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TO IMMEDIATE UKREP BRUSSELS

TELEGRAM NUMBER 64 OF 14 JANUARY

PERSONALITY NOTE AS REQUESTED FOR THE PS/LPS

RUFFINI, ONOREVOLE ATTILIO

MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT)

1. BORN MANTOVA 1925. BARRISTER. TOOK PART IN WARTIME RESISTANCE. JOINED DC IN 1945. DEPUTY FOR PALERMO SINCE 1963. MEMBER OF PARTY NATIONAL COUNCIL SINCE 1969. UNDER-SECRETARY (JUNIOR MINISTER) FOR EDUCATION 1972, AND FOR THE TREASURY 1972-74. PARTY VICE-SECRETARY APRIL 1974 TO JULY 1976, RESPONSIBLE FOR PRESS AND INFORMATION. MINISTER OF TRANSPORT FROM JULY 1976 TO SEPTEMBER 1977 WHEN HE WAS SWITCHED TO DEFENCE AFTER THE PREVIOUS MINISTER OF DEFENCE, LATTANZIO, HAD BEEN HEAVILY CRITICISED FOR THE ESCAPE FROM A ROME PRISON OF THE NAZI WAR CRIMINAL KAPPLER. RUFFINI RETAINED HIS JOB AS DEFENCE MINISTER WHEN THE NEW ANDREOTTI GOVERNMENT WAS FORMED IN MARCH 1978.

2. RUFFINI IS A MEMBER OF THE MAINSTREAM "DOROTEI" FACTION OF THE DC, AND IS PERSONALLY CLOSE TO ANDREOTTI. HAS A SOLID BASE OF LOCAL SUPPORT IN SICILY, AND IS AN ACTIVE AND CAPABLE MINISTER.

3. WELL-DISPOSED TOWARDS BRITAIN. INTERESTED IN LATIN AMERICAN AFFAIRS. GOOD ON TELEVISION. MARRIED - WIFE IS LIVELY, INTELLIGENT, INTERESTED IN POLITICS, AND COMES FROM AN INFLUENTIAL SICILIAN FAMILY. FIVE CHILDREN - ONE SON WORKING IN UK TO LEARN ENGLISH.

CARRINGTON

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16 JAN 1980