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TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 414 OF 26 SEPTEMBER 1979

MY TELNO ⁴⁹ AND TELECON VEREKER/ADAMS: PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT

1. AS FORECAST BY TELEPHONE TO WED EARLIER THIS WEEK, I CALLED ON SIGNOR COSSIGA THIS MORNING, 26 SEPTEMBER. THIS WAS MY FIRST CALL ON HIM AND HE CLEARLY WISHED TO USE IT TO DISCUSS THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICIAL VISIT IN SOME DETAIL, AND TO DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO ENSURE THAT IT GOES WELL.

2. I WAS GRATEFUL TO HAVE ADVANCE NOTICE IN TELECON VEREKER/ADAMS THAT THE PRIME MINISTER WOULD PREFER THE LARGER DINNER FORMULA (PARAGRAPH 3 OF MY TEL UNDER REFERENCE). THIS ENABLED ME TO AGREE THE FOLLOWING PROGRAMME:-

4 OCTOBER

(A) A TETE A TETE WITH SIGNOR COSSIGA FROM 7 TO 8 PM AT THE PALAZZO CHIGI.

(B) 9.15 PM DINNER FOR ABOUT 30 GUESTS AT VILLA MADAMA (THIS WILL NO DOUBT BE LOUNGE SUIT FOR MEN; THE ITALIANS WILL PROBABLY EXPECT MRS THATCHER TO WEAR A LONG DRESS, THOUGH SOME ITALIAN LADIES WILL WEAR SHORT)

5 OCTOBER

LAST PAPER

(C) 10 AM CALL ON PRESIDENT PERTINI

(D) 11 AM TO 1 PM PLENARY TALKS

(E) 1.15 PM WORKING LUNCH AT PALAZZO CHIGI.

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/ 3. SIGNOR

3. SIGNOR COSSIGA MADE A POINT OF SAYING THAT THOUGH IT WAS NORMALLY THE RESPONSIBILITY OF A JUNIOR MINISTER FROM THE MFA HE WOULD ON THIS OCCASION HIMSELF BE AT THE AIRPORT. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS HAD BEEN MADE TO OPEN CIAMPINO FOR THE PURPOSE.

4. WE DISCUSSED THE TETE A TETE, WHICH WOULD BE USED FOR A TOUR D'HORIZON AND WOULD COVER THE POLITICAL SITUATION AND PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS PRIVATELY THE MAIN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA, NAMELY COMMUNITY BUSINESS AND TNF.

5. AS REGARDS THE DINNER, COSSIGA GAVE INSTRUCTIONS THAT TIME AT TABLE SHOULD BE MINIMISED TO FREE THE MAXIMUM TIME OVER COFFEE FOR MRS THATCHER TO MEET PROMINENT ITALIANS. HE WOULD PROBABLY AIM AT ABOUT 30 GUESTS AND WOULD INCLUDE SENIOR MINISTERS, 1 OR 2 TOP INDUSTRIALISTS AND A FEW PROMINENT ITALIANS FROM E.G. THE PRESS.

6. AS FOR THE AGENDA FOR THE PLENARY TALKS WE CONFIRMED THAT IT SHOULD BE AS FOLLOWS:-

- (A) COMMUNITY BUSINESS
- (B) TNF
- (C) EAST/WEST, INCLUDING CHINA
- (D) BILATERAL, PARTICULARLY SECURITY AND TERRORISM
- (E) ENERGY.
- (F) PANDOLFI
- (G) CERN
- (H) (IF NECESSARY) SCHILD CASE.

7. ON THESE COSSIGA CONFIRMED THAT PRIORITY SHOULD BE GIVEN TO COMMUNITY AFFAIRS, THOUGH HE WAS GLAD THAT WE HAD PUT TNF ON THE AGENDA AS IT WAS VERY IMPORTANT. I SUGGESTED ADDING CHINA TO EAST/WEST AND HE THOUGHT THIS AN EXCELLENT IDEA. IT COULD BE COMPLEMENTARY TO THE 4-POWER CONSULTATION WHICH HAD BEEN PROPOSED BEFORE THE VARIOUS PARTNERS MET THE CHINESE.

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8. ON SECURITY AND TERRORISM HE SAID IT WAS IMPORTANT TO MAINTAIN THE DIALOGUE WHICH HE HAD HAD AS MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. HE APPRECIATED OUR HELP AND COLLABORATION AND WAS GLAD THAT HIS INTERIOR MINISTER (ROGNONI) WAS SHORTLY GOING TO LONDON.

9. I SAID THAT IF THE SCHILD CASE HAD NOT BEEN SOLVED BY THEN THE PRIME MINISTER MIGHT REFER TO IT. COSSIGA SAID THAT HIS GOVERNMENTAL ATTITUDE WAS THE SAME AS OURS, NAMELY THAT ONE SHOULD NOT DEAL WITH KIDNAPPERS. I AGREED BUT OBSERVED THAT THE FAMILIES WOULD GO ON TRYING TO RECOVER THE VICTIMS BY PAYING RANSOM. COSSIGA CONCURRED BUT SAID THAT THIS WOULD, IF CONTINUED, SIMPLY CONDONE THE PRACTICE. BUT HE WAS READY TO DISCUSS THE SCHILD CASE UNDER THE BILATERAL HEADING IF NECESSARY AND WOULD HAVE AN UP TO DATE REPORT PREPARED.

10. ON ENERGY, COSSIGA WANTS SIMPLY TO DISCUSS OIL SUPPLIES IN THE ENERGY CRISIS AND HOW WE SEE THE NORTH SEA PLAYING ITS PART.

11. ON PANDOLFI (PARAGRAPH 3 OF MY TELNO 399) HE WANTED TO SPEAK TO MRS THATCHER ABOUT PANDOLFI AND THE IMF. HE WOULD ADD A FURTHER SMALL ITEM IN ORDER TO MENTION THE CANDIDATURE OF PROFESSOR ZICHICHI AT CERN WHICH ALREADY BEEN THE SUBJECT OF PRIME MINISTERIAL CORRESPONDENCE IN SIGNOR ANDREOTTI'S TIME.

12. HE WANTED TO MAKE THE MOST OF THE VISIT FOR WORK PURPOSES AND WASTE AS LITTLE TIME AS POSSIBLE. HE SUGGESTED THAT AT THE DINNER THERE SHOULD BE NO MORE THAN TOASTS, IE A TOAST TO THE QUEEN AND REPLY AND NO (NO) SPEECHES. THIS MODIFIES BERLINGUER'S ADVICE IN PARAGRAPH OF MY TELNO 486, BUT TO BE ON THE SAFE SIDE, I RECOMMEND THAT THE PRIME MINISTER HAS A FEW POINTS FOR A VERY BRIEF INFORMAL SPEECH, SINCE IN ITALY THIS CAN NEVER BE EXCLUDED.

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13. SIGNOR COSSIGA WAS VERY AFFABLE AND SAID THAT HE DID NOT MIND BEING ACCUSED BY HIS MINISTERIAL COLLEAGUES OF BEING EXCESSIVELY PRO-BRITISH SINCE IT WAS REWARDING TO WORK WITH US. HE WISHED ME WELL IN MY MISSION AND SAID THAT AS RELATIONS COULD HARDLY BE IMPROVED PERHAPS MY AIM SHOULD BE TO TRY AND MAINTAIN THEM AT THEIR HIGH LEVEL. I CONFIRMED SEPARATELY FROM BERLINGUER AFTERWARDS THAT COSSIGA WILL HAVE PARALLEL CONSULTATIONS WITH CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT AND PRESIDENT GISCARD IN THAT ORDER, AND IN THEIR CAPITALS, BEFORE THE DUBLIN COUNCIL (MY TELNO 407 REFERS).

14. AS REGARDS THE CALL ON PRESIDENT PERTINI ON 5 OCTOBER, BERLINGUER SUGGESTED THAT AS SIGNOR Malfatti WOULD BE PRESENT MRS THATCHER SHOULD BE ACCOMPANIED BY YOURSELF, IF YOU ACCOMPANY THE PRIME MINISTER, AND MYSELF. OBVIOUSLY HE WOULD LIKE TO KNOW AS SOON AS POSSIBLE WHETHER YOU ARE COMING. COSSIGA WAS PLEASED THAT THE PRIME MINISTER WAS COMING WITH SUCH A COMPACT PARTY AND THE ITALIANS WOULD MATCH OUR NUMBERS.

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