

GRS 320

Restricted

RESTRICTED

FM ROME

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELNO 109

OF 121530Z FEBRUARY 87

INFO ROUTINE UKREP BRUSSELS

INFO SAVING OTHER EC POSTS

MY TELNO 105: ANGLO-ITALIAN SUMMIT IN LONDON:
ITALIAN PRESS REACTION.

SUMMARY:

1. ITALIAN PRESS AND TV HAVE GIVEN FULL COVERAGE TO THE TALKS, WITH EMPHASIS ON THEIR FRIENDLINESS AND SUCCESS RATHER THAN ON COMPARISON OF THE TWO ECONOMIES.

DETAIL:

2. THE SUMMIT WAS THE LEAD ITEM ON THE MAIN ITALIAN TELEVISION NEWS ON 11 FEBRUARY, WITH COVERAGE OF CRAXI'S ARRIVAL AT NO 10, EXTRACTS FROM THE CONCLUDING JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE, AND COMMENT ON THE RANGE OF THE TALKS AND THE SIMILARITY OF OUTLOOK BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. THE ATMOSPHERE CONVEYED WAS FRIENDLY AND WARM.

3. ALL TODAY'S MAIN PAPERS REPORT THE TALKS PROMINENTLY AND POSITIVELY. THERE IS MUCH PRAISE FOR THE ELEGANT WAY BOTH PRIME MINISTERS DEALT WITH THE QUESTION OF ITALY'S SUPPOSED ECONOMIC OVERTAKING OF BRITAIN. MOST PAPERS INTERPRET BRITISH AND ITALIAN PRESS CONFERENCE STATEMENTS ON EUROPEAN COMMUNITY FINANCING, CAP, EAST-WEST RELATIONS AND TERRORISM AS BEING IN GENERAL AGREEMENT.

4. THE SOCIALIST PAPER AVANTI, WHICH HAS IN THE PAST CRITICIZED THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT'S POLICIES, TAKES A WARM ATTITUDE THIS TIME, DESCRIBING THE CONVERSATIONS AS PARTICULARLY CORDIAL AND AS REACHING A LARGE MEASURE OF AGREEMENT ON MANY SUBJECTS. IL GIORNALE TALKS OF 'THE FULL SUCCESS' OF THE LONDON MEETING AND SEES THE TWO COUNTRIES AS HAVING DIFFERENT APPROACHES TO EC FINANCING BUT SIMILAR AIMS. ITALY'S TWO BIGGEST DAILIES, REPUBBLICA AND CORRIERE, CARRY ENTHUSIASTIC ACCOUNTS OF THE SUMMIT, WHICH EMPHASISES THE UNDERSTANDING AND AGREEMENT ON MOST SUBJECTS AND HIGHLIGHT THE PRIME MINISTER'S APPROVAL OF CRAXI'S MANSION HOUSE SPEECH.

5. THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF PRESIDENT COSSIGA'S STATE VISIT TO BRITAIN IS MENTIONED IN ALL NEWSPAPERS.

Restricted

1 COMMENT

Restricted

COMMENT:

6. THERE CAN BE NO DOUBT THAT THIS BILATERAL IS JUDGED BY THE ITALIAN MEDIA AS HAVING BEEN A REAL SUCCESS, AND THE TRIBUTE PAID TO CRAXI BY HIS INVITATION TO SPEAK AT THE MANSION HOUSE IS, DEEPLY APPRECIATED. HIS JUDICIOUSLY WORDED SPEECH AND THE WARM RECEPTION ACCORDED TO HIM THERE ARE SEEN AS SETTING THE CITY'S SEAL OF APPROVAL ON AN ECONOMICALLY SUCCESSFUL AND POLITICALLY STABLE ITALY. CRAXI HAS GAINED HIM STATURE FROM THE SUMMIT AND ANGLO-ITALIAN RELATIONS HAVE BENEFITED.

BRIDGES

YYYY

FCO PASS SAVINGS ADDRESSEES

RFHPAN 5141

- LIMITED
- WED
- MENS D
- INFO D
- PLANNING STAFF
- ACDD
- MED
- SCD
- ECDS
- PS
- PS / LADY YOUNG
- PS / MR EGGER
- PS / PS
- MR THOMAS
- MR BARRINGTON
- MR CATFORD
- MR BENWICK

COPIES TO:
B / NO 10 DOWNING ST.