

UNCLASSIFIED [FRAME GENERAL]

FM ROME

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INFO PRIORITY UKDEL NATO, OTHER EUROPEAN COMMUNITY POSTS

INFO PRIORITY MADRID, LISBON

LUXEMBOURG COUNCIL: ITALIAN PRESS REACTION.

SUMMARY.

1. UNANIMOUS DISAPPOINTMENT WITH RESULTS OF COUNCIL. AGREEMENT SEEN AS EXCESSIVELY WEAKENED BY RESERVES AND COMPROMISES. LITTLE CRITICISM OF UK'S ROLE. SUPPORT FOR ITALIAN STANCE. MORE CONSIDERED REACTIONS LIKELY TOMORROW.

DETAIL.

2. EXTREME DISAPPOINTMENT IS EXPRESSED BY ALL PAPERS, BUT THERE IS NO TENDENCY TO ALLOCATE BLAME TO ONE PARTICULAR COUNTRY. MOST PAPERS SAY THAT THE ALIGNMENT OF LONDON WITH PARIS AND BONN ON THE MONETARY ISSUE WAS CRUCIAL FOR THE OUTCOME OF THE MEETING. ALTHOUGH MORE CONSIDERED COMMENT WILL COME TOMORROW, THE PRESS SEEM TO SUPPORT ITALY'S ROLE WHILE COMMENTING ON ITS ISOLATION ON THE QUESTION OF THE POWERS OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT. MOST PAPERS TAKE IT FOR GRANTED THAT THE LATTER WILL REFUSE TO AGREE THE RESULTS OF THE MEETING. SOME RESENTMENT OVER DANISH PRIME MINISTER'S COMMENT "ONLY MUSSOLINI THOUGHT HE WAS ALWAYS RIGHT".

3. THE CENTRE "CORRIERE DELLA SERA" (GUATELLI) SPEAKS IN SOBER TERMS OF THE "MARGINAL RETOUCHING OF THE ROME TREATY WHICH WILL NOT IMPROVE COMMUNITY COOPERATION" AND SAYS THAT "THE AGREEMENT ON THE MONETARY FRONT IS A SHINING EXAMPLE OF EURO-HYPOCRISY". THE PAPER ALSO CONDEMNS DELORS FOR HIS "PRAGMATIC APPROACH" AND FOR BEHAVING MORE LIKE A FRENCHMAN THAN A EUROPEAN. THE PAPER SEES GERMANY'S ROLE AS CRUCIAL AND COMMENTS THAT IT HAS EMERGED STRONGER FROM THE COUNCIL. THE FINANCIAL PAPER "IL SOLE 24 ORE" COMMENTS THAT CRAXI THOUGHT HE COULD FORCE THE HAND OF BRITAIN, GREECE AND DENMARK IN MILAN, BUT THAT HIS PARTNERS ON THAT OCCASION HAD MELTED AWAY AND THAT THERE WAS A LACK OF REALISM IN HIS EUROPEAN APPROACH. THE PAPER COMMENTS THAT AMERICA AND JAPAN CAN SLEEP PEACEFULLY NOW THAT IT IS CERTAIN THAT THE EUROPE EMERGING FROM THE LUXEMBOURG MEETING WILL NOT IMPINGE UPON THEIR POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC INFLUENCE IN THE WEST. THE CENTRE-LEFT "REPUBBLICA" HAS ITS USUAL DRAMATIC HEADLINES. "THE MEETING FAILED - EUROPE IS IMPOTENT" AND "ITALY REMAINS ALONE". IT SEES AS THE ONLY POSITIVE OUTCOME THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE EXPRESSIONS "ECONOMIC AND MONETARY UNION" AND "EUROPEAN MONETARY SYSTEM". THE PAPER COMMENTS IRONICALLY ON THE "SUCCESS" OF THE SINGLE MARKET TO BE ACHIEVED BY 1992. "LA REPUBBLICA" SUGGESTS THAT CRAXI COULD NOT ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE FAILURE OF THE CONFERENCE AND WAS THUS FORCED TO GO ALONG WITH A SERIES OF COMPROMISES WHILE MAINTAINING A CRUCIAL RESERVE ON THE

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OUTCOME, IN PARTICULAR ON THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT ISSUE. THE SOCIALIST PAPER 'AVANTI' DESCRIBES THE RESULTS OF THE COUNCIL AS 'FRANKLY DISAPPOINTING' AND NOTES THAT 'THERE WAS NO POLITICAL WILL TO PROCEED TO THE PROFOUND REFORMS NECESSARY FOR THE FUTURE OF THE EC'. IT HOPES THAT THE REJECTION OF THE COUNCIL'S CONCLUSIONS BY THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT WILL INDUCE THE 12 HEADS OF GOVERNMENT TO REFLECT ON THE SITUATION AND TO DISCUSS THEM AGAIN MORE SUCCESSFULLY. THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT PAPER 'IL POPOLO' IS LESS DISSATISFIED WITH THE RESULTS OF THE MEETING BUT COMMENTS ON THE 'DOWNWARDS COMPROMISES. THE COMMUNIST 'UNITA'' TALKS OF A DIVIDED EUROPE. IT CATEGORISES ANDREOTTI AS THE 'HARDLINER', AND CRAXI AS BEING MORE OPEN TO THE ARGUMENTS OF HIS COLLEAGUES. IT DESCRIBED AS 'ABSURD' THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENTS EXCLUSION FROM THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESS. THE RIGHT-OF-CENTRE 'GIORNALE' SAYS 'EUROPE REMAINS A UTOPIA - ITALY ISOLATED IN THE FIGHT FOR UNITY'. THE PAPER COMMENTS BITTERLY ON THE HOPES OF THOSE STRIVING FOR A UNITED EUROPE BEING LOST IN AN AVALANCHE OF WORDS AND SAYS THAT FRANCE AND GERMANY'S PERFORMANCE WAS DISAPPOINTING.

BRIDGES

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