

Pr: CDZ

PRIME MINISTER

ANGLO/ITALIAN SUMMIT

I attach some points for a  
toast at your dinner in honour of  
Craxi on Thursday.

CDP.

16 October 1984

Would you have this  
typed in note -

form or cards.

It is delightful! -

Thatcher

DINNER FOR CRAXI: SPEECH

/ It was the Emperor Charles V who said: "To God I speak Spanish, to women Italian ....." I don't know, Mr. Prime Minister what you speak to God, but it is always a delight to hear you speak Italian to me and it is a great pleasure to welcome you here again for these bilateral discussions. I also warmly welcome <sup>also</sup> your Ministerial colleagues, your officials and Ambassador and Mrs. Cagiati, who are such outstanding and well-loved representatives of your country here in London.

It is a particularly auspicious year for our two countries. A year in which we were delighted to receive President Pertini and to have the Genius of Venice Exhibition at the Royal Academy. A year in which we were able to welcome you here for the London Economic Summit, on which you have produced a beautifully illustrated book. Her Majesty The Queen Mother and his Royal Highness The Prince of Wales are about to visit your country. We have established a "Round Table" which met in Rome in May to discuss the challenges of modern technology - a subject which I know interests you personally, Mr. Prime Minister. My colleague Norman Tebbit, who this evening so sadly lies in hospital rather than sitting with us here, recently paid a very successful visit to Italy. We also have particular reason to be grateful to Italy for the way in which you have generously taken on the task of looking after our interests in Libya at a difficult time.

We also share some bitter experiences, Mr. Prime Minister, from the evil called terrorism. Your country has suffered grievously in the past and I have enormous respect for the way which, while preserving individual liberty and all the democratic standards which are dear to us both, you have tackled terrorism and shown that you will never let it succeed. I share that determination.

Mr. Prime Minister, you are about to embark on the Presidency of the European Community. It will be a challenging task but I know that you are much more than equal to it. This is a time of opportunity in the Community, a chance to lift our eyes above the day to day issues and set about completing the unfinished business of the Treaty of Rome. You can rely on us to follow your lead and give you our full support. I look forward particularly to visiting your native city of Milan for the European Council in June.

Mr. Prime Minister, there is no doubt of the very special place which Italy holds in my country's affections. A respect for your age-old tradition of civility and culture: an admiration for your present day spirit of enterprise: your flair and your elegance. We have learned a lot from the old in your country: now we want to work with the new.

I raise my glass to you, Mr. Prime Minister, and to the President and people of Italy.