

GRS 60

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FM ROME  
TO PRIORITY FCO  
TELNO 731  
OF 021005Z DECEMBER 86

*Cardline CP 3/12*  
*Oh dear!*  
*CDP.*

MY TELNO 704:  
ANGLO-ITALIAN SUMMIT

1. CRAXI'S DIPLOMATIC ADVISER HAS NOW WRITTEN TO CONFIRM THAT CRAXI AGREES 11 FEBRUARY AS THE DATE FOR THE NEXT SUMMIT IN LONDON, AND THE PROPOSAL THAT THE MEETING SHOULD TAKE PLACE WITHIN THE SPACE OF A SINGLE DAY.

BRIDGES

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PS/LADY YOUNG  
PS/MRS CHALKER  
PS/MR EGGAR  
PS/AUS  
MR THOMAS  
MR RATFORD  
MR BRAITHWAITE  
MR RENWICK

COPIES TO:  
MR WILLIAMSON, CABINET  
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THIS TELEGRAM  
WAS NOT  
ADVANCED

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TO PRIORITY FCO  
TELNO 704  
OF 201111Z NOVEMBER 86

*CR*  
*Mr. Ryster*  
*to Mr*  
*on*

YOUR TELNO 339: **ANGLO/ITALIAN SUMMIT**

1. WE PUT THE PROPOSED DATES IN YOUR TUR TO THE ITALIANS. CRAXI'S OFFICE HAVE TOLD US UNOFFICIALLY THAT WEDNESDAY 11 FEBRUARY WOULD SUIT THE DIARIES OF BOTH CRAXI AND ANDREOTTI. CRAXI'S OFFICE HAVE ALSO SAID THAT AT THIS STAGE THEY ARE ASSUMING THAT THE MINISTERIAL TEAM WILL BE THE SAME AS FOR THE FLORENCE SUMMIT LAST MARCH.
2. WE HAVE ASKED FOR FORMAL CONFIRMATION OF THE 11 FEBRUARY DATE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

BRIDGES

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MR THOMAS  
MR RATFORD  
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LONDON SW1A 2AA

*From the Private Secretary*

7 November 1986

**THE NEXT ANGLO-ITALIAN SUMMIT**

Thank you for your letter of 5 November about the date for the next Anglo-Italian Summit.

The Prime Minister agrees that we should offer the Italians a date early next year, even though it is unlikely that they will be able to accept it, and that the Summit will in consequence be delayed until much later in 1987. The only dates which the Prime Minister could manage in the period in question are Friday 23 January and Wednesday 11 February. You may put these to the Italians, emphasising our intention that the Summit should be conducted in the space of a single day.

(C.D. POWELL)

Robert Culshaw, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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EA

PRIME MINISTER

ANGLO-ITALIAN SUMMIT

We are due for another Anglo-Italian summit in the first part of next year, this time in London.

It is complicated by the likely change of Prime Minister in Italy in March.

The suggestion is that we should propose to Craxi a summit in February. There is a good chance that he would decline; and the Italians have made clear that thereafter it will probably not be possible to find dates until autumn 1987 (which will suit well). But the courtesy will be appreciated.

There must be some risk that Craxi would accept February. But we are actually due for a Summit then.

Agree to offer a date in February?

CDP

Yes ✓

(C. D. POWELL)

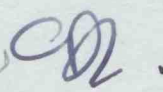
6 November 1986



10 DOWNING STREET

CR

Is there a day in  
Jan. or Feb. when  
we could offer the  
Italians a summit  
here? We would  
need approx 1030 -  
400 pm.

Fri 23 JAN   
Wed 11 Feb  
Wed 18 Feb  
Wed 25 Feb  
Fri 27 Feb.



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

5 November 1986

Dear Charles

The Next Summit With Italy

I understand that you discussed this with Sir Patrick Wright after his visit to Rome in mid-October. I enclose a copy of Lord Bridges's telegram reporting the conversation between Sir Patrick Wright and Renato Ruggiero.

The normal timing of the next British-Italian Summit in London (spring 1987) in relation to Craxi's expected withdrawal from the Prime Ministership by March poses a dilemma over issuing an invitation. To propose dates before March could result, unless Craxi went early, in the Summit being held with an outgoing Italian Prime Minister. To propose later dates, or to delay proposing dates, would look like waiting on the appointment of Craxi's (Christian Democrat) successor. The Foreign Secretary supports Lord Bridges's view that we should offer a Summit before February, though in the knowledge that, as Lord Bridges has reported, circumstances and other commitments may make it impracticable for Craxi to accept. This recommendation is based on the view that Craxi is likely to remain a major figure on the Italian scene, and that the courtesy of making the offer will in Italian eyes be as important as bringing it into effect.

If the Prime Minister agrees, we should be grateful to know what dates in January or in early February might be offered to the Italians.

Yours ever

(R N Culshaw)  
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq  
PS/10 Downing Street

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OF 171110Z OCTOBER 86

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ANGLO/ITALIAN SUMMIT

SUMMARY:

1. THE PUS DISCUSSED THE TIMING OF THE NEXT BILATERAL SUMMIT IN HIS TALKS ON 16 OCTOBER WITH HIS OPPOSITE NUMBER RUGGIERO. RUGGIERO SAID IT WOULD HAVE TO BE BEFORE MARCH, OR NOT UNTIL AUTUMN 1987.

DETAIL:

2. THE PUS SAID THAT THE NEXT SUMMIT WAS DUE TO TAKE PLACE IN BRITAIN. IF CRAXI CEASED TO BE PRIME MINISTER IN MARCH 1987 AS EXPECTED, WHAT WOULD BE THE IMPLICATION FOR THE TIMING OF THE SUMMIT?

3. RUGGIERO BELIEVED THAT CRAXI WOULD LEAVE, ALTHOUGH IT WAS NOT CLEAR WHO WOULD BE PRIME MINISTER AFTER HIM. HE RECOGNISED THAT THERE WOULD NOT BE TIME TO HOLD A SUMMIT IN THE NEXT MONTH OR SO, AND MENTIONED THAT THERE WAS TO BE A BILATERAL SUMMIT WITH THE FRENCH ON 28 NOVEMBER. IF WE WISHED TO PROPOSE ANOTHER SUMMIT MEETING WITH CRAXI, IT WOULD HAVE TO BE EITHER BEFORE CHRISTMAS OR IN EARLY 1987, BEFORE FEBRUARY. OTHERWISE IT WOULD HAVE TO BE PUT OFF UNTIL THE AUTUMN OF 1987, BECAUSE OF THE CHANGE IN PRIME MINISTER HERE AND OTHER COMMITMENTS EG THE WESTERN ECONOMIC SUMMIT IN VENICE NEXT JUNE. THE PUS THANKED RUGGIERO AND PROMISED TO REPORT.

COMMENT:

4. THIS EXCHANGE PROVIDES USEFUL CLARIFICATION ABOUT THE TIMING OF THE NEXT BILATERAL SUMMIT. I HOPE THAT WE CAN PROPOSE A SUMMIT TO TAKE PLACE BEFORE FEBRUARY. ALTHOUGH CRAXI WILL BE LEAVING OFFICE IN MARCH, HE WILL BE AROUND IN ITALIAN POLITICAL LIFE AS ONE OF THE PRINCIPAL ACTORS FOR A LONG TIME TO COME. POSTPONEMENT UNTIL THE AUTUMN OF 1987 MIGHT NOT BE EASY AT THE LONDON END, AND WOULD MEAN AN UNDESIRABLY LONG GAP OF SOME 18 MONTHS AFTER THE PREVIOUS SUMMIT IN FLORENCE IN MARCH THIS YEAR. WE HAVE BEEN TOLD INFORMALLY

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BY CRAXI'S OFFICE THAT HIS DIARY UNTIL MARCH IS NOW PRETTY FULL,  
AND IT IS FAR FROM CERTAIN THAT HE WILL BE ABLE TO COME TO LONDON  
FOR A BILATERAL SUMMIT. NEVERTHELESS I HOPE THAT WE CAN OFFER ONE.

BRIDGES

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PS/PUS  
MR THOMAS  
MR RATFORD.

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