The Ente Nazionale Idrocarburi, ENI (Italy's owned state petroleum company), had aspired, since the time of Mattei’s presidency, to acquire a concession to search for oil in Saudi Arabia succeeding, however, to get it in December 1967. The portions entrusted to ENI, however, proved unproductive, and so in 1973 the permits were returned to the Saudi State. Since then ENI had oriented toward a different strategy aimed at obtaining contracts for the supply of oil that Saudi Arabia was willing to concede, because, right from 1973, had a greater availability of crude oil. The outbreak of the oil crisis, still in 1973, reinforced ENI in this intent and took his strategy to overlap with that of the Italian State.

The essay analyzes the reaction of ENI, but also of the government of Rome, to the shock of 1973 trying to trace the lines of a common strategy wrecked, however, miserably in 1978 with the scandal of Petromin tangent.

Keywords:

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