

January 22, 1963

American Embassy Rome Telegram 1451 to the Secretary of State, Washington, DC

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Summary:

The State Department sent a proposed statement (not yet identified) on the Jupiters to the North Atlantic Council (NAC) for Fanfani to consider, but the Italian prime minister was holding it "exclusively" at his office. Fanfani was involved in "delicate maneuverings" on the Jupiters with the Socialists and other "center-left groups," and leaks by "indiscreet" Foreign Office officials could harm the talks.

Concerning President Kennedy's proposed remarks on the Jupiters for a press conference, Fanfani understood that Kennedy had to tell the press something but hoped that he "will say as little as possible." According to Fanfani, "too much talk and too many details will give ammunition to communists and left wing" socialists. When Kennedy held his press conference a few days later, he said the minimum, with only a passing reference to Jupiters.

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United States of America

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Primin involved important party meeting but we sent proposed NAC statement to him via Marchiori seeking approval of substance and instructions to Ital permanent rep to join US in NAC presentation. Answer promised in few hours. We believe approval will be forthcoming but Primin most anxious such matters initially be dealt exclusively with him and not rpt not simultaneously through Ital diplomatic offices. PM involved in very delicate maneuverings with leaders PSI and other center-left groups and is fearful of leaks through FonOff where one or two key persons sometimes indiscreet with press and political contacts. We therefore have not rpt not yet taken matter up with FonOff and will not do so until we hear from Primin.

We also communicated to PM text President's proposed remarks and were also cautioned by Marchiori against premature disclosure such statements to any Ital officials except in PM's office. Marchiori said PM had already heard President would probably have to make some statement at his press conference on Jupiters and he understands this but hopes Pres will say as little as possible. Even backgrounders

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430.1 IRBM

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like that in Deptel ¹²⁵⁰~~1350~~ worry Fanfani when they are in his view unnecessarily explicit or fulsome such as dealing with numbers of missiles, references to Turkey (specifically Mediterranean sphere of action), and dates such as April 1962 and April 1, 1963. Fanfani feels too much talk and too many details will give ammunition to communists and left-wing PSI which could seriously embarrass Nenni (who has been publicly stating favorable reaction to proposed replacement of Jupiters) and this in turn could force PSI into position which could cause serious political complications. Hence need for special handling with which we recommend fullest cooperation.

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