



British Legation to the Holy See

91 Via Condotti  
I-00187 Rome

Telephone 689-462 687-479

*1/2 cc Mr. Fergusson*

*30/6  
Mr. Callan  
Mr. [unclear]*

R P Osborne Esq  
W E D  
F & C O  
London SW1A 2AH

*rather illuminating*

Your reference

Our reference

I020/1

Date

23 June 1981

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*Dear Roy*

ITALIAN POLITICAL SITUATION

*(27)*

1 Please refer to Rome Tel. No. 236 of 19 June to the FCO.

2 When I asked Monsignor Tonucci yesterday what he thought about the prospect of having a government in Italy which would be the first since 1946 not headed by a Christian Democrat he replied that the change will matter little to the Vatican as he expects the coalition government to follow the line established by the Christian Democrats on most matters. He went on to say that it was a good thing that Spadolini rather than Craxi was forming the new government as the former was very well versed in Church-State affairs and the latter was too much of a cynic for his liking. He added that it might be a good thing for the Christian Democrats not to be in forefront of criticism for a change.

*Yours ever,*

*Jim*  
J H Callan

cc Chancery - Rome