

## Message Text

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67

ACTION NEA-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 SR-02 ORM-03 DPW-01 SCS-03 SCA-01 DRC-01

/141 W

----- 050149

R 221615Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2858

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L R O M E 0 9 7 0

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, VT, SY, IS

SUBJECT: VATICAN INTEREST IN SYRIAN-HELD ISRAELI POW'S

DEPT PASS USINT CAIRO

BEIRUT ALSO PASS DAMASCUS

REF: ROME 0383

1. VATICAN DESK OFFICER FOR MIDDLE EAST TOLD US JAN. 22 THAT VATICAN WOULD LIKE TO PURSUE FURTHER ITS EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF ISRAELI POW'S IN SYRIA. HE ASKED WHETHER USG COULD PROVIDE VATICAN WITH INFORMATION OR GUIDANCE WHICH MIGHT BE USEFUL IN THIS EFFORT.

2. COMMENT: VATICAN'S PRINCIPAL CONTACT ON THIS MATTER IN ISRAELI EMBASSY TO ITALY IS COUNSELLOR MEIR MENDES. MENDES, OF ITALIAN JEWISH ORIGIN, WAS PERMANENTLY TRANSFERRED BACK TO  
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ISRAEL EARLIER LAST YEAR. FACT THAT HE RECENTLY REASSIGNED

TO ROME PROBABLY INDICATES HEIGHTENED ISRAELI CONCERN FOR  
MAINTAINING EFFECTIVE LIAISON WITH VATICAN. VOLPE

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED USINT CAIRO.

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POW RETURN, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 22 JAN 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974ROME00970  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** n/a  
**From:** ROME  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1974/newtext/t19740124/aaaaawrj.tel  
**Line Count:** 64  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** ROME 0383  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** golinofr  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 21 MAY 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <21 MAY 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <26 DEC 2002 by golinofr>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** VATICAN INTEREST IN SYRIAN-HELD ISRAELI POW'S DEPT PASS USINT CAIRO  
**TAGS:** PFOR, VT, SY, IS  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005