



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

7 September, 1983

My dear Signor Cossiga.

Thank you very much indeed for your kind letter of 3 September. I remember with pleasure our co-operation when you were Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Italy and, in particular, your understanding and help when Italy held the European Presidency.

I am indeed looking forward to receiving Signor Craxi next week and I very much hope that Signor Andreotti will visit us in London either at the same time or separately.

It is kind of you to offer to entertain me on some occasion in Rome. I should very much like to see you again. Meanwhile, I send you my warmest regards.

Yours sincerely
Margaret Thatcher

Signor Francesco Cossiga

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Subject
Francesco Cossiga

London, 3rd September 1983

Prime Minister and dear Friend,

Coming back from a short holiday in Ireland, I have been passing very few days, in a very private way, in London, host of my friend Ambassador Andrea Cagiati and of his charming wife.

Before leaving London I wish to send you my best cordial farewell, remembering our friendly and precious collaboration when I was Prime Minister and Foreign Minister ad interim of my Country, and especially during the Italian Presidency of the European Council in Luxembourg and Venice as well as during the Italian Presidency of the Summit of the Seven most industrialised Countries in Venice. I also have very good memories of our meetings in London and Rome in a difficult and delicate moment for the NATO and EEC Countries. I was then particularly glad to see that we were able to confirm and strengthen the already very good relations traditionally existing between our two Countries, in a climate of a mutual trust, esteem and, if you allow me, of sincere personal admiration.

I have met in Westminster, in a courtesy call, Lord Hailsham of Marylebone, Lord Chancellor, member of your Cabinet, in his capacity of Speaker of the House of Lords.

I have learnt of the next visit to London, to meet you, of my dear friend and Colleague Hon. Bettino Craxi, Italian

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The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, MP

Francesco Cossiga

Prime Minister, who gave his strong, courageous and friendly support to the foreign policy of the two Governments I presided. For the experience I personally had of his great interest in international problems (and particularly for EEC, NATO and peace within security) I am sure that the visit will strengthen the friendly relationship and the cooperation between our two Countries. These are the wishes I may express as Senator and European citizen, even in my new capacity as President of the Senate being obliged to impartiality (my position being different to that of the Lord Chancellor !)

I am happy that will probably be in London this month also the Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs my dear friend the Hon. Giulio Andreotti whom you have met as a colleague when he was President of the Italian Government.

I have learnt now of your eye disease and I wish to express you my best wishes for your prompt recovery.

Please give my best regards to Mr. Thatcher and your charming family .

In the hope of meeting you again in Rome, where I would like very much to have you sometime as my guest for lunch or dinner, as an old friend and colleague, I remain Mrs. Prime Minister and dear friend,

yours ever

Francesco