

PRIME MINISTER'S

PERSONAL MESSAGE

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ROUGH TRANSLATION

Subject on Defence Pt 2
T.N.F.

T169A/79T

Rome, 15 December 1979

"Prime Minister and dear Friend,

I wish to express to you my satisfaction for the action we undertook, in close cooperation with other countries and in particular with the United States and the Federal Republic of Germany, to arrive at the difficult decisions adopted by the NATO Council in Bruxelles on 12 December. In the opinion of my Government, as well as of the major political forces in Italy, they are useful and indeed essential for the security of the Alliance. It is to be hoped that they will assist the re-launching of the negotiations for arms control and limitation, including theatre nuclear forces.

I am convinced moreover that it was wise to grant special concessions to Belgium and the Netherlands. I think that it is now necessary to undertake a discreet and friendly diplomatic action in order to strengthen the ties of friendship with these countries, besides those already existing within the Atlantic Alliance and the EEC. On my part, I wish to assure you that it is my intention to move, also with personal initiatives, in this direction.

I remain,

Yours sincerely,

Francesco Cossiga."