



(sent via CDP  
mail)

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

26 June 1955

Dear President Perini;

I was delighted to receive your charming note and share your regret that it was not possible for us to meet on this occasion. I have always enjoyed our talks and found them fascinating.

The honorary degree is only a small recognition of the immense contribution you have made to the life of Italy and Europe and to world peace. I send you my warm personal regards.

Yours sincerely

Margaret Thatcher



PRIME MINISTER

President Pertini of Italy has sent you the attached manuscript note, written as he was passing through London earlier today on his way to Oxford to receive an honorary degree. It reads as follows:

"I am passing through London on my way to Oxford to receive an honorary degree from that ancient and prestigious university. I shall not be coming to see you, much as I would have liked to, because I do not want to disturb your most important work. But I would like to send you my affectionate regards and warm best wishes for your work which, my dear friend, is in the interests of the great British people and of peace in the world.

With great sympathy and affection.

Sandro Pertini."

We did in fact offer to arrange a meeting with you, and indeed lunch, but he declined this on grounds of lack of time. You may like to reply briefly and in manuscript. I attach some paper. I suggest something on the lines of:

"Dear President Pertini,

I was delighted to receive your charming note and share your regret that it was not possible for us to meet on this occasion. I have always enjoyed our talks and found them fascinating. The honorary degree is only a small recognition of the immense contribution which you have made to the life of Italy and of Europe over the years and to world peace. I send you my warm personal regards.

Margaret Thatcher."

C.D.P.

CHARLES POWELL

26 June 1985



Il Presidente  
della Repubblica Italiana

Londra - 26-VI-1985

Gentile e Cara Signora, sono  
di passaggio da Londra, dovendomi  
recare ad Oxford per ricevere da  
quella antica e prestigiosa Università  
la laurea "honoris causa".

Non vengo a trovarla - come sarebbe  
mio vivo desiderio - per non disturbarla  
dal Suo lavoro così prezioso.

Tuttavia desidero inviarle i miei sa-  
luti affettuosi e i più fervidi auguri per  
la Sua attività: Lavori, cara Amica,  
nell'interesse del grande e forte po-  
polo inglese e della pace nel mondo.

Con viva simpatia e con affetto.

Suo Sandro Pertini





10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

1 July, 1985

RETIREMENT OF PRESIDENT PERTINI

Thank you for your letter of 1 July recommending a message from the Prime Minister to President Pertini on his retirement.

The Prime Minister in fact wrote to President Pertini in her own hand last week, in reply to a note from him. I enclose a copy of the letter which he will receive early this week. In the circumstances, I do not think that she need send a further message.

(C.D. Powell)

C.R. Budd, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.



RESTRICTED



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

1 July 1985

Dear Charles,

Retirement of President Pertini of Italy

The Prime Minister has sent a message of congratulations to the newly-elected President of Italy, Francesco Cossiga.

Sir Geoffrey Howe thinks it would be appropriate if the Prime Minister were also to send a message to President Pertini when he steps down from office in the next week or so. I enclose a draft.

Pertini will be retiring after a distinguished Presidency. He has conferred considerable prestige on the office with his reputation for honesty and straightforwardness. He has a special regard for Britain and our institutions. He hosted a state visit to Italy by Her Majesty The Queen in 1980 and entertained the Prince and Princess of Wales on their recent visit. President Pertini was himself a Guest of HMG in February 1984 when the Prime Minister hosted a dinner in his honour. He was honoured by Oxford University on 26 June.

Yours ever,

Colin Budd

(C R Budd)  
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq  
10 Downing Street

\* Exact timing still not clear. We are investigating.

PS Rome have now confirmed that Pertini resigned on 29 June.

RESTRICTED



# OUT TELEGRAM

	Classification and Caveats <b>RESTRICTED</b>	Precedence/Deskby <b>ROUTINE</b>
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ZCZC  
GRS  
CLASS  
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PRE/ADD  
TEL NO

1	ZCZC
2	GRS
3	RESTRICTED
4	
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6	FM FCO
7	TO ROUTINE ROME
8	TELEGRAM NUMBER
9	RETIREMENT OF PRESIDENT PERTINI
10	1. Grateful if you would transmit the following message from the
11	Prime Minister to President Pertini after he formally hands over
12	the Presidency.
13	BEGINS: As you <del>step down to a</del> <i>begin your</i> well-earned retirement, please
14	accept my congratulations and warm good wishes for the future.
15	Your distinguished term of office as President of the Italian
16	Republic has deserved our great admiration. You have done much
17	to strengthen the ties between the British and Italian peoples.
18	ENDS.
19	
20	HOWE
21	NNNN
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NNNN ends telegram	BLANK	Catchword
File number	Dept P/Office	Distribution Limited WED Protocol Dept News Dept Research Dept PS PS/Mr Rifkind PS/Lady Young PS/PUS Mr Derek Thomas Mr Jenkins PS/No 10
Drafted by (Block capitals)		
Telephone number		
Authorised for despatch		
Comcen reference	Time of despatch	





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