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WITHDRAWAL SHEET

Ronald Reagan Library

Collection Name KRAEMER, SVEN: FILES

Withdrawer

CAS 1/13/2009

File Folder NATO-COUNTRIES-ITALY

FOIA

M08-126/2

Box Number 90100

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14

ID	Doc Type	Document Description	No of Pages	Doc Date	Restrictions
61142	CABLE	ROME 08823	9	4/13/1981	B1
61143	CABLE	ROME 10144	1	4/28/1981	B1
61144	PAPER	RE ITALY	1	6/4/1981	B1
61145	CABLE	ROME 15247	2	6/23/1981	B1
61146	PAPER	RE ITALY	1	7/2/1981	B1
61147	CABLE	ROME 16109	1	7/6/1981	B1
61148	CABLE	ROME 16118	5	7/6/1981	B1
61149	PAPER	RE ITALY P. 4 ONLY	1	7/25/1981	B1
61150	PAPER	RE ITALY P. 2 ONLY	1	8/10/1981	B1

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61151	PAPER	RE ITALY P. 2 ONLY	1	8/19/1981	B1
61152	PAPER	RE ITALY PP. III-1 - III-2 ONLY	2	9/1/1981	B1 B2 B3
61153	PAPER	RE ITALY PP. 3 ONLY	1	10/6/1981	B1
61154	CABLE	ROME 23976	1	10/9/1981	B1
61155	CABLE	ROME 25614	1	11/2/1981	B1
61156	CABLE	SECTION TWO ONLY OF USNATO 06776	1	11/3/1981	B1
61157	CABLE	ROME 26455	1	11/12/1981	B1

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AN INTERVIEW WITH ITALIAN DEFENSE MINISTER LELIO ((LAGORIO)) - 10 APRIL 1981

HIS VIEWPOINT ON:

- INCREASED WORLD TENSION AND THE RACE TOWARDS REARMAMENT

L. The race towards rearmament is caused by the question: If, how and where has the international military equilibrium been altered? Italy is attempting to maintain even the most tenuous strand of dialogue between the East and the West. Italy is NOT in favor of an unrestrained arms race.

- INCREASED OF 3% IN DEFENSE SPENDING

L. The increase will mainly effect the "quality of life" in the military rather than augment arms acquisition. Also, if Italy can maintain this 3% level increase through the 80's, she will no longer have a second-rate army, rather one which is agile and modern - strictly defensive.

- NATO LEADERSHIP

L. I am not in favor of having four leaders to command NATO since it could facilitate dissension within and the dissolution of the Alliance.

- EUROMISSILES

I am in favor of the 1979 decision to allow euromissiles. Because of this decision, the Soviets agreed to talks at Geneva in April on the euromissiles and Breshnev is now proposing a moratorium on them.

Two different "keys" must be called upon if the euromissiles are ever to be used - that of the Americans and that of the Italians.

- NUCLEAR MISSILES

L. The USSR must accept - before beginning any negotiations - the decision to discuss the SS-20's, ie., that they can neither stay where they are nor remain in such vast quantities.

- THE NEUTRON BOMB

L. (Evasive) This topic has not been discussed even at the nuclear planning group level of NATO.

- BI-POLAR DISCUSSIONS

L. Neither Europe nor Italy could accept the return to solely an USA-USSR state of discussions.

- THE ITALIAN TASK FORCE

L. To be used above all for civil defense, therefore for peaceful goals. However, one must also consider the possibility of a threat from the South. Is it possible that a nation, such as Italy, would not be able to mobilize immediately a significantly specialized response to any such advance?

THE NATO TASK FORCE

L. No one has proposed putting the NATO task force base in Naples.

- ITALIAN ARMS SALES

L. I am opposed to the present system of selling arms to whomever pays without any concern for political motives. There has to be a policy on foreign arms sales. I spoke to our defense attaches of such a policy in March. I have also spoken to the military representatives in the inter-ministerial committee for export authorization. Our foreign military assistance must not be of a destabilizing nature.

- CONSTRUCTION OF ARMS DEPOTS THROUGHOUT ITALY

L. We have received NATO funding to build 16 depots able to sustain fire for one week. Thus far, only 3 have been built due to public resistance. I am discussing with all of the regions a realistic plan to lessen the burden in certain zones. A national convention on this topic is currently being planned.

PARLA LAGORIO

Ho la chiave dei Pershing

Se verranno installati, gli euromissili non potranno essere utilizzati senza il consenso italiano, dice il ministro della difesa. E ai colleghi della Nato dirò...

Per la politica estera italiana è il momento di scegliere: condividere l'aggressività del presidente americano Ronald Reagan oppure puntare sul dialogo fra Est e Ovest? L'inquietante quadro internazionale coinvolge direttamente l'Italia che, per la prima volta, è il bersaglio di violente polemiche. I sovietici hanno aperto l'offensiva contro la politica italiana per la sicurezza, accusando il ministro della difesa, il socialista Lelio Lagorio, di sfrenato militarismo. E anche all'interno della maggioranza di governo affiorano alcune critiche sulle spese per gli armamenti, giudicate eccessive. Ma in sostanza come si muove l'Italia? Quale strategia ha? *Il Mondo* ne ha parlato con il ministro Lagorio.

Domanda. Tensioni e riarmo caratterizzano il clima internazionale. Qual è il suo giudizio?

Risposta. La situazione è preoccupante. Arginiamola prima che divenga allarmante. Al fondo di tutto stanno le aspre polemiche e l'incomunicabilità sulla questione se, come e dove è stato alterato l'equilibrio militare. Da qui la spinta verso nuovi armamenti. Noi italiani ci adoperiamo perché il tenue filo di un ragionevole dialogo Est-Ovest non si spezzi. Il riarmo sfrenato non ci piace.

D. Ma l'Italia ha deciso, insieme ai paesi della Nato, di aumentare del 3% le proprie spese per la difesa. Perché?

R. La decisione è del 1978, quando Giulio Andreotti era presidente del consiglio con la più larga maggioranza della storia d'Italia, ma non è stata applicata fino al 1981. L'aumento riguarda soprattutto la condizione di vita militare piuttosto che gli armamenti. Per questi è prevista una spesa pari al 20% del bilancio complessivo con un aumento dell'8% (in termini monetari e non in termini reali; l'inflazione quanto sarà?) rispetto al 1980.

D. In totale, però, le spese della difesa sono aumentate del 30% nel 1981...

R. Questo perché abbiamo recuperato l'aumento di spese non deciso nel 1980 e si è tenuto conto dell'inflazione.

R. Non soffro di complessi di inferiorità verso gli Stati Uniti. Ho ben chiaro che il Patto atlantico è un'alleanza fra paesi sovrani, indipendenti e liberi. Il 3% non l'ho inventato io, ma lo tro-



Lelio Lagorio

vo giusto. Se lo rispettiamo, negli anni 80 non avremo più un esercito di serie B, ma un esercito agile e moderno, rigorosamente difensivo.

D. Alcuni settori del governo Usa ritengono insufficiente per la sicurezza l'aumento del 3%: cosa ne pensa?

R. Finora nessun dirigente americano ci ha detto nulla. Vedremo a Bonn il sette e otto aprile, quando i ministri per la difesa europea si incontreranno per la prima volta con il nuovo collega americano.

D. E lei cosa dirà a Bonn?

R. A Bonn in aprile o a Bruxelles in maggio, nelle due riunioni dei ministri interalleati, chiederò ai colleghi se condividono l'idea del direttorio a quattro per dirigere l'Alleanza atlantica. L'ipotesi è stata affacciata dai centri di studi strategici di Parigi, Londra, Bonn e Washington. Spiegherò che secondo l'Italia è un'idea inaccettabile e anzi pericolosa perché potrebbe avere effetti dissolventi per l'alleanza.

D. Si è rivelata valida la scelta fatta a favore degli euromissili per bilanciare le armi Nato con quelle dell'Est?

R. Le armi atomiche si mettono a

Ma la commissione non riapre l'inchiesta sulle spese militari

Si è insediata un mese fa, ma si è bloccata subito. Stavolta per una malattia del suo presidente, l'ex ministro socialdemocratico Egidio Ariosto. E' un dato di fatto, comunque, che la commissione parlamentare d'inchiesta sulle commesse e sulle forniture dell'industria nazionale ed estera alle forze armate italiane segna il passo da molto tempo. Costituita sulla spinta dello scandalo Lockheed, che aveva messo in chiaro un groviglio di interessi finanziari e la partecipazione di alti ufficiali, l'inchiesta parlamentare ha avuto finora quasi quattro anni di tempo per concludere, ma non c'è riuscita.

Eppure la materia non meriterebbe rinvii così ripetuti. Quello delle forniture militari è affare di migliaia di miliardi. «Al di là del fatto gravissimo dello scandalo Lockheed», dice il senatore Ugo Pecchioli, responsabile del dipartimento problemi dello stato per il Pci, «il settore della spesa militare è ormai da lunghi anni un campo di operazioni per imprese speculative e imbrogli. Lungo molti decenni, le forniture e le commesse per le forze armate hanno eccitato, e spesso soddisfatto, gli appetiti di gruppi e di singoli industriali e finanziari, di furfanti di varia grandezza, di uomini politici e di governo e di certi alti ufficiali e burocrati civili, spregiudicati e corrotti».

«Noi non vogliamo un altro caso Lockheed, con tutto quello che significa per il denaro pubblico, per l'immagine delle forze armate e la credibilità delle istituzioni democratiche», dice il senatore Silvano Signori, della dire-

zione del Psi. Signori, fin dal 1975, è andato sostenendo la necessità e l'urgenza di una commissione d'inchiesta, fino a farsi promotore di una legge, firmata anche da altri gruppi politici. Signori non crede che a frenare l'inchiesta finora siano state pressioni di ambienti militari. «In ogni caso sbaglierebbero», afferma, «a intendere l'indagine del parlamento in chiave punitiva. Si tratta di punire pochi corrotti e di salvaguardare il buon nome della stragrande maggioranza degli onesti che ci sono nelle forze armate. Si tratta di spazzare leggi anacronistiche, regolamenti dell'epoca fascista, come il cosiddetto regolamento Balbo, che dà in sostanza mano libera agli alti gradi militari di condurre affari senza il controllo non solo del parlamento ma neanche della corte dei conti e del consiglio di stato. Ma non basterà neppure questo. Bisogna anche impedire che alti ufficiali delle forze armate, giunti all'età della pensione, passino armi e bagagli alle dipendenze di questa o di quella industria che opera nel settore delle commesse militari. E' in questo intreccio il germe di possibili casi di corruzione».

Prima di Pasqua comunque la commissione non si riunirà. I tempi ormai sono ristretti: dieci mesi, ma forse meno, se si considera che già un mese è passato senza far nulla, al quale si aggiungeranno le prevedibili pause per le ferie e varie contingenze politiche. Ma una ulteriore richiesta di proroga potrebbe causare il definitivo naufragio della commissione d'inchiesta.

Mario Nappi

ssili sono ancora validi. Sul piano itico la scelta non è stata sbagliata. dicevano che Mosca ci avrebbe tolto aiuto e, invece, è proprio dopo la deione sugli euromissili che l'Urss ha ettato di aprire a Ginevra un pre- zioziato su queste armi e ora il presi- rite Leonid Breznev, sia pure a modo), offre una moratoria. La strada per a trattativa, in sostanza, non è .ruita. Avevamo ragione noi e non i ofeti di sventura che sono pacifisti iplegici. Parlando tanto delle armi ito e molto poco delle armi altrui.

D. L'anno scorso appoggiò il tentati- del cancelliere tedesco Helmut hmidt per una trattativa sui missili cleari; poi è sembrata cadere ogni ziativa. E' un'impressione giusta?

R. No. Alla conferenza di Parigi dei ialisti europei sulla sicurezza e il di- mo c'è stata stretta consonanza fra leschi, francesi e italiani. Siamo per negoziato, ma non si può trattare n un braccio legato a un palo. L'Urss ve accettare, in apertura del nego- ito, di discutere innanzitutto il pro- ema degli SS 20 che ha messo in ab- ndanza, che non possono stare dove anno né rimanere quanti sono. Que- a linea è la più favorevole a un com- omissio, ma tiene unita la disponibi- à al disarmo con quel tanto di reali- io necessario, cioè un'esigenza ele-

R. Granelli non è bene informato. Per la bomba N non esiste, finora, nes- suna iniziativa né a livello politico né militare. Alcune dichiarazioni ameri- cane non hanno suscitato eco nella Nato. Restano perciò dichiarazioni unilaterali. Presso la Nato c'è un grup- po di pianificazione nucleare del quale faccio parte come ministro italiano della difesa e che tratta problemi del genere. A questo livello, il solo che conta, la bomba N non è stata neanche prospettata.

D. Però non si è pronunciato. Come cittadino non la preoccupa un'arma micidiale come la bomba N?

R. E gli euromissili non sono armi micidiali? Eppure il parlamento ha deciso di adottarli per esigenze di sicu- rezza. Nessuna valutazione preliminare è possibile. Il problema oggi non esi- ste. Un'arma in sé non è mai buona.

D. L'Italia sembra più vicina all'ol- tranzismo di Reagan che alla politica densivista di Schmidt. E' vero?

R. No. Facciamo però attenzione alle schematizzazioni. La politica di Reagan è in fase di rodaggio. La Ger- mania (vedi l'incontro fra Schmidt e il presidente francese Valéry Giscard d' Estaing) non sottolinea nessun disagio rispetto al nuovo governo americano. Quanto all'Italia ho già detto che cre- diamo al negoziato.

fra i due grandi imperi. Né l'Europa né l'Italia potrebbero fare buona acco- glienza a concezioni di questo tipo, se prevalessero.

D. L'istituzione di una forza milita- re di pronto intervento, la task force italiana, sembra rispondere più a un' esigenza di riarmo che a quella della protezione civile. Che peso ha la prima esigenza? E' sostenuta dalla Nato?

R. Nella task force italiana la Nato non c'entra. E' una forza di cui il no- stro paese si dota per esigenze esclusi- vamente italiane. Innanzitutto per concorrere alla protezione civile. Serve perciò a usi di pace. Ma, mi sono chie- sto, se ci fosse un'improvvisa minaccia da Sud? E' possibile che una grande nazione non debba essere in grado di mobilitare con estrema urgenza un pri- mo significativo contingente estrema- mente mobile e specializzato?

D. La forza di pronto intervento ita- liana nasce in relazione alla richiasta americana di trasferire a Napoli la ba- se della task force della Nato?

R. Assolutamente no. Nessuno ha mai proposto di portare a Napoli la base della task force della Nato.

D. Lei si è impegnato a promuovere le vendite, in quasi tutto il mondo, di armi prodotte in Italia, ma non c'è il rischio di offuscare l'immagine dell' Italia, un paese che dice di volere la

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26 Jun 81

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UNCLAS ROME 15510

E.O. 12065: N/A
TAGS: PINS, IT, VT, LY
SUBJECT: POPE'S ASSAILANT SAID TO HAVE BEEN TRAINED
IN LIBYA

1. ON JUNE 26 RESPECTED ITALIAN NEWSPAPER "CORRIERE DELLA SERA" REPORTED THAT A "VERY CREDITABLE" SOURCE HAS CLAIMED TO HAVE SEEN THE POPE'S ASSAILANT, MEHMET ALI AGCA, IN LIBYA BEING TRAINED IN ONE OF QADHAFI'S CAMPS. THE SIGHTING REPORTEDLY TOOK PLACE AT THE END OF APRIL, SEVERAL DAYS BEFORE THE ASSAILANT SHOT THE POPE. A DOCUMENT CONTAINING THIS TESTIMONY IS SAID TO BE AMONG THE PAPERS DEPOSITED WITH THE COURT OF FIRST INSTANCE WHICH IS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN AGCA'S TRIAL ON THE 20TH OF JULY. PAGANELLI
BT

59

ACTION (U, 6, 7)
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PAGE 1 OF 1
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Department of State Guidelines, July 21, 1997
 By CN NARA, Date 1/13/07

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E.O. 12065: N/A
 TAGS: PEPR, PINT, IT, SP
 SUBJECT: JOINT DECLARATION ISSUED IN ROME BY ITALIAN AND
 SPANISH COMMUNIST PARTIES

1. (C) ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SUMMARY: THIS MESSAGE SUMMARIZES THE JOINT DECLARATION APPROVED BY THE ITALIAN AND COMMUNIST PARTIES FOLLOWING THE JUNE 29 MEETING IN ROME BETWEEN CARILLO AND BERLINGUER, THEIR FIRST SINCE JANUARY 1980. WE WILL COMMENT ON THE DECLARATION AND OTHER ASPECTS OF THE CARILLO VISIT, WHICH CONCLUDES TODAY (JUNE 30) IN A SUBSEQUENT MESSAGE. END SUMMARY.

3. EUROMISSILES - AFTER NOTING THE INCREASING RISKS OF WAR AND A NEW ARMS RACE, THE JOINT DOCUMENT CALLS FOR THE "URGENT INITIATION OF NEGOTIATIONS ON THE PROBLEM OF EUROMISSILES, TAKING ACCOUNT OF EVERY OTHER SYSTEM OF NUCLEAR BASES AND WEAPONS SYSTEMS... WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF ACHIEVING AN EQUILIBRIUM AT THE LOWEST LEVEL." THAT EQUILIBRIUM MUST BE ACHIEVED BY "PREVENTING THE INSTALLATION AND CONSTRUCTION (OF NUCLEAR MISSILES), DISMANTLING AND DESTROYING THEM." THE NATO DECISION OF DECEMBER 12, 1979 IS CITED BUT ONLY WITH REFERENCE TO THE NEED FOR AN "IMMEDIATE" BEGINNING OF TNE NEGOTIATIONS. THE UNITED STATES ADMINISTRATION IS ACCUSED OF "SHOWING AVERSION TO AN IMMEDIATE RESUMPTION OF THE EAST-WEST DIALOGUE AND THE OPENING OF NEGOTIATIONS ON ARMS IN EUROPE."

4. ROLE OF EUROPE: SPAIN IN NATO AND THE EC - THE ELECTIONS IN FRANCE HAVE UNDERSCORED A SHIFT TOWARDS THE LEFT IN EUROPE, ALSO MANIFESTED IN RECENT ELECTIONS IN ITALY,

GREAT BRITAIN, THE NETHERLANDS AND CYPRUS. THIS TREND STRENGTHENS THE NEED FOR EUROPE TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT AN AUTONOMOUS POLICY BASED ON DETENTE, ARMS REDUCTION AND THE OVERCOMING OF BIPOLARISM AND BLOC TO BLOC CONFRONTATION. IN THIS CONNECTION, SPANISH ENTRY INTO NATO WOULD BE A "GRAVE" MATTER SINCE IT WOULD "ALTER THE EXISTING EQUILIBRIUM, PROVOKING NEW TENSIONS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN AND EUROPE." ON THE OTHER HAND, SPANISH ENTRY INTO THE EC WOULD STRENGTHEN WEST EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS, INCLUDING THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT.

5. MIDDLE EAST AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ISSUES - THE JOINT DOCUMENT CONDEMNS ISRAEL'S "AGGRESSIVE ACTS" INCLUDING THE ANNEXATION OF JERUSALEM AND THE "INADMISSABLE" BOMBING OF IRAQ, AND CALLS FOR A EUROPEAN POLICY TO BE BASED ON THE RIGHT OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE TO NATIONAL EXISTENCE AND ITS OWN STATE AND ON THE SECURITY OF ALL STATES IN THE REGIONS, INCLUDING ISRAEL. THE DOCUMENT ALSO CALLS FOR EXTENSION OF CBM'S TO THE MEDITERRANEAN AREA AND FOR SOLIDARITY WITH THE POLISARIO LIBERATION FRONT AND THE PEOPLES OF NICARAGUA AND EL SALVADOR WHO ARE "STRUGGLING FOR INDEPENDENCE AND LIBERTY." THE TWO PARTIES REAFFIRM THEIR PREVIOUS POSITIONS ON AFGHANISTAN CALLING FOR THE WITHDRAWAL OF SOVIET TROOPS AND INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS GUARANTEEING AN END TO ALL FOREIGN INTERFERENCE.

6. POLAND - THE PARTIES EXPRESS SOLIDARITY WITH "THE PROCESS OF SOCIALIST RENEWAL.. AND CONFIDENCE IN THE CAPABILITY OF THE PUWP - WITH THE COLLABORATION OF THE FUNDAMENTAL COMPONENTS OF POLISH SOCIETY - TO SUCCESSFULLY IMPLEMENT IT, OVERCOMING BOTH DOGMATIC/SECTARISM AND ADVENTURIST/ANARCHIC POSITIONS. THEY REJECT EVERY FOREIGN INTERFERENCE AND INTERVENTION, HOWEVER MOTIVATED."

7. TERRORISM - WHILE TERRORISM IN ITALY AND SPAIN HAS DIFFERENT ORIGINS AND MANIFESTATIONS, IT "EXCLUSIVELY FAVORS REACTIONARY FORCES ... THE COUP IN TURKEY, THE ATTEMPTED COUP IN SPAIN, CONSPIRACIES IN GREECE AND SUBVERSIVE ACTIONS OF VARIOUS TYPES IN ITALY REQUIRE A FIRM STRUGGLE AGAINST TERRORISM AND

RIGHT-WING SUBVERSION (GOLPISMO)." THIS REQUIRES THE UNITY OF ALL "DEMOCRATIC FORCES AND INSTITUTIONS."

8. EUROCOMMUNISM - THE RECENT PROGRESS OF THE LEFT IN EUROPE CONFIRMS THE VALIDITY OF THE EUROCOMMUNIST CONCEPTS WHICH THE TWO PARTIES HAD ENDORSED IN THEIR LIVORNO DECLARATION OF JULY 11, 1975. (THE BASIC POINTS OF THAT DECLARATION -- RESPECT FOR INDIVIDUAL AND COLLECTIVE LIBERTY, FREE COMPETITION AMONG POLITICAL PARTIES, RELIGIOUS FREEDOM AND FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION IN CULTURE, THE ARTS AND SCIENCES ARE REITERATED. THE LIVORNO ENDORSEMENT OF "AUTONOMY" FOR TRADE UNIONS IS STRENGTHENED, PERHAPS WITH AN EYE ON POLAND TO "INDEPENDENCE"). WHILE CALLING FOR COLLABORATION OF ALL "PROGRESSIVE" FORCES IN EUROPE, WHETHER LAY OR CATHOLIC (BUT THE LIVORNO DECLARATION'S SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO COOPERATION WITH CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTIES IS CONSPICUOUSLY MISSING), THE DECLARATION PLACES PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON THE NEED FOR A "DIALOGUE" BETWEEN COMMUNIST AND SOCIALIST PARTIES IN ORDER TO CONSTRUCT A "PROGRESSIVE ALTERNATIVE" TO THE EUROPEAN CRISIS AND PROMOTE PEACE AND DISARMAMENT. RABB

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61146	PAPER RE ITALY	1	7/2/1981	B1

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61147	CABLE ROME 16109	1	7/6/1981	B1

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61148	CABLE ROME 16118	5	7/6/1981	B1

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61149	PAPER RE ITALY P. 4 ONLY	1	7/25/1981	B1

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61150	PAPER RE ITALY P. 2 ONLY	1	8/10/1981	B1

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61151	PAPER RE ITALY P. 2 ONLY	1	8/19/1981	B1
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61152	PAPER RE ITALY PP. III-1 - III-2 ONLY	2	9/1/1981	B1 B2 B3

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61153	PAPER RE ITALY PP. 3 ONLY	1	10/6/1981	B1

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61154	CABLE ROME 23976	1	10/9/1981	B1

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61155	CABLE ROME 25614	1	11/2/1981	B1

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PAGE 01 STATE 293295
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CIAE-00 EA-12 DODE-00 H-01 IO-15 NEA-07 NSC-05
ARA-16 NSAE-00 L-03 DOE-10 PH-09 PA-02 SAL-01
OES-09 ICAE-00 SP-02 SPRS-02 /150 R

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TAGS: PARM, SOPH

SUBJECT: NOVEMBER 3 ROUNDUP: PRESS ITEMS OF ARMS CONTROL INTEREST

1. SCOTT ARMSTRONG OF WASHINGTON POST REPORTED PENTAGON ACKNOWLEDGED THAT IT HAS HELD DISCUSSIONS WITH SAUDI OFFICIALS ABOUT "INTEGRATED DEFENSE" FOR MIDDLE EAST WHICH WOULD INCLUDE PRE-POSITIONING U.S. COMBAT EQUIPMENT THERE. PENTAGON ALSO CONCEDED, SAID ARMSTRONG THAT THERE IS UNDERSTANDING THAT SAUDI ARABIA WOULD LET AMERICAN FORCES USE SAUDI FACILITIES TO DEFEND PERSIAN GULF REGION. ARMSTRONG NOTED, HOWEVER, DOD SPOKESMAN BENJAMIN WELLES, REPEATEDLY DENIED THAT THERE IS ANY FORMAL AGREEMENT COVERING THESE POINTS, SAYING "THE IMPUTATION THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT, THE ADMINISTRATION, HAS BEEN SEEKING TO SLIP BY CONGRESS, WITHOUT FULLY APPRISING CONGRESS OF WHAT WE ARE TRYING TO DO AS LONG-RANGE STRATEGY FOR THE MIDDLE EAST BASED UPON THE USE OF SAUDI FACILITIES, IS IN ITSELF LUDICROUS." NEVERTHELESS, SAID ARMSTRONG, PENTAGON'S ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS APPEARED TO CONFLICT WITH WELLES' COMMENTS AND WITH STATEMENT ISSUED EARLIER BY WEINBERGER THAT HE "FLATLY DENIES THAT AWACS IS CORNERSTONE OF ANY LARGER PROGRAM."

2. RICHARD HALLORAN OF N.Y. TIMES REPORTED AMERICAN OFFICIALS SAID U.S. HAS BEGUN TO DEPLOY 5000 SOLDIERS IN RAPID DEPLOYMENT FORCE EXERCISE COVERING EGYPT, SUDAN, SOMALIA, AND OMAN. HALLORAN SAID EXERCISE, CALLED "BRIGHT STAR," WILL BE THREE TIMES LARGER THAN FIRST DEPLOYMENT OF FORCE YEAR AGO, WHICH INVOLVED EGYPT ONLY, AND WILL INCLUDE MORE UNITS AS WELL AS WIDER VARIETY OF TACTICAL AND LOGISTIC MISSIONS. EXERCISE, WELLES ASSERTED, TOOK ON NEW IMPORTANCE AFTER DEATH OF SADAT, AND HE RECALLED HAIG'S STATEMENT AT THAT TIME THAT NATIONS IN REGION SHOULD KNOW THAT U.S. WAS CONCERNED WITH THEIR SECURITY

AND "THAT WE ARE GOING TO BE GOOD PARTNERS IN PROVIDING FOR THESE NEEDS WHEN THEY ARE UNDER EXTERNAL THREAT." WELLES NOTED, HOWEVER, PENTAGON OFFICIALS CONCEDED THAT THERE WAS STILL SOME DOUBT ABOUT OMAN'S PARTICIPATION IN EXERCISE SINCE ITS GOVERNMENT WAS DISPLEASED WITH PUBLICITY ABOUT EVENT.

3. EDWARD A. GARGAN OF N.Y. TIMES REPORTED ADMINISTRATION SAID IT WOULD BE ABLE TO OVERCOME ANY CONGRESSIONAL ATTEMPTS TO BLOCK SALE OF 40 AMERICAN-BUILT F-16 FIGHTER PLANES TO PAKISTAN. GARGAN SAID UNDER SECRETARY BUCKLEY, IN DEFENDING SALE, ASSERTED SOVIET MILITARY INTERVENTION IN AFGHANISTAN IN 1979 HAD CONVERTED PAKISTAN INTO "FRONT-LINE" STATE AGAINST SOVIET ASPIRATIONS IN AREA AND THAT IT NEEDED ADVANCED MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO DEFEND ITSELF AGAINST AFGHAN ARMY, WHICH HAD BEEN ARMED BY SOVIET UNION WITH MODERN WEAPONS AND JET FIGHTERS. BUCKLEY ADDED, SAID GARGAN, AS REFLECTION OF U.S. CONCERN OVER SOVIET PRESENCE IN AREA, ADMINISTRATION WOULD PRESS FOR IMMEDIATE SALE OF ADDITIONAL MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO PAKISTAN THIS YEAR "TO ENHANCE ITS DEFENSIVE CAPABILITIES IN THE SHORTER TERM." GARGAN NOTED ADMINISTRATION HAS OFFERED PAKISTAN SIX-YEAR, 3.2 BILLION DLRS MILITARY AND ECONOMIC PACKAGE, THAT BOTH PROPOSALS HAVE ALREADY BEEN APPROVED BY SENATE, BUT THERE IS OPPOSITION IN HOUSE, STEMMING IN PART FROM PAKISTAN'S CONTINUING REFUSAL TO SIGN 1968 NPT, AND ITS APPARENT EFFORT TO DEVELOP NUCLEAR ARMS. NEVERTHELESS, BUCKLEY ARGUED, SAID GARGAN, SALE OF CONVENTIONAL MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO PAKISTAN SHOULD "REMOVE WHATEVER INCENTIVES IT MAY NOW FEEL TO ENTER THE NUCLEAR CLUB."

4. MAJOR DAILIES GAVE BROAD COVERAGE TO GROWING ANTI-NUCLEAR WEAPONS MOVEMENT IN U.S. PAUL TAYLOR OF WASHINGTON POST SAID THAT AFTER DECADE OF DORMANCY, NUCLEAR ARMS CONTROL IS ROUSING FITFULLY TO LIFE AS GRASS-ROOTS POLITICAL ISSUE IN U.S. TAYLOR REPORTED RESOLUTIONS CALLING FOR HALT IN NUCLEAR ARMS PRODUCTION HAVE BEEN PUT BEFORE STATE LEGISLATURES AND TOWN COUNCILS ACROSS COUNTRY; SCORES OF NEW ARMS CONTROL GROUPS, MADE UP OF LAWYERS, NURSES, TECHNICIANS, AND OTHERS HAVE SPRUNG UP IN LAST YEAR; AND SEVERAL EXISTING ORGANIZATIONS HAVE SHIFTED THEIR FOCUS FROM COMMERCIAL NUCLEAR POWER TO NUCLEAR ARMS. ACCORDING TO TAYLOR, LEADERS OF MOVEMENT HAVE DECIDED TO USE GRASS-ROOTS ORGANIZING TECHNIQUES, RATHER THAN DIRECT FRONTAL ASSAULT, BECAUSE THEY BELIEVE SOIL FOR ARMS CONTROL IS MORE FERTILE IN HINTERLANDS. TAYLOR QUOTED ONE LEADER OF MOVEMENT AS SAYING "THE IDEA IS TO BUILD IN THE GRASS ROOTS OVER A PERIOD OF YEARS UNTIL WE HAVE A POWERFUL ENOUGH FORCE TO MAKE OUR CASE IN WASHINGTON." RUSHWORTH M. KIDDER OF CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR, WHILE ACKNOWLEDGING MOVEMENT IS BECOMING "MAIN-LINE" AND NOT JUST APPEALING TO "FRINGE-RADICAL-PEACENIK" GROUPS, ALSO REPORTED SOME OBSERVERS, IN FACT, ARE SKEPTICAL MOVEMENT WILL GAIN MUCH STRENGTH AT ALL. KIDDER QUOTED FORMER WHITE HOUSE FELLOW SCOTT THOMPSON AS SAYING "THE FAR MORE POWERFUL EVIDENCE IS ON THE OTHER SIDE" WITH "ALMOST A STEADY UPWARD GRAPH OF SUPPORT FOR DEFENSE SPENDING" SINCE MID-1970'S." KIDDER ALSO QUOTED FORMER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE BROWN WHO ASSERTED "THESE GROUPS ARE DECEIVING THEMSELVES VERY BADLY" IF THEY THINK THEY CAN INFLUENCE THE SOVIET UNION TOWARD DISARMAMENT. HAIG

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