Il Ministro degli Affari Esteri

Roma, 18 GIU. 19

Signor Ambasciatore,

ho l'onore di accusare ricevuta della Sua lettera n°63 in data 21 maggio 1996, cui testo è il seguente:

"Sir

I have the honour to refer to Articles II (4) and VI of the Cultural Convention of 2 November 1951 between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain an Northern Ireland and the Government of the Italian Republic and to the discussions hel in Rome on 21 and 22 February 1996 by the Italian-British mixed group of expert convened to examine the issue of the recognition for purposes of admission to Italia universities and other higher education institutions of educational qualifications obtaine by Italian pupils at the following British schools: St George's English School in Rome, th New School of Rome and Sir James Henderson School in Milan (hereinafter referred to a the "British schools")

I have the honour to inform you that my Government, noting the autonomy of Italia universities, accepts the following conclusions reached by the above-mentioned mixe group of experts:

1) as autonomous institutions, Italian and British universities make their own decision about the acceptability of applications for admission submitted respectively by Italia students who have obtained qualifications at the British schools and by students who hav obtained the Italian "Maturita" diploma;

2) in order to apply for admission to an Italian university, Italian students at the Britis schools must have passed GCSE/GCE examinations in at least six subjects, of which a least two must be at "A" level in subjects appropriate to the chosen university course, a well as a written and oral examination in Italian language and culture;

3) the courses run by the British schools include from school year 1995/96 a four-yea course in Italian language and culture leading to the examination referred to in sub-paragraph 2), compulsory for Italian pupils, based on a weekly total of five hours of study, in accordance with the agreed syllabus laid down by the Italian Ministry of Education;

4) this syllabus is to be taught from school year 1996/97 by Italian mother tongue teacher who have qualified in Italy and been appointed by agreement between the Italian Ministry of Education and the British schools;

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5) for the written and oral examination in Italian language and culture referred to in sub-paragraph 2), each British school will set up from school year 1995/96 and examining committee composed of one representative nominated by the Italian Ministry of Education appointed as Chairman; a representative of the British school and a teacher of the Italian language and culture course. Each British school will meet the expenses of its Chairman;

6) the Italian Ministry of Education will from school year 1996/97 carry out periodic inspections of the British schools to verify the proper implementation of the course in Italian language and culture;

7) in the transitional period (1996-1998) the Italian language and culture examination will cover the syllabus of the last year for the examination session in 1996; the syllabuses of the last two years in the session of 1997; and those of the last three years in the 1998 session;

8) in the period before this Exchange of Notes comes into effect, from academic year 1996/97, the Italian side will, by means of appropriate measures, allow the Italian universities to make their own decisions about the acceptability of applications for admission from Italian students of the British schools who have passed the examinations provided for in this Note and satisfied the conditions set out in it;

9) the provisions of Article 192(3) of the "Decreto Legislativo" N. 297 of 16 April 1994 apply to Italian as well as foreign pupils in the intermediate classes of the British schools who wish to continue their studies at Italian upper secondary schools.

Both Government will transmit the text of this Exchange of Notes to the universities and other higher education institutions of their respective countries, in harmony with their domestic legislation and with Article 1 (4) of the European Convention on the Equivalence of Diplomas leading to admission to Universities signed in Paris on 11 December 1953;

Any amendments and/or additions proposed by either side to sub-paragraphs 2) to 4) of this Exchange of Notes will be decided by a mixed group of experts convened through diplomatic channels and will take immediate effect.

The arrangements set out in this Exchange of Notes may be reviewed at the request of either side after three years from the date on which it takes effect.

If the arrangements set out above are acceptable to your Government, I have the honour to propose that his Note and your reply to that effect will place on record the understanding between our two Governments, which will take effect on the date on which both Governments have notified each other that any necessary internal procedures have been completed.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurance of my highest consideration."

Ho l'onore di confermarLe che il Governo Italiano è d'accordo su quanto precede e considera pertanto la Sua lettera e la presente risposta un'intesa tra i nostri due Paesi

Voglia gradire, Signor Ambasciatore, i sensi della mia più alta considerazione.