

Min Smith WED (10)



Foreign and Commonwealth Office	
WRT 02616	
RECEIVED IN REGISTRY NO. 49	
26 AUG 1980	
21 August 1980	
DESK OFFICER	PA
INDEX	PA
	200/176
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Dear Mike,

Bn. 1 wh. pl. noted.
 Mts. 24/8.
 reply now rec'd
 re. Mts. 27/8.

(2a) Prime Minister's Visit to Italy

Would you please refer to paragraph 2(b) of Michael Alexander's letter of 25 July about the Prime Minister's visit to Rome on 23-24 November during which Mrs Thatcher has said she would like to call on the Pope.

The Pope will be in Rome at that time. Owing to the brevity of Mrs Thatcher's visit, however, we propose that she should pay a private, rather than an official, call on the Pope. Such a call would, we consider, make the best use of the available time in that formalities would be kept to a minimum. There would be no presentation of suites nor obligatory separate call on the Cardinal Secretary of State followed by his return call, although Cardinal Casaroli could be included in the private visit if desired.

Furthermore, to fit in with the programme of Anglo-Italian talks, the call will have to take place during the afternoon of 24 November. Since Papal audiences are usually only arranged in the morning, the Vatican have indicated that the Pope is more likely to agree a call during the afternoon if it is a private rather than official one. In view of these considerations I hope that you can agree that we should seek a private call on the Pope.

I am sending a copy of this letter to David Wright (Cabinet Office).

Yours ever

David Neild
 (J D Neilds)
Asst Private Secretary

M A Pattison Esq
 10 Downing Street

RESTRICTED

11

*Miss Savill - Del. M.
pl. inform the
legation.*



WED

WRJ 026/61 PS/LPS

Mrs Bullard

*Rv.
27/8.*

10 DOWNING STREET

<p>REC'D</p> <p>27 AUG 1980</p>
<p>INDEXED</p> <p>26 August 1980</p>
<p><i>ST</i></p>

From the Private Secretary

Dear David

Prime Minister's Visit to Italy

Thank you for your letter of 21 August, about arrangements for the Prime Minister to call on the Pope during her visit to Rome on 23-24 November.

The Prime Minister would be entirely content to plan on the basis of a private call. She would in fact much prefer to handle the call in this less formal fashion.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Barry Hilton (Cabinet Office).

Yours ever

Mike Patterson

J.D. Neilands, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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(12)

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RR HOLY SEE (ROME PSE PASS)

SAVING ROME

GRS76

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FM FCO 291500Z AUGUST 80

TO ROUTINE HOLY SEE

TELEGRAM NUMBER 14 OF 29 AUGUST

AND TO SAVING ROME

YOUR TELNO 21: PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO ITALY: CALL ON THE POPE

1. AS AGREED BY TELEPHONE HM EMBASSY ROME WILL PROVIDE YOU WITH DETAILS OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S PROPOSED PROGRAMME.
2. THE PRIME MINISTER WOULD BE ENTIRELY CONTENT TO PLAN ON THE BASIS OF A PRIVATE CALL. MRS THATCHER WOULD IN FACT MUCH PREFER TO HANDLE THE CALL IN THIS LESS FORMAL FASHION.

CARRINGTON

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Mr Lever *draft to miss*
ON/ulb

PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO ITALY

- A
1. HM Legation to the Holy See have sought advice, in Holy See telno 21 of 11 August, on whether the Prime Minister's call on the Pope during her visit to Rome on 23-24 November should be official or private.
 2. I submit a self-explanatory draft letter to No 10.

M A Savill.

M A Savill (Miss)
Western European Department

20 August 1980

cc: PCD

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