

SECRET

THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

#14

October 18, 1980

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT

FROM: Edmund S. Muskie *ESM*

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DOS REVIEWED 13-Mar-2007: DECLASSIFIED IN FULL

1. Consultations with the Allies on the Gulf -

Peter Carrington early this week suggested early Quadripartite consultations in London at the Christopher level to sort out political control of our naval talks and to coordinate our policies toward the Gulf states. The French turned down the idea. We have therefore invited the British to come here for bilateral discussions with Chris. Chris will use the visit to discuss also the implications of the Soviet posture in the Transcaucasus, something the British have suggested as follow-up to his conversation with Mrs. Thatcher last month. We are sending instructions to Art Hartman so he can convey our understanding about US-French navy-to-navy arrangements. There will be further opportunity for coordination when the four Political Directors meet on October 27 in Paris. (S)

2. New Italian Government - Experienced Christian Democratic

politician and former Foreign Minister Arnaldo Forlani has formed Italy's 40th government since WWII. Forlani presented his four party cabinet list to President Pertini today, and he will seek parliamentary approval next week. No problem is expected.

The hallmark of the Forlani government is expected to be continuity. Many of the cabinet ministers, including Foreign Minister Colombo and Defense Minister Lagorio, have been re-confirmed. The Social Democrats have been added to the Christian Democrat, Socialist, Republican coalition, but there is no major shift in the distribution of cabinet seats. There should be no change in foreign policy or in Italy's support on the TNF issue. In contrast with Cossiga, Forlani is expected to coordinate to some extent with the Communist Party and the trade unions on domestic issues in hopes of achieving the kind of parliamentary consensus Cossiga failed to find.

The Forlani government is more broadly based than its predecessor and will, therefore, be more politically diffuse. Because of this and because Forlani himself is cautious and careful, this government may be less quick and decisive than Cossiga's on controversial issues. (C)

RDS 10/18/00, Muskie, Edmund S.

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3. Honduras-El Salvador Settlement - The final and public phases of the Honduras-El Salvador peace negotiations are accelerating. Salvadoran Foreign Minister Chavez-Mena travelled to Tegucigalpa October 16, and President Paz or Foreign Minister Elvir is expected to visit San Salvador October 23 as part of the effort to prepare public opinion for the terms of the border settlement and peace agreement. The two countries will sign the agreement October 30 in Lima. A second ceremony may be held November 18 under OAS auspices in Washington. (C)

4. Guatemala and Belize - Guatemalan Foreign Minister Castillo discussed the Belize dispute and human rights with Chris and other Department officials. Castillo thought apparent Belizean willingness to give up some territorial sea and some cays might offer a possible solution. Guatemala wants to find an honorable solution.

We expressed a desire to improve relations and explained our concern over political violence. We reassured Castillo we have no intention of overthrowing his government. Castillo said he has been suspicious about our intentions. He said human rights abuses were inevitable because of the struggle against Castro-inspired subversion and the limited educational and cultural level of the Guatemala security forces. (S)

5. Issues and Answers - I will be appearing on Issues and Answers tomorrow.