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- 1) CC. before departure
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- 2) Mr. *George* 28/2
To see *Robert*
- 3) Enter
- Robert*

US/ITALY

1. US/Italian relations, which have been going through a period of strain since Guadeloupe, have been subjected to further stresses as a result of the expulsion from Italy of an American official, attached to the US Army in Europe, following the leaking to an Italian newspaper of a secret US report critical of the Italian security services. I understand that this affair, which occurred at an awkward point during the current attempts to form a new Italian Government, generated a certain amount of heat in Italy (although it has not had much impact here) and that as a result the Italian Ambassador was instructed to seek an interview with Secretary of State Vance. Vance saw Pansa last weekend and was read a lecture about the inadequacies of US security and the efforts which the Italian authorities had undertaken to ensure that the affair was not allowed to become a major irritant in US/Italian relations. Pansa also used the interview to complain, apparently also on instructions, about the fact that David Aaron, the President's deputy National Security adviser, had briefed the other Guadeloupe countries on Deng Xiao Ping's visit to the United States before briefing the North Atlantic Council.

2. The Americans were naturally embarrassed about the newspaper leak and Vance apparently made appropriate noises in reply to Pansa, but on Guadeloupe, Vance, while expressing his understanding of Italian views, was careful not to give any sort of guarantee that a Guadeloupe type meeting à quatre would never be repeated. However, I understand from the State Department's Italian Desk that in an effort to soothe Italian feelings, Vance is now planning to visit Rome on his way to or from the NATO Ministerial meeting in May.

Your ever,
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