

**SUBJECT**

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 FM FCO 051400Z AUG 83  
 TO IMMEDIATE ROME  
 TELEGRAM NUMBER 208 OF 5 AUGUST

79

WED 0141

YOUR TELNO 362: NEW ITALIAN GOVERNMENT

1. PLEASE ARRANGE FOR THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM THE  
 PRIME MINISTER TO BE TRANSMITTED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO THE  
 PALAZZO CHIGI:  
 BEGINS

PLEASE ACCEPT MY WARM CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR APPOINTMENT  
 AS PRIME MINISTER. I WISH YOU EVERY SUCCESS AND LOOK FORWARD  
 TO WORKING WITH YOU AND YOUR GOVERNMENT IN FURTHER DEVELOPING  
 THE EXCELLENT RELATIONS WHICH EXIST BETWEEN THE UNITED KINGDOM  
 AND ITALY. I HOPE WE SHALL BE ABLE TO MEET SOON.  
 ENDS

2. THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE SHOULD BE TRANSMITTED FROM THE  
 PRIME MINISTER TO SIGNOR FANFANI:  
 BEGINS

I AM SORRY TO LEARN THAT WE SHALL NO LONGER BE WORKING  
 TOGETHER. I HAVE GREATLY ENJOYED THE PERIOD OF COLLABORATION  
 WITH YOUR GOVERNMENT. WE HAVE HAD A NUMBER OF DIFFICULT  
 ISSUES TO FACE BOTH IN EUROPE AND FURTHER AFIELD. I HAVE  
 VALUED OUR PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP AND I SEND YOU MY WARM  
 GOOD WISHES FOR THE FUTURE.  
 ENDS

RAISON

NNNN  
 DISTRIBUTION  
 LIMITED  
 WED

PRIME MINISTER'S  
 PERSONAL MESSAGE  
 SERIAL No. 116 AA 183

ECD(I)  
 NEWS DEPT  
 SIR J BULLARD  
 MR JAMES

RESTRICTED



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

5 August, 1983

Messages

approved

S/F R.

→ It has  
shown  
to

Jon S...

New Italian Government

It was announced yesterday that Signor Bettino Craxi, the Italian Socialist Party Leader, had succeeded in forming Italy's forty-fourth post-war government. As expected, the government is a five party coalition comprising the Socialists themselves, the Christian Democrats, Republicans, Social Democrats and Liberals. There are no major surprises, but a number of well-known names from previous administrations reappear with different portfolios. Signor Giulio Andreotti has been given the post of Foreign Minister (previously Signor Colombo) and Senator Giovanni Spadolini succeeds Signor Lelio Lagono as the new Defence Minister. As you know, both Andreotti and Spadolini are themselves former Prime Ministers.

/ The Prime Minister will no doubt wish to congratulate  
/ Signor Craxi (biography enclosed) on his success, and I  
attach a draft telegram to Rome which contains a suggested form of words. It would also be appropriate for the Prime Minister to send a message to Signor Fanfani, the outgoing Prime Minister. If the Prime Minister is content, I shall arrange for the telegram to be despatched.

*Handwritten signature*

(R B Bone)  
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq  
10 Downing Street

RESTRICTED

London and Country Club Office

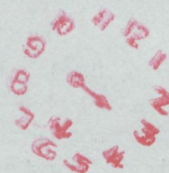
London SW1A 2AH



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5 AUG 1993



CRAXI, ONOREVOLE BETTINO

Secretary of the Socialist Party (PSI).

Born in Milan in 1934. Career as a full-time party official. Milan City Councillor 1960-70. Party Directorate Member since 1965. Deputy for Milan-Pavia since 1968.

He replaced De Martino as Party Secretary in July 1976, when the latter was removed following the PSI's disappointing performance in the general election the previous month. Craxi at this time aligned himself with the small "Autonomist" faction of the party, led by Nenni, and his election as Secretary was due to the support of all the younger (ie less than about 45 years old) members of the PSI National Council, and of Mancini (qv).

The national congress of the PSI in March 1978 over-whelmingly confirmed Craxi's leadership and backed his policy of asserting the party's independence of the PCI. Craxi wanted to take the Socialists back into government with the DC, but had to bide his time because there was vocal opposition among the rank and file. Craxi's advocacy of concessions to Moro's kidnappers and his restless pursuit of independent policies have caused some questioning of his political judgement.

In early 1980, he narrowly defeated the left wing in a power struggle within the party; since then, he has consolidated his position. In April 1980, he took the PSI back into government and was thus able to reward some of his supporters with Ministerial jobs. The April 1981 Congress confirmed his dominance over the PSI and re-elected him as Secretary for three years. His relations with the PCI, and especially Berlinguer, are bad and the left wing of the DC also regard him as an untrustworthy ally and potential threat to DC supremacy. Craxi makes no secret of his ambition to become Prime Minister as quickly as possible. Tactical mistakes in 1982 damaged his reputation as a minister; but he has without doubt gained the PSI some percentage points since their poor 1979 performance (10%).

A tall, dominating figure, he looks older than his years. Fond of good living and eloquent in private conversation, but spends most of his time with close party colleagues. Held in respect by other PSI Deputies though not greatly loved; generally distrusted by other politicians, and hated by the Communists. Something of a bully. Scathing in his attacks on the inequalities and inefficiencies of Italian society. Has a difficult relationship with the Socialist President Pertini (qv). A clever self-publicist.

Visited UK as guest of HMG, and attended Labour Party Conference at Blackpool, in September 1976. Caused us a lot of trouble over the Falklands affair.

Little English. Fair French.

Married.

OUT TELEGRAM

Classification and Caveats

RESTRICTED

Precedence/Deskby

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1 Zczc  
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3 RESTRICTED  
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6 FM FCO JULY 83  
7 TO IMMEDIATE ROME  
8 TELEGRAM NUMBER  
9 YOUR TELNO 362: NEW ITALIAN GOVERNMENT  
10 1. Please arrange for the following message from the  
11 Prime Minister to be transmitted as soon as possible to the  
12 Palazzo Chigi:  
13 BEGINS  
14 Please accept my warm congratulations on your appointment  
15 as Prime Minister. I wish you every success and look forward  
16 to working with you and your government in further developing  
17 the excellent relations which exist between <sup>the United Kingdom</sup> ~~Great Britain~~ and  
18 Italy. I hope we shall be able to meet soon.  
19 ENDS  
20 2. The following message should be transmitted from the  
21 Prime Minister to Signor Fanfani:  
22 BEGINS  
23 I am sorry to learn that we shall no longer be working  
24 together. I have greatly enjoyed the period of collaboration  
25 with your Government. We have had a number of difficult

NNNN ends telegram	BLANK	Catchword issues
File number	Dept Private Office	Distribution Limited WED ECD(I) News Dept
Drafted by (Block capitals) ROGER BONE		
Telephone number		
Authorised for despatch		
Comcen reference	Time of despatch	

OUT TELEGRAM (CONT)

↓	Classification and Caveats		Page
	RESTRICTED	IMMEDIATE	2

1 >>>>  
 2 issues to face both in Europe and further afield. I have  
 3 valued our personal relationship and I send you my warm  
 4 good wishes for the future.  
 5 ENDS  
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