



Prime Minister Foreign and Commonwealth Office
London SW1A 2AH

Agree proposed list of participants and agenda at X(over)?

10 September 1984

CDD
10/9

Yes - but I can't think we have much to say about the Middle East at present that would be constructive

Dear Charles,

Anglo-Italian Summit: 18-19 October

We wrote on 27 July confirming that the Italians had accepted our invitation to come to London for the next bilateral summit on 18-19 October.

We should now consider Ministerial participation. We understand the Italians favour continuity (there has been no major change in their Ministerial team since the last Summit). For our part we would like to field a strong team, particularly since the Summit will be in London this time. There will be much business to discuss and it will be a useful opportunity to impress on the Italians, who will have the EC Presidency next year, our ideas for the future of Europe.

We suggest therefore that the Prime Minister should be accompanied by the same team as for the last Summit, namely:

- ✓ (i) Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs;
- ✓ (ii) Chancellor of the Exchequer;
- ✓ (iii) Secretary of State for Defence.

We have a continuing defence dialogue with the Italians which includes several collaborative military projects. Mr Heseltine has had a number of contacts recently with his Italian opposite number, Signor Spadolini, and Sir Geoffrey Howe hopes that Mr Heseltine will wish to continue these discussions at the Summit. In addition, Spadolini (unlike Craxi) has been helpful to us over the Falklands in the past, and, given the difficulties we may face with the Italians over the next UNGA vote, it could be a useful opportunity to give him our views.

/(iv)



(iv) Secretary of State for Trade and Industry.

Civil industrial and technological collaboration is another area of current interest. Although Mr Tebbit will visit Rome at the end of September for talks with his opposite number we are anxious to maintain the impetus created by present contacts and we hope he will be able to participate in the Summit.

(v) Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

X | On the outline for the agenda for the Prime Ministers we suggest indicating to the Italians that we would expect discussion to concentrate on the Community, East/West relations, including security issues and European defence, international economic problems and transatlantic questions in the light of the US Presidential elections. [We might also add the Middle East, including Libya.]

If the Prime Minister agrees with these proposals on both participation and the agenda we will put them to the Italians.

We have agreed with the Press Office that an announcement will be issued on Tuesday 2 October. This is acceptable to the Italians.

I am copying this letter to Richard Hatfield (Cabinet Office), John Kerr (HM Treasury), Ivor Llewellyn (MAFF), Richard Mottram (Ministry of Defence) and Callum McCarthy (Department of Trade and Industry).

Yours ever,

Len Appleyard

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Private Secretary

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