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MILNAN 8308 OCMIAN 8308
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RR ROMEE
FM FCOLN TO ROMEE
251455Z FEB
GRS 540

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FM FCO
TO ROUTINE ROME
TELNO 73
OF 251455Z FEBRUARY 86

ANGLO/ITALIAN SUMMIT: SECURITY

1. FOLLOWING IS THREAT ASSESSMENT:

THERE IS NO INTELLIGENCE OF A SPECIFIC THREAT TO THE ABOVE
ON THIS TRIP FROM ANY TERRORIST QUARTER.

INDIGENOUS TERRORISM

THERE ARE NO INDIGENOUS TERRORIST GROUPS IN ITALY WHICH POSE
A THREAT TO BRITISH INTERESTS (BUT SEE NOTE ON RED BRIGADES
BELOW).

INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM

GENERAL THREATS TO BRITISH INTERESTS WORLDWIDE EXIST FROM
THE FOLLOWING INTERNATIONAL TERRORIST GROUPS:

ABU NIDHAL (AN) - SYRIAN AND LIBYAN-BACKED PALESTINIANS:
REVOLUTIONARY ORGANISATION OF SOCIALIST MOSLEMS (ROSM) -

ASSOCIATED WITH AN:

ASALA - ARMENIANS

ARMENIAN TERRORISTS HAVE OPERATED IN ITALY BUT NOT AGAINST
BRITISH TARGETS. AN/ROSM HAVE CARRIED OUT ATTACKS (MOST
RECENTLY ON 27 DECEMBER 1985 AT ROME AIRPORT) INCLUDING
OPERATIONS INVOLVING BRITISH INTERESTS (BOMBING OF BRITISH
AIRWAYS OFFICE IN ROME, 25 SEPTEMBER AND CAFE DE PARIS, ROME ON
16 SEPTEMBER 1985).

ALTHOUGH BRITISH INTERESTS ARE CURRENTLY UNDER ENHANCED

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RISK FROM AN/ROSM, THE THREAT OF AN ATTACK ON THE MINISTERIAL PARTY DURING THIS VERY SHORT VISIT IS NOT ASSESSED AS HIGH.

BRITISH TARGETS SHARE THE GENERAL RISK OF ATTACK FROM THE FOLLOWING WEST EUROPEAN ANTI-NATO GROUPS, ESPECIALLY IN WEST GERMANY:

RED ARMY FACTION) WEST GERMANY
REVOLUTIONARY CELLS)
ACTION DIRECTE) FRANCE
CELLULES COMMUNISTES COMBATTANTES) BELGIUM
FRONT REVOLUTIONNAIRE D'ACTION PROLETARIENNE)

NONE OF THE ABOVE HAVE OPERATED IN ITALY, ALTHOUGH SOME MIGHT HAVE THE CAPABILITY TO DO SO AND THERE ARE LINKS BETWEEN ITALIAN AND FRENCH TERRORISTS IN PARTICULAR. THE ITALIAN RED BRIGADES (BR) CARRIED OUT THEIR FIRST ATTACK FOR NEARLY A YEAR ON 11 FEBRUARY 1986 WHEN THEY ASSASSINATED A FORMER MAYOR OF FLORENCE, IN THAT CITY. THE ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION OF THE ECONOMIC ADVISER TO THE ITALIAN PRIME MINISTER IN ROME ON 21 FEBRUARY WAS CLAIMED BY THE QUOTE UNIONE DEI COMUNISTI COMBATTI UNQUOTE, BELIEVED TO BE A BR NOM DE GUERRE. BR HAVE NEVER ATTACKED BRITISH INTERESTS, BUT IF AN ATTACK WERE TO BE MOUNTED ON ITALIAN GOVERNMENT LEADERS OR INTERESTS, THE BRITISH PARTY MIGHT BE INVOLVED INCIDENTALLY.

IRISH TERRORISM

THERE IS A GENERAL THREAT FROM IRISH TERRORISTS TO SENIOR BRITISH MINISTERS. ALTHOUGH PIRA HAS NOT MOUNTED A TERRORIST ATTACK ABROAD SINCE 1980 AND INLA SINCE 1981, THE POSSIBILITY CANNOT BE RULED OUT THAT EITHER GROUP WOULD WISH TO MOUNT AN ATTACK ON SUCH AN IMPORTANT GROUP AS THIS. THE THREAT IS HIGHER FROM PIRA AND THERE WAS AN UNCORROBORATED REPORT LATE IN 1985 THAT THEY MIGHT BE PLANNING ATTACKS ON THE CONTINENT.

COMMENTS

THERE IS NO INTELLIGENCE SUGGESTING A THREAT TO THE VC10. THE RISK OF AN ATTACK ON IT IN FLIGHT IS ASSESSED AS LOW, AND ON THE GROUND IS DEPENDANT ON THE PROTECTIVE SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS.

CONCLUSION

THE RISK TO THE BRITISH MINISTERIAL PARTY ON THIS OCCASION

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FROM INDIGENOUS TERRORISTS (EXCLUDING THE RED BRIGADES) IS
ASSESSED AS LOW BUT A LITTLE HIGHER FROM THE RED BRIGADES,
INTERNATIONAL TERRORISTS AND FROM IRISH TERRORISTS.

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