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FM ROME

TO IMMEDIATE DESKBY 221630Z FCO

TELNO 989

OF 221515Z NOVEMBER 85

INFO IMMEDIATE BONN, PARIS, UKMIS NEW YORK

INFO ROUTINE ATHENS, BRUSSELS, COPENHAGEN, LUXEMBOURG, THE HAGUE

~~YRTELNOS 343 AND 344 TO ATHENS; FALKLANDS AT THE UNGA~~

1. I DELIVERED YOUR MESSAGE TO ANDREOTTI WHEN I CALLED ON THE POLITICAL DIRECTOR THIS MORNING. BIANCHERI RECALLED YOUR CONVERSATION WITH ANDREOTTI IN ROME LAST WEEK AND SAID HE WOULD GIVE IT TO THE MINISTER IMMEDIATELY. BUT HE HAD TO TELL ME THAT THE CABINET HAD MET IN ROME THIS MORNING AND HAD DECIDED TO VOTE IN FAVOUR OF THE ARGENTINE DRAFT RESOLUTION. THE TWO REASONS HE GAVE WERE THE VIEW TAKEN BY THE ITALIAN MINISTERS THAT THE SOFTER ARGENTINE DRAFT THIS YEAR MIGHT WELL CORRESPOND TO A CHANGE IN THE INTERNAL SITUATION IN ARGENTINA, WHICH THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT COULD NOT BE SEEN TO DISCOURAGE. BIANCHERI RECOGNISED THAT THE TERMS OF THE RESOLUTION AS DRAFTED MIGHT WELL CONCEAL THE UNDERLYING INTENTION WHICH WE FORESAW, BUT THE DECISION OF THE GOVERNMENT WAS A POLITICAL ONE TAKEN WITH THE OBJECT OF ENCOURAGING THE CAUSE OF DEMOCRACY IN ARGENTINA. THE SECOND REASON WAS THE FAMILIAR ONE THAT SO MANY ARGENTINIANS ARE OF ITALIAN DESCENT, AND ITALY COULD NOT IGNORE THEIR POLITICAL DESTINY.

2. ASKED WHETHER HIS MINISTERS HAD CONSIDERED OUR PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE RESOLUTION, OF WHICH WE INFORMED THE MFA YESTERDAY, BIANCHERI SAID THAT THEY HAD NOT: HE AGREED THAT FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS WOULD NEED TO BE SENT TO THE ITALIAN MISSION TO THE UN REGARDING OUR PROPOSED AMENDMENTS. HE WOULD HAVE TO OBTAIN FRESH INSTRUCTIONS TO DEAL WITH THE EVOLVING SITUATION AT THE UN OVER THE NEXT FEW DAYS. HE BELIEVED THAT EC AMBASSADORS WERE MEETING IN NEW YORK TODAY TO REVIEW THE POSITION.

3. I SAID THAT I WOULD INFORM YOU AT ONCE OF THE GOVERNMENT'S DECISION, WHICH WOULD I KNEW CAUSE MUCH DISAPPOINTMENT IN LONDON. I DREW ATTENTION TO THE UNFORTUNATE IMPRESSION WHICH A DIVIDED

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VIEW AMONG THE EC MEMBERS WOULD CAUSE, ON THE EVE OF AN IMPORTANT MEETING OF THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL AT WHICH THE FUTURE OF POLITICAL COOPERATION WOULD BE DISCUSSED. I HOPED THAT ITALY WOULD BE ABLE TO REOCCUPY A POSITION AT ONE WITH HER PARTNERS AND ACCEPTABLE TO OURSELVES ON AN ISSUE OF SUCH IMPORTANCE TO US, IN THE COURSE OF THE MANOEUVRES PRECEEDING THE VOTE IN THE GA.

4. AS WE WERE SPEAKING A NOTE WAS BROUGHT IN TO SAY THAT CRAXI INTENDED TO MAKE PUBLIC THE DECISION REACHED BY THE CABINET THIS MORNING. WE HAVE SINCE SPOKEN TO CRAXI'S OFFICE TO SUGGEST THAT THE DECISION IS NOT MADE PUBLIC AS THE FOCUS OF DISCUSSION IN NEW YORK MUST BE EXPECTED TO CHANGE FROM THE ORIGINAL DRAFT RESOLUTION CONSIDERED BY ITALIAN MINISTERS THIS MORNING.

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