

GRS 250
CONFIDENTIAL
FM ROME
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELNO 629
OF 011645Z DECEMBER 83

CONFIDENTIAL

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YRTELNO 356: ANGLO/ITALIAN SUMMIT

1. WE TOLD CRAXI'S DIPLOMATIC ADVISERS TODAY THAT THE PRIME MINISTER WOULD PREFER THE NEXT SUMMIT TO BE HELD IN ROME. WE DID NOT (NOT) VOLUNTEER THE SUGGESTION OF A NORTHERN ITALIAN VENUE BECAUSE, AS YOU POINT OUT, AIR SERVICES THERE IN JANUARY ARE LIKELY TO BE INTERRUPTED BY FOG. WE SHOULD NOT TAKE THE RISK.

2. CRAXI'S ADVISERS REVEALED THAT HE HAD BEEN THINKING OF TAORMINA (SICILY) OR, AND MORE ESPECIALLY, CAPRI. THEY WILL REPORT THE PRIME MINISTER'S PREFERENCE, AND THOUGHT THAT CRAXI MIGHT DECIDE TO SPEAK TO THE PRIME MINISTER IN THE MARGINS OF THE ATHENS SUMMIT. I AM SURE THAT CRAXI WILL NOT SEEK TO MAKE PROBLEMS BUT I RECOMMEND THAT THE PRIME MINISTER SHOULD NOT CITE COMMUNICATIONS AND LOGISTICS AS A MAJOR PROBLEM BECAUSE THE EXPERIENCE OF OTHER BILATERAL SUMMITS OUTSIDE ROME SHOWS THAT THESE CAN BE OVERCOME WITHOUT TOO MUCH DIFFICULTY. THE PRIME MINISTER MIGHT INSTEAD SIMPLY SAY THAT SHE LIKES ROME. SHE COULD ADD PERHAPS THAT SHE WANTS THE MEETING TO BE SEEN FOR WHAT IT IS, A SERIOUS AND WORK-MANLIKE OCCASION, AND THAT CHOICE OF THE BEAUTIFUL PLACES MENTIONED WOULD GIVE A MISLEADING IMPRESSION OF DALLIANCE TO THE BRITISH PUBLIC.

BRIDGES

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ECD (1)
PROTOCOL D
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PS/ MR WHITNEY
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SIR J BULLARD
MR JENKINS

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