



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

MAR 27 2013

Case No. F-2010-06927

Segment: ER001A01

Mr. Giannicola Sinisi
3000 Whitehaven Street, NW
Washington DC 20008

Dear Mr.Sinisi:

A Department of State Appeals Review Panel, whose members are listed in an enclosure to this letter, has considered your appeal of April 1, 2011 for the release of one document withheld in full by the Department in the course of responding to your request under the Freedom of Information Act.

The Panel has carefully considered the grounds on which you based your appeal. It has decided that this document may be released with excisions. The released material is enclosed. All non-exempt material that is reasonably segregable from the exempt material has been released.

The information in the deleted portions of this document is properly classified in accordance with Executive Order 13526 (National Security Information) despite the passage of time. Its release reasonably could be expected to cause damage to the national security of the United States. It is therefore exempt from disclosure under subsection (b)(1) of the Freedom of Information Act, 5 USC Section 552(b)(1).

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The Panel's decision represents the final decision of the Department of State. If you wish to seek judicial review of this determination, you may do so under 5 USC Section 552(a)(4).

Sincerely,


Chairman, Appeals Review Panel

Enclosures:

List of Panel Members

One document



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

APPEALS REVIEW PANEL MEMBERS

Case Control No.: F-2010-06927

Chairman:

Ambassador Francis Terry McNamara

Members:

Ambassador Sylvia Stanfield

Ambassador Harry E.T. Thayer

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9417
INFO DEPT JUSTICE WASHDC
DIRFBI WASHDC
DEA HQS WASHDC
AMCONSUL MILAN
AMCONSUL NAPLES
AMCONSUL FLORENCE POUCH
AMCONSUL GENOA POUCH**APPEALS PANEL ACTION: RELEASED IN PART B1,1.4(D)**~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 01 OF 03 ROME 10711

FROM AMCONSUL PALERMO

E.O.12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PGOV, SNAR, KJUS, IT
SUBJECT: MAFIA CONTROVERSY: WHAT IS ORLANDO'S GAME
-
REFS: (A) ROME 10174; (B) ROME 9876; (C) PALERMO 394
-1. SUMMARY. DESPITE THE SHARP REBUKE ISSUED BY ITALIAN PRESIDENT COSSIGA IN THE WAKE OF ACCUSATIONS LODGED AGAINST THE SICILIAN MAGISTRACY (REF A) BY EX-MAYOR OF PALERMO LEOLUCA ORLANDO, THE MAVERICK FORMER MAYOR SHOWS NO SIGNS OF SLOWING THE PACE OF HIS OFFENSIVE. INDEED, IN ADDITION TO STANDING BY HIS ORIGINAL ACCUSATIONS CONCERNING THE LACK OF PROGRESS IN INVESTIGATING A NUMBER OF "POLITICAL" MURDERS, ORLANDO HAS BROADENED THE SCOPE OF HIS
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ACCUSATIONS TO INCLUDE HIS OWN PARTY, THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS (DC), ALLEGING THAT THE ORDER TO KILL SICILIAN REGIONAL PRESIDENT PIERSANTI MATTARELLA IN 1980 EMANATED FROM WITHIN THE DC PARTY RANKS.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: ROBERT O HOMME
CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL REASON: 1.4(D)
DECLASSIFY AFTER: 21 MAY 2015
DATE/CASE ID: 18 MAR 2011 201006927

2. THESE CONTINUING ACCUSATIONS SUGGEST THAT ORLANDO IS PREPARED TO RUN THE RISKS OF PARTY CENSURE AND EVEN CRITICISM BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC (AS WELL AS POSSIBLE LEGAL PROBLEMS) IN ORDER TO STIMULATE THE TYPE OF POLITICAL POLEMICS WHICH HE HAS USED SO EFFECTIVELY IN HIS ASCENT TO NATIONAL PROMINENCE. IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER HE HAS GONE TOO FAR IN TERMS OF CREATING ENEMIES AND GENERATING ILL-WILL. WE AGREE WITH EMBASSY ROME (REF A) THAT WE ARE LIKELY TO BE IN FOR A THIRD SUMMER OF CONTROVERSY INVOLVING THE ANTI-MAFIA FORCES, WITH THE CONSEQUENT DIMINUTION IN THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE GOI'S EFFORTS TO COMBAT ORGANIZED CRIME IN SICILY.
END SUMMARY.

ORLANDO'S STRATEGY

3. THE FORCEFUL RESPONSE BY ITALIAN PRESIDENT COSSIGA TO THE ACCUSATIONS MADE BY ORLANDO WAS A [REDACTED] PUBLIC VOTE OF CONFIDENCE IN PALERMO'S ANTI-MAFIA MAGISTRATES. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] ESPECIALLY IF IT IS FOLLOWED BY LEGAL ACTION (WHICH, HOWEVER, MOST OF OUR CONTACTS BELIEVE IS UNLIKELY). HOWEVER, ORLANDO SEEMS WILLING TO RISK THE POSSIBLE NEGATIVE CONSEQUENCES OF HIS ACTIONS, IN ORDER NOT TO PASS UP THE POTENTIAL GAINS,
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WHICH INCLUDE: (1) KEEPING HIS ENEMIES (ESPECIALLY THOSE WITHIN HIS OWN PARTY) OFF-BALANCE AND ON THE DEFENSIVE; (B) REMAINING IN THE NATIONAL LIMELIGHT IN HIS ROLE AS "ANTI-MAFIA CRUSADER;" AND (C) PROMOTING HIS VISION OF A NEW, BROAD POLITICAL FORCE OF THE "CATHOLIC-LEFT," BY HIGHLIGHTING THE FAILINGS (AND ALLEGED MAFIA-COMPLICITY) ON THE PART OF THE MAJOR ESTABLISHMENT PARTIES AND THEIR LEADERS.

EVERYBODY LOVES A CONSPIRACY

4. ORLANDO'S SUCCESS [REDACTED] [REDACTED] IS DUE IN PART TO HIS ABILITY TO

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UNCLASSIFIED U.S. Department of State Case No. F-2010-06927 Doc No. C17733915 Date: 10/03/2012
SYNTHESIZE AND GIVE EXPRESSION TO THE SENTIMENTS OF
THE AVERAGE CITIZEN. IN ALLEGING A "POLITICAL
CONNECTION" TO A NUMBER OF MURDERS OF POLITICAL
FIGURES, HE IS MERELY ECHOING THE OPINION OF MANY
SICILIANS (OR ITALIANS IN GENERAL) WHO ASK THEMSELVES
WHY NO ONE HAS EVER BEEN BROUGHT TO TRIAL FOR SEVERAL
BIG-NAME MURDERS. THE FAILURE OF THE GOI TO SOLVE
THESE CRIMES FEEDS AN INHERENT INCLINATION TO SEEK
"CONSPIRACY THEORIES" TO EXPLAIN THE LACK OF CONCRETE
RESULTS. WHILE THIS PHENOMENON EXISTS ELSEWHERE (AS
EVIDENCED, FOR EXAMPLE, BY CONTINUED INTEREST IN THE
ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY) IT APPEARS VERY
STRONGLY IN THE SICILIAN PSYCHE.

5. ORLANDO THUS STRIKES A VERY POPULAR CHORD IN
GIVING VOICE TO THE SAME SENTIMENTS EXPRESSED IN
HUSHED CONVERSATIONS IN CAFES AND ROADSIDE REST-STOPPS
ALL ACROSS SICILY. THE FUNDAMENTAL DIFFERENCE IS

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9418
INFO DEPT JUSTICE WASHDC
DIRFBI WASHDC

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FROM AMCONSUL PALERMO

E.O.12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PGOV, SNAR, KJUS, IT
SUBJECT: MAFIA CONTROVERSY: WHAT IS ORLANDO'S GAME

THAT ORLANDO'S "WHISPERS" ARE AMPLIFIED THROUGHOUT ITALY, CAUSING SHOCK-WAVES AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS AND, IRONICALLY, PROBABLY MAKING THE MAFIA LOOK MORE POWERFUL THAN IT ACTUALLY IS. AT THE SAME TIME, ORLANDO GETS TO SHOW THAT, WHEN HE TALKS, PEOPLE LISTEN (AND REACT).

ORLANDO AND FALCONE

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6. ONE OF THE MORE SURPRISING ELEMENTS OF ORLANDO'S BARRAGE OF ACCUSATIONS HAS BEEN HIS WILLINGNESS TO ATTACK LEADING ANTI-MAFIA MAGISTRATE GIOVANNI FALCONE, WHO WAS AMONG THE EX-MAYOR'S CHIEF TARGETS. FALCONE'S ANGRY REACTION (REFS B AND C) DEMONSTRATE THAT HE TOOK THE ACCUSATIONS VERY SERIOUSLY.

7. FEW IN PALERMO HAD EXPECTED ORLANDO TO ATTACK FALCONE, SINCE BOTH USUALLY HAD BEEN ON THE SAME WAVE LENGTH, TAKING COMPATIBLE STANDS IN NUMEROUS CONTROVERSIAL SITUATIONS. ACCORDING TO ONE OF OUR BETTER-INFORMED JUDICIAL CONTACTS, THE ORLANDO/FALCONE RELATIONSHIP ABRUPTLY TURNED SOUR IN OCTOBER 1989, WHEN FALCONE INDICTED GIUSEPPE PELLEGRITI (A STATE'S WITNESS, OR "PENTITO") FOR SLANDER AND FALSE ACCUSATIONS. PELLEGRITI HAD GIVEN TESTIMONY IMPLICATING DC EURO-PARLIAMENTARIAN SALVO LIMA (ANDREOTTI'S POINT-MAN IN SICILY) IN BOTH THE 1980 MURDER OF SICILIAN REGIONAL PRESIDENT PIERSANTI

8. AT THAT TIME, ORLANDO AND HIS SUPPORTERS HAD MOUNTED A PRESS CAMPAIGN STRESSING THE "POLITICAL ANGLE" OF THE MATTARELLA CASE. IT WAS CLEAR TO SAVVY OBSERVERS IN PALERMO THAT, IN ESSENCE, ORLANDO AND COMPANY WERE ALSO POINTING THE FINGER AT LIMA, WHO IS WELL-KNOWN AS ORLANDO'S ARCH-ENEMY AND ALL-PURPOSE SCAPEGOAT (THE "INCARNATION OF EVIL" IN SICILY). FALCONE'S INDICTMENT OF PELLEGRITI FOR THE STATEMENTS MADE ABOUT LIMA, COUPLED WITH THE FACT THAT, ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCE, FALCONE TELEPHONED ANDREOTTI TO INFORM HIM PERSONALLY THAT THE ACCUSATIONS AGAINST

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LIMA WERE FALSE, AMOUNTED TO PULLING THE RUG OUT FROM UNDER ORLANDO. CLEARLY, ORLANDO HAS NOT FORGOTTEN THIS "BETRAYAL" BY LONG-TIME ALLY FALCONE.

CONTINUING AFTER-SHOCKS

9. ORLANDO'S ACCUSATIONS HAVE UNLEASHED A TORRENT OF CHARGES AND COUNTER-CHARGES BY THE RELATIVES OF SOME OF THE VICTIMS OF THE BETTER-KNOWN "POLITICAL" MURDERS. LIKEWISE, WE NOTE INCREASED RECRIMINATIONS IN SICILY AMONG THE MAJOR POLITICAL PARTIES, AND WE FEAR A SIMILAR INCREASE IN BACK-BITING WITHIN THE RANKS OF THE SICILIAN MAGISTRACY. DEPENDING UPON THE DURATION AND THE INTENSITY OF THIS LATEST TEMPEST, THE GOI'S EFFORTS TO COMBAT THE MAFIA IN SICILY COULD BE AFFECTED NEGATIVELY. INCREASED POLEMICS COULD ALSO COMPOUND PROBLEMS SUCH AS THOSE WHICH HAVE ARISEN IN CONNECTION WITH THE PERCEIVED OR ACTUAL SHORTCOMINGS OF THE NEW CODE OF CRIMINAL PROCEDURE.

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