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09 FEB 1979

DESK OFFICER		REGISTRY
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Mr. Harbone ✓

Mr. Vereker R. Jz.

PS/PUS ✓

AMBASSADOR DUCCHI'S CALL ON THE PUS: 1 FEBRUARY

1. Signor Ducci is calling on the PUS at 9.30 am on Thursday 1 February.
2. The Italian Embassy has said that in preparation for his return to Rome next week, Signor Ducci wishes to have a general tour d'horizon but that he will also raise three specific issues:
  - (i) Eurostrategic "grey areas" and the modernisation of medium-range nuclear weapons;
  - (ii) Malta;
  - (iii) Albanian gold reserves.

A B C 3. I attach briefs on these subjects, on the Italian Internal political scene  
D E and on current Community issues involving Italy.

4. Signor Andreotti is expected to submit his resignation to President Pertini tonight. Pending receipt of the expected reporting telegram from Sir A Campbell I attach the latest Reuter report.

P Vereker

P W M Vereker  
Western European Department

31 January 1979

cc: Sir R Hibbert  
Mr Fergusson (O/R)

Copy to M. Goodall  
Min Kemmer

NNNN

UKP601 EPA604

1323 :URGENT \* \* \* :LEAD GOVERNMENT\* \* \* :

ROME, JAN 31; REUTER -- ITALIAN PRIME MINISTER GIULIO ANDREOTTI TOLD PARLIAMENT TODAY THAT HE WILL SUBMIT THE RESIGNATION OF HIS CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC MINORITY GOVERNMENT TO PRESIDENT SANDRO PERTINI TONIGHT.

MORE AVB/PMS/AEM.

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UKP603 EPA605

1327 :LEAD GOVERNMENT 2 \* \* ROME:

SUMMING UP A THREE-DAY DEBATE IN THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES DISCUSSING THE WITHDRAWAL OF A FIVE-PARTY PARLIAMENTARY PACT WHICH PROPPED UP HIS 10-MONTH-OLD GOVERNMENT, MR ANDREOTTI SAID THE DEBATE MADE CLEAR THAT HE NO LONGER HAD A MAJORITY TO RULE.

MR ANDREOTTI, WHO HAS HEADED FOUR GOVERNMENTS IN SEVEN YEARS, SAID THE POLITICAL DIVISIONS EMERGING FROM DEBATE REQUIRED A COMPLETELY NEW INITIATIVE.

(PICKUP AS REQUIRED)

REUTER AVB/PMS/AEM.

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UKR643 EPR273

1346 ; LEAD GOVERNMENT 3 ROWE (EPR6065);

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID HE WOULD INFORM HIS CABINET ABOUT THE COLLAPSE OF THE PARLIAMENTARY PACT AT 1700 GMT, THEN BRAND IN HIS RESIGNATION TO PRESIDENT PERTINI.

THE COMMUNISTS, DISSATISFIED WITH WHAT THEY CALLED A MISMANAGED AND INEFFICIENT GOVERNMENT, ARE CALLING FOR CABINET SEATS IN A GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNITY, A DEMAND WHICH ALSO TOPPLED MR ANDREOTTI'S PREVIOUS MINORITY GOVERNMENT.

THEIR BID FOR MORE GOVERNMENT RESPONSIBILITY IS BEING SUPPORTED BY THE SOCIALISTS, ITALY'S THIRD LARGEST PARTY, BUT THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS, WHICH LED ALL ITALIAN

POST-WAR GOVERNMENTS, ARE FIRMLY REJECTING THE COMMUNIST AND SOCIALIST DEMANDS, THUS MAKING PREMATURE ELECTIONS ALMOST INEVITABLE. PRESIDENT PERTINI IS EXPECTED TO ASK MR ANDREOTTI TO STAY IN OFFICE IN A CARETAKER CAPACITY.

THE 82-YEAR-OLD HEAD OF STATE WILL OPEN A SERIES OF TALKS WITH THE COUNTRY'S LEADING POLITICIANS TOMORROW.

BUT HE IS ALMOST CERTAIN TO ASK MR ANDREOTTI TO TRY AND FORM A NEW GOVERNMENT WHEN HE COMPLETES HIS ROUND OF TALKS ON SATURDAY.

(PICK UP RS REQUIRED)

REUTER RYB MB

MOST URGENT.

~~Mr Goodall.~~ Mr Vescker.

WES.  
W62.  
D.S.W.