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PARAPRASE NOT REQUIRED, HANDLE AS TOP SECRET CORRESPONDENCE
PER PARAS 511 and 60a (4), AR 380-5

From: USMILATTACHE AMBASSASY Rome, Italy sgd Willems
To: CSGID PERSONAL for Chamberlin or Ennis
Nr: MAR 129 30 March 1948

Proposed reaction in event Communists controlled government established Italy per discussion item carried Ennis Frankfurt is subject. Proposal discussed most important officials Rome Mission. Viewed here as possessing extremely grave implications, carrying with it probability plunging Italy into bloody civil war and seriously hazarding start World War III.

However as final positive though desperate action to hold Italy for western bloc in event Communist successes, consider proposition cannot be discarded. Therefore recommend immediate exploration and development United States proposals for implementation.

Considered here conception this move should not be only military in aspect but should represent resurgence democratic political forces. Hence calls for strong political figure as leader who, with some assumption governmental authority, could call upon all armed force, police, and non-Communists as well as anti-Communist elements. Thus presented believe strong elements police, army, air and navy would support movement. However great dependence would have to be placed on anti-Communist partisan organizations. Leader suggested Ennis memo, while professionally competent, not recommended head movement considering requirements personality, broad popular appeal and national greatness.

CM IN 6135 (30 Mar 48)
From: US MILATTACHE AM EMBASSY Rome, Italy sgd Willems

Nr: MAR 129

30 March 1948

While realizing necessity expediting preparations, we are not yet prepared recommend Italian element to be approached nor do we feel approach should be made at this moment. However do concur in suggestion send 1 or more United States representatives Rome for discussions. Would not concur unless representatives can come prepared state details United States assistance and be authorized commit our government on this venture.

End.

ACTION: Gen Chamberlin
INFO : Gen Wedemeyer, Lt Col Bowen, Mr Forrestall, Mr Royall, CSA

CM IN 6135 (30 Mar 48) DTG 301700B hhl

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