



BRITISH EMBASSY
PARIS

5 March 1979

P W M Vereker Esq
WED
FCO

CORJ 0211		
RECEIVED	13	
15 MAR 1979		
DESK OFFICER	REGISTRY	
INDEX	PA	SECRETARY

Mr. Harold B 013
Mr. Harbar
Mr. Vereker
6/iii
© 613

Dear Peter,

ITALIAN REACTION TO THE GUADELOUPE SUMMIT

Enter e return p1.

D — Thank you for your letter of 9 February.

2. I had an opportunity to discuss this today with Jacques Blot, the Assistant Director of François-Poncet's Cabinet. We compared notes about the Italian reaction, and Blot said that the Italians seemed to have spoken to the French on much the same lines as Ducci had done, when he called on Mr Judd. The Italians had given expression to their disquiet in Paris and in Rome, when M Wahl (the Secretary General at the Elysée) had gone there on the President's instructions to give them an account of what had taken place at Guadeloupe. As with us, the Italian tone had been one of disappointment, and they had pointed to the danger of restricted meetings becoming established and developed. As far as Blot could remember, they had not referred to "the resumption of Gaullist practices", but Blot said that it would not have surprised him if they had. The Italians had not, like Ducci, left any piece of paper.

R.
1973

3. Blot did not give the impression that the French had been at all disturbed by the Italian reaction. From what he said, it seems to have been regarded as routine and expected. He said that it was, after all, a fact of international life that limited groups of nations would meet from time to time to discuss different problems, and that those not included would make a fuss at being left out (eg the Canadians and Benelux, as well as the Italians).

4. Blot said that one feature which marked the Italian reaction to Guadeloupe, and their exclusion from other limited gatherings, was that so comparatively little attention was paid by Italian political figures to international affairs - Andreotti excepted. This meant that Italian uneasiness was normally expressed by diplomats, and in diplomatic language.

Yours ever
Nicky

Lord N Gordon Lennox

- cc J S Whitehead Esq CMG CVO, BONN
- W J Adams Esq CMG, ROME
- P J Weston Esq, WASHINGTON