

CONFIDENTIAL

FM ROME

TO DESKBY 021815Z FCO

TELNO 3

OF 021736Z JANUARY 90

INFO IMMEDIATE ALL OTHER EC POSTS, WASHINGTON

INFO ROUTINE TEL AVIV, TUNIS, RABAT, ALGIERS, MUSCAT

INFO ROUTINE RIYADH, BAGHDAD, AMMAN, CAIRO, BAHRAIN, DOHA

ADVANCE COPY

OUR TELNO 002 TO LUXEMBOURG: IRAQ/KUWAIT: EPC MINISTERIAL,

4 JANUARY

1. I SPOKE THIS EVENING TO THE ITALIAN POLITICAL DIRECTOR. PERLOT SAID THAT, WITH DE MICHELIS STILL AWAY FROM ROME, HE COULD GIVE ME ONLY HIS PERSONAL REACTION TO OUR SUGGESTION. HOWEVER, FROM WHAT HE KNEW OF HIS MINISTER'S THINKING, HE DID NOT CONSIDER THAT A PRESIDENCY MEETING WITH IRAQI AMBASSADORS WOULD BE REGARDED AS ANYTHING LIKE ENOUGH TO SATISFY ITALIAN PUBLIC AND PARLIAMENTARY DEMANDS.

2. PERLOT SAID HE READILY AGREED THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO QUESTION OF THE EC SENDING A MISSION TO BAGHDAD. IF THERE WAS TO BE A MEETING IT SHOULD TAKE PLACE IN EUROPE, BUT THE CONTACT WOULD, HE THOUGHT, HAVE TO BE AT A LEVEL AND OF A KIND WHICH ENABLED HIS MINISTER TO DEMONSTRATE TO ITALIAN PUBLIC AND PARLIAMENT THAT EVERY EFFORT HAD BEEN MADE AT THE HIGHEST POLITICAL LEVEL TO PERSUADE THE IRAQIS TO GET OUT OF KUWAIT. HE COULD UNDERSTAND THE REASONING BEHIND OUR APPROACH. BUT THIS DID NOT SEEM TO HIM LIKELY TO BE ENOUGH FOR ITALIAN PURPOSES. THE ITALIAN POSITION WAS SIMILAR TO THAT OF THE FRENCH. HE RECALLED THAT DUMAS HAD STATED CATEGORICALLY ON 18 DECEMBER THAT HE WOULD NOT BE PREPARED TO SEND FRENCH SOLDIERS INTO BATTLE WITHOUT A FINAL EFFORT BEING MADE TO TACKLE THE IRAQIS AT HIGH LEVEL.

COMMENT

3. PERLOT STRESSED MORE THAN ONCE THAT THESE WERE HIS PERSONAL THOUGHTS AND SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN AS ITALIAN GOVERNMENT POLICY. HE MADE MUCH OF THE PRESENTATIONAL ASPECT. I THINK IT LIKELY THAT THIS WILL ALSO WEIGH WITH DE MICHELIS, PARTICULARLY GIVEN NEW WORRIES HERE ABOUT THE SITUATION IN MOGADISHU. I TOLD HIM THAT WESTON WOULD BE IN TOUCH TOMORROW 3 JANUARY.

WOOD

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