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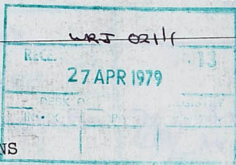
Your reference

M H Connor Esq  
Mexico & Caribbean Dept  
FCO

Our reference 021/4

Date

19 April 1979



Dear Connor,  
ITALO-CUBAN RELATIONS

1. Paragraph 4 of FCO telno 59 to Havana referred to the possibility that our European partners might have been the object of self-invitations for a visit by the Cuban Foreign Minister.
2. You may like to know that the Latin American Department of the MFA have told us that approaches were indeed made by the Cubans about a possible visit by Malmierca to Rome. The Italian response was that given the current political situation in Italy, with elections due to take place in early June, this would not be convenient. For the same reason we gather that nothing has yet been decided about the proposed Forlani visit to Cuba, to which you referred in paragraph 2 of your letter of 19 January to Bryan White in Havana.
3. Despite the above and despite the fact that Cuban policies in Africa during the past few years have given the Italian Government much cause for concern, the Italians have normally cultivated close relations with the Cubans and in the past Forlani has welcomed opportunities to meet his Cuban colleague.
4. Incidentally, we have not seen anything in the Italian press about links between Italian terrorist organisations and Cuba, to which you also referred in the letter mentioned in paragraph 2 above. It used to be said some years ago that such links existed. But we know of no evidence for this, and there has not been any recent publicity that we can recall.

Yours sincerely,  
Mark Fellow

M E Fellow

cc:  
B O White Esq, HAVANA  
P G Harborne Esq, WED