

Prime Minister's Talks with Signor Andreotti

The two Prime Ministers met for just over an hour and a half (11.30 to approx. 1.10) followed by a working lunch.

They reaffirmed their strong belief in the European ideal. Mrs. Thatcher emphasised that Britain shared the determination of the Italian Government to work for the unity and progress of Europe.

There was a discussion of bilateral relations and EEC questions as they affected Italy and the UK. The EEC questions covered were: the Common Agricultural Policy, the Community Budget, and Energy. The two Prime Ministers agreed that Europe could best be strengthened if outstanding problems were tackled and solved within the framework of the Community.

Both sides looked forward to making real progress at the European Council in Strasbourg next week.

The Prime Minister's talks with Signor Andreotti, which Lord Carrington and Signor Forlani also attended, were followed by a working lunch.

Source: Bryan Cartledge.

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Note: I understand that the Italians are using the above briefing lines immediately.