

cc Mr. Nash WED

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<i>MW</i>	Your reference
19 OCT 1979	Our reference
	Date

*Handwritten:* Rh  
B/10

Date 15 October 1979

*Dear Nick,*

MEETING BETWEEN COSSIGA AND VAN AGT: ITALIAN PRESS REPORTING

1. The Italian press of 14 October carries several reports of the meeting between Signor Cossiga and Dutch Prime Minister Van Agt at Cernobbio (Lake Como) on 13 October.
2. Most papers state in their headlines that the main topics for discussion were the CAP and the siting of Cruise and Pershing missiles. But the articles themselves make it clear that neither Signor Cossiga nor Mr Van Agt had anything to say to the press on the latter subject.
3. The fullest account of the meeting is carried in the right of centre Rome daily Il Tempo. As regards CAP it reports that Signor Cossiga handed Mr Van Agt a document, complete with statistics, showing the need to reform the EEC budget, giving larger shares of the budget to regional policy, energy problems, and transport and industrial problems. (This sounds rather like the document sent to you in Rome telno 459.) Il Tempo comments that Italy has for some time contested the workings of CAP which forces her to bear a high economic and social cost, obliging her to buy EEC agricultural produce at prices three or four times higher than on world markets, while at the same time extending trade concessions to Mediterranean countries which are Italy's natural competitors. Il Tempo also comments that this explanation, already given to the Germans and to the British, whose position is described as "akin to" that of Italy, cannot have given much pleasure to Van Agt since the Dutch are among the largest beneficiaries of the CAP.

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4. As Renato Ruggiero (who should be in Luxembourg today) and Signor Cossiga's diplomatic adviser were the only officials present, it may be a day or two before we get any further information about this meeting, and in particular about how Van Agt in fact responded.

*Yours ever,*

*James Adams*

W J Adams

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Mr. Mark  
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*With the compliments of*

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