

GR 290

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DESKBY 291330Z

FM ROME 291100Z MAY 82

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NO. 290 OF 29 MAY 82

INFO PRIORITY BONN, PARIS

FOR RESIDENT CLERK

VERSAILLES ECONOMIC SUMMIT, ANGLO/ITALIAN BILATERAL.

1. PRIME MINISTER SPADOLINI SPOKE TO ME YESTERDAY AT THE ITALIAN NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATION, SAYING HE HOPED TO MEET THE PRIME MINISTER FOR A TALK DURING THE VERSAILLES MEETING.
2. SERGIO BERLINGUER (DIPLOMATIC ADVISER) ELABORATED. SPADOLINI HOPED MRS THATCHER COULD GIVE HIM HALF AN HOUR'S PRIVATE TALK. IT WOULD COVER MAINLY ECONOMIC SUMMIT MATTERS BUT DOUBTLESS THE FALKLANDS AND CURRENT EC BUSINESS COULD BE MENTIONED.
3. HE SUGGESTED THE FRIDAY EVENING OR SATURDAY AFTERNOON DURING GAPS IN THE PROGRAMME. HE WILL TELEPHONE SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG ON 31 MAY ACCORDINGLY BUT WISHED ME TO GIVE THIS ADVANCE WARNING OF THE REQUEST.
4. I BELIEVE SPADOLINI WANTS IN PARTICULAR TO EXPRESS HIS REGRETS FOR THE ITALIAN FAILURE TO RENEW SANCTIONS AGAINST ARGENTINA AND TO EXPLAIN THE POLITICAL DIFFICULTIES HE AND COLOMBO FACED.
5. PRESIDENT PERTINI, SPADOLINI AND SEVERAL MINISTERS SPOKE TO ME WARMLY YESTERDAY ABOUT THIS. THEY EXPRESSED THEIR SOLIDARITY WITH US AND ASKED FOR OUR UNDERSTANDING. PRESIDENT PERTINI ASKED FOR HIS GREETINGS TO BE SENT NOT ONLY TO H.M. THE QUEEN AND H.R.H. PRINCE PHILIP, BUT TO THE PRIME MINISTER. THE UNFORTUNATE REFERENCE TO THE ITALIANS IN THE SUNDAY TIMES CAME UP BUT MY DENIAL (BASED ON YOUR TELEGRAM NO. 123) WAS ACCEPTED.
6. I HOPE SPADOLINI'S REQUEST CAN BE GRANTED. THE OCCASION COULD ALSO BE USED TO MENTION THE PRIME MINISTER'S BILATERAL VISIT TO ROME ON 07 JULY AND TO INDICATE HER WISHES FOR THE PROGRAMME.
7. GRATEFUL FOR INSTRUCTIONS AND TO KNOW WHAT RESPONSE IS GIVEN TO BERLINGUER.
8. PLEASE ADVISE ARMSTRONG URGENTLY.

ARCULUS

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PS/SIR R ARMSTRONG CABINET OFFICE  
H M TREASURY

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