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UNCLASSIFIED [FRAME GENERAL]
FM ROME 031615Z JUL 85
TO PRIORITY FCO
TELNO 649 OF 3 JUL 85
AND TO SAVING OTHER EC POSTS, MADRID, LISBON.

MILAN COUNCIL: ITALIAN PRESS REACTIONS, 2/3 JULY.

SUMMARY.

1. STRONG EMPHASIS ON 'HISTORIC' FIRST USE OF MAJORITY VOTING AT EUROPEAN COUNCIL AND WIDESPREAD SUPPORT FOR ITALY'S ROLE. PRIME MINISTER'S STATEMENT TO THE HOUSE ON 2 JULY WELL RECEIVED, BUT CRITICISM OF BRITISH LACK OF COMMITMENT TO EUROPEAN UNION.

DETAIL.

2. CONTINUING AND GENERAL SUPPORT FOR WHAT IS SEEN AS ITALY'S HISTORIC BREAKING OF THE 'UNANIMITY RULE' AT THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL. THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF THE SOCIALIST PARTY, VALDO SPINI, WRITING IN AVANTI, SAYS THE ITALIAN PRESIDENCY WAS FACED WITH TWO OPTIONS FOR MILAN - TO ACCEPT THE SKILFULLY MINIMALIST AND PRAGMATIC PROPOSALS OF THE BRITISH OF USE OF THE MAJORITY VOTE TO OPEN EUROPE TO INSTITUTIONAL REFORMS. 'ALTHOUGHT THE MINORITY CAN STILL BLOCK ACTION AT THE INTER-GOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCE THEY HAVE BEEN TOLD CLEARLY THAT EUROPE CAN NO LONGER MARCH AT THE PACE OF THE SLOWEST'. SPINI ALSO SUGGESTS THAT THE MASSIVE FEDERALIST DEMONSTRATION IN LIAZZA DEL DUOMO CONDITIONED ITALY'S APPROACH. IN AN ARTICLE IN CORRIERE, BADINI, CRAXI'S DIPLOMATIC ADVISER, DEFINES AS HISTORIC ITALY'S FORCING OF A MAJORITY VOTE. HE SAYS CRAXI HAD WARNED AGAINST POSING INSTITUTIONAL REFORM AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO COMPLETING THE EXISTING TREATIES. HE CLAIMS THAT MILAN RESULTED IN 'THE THIRD WAY', AVOIDING THE PARALYSIS OF A 'DO NOTHING' CONCLUSION OR THE CHOICE OF A CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE FOR A NEW TREATY. 'MILAN HAS OPENED THE WAY TO A CONFERENCE WHICH HAS A REAL NEGOTIATING MANDATE CAPABLE OF INVESTIGATING THE OPTIONS WHICH MIGHT IMPLY OR REQUIRE AMENDMENTS TO THE TREATIES'. REGARDING POSSIBLE 'BLOCKING' BY THE THREE, BADINI SAYS 'ZE'LL SEE. ONE THING IS CERTAIN AFTER MILAN, NOTHING WILL BE THE SAME'. IN A SIMILAR ARTICLE IN IL POPOLO, THE PRESIDENT OF THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY, PICCOLI, STATED THAT MILAN REPRESENTED AN IMPORTANT STEP AHEAD AND HE STRONGLY SUPPORTED THE HISTORIC NATURE OF THE MILAN DECISION. ONLY THE COMMUNIST UNITA' TAKES A MORE JAUNDICED VIEW, SAYING THAT ITALY CERTAINLY PRESSED FOR A MAJORITY VOTE BUT ON THE BASIS OF GENSCHER'S DRAFT, FORGETTING ABOUT ITS OWN. IT CONCLUDES THAT LITTLE WAS ACHIEVED IN MILAN.

3. LA REPUBBLICA AND CORRIERE BOTH CARRY STATEMENTS FROM SPINELLI. IN THE FORMER HE WELCOMES USE OF MAJORITY VOTING AT MILAN AS A FIRST STEP TOWARDS REINFORCEMENT OF THE COMMUNITY AND FORMATION OF A EUROPEAN UNION BUT REGARDS THE CONCLUSIONS REACHED AS

[This private Secretary! Shall I do a riposte?]

/ CONFUSING

CONFUSING AND CONTRADICTORY. HE TALKS OF ITALY, BENELUX AND IRELAND AS FORMING THE EUROPEAN NUCLEUS AND HAS HARSH WORDS ABOUT THE COMMITMENT OF FRANCE AND GERMANY.

4. COMMENTS ON UK. ALL THE PRINCIPAL DAILIES CARRY REPORTS FROM THEIR LONDON CORRESPONDENTS. FILO DELLA TORRE EXPLAINS IN SYMPATHETIC TERMS BRITISH AIMS FOR THE CONFERENCE AND ITS DISAPPOINTMENT AT THE RESULTS. HE EMPHASIZES THAT BRITAIN WILL REMAIN FAITHFUL TO THE ROME TREATY AND WILL NOT ACCEPT SUBSTANTIVE CHANGES. CIANFANELLI IN IL CORRIERE IS RATHER LESS SYMPATHETIC, EMPHASIZING THAT BRITISH DIPLOMACY WAS ON THE POINT OF SUCCEEDING UNTIL A FEW HOURS BEFORE THE END OF THE MEETING BUT CLAIMS THAT THE SPLIT REVEALS THOSE IN FAVOUR OF A UNITED EUROPE AND AND THOSE WHO ARE NOT. HE LIKE FILO DELLA TORRE, SAYS THAT "'TWO SPEED EUROPE'" IS BEING TALKED OF IN LONDON. LA STAMPA AND IL SOLE/24 ORE BOTH REPORT POSITIVELY ON THE PRIME MINISTER'S SPEECH TO THE HOUSE EMPHASIZING THAT BRITAIN WILL CONTINUE TO PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE EC. PATRUNO OF LA STAMPA EMPHASIZES THAT BRITAIN WILL NOT GIVE WAY ON ANY OF ITS MAIN EUROPEAN COMMUNITY STANDPOINTS. HE GOES ON "'IT IS IN THE NATIONAL INTEREST IF BRITAIN STAYS IN THE EC BECAUSE LONDON HAS EVERYTHING TO GAIN FROM COMPLETION OF THE INTERNAL MARKET'". SEVERGNINI IN IL GIORNALE REGRETS BRITAIN'S VIEW THAT EUROPEAN UNION AND A STRENGTHENED ROLE FOR THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COMMISSION ARE A WASTE OF TIME AND SAYS THAT THE PRIME MINISTER IS THE APPROPRIATE REPRESENTATIVE OF A NATION FOR WHOM EUROPE COUNTS LITTLE.

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