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TO ROUTINE FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 25 OF 11 JANUARY
INFO ROUTINE WASHINGTON, PARIS, BONN.

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ITALY AND THE GUADELOUPE MEETING

1. AN APPARENTLY INSPIRED ACCOUNT APPEARED IN THE CORRIERE DELLA SERA ON 17 JANUARY OF SIGNOR ANDREOTTI'S HALF - HOUR MEETING THE PREVIOUS DAY WITH JACQUES MAHL, SECRETARY-GENERAL AT THE ELISEE, WHO HAD BEEN SENT TO ROME BY PRESIDENT GISCARD TO GIVE THE ITALIANS AN ACCOUNT OF THE GUADELOUPE MEETING.

2. THE ACCOUNT BY DINO FRESCOBALDI CONTAINS THE FOLLOWING POINTS:-

(A) THE ITALIAN SENSE OF DISAPPOINTMENT WAS NOT BY THIS BRIEFING DISPELLED SEMICOLON

(B) THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT HAD PROTESTED TO THE FOUR GOVERNMENTS CONCERNED BEFORE THE GUADELOUPE MEETING SEMICOLON

(C) SIGNOR ANDREOTTI WAS PARTICULARLY DISTRESSED BY THE FACT THAT HIS THREE EUROPEAN COLLEAGUES INVOLVED HAD SAID NOTHING TO HIM ABOUT THE FORTHCOMING GUADELOUPE MEETING WHEN THEY SAW HIM RESPECTIVELY SHORTLY BEFORE IT WAS ANNOUNCED SEMICOLON

(D) MAHL GAVE A DETAILED ACCOUNT OF THE GUADELOUPE DISCUSSIONS, MENTIONING EAST/WEST RELATIONS, THE SALT NEGOTIATIONS, CHINA, THE FAR EAST, THE MIDDLE EAST, IRAN, AFRICA AND THE WORLD ECONOMIC SITUATION. ACCORDING TO FRESCOBALDI'S ACCOUNT (THOUGH WE HAVE NO CONFIRMATION OF THIS), SIGNOR ANDREOTTI MAY HAVE BEEN GIVEN A REPORT OF THE GISCARD/SCHMIDT BILATERAL MEETING ON MCA'S AND THE EMS SEMICOLON

(E) THE ITALIANS WERE PARTICULARLY ANXIOUS TO HAVE AN ASSURANCE THAT THE GUADELOUPE MEETING DID NOT IMPLY THE INSTITUTIONALISATION OF A FOUR - POWER DIRECTORATE.

3. IN THE COURSE OF A TELEVISION PRESS CONFERENCE GIVEN BY SIGNOR ANDREOTTI ON 10 JANUARY, HE REPLIED TO A QUESTION BY 'LE MONDE' CORRESPONDENT ABOUT ITALY'S EXCLUSION FROM GUADELOUPE. ON THIS OCCASION, SIGNOR ANDREOTTI STRESSED IN A VERY RELAXED FASHION THAT THE GUADELOUPE MEETING WAS ESSENTIALLY A CONSULTATION BETWEEN THE FOUR NUCLEAR WESTERN POWERS IN PREPARATION FOR THE SALT TALKS AND THAT ITALY "THANK GOODNESS" WAS NOT A NUCLEAR POWER. HE REPEATED THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT'S RESISTANCE TO ANYTHING WHICH IMPLIED THE INSTITUTIONALISATION OF AN INNER DERECTORATE. HE REVEALED THAT IN ADDITION TO SENDING M. WAHL, PRESIDENT GISCARD HAD TELEPHONED HIM TO EXPLAIN THE ITEMS ON THE GUADELOUPE AGENDA. AS FOR THE CIRCUMSTANCES IN WHICH THE GUADELOUPE HAD BEEN SET UP, SIGNOR ANDREOTTI SAID HE HAD THE IMPRESSION THAT MR CALLAGHAN AND CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT HAD LET IT BE KNOWN THAT THEY WERE TAKING A BRIEF HOLIDAY IN THE CARIBBEAN AND THAT EITHER THE FRENCH OR AMERICAN PRESIDENT (HE WAS NOT SURE WHICH) HAD DECIDED TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY OF CONTACTING THE FOUR LEADERS CONCERNED.

CAMPBELL

FILES

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NEWS D

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PS/PUS

SIR A DUFF

SIR R HIBBERT

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

15 January 1979

A C Goodison Esq CMG
ROME

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My dear Alan

GUADELOUPE

1. We noticed with some surprise that Signor Andreotti is reported in paragraph 3 of your telegram no 25 as referring to the Guadeloupe meeting as a consultation between "the four nuclear Western powers". Is this really what Andreotti said? It seems an odd mistake for him to make in regard to the FRG.

Yours ever

David

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Western European Department



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1. Mr. Heberne - pl.
Relate & submit w/rel.

R.

Your reference

29/1

A D S Goodall Esq
WED
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Our reference

Date 19 January 1979

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Mr. Goodall to be o/r

Praven
30/1

My dear David,

GUADALUPE (2)

1. Thank you for your letter of 15 January about Rome telegram No 25. The reference in paragraph 3 to four nuclear Western powers was of course a mistake. The member of Chancery who drafted the telegram watched the interview with Signor Andreotti on television. He believes that Andreotti referred to something like the three Western nuclear powers and Germany, which is in the front line of Western defence. What he wrote in the draft was "the four nuclear Western powers". He submitted it to me and I crossed out the word "four". Our Communications Officer nevertheless transmitted the word "four".
2. Andreotti was not at fault. We were.

Yours sincerely,

Alex

A C Goodison

P.S. Many congratulations on your promotion, to a very worthy white job. We are all glad for you. David Coladstone is of course an old friend, and we look forward to working with him.

(2)