

PRIME MINISTER'S

PERSONAL MESSAGE

SERIAL No. T161/88 10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA



SUBJECT

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THE PRIME MINISTER

24 October 1988

*Dear President de Mita,*

I am writing at once to say how very grateful I was for your kind hospitality during the Anglo/Italian Summit at the Villa Taranto. It was a marvellous place to meet and I am most grateful for all the trouble to which your staff went to make us so comfortable and welcome. I was particularly pleased that we were able to meet so soon after your return from your very successful visit to Moscow, so that I could hear your impressions. I think our broad assessment is very similar, even if there are some differences of emphasis. But I do think we must approach the whole question of a Human Rights Conference in Moscow very cautiously, insisting on substantial improvements in the Soviet Union's practice on human rights being put into effect before such a conference can take place.

May I also add a particular word of thanks for your kind gift - it is very pretty and will help remind me of a happy and successful meeting.

I look forward to seeing you again at the European Council in Rhodes.

*With every good wish.*

*Yours sincerely*

His Excellency Signor Ciriaco De Mita

*Raymond Walker*

DSS