



Cabinet Office,
Whitehall,
London, SW1.

26th September, 1979

PS(79) 28

Dear Private Secretary,

Visit of the Prime Minister to Rome, 4th-5th October 1979

This letter sets out the briefing arrangements for the Prime Minister's visit to Rome on 4th-5th October 1979.

X The objectives for the visit, as approved by the Prime Minister, are at Annex A. The list of briefs to be prepared, with an indication of Departmental responsibility, is at Annex B. The instructions on format are at Annexes C and D.

75 copies of each brief should be sent to the Cabinet Office, 70 Whitehall, to arrive no later than 1700 hours on Friday, 28th September. They should be addressed to Mrs. Wagner in Committee Section, who should be consulted (telephone no. 233 7628) about any technical points arising.

I am sending copies of this letter to the Private Secretaries to Sir Michael Palliser, Sir Douglas Wass, Sir Frank Cooper, Sir Kenneth Clucas, Sir Peter Carey, Sir Jack Rampton, Mr Brian Hayes and to Michael Alexander (No. 10).

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) M.J. VILE

ANNEX A

BRITISH OBJECTIVES

1. Pre-eminently to obtain Italian support for UK objectives at the Dublin European Council as regards budget contributions (in return for which we shall need to take account of Italian objectives on convergence, and particularly the effect of the CAP).
2. To encourage a positive Italian attitude to TNF modernisation.
3. To establish a good working relationship between the Prime Minister and Signor Cossiga.

ITALIAN OBJECTIVES

These are likely to be:

1. To establish a cordial working relationship between Mrs Thatcher and Signor Cossiga, and to hear first-hand about HMG's economic policies.
2. To convince HMG of the need for the papers presented to the Dublin European Council to take full account of the wider economic effects of Community policies.
3. To secure HMG's support for proposals at the Dublin Council designed to secure greater receipts for Italy from Community expenditure.
4. To convince HMG that the balance between Northern and Mediterranean interests in the CAP should be redressed and that Italy deserves compensation for concessions made by the Community to other Mediterranean producers.
5. To secure support for a larger appropriation for the regional fund in the 1980 Community budget.
6. Depending on the outcome of the Energy Council (20 September) and the Tokyo Summit Energy Ministers Meeting (26 September) to press for levels of North Sea oil producing in 1980/5 higher than those implied by net self-sufficiency, so as to give Italy more flexibility in meeting her oil import targets.