

50

WKJ 024/014/2	
RECEIVED	
- 6 OCT 1980	
3	
OFFICER	
INDEX	PA
CONFIDENTIAL	

TOP COPY

GRS 160

CONFIDENTIAL

FROM ROME 031045Z OCT

TO PRIORITY FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 531 OF 03 OCTOBER 80

INFO WASHINGTON, UKDEL NATO, BONN, COPENHAGEN, THE HAGUE, PARIS, BRUSSELS, DULBIN, LUXEMBURG, UKREP BRUSSELS.

MY TELNO 528: ITALIAN INTERNAL SITUATION.

1. PERTINI HAS GIVEN FORLANI, DC PARTY CHAIRMAN, THE FIRST MANDATE TO FORM A GOVERNMENT. FORLANI ACCEPTED WITH GREAT RELUCTANCE. THE DC CENTRE PREFERRED HIM TO THE LIKELY ALTERNATIVE, PICCOLI: THEY DO NOT WANT A SCRAMBLE FOR PICCOLI'S KEY POST OF PARTY SECRETARY AT A DIFFICULT TIME.

2. CRAXI HAS RESIGNED AS PSI SECRETARY. THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE WILL MEET TODAY TO RE-ELECT HIM AND PACK THE DIRECTORATE WITH HIS SUPPORTERS. CRAXI'S OBJECTIVE IS TO BRING HIS LEFT WING UNDER CONTROL AND HELP HIM TO STRIKE A HARD BARGAIN WITH THE DC.

3. PERTINI HAS MADE HIS FIRST MOVE QUICKLY BUT FORLANI'S TASK IS DIFFICULT. HE HAS SAID HE WILL TRY TO PUT TOGETHER A FOUR OR FIVE PARTY COALITION, ENLARGED TO INCLUDE THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS (PSDI) AND LIBERALS (PLI), WHILE SPEAKING OF THE NEED FOR A MORE POSITIVE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE COMMUNIST OPPOSITION (PCI). THE FIRST RESPONSE HAS BEEN VERY FAVOURABLE FOR THE PSDI AND PLI AND CAUTIOUS FROM THE REPUBLICANS. CRAXI HAS NATURALLY SAID THAT HE OPPOSED TO ENLARGING THE COALITION AND EMPHASISED THAT WHAT IS NEEDED IS VOTING DISCIPLINE IN THE DC. THERE IS NO SIGN YET WHETHER OR NOT THE DC WILL UNITE BEHIND FORLANI. HE BELONGS TO THE MAJORITY GROUP WHICH OPPOSES ANY OVERTURES TO THE PCI.
ARCULUS

STANDARD
 WED NEWS D
 ECD OI D
 NAD CABINET OFFICE
 DEF .D

THIS TELEGRAM
 WAS NOT
 ADVANCED

CONFIDENTIAL

Jfr ca. wp. 1/10.