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SECRET
FM ROME
TO FLASH FCO
TELNO 073
OF 071330Z FEBRUARY 1984

INFO IMMEDIATE BEIRUT, PARIS, WASHINGTON

LEBANON: YRTELNO 111 TO PARIS

1. I HAVE SEEN POLITICAL DIRECTOR AND SPOKE AS REQUESTED. ITALIANS HAVE RECEIVED SIMILAR MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT REAGAN BUT HAVE NOT YET DECIDED HOW TO REACT. THEY ARE TRYING TO ASCERTAIN FRENCH VIEWS. BOTTAI'S PERSONAL OPINION WAS THAT ITALY WOULD RETAIN HER HOSPITAL AND TROOPS TO GUARD IT, AND MIGHT ALSO MAINTAIN SOME RESPONSIBILITY FOR PROTECTING CAMPS. HE SHOWED ME A LETTER TO YOU FROM ANDREOTTI (YOU SHOULD RECEIVE THIS SHORTLY) REQUESTING A MEETING OF THE FOUR FOREIGN MINISTERS, AT EARLIEST CONVENIENT DATE. BOTTAI SAID THIS REQUEST REFLECTED GRAVE ANXIETIES HERE YESTERDAY, AND WAS MAINTAINED IN TODAY'S CHANGED CIRCUMSTANCES.

2. WE HAVE ALSO SPOKEN TO CRAXI'S OFFICE, WHO REACTED SIMILARLY. HIS STAFF ARE ANXIOUS THAT IN THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THEIR DECISIONS THE FOUR SHOULD KEEP THE APPEARANCE OF CONSULTATION BETWEEN THEMSELVES, AND MAINTAIN THEIR COMMITMENT TO LEBANON. WE ARE REPLYING AS BRIEFED ORALLY BY NENAD.

3. ANDREOTTI RETURNS FROM BELGRADE TOMORROW AFTERNOON, FEBRUARY 8.

BRIDGES

[COPIES SENT TO NO 10 DOWNING ST]

MULTINATIONAL FORCE IN LEBANON (MNF)

LIMITED
NENAD
MED
DEFENCE DEPT
PUSD
NEWS DEPT
UND
NAD
WED
SED
ECD(E)
FINANCE DEPT
PROTOCOL DEPT
PS

PS/LADY YOUNG
PS/MR LUCE
PS/PUS
SIR J BULLARD
SIR J LEAHY
MR WRIGHT
MR CARTLEDGE
MR MACINNES
MR ADAMS
MR EGERTON
MR JENKINS

COPIES TO:
MOD DS11
MR GOODALL)CABINET
SIR R ARMSTRONG)OFFICE

SIR P MOORE
BUCKINGHAM PALACE

SECRET