

SUBJECT

T 6/81

RESTRICTED

2733 - 1

GRS 303
RESTRICTED
FM FCO 191300Z JAN 81
TO IMMEDIATE ROME
TELEGRAM NUMBER 9 OF 19 JANUARY
INFO UKREP BRUSSELS

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T 6/81

ITALIAN EARTHQUAKE RELIEF

1. PLEASE CONVEY FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO SIGNOR FORLANI.

BEGINS. 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. ENDS.

2. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT TO BE ISSUED BY NO 10 ONCE SIGNOR FORLANI HAS ACKNOWLEDGED THE PRIME MINISTER'S MESSAGE.

BEGINS. 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 POUNDS STERLING 0.5M.

1

RESTRICTED

/ THE

RESTRICTED

2733 - 1

THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR PROCUREMENT AND TRANSPORT WILL BE MADE BY THE CROWN AGENTS.

THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT HAVE WARMLY WELCOMED THIS PROPOSAL.
ENDS.

3. PLEASE CONFIRM WITH THE ITALIAN AUTHORITIES THAT THEY SEE NO OBJECTION TO THE RELEASE OF THIS ANNOUNCEMENT AS SOON AS SIGNOR FORLANI'S REPLY IS RECEIVED.

CARRINGTON

LIMITED
WED
FINANCE DEPT
NEWS DEPT
PS
PS/LPS
PS/PUS
MR BULLARD
MR FERGUSSON

COPIES TO
MR FROOD, CROWN AGENTS
MR J HARD, ODA

COPIES SENT TO
No. 10 DOWNING STREET