQUEST FOR U.S. VIEWS ON
DECLASSIFICATION OF AVIANO MOU

TEXT:

~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ ROME 001671

DEPT FOR EUR, L

SECDEF FOR OASD/ISA, OASD/FMRA

E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/12/04
TAGS: PREL, MCAP, NATO, IT
SUBJECT: ITALY REQUEST FOR U.S. VIEWS ON
DECLASSIFICATION OF AVIANO MOU

REFS: A) ROME 7618 98 B) ROME 5277 98

1. CLASSIFIED BY: ERIC TERZUOLO, ACTING
MINISTER COUNSELOR FOR
POLITICAL AFFAIRS.

2. (U) THIS IS AN ACTION MESSAGE -- SEE PARA 5.

3. ~~(C)~~ EMBASSY'S DEFENSE ATTACHE RECEIVED MARCH 12 A LETTER SIGNED BY THE DEPUTY ITALIAN CHOD REQUESTING AGAIN (SEE REFTELS) U.S. VIEWS ON THE DECLASSIFICATION OF
ARTICLES 7 AND 9 OF THE 1993
"MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING RELATIVE TO THE USE OF THE AVIANO AIR BASE IN APPLICATION OF THE DECISION ON THE DEPLOYMENT OF F-16'S IN ITALY."

4. ~~(C)~~ BELOW IS AN INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF THE LETTER:

SUBJECT: REQUEST OF THE TRENTO PROSECUTOR FOR THE DECLASSIFICATION OF THE "MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING RELATIVE TO THE USE OF THE AVIANO AIR BASE IN APPLICATION OF THE DECISION ON THE DEPLOYMENT OF F-16 IN ITALY" SIGNED NOVEMBER 30 1993.

THE PROSECUTOR OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRENTO HAS ASKED, IN THE CONTEXT OF THE INVESTIGATIONS INTO THE CERMIS AIR ACCIDENT, FOR THE DECLASSIFICATION OF THE ABOVE-REFERENCED DOCUMENT IN ITS ENTIRETY OR, IN THE ALTERNATIVE, FOR THE
DECLASSIFICATION OF ARTICLES 7 AND
9.

IT IS OUR VIEW THAT ONLY ARTICLES 7 AND
9 COULD BE DECLASSIFIED,
SINCE THEY DO NOT CONTAIN INFORMATION THAT IS RELEVANT FOR MILITARY SECURITY.

THUS, WE WOULD LIKE YOUR VIEWS ON THE DECLASSIFICATION OF ONLY ARTICLES 7 AND 9.

WE AWAIT YOUR RESPONSE ON THIS MATTER, WHICH HAS TAKEN ON EXTREME URGENCY.

5. (U) REQUEST WASHINGTON GUIDANCE ON HOW TO RESPOND TO THE ITALIAN REQUEST.

FOGLIETTA

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

SSN: 1671

TOR: 990312124615 M3740939

DIST:

SIT: BLINKEN BROWN
SIT: NSC