



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.