

GRS 250

CONFIDENTIAL

WCS 020/1
PA 5/18/85
TOP SECRET

INDEXED	FILED	REGISTRY
		ACTION TAKEN

15/9

CONFIDENTIAL
FM FCO
TO IMMEDIATE ROME
TELNO 384
OF 171100Z SEPTEMBER 85

ANGLO-ITALIAN SUMMIT

1. THE PRIME MINISTER HAS DECIDED THAT SHE WILL NOT NOW BE ABLE TO TRAVEL TO FLORENCE ON 29-30 OCTOBER FOR THE SUMMIT. NO 10 WILL PROPOSE ALTERNATIVE DATES IN DUE COURSE. GRATEFUL IF YOU WOULD CONVEY THE FOLLOWING PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO CRAXI.
BEGINS

'I VERY MUCH REGRET THAT NEW CIRCUMSTANCES, WHICH ARE LIKELY TO INVOLVE ME IN MAJOR COMMITMENTS HERE, WILL PREVENT ME FROM TRAVELLING TO ITALY ON 29-30 OCTOBER, THE DATES THAT WE HAD AGREED FOR OUR MEETING IN FLORENCE. I HAD BEEN LOOKING FORWARD GREATLY TO THAT OCCASION AND AM VERY SORRY FOR THE INCONVENIENCE THAT THIS CHANGE OF PLAN WILL CAUSE YOU AND YOUR COLLEAGUES. I HOPE THAT IT WILL PROVE POSSIBLE FOR US TO AGREE ALTERNATIVE DATES WHICH WILL NOT MEAN TOO LONG A POSTPONEMENT.

MEANWHILE SIR GEOFFREY HOWE INTENDS TO SUGGEST TO SIGNOR ANDREOTTI THAT HE MIGHT VISIT ROME FOR TALKS IN ADVANCE OF THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL IN LUXEMBOURG.'
ENDS

2. WHEN THE MESSAGE HAS BEEN DELIVERED, PLEASE TELL ANDREOTTI THAT IF THAT WOULD SUIT HIM I WOULD BE HAPPY TO VISIT ROME FOR TALKS AND/OR DINNER DURING THE SECOND HALF OF 13 NOVEMBER, ON THE EVE OF THE WEU MEETING.

HOWE

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MR DEREK THOMAS

MR GOODALL

MR BRAITHWAITE

MR RENWICK

CONFIDENTIAL



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

M. Herbert
25/9

Mr. Herbert
6AM 25/9

16 September 1985

WES 020/1

RECEIVED IN REGISTRY NO. 13
 25 SEP 1985

DESK OFFICER		REGISTRY
INDEX	PA	John Edden
		<i>25/9</i>

Dear Charles,

Bilateral Summit with the Italian Government

Thank you for your letter of 2 September about the Prime Minister's decision to cancel her planned visit to Italy at the end of October.

The Foreign Secretary doubts if it would be sufficient for Lord Bridges simply to explain to the Italian Government that the Summit will have to be delayed until early in the New Year. He thinks it important for the Prime Minister to send a personal message to Signor Craxi, which should if possible propose alternative dates. I enclose a draft telegram to Rome.

Sir Geoffrey Howe had in any event considered arranging a bilateral with Andreotti before the Luxembourg Council. In the new circumstances he thinks it might be best for him to offer to visit Rome, and a reference to that effect has been inserted in the draft message to Craxi. While in Rome he would hope to call on Craxi.

Yours ever,

Colin Budd

(C R Budd)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
 10 Downing Street

File No.

OUTWARD

Department

TELEGRAM

Drafted by

(Block Capitals)

Tel. Extn.

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[TEXT]

ANGLO-ITALIAN SUMMIT

1. The Prime Minister has decided that she will not now be able to travel to Florence on 29-30 October for the summit. The Prime Minister could manage

as alternative dates. Grateful if you would convey the following personal message from the Prime Minister to Craxi. Begins.

I very much regret that new circumstances, which are likely to involve me in major commitments here, will prevent me from travelling to Italy on 29-30 October, the dates that we had agreed for our meeting in Florence.

I had been looking forward greatly to that occasion and!

CONFIDENTIAL

am/

am very sorry for the inconvenience that this change of plan will cause you and your colleagues. I hope it will prove possible for us to fix alternative dates in the near future. I have asked Lord Bridges to suggest some dates that might be possible for me.

Meanwhile Sir Geoffrey Howe intends to suggest to Signor Andreotti that he might visit Rome for talks in advance of the European Council in Luxembourg. ENDS.

2. When the message has been delivered, please tell Andreotti that if that would suit him I would be happy to visit Rome for talks and/or dinner during the second half of 13 November, on the eve of the WEU meeting.

HOWE

WES 0201		
RECEIVED IN REGISTRY NO. 13		
25 SEP 1985		
DESK OFFICER		
INDEX	PA	26/5

FROM: D J M Dain
Western European Department

DATE: 13 September 1985

Private Secretary

cc: Mr Braithwaite
Mr Goodall
Mr Derek Thomas o/r
Mr Jenkins
Mr Renwick
Mr Clarke, RID
Mr Wall, ECD(I)
Miss Neville-Jones, Planning Staff
Miss Waghorn, Protocol Dept

ANGLO-ITALIAN SUMMIT

Problem

A 1. The Prime Minister wishes to postpone her summit meeting with Signor Craxi, which had been fixed for 29-30 October in Florence.

Recommendation

2. I recommend that the Private Secretary should write to Number 10 in terms of the attached draft enclosing a draft message from the Prime Minister to Craxi. ECD(I), RID and Protocol Department agree.

Background and Argument

3. In terms of relations with Italy it is unfortunate that the initiative of postponement should come from us. Although it was for the Italians as hosts to suggest dates we pressed them before their Presidential Election in early July to go firm on dates that the Prime Minister could manage. Italian preparations for the summit in Florence on 29-30 October are already well advanced. Our own reconnaissance team is due to visit Italy on 23 September.

4. The Italians know that we stick to our commitment to a summit with the Germans every six months and with the French once a year (plus a mid-term review by Foreign Ministers). I would not favour instructing Lord Bridges simply to explain to the Italian Government that the agreed dates are no longer possible for the Prime Minister and that the summit will have to be delayed until early in the new year. I think it

important/



important that the Prime Minister send Craxi a personal message.

5. The Secretary of State is considering arranging a separate bilateral with Andreotti before the Luxembourg European Council. I would see advantage in the Secretary of State offering to visit Rome for talks with Andreotti and a call on Craxi. If appropriate, the Secretary of State might be able to explain the considerations [redacted] that obliged the Prime Minister to postpone her visit to Italy.

6. We heard from Number 10 on 12 September that the Prime Minister's lunch for President Cossiga, which had been fixed for 28 September at Cossiga's request, had been cancelled.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "D J M Dain".

D J M Dain

ESR 11 (Revised)

DRAFT: ~~minute/letter/teletype/telegram/patch/note~~

TYPE: Draft/Final 1+

FROM: The Private Secretary

Reference

DEPARTMENT:

TEL. NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

TO: PS/No 10

Your Reference

Top Secret

Secret

Confidential

Restricted

Unclassified

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PRIVACY MARKING

SUBJECT: BILATERAL SUMMIT WITH THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT

.....In Confidence

CAVEAT.....

Thank you for your letter of 2 September about the Prime Minister's difficulty in visiting Italy at the end of October. We know that the Italians regard 29-30 October as firm dates. Their ~~detailed~~ planning for the summit in Florence is (unusually for them) well advanced. Although it would have been for Signor Craxi as host to propose dates, we did, as you know, take the initiative *on this occasion*

Sir Geoffrey Howe doubts if it would be sufficient for Lord Bridges simply to explain to the Italian government that the summit will have to be delayed until early in the new year. Sir Geoffrey thinks it ^{important} ~~essential~~ for the Prime Minister to send a personal message to Signor Craxi proposing alternative dates (as we discussed are possibilities). I enclose a draft telegram to Rome.

Enclosures—flag(s).....

Sir Geoffrey Howe had in any event considered arranging a bilateral with Andreotti before the Luxembourg Council. In the new circumstances Sir Geoffrey thinks it might be

/best

best for him to offer to visit Rome (.....

..... would be possible dates). In Rome he

would hope to call on Craxi and if ^{appropriate at the time,} the timing is right

take him into our confidence ^{explain the importance of} about the developments

in relations with Ireland which obliged the Prime

Minister to postpone ^{the summit.} her meeting with Craxi.

File No.
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 Drafted by
 (Block Capitals)
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OUTWARD
 TELEGRAM

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Precedence IMMEDIATE
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[TEXT]
 ANGLO-ITALIAN SUMMIT
 1. The Prime Minister has decided that she will not now be able to travel to Florence on 29-30 October for the summit. The Prime Minister could manage as alternative dates. Grateful if you would convey the following personal message from the Prime Minister to Craxi. Begins.
 I very much regret that new circumstances, which are likely to involve me in major commitments here, will prevent me from travelling to Italy on 29-30 October, the dates that we had agreed for our meeting in Florence. I had been looking forward greatly to that occasion and

Very sorry for the inconvenience that this change of plan will cause you and your colleagues.

I hope it will prove possible for us to fix alternative dates in the near future. I have asked Lord Bridges to suggest some dates that might be possible for me.

Sir Geoffrey Howe intends to suggest to Signor Andreotti that they might meet for a discussion in advance of the European Council in Luxembourg. Ends.

2. Please also, when the message has been delivered, enquire about dates when I might see Andreotti. I have in mind a meeting in Rome, where I would hope also to call on Craxi and in private say something more about the reasons for postponing the summit. Possible dates for me would be

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN



10 DOWNING STREET

54A

W25020/1

RECEIVED IN REGISTRY NO. 13
25 SEP 1985

DESK OFFICER		REGISTRY
INDEX	PA	Action Taken
	✓	26/9

2 September 1985

From the Private Secretary

Dear Sir,

Bilateral Summit with the Italian Government

As you will know, we earlier agreed with the Italian Government that a Bilateral Summit would be held on Wednesday, 30 October, probably in Florence. However, since this date was agreed matters have moved forward over Northern Ireland and it is now likely that if an agreement is reached, it will be concluded in the last week of October, and it will be very important for the Prime Minister to be in the country in the period immediately following that. For this reason, the Prime Minister wants to take steps now to postpone the Anglo-Italian Summit although of course it will not be possible to explain to the Italian Government, at any rate at this stage, the reasons for this. I should also say that it will unfortunately be impossible to find an alternative date for the Summit until early in 1986.

I should be grateful if you could consider how best to present this to the Italian Government. It may well be enough for HM Ambassador in Rome simply to explain to the Italian Government that the date of 30 October is no longer possible for the Prime Minister and that the Summit will have to be delayed until early in the New Year. But if you thought it essential, the Prime Minister would no doubt agree to send Signor Craxi a message presenting her excuses.

Yours sincerely
Charles Powell

(Charles Powell)

L.V. Appleyard, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.