

PRIME MINISTER'S SPEAKING NOTES

LUNCH FOR PRESIDENT PERTINI

WEDNESDAY 22 FEBRUARY

Politis.
Bunio
Cammara
Dyloay
Mls - haldant
Pmru.

A GREAT PLEASURE TO WELCOME YOU, MR. PRESIDENT ON YOUR FIRST
VISIT TO THE UK.

I ALSO HAD THE PLEASURE OF MEETING YOU IN ROME A
MONTH AGO FOLLOWING A USEFUL SUMMIT MEETING WITH
PRIME MINISTER CRAXI AND HIS COLLEAGUES.

THE LAST OFFICIAL VISIT BY AN ITALIAN PRESIDENT TO
BRITAIN WAS THAT OF PRESIDENT SARAGAT IN 1969.

A LOT OF WATER HAS FLOWED UNDER THE BRIDGES OF TIBER
AND THAMES SINCE THEN.

NOTABLY, WE JOINED THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY, AND YOUR
COUNTRY SUPPORTED US STAUNCHLY IN OUR ACCESSION.

/ OUR LINKS GO

OUR LINKS GO BACK VERY FAR - NEARLY TWO THOUSAND YEARS TO THE

ROMAN CONQUEST OF BRITAIN.

WE OWE MUCH TO THE LEGACY OF ROMAN CIVILISATION IN

OUR LITERATURE AND OUR LAWS; MUCH ALSO TO THE ITALIAN

RENAISSANCE, SOME OF THE SPLENDOUR OF WHICH IS

ILLUSTRATED IN THE 'GENIUS OF VENICE' EXHIBITION YOU

HAVE COME TO SEE, AND OF WHICH YOU ARE PATRON.

WE ARE PROUD TO HAVE SUCH A MAGNIFICENT COLLECTION OF

VENETIAN ART ON DISPLAY IN LONDON, AND TO HAVE

CONTRIBUTED TO IT FROM OUR OWN GREAT COLLECTIONS.

ITALIAN CIVILISATION HAS BECOME A PART OF OUR LIVES.

/ WE WANT TO SHOW

WE WANT TO SHOW YOU SOME OF THE GLORIES OF OUR CIVILISATION
TOO.

ONE OF THESE IS OUR PARLIAMENT, AND OUR PARLIAMENTARY
INSTITUTIONS.

YOU AND WE SHARE THE INESTIMABLE BENEFIT OF LIVING
IN FREE SOCIETIES, WITH PROUD TRADITIONS.

I AM DELIGHTED THEREFORE THAT YOU, MR. PRESIDENT,
WHO OCCUPIED THE POSITION OF 'SPEAKER' IN THE ITALIAN
PARLIAMENT FROM 1969-76 WITH SUCH DISTINCTION, WILL
TOMORROW BE MEETING THE SPEAKER OF OUR PARLIAMENT,
BERNARD WEATHERILL.

/ WHEN YOU VISIT

WHEN YOU VISIT THE ITALIAN CULTURAL INSTITUTE, YOU WILL BE

MEETING SOME OF OUR ENGLISH STUDENTS OF ITALIAN.

I HAVE ENJOYED MY VISITS TO ITALY, AS DO THE MILLIONS
FROM OUR COUNTRY WHO TRAVEL TO YOUR COUNTRY EACH YEAR;

AND I CAN WELL UNDERSTAND THE ENTHUSIASM OF YOUNG
PEOPLE TO LEARN MORE OF YOUR COUNTRY AND ITS LANGUAGE,
AND TO GO THERE THEMSELVES.

IT IS THESE YOUNG PEOPLE WHO HOLD THE KEY TO THE FUTURE,
AND WE CAN BE THANKFUL THAT THEY ARE AN OUTWARD-LOOKING,
INQUISITIVE, EAGER GENERATION.

~~Spent time~~

Was in Rome style
W. La
Idem

PROPOSE HEALTH OF PRESIDENT PERTINI.

Spent time
with
to Europe
People