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CENSIS SEMINAR (CONFERENCE) IN NEW YORK, DECEMBER 14-15

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SUBJ: CENSIS SEMINAR (CONFERENCE) IN NEW YORK, DECEMBER 14-15

REF: STATE 283775

1. SUMMARY. FONMIN WILL WORK WITH CENSIS TO SUBMIT VISA APPLICATIONS FOR 45 ITALIAN PARTICIPANTS PROMPTLY. CENSIS IS HIGHLY-RESPECTED, SEMI-PRIVATE RESEARCH FOUNDATION WHICH IS ORGANIZING CONFERENCE AT GOI BEHEST. WHILE CONFERENCE IS FOR GOI'S OWN NATIONAL AND POLITICAL PURPOSES, IT ALSO PROMISES TO FURTHER US BILATERAL POLICY OBJECTIVES AND ENCOURAGE CLOSER US ITALY TIES.
END SUMMARY.

2. FONMIN UNDERSRECTARY FOSCHI'S AIDE, EGONE RATZENBERGER, CALLED IN EMBASSY LABOR OFFICER NOVEMBER 28 TO INFORM EMBASSY OF SUBJECT CONFERENCE AND SEEK EMBASSY COOPERATION IN AVOIDING EMBARRASSMENT OVER ISSUANCE. HE, MINISTER SERGIO ANGELETTI, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR EMIGRATION AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS, AND COUNSELOR GIAN LUIGI LAJOLO, FONMIN OFFICIAL HANDLING THE VENSIS CONFERENCE, EXPLAINED POLITICAL BACKGROUND OF CONFERENCE AND COMPOSITION OF ITALIAN DELEGATION. LABOR OFFICER EMPHASIZED URGENCY OF SUBMITTING VISA APPLICATIONS PASSPOTS, ESPECIALLY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CIALITY OF COMMUNISTS. FONMIN REPS WILL WORK WITH CENSIS TO OBTAIN AND PRESENT TO EMBASSY BY DECEMBER 2 THE PASSPORTS, SIGNED VISA APPLICATIONS AND PHOTOS OF ENTIRE ITALIAN DELEGATION. GIVEN OFFICIAL GOVERNMENTAL NATURE OF CONFERENCE, EMBASSY SUBSEQUENTLY SUGGESTED THAT FONMIN SEND DIPLOMATIC NOTE DESIGNATING ENTIRE LIST AS OFFICIAL ITALIAN DELEGATION SO VISAS CAN BE ISSUED WITHOUT NEED FOR WAIVER

PROCEDURES OR PERSONAL INTERVIEWS, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION
102 (A) (3).

3. CENSIS SENT INVITATIONS NOVEMBER 25 TO THE TWO HOUSES OF
PARLIAMENT, THE SIX POLITICAL PARTIES, THREE LABOR CONFEDERA-
TIONS, 12 ORGANIZATIONS CONCERNED WITH EMIGRANTS' OR EMIGRATION
PROBLEMS (INCLUDING SOCIAL ASISTANCE ORGANIZATIONS-PATRONATI--
OF LABOR CONFEDERATIONS), NATIONAL ECONOMIC AND LABOR COUNCIL

(CNEL) AND LABOR MINISTRY. EACH WILL DESIGNATE ONE REPRE-
SENTATIVE, EXCEPT FOR PARLIAMENT, WHICH WILL DESIGNATE 5

SENATORS AND 5 DEPUTIES (AS NOTED IN REFTEL). FOSCHI WILL
LEAD DELEGATION, ACCCOMPANIED BY 6 OTHERS FROM FONMIN.

AS IS NORMAL IN ITALY, DELEGATION WILL REPRESENTLY NEARLY ENTIRE
SPECTRUM OF ITALIAN POLITICS, PARTICULAR SIX PARTIES (INCLUDING
PCI) ON WHICH GOVERNMENT'S SURVIVAL DEPENDS. FONMIN ANTICIPATES
THAT APPROXIMATELY 6 OF 45 WILL BE COMMUNISTS. CENTRAL COM-

MITTEE MEMBER GIULIANO PAJETTA (BORN OCT. 1915 AT TURIN),
LEADING PCI EMIGRATION EXPERT AND BROTHER OF PCI SECRETARIAT

MEMBER GIANCARLO PAJETTA, WILL PRESUMABLY REPRESENT
PCI ITSELF. CGIL WILL PROBABLY BE REPRESENTED BY ITS EMI-
GRATION EXPERT ENRICO VERCCELLINO, WHO WAS GRANTED A US VISA

IN CANADA YEARS AGO, ACCORDING TO FONMIN. TWO OF TEN
PARLIAMENTARIANS WILL PROBABLY BE FROM PCI. REPRESENTATIVES FROM

INCA (CGIL PATRONATO) AND FILEF (COMMUNIST-SOCIALIST EMIGRANT
ASSISTANCE ORGANIZATION) WILL PROBABLY ALSO BE COMMUNISTS,

MAKING TOTAL OF SIX.

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4. CINSIS DIRECTOR FABIO TAHITI CALLED AT EMBASSY NOVEMBER 29 TO EXPLAIN CONFERENCE'S BACKGROUND, PURPOSE AND SUBJECT MATTERS.

ACCORDING TO DR. TAHITI, MOTIVATION FOR CONFERENCE GROWS OUT OF CONFERENCE ON EMIGRATION AND EMIGRANTS HELD IN ROME 2 YEARS AGO

(ALSO PREPARED BY CENSISL AND OF ITALIAN LEGISLATION ABOLISHING FORMER OFFICIAL EMIGRATION COUNCIL AND CALLING FOR ESTABLISH-

MENT OF NEW SYSTEM TO COORDINATE EMIGRANT POLICIES AND ACTIVITIES OF PRIVATE AND PUBLIC ORGANIZATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS.

CONFERENCE WERE TO BE HELD IN THREE DIFFERENT AREAS (EUROPE, NORTH AMERICA AND REST OF WORLD) TO STUDY THE VARYING SITU-

TIONS, PROBLEMS AND REQUIREMENTS OF ITALIAN EMIGRANTS THERE AND TO CONSULT WITH THEM ABOUT HOW ITALIAN EMIGRANT POLICY,

ACTIVITIES AND SERVICES CAN BEST BE ORGANIZED. EVIDENTLY, A LEGISLATIVE OR PROCEDURAL DEADLINE REQUIRING HOLDING THE

NORTH AMERICAN CONFERENCE DURING 1977 HAD BEEN OVERLOOKED, SO THE NEW YORK CONFERENCE HAD TO BE ORGANIZED RATHER

HASTILY AT THE LAST MINUTE.

5. FONMIN REPS SAID THAT FOSCHI, TO WHOM RESPONSIBILITY FOR EMIGRATION AND SOCIAL POLICY IS DELEGATED WITHIN THE MINISTRY, HAS BEEN TRAVELLING WIDELY SURVEYING THE EMIGRANT QUESTION.

A KEY ELEMENT, WHICH THE GOI IS TRYING TO DOWNPLAY TO AVOID AROUSING DOMESTIC OPPOSITION, IS HOW TO ENABLE EMIGRANTS WHO

RETAIN ITALIAN CITIZENSHIP TO VOTE IN ITALIAN ELECTIONS. THERE IS EVIDENTLY CONSIDERABLE APPREHENSION IN THE PARTIES OF THE LEFT, AND HOPE AMONG CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS, THAT THE

DC WOULD GET MOST OF THE EMIGRANT VOTE, ESPECIALLY OUTSIDE OF WESTERN EUROPE.

6. CENSIS WILL PREPARE PAPER FOR DISCUSSION AT CONFERENCE.

THERE WILL BE THREE MAIN AREAS OF DISCUSSION: CULTURAL, LIN-

GUISTIC AND COMMUNICATION THEMES (INCLUDING CULTURAL INTEGRA-

TION VERSUS PRESERVATION OF ETHNIC IDENTITY); SOCIAL SECURITY,
HEALTH, WELFARE, ETC.; AND THE QUALITY, COST AND EXTENT OF

ITALIAN GOVERNMENT SERVICES TO EMIGRANTS. BOTH US AND CANADA
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EXPECT TO HAVE TWENTY FIVE PARTICIPANTS, INCLUDING SPOKESMEN
FOR THE ITALIAN COMMUNITY AND ACADEMIC EXPERTS.GARDNER

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