



Prime Minister.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

Are you prepared to have the next Anglo-Italian Summit in southern Italy or Sicily, rather than Rome?

17 November 1983

A.J.C.  $\frac{17}{11}$

John She...

Not the South  
People here will think it is a joy ride.  
Florence not in  
no

Anglo-Italian Summit

You wrote on 17 October proposing that we should try to arrange for the next Anglo-Italian Summit to take place on 26-27 January 1984. The Secretary of State conveyed these dates to the Italians and we have now heard from Rome that they are acceptable.

The Italians will be providing our Embassy with their preliminary ideas on the agenda and Ministerial participation, which we hope to put to you soon.

Our Embassy have also reported (Rome telegram No 575 attached) that Signor Craxi is considering the possibility that the summit might be held in southern Italy, rather than Rome, and possibly in Sicily. The Italians have asked informally whether this would be acceptable to the Prime Minister. There are precedents in that the 1982 Italo-German summit was held in Florence and the next Franco-Italian Summit meets in Venice this month.

We see no strong reasons against the Prime Minister falling in with Signor Craxi's idea. A summit in the south would add to the Prime Minister's journey and present certain complications regarding communications, but these are not insurmountable. Our Embassy are satisfied that the Italians can handle any additional security problems. The advantages of a venue away from Rome would be that the Italian side would be less distracted by daily business than in Rome itself, and climatically it should be more agreeable.

*[Handwritten signature]*

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