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DESKBY 241400Z MAR

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TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 229 OF 24 MARCH 1980

INFO IMMEDIATE UKREP BRUSSELS

was 0142
TOP COPY
 24 MAR 1980
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(12)

MY TELNO 222: ITALIAN POLITICAL SITUATION

1. PRESIDENT PERTINI GAVE SIGNOR COSSIGA A MANDATE TO FORM A NEW GOVERNMENT ON 23 MARCH. BOTH PERTINI AND COSSIGA SEEM TO HAVE INJECTED A SENSE OF URGENCY INTO THE PROCESS.

COSSIGA MADE CLEAR IN ACCEPTING THE MANDATE THAT HE WOULD START HIS CONSULTATIONS WITHOUT DELAY. THERE ARE ALSO AN INCREASING NUMBER OF PUBLIC REFERENCES TO THE INTERNATIONAL ARGUMENTS IN FAVOUR OF AN EARLY SOLUTION TO THE CRISIS.

2. ONE FACTOR WHICH MAY HELP TOWARDS AN EARLY SOLUTION IS THAT THE SOCIALIST PARTY SECRETARY, CRAXI, SEEMS TO HAVE WON THE LATEST ROUND AGAINST THE LEFT-WING OF HIS PARTY. AT THE PSI CENTRAL COMMITTEE ON 20/21 MARCH THE PARTY ACCEPTED THE PRINCIPLE OF PSI ENTRY INTO GOVERNMENT, SUBJECT TO CERTAIN BROAD CONDITIONS ABOUT THE SHAPE OF THE GOVERNMENT'S PROGRAMME.

(11) THIS SHOULD EASE THE WAY TOWARDS THE CREATION OF A COALITION OF ONE OF THE TYPES MENTIONED IN PARA 3 OF MY TELNO 220, OR POSSIBLY OF A 2-PARTY (DC-PSI) COALITION. BUT IT IS TOO EARLY YET TO SAY WHAT WILL EMERGE OR HOW LONG IT WILL TAKE.

3. SEE MIFT.

ARCULUS

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THIS TELEGRAM WAS NOT ADVANCED

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