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FM ROME 110915Z NOV 82

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NO. 571 OF 11 NOV 82

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FALKLANDS AT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY: ITALIAN VOTE

1. A MEMBER OF SPADOLINI'S DIPLOMATIC OFFICE TELEPHONED YESTERDAY, FOLLOWING SPADOLINI'S RETURN FROM THE U S TO SAY THAT GIVEN THE CURRENT UNCERTAINTY OVER THE FUTURE OF THE GOVERNMENT IT WAS NOT CERTAIN WHETHER A FORMAL REPLY WOULD ISSUED TO THE PRIME MINISTER'S MESSAGE ABOUT THE ITALIAN VOTE AT THE UNITED NATIONS. BUT SPADOLINI WANTED US TO KNOW THAT, SINCE RECEIPT OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S MESSAGE, HE HAD CONTINUED TO ADVOCATE A CHANGE IN THE ITALIAN VOTE EVEN DURING THE FIRST FEW DAYS OF HIS VISIT TO THE U S, AND AT THE RISK OF DAMAGING ITALY'S RELATIONS WITH ARGENTINA. AS FOR THE MESSAGE ITSELF HE HAD FOUND ITS TONE HARD, BUT QUITE UNDERSTANDABLE GIVEN THE IMMENSE IMPORTANCE WHICH HE KNEW THE PRIME MINISTER ATTACHED TO THE ISSUE.
2. THIS EMOLLIENT LINE FROM PALAZZO CHIGI CONTRASTS WITH THE ASPERITY OF MALFATTI (MFA) AT THE TIME (MY TELEGRAM NO. 556)
3. I SHALL DELAY MY RECOMMENDATION ON THE NEXT ANGLO-ITALIAN SUMMIT UNTIL THE PRESENT CONFUSED POLITICAL SITUATION (MY TELEGRAM NO. 467. NOT TO ALL) BECOMES CLEARER. THE FATE OF SPADOLINI'S GOVERNMENT HANGS IN THE BALANCE, AND HE HAS CONCELED THE FRANCO-ITALIAN SUMMIT ON 12 NOVEMBER.
4. FCO PSE PASS SAVING ADDRESSEES

ARCULUS

REPEATED AS REQUESTED

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