

SUBJECT
cc master
ops

GRS 250

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL
FM FCO
TO IMMEDIATE ROME
TELNO 384
OF 171100Z SEPTEMBER 85

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T 166A/85

ANGLO-ITALIAN SUMMIT

1. THE PRIME MINISTER HAS DECIDED THAT SHE WILL NOT NOW BE ABLE TO TRAVEL TO FLORENCE ON 29-30 OCTOBER FOR THE SUMMIT. NO 10 WILL PROPOSE ALTERNATIVE DATES IN DUE COURSE. GRATEFUL IF YOU WOULD CONVEY THE FOLLOWING PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO CRAXI.

BEGINS

'I VERY MUCH REGRET THAT NEW CIRCUMSTANCES, WHICH ARE LIKELY TO INVOLVE ME IN MAJOR COMMITMENTS HERE, WILL PREVENT ME FROM TRAVELLING TO ITALY ON 29-30 OCTOBER, THE DATES THAT WE HAD AGREED FOR OUR MEETING IN FLORENCE. I HAD BEEN LOOKING FORWARD GREATLY TO THAT OCCASION AND AM VERY SORRY FOR THE INCONVENIENCE THAT THIS CHANGE OF PLAN WILL CAUSE YOU AND YOUR COLLEAGUES. I HOPE THAT IT WILL PROVE POSSIBLE FOR US TO AGREE ALTERNATIVE DATES WHICH WILL NOT MEAN TOO LONG A POSTPONEMENT.

MEANWHILE SIR GEOFFREY HOWE INTENDS TO SUGGEST TO SIGNOR ANDREOTTI THAT HE MIGHT VISIT ROME FOR TALKS IN ADVANCE OF THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL IN LUXEMBOURG.'

ENDS

2. WHEN THE MESSAGE HAS BEEN DELIVERED, PLEASE TELL ANDREOTTI THAT IF THAT WOULD SUIT HIM I WOULD BE HAPPY TO VISIT ROME FOR TALKS AND/OR DINNER DURING THE SECOND HALF OF 13 NOVEMBER, ON THE EVE OF THE WEU MEETING.

HOWE

DISTRIBUTION

LIMITED

WED

ECD(I)

ECD(E)

RID

PROTOCOL DEPT

PS

PS/LADY YOUNG

PS/MR RIFKIND

PS/MR RENTON

PS/PUS

MR DEREK THOMAS

MR GOODALL

MR BRAITHWAITE

MR RENWICK

COPIES TO

PS/NR 10 D ST

PS/ SOS DEFENCE

PS/CHANCELLOR OF EX

PS/SOS TRADE AND INDUSTRY

CONFIDENTIAL

File No.

Department

Drafted by
(Block Capitals)

Tel. Extn.

OUTWARD

TELEGRAM

Security Classification
CONFIDENTIAL

Precedence
IMMEDIATE

DESKBY170830.....Z

FOR
COMMS. DEPT.
USE

Despatched (Date)
(Time)Z

POSTBYZ

PREAMBLE

(Time of Origin).....Z(G.M.T.)

(Restrictive Prefix).....
(Caveat/
Privacy marking).....

(Security Class.).....CONFIDENTIAL.....

(Codeword).....

(Deskby).....170830.....Z

TO.....IMMEDIATE.....FCO.....Tel. No.of.....
(precedence) (post)

AND TO (precedence/post).....

AND TO SAVING.....

INFO.....

INFO SAVING.....

Distribution:-

[TEXT]

FOLLOWING FOR PRIVATE SECRETARY FROM PS/PM

BUDD'S LETTER OF 16 SEPTEMBER: BILATERAL SUMMIT
WITH ITALIAN GOVERNMENT

Prime Minister agrees to send a message explaining the need to postpone the Summit but cannot at present offer alternative dates. Second sentence of draft telegram should therefore be amended to read: quote Number 10 will propose alternative dates in due course unquote. Penultimate sentence of draft message should read: quote I hope that it will prove possible for us to agree alternative dates which will not mean too long a postponement unquote. Following sentence should be omitted.

End

Copies to:-

*Italy: Summits
Pt 3.*

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

*Prime Minister**Agree message
as amended?*

16 September 1985

*Dear Charles,**CDP 16/9.**Yes not*Bilateral Summit with the Italian Government

Thank you for your letter of 2 September about the Prime Minister's decision to cancel her planned visit to Italy at the end of October.

The Foreign Secretary doubts if it would be sufficient for Lord Bridges simply to explain to the Italian Government that the Summit will have to be delayed until early in the New Year. He thinks it important for the Prime Minister to send a personal message to Signor Craxi, which should if possible propose alternative dates. I enclose a draft telegram to Rome.

Sir Geoffrey Howe had in any event considered arranging a bilateral with Andreotti before the Luxembourg Council. In the new circumstances he thinks it might be best for him to offer to visit Rome, and a reference to that effect has been inserted in the draft message to Craxi. While in Rome he would hope to call on Craxi.

*Yours ever,**Colin Budd*

(C R Budd)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

File No.

Department

Drafted by

(Block Capitals)

Tel. Extn.

OUTWARD

TELEGRAM

| |
|---|
| Security Classification CONFIDENTIAL |
| Precedence IMMEDIATE |
| DESKBYZ |

| | | | |
|----------------------------|------------|---------------|--------------|
| FOR COMMS. DEPT. USE | Despatched | (Date) | POSTBY |
| | | (Time)Z |Z |

PREAMBLE

(Time of Origin) Z (G.M.T.) (Restrictive Prefix)

(Security Class.) CONFIDENTIAL (Caveat/ Privacy marking)

(Codeword) (Deskby) Z

TO IMMEDIATE ROME Tel. No. of
(precedence) (post)

AND TO (precedence/post)

AND SAVING TO

REPEATED TO (for info)

SAVING TO (for info)

Distribution:-

- Limited
- WED
- ECD(I)
- ECD(E)
- RID
- Protocol Dept
- Private Secretary
- PS/Lady Young
- PS/Mr Rifkind
- PS/Mr Renton
- PS/PUS
- Mr Derek Thomas
- Mr Goodall
- Mr Braithwaite
- Copies to: Mr Renwick
- cc: No 10 Downing Street
- PS/Sec of State for Defence
- PS/Chancellor of the Exchequer
- PS/Sec of State for Trade and Industry

[TEXT]

ANGLO-ITALIAN SUMMIT

1. The Prime Minister has decided that she will not now be able to travel to Florence on 29-30 October for the summit. *No. 10 will propose alternative dates in due course.* ~~The Prime Minister could manage~~ as alternative dates. Grateful if you would convey the following personal message from the Prime Minister to Craxi. Begins.

I very much regret that new circumstances, which are likely to involve me in major commitments here, will prevent me from travelling to Italy on 29-30 October, the dates that we had agreed for our meeting in Florence.

I had been looking forward greatly to that occasion and!

CONFIDENTIAL

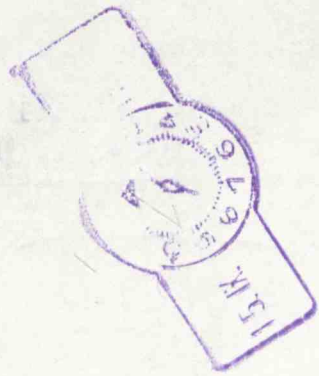
am/

am ~~very~~ sorry for the inconvenience that this change of plan will cause you and your colleagues. I hope it will prove possible for us to ~~fix~~ ^{agree} alternative dates ~~in the near future~~ ^{which will not mean too long a postponement}. ~~I have asked Lord Bridges to suggest some dates that might be possible for me.~~

Meanwhile Sir Geoffrey Howe intends to suggest to Signor Andreotti that he might visit Rome for talks in advance of the European Council in Luxembourg. ENDS.

2. When the message has been delivered, please tell Andreotti that if that would suit him I would be happy to visit Rome for talks and/or dinner during the second half of 13 November, on the eve of the WEU meeting.

HOWE





10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

2 September 1985

Dear Lew,

Bilateral Summit with the Italian Government

As you will know, we earlier agreed with the Italian Government that a Bilateral Summit would be held on Wednesday, 30 October, probably in Florence. However, since this date was agreed matters have moved forward over Northern Ireland and it is now likely that if an agreement is reached, it will be concluded in the last week of October, and it will be very important for the Prime Minister to be in the country in the period immediately following that. For this reason, the Prime Minister wants to take steps now to postpone the Anglo-Italian Summit although of course it will not be possible to explain to the Italian Government, at any rate at this stage, the reasons for this. I should also say that it will unfortunately be impossible to find an alternative date for the Summit until early in 1986.

I should be grateful if you could consider how best to present this to the Italian Government. It may well be enough for HM Ambassador in Rome simply to explain to the Italian Government that the date of 30 October is no longer possible for the Prime Minister and that the Summit will have to be delayed until early in the New Year. But if you thought it essential, the Prime Minister would no doubt agree to send Signor Craxi a message presenting her excuses.

Yours sincerely
Charles Powell

(Charles Powell)

L.V. Appleyard, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

cc: Mr. Wicks

MR. POWELL

ITALIAN BILATERALS - WEDNESDAY 30 OCTOBER

The Prime Minister expressed a desire to get out of these bilaterals at the diary meeting this morning. Could you please have a word with Nigel Wicks.

CR.

(Caroline Ryder)

23 August 1985