

The original documents are located in Box 19, folder “Italy - Investigation of Alleged American Payments to Influence Italian Politics” of the John Marsh Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

June 16, 1976

Dear Mr. Chairman: *ii*

This letter is in response to your request for comments on H. Res. 1295.

It is our view that this resolution is an inappropriate instrument for considering the kinds of activities set forth in H. Res. 1295. We believe that, regardless of the country involved, information on any activities such as those mentioned in H. Res. 1295 should be dealt with only by the appropriate committees of Congress with due consideration for protecting against public disclosure of information which could be harmful to the nation's foreign policy and national security. In addition, the adoption of H. Res. 1295 would be wholly inconsistent with the purpose of Section 662 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended. That provision, which resulted from the work of your Committee, was enacted specifically to keep Congress advised of any information such as that sought in the resolution of inquiry. If the resolution is now adopted, it would vitiate the procedures set up for this very purpose.

Based on the above consideration, it is our belief that approval of the H. Res. 1295 by the Committee on International Relations and the House of Representatives would be incompatible with the public interest.


Brent Scowcroft

The Honorable Thomas Morgan
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.



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Congress of the United States
Committee on International Relations
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

June 14, 1976

MARIAN A. CZARNECKI
CHIEF OF STAFF

The Honorable Gerald R. Ford
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

JUN 14 1976

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing to request your comments on a resolution of inquiry which was introduced in the House on Friday, June 11, 1976, and referred to the Committee on International Relations.

Enclosed are two copies of the resolution, H.Res. 1295, directing the President to provide the House of Representatives certain information with respect to any payment made by the United States to influence Italian politics.

As you know, the Committee must act on this resolution within 7 legislative days beginning today. We will appreciate receiving your comments as soon as possible but no later than Thursday, June 17, 1976.

Sincerely yours,

Chairman

TEM:rkbm
Enclosure

CC: The Honorable Henry A. Kissinger



H. RES. 1295

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. Harrington submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on

RESOLUTION

Resolved, That not later than 10 days after the date of adoption of this resolution, the President shall furnish to the House of Representatives the following information:

- (1) Within 5 years preceding the date on which information is furnished pursuant to this resolution and if known, has any person (including any civilian employee, member of the Armed Forces, or person under contract) acting on behalf of the United States Government or any agency or other instrumentality of the United States Government paid or offered to pay any funds, directly or indirectly--



(A) to the Italian Christian Democratic party or any member thereof, to any other political party or any other political organization in Italy or any member of any such party or organization, or to any government official or any candidate for any local or national political office in Italy; or

(B) to any newspaper, radio, television, advertising, or other media-related company or entity (or any employee or agent thereof) which has within its primary area of impact any part of Italy?

If so, for each such instance, furnish the following information to the extent known: the amount of funds involved; the date on which payment of such funds was offered and if such funds were paid, the date on which such payment was made; the identity of any person to whom payment was made and of the intended recipient of such payment; the instrumentality of the United States Government responsible for such payment; and the circumstances surrounding such payment.

(2) If known, were any individuals (A) assigned or otherwise attached to any United States embassy or



other diplomatic mission, or (B) employed by any United States or multinational corporation, involved in any way in any payment or offer described in paragraph (1) of this resolution? In addition, if known, were any funds which were involved in any such payment illegally exchanged for foreign currency either before or after any payment of such funds?

(3) Within 5 years preceding the date on which information is furnished pursuant to this resolution and if known, has any person (including any civilian employee, member of the Armed Forces, or person under contract) acting on behalf of the United States Government or any agency or other instrumentality of the United States Government participated in any meeting, discussion, or other contact with any national of Italy concerning the use of any extraconstitutional means to solve the Italian political crisis? If so, for each such instance, furnish the following information to the extent known: the identity of any person taking part in any such contact with an Italian national; the date on which such contact was made; the instrumentality of the United States Government responsible for such contact; and the circumstances surrounding such contact.

(4) Within 5 years preceding the date on which information is furnished pursuant to this resolution and if



known, has any person (including any civilian employee, member of the Armed Forces, or person under contract) acting on behalf of the United States Government or any agency or other instrumentality of the United States Government (other than any person acting in the course of an investigation of possible violations of any law of the United States) discussed, orally or in writing, with any United States or multinational corporation, or any employee or agent thereof, any payment or the offer of any payment of any funds, directly or indirectly, to any individual or entity described in subparagraphs (A) or (B) of paragraph (1) of this resolution?



RESOLUTION

Directing the President to provide to the House of Representatives certain information with respect to any payment made by the United States to influence Italian politics.

By Mr. Harrington

....., 19..... — Referred to the
Committee on

