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 TO RUEBHAA/STORAGE CENTER FBIS WASH DC
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 RUKRAAA/7275ABG SAN VITO DEI NORMANNI AS IT//PA//
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ITALIAN PREMIER ON CURRENT POLITICAL, ECONOMIC OPTIONS

LD111541 TAKE 1 OF 3--FORLANI INTERVIEW

ROME LA REPUBBLICA IN ITALIAN 29 APR 81 PP 1,4

((GIORGIO ROSSI INTERVIEW WITH ITALIAN PRIME MINISTER ARNALDO FORLANI: "FORLANI DEFENDS HIMSELF"))

((TEXT)) ROME--((QUESTION)) PRIME MINISTER FORLANI, ARE YOU SATISFIED WITH THE SOCIALIST CONGRESS?

((ANSWER)) YES, I BELIEVE IT WAS AN IMPORTANT CONGRESS, CRAXI'S REPORT WAS CLEAR AND RECEIVED BROAD CONSENSUS, AND THE ENSUING DEBATE TOO HAD SOME PARTICULARLY INTERESTING MOMENTS;

((QUESTION)) AND YET THE SOCIALIST DID NOT DEAL SO GENTLY IN PALERMO WITH EITHER THE GOVERNMENT OR THE DC,

((ANSWER)) I CONSIDER THE SOCIALIST PARTICIPATING IN THE GOVERNMENT ESSENTIAL, BUT I DO NOT REGARD EVERYTHING SAID IN PALERMO AS GOSPEL, THE PRESENT ECONOMIC CRISIS IS AFFECTING A LARGE PART OF THE WORLD, AND IF IT IS MORE ACUTE IN ITALY THAN IN OTHER INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES, BECAUSE OF THE SYSTEM'S LOWER PRODUCTIVITY, THERE ARE COMPLEX REASONS FOR THIS AND IT CANNOT BE SIMPLISTICALLY BLAMED ON A SINGLE PARTY, THE DC DOES NOT SET OIL PRICES, AND SIMILARLY THE COMPETITIVENESS OF COSTS AND THE ONV EXPLOITATION OF PLANT DO NOT DEPEND SOLELY ON THOSE IN GOVERNMENT; NOR CAN ANY PARTY EVADE RESPONSIBILITY FOR INCREASED PUBLIC SPENDING....

((QUESTION)) IN OTHER WORDS, THE GOVERNMENT IS NOT TO BLAME FOR ANYTHING....

((ANSWER)) NO, I AM NOT SAYING THAT, WE ALL HAVE OUR RESPONSIBILITIES FOR BOTH GOOD THINGS AND BAD THINGS; GOOD, BECAUSE THE COUNTRY HAS GROWN AND LIVING CONDITIONS HAVE IMPROVED EVERYWHERE, AND BAD, BECAUSE WE HAVE NOT MANAGED TO BUILD DEFENSES, TO ESTABLISH THE CONDITIONS TO SAFEGUARD US AGAINST CYCLICAL CRISES AND FORESEEABLE OUTSIDE INFLUENCES, IT WAS FORESEEABLE THAT EXCHANGE RATES WOULD CHANGE....

((QUESTION)) FROM WHAT YOU SAY, IT DOES NOT SEEM THAT YOU ARE EXPECTING AN IMMINENT CRISIS, BUT IN PALERMO CRAXI HIMSELF SPOKE IN

TERMS WHICH ARE NOT REASSURING FOR THE GOVERNMENT,
(ANSWER) WE SHALL SEE, THE PARTIES HAVE THEIR DEMANDS AND ARE
SOMEWHAT TOUCHY AT ELECTION TIMES; BE THAT AS IT MAY,
WHETHER THERE IS A CRISIS OR NOT, THE COUNTRY'S
PROBLEMS EXIST AND WHOEVER IS CALLED ON TO TACKLE THEM WILL HAVE TO
COME TO TERMS WITH REALITY AND CANNOT PURSUE TOO MANY WHIMS.

PCI TRYING TO ISOLATE DC((SUBHEAD))

((QUESTION)) YOU SEEM TO BE DISMISSING THE ISSUE OF THE SOCIALIST
PREMIERSHIP, BUT IN PALERMO,...

((ANSWER)) I DO NOT REGARD IT AS AN ISSUE TO BE RAISED WITH
PARTICULAR SET DATES IN MIND, THE GOVERNMENT MUST NOT CONSTITUTE
A STRAITJACKET FOR ANYONE; IT STEMS NOT FROM ANY CONSTRAINT BUT
FROM A POLITICAL ACT, FROM AUTONOMOUS AND FREE DECISIONS, ITS
COMPONENT PARTIES ARE NOT DEPRIVED OF THE RIGHT TO
RIVALRY AND TO DIALOGUE DESIGNED TO MAKE THEIR VARIOUS
IDEOLOGICAL OUTLOOKS PREVAIL IN THE COUNTRY, WHEN COALITION
GOVERNMENTS ARE FORMED, THE QUESTION OF WHO IS TO ASSUME THE PRIME
MINISTERSHIP IS ONE THAT MUST BE DECIDED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE
REPUBLIC WHO, HEADED BY THE PARTIES, INDICATES THE MAN WHO IN HIS
BELIEF HAS THE LARGEST POTENTIAL CONSENSUS AND THE BEST CHANCE OF
ACHIEVING A BALANCED SOLUTION, PERSONALLY I HAVE NEVER MADE IT A
TABOO SUBJECT OR THE SUBJECT OF ANY PREJUDICES, AS SOME ALLEGE,
THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IS THAT THERE BE REAL AGREEMENT AMONG THE
PARTIES ON POLICY AND ON AN OVERALL POLITICAL LINE;

((QUESTION)) ONCE AGAIN IT SEEMS THAT YOU DO NOT MUCH BELIEVE IN
THE POSSIBILITY OF A CRAXI GOVERNMENT,

((ANSWER)) THAT IS NOT SO; WHAT I SAID WAS THAT THERE MUST BE
NO PREJUDICED ATTITUDES, BE THAT AS IT MAY, FOR THE TIME BEING I
BELIEVE IN THE GOVERNMENT THAT WE HAVE NOW, I REPEAT THAT IT IS
NECESSARY TO COME TO TERMS WITH REALITY, AND ONE OF THE FIRST
THINGS TO BE UNDERSTOOD IN THIS CONTEXT IS THE PARTIES' OBJECTIVE
POSSIBILITIES OF CONVERGENCE,

((QUESTION)) YOU SAY THAT IT IS NECESSARY TO COME TO TERMS WITH
REALITY, PERHAPS YOUR PARTY COULD REFUSE THE POST WHICH YOU
NOW HOLD TO A CRAXI WITHOUT ALTERNATIVES, BUT IF THE COMMUNISTS
SUPPORTED SUCH A DEMAND,...

((ANSWER)) I DO NOT KNOW, THE COMMUNIST LEADERSHIP CHANGES ITS
MIND EASILY, THEY HAVE REVERSED A POLITICAL LINE, AN OUTLOOK WHICH
THEY DESCRIBED AS HISTORICAL, ONLY BECAUSE THE LOST A FEW VOTES OR FOR
SOME OTHER REASON WHICH THEY HAVE FAILED TO EXPLAIN,

((QUESTION)) IT SEEMS TO ME THAT THEY HAVE EXPLAINED SEVERAL
REASONS,

((ANSWER)) THEY ARE UNCONVINCING, BE THAT AS IT MAY, WHEN
CRAXI WAS ASKED TO FORM A GOVERNMENT 2 YEARS AGO, THE IMPRESSION WAS
THAT SOME FAMILY DISASTER HAD OCCURRED, BUT THAT IS NOT THE
POINT, TO FORM A COALITION GOVERNMENT IT IS NECESSARY TO ASSEMBLE
THE PARTIES THAT ARE AGREED ON SPECIFIC DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN POLICY
ISSUES, AND THAT FACT IS THAT THE COMMUNIST PARTY--FOR
REASONS WHICH IT HAS FAILED TO EXPLAIN--HAS DISTANCED ITSELF INSTEAD
OF MOVING CLOSER, 29 APR JH/DWEN/PS 12/0140Z MAY MORE

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LD111543 TAKE 2 OF 3 LD111541--FORLANI INTERVIEW

ROME LA REPUBBLICA ITALIAN 29 APR /// OF MOVING CLOSER

((TEXT)) ((QUESTION)) THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT IT IS MOVING AWAY FROM THE DC, IN PALERMO BERLINGUER GAINED MORE APPROVAL THAN PICCOLI, AND A KIND OF THAW OR RAPPROCHEMENT WITH THE PSI SEEMS TO HAVE BEGUN,

((ANSWER)) A LARGE NUMBER OF PEOPLE ATTEND NATIONAL CONGRESSES OF THE PSI, AND OF THE DC,... I WAS NOT IN PALERMO AND IT COULD NOT SAY WHO APPLAUDED AND WHO WHISTLED, IN ANY CASE, WE SHALL SEE; LET ME MAKE THIS CLEAR: IT IS NOT THAT I AM UNAWARE OF THE COMMUNISTS' ATTEMPT TO DRAW CLOSER TO THE PSI--AND THE OTHER PARTIES TOO--IN ORDER TO ISOLATE THE DC AND TO BRING THE GOVERNMENT DOWN, BUT I BELIEVE THAT IT IS A TACTICAL AND MANIPULATORY MOVE, WHICH FAILS TO CONCEAL THE SUBSTANCE, WHICH IS PRECISELY A MOVING AWAY, A DISTANCING FROM THE LINE OF ALL THE OTHER DEMOCRATIC PARTIES,

((QUESTION)) ALL, OR ALMOST ALL, THE PARTY SECRETARIES ATTENDED THE SOCIALIST CONGRESS, AND THAT IS A MAJOR INNOVATION WHICH HIGHLIGHTS CRAXI'S "CENTRALITY," SO TO SPEAK, DO YOU NOT BELIEVE THAT THIS WILL HAVE REPERCUSSIONS WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT WHICH YOU LEAD?

((ANSWER)) LET US NOT TALK ABOUT "CENTRALITY," WHICH IS A TERM NOW THREATENED BY AMBIGUOUS INTERPRETATIONS, LET US LOOK AT THINGS SIMPLY, IT SEEMS TO ME THAT CRAXI CONFIRMED THE SOCIALIST PARTY'S PRESENT GOVERNMENT COMMITMENT, HIS REPORT, APPROVED BY THE CONGRESS, REPRESENTS AN IMPETUS TO THE CONTINUITY OF THE GOVERNMENT'S ACTION, THE SECRETARIES OF THE OTHER PARTIES OF THE MAJORITY, SPEAKING AT THAT FORUM, WERE AGREED ON THE VALIDITY OF THIS COMMITMENT,

((QUESTION)) IN OTHER WORDS THERE IS NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT, BUT DOES A PSI FREE OF COMPLEXES WITH REGARD TO THE DC AND THE PCI NOT CREATE NEW PROBLEMS, AT LEAST WITH REGARD TO POLITICAL SPACE?

((ANSWER)) THE PSI'S JUSTIFIED REFUSAL TO ACCEPT A SUBORDINATE ROLE ON THE BASIS OF THE MERE BALANCE OF POWER IS NOTHING NEW, IN FACT THE SAME APPLIES TO THE OTHERS, FROM SPADOLINI TO LONGO ((PRI AND ITALIAN SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY SECRETARIES RESPECTIVELY --FBIS)).... WHAT COUNTS IS MUTUAL RESPECT AND ASSESSMENTS BASED

ON POLITICAL PROPOSALS. THERE IS FUNDAMENTAL AGREEMENT AMONG THE GOVERNMENT ALLIES ON THIS AND NATURALLY ON DECISIVE FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC POLICY ISSUES;

((QUESTION)) ONE OF THESE DECISIVE ISSUES IS THE ECONOMIC CRISIS; YOU TALK ABOUT SOLIDARITY AMONG THE GOVERNMENT PARTIES, BUT THE CRISIS HAS BECOME ALMOST UNGOVERNABLE,

((ANSWER)) THE INGREDIENTS OF THE CRISIS WERE ALREADY ALL PRESENT IN THE SITUATION WHEN THIS GOVERNMENT WAS FORMED; WHAT I MEAN IS THAT WE DID NOT INVENT THE CRISIS, WE HAVE INTERVENED WITH MEASURES DESIGNED TO CONTAIN THE MOST DANGEROUS THRUSTS, AND WE AIM TO CREATE THE CONDITIONS TO EXTRICATE US FROM THE CRISIS AND TO IMPLEMENT A NEW DEVELOPMENT POLICY,

((QUESTION)) WHAT SPECIFICALLY ARE YOU THINKING OF DOING?

((ANSWER)) THE ANTI-INFLATION STRUGGLE, THE CONTAINMENT OF PUBLIC SPENDING, THE REDUCTION OF ABSENTEEISM ARE ABSOLUTE PRIORITY COMMITMENTS AND THE PRECONDITIONS WHICH MAKE THE MEDIUM-TERM PLAN POSSIBLE TO IMPLEMENT, IN OTHER WORDS, WHICH MAKE INVESTMENTS AND DEVELOPMENT POSSIBLE IN THE KEY SECTORS OF THE ECONOMY, THE ONLY WAY OUT OF THE CRISIS IS BY IMPROVING THE SYSTEM'S PRODUCTIVITY,

((QUESTION)) BY REVISING THE INDEXING SYSTEM...;

((ANSWER)) WE WILL BE DISCUSSING THIS WITH THE TRADE UNIONS IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS;

BERLINGUER BACKTRACKING ((SUBHEAD))

PRIME MINISTER, DO YOU NOT BELIEVE THAT THE ECONOMIC CRISIS IS SO GRAVE AND THE NECESSARY MEASURES SO BURDENSOME THAT THERE MUST BE AN IMMEDIATE GENERAL AGREEMENT AMONG ALL THE PARTIES; AND THEREFORE WITH THE PCI TOO, WHICH REPRESENTS THE GREAT MAJORITY OF THE WORKERS?

((ANSWER)) ALL THE PARTIES REPRESENT PEOPLE'S ATTITUDES AND INTERESTS, PARLIAMENTARY MAJORITIES, HOWEVER, ARE FORMED ON THE BASIS OF CONVERGENCE ON PLANNING AND POLICY AND NOT ON THE BASIS OF PREDETERMINED SCHEMAS, THE DC HAD BEGUN WITH THE PCI A SERIOUS PROCESS OF PROGRESSIVE ASSESSMENT OF MUTUAL POSSIBILITIES OF CONVERGENCE AND DEMOCRATIC SHARING OF RESPONSIBILITY; IN THIS EXCHANGE OF VIEWS--WHICH IT WOULD BE ABSURD TO REGARD IN TERMS OF A CIRCUMVENTION OF THE PSI--THE DC SOUGHT TO ESTABLISH AT ITS CONGRESS THE MAXIMUM SOLIDARITY WITH THE OTHER DEMOCRATIC PARTIES, THIS IS THE POLICE THAT WE HAVE TRIED TO PURSUE, BUT THE COMMUNIST PARTY HAS CHANGED, HAS BACKTRACKED TO A LINE OF DIMATRIC OPPOSITION,

((QUESTION)) YOU HAVE NOT ANSWERED MY QUESTION...;

((ANSWER)) I WILL TELL YOU MY OPINION FRANKLY; THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT WE COULD EMERGE FROM THE CRISIS MORE EASILY--OR RATHER, WITH LESS DIFFICULTY--IF ALL THE POLITICAL, SOCIAL AND PRODUCTION FORCES CONVERGED IN A CONSTRUCTIVE COMMITMENT, THIS IS OBVIOUS,

BUT IF NOT EVERYONE DOES SO, IF THE COMMUNIST PARTY HAS DECIDED TO PUSH ITS OPPOSITION TO THE LIMITS, A MAJORITY MUST STILL PERFORM THE TASKS OF GOVERNMENT;

((QUESTION)) IT IS A MATTER OF ENDING DISCRIMINATIONS AND ESTABLISHING CONSTRUCTIVE RELATIONS. NOW THE PCI IS DEMANDING A DIFFERENT KIND OF GOVERNMENT, COPOSED OF HONEST MEN...;

((ANSWER)) IT ALREADY EXISTS, SO IT SHOULD SUPPORT ME,

((QUESTION)) YOU ARE CRITICIZED FROM THIS VIEWPOINT BY VISENTINI TOO, WHO IS AFTER ALL CHAIRMAN OF ONE OF THE GOVERNING PARTIES...;

((ANSWER)) I DO NOT WANT TO ENTER INTO POLEMICS WITH VISENTINI; I RESPECT HIM AND ON SOME THINGS I DO NOT EVEN DISAGREE WITH HIM, HE IS ACQUAINTED WITH THE ECONOMIC SITUATION AND THE DIFFICULTIES; WE ARE ATTACKING PROBLEMS THAT HAVE BECOME ENTANGLED OVER THE YEARS AND WHICH CANNOT BE RESOLVED BY MAGIC. 29 APR JH/OWEN/JB 12/0150Z MAY MORE

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LD111545 TAKE 3 OF 3 LD111541--FORLANI INTERVIEW

ROME LA REPUBBLICA ITALIAN 29 APR /// RESOLVED BY MAGIC,

((TEXT)) ((QUESTION)) VISENTINI KNOWS THIS, YET HE TOO IS PROPOSING A DIFFERENT KIND OF GOVERNMENT, MORE "INSTITUTIONAL" AND AT LEAST CAPABLE OF REOPENING THE DIALOGUE AMONG THE POLITICAL FORCES AND CLARIFYING THE SITUATION,

((ANSWER)) I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT HE HAS FORMULATED ANY SPECIFIC PROPOSALS IN THIS CONNECTION,

((QUESTION)) ANOTHER OF THE DECISIVE ISSUES IS THE MORAL ONE, THE NEED FOR A CLEAN SWEEP, DO YOU CONSIDER YOURSELVES CONVINCING IN THIS REGARD? IS THE SYSTEM NOT IN DANGER OF AN IRREMEADIABLE CRISIS HERE TOO?

((ANSWER)) ELEMENTS OF CORRUPTION AND DISHONESTY ARE ATTACKING POLITICAL LIFE TOO, BUT THE DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM MAKES IT POSSIBLE TO HIGHLIGHT THESE LAMENTABLE ASPECTS AND TO COMBAT THEM, NOW THAT THERE ARE LEGAL CONTROLS ON PARTY FINANCING, WE CAN, BY MEANS OF FURTHER IMPROVEMENTS TO THE LAW, MORE EASILY CARRY OUT A CLEANSING OPERATION,... IT IS NOT TRUE THAT THE POLITICAL WORLD IS DISHONEST! THE LARGE MAJORITY OF LEADERSHIP CADRES, PARLIAMENTARIANS AND PARTY MEMBERS ARE PEOPLE WHO BELIEVE IN THEIR OWN IDEALS AND ACT CONSISTENTLY WITH THEM,

((QUESTION)) BUT NEITHER CAN IT BE SAID--AS THE SECRETARY OF YOUR PARTY OFTEN DOES--EVERY TIME A SCANDAL EXPLODES THAT IT IS ALL DUE TO CONSPIRACIES AND SHADY MANEUVERS DESIGNED TO HARM THE DC.

I KNOW THAT THESE LODGES EXIST ((SUBHEAD))

((ANSWER)) I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THE PICCOLI DISCUSSES IT SO OFTEN! THE TURBID CLIMATE THAT IS BEING NURTURED AND THAT TO SOME EXTENT SURROUNDS OUR POLITICAL SYSTEM IS NOTHING NEW, SINCE THE DC CERTAINLY REPRESENTS AN IMPORTANT LINCHPIN IN THIS SYTEM IT IS FAIRLY LOGICAL FOR PICCOLI TO SEE A DANGER AND A THREAT TO THE DC TOO IN CERTAIN CORROSIVE CAMPAIGNS, WHICH SOMETIMES APPEAR ORCHESTRATED,

I BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT THIS APPLIES TO OTHER PARTIES TOO, TO ALL THE PARTIES THAT, COME WHAT MAY, EVEN IF DIVIDED, WANT TO DEFEND AND SAFEGUARD THE INSTITUTIONS, I BELIEVE THAT IN A DEMOCRAT-

SYSTEM EVERYTHING SHOULD TAKE PLACE CLEARLY AND OUT IN THE

(QUESTION)) BY THE WAY, THERE IS A GREAT DEAL OF TALK ABOUT FREEMASONRY AT THE MOMENT, WHAT IS THERE IN WHAT IS BEING SAID ABOUT P2 ((A LODGE--FBIS))?

((ANSWER)) I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT I KNOW MUCH MORE ABOUT IT THAN YOU, OF COURSE I KNOW THAT THESE LODGES EXIST, MORE OR LESS AS IN OTHER COUNTRIES, THOUGH IN OUR COUNTRY THEY ARE SURROUNDED WITH MORE MYSTERY, I REPEAT THAT IN A DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM ALL FORMS OF ASSOCIATION SHOULD TAKE PLACE IN THE OPEN,

((QUESTION)) BUT LISTS OF NAMES ARE BEING CIRCULATED, AND THERE ARE RUMORS OF MANY PROMINENT PEOPLE BEING IMPLICATED;

((ANSWER)) WE SHALL SEE, I TOO HAVE HEARD AND READ THESE NAMES, BUT I HAVE ALSO HEARD AND READ THE DENIALS, I WOULD NOT LIKE ANYONE TO SET HIS SIGHTS ON AN ANOTHER WITHCH-HUNT, SINCE AS FAR AS I KNOW MEMBERSHIP OF THE FREEMASONS IS NOT A CRIME AND I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT IT IS UP TO THE GOVERNMENT TO CARRY OUT INDIVIDUAL INQUIRIES TO ASCERTAIN WHO IS OR IS NOT A MEMBER OF THESE LODGES; IT WOULD BE A DIFFERENT MATTER IF ONE OF THESE LODGES WERE SHOWN TO BE A CRIMINAL ASSOCIATION WITH ILLEGAL AIMS,

((QUESTION)) THIS COULD IN FACT BE THE CASE WITH P2; THERE ARE DOCUMENTS FOUND IN GELLI'S HOUSE WHICH THE JUDICIARY IS EXAMINING BECAUSE THEY SUGGEST A POSSIBLE CRIME,

((ANSWER)) THE JUDICIARY WILL LET US KNOW WHEN IT HAS COMPLETED ITS INQUIRIES,

((QUESTION)) YOU SEEM VERY CALM--ALMOST UNCONCERNED, BUT I WONDER HOW YOU CAN UNDERTAKE SUCH DEMANDING PLANS WHEN MANY PEOPLE ARE ALREADY TALKING ABOUT THE POST-FORLANI PHASE,...

((ANSWER)) IF THAT IS ALL, I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT I FOR ONE HAVE NEVER BELIEVED THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO POST-FORLANI GOVERNMENTS: IT IS A WISE THING FOR THEM PARTIES TO REFLECT, TO COMPARE NOTES AND TO SEEK BROAD CONVERGENCES, BUT I DO NOT WANT TO ENTER INTO THIS ISSUE NOW; THE GOVERNMENT MUST CONTINUE TO WORK AND TO DO ITS DUTY FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE TIME GRANTED TO IT; BE THAT AS IT MAY, THE PROBLEMS TO WHICH WE HAVE POINTED CANNOT BE EVADED AND, IF WE WANT TO RECOVER, ANOTHER, FUTURE GOVERNMENT WILL HAVE TO TACKLE THEM IN THE SAME TERMS,

((QUESTION)) FOREIGN POLICY TOO HAS BECOME A POINT OF DIVISION AGAIN, WHEREAS DURING THE PREVIOUS LEGISLATIVE PERIOD PARLIAMENT UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED A NUMBER OF DOCUMENTS, INCLUDING SOME PRESENTED BY THE COMMUNISTS, DO YOU NOT BELIEVE THAT THERE HAS BEEN A CHANGE IN THE GOVERNMENT'S LINE?

((ANSWER)) THE GOVERNMENT COALITION HAS HAD AND STILL HAS A CONSISTENT AND CLEAR LINE ON FOREIGN POLICY; ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN EC LIFE AND IN THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE'S DEFENSE COMMITMENTS UNDER CONDITIONS OF EQUAL STATUS; SUPPORT FOR THE POSSIBILITIES OF A RESUMPTION OF EAST-WEST DIALOGUE AND NEGOTIATION; THE QUEST FOR GOOD RELATIONS AND INTENSIVE COOPERATION WITH THE MEDITERRANEAN, MIDDLE EASTERN AND AFRICAN COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY WITH THOSE HAVING TRADITIONAL SPECIAL TIES WITH ITALY; A MORE ACTIVE PRESENCE IN LATIN AMERICA; AND THE IMPROVEMENT OF OUR CONVENTIONAL MILITARY FORCE SO AS TO SAFEGUARD AN AUTONOMOUS NATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY, THE DOCUMENTS TO WHICH YOU REFER WERE APPROVED BY THE COMMUNISTS TOO ON THE BASIS OF REPORTS WHICH I DELIVERED TO PARLIAMENT; IN MY CAPACITY AS FOREIGN MINISTER, THIS GOVERNMENT'S POLICY STATEMENTS REFLECT THE POINTERS INDICATED THEN, AND OUR ENTIRE ACTION DURING THIS PERIOD HAS BEEN ENTIRELY CONSISTENT WITH THOSE POINTERS, IT IS NOT WE WHO HAVE CHANGED!

((QUESTION)) IN THE MEANTIME, HOWEVER, THERE HAS BEEN THE NATO DECISION TO DEPLOY NEW MISSILES IN EUROPE, INCLUDING ITALY;

(ANSWER) IT WOULD BE MORE ACCURATE TO SAY THAT IN THE
MEANTIME THERE HAD BEEN THE LARGE-SCALE DEPLOYMENT OF NEW SOVIET
MISSILES, WHICH HAVE ALTERED THE BALANCE IN EUROPE;
NATO'S MEASURES TO RESTORE THE BALANCE CANNOT BE REALIZED BEFORE
1983, AND SO THERE IS TIME TO NEGOTIATE SO THAT A
BALANCED SITUATION CAN BE ESTABLISHED BETWEEN THE TWO SYSTEMS
AT THE LOWEST POSSIBLE LEVELS. WE ARE MOVING IN THIS DIRECTION,
29 APR JH/OWEN/RL 12/0257Z MAY ENDALL

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