

(copied to Mr Walsh)

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TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 554 OF 10 OCTOBER 1980

INFO SAVING ALL EC POSTS, WASHINGTON AND UKDEL NATO

MY TELNO 550: ⁽⁵²⁾ ITALIAN INTERNAL SITUATION

1. I TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY ON 10 OCTOBER OF A TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC ABOUT THE STATE VISIT TO ASK HIM FOR HIS VIEW OF THE PRESENT CRISIS. HE SAID THAT FORLANI SHOULD BE ABLE TO FORM A GOVERNMENT CONSISTING OF CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS, SOCIALISTS, SOCIAL DEMOCRATS AND REPUBLICANS. HE WAS THEREFORE LIKELY TO CALL ON PERTINI ON 11 OCTOBER TO WITHDRAW THE TECHNICAL RESERVE WHICH HE HAD PLACED ON HIS ACCEPTANCE OF THE PREMIERSHIP. THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT PARTY WERE, HOWEVER, ANXIOUS THAT THE LIBERALS SHOULD ALSO BE BROUGHT INTO THE COALITION AND THIS WAS LIKELY TO CAUSE DIFFICULTIES WITH THE REPUBLICANS AND THE SOCIALISTS. HE DID NOT THEREFORE THINK THAT FORLANI WOULD BE ABLE TO FORM HIS GOVERNMENT UNTIL THE END OF NEXT WEEK, BUT THINGS WERE FLUID AND THERE MIGHT BE MORE NEWS AFTER THE WEEKEND.

FCO PASS SAVING.

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ARCULUS