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OIRA 3617
SGHEYELASH

S E C R E T

Chief, SE

29 April 1954

INFO: []

SHAM/OBOPUS

Announcement by RNLUMPIT re His Withdrawal

Reference: ROME-7957

1. Following is the complete text of the joint announcement drafted by RNLUMPIT and [] re RNLUMPIT's withdrawal from Rome. This announcement also reveals the fact that neither RNLUMPIT nor [] will be replaced. As cabled, RNLUMPIT has submitted this entire text to London for approval.

"Gentlemen: [] has already announced that he is leaving Rome, and it is now my sad duty to inform you that also am being withdrawn. As Chairman of the month, I am authorized to say that [] and I shall leave simultaneously following the completion of the May elections, which, as you know, are due to close on 6 June.

I am also authorized to say that neither [] nor myself will be replaced, as it is the wish of our superiors that the Committee should henceforth conduct its own affairs, so far as possible, and it is their firm conviction that it is now capable of doing so.

I need hardly add that our superiors, like ourselves, will continue to take the same benevolent interest in the Committee as heretofore, and that [] and I are both leaving with feelings of personal regret and with the warmest memories of our association with you.

During the next month we will work out, with you, details of the transfer of certain of our activities to Athens, London, and New York."

2. It was apparent in the conversations preceeding the drafting of this announcement that RNLUMPIT was not enthusiastic about having to make this statement as Chairman of the month. He made it quite clear that he did not expect approval from London by 30 April, and therefore, [] would have to make the announcement in May. [] suggested that RNLUMPIT try to obtain London approval hurriedly in any event. RNLUMPIT promised to do so.

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3. [] is anxious to have RNLUMPIT make the statement in view of the fact that he has stated on a number of occasions that [] leaving does not affect his position.
4. There is widespread belief among emigre circles that RNLUMPIT will remain in Rome to represent both OBOPUS and VALUABLE. In fact, MALAMENT informs [] that he was summoned to the KMULGER Foreign Ministry and asked to confirm this rumor and [] was summoned to the LOFLAKE Legation and asked the same question. Obviously, Malament was searching for information, but as long as we have played it straight this far, [] refused to discuss RNLUMPIT's status with Malament.
- []

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