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MALTA/ITALY

1. Angelo La Marte, the Italian Chargé, told me yesterday that the Italians have been asked to remove their 46-man strong Military Mission from Malta by 29 March. This request was conveyed by Minister Lorry Sant to Colonel Zampieri, the Head of the Mission. When Zampieri asked for an explanation of the Maltese decision he was reminded that Mintoff had warned the Italians last September that if they remained un-co-operative over aid the Military Mission would have to go (see the last sentence of my letter 063/24 of 3 October 1978 to Timothy Daunt).
2. Sant also indicated that the Libyans had been leaning on Mintoff to get rid of all "foreign forces" before 31 March.

Re.

(Norman Aspin)

13 March 1979

c.c. SED
FCO

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