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\*\*\*\*\*C O N F I D E N T I A L\*\*\*\*\*S COPY

OP IMMFO  
DE WTE #2647 1401937  
O 210013Z MAY 75  
FM THE SITUATION ROOM//TOHAK 024//

TO GOMPERT/RODMAN FOR THE SECRETARY

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIA BLACK PATCH WH50863

State Dept. review completed

TOHAK 024

25X1

QUOTE

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

FROM: AMBASSADOR VOLPE ROME 977  
TO : DOCTOR KISSINGER, NSC, AND COUNSELOR RUMSFELD  
AT THE WHITE HOUSE AND PRESS SECRETARY NESSEN

ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT ARE GOING WELL, NATURALLY THE ITALIANS ARE DELIGHTED THAT HE IS COMING AND I FEEL THE INGREDIENTS ARE HERE FOR A VERY SUCCESSFUL VISIT.

ALTHOUGH THERE WILL BE EXTENSIVE ITALIAN MEDIA COVERAGE OF THE OFFICIAL FUNCTIONS, HIS SCHEDULE WILL PROVIDE NO OPPORTUNITY FOR ITALIAN PEOPLE TO GET A FEEL FOR THE PRESIDENT AS A PERSON AND AS A STATESMAN. I AM CONFIDENT THAT AN INTERVIEW WITH RAI-TV (THE NATIONAL TELEVISION MONOPOLY REACHING 15-20 MILLION VIEWERS) COULD BE ARRANGED WITH PRE-CLEARED QUESTIONS ON THE POINTS THE PRESIDENT WOULD WANT TO MAKE. THIS WOULD PROVIDE AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY FOR THE ITALIANS TO OBSERVE THE STRENGTH AND OPENESS OF THE PRESIDENT OF WHOM THEY HAVE LITTLE FIRST HAND KNOWLEDGE. IN TERMS OF OUR PRESENCE AND POLITICAL STAKE HERE, IT OFFERS AN OPPORTUNITY THAT WE SHOULD NOT LIGHTLY PASS UP IF IT WOULD BE AVAILABLE TO US.

*see HAK70 18*

IN TALKING WITH THE PRE-ADVANCE TEAM, I GOT THE IMPRESSION THAT U.S. DOMESTIC COVERAGE IS THE HIGHEST PRIORITY. AS IMPORTANT AS THIS IS, I WOULD HOPE WE ARE NOT OVERLOOKING THE FOREIGN IMPACT OF THIS FIRST EUROPEAN VISIT OF THE PRESIDENT'S. INDEED, IF THE MAJOR US-TV NETWORKS ARE A PROBLEM, THERE SHOULD BE A WAY TO SOMEHOW INVOLVE THEM WITH RAI IN THE INTERVIEW, PERHAPS THROUGH A POOLING ARRANGEMENT OR, PERHAPS INSISTING THAT RAI WAIVE THEIR PROPRIETARY RIGHTS IN THE INTERVIEW VIS-A-VIS US-TV NETWORKS.

\*\*\*\*\*WHSR COMMENT\*\*\*\*\*

MCFARLANE,RODMAN,SECYLE,800

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I AM THINKING IN TERMS OF A FIFTEEN MINUTE INTERVIEW. ARRANGEMENTS  
COULD BE MADE AT THE AIRPORT IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO DEPARTURE SINCE  
SUCH AN INTERVIEW SHOULD NOT BE GRANTED BEFORE THE COMPLETION OF ALL  
SUBSTANTIVE CALLS.

IT IS MY OPINION THAT THE WILLINGNESS OF THE PRESIDENT TO GRANT SUCH AN  
INTERVIEW WOULD BE A MAJOR PLUS IN ITALIAN AND EUROPEAN TERMS.  
FURTHERMORE, THE IMAGE OF THE PRESIDENT AS A STATESMAN BEING OPEN  
AND AT EASE WITH A FOREIGN TV COMMENTATOR SHOULD HAVE A FAVORABLE  
IMPACT AT HOME.

TO GET THIS PROJECT OFF THE GROUND, IT WILL NEED A FAVORABLE PUSH FROM  
YOU IN WASHINGTON. OBVIOUSLY I HAVE HAD NO DISCUSSIONS WITH RAI  
ABOUT THIS. IF WE WERE TO GET A GO-AHEAD, WE CAN WORK WITH THE PRESS  
ADVANCE TEAM AND RAI IN PUTTING IT TOGETHER.

RECOMMENDATION: I WOULD HOPE THE PRESS ADVANCE TEAM COULD  
RECEIVE INSTRUCTIONS TO EXPLORE EVERY POSSIBILITY OF WORKING OUT SUCH  
AN INTERVIEW.

UNQUOTE  
0475

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