

TELEGRAM

132
Foreign Service of the
United States of America

OUTGOING Amembassy ROME

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Date: February 12, 1963
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DIST:
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Dept pass Defense. Paris also for USRO.

Yesterday Feb 11 Deputy Secdef Gilpatric and I called on
Primin Fanfani.

During first part of meeting which lasted over an hour
Gilpatric referred to US plans for deployment to Mediterranean
between end of March and mid-May of three ~~RA~~ POLARIS submarines
to be assigned to SACEUR. Gilpatric also referred to possible
call at an Italian port by one of these submarines later in
spring if desired by Italian Govt. Fanfani expressed satisfaction
with these arrangements and indicated that a visit to an Italian
port by a POLARIS submarine might be in order after the election.

Gilpatric then spoke of projected visit to Rome, probably
early in March, of Amb Merchant and his group to discuss Italian
participation in integrated element of NATO nuclear force. In
this connection Fanfani stated that based on advice he had
received while last in Washington, from President and Secy
McNamara, Council of Ministers had decided against pushing idea
of equipping GARIBALDI with POLARIS missiles.

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Gilpatric then mentioned developments in US Govt thinking in regard to NATO since Fanfani's talks in Washington, with particular reference to reflections on possible consequences of President de Gaulle's press conference of Jan 14. These possibilities included first, loss of momentum toward unity in the alliance gained following Berlin crisis of 1961 and Cuban crisis in fall of 1962; second, risk that an apparent division in alliance might lead to more intransigent and adventuresome attitude on part of Soviet, as exemplified by recent hardening of its position in ~~xxx~~ test ban negotiations and withdrawal of forces from Cuba; and third, concern lest American people, if left with feeling of being unwanted in Europe, might take more restrictive attitude towards ~~maintaining~~ maintaining large US forces in Europe. Fanfani responded that he agreed with this analysis of dangers attendant upon de Gaulle position regarding NATO and endorsed view that it was more important than ever for rest of alliance to strive for greater unity.

Throughout conversation Fanfani displayed a most cordial and forthcoming attitude and an evident desire to associate himself with U.S. views and positions.

RGilpatric:ejf

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