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SUBJECT 48632 - 1

PRIME MINISTER'S  
 PERSONAL MESSAGE  
 SERIAL No. T 206<sup>A</sup>/80

PP ROME  
 GRS 154  
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 FM FCO 211215Z OCT 80  
 TO PRIORITY ROME

TELGRAM NUMBER 531 OF 21 OCTOBER  
 ITALIAN GOVERNMENT CHANGES: MESSAGES FROM THE PRIME MINISTER  
 1. PLEASE PASS THE FOLLOWING MESSAGES FROM THE PRIME MINISTER  
 WHEN APPROPRIATE TO:

(A) SIGNOR FORLANI

BEGINS PLEASE ACCEPT MY WARM CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR  
 APPOINTMENT AS PRIME MINISTER. I LOOK FORWARD  
 TO WORKING WITH YOU CLOSELY ON THE MANY QUESTIONS  
 OF MUTUAL INTEREST AND CONCERN TO OUR TWO  
 GOVERNMENTS. ENDS

(B) SIGNOR COSSIGA

BEGINS I SHOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS MY PERSONAL GRATITUDE FOR  
 YOUR COOPERATION AND SUPPORT ON THE MANY QUESTIONS  
 WHICH HAVE PREOCCUPIED OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS, BOTH  
 BILATERALLY AND IN A WIDER CONTEXT, DURING YOUR  
 TIME AS PRIME MINISTER OF ITALY.

I WAS DISTURBED TO LEARN THAT YOUR HEALTH HAS  
 SUFFERED RECENTLY AND I WISH YOU A WELL-EARNED  
 REST FROM THE RIGOURS OF OFFICE. ENDS

CARRINGTON

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PCD	MR BULLARD
NEWS DEPT	MR FERGUSSON

*per. info.*



SMP

B.F. for Kelle

21 October 1980

Italian Government Changes

As I have already told you on the telephone, the Prime Minister has seen and approved the draft messages enclosed with your letter to me of 20 October.

M. O'D. B. ALEXANDER

R.M.J. Lyne, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

or.





Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

①  
Prime Minister

Apex lists of 2  
messages attached?

20 October 1980

Phd

Yes not

Dear Michael,

Italian Government Changes

As you know, Signor Forlani succeeded over the weekend in forming a Christian Democrat-led government, which adds the Social Democrats to Signor Cossiga's earlier three-party coalition.

The Prime Minister may wish to send the customary message of congratulations to the new Prime Minister. Given her close working contacts with the former Prime Minister, Mrs Thatcher may also wish to send a message to Signor Cossiga when he hands over office. Accordingly I attach a draft telegram to Rome incorporating the two proposed messages.

I enclose a Personality Note on Signor Forlani.

Yours etc  
R M J Lyne

(R M J Lyne)  
Private Secretary

M O'D B Alexander Esq  
10 Downing St



File No. ....  
Department .....WED.....  
Drafted by .....  
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TELEGRAM

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(TEXT)

ITALIAN GOVERNMENT CHANGES: MESSAGES FROM THE PRIME MINISTER

1. Please pass the following messages from the Prime Minister when appropriate to:

(a) Signor Forlani

BEGINS. Please accept my warm congratulations on your appointment as Prime Minister. I look forward to working with you closely on the many questions of mutual interest and concern to our two governments. ENDS

/ (b)



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(b) Signor Cossiga

BEINGS. I should like to express my personal gratitude for your cooperation and support on the many questions which have preoccupied our two governments, both bilaterally and in a wider context, during your time as Prime Minister of Italy.

I was disturbed to learn that your health has suffered recently and I wish you a well-earned rest from the rigours of office. ENDS

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN

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47 FORLANI, Onorevole Arnaldo

Minister of Foreign Affairs (Christian Democrat).

Born at Pesaro in the Marche Region in 1925. Secretary of Provincial DC in Pesaro 1948-57; Provincial and Municipal Councillor 1951-56. Member of DC National Council since 1952 and of Party Executive since 1954. Directed DC publicity and press section 1955-57 without great success. Deputy for Ancona since 1958. Party Vice-Secretary 1968-69. Minister for State Holdings 1968-69; Minister for the United Nations August to November 1969. Party Secretary, November 1969 to June 1973. Minister of Defence under Moro, November 1974 to August 1976, when he became Minister of Foreign Affairs under Andreotti.

Forlani has spent most of his political career under Fanfani's shadow. He had an uphill struggle as Party Secretary in trying to hold the balance between the left and right wings of the party. Forlani was probably put in by Fanfani and other DC veterans to give an appearance of renewal, then eased out by Fanfani who took the post himself. As Secretary, kept to the centre and gave wholehearted support to Andreotti's centre government in 1972-73. He resigned as Party Secretary at the 1973 DC Congress when it was clear that the Andreotti government was going to fall because of left-wing Christian Democrat discontent at governing without the Socialists. He refused posts in the ensuing centre-left governments under Rumor but returned as Minister of Defence in Moro's November 1974 two-party Christian Democrat/Republican government. He did that job quite well, and avoided controversy. He got bills through Parliament for a large expenditure programme for re-equipment of the Navy, and for reducing the periods for National Service. Forlani stood as the candidate of the DC right against Zaccagnini for the post of Party Secretary at the DC Congress of March 1976. Despite desperate procedural manoeuvring and Forlani's award of a day off to Ministry of Defence staff so that they could pack the hall and cheer when he made his speech, he narrowly lost. Since then he has begun to emerge as a more forceful and ambitious man, one of the half dozen leading DC politicians who seriously aspire to become Prime Minister or Party Secretary in their own right.

Officials say Forlani is an effective Minister of Foreign Affairs. But it is hard to see why, since he seems to spend only a comparatively small proportion of his time on the affairs of his own Ministry. Ambassadors complain that he hardly ever sees them, but he is quite an effective performer during bilateral Ministerial visits. He sometimes appears to use the office to further his own political career: some of his visits abroad have appeared to be more an exercise in public relations than for the serious discussion of business. He has visited Britain on multilateral business, most recently with Andreotti in June 1977 for the European Council and the NATO Summit.

A pleasant, young-looking, handsome man, Forlani is married with two children. He was formerly very keen on football, and might, they say, have played for Italy had he chosen that career. Still goes to matches whenever he can. Sails and skis. Weak in foreign languages.