

PRIME MINISTER

ITALIAN PRESS CONFERENCE

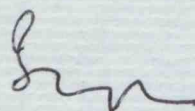
The joint press conference will be held in No 12 - the Whips' Room, at 3pm. I will preside and call the questions. Mr Craxi will be accompanied by his press spokesman.

I would intend to call a halt after a maximum of 30 minutes.

So far as I can see there are only two issues which the media might try to exploit because of potential divisions:

- EC Budget, CAP, expenditure control
  
- whether or not Italy is now richer than Britain; (on this last point it might be worth saying that your policies have, of course, been directed at ending Britain's decline - a policy that was manifestly necessary and which is succeeding with continuing low inflationary growth, huge increases in our foreign holdings, the 1m increase in new jobs since 1983 and the brighter economic outlook as we enter the sixth continuous year of growth)

I will do a press digest tomorrow and alert you to any other contentious items likely to arise in the press briefing.



BERNARD INGHAM  
10 February 1987

I think that you may also be asked about the recent rape case. It seems to me that it is a matter for the judicial authorities; neither you nor Craxi ought to comment. CDP 10/2.