

RESTRICTED

adg

file

bc Press Office

16 January 1981

ITALIAN EARTHQUAKE RELIEF

As I mentioned to you on the telephone, the Prime Minister was not altogether happy with the texts enclosed with your letter to me of 15 January. I enclose a redrafted message from the Prime Minister to Signor Forlani and a redrafted press announcement.

M. O'D. L. ALEXANDER

Francis Richards, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

RESTRICTED

GB

E.R.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO SIGNOR FORLANI

I am happy to be able to tell you that the British Government have decided to give a substantial number of British manufactured prefabricated buildings for use by the survivors of the terrible earthquake which struck your country in November. I understand that Signor Zamberletti considers that such buildings would be particularly welcome.

We envisage that the buildings should be provided in the first instance for the area in which British aid has so far been concentrated. The cost of the buildings and of their transport to Italy will be borne by the British Government. Our Consulate-General in Naples is already in close touch with the local authorities as well as with Signor Zamberletti's organisation and will be responsible for coordinating with them arrangements for getting the buildings to the area and installing them there.

E.R. 1000

DRAFT PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT

In addition to the immediate relief which was provided by HM Government in the period immediately following the Italian earthquake, a number of British manufactured prefabricated buildings for the longer term relief of the victims are to be provided. The total cost of the additional aid will be up to £0.5 m. The arrangements for procurement and transport will be made by the Crown Agents.

The Italian Government have warmly welcomed this proposal.

CONFIDENTIAL

RESTRICTED



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

①

Prime Minister

15 January 1981

Apr list?

- It needs redrafting.

Ans 15/1

I have had a go.
not

Dear Michael,

Italian Earthquake Relief

You wrote to me on 13 January to say that the Prime Minister had agreed to the proposals for further relief for the victims of the Italian earthquake disaster which were set out in my letter of 12 January. The Crown Agents are proceeding urgently with arrangements for procurement and shipment of the prefabs.

(Attached)

As envisaged in that letter I now attach a telegram containing a message which the Prime Minister may wish to send to the Italian Prime Minister informing him of the decision. I also attach a draft of a statement which your Press Office may wish to make once Signor Forlani has acknowledged the Prime Minister's message. We propose to instruct Sir Ronald Arculus, in handing over the message, to seek Italian views on the timing of the announcement.

Yours ever,

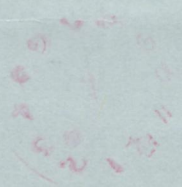
(F N Richards)
Private Secretary

M O'D B Alexander Esq
10 Downing Street

RESTRICTED

Office of the Secretary of Defense

Washington, D.C. 20301



15 JAN 1981

File No.....

OUTWARD

Security Classification
RESTRICTED

Department

Drafted by P W M Vereker
(Block Capitals)

TELEGRAM

Precedence
IMMEDIATE

Tel. Extn.....

DESKBYZ

FOR
COMMS. DEPT.
USE

Despatched (Date)
(Time)Z

POSTBYZ

PREAMBLE

(Time of Origin) Z (G.M.T.) (Restrictive Prefix)

(Security Class.) RESTRICTED (Caveat/ Privacy marking)

(Codeword) (Deskby) Z

TO IMMEDIATE ROME Tel. No.of
(precedence) (post)

AND TO (precedence/post)

AND SAVING TO

REPEATED TO (for info) *Routine WEEP Bureau.*

SAVING TO (for info)

Distribution: -

WED

Finance Dept

PS

PS/LPS

PS/PUS

Chief Clerk

Mr Bullard

Mr Fergusson

WED

Parliamentary Unit

News Dept

Copies to:

Mr J Davies,

Crown Agents

[TEXT]

ITALIAN EARTHQUAKE RELIEF

1. Please convey following message from the Prime Minister to Signor Forlani.

Begins. I am happy to tell you that the British

Government has decided to ^{*give*} ~~make available to you as~~

^{*how many?*} ~~soon as possible~~ ^{*substantial*} a number of British-manufactured

^{*?*} prefabricated ^{*steel buildings, use by*} ~~units~~ for the longer term relief of

the survivors of the terrible earthquake which took

place when I was in Rome in November, and which has

~~aroused profound feelings of shock and sympathy in~~

/this

RESTRICTED

~~this country, as elsewhere.~~ As you know, we provided several plane loads of relief assistance in the days immediately following the earthquake, and we have since been considering what more we could usefully do. I understand that when our Ambassador, Sir Ronald Arculus, ~~saw Signor Zamberletti recently in Naples,~~ ^{from that} Signor Zamberletti ^{considers} made it clear that ~~prefabricated~~ ^{such buildings} units for social uses would be particularly welcome. We envisage that these ^{buildings} units should be provided in the first instance for the area in which British aid has so far been concentrated. The costs of the ^{buildings} units themselves and of their transport to Italy will be borne by the British Government. Our Consulate-General in Naples is already in close touch with the local authorities as well as with Signor Zamberletti's organization and would be responsible for coordinating with them arrangements for onward transport to the stricken area and installation of the units in appropriate sites. Ends

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN

ITALIAN EARTHQUAKE RELIEF: DRAFT PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT

1. ~~The Prime Minister has decided, on the~~
~~advice of the Secretary of State for Foreign and~~
The British Govt are
~~Commonwealth Affairs,~~ to provide a number of British
manufactured prefabricated buildings for the longer
term relief of the victims of the Italian earthquake,
in addition to the immediate relief which was provided
by the Government in the period immediately following
the earthquake. The total additional amount to be
provided will be up to £0.5 million. The arrangements
for procurement and transport will be made by the
Crown Agents.

2. The Italian Government have warmly welcomed
this proposal.