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10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

9 January, 1984.

Thank you for your letter of 9 January enclosing the text of a message to the Prime Minister from Signor Craxi. I shall convey this to the Prime Minister at once.

A. J. COLES

His Excellency Signor Andrea Cagiati, G.C.V.O.



10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

MR. HATFIELD  
CABINET OFFICE

Economic Summit

I enclose a copy of a letter which I have received from the Italian Ambassador, together with the letter from Mr. Craxi to Mrs. Thatcher and the accompanying translation to which the Ambassador refers.

I am copying this letter and enclosure to Roger Bone (Foreign and Commonwealth Office) and John Kerr (HM Treasury).

9 January 1983

COLES

So



*The Italian Ambassador  
to the United Kingdom*

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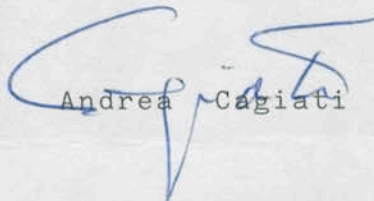
London, 9th January, 1984

*Dear Mr. Coles,*

I take pleasure in sending you, herewith enclosed, the text of a message addressed to Mrs. Thatcher by Signor Craxi. I understand that the original text has been conveyed through your Embassy in Rome.

I also enclose a rough translation of the same for your convenience.

*Sincerely yours*

  
Andrea Cagiati

Encs.

A. J. Coles, Esq.,  
Private Secretary to the Prime Minister (Overseas Affairs),  
10 Downing Street,  
London S W 1



SUBJECT

3.1.84

PRIME MINISTER'S  
PERSONAL MESSAGE  
SERIAL No. T3A184

ROUGH TRANSLATION

Dear Mrs. Thatcher,

Thank you for your kind letter of the 14<sup>th</sup> December last in which you invite me to attend the summit of the foremost industrialised countries planned in London from the 7th to the 9th June next and for keeping me informed about your preliminary views with regard to the preparation and the programme of the meeting.

I accept your invitation with pleasure. I am assured that the dates have already been agreed upon by our collaborators.

With regard to the course to be given to the summit, I believe you have rightly stressed the character and form that our meeting in London should adopt. As you know, I have no personal experience of this particular summit, but from information made available to me and from what I have personally been able to observe, even as an outsider, I am of the opinion that an atmosphere of informality and frank discussion of our common problems constitute important elements in making the London summit useful and constructive.

To my mind, the countries taking part in the summit, in view of the responsibilities they hold and the role they play, will have to tackle the major economic problems of the world in the prospect of singling-out trends and guidelines able to contribute to their solutions in the interest of all, which means also the interests of the less developed countries who have felt the adverse effects of the recession the most.

However, I too share your view that it would be preferable not to give rise to excessive expectations with regard to concrete decisions which might be taken in London. Our meeting, however important, certainly cannot be the forum in which the knots that a prolonged crisis of stagnation has made particularly intricate are untied and to find magic remedies to situations that only a continued and close cooperation can improve. It will however be

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necessary to succeed in strengthening our accord and achieve the maximum cohesion on the aims to pursue and the course of action to be taken.

I trust that in the coming months we will be able to define more clearly the agenda of the summit and the items to be discussed. Through our personal representatives we will be able to ascertain our respective views and ideas.

If we succeed in ensuring that the preparatory meetings are agile and informal, it will be possible, I believe, to come to London with clear ideas about the problems which, more than others, require our political evaluation and on which, consequently, we must concentrate our attention. I agree with you that it is from this common analysis that the text of the final communiqué must emerge, so that it can truly convey the spirit of our discussions and the decisions agreed upon.

Such an approach seems to me useful, also because it will enable us to give a coordinated response to the events and situations which will confront us at the time of the summit, thus avoiding pre-ordained schemes which would restrict our flexibility. This would not preclude our giving particular attention to those topics of merely political character that the international scene of the time will require us to examine.

In this perspective, and in order to ensure closer consultations in view of our common evaluation, I too agree on the method followed for the Williamsburg summit to alternate plenary sessions with separate meetings among heads of State/government, foreign ministers and finance ministers.

If agreeable to you, however we could also raise this subject in the course of our forthcoming meeting in Italy.

With my best regards,

Bettino Craxi.