

MR. ALEXANDER

Italian Earthquake

The following is a note on the Prime Minister's questions on the attached copies of Rome tel nos 635 and 640 of 26 and 27 November respectively.

Royal Engineers (para 4 of Rome tel no 635)

The possibility of assistance by the Royal Engineers has not been considered further at this stage, mainly because the Italian authorities are still focussing entirely on rescue work, and have not yet started thinking about reconstruction. In further correspondence with Rome and the MOD, the following snags have emerged:

- a) A commitment of RE troops would be very open-ended; i.e. for how long would they stay, etc?
- b) It is one of the most expensive forms of aid.
- c) The main shortage is not of skilled manpower (the Italian armed forces have similar skills to the RE) so much as of money and equipment (see para 3 of Rome tel no 635).

However, MOD are aware that the possibility has been raised.

Consignments of Equipment by RAF (Rome tel no 640)

A third consignment was despatched (on 27/28 November) but went to Avellino, not Solofra. The decision on this was taken after consultation between the Consul-General in Naples and the Italian authorities; the consignment was the first to arrive in Avellino.

The £270,000 allocated to the FCO vote for immediate relief has now been virtually exhausted and there are insufficient funds for a further planeload. As you will be aware from press reports over the weekend, there is now a good deal of aid being collated and provided from non-Governmental sources.

/With



With regard to the general question of reconstruction, you will know from the exchange of telegrams over the weekend with Rome and UKREP Brussels that the subject of Italian requirements and Community aid is likely to be raised at the European Council. There is a brief on the subject (Brief no 24).

Resident Clerk  
FCO  
30 November 1980



WF G. 043/30

LIC480/30

ZZ FCO

ZZ UKREP BRUSCULS

CO LUXEMBOURG

RR BRUSSELS

RR COPENHAGEN

RR THE HAGUE

RR DUBLIN

RR PARIS

RR BONN

RR ATHENS

GR132

CONFIDENTIAL

FM ROME 301900Z NOV 86

TO FLASH FCO

TELNO 648 OF 33 NOVEMBER 1986

AND TO FLASH UKREP BRUSSELS

INFO IMMEDIATE LUXEMBOURG

ROUTINE BRUSSELS, COPENHAGEN, THE HAGUE, DUBLIN, PARIS, BONN, ATHENS

YOUR TELNO 578: ITALIAN EARTHQUAKE: COMMUNITY RELIEF

1. I SPOKE ACCORDINGLY TO SIGNOR COLOMBO'S HEAD OF CABINET (VANNI D'ARCHIRAFI) THIS EVENING.



1932

+21 Copies

ADVANCE COPY

RC 3 Copies

~~DO~~ DS 5 Copies

PS 5

PS/LPS 2

PS/PUS 1

Chief Clerk 1

Mr Bullard 1

Mr Ferguson 1

Mr Adams 1

HD/WED 1



1. I SPOKE ACCORDINGLY TO SIGNOR COLOMBO'S HEAD OF CABINET (VANNI D'ARCHIRAFI) THIS EVENING.

2. HE CONFIRMED THAT DEMARCHES HAD BEEN MADE IN COMMUNITY CAPITALS, NOT JUST TO US, TO SOUND PARTNERS BEFORE THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL.

3. THE PRESIDENCY'S INTENTIONS SEEMED TO LACK PRECISION AND THE ITALIANS HOPED THAT THE COUNCIL COULD GIVE A PRECISE DIRECTIVE AND FIX A SUM FOR A LOAN FOR A RECONSTRUCTION PROGRAMME. THEY HAD IN MIND THE FIGURE OF 1 BILLION EUA AS IN YOUR PARA 1.

4. I SAID THE COMMISSION HAD PROPOSALS IN MIND FOR A PHASED PROGRAMME WITH AMOUNTS UNDER VARIOUS COMMUNITY PROCEDURES AND THE ITALIANS SHOULD CONCERT URGENTLY WITH THEM. VANNI D'ARCHIRAFI SAID THIS WAS GOOD ADVICE WHICH HE WOULD PASS ON TO HIS MINISTER.

ARCULUS

NNNN



ADVANCE COPIES

FRAME ECONOMIC

.....XEROX COPIES

*Received*  
*1031000*  
*2816552*

*26*

FCO

*PS*

~~RESIDENT CLERK~~

PLUS FCO

PS/LORD PRIVY SEAL  
PS/MR RIDLEY  
*PS 1005*  
MR BULLARD  
MR HANNAY  
LORD BRIDGES

HD/ECD( ) (4)  
HD/NEWS  
HD/ERD  
HD/.....  
HD/.....

*MR SPRECKLEY*  
*ECD (1)*  
*MR MARGRETT ECD (1)*

CABINET OFFICE

D.O.T.

PLUS OGDS

MR M D M FRANKLIN  
MR D M ELLIOTT  
MR RHODES  
MR A M GOODENOUGH  
*MR WENT WORTH*

*MR MARGRETT*  
~~*NO 10 DOWNING*~~  
*St.*

H M TREASURY

M.A.F.F.

SIR K COUZENS  
MR ASHFORD  
*MR DONOVAN*

SIR B HAYES  
*MR WILSON*

CONFIDENTIAL

FRAME ECONOMIC

DESKBY 2817007

**IMMEDIATE**

FM UKREP BRUSSELS 281606Z NOV 80  
TO IMMEDIATE FCO  
TELEGRAM NUMBER 5282 OF 28 NOVEMBER  
INFO ROME  
INFO SAVING BRUSSELS COPENHAGEN THE HAGUE LUXEMBOURG  
DUBLIN PARIS BONN ATHENS

**ADVANCE COPY**

MY TELNO 5279 (NOTAL)

PREPARATION FOR EUROPEAN COUNCIL : ITALIAN EARTHQUAKE RELIEF

1. AS REPORTED BY TELEPHONE, THE COMMISSION HAD INTENDED TO ADOPT A SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET AND A SCHEME OF MEASURES THIS AFTERNOON BUT WAS UNABLE TO DO SO IN THE ABSENCE OF SUFFICIENT INFORMATION FROM ITALY. NATALI HAS GONE TO ROME FOR CONSULTATIONS.

2. AT THE MEETING OF THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL ON 1/2 DECEMBER, WERNER IS EXPECTED TO REFER TO COMMUNITY SYMPATHY FOR ITALY AND JENKINS MAY, REPEAT MAY, GIVE AN ESTIMATE OF THE LIKELY BUDGETARY COST OF PROPOSALS WHICH THE COMMISSION IS CONSIDERING



2. AT THE MEETING OF THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL ON 1/2 DECEMBER, WERNER IS EXPECTED TO REFER TO COMMUNITY SYMPATHY FOR ITALY AND JENKINS MAY, REPEAT MAY, GIVE AN ESTIMATE OF THE LIKELY BUDGETARY COST OF PROPOSALS WHICH THE COMMISSION IS CONSIDERING.

FCO ADVANCE TO:

FCO - PS PS/LPS PS/PUS BRIDGES SPRECKLEY MACGREGOR ECD(1)

CAB - FRANKLIN WENTWORTH GOODENOUGH

MAFF - A WILSON

NO 10 - ALEXANDER

TSY - ASHFROD DONOVAN

FCO PASS SAVING TO COPENHAGEN DUBLIN PARIS BONN ATHENS

BUTLER

NNNN



GR420

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

FM ROME 270952Z NOV 80

TO FLASH FCO

TELNO 640 OF 27 NOVEMBER 1980

*Have more  
lets the force?  
no*

MY TELNO 635: EARTHQUAKE DISASTER

1. SECOND PLANE LOAD WHICH ARRIVED ON 26 NOVEMBER WAS CONSIGNED IMMEDIATELY FOR SOLOFRA, A SMALL TOWN SOUTH EAST OF AVELLINO, WHERE 8,000 ARE REPORTED HOMELESS. CONSUL GENERAL NAPLES REPORTS THAT THIS PLANE LOAD WOULD MEET LESS THAN ONE THIRD OF SOLOFRA'S NEEDS. TOWN HAD UP TILL THEN RECEIVED NOTHING MORE THAN A SMALL AMOUNT OF FOOD.
2. MAYOR OF SOLOFRA APPEALED DIRECTLY TO CONSUL GENERAL NAPLES FOR SPECIFICALLY BRITISH HELP. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE TOWN HAD SOME BRITISH CONNECTIONS, POSSIBLY THROUGH LEATHER WORKING TRADE. CAMPBELL ESTABLISHED WITH ITALIAN GOVERNMENT COORDINATOR, ZAMBERLETTI, THAT ITALIAN AUTHORITIES REGARDED SOLOFRA AS IN URGENT NEED AND FAVOURED CONCENTRATION OF BRITISH AID THERE.
3. CAMPBELL TOGETHER WITH ADMIRAL BUCHANAN FROM NATO IS VISITING SOLOFRA THIS MORNING AND WILL REPORT ON HIS RETURN. MEANWHILE, HE BEGS US SEND OUT A THIRD CONSIGNMENT ALSO TO BE CONSIGNED TO SOLOFRA. I FULLY SUPPORT THIS PLEA. WE ARE MEANWHILE DOING WHAT WE CAN BY WAY OF PRIVATE ASSISTANCE, WITH A VIEW TO POSSIBLE "ADOPTION" OF SOLOFRA AS SPECIFICALLY BRITISH RESPONSIBILITY. THIS, HOWEVER, MUST DEPEND ON CAMPBELL'S REPORT.
4. YOU WILL HAVE HEARD ACCOUNTS OF DRAMATIC INTERVENTION BY PRESIDENT PERTINI ON TELEVISION ON EVENING OF 26 NOVEMBER AND THE RESIGNATION OF MINISTER OF INTERIOR. THE PREFECT OF AVELLINO HAS ALSO BEEN REMOVED. WHILE THERE MAY BE AN ELEMENT OF POLITICAL THEATRE IN THESE MOVES, PRESIDENT PERTINI HAS EXPRESSED THE DEEP SHOCK FELT BY ITALIAN PEOPLE AND ANGER THAT CIVIL EMERGENCY PROVISIONS HAVE BEEN DISREGARDED. WHILE THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT CONDITIONS ARE EXTREMELY DIFFICULT ORGANISATION OF RELIEF WORK BY THE ITALIAN AUTHORITIES MUST HAVE BEEN INADEQUATE. THIS EMPHASISES THE NEED TO GET SUPPLIES OUT QUICKLY AND DELIVERED INDEPENDENTLY. AT SOLOFRA WE SEEM TO HAVE FOUND A PLACE IN URGENT NEED WHICH WE CAN REACH WITH SOME, AT LEAST, OF THE SUPPLIES THAT MAY KEEP THE HOMELESS ALIVE. FOLLOWING THE STATE VISIT AND THE PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING THIS WEEK WITH PERTINI, IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT WE SHOULD DO ALL WE CAN AND QUICKLY. WE CAN GET HELP IF NECESSARY FROM THE U.S. FORCES TO SEE THAT OUR SUPPLIES MADE THEIR DESTINATION.

ARCULUS

[COPIES SENT TO NO 10 DOWNING ST]

LIMITED

CONS D

PS/PUS

WED

ECD(I)

CHIEF CLERK

FINANCE D

ODA (DISASTER UNIT)

MR BULLARD

ERD

PS

MR FERGUSSON

DEF D

PS/LPS

MR ADAMS

RESTRICTED



GR 480

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

FM ROME 261330Z NOV 80

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 635 OF 26 NOVEMBER 1980

INFO NAPLES (A)

*Is → keep followed up?  
mt*

YOUR TELNO 573 AND TELECON VEREKER/CULSHAW: EARTHQUAKE DISASTER.

MIPT.

1. MINISTRY OF INTERIOR, WHO ARE CO-ORDINATING ALL RELIEF REQUIREMENTS, HAVE NOT (NOT) MADE ANY REQUEST FOR A MOBILE HOSPITAL. BOTH THEY AND THE MFA TODAY CONFIRMED THAT THE ITALIAN PRIORITIES REMAIN AS GIVEN IN OUR TELNO 632. THE MATERIAL ON OUR TWO FLIGHTS WAS THEREFORE WELL CHOSEN (AND HAS BEEN MENTIONED IN THE LOCAL MEDIA) I DO NOT (NOT) RECOMMEND THAT WE PURSUE THE IDEA OF A MOBILE HOSPITAL.
2. MINISTRY OF INTERIOR TOLD US TODAY THAT AT PRESENT THERE WAS NO SHORTAGE OF BLOOD OR BLOOD PLASMA.
3. MILITARY UNITS FROM ALL OVER ITALY HAVE CONVERGED ON THE SCENE. THERE IS THEREFORE NO LACK OF SKILLED MANPOWER. MY STRONG IMPRESSION AFTER VISITING NAPLES YESTERDAY (SEE MIPT) IS THAT THE MAIN PROBLEM IS HOW TO GET THE RESCUE TEAMS TO THE STRICKEN VILLAGES IN REMOTE AND MOUNTAINOUS AREAS. I THEREFORE DOUBT WHETHER AT THIS STAGE UNITS OF THE ROYAL ENGINEERS COULD ADD MUCH TO THE RELIEF EFFORTS.
4. IN THE LONGER TERM, WHEN THE WORK OF RECONSTRUCTION BEGINS THERE COULD WELL BE A ROLE FOR THE ROYAL ENGINEERS. IF THERE IS A CHANCE OF THEM BEING AVAILABLE I SHOULD WELCOME INSTRUCTIONS TO RAISE THE MATTER AS SOON AS THE IMMEDIATE RESCUE OPERATIONS HAVE BEEN COMPLETED. THE PRESENTATIONAL AND POLITICAL ADVANTAGES OF INVOLVING BRITISH ARMED FORCES IN THIS WAY ARE CONSIDERABLE. AT THAT STAGE TOO WE MIGHT CONCENTRATE OUR EFFORTS ON ONE SELECTED AREA TO SERVE AS THE FOCAL POINT FOR BRITISH PRIVATE AND OFFICIAL HELP.
5. THE MFA HAVE TOLD US THAT THE ITALIAN DECISION NOT TO LAUNCH AN INTERNATIONAL APPEAL (EG THROUGH UNDR0) WAS TAKEN AT A HIGH LEVEL AND ON THE GROUNDS THAT ITALY WAS NOT A DEVELOPING COUNTRY AND SHOULD LOOK FIRST TO HER PARTNERS AND ALLIES IN EUROPE TO PROVIDE IMMEDIATE ASSISTANCE ON A BILATERAL BASIS. WE SHALL TELEGRAPH SEPARATELY A LIST OF OTHER COUNTRIES' CONTRIBUTIONS SO FAR.

RESTRICTED



## RESTRICTED

6. THE NUMBER OF HOMELESS IS NOW ESTIMATED AT 200,000 AND THIS FIGURE COULD STILL RISE, ESPECIALLY IF SECONDARY TREMORS CONTINUE. THE WELFARE OF THESE PEOPLE IS THE GOVERNMENT'S PRIMARY CONCERN. WE HAVE TAKEN THE LINE, CONSISTENT WITH WHAT THE PRIME MINISTER TOLD FORLANI, THAT WE ARE ANXIOUS TO HELP AND WELCOME INFORMATION ABOUT ITALIAN REQUIREMENTS. I CANNOT THEREFORE RULE OUT THE POSSIBILITY OF A FURTHER REQUEST FOR TENTS AND BLANKETS. IN THAT CASE, I HOPE THAT DESPITE THE FINANCIAL CONSTRAINTS, WE COULD QUICKLY AGREE TO SEND A THIRD CONSIGNMENT BY AIR. A FURTHER BRITISH CONTRIBUTION OF THAT KIND WOULD NOT DUPLICATE OTHER COUNTRIES' EFFORTS AND WOULD BE OF IMMEDIATE VALUE TO THE EARTHQUAKE VICTIMS.

ARCULUS

LIMITED  
WED  
FINANCE D  
ER D  
EC D (1)  
DEFENCE I  
CONS D  
PS  
PS/LPS  
PS/PUS  
SIR E YOUDE  
MR BULLARD  
MR FERLUSSON  
MR ADAMS

COPIES SENT TO  
No. 10 DOWNING STREET

2  
RESTRICTED