

PRIME MINISTER

POSSIBLE ANGLO-ITALIAN SUMMIT

As you know Signor Craxi is visiting London on Friday, 16 September for two hours of talks (given interpretation this is not all that long).

He will almost certainly raise the question of the next Anglo-Italian Summit. He has already stated publicly that he expects one during the autumn - and as you know the Italians tend to be very sensitive about the Summits, largely because we for good reasons try to escape our commitment to hold two a year. It is the Italians' turn to host the Summit.

I am very reluctant to add any more foreign visiting to your programme this year. But it will not be easy to put the Italians off and Lord Bridges thinks we ought to have an early Summit in order to influence Italian views on Community financing before Athens (the French will be working on the Italians in the opposite direction) and to compare notes on INF.

The best date might be Friday, 18 November, but this would mean that you could not attend the enthronement of the Archbishop of York.

Another alternative is Monday, 31 October, which would mean moving your proposed lunch with the IBA.

Would you like us to suggest 31 October to the Italians?

*No. we can't  
Put in a  
Summit at  
such short notice - especially  
when I have charged engagements  
to see Craxi.  
A.S.C.  
not*

6 September 1983