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011515Z JUL 81
FROM COMMCEN HSP
TO MODUK

RESTRICTED
SIC U2E

1. Mr Ferguson

2. Mr Carter
Mr Osborne

GRS 320
RESTRICTED
FROM ROME 011515Z JUL 81
TO PRIORITY MODUK (FOR DI3 WEST)
TELNO SIC U2E OF 011515Z JUL 81
AND TO FCO (WED)

FOR DI3 (WEST) FROM BRITDEFAT ROME.

SUBJECT ITALIAN CDS (TORRISI) AND ALL 192 OFFICERS OF THE ARMED FORCES (INCL CARABINIERI AND CUSTOMS AND EXCISE) IMPLICATED IN THE P2 SCANDAL TO FACE DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS.

EXTRACT TAKEN FROM CORRIERE DELLA SERA DATED 1 JULY 1981.

ONE. ITALIAN VCDS (POLI), THE THREE CGS, THE HAED OF THE CARABINIERI AND THE VICE CHIEF OF THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE HAD A MEETING ON MORNING OF 30 JUNE 81 AT WHICH IT WAS DECIDED THAT ALL OFFICERS IMPLICATED IN THE P2 SCANDAL WOULD FACE MILITARY DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS.

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TWO. THIS DECISION WILL FIRST HAVE TO BE CONFIRMED BY MINISTER OF DEFENCE (LAGORIO).

THREE. ALL IMPLICATED OFFICERS HAVE ALREADY BEEN SENT ON 30 DAYS FORCED LEAVE (ENDING IN MID-JULY.)

FOUR. THE PROCEEDINGS WILL BE IN TWO STAGES:

ALPHA: A FORMAL INQUIRY, CARRIED OUT BY AN OFFICER OF HIGHER RANK OR SENIORITY THAN THE ACCUSED, WHO WILL BE IMPOWERED TO RECOMMEND:

ONE: NO FURTHER ACTION.

TWO: MINOR PUNISHMENT.

THREE: COURT MARTIAL

BRAVO: A DISCIPLINARY BOARD, HEADED BY COS AND CONSISTING OF THREE MEMBERS, WHO CAN TAKE A VARIETY OF MEASURES INCLUDING:

ONE: REMOVAL FROM PRESENT APPOINTMENT:

TWO: DEMOTION

FIVE. A FURTHER DECISION AT THE MEETING WAS THAT ALL 15 SENIOR OFFICERS WILL BE RELIEVED OF THEIR APPOINTMENTS AND PREPARED FOR RETIREMENT BEFORE THE VERDICTS ARE KNOWN. THE REASON GIVEN WAS THAT IT WAS FELT THAT THE LOSS OF PUBLIC CONFIDENCE IN THESE SENIOR OFFICERS AFTER THE PUBLICATION OF THE P2 LIST HAD MADE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR THEM TO CONTINUE IN OFFICE. IT WOULD ALSO MEAN THAT THEY COULD BE REPLACED IMMEDIATELY.

SIX. THE BREAKDOWN OF OFFICERS INVOLVED IS:

112 - ARMY INCL CARABINIERI

24 - NAVY

12 - AIRFORCE

45 - CUSTOMS AND EXCISE

SEVEN. REPORT IN YESTERDAYS PAPERS OF VICE- ADMIRAL VITTORIO FORGIONE ARRESTED UNDER CHARGES OF MILITARY ESPIONAGE IS DILUTED IN TODAYS PAPERS TO BEING UNDER SUSPICION WHILE BEING IN POSSESSION OF SECRET NUCLEAR DOCUMENTS.

THE SAGA CONTINUES.

ARCULUS

BT