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SUBJECT: (Optional)

FROM: *R1/AN*

NO: *22* *3P*
(CIMA) 431

DATE: *16 AUG 55*

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

DATE

OFFICER'S INITIALS

COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

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3. *R1/ANIS*

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4. *R1/F1*

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ABSTRACT INDEX
DATE *Oct 4, 55*

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per CSN 43-26

DISPATCH NO. (OIMA) 431

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KAPOK 4825
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CLASSIFICATION

TO Chief, WE
Via Chief of Station, (Rome) 15-9
FROM Chief of Base, [redacted] 15-22

DATE 11 August 1955

SUBJECT: GENERAL Operational
SPECIFIC: U.S. Embassy and Italian Petroleum Industry.

1. Following are DENTER's comments (22 July 1955), which he asserts reflect rumors circulating in "knowledgeable circles" in Rome, on the alleged activities of the Embassy in the matter of Italian petroleum resources.

2. The great majority of Italian petroleum companies, which until the IV World Petroleum Congress opposed ENI, are now presenting a united front with Enrico MATTEI in his opposition to the exploitation of Italian petroleum deposits by American interests. This new situation is the result of confidential information and advice furnished to the Italian petroleum groups and to MATTEI himself by Renigio Danilo GRILLO. GRILLO, vice-director general of political affairs in the Italian Foreign Ministry, is a former "squadrista" and pet of Galeazzo CIANO, through whose influence GRILLO reached the upper echelons of the Foreign Ministry.

3. When it was learned in Rome that Mrs. JUCE was to be appointed Ambassador to Italy, a secret meeting was held in the home of Valerio Junco BORGHESE to devise ways and means of latching onto the new ambassador. At this meeting GRILLO and three other "gentiluomini" were chosen to "get in with" the ambassador. These individuals, in Rome's high society, are known as "sommozzatori" (frog-men or under-water demolitions men).

4. GRILLO has reportedly succeeded in gaining good entree to the Ambassador and takes advantage of this to monitor her official activities. One result of GRILLO's contact with the Ambassador has been, according to these same rumors, the change of tactics adopted by the Italian petroleum companies toward the Americans.

5. American petroleum interests, allegedly being determined to absorb all Italian petroleum production, already have their representatives sounding out Italian petroleum personalities with a proposition involving American purchase of controlling stock in the Italian companies. (Gr. Off. Mand. FERETTI, president of API, Corso d'Italia, Rome, is one of the important Italians who have received such a proposition. FERETTI discussed the matter with (Comm) LO MONACO, high-ranking functionary of the Italian Ministry of Industry. LO MONACO immediately informed MATTEI, and a conclave of Italian petroleum industry directors was called forthwith.

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