

GR280

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FM ROME 251700Z JUN 85

TO PRIORITY FCO

TELNO 625 OF 25 JUN 85

INFO PRIORITY WASHINGTON, BONN, PARIS, UKREP BRUSSELS, BEIRUT,  
TEL AVIV, CAIRO, MOSCOW, UKDEL NATO.

INFO SAVING HOLY SEE (ACTIONED).

VICE PRESIDENT BUSH'S VISIT TO ITALY.

1. VICE PRESIDENT BUSH ARRIVED IN ROME ON 23 JUNE, CALLED ON PERTINI AND THE POPE YESTERDAY AND THEN HAD A TETE A TETE WITH CRAXI FOLLOWED BY AN ENLARGED MEETING AND LUNCH WITH CRAXI AND ANDREOTTI. WE HAVE REPORTED SEPARATELY THE BRIEF DISCUSSION OF TERRORISM AND HIJACKING (MY TELNO 623).

SDI/GENEVA NEGOTIATIONS.

2. BOTH THE US EMBASSY AND CRAXI'S ADVISERS SAY THAT THIS SCARCELY FEATURED IN DISCUSSION. CRAXI GAVE BUSH HIS IMPRESSIONS OF GORBACHEV. HE URGED THE AMERICANS TO EXPLORE ALL OPENINGS FOR ARMS CONTROL AGREEMENTS.

JORDAN/PLO.

3. GENERAL DISCUSSION OF WHETHER A FEDERAL JORDAN WOULD WORK. BOTH SIDES AGREED THAT THE RUSSIANS WOULD PLAY AN UNHELPFUL ROLE. ITALIAN SCEPTICISM THAT THE PLO COULD ADJUST TO THE BURDEN OF NEGOTIATING. ARAFT WAS IN A DIFFICULT POSITION. BUSH SAID, HOWEVER, THAT IF THE PLO WERE TO SUBSCRIBE TO THE TWO UN RESOLUTIONS THE US WOULD FEEL 'OBLIGED' TO TALK TO THE PLO.

EC/US TRADE ISSUES.

4. CRAXI URGED A MORATORIUM: BOTH SIDES SHOULD REFRAIN FROM PUNITIVE ACTION AND TALK RATHER THAN FIGHT. IT WAS NOT CLEAR WHETHER CRAXI ENVISAGED DIRECT ITALIAN/US NEGOTIATIONS: IN ANY CASE BUSH STRESSED THAT MATTERS NOW RESTED WITH THE COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE AND REPEATED THIS IN HIS PRESS CONFERENCE AFTERWARDS. HE ADDED THAT CONGRESSIONAL PRESSURE HAD PUT THE ADMINISTRATION ON THE SPOT.

5. SHORTAGE OF TIME PREVENTED SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION OF OTHER TOPICS.

BRIDGES

STANDARD PALACE

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