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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
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#51

IMMEDIATE
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 549Z
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE 9035
INFO NATO COLLECTIVE PRIORITY AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY 0906
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ARMS CONTROL ISSUES AND THAT A VISIT BY SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTER GROMYKO WAS NOT FAR OFF. HE ALSO CONTRASTED, IF IN VERY DIPLOMATIC LANGUAGE, THE MESSAGE OF THE SUPREME SOVIET AND CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE CPSU TO PARLIAMENTS, GOVERNMENTS, AND POLITICAL PARTIES AND PROPOSALS AT THE END OF DECEMBER WITH THE CRISIS WHICH RESULTS FROM THE OCCUPATION OF AFGHANISTAN AND THE POLISH EVENTS. END SUMMARY.

4. IN A BOLD RANGING AND HARD HITTING ADDRESS TO A JOINT MEETING OF COMMITTEES OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND DEFENSE OF THE ITALIAN SENATE, COLOMBO COVERED ALL MAJOR ASPECTS OF EAST-WEST RELATIONS. THE FOLLOWING SUMMARY TELEGRAM IS EXTRACTED FROM THE ADVANCE TEXT OF THE SPEECH PROVIDED BY THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS WHICH CAUTIONED THAT COLOMBO OCCASIONALLY MAKES IMPROMPTU CHANGES AS HE GOES; HOWEVER, THE INITIAL REPORT OF THE ITALIAN NEWS AGENCY, ANSA, INDICATES THAT HE ADHERED QUITE CLOSELY TO THE TEXT. THE EMBASSY HAD PROVIDED SPEECH WRITERS WITH THE TEXT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT'S BERLIN SPEECH AND PRESIDENT'S OPEN LETTER IMMEDIATELY UPON RECEIPT VIA THE USIA WIRELESS FILE AND BOTH TEXTS WERE IN COLOMBO'S HANDS BY TEN A.M. JANUARY 31 AND INCLUDED IN THE DRAFTING PROCESS.

5. AFTER NOTING THAT 1983 IS A CRUCIAL YEAR FOR DISARMAMENT IN EUROPE AND THAT ITALY HAS PARTICULARLY VERY ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN ALL WESTERN COUNCILS, COLOMBO SAID THAT THE NEW SOVIET PROPOSALS WERE THE OBJECT OF PROFOUND STUDY IN WESTERN MINISTRIES. THE ITALIANS HAD BY

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BRUSSELS FOR ASST. SECRETARY BURT

GENEVA FOR INF

MILITARY ADDRESSEES FOR POLAND

TAGS: PARM, MNUC, GC, IT, UR, NATO
SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER COLOMBO'S SPEECH ON INF

1. SUMMARY:

ON FEBRUARY 1, FORMIN COLOMBO DELIVERED LENGTHY AND HARD HITTING SPEECH TO A JOINT MEETING OF THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND DEFENSE COMMITTEES OF THE SENATE IN WHICH HE STATED AGAIN THAT THE ZERO OPTION REMAINS THE FUNDAMENTAL GOAL OF NATO IN INF. COLOMBO STRESSED THAT HE WAS IN FULL AGREEMENT WITH HIS FRENCH, BRITISH AND GERMAN COUNTERPARTS, INSISTING THAT SOVIET PROPOSALS MUST BE CLARIFIED IF THEY ARE TO SERVE AS NEGOTIATING ELEMENTS AS OPPOSED TO FORMING PART OF A PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN. WHILE CONFIRMING THE WILLINGNESS OF NATO, INCLUDING ITALY, TO EXAMINE ALL OTHER SERIOUS PROPOSALS, COLOMBO INSISTED IN STRONG TERMS THAT THE BASIS OF ANY AGREEMENT HAS TO BE EQUALITY BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES. OTHERWISE THERE WOULD BE A DESTABILIZING SITUATION OF IMBALANCE WHICH WOULD NOT CONTRIBUTE TO PEACE AND WHICH WOULD BE DETRIMENTAL TO WESTERN SECURITY.

2. COLOMBO MADE REFERENCE TO THE VICE PRESIDENT'S BERLIN SPEECH PARTICULARLY IN RESPECT TO THE NEED FOR A BALANCED AGREEMENT. HE SAID THAT THE ITALIANS WOULD BE DISCUSSING THIS AGREEMENT WITH THE VICE PRESIDENT IN ROME. IN THE MEANTIME COLOMBO STRESSED FULL ITALIAN AGREEMENT ON THE ZERO OPTION AS THE FINAL OBJECTIVE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS AND ON THE FACT THAT IN NO CASE WOULD IT BE ACCEPTABLE TO CONCEDE TO THE SOVIETS THE MONOPOLY OF INF WEAPONS. COLOMBO ALSO MENTIONED THE PRESIDENT'S "OPEN LETTER", EXPRESSING THE HOPE THAT A SUMMIT MEETING WOULD TAKE PLACE BETWEEN THE U.S. PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY GENERAL ANDROPOV AS THE U.S. SIDE HAS NOW FINALLY PROPOSED. AGAIN WITH RESPECT TO THE VICE PRESIDENT'S FORTHCOMING VISIT TO ROME, COLOMBO THOUGHT THAT THE VISIT WOULD REPRESENT A MOST USEFUL OCCASION TO VERIFY AND CONSOLIDATE AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL THE DYNAMIC AND CONSTRUCTIVE CHARACTER OF THE COMMON ALLIED LINE.

3. IN THE SAME SPEECH, COLOMBO REPORTED THAT AN ITALIAN GROUP WOULD BE VISITING MOSCOW ON MARCH 1 TO DISCUSS

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