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From the Private Secretary

15 January 1990

ANGLO-ITALIAN SUMMIT: LONDON: 23 FEBRUARY 1990

Thank you for your letter of 15 January about the proposed Anglo-Italian Summit in London on 23 February. I am confident the Prime Minister will be content with what you propose for participation and agenda. She will want a good session with Signor Andreotti, followed by a plenary session. I expect that she would prefer this to be in No. 10 rather than Lancaster House (although I am afraid this will mean setting up interpretation booths in the Cabinet Room). The plenary session could be followed by a press conference in No. 12 Downing Street and a lunch.

I do not think the Prime Minister would particularly favour the idea of accompanying Signor Andreotti to the National Gallery. I doubt there would be much public interest in such an event. No doubt the Italian Ambassador will give a dinner for him on the evening preceding the Summit where he can meet a number of people not directly connected with the Summit itself.

I am copying this letter to John Gieve (H.M. Treasury), Simon Webb (Ministry of Defence), Colin Walters (Home Office), Neil Thornton (Department of Trade and Industry) and to Sonia Phippard (Cabinet Office).

CHARLES POWELL

Richard Gozney, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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15 January 1990

Jean Charles,

Anglo-Italian Summit ^{AAR} London: 23 February

Since your letter of 29 November we have and offered the Italians 23 February for a bilateral summit in London. Signor Andreotti has accepted.

We are also attracted by the idea of the Prime Minister stopping over in Rome in late April to talk informally to Signor Andreotti ahead of the Italian Presidency. We shall be including this in advice we plan to send you soon about the April travel.

Summit Participation and Agenda

The Italians have said they would prefer limited participation (the two Prime Ministers, the two Foreign Ministers and one or at most two other Ministers). They suggest a short agenda, concentrating on recent developments in Eastern Europe, East/West relations and disarmament and EC priorities. This fits with our preference. The Foreign Secretary suggests that the Chancellor and the Trade Secretary and their counterparts should be invited, to allow for a thorough discussion of EC issues. Signor Ruggiero, Minister for Trade, has visited the UK this month, but the Italian Presidency justifies further discussion of his Single Market responsibilities. The two Treasury Ministers would discuss EC monetary issues. Signor Carli, Minister of the Treasury, has been a keen proponent of EMU and somewhat dismissive of the British plan.

The Home and Defence Secretaries have plans for early meetings with their Italian colleagues. Subject to their views, the Foreign Secretary sees no need to expand the Summit beyond those suggested above.

Venue

We suggest that the Summit should take place in London. Lancaster House is a possibility. The Prime Minister may prefer the more informal atmosphere of No 10. Other Ministers could meet their Italian counterparts in their own offices.

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Entertainment

The Prime Minister may wish to consider a short public event such as a visit with Signor Andreotti to the Exhibition of Italian pre-1400 Art at the National Gallery. We think this would appeal to him. (His interests include horse-racing and soccer, but it would not seem practical to suggest either during a short visit for a summit.)

It would be helpful to know the Prime Minister's views so that we can issue a formal invitation and make the arrangements.

I am copying this letter to John Gieve (HMT), Brian Hawtin (MOD), Colin Walters (Home Office), Neil Thornton (DTI) and Sonia Phippard (Cabinet Office).

Yours ever,

R. Howard Gozney

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