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ACTION EUR-00

INFO	LOG-00	ADS-00	INR-07	SS-00	CIAE-00	DODE-00	H-01
	NSCE-00	NSAE-00	HA-09	L-03	TRSE-00	PM-10	PA-01
	OMB-01	INRE-00	USIE-00	SP-02	SNP-01	PRS-01	DS-01
	SCT-02	P-02	T-01	/042 W			

-----372615 231736Z /44

R 231430Z AUG 89
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7754
INFO DEPT JUSTICE WASHDC
DEA HQS WASHDC
USCUSTOMS WASHDC
DIRFBI WASHDC
AMCONSUL PALERMO

RELEASED IN FULL

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 17588

DOJ FOR: ROBIN ROSS, ATTY GEN'LS OFFICE;
MARK RICHARD CRIMINAL DIV.; MOLLY WARLOW, OIA

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: ASEC, PTER, SOCI, IT
SUBJECT: ANONYMOUS LETTERS: MAGISTRATES' COUNCIL
DECIDES TO BROADEN INVESTIGATION; DI PISA TO BE
TRANSFERRED.

REFS: ROME 16799, 16353, 16217

1. (U) MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL WHICH GOVERNS THE
ITALIAN MAGISTRATES' SYSTEM (IL CONSIGLIO SUPERIORE
DELLA MAGISTRATURA) WERE CALLED BACK FROM VACATION
AUGUST 18 TO REVIEW THE EVIDENCE RELATING TO THE
AUTHORSHIP OF THE ANONYMOUS LETTERS RECENTLY SENT TO
PROMINENT FIGURES HERE WITH THE AIM OF DISCREDITING
PALERMO PROSECUTOR GIOVANNI FALCONE AND OTHERS. THE
LETTERS, THE WORK OF SOMEONE WITHIN THE PALERMO
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MAGISTRACY, HAVE EMERGED AS KEY FACETS OF THE
CONTROVERSY WHICH ERUPTED PUBLICLY THIS SUMMER AND
CREATED TURMOIL AMONG ITALY'S ANTI-MAFIA FORCES.

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2. (U) IN AN ALL-DAY MEETING, COUNCIL MEMBERS FOCUSED ON THE FINGERPRINT EVIDENCE SAID TO POINT TO PALERMO MAGISTRATE ALBERTO DI PISA AS THE AUTHOR OF THE LETTERS, BUT DID NOT REACH A CONCLUSION. INSTEAD, IT WAS DECIDED THAT THEY WOULD LOOK FURTHER INTO THE MATTER AND UNDERTAKE A BROAD EXAMINATION OF THE ENTIRE PALERMO MAGISTRACY. WITH RESPECT TO DI PISA, THE COUNCIL DECIDED TO BEGIN PROCEDURES TO TRANSFER HIM OUT OF SICILY. PREVIOUSLY, IT HAD BEEN ANNOUNCED IN PALERMO THAT DI PISA WOULD BE MOVED OUT OF THE ANTI-MAFIA POOL OF MAGISTRATES AND NEW MAGISTRATES WOULD BE BROUGHT IN. OTHER TRANSFERS MAY FOLLOW DEPENDING ON THE CONCLUSIONS THE COUNCIL DRAWS FROM THE NEXT ROUND OF HEARINGS.

3. (C) COMMENT. THE COUNCIL DID NOT EXPLAIN ITS DECISIONS OR ITS FAILURE TO ACT MORE DECISIVELY ON THE EVIDENCE WHICH, ACCORDING TO OUR INFORMATION, LINKS DI PISA TO THE LETTERS. LEAKS TO THE PRESS RESULTED IN A CONFUSING WAVE OF VAGUE AND AT TIMES CONFLICTING STORIES. IMPLYING A PLOT BY ELEMENTS OF THE SECRET SERVICES, DI PISA AND HIS SUPPORTERS ARE MAKING MUCH OF THE FACT THAT LASER EQUIPMENT WAS USED IN MAKING REPRODUCTIONS OF THE FINGERPRINTS AND THAT THE ORIGINAL PRINT WAS DAMAGED BY THE PROCESS. IT DOES NOT SEEM LIKELY, HOWEVER, THAT THE COUNCIL WAS SWAYED BY SUCH TECHNICALITIES. WHAT IS CLEAR IS THAT BY OPTING FOR ANOTHER, BROADER ROUND OF TESTIMONY INVOLVING THE PALERMO MAGISTRATES AND THEIR SUPERIORS, CONFIDENTIAL

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THE COUNCIL HAS INSURED THAT ISSUE OF THE LETTERS WILL KEEP PERCOLATING WELL INTO THE FALL AND CONTINUE TO DISRUPT THE ANTI-MAFIA FORCES. HOLMES

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