



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

21 May, 1981.

I attach a copy of a letter from the Italian Ambassador, which we received today, forwarding a message from Signor Forlani thanking the Prime Minister for the help we have given the Italians with the reconstruction and redevelopment work in that part of Southern Italy which was struck by last November's earthquake.

I should be glad to know whether you think the Prime Minister should respond in any way.

C. A. WHITMORE

Francis Richards, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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The Italian Ambassador
to the United Kingdom

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Prime Minister
MW
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3839

London, 19th May, 1981

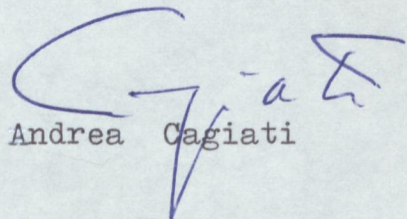
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Dear Mr Alexander

At a time when, the emergency phase being over, we move towards a period of reconstruction and re-development of the areas of Southern Italy hit by the earthquake last year, the President of the Italian Council of Ministers, Signor Arnaldo Forlani, wishes to send to the Prime Minister the enclosed message of thanks.

I would be most grateful if you could kindly convey to Mrs. Thatcher the above mentioned message together with a rough translation of the same, also enclosed.

Very sincerely yours


Andrea Cagiati

Encs.

M. O. B. Alexander, Esq.

SUBJECT

cc. Subject
Master

PRIME MINISTER'S

PERSONAL MESSAGE

ROUGH TRANSLATION SERIAL No. 75c/81

"Dear Prime Minister,

Now that we are able to make a first assessment of the reconstruction and redevelopment work carried out in the two regions of Southern Italy so terribly devastated by the earthquake last November, it is my wish to express to you, also on behalf of the Italian Government, our most sincere thanks for the solidarity with which the authorities, institutions and people of Great Britain have responded to this appalling tragedy.

The support so spontaneously and generously offered constitutes a further testimony of the ties of friendship and co-operation existing between Italy and Great Britain and of the bond represented by our common aim to achieve European unity.

I am glad of this opportunity to recall the favourable disposition of your Country with regards to the emergency measures and long-term financial aid for the disaster areas decided upon by the Community.

In renewing my personal thanks and those of the Italian Government, I send you my best regards.

Arnaldo Forlani".

16th May, 1981.



PRIME MINISTER'S

PERSONAL MESSAGE

SERIAL NO. *Italian Embassy, 75c/81*

14, Three Kings Yard,

London, W.1.

Text of the message addressed to The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher by the President of the Italian Council of Ministers, Signor Arnaldo Forlani.

"Signor Primo Ministro,

Nel momento in cui può tracciarsi un primo bilancio dell'opera di ricostruzione e di sviluppo delle due regioni così gravemente colpite dal sisma del novembre scorso, desidero esprimerLe, a nome del Governo Italiano e mio personale, il più sentito ringraziamento per la concreta solidarietà di cui le autorità, gli enti e i privati cittadini del Suo Paese hanno dato prova in tale triste circostanza.

Il contributo così spontaneamente e generosamente offerto costituisce una ulteriore testimonianza dei vincoli di amicizia e di collaborazione che legano l'Italia e la Gran Bretagna, e del legame rappresentato dal comune impegno per l'edificazione dell'unità europea.

Mi è gradita questa occasione per ricordare la favorevole disposizione del Suo Paese con riferimento agli aiuti immediati ed agli interventi finanziari a più lungo termine decisi dalla Comunità a favore delle regioni sinistrate.

Con questi sentimenti Le rinnovo, Signor Primo Ministro, il più sincero ringraziamento del Governo Italiano e Le invio i miei migliori saluti.

Arnaldo Forlani."

Message dated 16th May, 1981.



CF

ccfr

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10 DOWNING STREET

Subject on Italy: Tanti
Anglo Italian Summit

3 June 1981

THE PRIME MINISTER

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T85/81

Dear Signor Forlani,

Thank you for your letter of 27 May explaining that you were unable to come to London for talks on 2/3 June. I too much regret the postponement of a meeting to which I had been greatly looking forward, but of course I fully understand the need for you to be in Rome at the present time.

Perhaps I could take this opportunity to thank you also for your letter of 16 May, in which you expressed gratitude for the help given by the Government and people of the United Kingdom in the areas of Italy affected by last November's earthquake. As you know, I was myself in Rome when the earthquake struck, and the vivid memory of those first moments makes me particularly glad that my country has been able to contribute towards the relief and reconstruction programme.

Yours sincerely
Margaret Thatcher

His Excellency Signor Arnaldo Forlani

Handwritten mark



(2)

Prime Minister

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

Print 2/6

May we arrange
a written
confirmation to put
the information
on record

1 June 1981

Dear Michael,

Italian Earthquake Relief

In your letter of 13 January you conveyed the Prime Minister's agreement that a further £0.5 million should be spent on the purchase and transport of British manufactured prefabricated buildings for use in the disaster area in Southern Italy. The Prime Minister may wish to know that the operation we then set in hand was successfully completed on 9 May with the ceremonial handing over by HM Ambassador in Rome to the local Italian authorities of a number of prefabricated buildings at the villages of Serino and Solofra. The operation was supervised by the Crown Agents and was completed on time, against considerable odds, thanks to the untiring efforts of a small team of Royal Engineers who took over most of the construction work from the UK contractors. There is no doubt that this gift to the Italian authorities is greatly appreciated by the local communities: indeed, it is no exaggeration to say that it will enable normal life to resume in the two villages in question. The President of Italy, S. Pertini, is aware of what we have done. I attach a note describing the buildings provided.

MR

Yours ever,

Francis Richards

(F N Richards)
Private Secretary

M O D'B Alexander Esq
10 Downing Street
LONDON
SW1



SUMMARY OF UNITS PROVIDED BY HMG

(1) SERINO

- (a) An Old Peoples' Home, consisting of two Dormitory Units, each divided into six bedrooms and a corridor; and two General Purpose Units, linked to the bedrooms by a corridor.
- (b) An Agricultural College consisting of four Classrooms.
- (c) Three Social Centres, each of one building.

(2) SOLOFRA

- (a) Two Classroom complexes, each comprising two buildings connected by a covered corridor.
- (b) Two Social Centres linked by common entrance porch.
- (c) Community Centre complete with two sets of moveable partitioning.



~~SECRET~~

2 JUN 1966

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11 9 8 7 6

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