

CONFIDENTIAL

20



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

M. Verelst  
Mr. Laing

I have spoken to  
the FRG Embassy on  
(a) Sep. 1980  
on (b).  
Pr. 29/7

Miss Lavin

Dear Paul,

Pr. 29/7  
25/7

Wet  
tel audit meant  
PS/KRS 026/6  
PS/PS 28/7  
5  
25 July 1980  
Mr. Bullock  
Lord R. J. P.  
Mr. Ferguson  
Mr. Harman  
R. J.

copied to  
German

Anglo-German and Anglo-Italian Consultations

As I have already told you on the telephone, the Prime Minister has agreed that:

- (a) We should propose to the Federal German Government moving the dates of the Anglo-German bilateral from 17/18 November to 16/17 November. The Prime Minister would propose to arrive in Germany in time for dinner on Sunday, 16 November. She would prefer to leave late in the afternoon of Monday, 17 November but would be prepared, if necessary, to return after dinner that night;
- (b) We should propose to the Italian Government a visit on 23/24 November. The Prime Minister would, again, aim to arrive in Rome in time for dinner on Sunday, 23 November and to return to London late in the afternoon of Monday, 24 November. The Prime Minister would like to call on the Pope if he is in Rome.

I am sending a copy of this letter to David Wright (Cabinet Office).

Yours ever

Richard Alexander

Paul Lever, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

I have passed  
this on to Sam, &  
told them of Mr. Verelst's  
conversation with  
Aar Goldschmidt.

CONFIDENTIAL

19/7



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

25 July 1980

28 JUL 1980

Miss Smith

Dear Michael,

Anglo-Italian Consultations

It was agreed last October that Anglo-Italian Consultations should be held at Head of Government level twice a year. The last in the series took place in January when the Italian Prime Minister visited London. The timing of the next meeting was discussed in the margins of the Venice Summit. The Diplomatic Adviser to Signor Cossiga has now told Sir Ronald Arculus that Signor Cossiga is looking forward to seeing Mrs Thatcher and Lord Carrington again in Rome and has asked whether dates might be found in late November.

Lord Carrington would see advantage in a visit by the Prime Minister to Rome at the time proposed. It is important that we continue to take full advantage of the Italian wish to maintain a tactical alliance with us on Community questions. The suggested timing would be shortly before the next European Council Meeting (1-2 December) and well after the State Visit to Italy (14-17 October) which will also provide an opportunity for Lord Carrington to have consultations with the Italian Foreign Minister. However, you will wish to take account of the timing of the Anglo-German Summit about which I have written to you separately. Subject to that we propose that Mrs Thatcher might consider paying a two-day visit to Rome during the week beginning 24 November.

A visit to Rome would also provide a suitable occasion for a meeting with the Pope, if the Prime Minister so wished.

Our Embassy would like, if possible, to put suggested dates to Signor Cossiga's office before the end of this month.

I am sending a copy of this to David Wright (Cabinet Office).

Yours etc

Paul

(P Lever)

M O'D B Alexander Esq  
10 Downing Street

Draft to mins  
22517



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Secretary of State  
was out  
8 JUL 1980  
.../.../...  
.../.../...  
.../.../...

Mr Fergusson

Private Secretary

ANGLO-ITALIAN SUMMIT

(att)  
A \

1. In the margins of the Venice Council HM Ambassador at Rome undertook to explore Italian thinking about the date of the Prime Minister's next meeting with Signor Cossiga, which is due to take place in Italy. Sir Ronald Arculus has now reported that Signor Cossiga's Office would like the meeting to be held in the latter part of November. They have asked that we should suggest dates when Mrs Thatcher would be free.

2. I submit a self-explanatory draft letter from the Private Secretary to the Private Secretary at No 10. ECD(I) agree.

*P. Vereker*

P W M Vereker  
Western European Department

24 July 1980

cc Mr Spreckley, ECD(I)  
Mr Gladstone o/r

*[Signature]*  
24/7



*Mr. Verkerke*  
*Miss Taylor*  
*21/7*

*WED for early draft letter to HQ, 10 please.*

BRITISH EMBASSY,  
ROME.

15 July 1980

G G H Walden Esq *21/7*  
Private Secretary to the Secretary of State  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office  
LONDON S W 1.

*Mr Bullard*  
*Lord Bridges*  
*Mr Thompson*  
*Mr Whannay*  
*EC D(1)*

*21/7*

Dear George,

ANGLO/ITALIAN BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS

1. When we were in Venice I was asked to find out in mid-July what the Italians thought about the Prime Minister's next meeting with Signor Cossiga, which ought to take place towards the end of this year, though so far as we were concerned it could be allowed to slip into early next year.

2. I took this up with Berlinguer in Cossiga's office last week and reminded him about it today. He said he had now been able to consult his Prime Minister who was indeed looking forward to seeing Mrs Thatcher again in Rome, with Lord Carrington. He thought the visit should take place well after the State Visit by The Queen, which would in itself provide an opportunity for consultations between Lord Carrington and Signor Colombo. On the other hand it should take place shortly before the European Council Meeting at the beginning of December. Berlinguer interpreted this as meaning that we should aim at a meeting in the latter part of November. Because we were always better organised than the Italians he suggested that the Prime Minister's office might like to suggest some dates informally, so at least the Italians would know what dates were not convenient for Mrs Thatcher. This ought to be done if possible before the summer recess, i.e. at the end of July or beginning of August.

3. It is therefore clear that the Italians do not want the date to slip, and there is from their point of view considerable advantage in having the meeting before the next European Council. This might be turned to our advantage also.



4. When I mentioned this to Mrs Thatcher in Venice she said she would want to devote a day to the meeting in Rome and stay the night at the Villa Wolkonsky. Lord Carrington suggested that the meeting might take place outside Rome for greater peace and quiet. The only place I could think of offhand would be the Villa Rosebery in Naples. But given the time of year and for other practical reasons I daresay the Italians would prefer to have it in Rome.

5. Although it is strictly speaking for the Italians to propose dates, I see considerable merit in Berlinguer's invitation to us to make an opening bid. If you agree, I should be grateful if you could obtain some indications from No.10 which I can put to Berlinguer, preferably before the end of this month.

Yours ever,  
*R Arculus*

(R Arculus)