

ZZ ROME  
GRS 214  
CONFIDENTIAL  
FM FCO 281100Z APR 84  
TO FLASH ROME  
TELEGRAM NUMBER 157 OF 28 APRIL

1. PLEASE PASS THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO SR CRAXI. BEGINS

WE HAVE BEEN THROUGH SOME EXTREMELY DIFFICULT MOMENTS IN OUR DEALINGS WITH THE LIBYAN AUTHORITIES IN THE LAST 10 DAYS. IT HAS BEEN AN ENORMOUS COMFORT TO HAVE YOUR RAPID, AND GENEROUS AGREEMENT TO TAKE ON THE TASK OF PROTECTING OUR INTERESTS IN LIBYA AND OF ENSURING THE SAFE HANDLING OF THE DELICATE PROBLEM OF EVACUATING OUR STAFF FROM TRIPOLI.

I AM VERY MUCH AWARE OF THE ACTIVE SUPPORT AND ENTHUSIASTIC PRACTICAL ASSISTANCE WHICH WE RECEIVED FROM YOUR EMBASSY IN TRIPOLI IN ALL THIS. I HOPE YOU WILL PASS ON MY WARMEST PERSONAL THANKS TO AMBASSADOR QUARONI, COUNSELLOR CARDILLI AND THE REST OF YOUR EMBASSY STAFF IN TRIPOLI FOR THEIR SELFLESS EFFORTS IN A VERY TENSE SITUATION. THEIR SKILL AND COURAGE REFLECTS GREAT CREDIT ON THEM AND YOUR COUNTRY.

I REALISE THAT THE TASK YOU HAVE TAKEN ON WILL NOT BE EASY IN VIEW OF THE IMPORTANCE OF ITALY'S OWN INTERESTS IN LIBYA. WE HAVE, AS YOU KNOW, LEFT TWO BRITISH OFFICIALS TO HELP AMBASSADOR QUARONI LOOK AFTER THE BRITISH COMMUNITY. WE SHALL DO WHAT WE CAN TO REDUCE TO A MINIMUM THE DEMANDS WE MAKE ON HIM AND HIS STAFF.

MY WARMEST PERSONAL GOOD WISHES.  
MARGARET THATCHER  
ENDS.

HOWE

LIBYAN CRISIS

[COPIES SENT TO NO 10 DOWNING ST]

STANDARD

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