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PS/MR LUCE  
PS/FUS  
SIR J LEAHY  
MR EBERTON  
SIR J BULLARD  
ED/NEAD  
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CABINET OFFICE D10

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RESTRICTED

FM ROME

TO IMMEDIATE DESKBY 071800Z FCO

TELNO 660

OF 071710Z DECEMBER 1983

MS

INFO IMMEDIATE PARIS AND WASHINGTON

MIPT: LEBANON: ITALIAN VIEWS

1. THE PRESS COMMUNIQUE ON LEBANON, ISSUED AFTER TODAY'S  
INNER CABINET MEETING, READS AS FOLLOWS:-

"THE INNER CABINET HAS GIVEN A MANDATE TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER TO EXAMINE MORE DEEPLY THE POLITICAL PROSPECTS FOR THE LEBANESE CRISIS AND THE INITIATIVES NECESSARY TO ADVANCE THE PROCESS OF INTERNAL PACIFICATION AND OF NATIONAL RECONCILIATION. THIS SHOULD BE DONE IN THE CONTEXT OF THE CONSULTATION WITH ALLIED COUNTRIES WHICH THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT HAS SOUGHT. THE MINISTER ALSO HAS A MANDATE TO EXAMINE THE ROLE OF THE MULTINATIONAL PEACE FORCE IN THE LIGHT OF THE DEVELOPING SITUATION. IN THIS CONTEXT, AFTER HEARING A STATEMENT BY THE DEFENCE MINISTER, THE INNER CABINET HAS EXAMINED THE ROLE OF THE ITALIAN CONTINGENT: IT HAS UNDERTAKEN TO LOOK FOR EVERY POSSIBLE WAY OF CONSOLIDATING THE UN PRESENCE IN LEBANON, BOTH BY ENLARGING THE DUTIES OF UNIFIL AND THROUGH NEW INITIATIVES."

2. WHEN LEAVING THE MEETING ANDREOTTI STRESSED TO THE PRESS THAT UNANIMOUS AGREEMENT HAD BEEN REACHED ON POLICY TOWARDS LEBANON.

3. THERE HAS BEEN NO FURTHER INDICATION OF WHETHER THE WHOLE CABINET OR PARLIAMENT WILL DISCUSS LEBANON AFRESH WITHIN THE NEXT FEW DAYS.

BRIDGES