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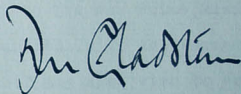
Mr Fergusson

NEW ITALIAN GOVERNMENT: MESSAGES FROM THE PRIME MINISTER

1. It was announced on 18 October that Signor Forlani had succeeded in forming a Christian Democrat-led Government, which includes the Socialists, the Social Democrats, ^{and} the Republicans ~~and the Liberals~~. I attach a Personality Note on Signor Forlani.

2. I submit a draft telegram containing proposed messages from the Prime Minister to Signors Forlani and Cossiga together with a draft covering letter from the Private Secretary. H M Ambassador at Rome recommended in his letter of 9 October that, given the closeness of contacts with Signor Cossiga, a message from No. 10 would be appropriate when he finally hands over office.

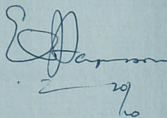
3. The Embassy have recommended that a message from the Secretary of State to Signor Colombo, who has been reappointed Foreign Minister, is not necessary. The Secretary of State in any case saw Signor Colombo last week during the State Visit.



D A S Gladstone
 Western European Department

20 October 1980

cc: PCD
 News Dept



for Mr. 24/10

DRAFT: ~~memo~~/letter/teleletter/diary/patch/note

TYPE: Draft/Final 1+

FROM:
Private Secretary

Reference

DEPARTMENT: TEL. NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

TO:
Private Secretary
No 10 Downing Street

Your Reference

Top Secret
Secret

Confidential
Restricted
Unclassified

Copies to:

PRIVACY MARKING

SUBJECT: ITALIAN GOVERNMENT CHANGES

.....In Confidence

CAVEAT.....

As you will be aware, Signor Forlani succeeded over the weekend in forming a Christian Democrat-led Government, which adds the Social Democrats to Signor Cossiga's earlier three-party coalition.

The Prime Minister may wish to send the customary message of congratulations to the new Prime Minister. Given her close working contacts with the former Prime Minister, Mrs Thatcher may also wish to send a message to Signor Cossiga when he hands over office. Accordingly, I attach a draft telegram to Rome incorporating the two proposed messages.

I enclose a Personality Note on Signor Forlani.

.....-flag(s).....

File No.

OUTWARD

Department WED

TELEGRAM

Drafted by
(Block Capitals)

Tel. Extn 233 3266

Security Classification
RESTRICTEDPrecedence
PRIORITY

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Mr Bullard
Mr Fergusson

(TEXT)

ITALIAN GOVERNMENT CHANGES: MESSAGES FROM THE PRIME
MINISTER

1. Please pass the following messages from the
Prime Minister when appropriate to:

(a) Signor Forlani

BEGINS. Please accept my warm congratulations

on your appointment as Prime Minister. I
look forward to working with you closely on
the many questions of mutual interest and
concern to our two governments. ENDS

Copies to:-

/ (b)

Signor Cossiga

BEGINS. I should like to express my personal gratitude for your cooperation and support on the many questions which have preoccupied our two governments, both bilaterally and in a wider context, during your time as Prime Minister of Italy.

I was disturbed to learn that your health has suffered recently and I wish you a well-earned rest from the rigours of office. ENDS

I enclose a Personality Note on Signor Forlani.

(R M J Lane)
Private Secretary

M O'D E Alexander Esq
11 Downing St

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