

GR 348

CONFIDENTIAL

50

CONFIDENTIAL

FM ROME 091110Z OCT

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 550 OF 9

INFO SAVING EC POSTS

WRS 01412	
OCTOBER IN REGISTRY NO. 13	
AND UKDED/NATO	
DESK OFFICE	REGISTRY
INDEX	tion Taken
INTERNAL SITUATION	51

MYTEL NO 531: ITALIAN

INTERNAL SITUATION

COPY

1. FORLANI'S CHANCES OF SUCCESS HAVE BEEN IMPROVED BY AN AGREEMENT REACHED ON 7 OCTOBER BETWEEN THE SOCIALISTS (PSI) AND THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS (PSDI). A FOUR PARTY GOVERNMENT, INCLUDING THE REPUBLICANS (WHO HAVE ALREADY GIVEN THE SOCIALIST AGREEMENT A CAUTIOUS WELCOME) IS THEREFORE HIS OBJECTIVE, PERHAPS WITH EXTERNAL SUPPORT FROM THE SMALL LIBERAL PARTY.

2. ON THE SURFACE, GOOD PROGRESS IS BEING MADE SEMICOLON BUT MAJOR OBSTACLES REMAIN. THE LEFT WING OF THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS (DC) BELIEVE THAT IT WOULD BE A MISTAKE TO RETURN TO THE CENTRE-LEFT FORMULA OF THE SIXTIES AND EARLY SEVENTIES AND SO ISOLATE THE COMMUNIST PARTY IN OPPOSITION. THEY ALSO DISLIKE CRAXI AND FEAR HIS AMBITION - THE DC DIRECTORATE ARE TRYING TO RESOLVE THE DIFFERENCES OF VIEW WITHIN THEIR PARTY, BUT IT MAY TAKE TIME. THE DEAL BETWEEN THE PSI AND PSDI IS ALSO UNDER FIRE FROM VARIOUS QUARTERS.

3. ANOTHER DIFFICULTY IS THAT OF ALLOCATING MINISTERIAL POSTS. THE PSDI WILL EXPECT ABOUT THREE IF THEY JOIN THE GOVERNMENT SO SOME RESHUFFLING IS INEVITABLE.

4. ONCE A PRIME MINISTER DESIGNATE HAS ASSURANCES OF THE SUPPORT NECESSARY FOR A PARLIAMENTARY MAJORITY, HE REPORTS THIS TO THE PRESIDENT, ~~PRESENTING HIS LIST OF MINISTERS EITHER THEN OR~~ VERY SOON THEREAFTER. THE NEW GOVERNMENT CAN THEN BE SWORN IN WITHIN A DAY OR TWO. THE SWEARING IN WOULD MEAN THE END OF COSSIGA'S ADMINISTRATION. THE FIRST VOTE OF CONFIDENCE SHOULD FOLLOW ABOUT A WEEK LATER. THEN A NEW GOVERNMENT EFFECTIVELY COMES INTO EXISTENCE.

5. AT THE BEST IT IS POSSIBLE THAT A NEW GOVERNMENT MAY BE IN THE PROCESS OF FORMATION DURING THE STATE VISIT. THE PROTOCOL DEPARTMENT AT THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS ARE WORKING ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT EXISTING MINISTERS WILL PLAY THEIR ALLOTTED PARTS IN THE PROGRAMME.

FCO PLEASE PASS SAVING ADDRESSES.
ARCULUS

STANDARD
WED
ECO
NAD
DEFENCE D
NEWS D
CID
CABINET OFFICE

[REPEATED AS REQUESTED]

[COPIES SENT NO/D DOWNING ST]

pd. rts.

CONFIDENTIAL