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PAGE 01 ROME 13419 021602Z  
ACTION EUR-01

INFO	LOG-00	AID-01	A-01	CA-02	CCO-00	CIAE-00	CTME-00
	C-01	OASY-00	DODE-00	DOEE-00	DS-00	ED-02	FBO-01
	HA-09	HHS-06	H-01	IMMC-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	LAB-04
	L-03	ADS-00	M-01	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OCS-06	OMB-01
	OPR-01	PA-02	PM-02	PRS-01	P-01	SCT-03	SIL-00
	SNP-00	SP-00	SR-00	SSO-00	SS-00	TRSE-00	T-00
	USIE-00	USSS-00	ASDS-01	CORE-00	/052W		
					-----DDF5AD	021819Z	/38

R 021601Z AUG 93  
FM AMEMBASSY ROME  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5673  
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMCONSUL NAPLES  
AMCONSUL FLORENCE  
AMCONSUL MILAN  
AMEMBASSY LJUBLJANA  
AMEMBASSY VALLETTA  
AMEMBASSY BERN  
AMEMBASSY VIENNA  
AMEMBASSY BONN

RELEASED IN FULL

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E.O. 12356: N/A  
TAGS: SOCI, PGOV, IT  
SUBJECT: SUSPECT IN FALCONE MURDER COMMITS SUICIDE  
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PAGE 02 ROME 13419 021602Z  
- IN JAIL

1. TOP-NOTCH COSA NOSTRA MEMBER ANTONINO GIOE', WHO WAS ARRESTED IN MARCH THIS YEAR, KILLED HIMSELF IN A ROME JAIL ON JULY 29. THE SUICIDE WOULD HAVE RECEIVED SCANT ATTENTION IN THE PUBLIC MEDIA HAD IT NOT BEEN FOR AN INADVERTENT COMMENT AT A PRESS CONFERENCE BY ONE OF THE MAGISTRATES INVESTIGATING THE MAY 23, 1992 MURDER OF ANTI-MAFIA JUDGE GIOVANNI FALCONE. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, GIOE' PLAYED AN ACTIVE PART IN THE KILLING OF FALCONE, FALCONE'S WIFE, AND

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THEIR POLICE ESCORT. HE ALLEGEDLY ~~WAS AT THE AIRPORT~~ IN PALERMO THE DAY OF THE MURDER, AND ALERTED THE "HIT TEAM" THAT FALCONE'S PLANE HAD LANDED, BY CALLING HIS CONTACT OVER A CELLULAR PHONE. (ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, THE CONTACT, WHOSE NAME WAS NOT REVEALED TO JOURNALISTS, HAS SINCE BEEN ARRESTED.) REPORTEDLY, GIOE'S TELEPHONE CALL LASTED UNTIL JUST SECONDS BEFORE THE BLAST.

2. GIOE', WHO IS DESCRIBED IN THE PRESS AS HAVING BEEN A PROTEGE' OF LEOLUCA BAGARELLA (BROTHER-IN-LAW TO COSA NOSTRA CZAR TOTO' RIINA), REPORTEDLY LEFT A LETTER IN WHICH HE ALLEGEDLY TOOK UPON HIMSELF ALL RESPONSIBILITY FOR HIS SUICIDE. THE ITALIAN PRESS HAS SPECULATED THAT HE KILLED HIMSELF BECAUSE HE REALIZED HE HAD IMPRUDENTLY GIVEN AWAY MANY MAFIA SECRETS IN THE COURSE OF SEVERAL TELEPHONE CONVERSATIONS AFTER FALCONE'S MURDER -- AND HIS PHONE HAD BEEN TAPPED BY INVESTIGATORS.

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PAGE 03 ROME 13419 021602Z

3. FALCONE'S SISTER MARIA PUBLICLY CRITICIZED THE ROME JAIL AUTHORITIES FOR HAVING "ALLOWED" GIOE' TO COMMIT SUICIDE. REPUBLICAN (PRI) PARTY PARLIAMENTARIAN GIUSEPPE AYALA ALSO CRITICIZED THE LACK OF PROPER SURVEILLANCE, BUT NOTED PRISON WARDENS WERE PROBABLY MORE CONCERNED WITH PROTECTING GIOE' FROM OTHER MAFIOSI THAN PROTECTING HIM FROM HIMSELF. TOP MAFIA BOSS TOTO' RIINA IS HELD PRISONER IN THE SAME JAIL.

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