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10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

6 May 1988

MEETING WITH THE ITALIAN PRIME MINISTER

I have seen a copy of Rome Telno 261 proposing that the Prime Minister should have a meeting with De Mita in the margins of the Toronto Economic Summit. I am sure the Prime Minister will be willing to do this, and 18 June is likely to be the best day. But we can finalise details when we know exactly when we arrive in Toronto. I should be grateful if you could so inform the Italians.

C. D. Powell

Lyn Parker, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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FM ROME

TO DESKBY 050830Z FCO

TELNO 261

OF 050740Z MAY 88

AND TO IMMEDIATE EC POSTS, WASHINGTON, OTTAWA, TOKYO
AND TO IMMEDIATE UKDEL NATO

FCO PLEASE PASS TO MR POWELL NO 10 DOWNING STREET.

ANGLO-ITALIAN SUMMIT MEETING

SUMMARY

1. DE MITA PROPOSES BRIEF FIRST MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER IN TORONTO.

DETAIL

2. UMBERTO VATTANI, DIPLOMATIC ADVISER TO THE NEW PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL, TELEPHONED ME YESTERDAY EVENING ON INSTRUCTIONS TO SAY THAT DE MITA'S PROGRAMME MADE IT IMPOSSIBLE YET FOR HIM TO PLAN A TOUR OF COMMUNITY CAPITALS, BUT HE WOULD VERY MUCH LIKE TO BE ABLE TO MEET THE PRIME MINISTER BEFORE THE TORONTO SUMMIT STARTS. HE PLANS TO ARRIVE THERE ON SATURDAY 18 JUNE AND WOULD LIKE TO SEE WHETHER THE PRIME MINISTER COULD FIT IN A MEETING WITH HIM IN TORONTO BEFORE THE ECONOMIC SUMMIT OPENS. I UNDERTOOK TO EXPLORE.

3. VATTANI ADDED TWO POINTS. FIRST, DE MITA HAD ASKED HIM TO SAY THAT HE HAD COME UNDER A LOT OF PARLIAMENTARY PRESSURE TO RAISE THE PROBLEM OF PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT AT THE ECONOMIC SUMMIT. HE HAD MENTIONED THIS TO THE CANADIANS AND WOULD DO SO ALSO TO KOHL WHOM HE WOULD SEE HERE ON 12 MAY FOR A BILATERAL SUMMIT. HE WOULD BE GLAD TO KNOW THE PRIME MINISTER'S THINKING ON THIS. SECOND, DE MITA HOPED TO RESPOND WITHIN THE NEXT COUPLE OF WEEKS TO MY LONG OUTSTANDING REQUEST FOR A CALL ON HIM. THIS WOULD BE AN OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN WHAT WAS IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S MIND ON OTHER MAIN QUESTIONS ON THE SUMMIT AGENDA.

4. I HOPE IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO GIVE A QUICK RESPONSE TO DE MITA'S PROPOSAL FOR A BILATERAL MEETING AT TORONTO. IF IT CANNOT BE FITTED IN BEFORE THE SUMMIT BEGINS, THERE WOULD BE OBVIOUS MERIT IN ARRANGING A BILATERAL IN THE COURSE OF THE TWO

Ria Minister

asked to

see de

Mita in

Toronto?

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Yes

DAYS THERE. DE MITA WILL HAVE RECENTLY MET KOHL (ON 12 MAY),
MORONY (ON 27 MAY) AND TAKESHITA (WHO HAS JUST BEEN HERE).
REAGAN HE SAW IN WASHINGTON IN 1986 BUT WILL NO DOUBT AIM TO MEET
HIM AGAIN BILATERALLY IN THE CONTEXT OF THE ECONOMIC SUMMIT.
A BILATERAL WITH THE FRENCH MUST REMAIN IN BAULK UNTIL 8 MAY BUT
WILL BE A PRIORITY THEREAFTER. WE DO NOT NEED TO LEAN OVER
BACKWARDS, BUT THE SOONER WE ARE ABLE TO ARRANGE A MEETING AT
THIS LEVEL THE BETTER CHANCE THERE IS OF MAKING A BRITISH IMPRINT OF
DE MITA'S THINKING IN THE EARLY STAGES OF HIS GOVERNMENT.

THOMAS

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