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(U) PCI ATTACKS TNF MODERNIZATION

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ACTION EURE-12

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E.O. 12065: GDS, 8/9/85 (FROWICK, R.H.) OR-P

TAGS: MNUC, NATO, PINT, IT

SUBJECT: (U) PCI ATTACKS TNF MODERNIZATION

REF: ROME 18345 (DTG 101546Z JUL 79)(NOTAL)

1. (U) SUMMARY: AUGUST 9 NEWSPAPERS REPORTED THAT US PROPOSES TO INTRODUCE MODERNIZED TNF WEAPONS INTO ITALY. PERSHING AND CRUISE MISSILES, PAPERS SAID, MAY BE BASED IN ITALY AS WELL AS FRG, BELGIUM, NETHERLANDS, AND UK. PCI AND OTHER SPOKESMEN FOR THE LEFT HAVE SHARPLY CRITICIZED THE PROPOSAL, TERMING IT A THREAT TO DETENTE. SO MUCH FOR HOPES OF PCI QUIESCENCE ON THIS ISSUE. END SUMMARY.

2. (U) FRONT-PAGE ARTICLES IN THE AUGUST 9 EDITIONS OF CONFIDENTIAL

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PCI'S OFFICIAL "L'UNITA," AND LEFT INDEPENDENT "LA REPUBBLICA" REPORTED THAT THE US PROPOSES TO DEPLOY ADDITIONAL THEATER NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN EUROPE. "LA REPUBBLICA" HEADLINED: CARTER WANTS 600 MORE ATOMIC WEAPONS IN EUROPE. "L'UNITA'S HEADLINE ADDED: DANGEROUS AMERICAN PROJECT FOR FIVE COUNTRIES, AMONG WHICH ITALY. ARTICLES APPEARED IN THE WAKE OF US PRESS STORIES AND DOD SPOKESMAN'S AUGUST 8 COMMENT ON THE ISSUE. THE PROPOSED DEPLOYMENT OF NATO LRTNF IN FIVE EUROPEAN COUNTRIES RECEIVED PROMINENT ATTENTION IN BOTH PAPERS.

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3. (U) PCI REACTION TO THE US REPORTS WAS SWIFT AND STRONGLY NEGATIVE. SENATOR UGO PECCHIOLI, MEMBER OF THE PARTY'S DIRECTORATE AND FREQUENT SPOKESMAN ON DEFENSE AND INTELLIGENCE MATTERS, GAVE WHAT CAN BE CONSIDERED THE PCI'S OFFICIAL POSITION ON THE EVENING OF AUGUST 8. THE AMERICAN ANNOUNCEMENT, PECCHIOLI STATED, QUOTE IF TRUE IS A GRAVE ONE. THE INSTALLATION OF HUNDREDS OF NUCLEAR WARHEADS WOULD INVOLVE NOT ONLY THE FIVE COUNTRIES (SCHEDULED FOR BASING PARTICIPATION), BUT THE ENTIRE MATRIX OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND THE PRECARIOUS EAST-WEST BALANCE. QUOTE. PECCHIOLI DENIED THAT NATO TNF MODERNIZATION WAS NEEDED TO RESPOND TO ANY INCREASED SOVIET THREAT OR THAT IT WOULD INCREASE EUROPEAN DEFENSE CAPACITIES. ONCE AGAIN, HE SAID, QUOTE WE ARE FACED WITH A NEW MEASURE DICTATED BY AMERICAN STRATEGIC INTERESTS WHICH WOULD EXPOSE THE ENTIRE WEST TO GRAVE RISKS. QUOTE. HE URGED THE GOI TO EXPRESS ITS FIRM DISSENT FROM THE PROPOSAL AND TO WORK TO GET THE USG TO WITHDRAW IT. HE LINKED THE TNF PROPOSAL TO THE SALT II RATIFICATION PROCESS, AND ADDED THAT THE PROPOSAL MIGHT WELL BE DESIRED BY HARD-LINE AMERICANS TO QUOTE CONDITION AND AT THE LIMIT EVEN TO REDUCE THE POSITIVE EFFECTS OF CONFIDENTIAL

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SALT. QUOTE.

4. (U) PECCHIOLI AND SEVEN OTHER PCI PARLIAMENTARIANS HAVE ASPONSORED AN URGENT PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION TO MINISTER OF DEFENSE RUFFINI FOR THE GOI'S POSITION ON THE PROPOSAL. THE QUESTION ASKS THAT: QUOTE...THE GOVERNMENT'S POSITION BE GUIDED FIRST AND FOREMOST BY THE CRITERION THAT ITALY'S SECURITY, DEFENSE AND INDEPENDENCE ITSELF HAVE THEIR FUNDAMENTAL GUARANTEE IN THE MAINTENANCE IN EUROPE OF THE BALANCE OF FORCES BETWEEN BLOCS, AND IN THEIR GRADUAL AND RECIPROCAL REDUCTION -- A BALANCE WHICH THE PROPOSED MASSIVE DEPLOYMENT OF NEW NUCLEAR MISSILES COULD DANGEROUSLY DISTURB. QUOTE.

5. (U) "LA REPUBBLICA," REPORTING DOD SPOKESMAN TOM ROSS'S STATEMENT (WHICH WE HAVE NOT YET RECEIVED), NOTED THAT THE TNF PROPOSAL WILL BE DISCUSSED BY SECRETARY BROWN WITH HIS COLLEAGUES IN ITALY, THE FRG, THE UK, BELGIUM AND THE NETHERLANDS BEFORE BEING PRESENTED TO THE DPC MEETING IN BRUSSELS. IT ADDED THAT DAVID AARON HAD CONTACTED THE AFFECTED GOVERNMENTS LAST MONTH.
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6. "LA REPUBBLICA" ALSO REPORTED NEGATIVE REACTIONS FROM SOCIALIST DEPUTY FALCO ACCAME (FORMER CHAIRMAN OF THE CHAMBER DEFENSE COMMITTEE), FROM SENATOR NINO PASTI (INDEPENDENT ELECTED ON THE PCI TEKCET) AND FROM THE RADICAL PARTY'S ADELAIDE AGLEITTE. ACCAME OPPOSED THE TNF MEASURES AND UNDERLINED THAT PARLIAMENT HAS

PRACTICALLY NO CONTROL OVER STRATEGIC MILITARY QUESTIONS.
(COMMENT) : ACCAME'S STATEMENT HAS NOT BEEN SANCTIONED BY
THE PSI LEADERSHIP WHICH, SO FAR, HAS NOT TAKEN A POSITION
ON THIS ISSUE). PASTI'S REACTIONS WAS TOTALLY BEGATIVE"
FIRST, HE SAID, BECAUSE A REASONABLE BALANCE BETWEEN
WARSAW PACT AND NATO TNF ALREADY EXISTS, AND SECONDLY
BECASUE EUROPE HAS NO CHOICE BUT TO ACCEDE TO THE AMERICAN
DECISION. AGLIETT A CALLED THE PROPOSAL ZFOLLIA" (MADNESS).

7. (C) COMMENT: THERE HAD BEEN ONE OR TWO PRESS ARTICLES
PREVIOUSLY ON THE PLANS TO MODERNIZE NATO'S TNF FORCES,
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NONE OF WHICH ELICITED ANY COMMENT FROM ITALIAN POLITICIANS.
THOSE ARTICLES OF COURSE, DID NOT MENTION THAT ITALY
MIGHT PARTICIAPTE IN TNF DEPLOYMENT. TODAY'S ARTICLES,
HOWEVER, ARE ALMOST SURE TO BE BUT THE OPENING SHOTS IN
PRESS AND PUBLIC AIDCUSSION OF THE MODERNIZATION ISSUE.

8. (C) IN THAT DISCUSSION THE PCI AND OTHER LEFT SPOKESMEN
HAVE TAKEN THE INITIATIVE. WE WILL OF COURSE BEGIN
TO INTENSIFY OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS
COMMENTATORS AND POLITIICIANS WHO ARE FAVORABLE TO
ALLIANCE PLANS, OR AT ALEAST OPEN MINDED ABOUT THEM.

WASHINGTON' 'S SWIFT CLEARANCE OF THE TNF PUBLIC PRESENTATION PAPER--AND ITS COORDINATION WITH OTHER
ALLIESWOULD BE OF GREAT ASSISTANCE TO US.

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9. (C) FINALLY THE STRONG NEGATIVE PCI OPPOSITION TO THE
TNF PROPOSALS AS A WHOLE AND TO ITALY'S PARTICIPATION IN
THEM PUT PAID TO THE NOTION THAT THE COMMUNISTS WOULD
SIDESTEP THE ISSUE. THEY WILL MAKE IT A MAJOR ISSUE,
PARTICULARLY SINCE THEY ARE NOW IN THE PARLIAMENTARY
OPPOSITION. REFTEL REPORTED MFA VIEW THAT GIANCARLO PAJETTA
HAD THOUGHT HIS PARTY WAS BOXED IN BY ITS DELCAREDIF CONDITIONED--SUPPORT FOR NATO AND THE INCREASED
SOVIET TNF THREAT. THAT BOX, IF IT EVER EXISTED NOW
APPEARS TO HAVE ONLY THREE SIDES.

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