Compositions Relations Confidential

HLE SIL

10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

29 November 1989

Den Hell.

ANGLO-ITALIAN RELATIONS

When the Italian Ambassador came to see me this morning on another matter, he raised the subject of the next Anglo-Italian Summit, pointing out that it was now over a year since the last one and that we ought to be looking for dates in the first three or four months of next year for another one. I recalled that it was our turn to host the summit and said that we would try and propose dates, probably a Monday or Friday. I would be grateful if Richard Gozney could talk to Amanda Ponsonby about this.

At the same time, and apart from the formal summit, it might anyway make sense for the Prime Minister and Signor Andreotti to meet before the Italians assume the Presidency at the EC. One idea which occurred to me was that the Prime Minister might stop for a few hours in Rome on her way to or from Gallipoli in late April. This would enable her to have a talk with Signor Andreotti and propose a lunch or dinner. I mentioned this on the spur of the moment to the Italian Ambassador, making clear that it was only a personal idea and I had not discussed it either with the Prime Minister or with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. It would be helpful to have your views.

(C. D. POWELL)

Stephen Wall, Esq., Foreign and Commonwealth Office.