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MWS 011/16	
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FM ROME  
TO IMMEDIATE FCO  
TELNO 877  
OF 181610Z OCTOBER  
INFO ROUTINE ALL EC POSTS

*AWG 011/16*  
*19/10*

FRAME GENERAL

INFORMAL EUROPEAN COUNCIL: ITALIAN VIEWS ON THE AGENDA

SUMMARY

1. ANDREOTTI CONFIRMS ITALIAN APPROACH TO ROME SUMMIT.

DETAIL

2. IN CONVERSATION WITH VISITING HOUSE OF COMMONS EC SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEMBERS ON THE EVENING OF 17 OCTOBER, ANDREOTTI UNSURPRISINGLY PLACED PREPARATIONS FOR THE TWO IGCS, AT THE TOP OF THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL AGENDA.

3. ON EMU, ANDREOTTI SAID THAT PREPARATIONS WERE GENERALLY WELL-ADVANCED. THE MAIN OUTSTANDING ISSUES WERE THE DATE OF TRANSITION TO STAGE 2: THE CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH STAGE 2 WOULD BE COMPLETED: AND WHETHER THE FINAL OBJECTIVE SHOULD BE A SINGLE CURRENCY. BUT HE THOUGHT IT POSSIBLE THAT AGREEMENT WOULD BE REACHED 'AMONG 12 OR 11' AT THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL.

4. ON POLITICAL UNION, ANDREOTTI EXPECTED ONLY AN INTERIM REPORT BY FOREIGN MINISTERS FOR THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL, WITH A FINAL REPORT FOR THE DECEMBER COUNCIL. OTHERWISE, THE AGENDA WOULD INCLUDE THE SOVIET UNION AND EASTERN EUROPE: AN ASSESSMENT OF GERMAN UNIFICATION: AND MENTIONED LAST THE SITUATION IN THE GULF. HE WAS NOT SURE WHETHER THERE WOULD BE DISCUSSION ON THE SEATS OF INSTITUTIONS, SINCE THERE WAS 'STILL DISAGREEMENT ON 2 OR 3 OUTSTANDING POINTS' (SEE ALSO MY TELNO 864).

COMMENT

5. THIS DOES NOT ADD A GREAT DEAL TO WHAT WE ALREADY KNOW OF THE ITALIAN'S INTENDED APPROACH, BUT GIVEN ITS SOURCE IS WORTH REPORTING.



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