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FM ROME

TO PRIORITY FCO

TELNO 446

OF 270930Z JUN 84

INFO SAVING CONSULAR POSTS IN ITALY, WASHINGTON, UKDEL NATO.

MY TELNO 438: ITALY INTERNAL: LOCAL ELECTIONS.

1. LOCAL ELECTIONS WERE HELD ON 24/25 JUNE IN THE REGION OF SARDINIA AND IN 88 MUNICIPALITIES IN ITALY. THE CONSTITUENCIES WERE FAR FROM TYPICAL AND THE RESULTS ARE THEREFORE NOT A RELIABLE GUIDE TO THE NATIONAL STANDING OF THE PARTIES. NONETHELESS, THE RESULTS WERE SCRUTINISED CAREFULLY IN ROME IN THE WAKE OF EUROPEAN ELECTION RESULTS A WEEK EARLIER. THE PCI'S DISPLACEMENT OF THE DC AT THE TOP OF THE VOTES TABLE APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN SHORT LIVED.

2. IN SARDINIA THE PARTIES OF THE PRESENT COALITION ALL REGAINED VOTES LOST IN THE EUROPEAN ELECTIONS. THE DC REGAINED ITS POSITION AS THE LARGEST PARTY ON THE ISLAND AFTER THE PCI HAD OVERTAKEN IT IN THE EUROPEAN ELECTIONS A WEEK EARLIER, BUT IT LOST 5 SEATS IN COMPARISON WITH THE PREVIOUS REGIONAL ELECTIONS ON 1979. THE PERCENTAGE PCI VOTE WAS DOWN IN COMPARISON WITH THE EUROPEAN ELECTIONS, BUT THE PARTY GAINED TWO SEATS MORE THAN IT HELD UNDER THE PREVIOUS REGIONAL ADMINISTRATION. THE REAL WINNERS WERE THE SARDINIAN ACTION PARTY WHO CONFIRMED THEIR POSITION IN THE EUROPEAN ELECTIONS AS THE THIRD PARTY ON THE ISLAND BY INCREASING THEIR REPRESENTATION FROM 3 TO 12 SEATS. NUMERICALLY A GIUNTA BASED ON EITHER THE DC OR THE PCI COULD BE FORMED IN SARDINIA DEPENDING ON THE SARDINIAN ACTION PARTY'S CHOICE OF ALLIANCES.

3. IN SHORT, ALL THE PARTIES FOUND SOMETHING FROM WHICH TO TAKE HEART. FULL DETAILS OF THE RESULTS FOLLOW BY BAG. CRAXI NOW PLANS TO CONTACT OTHER PARTY LEADERS ON 27 JUNE TO DISCUSS THE FUTURE OF HIS GOVERNMENT (VERIFICA).

4. IN ROME THE DC ARE EXPECTED TO SELECT A NEW PRESIDENT OF THEIR GROUP IN THE SANATE NEXT WEEK FOLLOWING THE DEATH OF BISAGLIA (LPR,28) IN A BOATING ACCIDENT ON 24 JUNE.

5. FCO PLEASE PASS SAVING WASHINGTON AND UKDEL NATO.

BRIDGES

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