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cc also Mr Savill  
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Transcript of Interview: Mrs. Thatcher/TG1 Rome, 24 November 1981

Mrs. Thatcher: ..... (first words not on tape) to hear of the earthquake in Potenza and several cities of the South. We were with Signor Colombo last evening when news came and of course as you know he went immediately. Our very great sympathy to the people of Italy and to the many families who suffered so deeply from this tragedy.

Interviewer: Thank you Mrs. Thatcher. Mrs. Thatcher, could you summarise in a few words the results of your Rome meeting and what can in your opinion Italy and England do together and what should they accomplish together.

Mrs. Thatcher: These meetings between two nations, Britain and Italy, are always extremely important. It isn't so much that you can enumerate specific things, its just that by coming and talking for much longer time than one would normally be able to, you get a much greater understanding of the other persons view-point. I spoke for about an hour and a half with your Prime Minister last evening and then we were joined by the Foreign Ministers and went on talking so we really covered the whole range of international affairs and also one naturally asked about the problems in Italy and got a greater understanding of that.

Interviewer: Mrs. Thatcher we have read with very much interest your speech at the Lord Mayor's banquet and the speech of Lord Carrington in Hamburg about Britain's engagement to Europe. In the meantime there is a new group within the Parliamentary Party of 38 MPs who is not entirely pro-European (?); at least they want so (?) radical changes in the link with Europe which may prejudice (??) the link itself. Your pro-European attitude and the pro-European attitude of Lord Carrington - is it shared by the whole of the British Government and by the whole Parliamentary Party or not?

'd have to have a normal talk, Mrs.

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Mr Savill  
Enter (Anglo-Ital. Summit)  
& ...

Mrs. Thatcher: It is shared by the whole British Government. There have always been one or two in the Parliamentary Party who have had different views but that new group is not suggesting any withdrawal from Europe in any way. It certainly is suggesting some changes but then Europe itself is talking about structural change. We have to restructure the budget, as you know. Its not really fair to some nations, and if there is ever a feeling of unfairness between partners then we have to deal with it because it can't go on, and also we have to look at the proportions spent on the Common Agricultural Policy because such a lot of money at the moment is going to building up surpluses that we don't want and can't eat and have to sell off cheaply to others. So even the Community itself is talking about change and that group I think is set up to pursue their own views about change but there is no question of withdrawal from Europe.

Interviewer: One last question Mrs. Thatcher. Applying arithmetics to Western Summits - are you in favour of what has for instance been suggested by the French of having the Big Four or having the Five or having the Seven?

Mrs. Thatcher: I was asked this question in Bonn last week but there has been no suggestion of what is called colloquially "Another Guadeloupe". That is not before us at the moment. And you know we do work together in so many groups; we work together not only bilaterally; we work in the Community; we work in NATO and very recently we were in Venice as the Seven. So we are constantly meeting, constantly trying to form a common view on world problems and a common defence of the western way of life. So that problem just doesn't arise at the moment and I give you the same answer as I gave in Bonn: let us get on working together with the summits we have arranged and with the groupings of which we are all members.

Interviewer: Thank you Mrs. Thatcher. Grazie.

Mrs. Thatcher: Its been a great pleasure, thank you.

Miss Margaret Savill, WED, FCO



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