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Date 24 November 1980

*Dear Michael,*

1. There was very little substance in discussions during dinner between the Prime Minister and either Signor Forlani or Signor Colombo. But you may like to have a note of the few points which did arise. I have not given it any circulation: I leave it to you to decide whether to circulate it elsewhere.

*Yours ever*  

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*Lucy*

A C Galsworthy

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CONVERSATION AT SIGNOR FORLANI'S DINNER FOR PM AND LORD  
CARRINGTON: 23 NOVEMBER 1980

1. Signor Forlani expressed anxiety about the effects of enlargement on other Mediterranean countries. The Community would have an excess of olive oil. But this was practically Tunisia's only export. If arrangements were not made, countries in Tunisia's position might be unwilling to co-operate in the Community on other matters, for instance, fisheries agreements. Signor Forlani confirmed that fisheries agreements with North African countries were very important for Italy. He asked how the common fisheries policy negotiations were going. The Prime Minister expressed optimism. Signor Forlani was clearly unbriefed on this subject.
2. There was some discussion on Japan. Signor Forlani explained the Alfa-Nissan agreement. It was on a small scale and could hardly damage European car interests. Nevertheless he personally did not believe the Japanese were putting capital into this project without expecting some greater opening of the market. It would have to be carefully watched.
3. The Prime Minister asked him about terrorism in Italy. Signor Forlani said very confidently that the Italians had had some notable successes against the terrorists. He was now confident that the fight against terrorism could and would be won. The Prime Minister expressed pleasure at this: he was the first Italian politician who had been willing to say this to her.
4. The Prime Minister asked Signor Forlani how he managed to run the Council of Ministers with representatives of four parties in it. Signor Forlani admitted that agreement in the Council of Ministers was generally impossible unless something had been worked out beforehand.
5. The Prime Minister had some discussion with Signor Colombo about his visit to Moscow. Nothing much of substance emerged, except that Signor Colombo said that he had found Brezhnev in rather better health than he had expected.
6. Finally both Lord Carrington and the Prime Minister expressed concern about the earthquake, and asked that Signor Forlani should let them know if there was anything which the UK could do.

BRITISH EMBASSY  
ROME  
24 November 1980

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26 NOV 1980

