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TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELNO 794

OF 181017Z DECEMBER 89

INFO PRIORITY UKREP BRUSSELS, BONN, PARIS

*Very helpful  
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(EUROPEAN POLITICAL)

## MEETING WITH ANDREOTTI

## SUMMARY

1. PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL PUT ON NOTICE THAT THE IGC WILL NEED TO LAST WELL OVER A YEAR. CLAIMS THAT THERE HAS BEEN A MISUNDERSTANDING ABOUT GIVING MORE POWERS TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AT THE EXPENSE OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLIES. SAYS IT IS RATHER A QUESTION OF RE-ALLOCATING EXISTING POWERS BETWEEN COMMUNITY INSTITUTIONS. WOULD NOT BE DRAWN ON DELORS' IDEA OF A SECOND IGC. KEEN TO KEEP IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH THE PRIME MINISTER ON THE GERMAN QUESTION.

## DETAIL

2. I PAID MY FIRST CALL ON PRESIDENT ANDREOTTI IN THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES ON 15 DECEMBER. HIS DIPLOMATIC ADVISER VATTANI (ALSO THE ITALIAN SHERPA) WAS PRESENT. AFTER GREETING ME ANDREOTTI SAID HE HAD TO BE IN THE PARLIAMENT AS HIS BUDGET WAS AT LAST BEING VOTED ON.

3. I BEGAN BY THANKING HIM FOR HIS COURTEOUS RECEPTION AND DEFT HANDLING OF THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE LAST MONTH (MY TELNO 743). SINCE THEN WE HAD HAD THE GORBACHEV VISIT, WHICH HAD BEEN A CONSIDERABLE SUCCESS FOR ITALIAN DIPLOMACY, AND THEREAFTER THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL, WHICH HAD ENDED IN A SPIRIT OF HARMONY. THOUGH I HAD NO (NO) INSTRUCTIONS, I COULD SAY THAT WE WERE CONTENT THAT THE IGC WOULD BEGIN IN THE LAST MONTHS OF THE ITALIAN PRESIDENCY, THOUGH WE NOTED THAT THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL HAD SET NO (NO) DATE FOR ITS CONCLUSION. IN VIEW OF THE MANY COMPLICATED TECHNICAL ISSUES WHICH THE CONFERENCE WOULD HAVE TO DISCUSS WHILE STAGE 1 OF THE DELORS PLAN WAS BEING IMPLEMENTED FROM NEXT JULY, I HOPED I COULD REPORT THAT ITALIAN MEDIA STORIES QUOTING HIM AND DE MICHELIS AS SAYING THAT THEY WOULD WORK FOR AN END TO THE IGC WITHIN A YEAR OF ITS START WERE INCORRECT. IN OUR VIEW, MUCH LONGER WOULD BE NEEDED, GIVEN THAT ANOTHER SET OF TREATY REVISIONS WOULD BE PROPOSED RELATIVELY SOON AFTER THE SINGLE EUROPEAN ACT. HOW DID HE SEE

DELORS' RECENT PUBLIC STATEMENT FAVOURING TWO IGCS, EITHER IN PARALLEL OR SEQUENTIAL, THE SECOND TO DEAL WITH CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS (SUCH AS MORE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT)?

4. ANDREOTTI SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THE NEED FOR A FULL AND WELL-CONSIDERED IGC. HEADS OF DELEGATIONS AT STRASBOURG, INCLUDING ITALY, HAD CONSIDERED DELORS' IDEA OF A SECOND IGC, BUT HAD CONCLUDED THAT IT COULD GIVE RISE TO CONFUSION. SO THEY HAD AGREED TO CONVENE JUST ONE CONFERENCE AND TO REVERT IN DUE COURSE TO CONSIDERATION OF OTHER ISSUES, EG THOSE OF A CONSTITUTIONAL NATURE. HE THOUGHT THAT A MISUNDERSTANDING MIGHT HAVE GROWN UP ABOUT GIVING THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT MORE POWERS, FOR EXAMPLE AT THE EXPENSE OF NATIONAL PARLIAMENTS. IT WAS RATHER THE CASE THAT POWERS ALREADY ASSIGNED BY TREATY OR USAGE TO THE COMMUNITY'S INSTITUTIONS NEEDED TO BE REDISTRIBUTED. THE ISSUE OF FINDING A DIFFERENT WAY OF STRUCTURING THE COMMUNITY HAD BEEN TOUCHED UPON AT STRASBOURG, BUT NO DECISIONS THEREON HAD BEEN TAKEN, EVEN IN PRINCIPLE. MEANWHILE THERE WAS NO (NO) NEED FOR NATIONAL PARLIAMENTS TO TAKE FRIGHT. I SAID THAT THE BRITISH PARLIAMENT WAS EXTREMELY JEALOUS OF ITS RIGHTS, ESPECIALLY IN PUBLIC EXPENDITURE AND FISCAL MATTERS, AND WOULD NOT (NOT) TAKE WELL TO LOSING ANY PART OF THEM TO ANY COMMUNITY INSTITUTION. ALL THE BRITISH PARTIES WERE CLOSELY INVOLVED AND FELT THE SAME WAY. ANDREOTTI NODDED.

5. I THEN ASKED IF HE WAS SATISFIED WITH THE STRASBOURG SUMMIT'S DISCUSSION AND DECLARATION ON THE GERMAN QUESTION. ANDREOTTI SAID THAT THE PRIME MINISTER AND HE HAD BEEN 'ON THE SIDE OF THE ANGELS' IN THE RATHER SENSITIVE DISCUSSIONS ON THIS SUBJECT AT STRASBOURG. THE PARAGRAPH IN THE DECLARATION ON CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE ABOUT FREE SELF-DETERMINATION FOR THE GERMAN PEOPLE WENT RATHER FURTHER THAN HE HIMSELF WOULD HAVE WISHED, THOUGH IT WAS LIMITED BY FOUR CLEAR STIPULATIONS. BUT IN ANY CASE HE THOUGHT THAT THE PRESENCE OF TWO ARMIES IN THE GDR OUGHT TO BE ABLE TO SLOW DOWN ANY TOO HASTY MOVES TOWARDS REUNIFICATION. MEANWHILE THE US POSITION ON THE GERMAN QUESTION WAS EVOLVING AND NEEDED TO BE WATCHED. (KISSINGER HAS BEEN HERE RECENTLY AT AN AERITALIA SEMINAR, AND SAID THAT WE WERE ALREADY ON THE ROAD TO GERMAN UNIFICATION.) ANDREOTTI COMMENTED THAT HE NOTICED THAT NEW PHRASEOLOGY WAS CREEPING IN AT NATO GATHERINGS, EG TO THE EFFECT THAT NATO STRUCTURES SHOULD BE REVIEWED, ETC. HE HAD FOUND A WIDE COINCIDENCE OF VIEWS ON THE GERMAN QUESTION WITH THE PRIME MINISTER AT THE ELYSEE DINNER, THE NATO SUMMIT (MY TELNO 764) AND AT STRASBOURG, AND LOOKED FORWARD TO KEEPING CLOSE TOUCH. I SAID I WAS SURE THAT MRS THATCHER WOULD WANT THIS ALSO.

6. ON ANOTHER SUBJECT I SAID I SHOULD REPORT TO ANDREOTTI THAT MR SICA, THE HIGH COMMISSIONER AGAINST THE MAFIA, HAD GIVEN US GLOWING REPORTS OF HIS VISITS TO WHITEHALL DEPARTMENTS, AS WELL AS TO NORTHERN IRELAND, FROM 11 TO 13 DECEMBER. HE WOULD HAVE LEARNED AT FIRST HAND OF THE VASTLY INCREASED DANGERS TO SECURITY DERIVING FROM THE AVAILABILITY TO PIRA OF LARGE QUANTITIES OF LIBYAN-SUPPLIED SEMTEX. ANDREOTTI SAID SICA HAD A DANGEROUS AND UNENVIABLE JOB, AND WAS GLAD THAT WE HAD BEEN ABLE TO GIVE HIM GOOD BRIEFINGS.

7. WHEN I GOT UP TO LEAVE ANDREOTTI SAID HE HOPED I WOULD NOT HESITATE TO ASK TO SEE HIM AS NECESSARY ON ANY FOREIGN AFFAIRS OR OTHER MATTER WHICH SEEMED IMPORTANT. I COULD ALWAYS GET IN TOUCH THROUGH VATTANI OR CAVALCHINI, HIS OTHER ADVISER. I SAID THIS WAS EXTREMELY HELPFUL. (I DID NOT MENTION THAT I AM STILL WAITING FOR A FIRST CALL ON DE MICHELIS, BUT HE MAY KNOW THIS.)

## INCIDENTAL

8. I WAS GLAD TO SEE THAT ANDREOTTI LOOKED MUCH RECOVERED SINCE THE LONG STRASBOURG MEETING. VATTANI CONFIRMED THAT HE HAD FOUND IT QUITE EXHAUSTING. BOTH OF THEM WERE NOW GATHERING THEIR STRENGTH FOR A FOUR-DAY HOLIDAY VISIT (SIC) TO THE YEMENS, FOR WHICH ANDREOTTI AND HE WOULD LEAVE SOON AFTER CHRISTMAS. I WARNED VATTANI THAT HIS MASTER WOULD NEED A LONG PURSE IN THOSE TWO AID-HUNGRY COUNTRIES.

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