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10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

*From the Private Secretary*

7 September 1990

**STATE VISIT BY PRESIDENT COSSIGA**

Thank you for your letter of 7 September about the arrangements for President Cossiga's visit. I am sure the Prime Minister will want the Foreign Secretary to attend the lunch, but will quite understand that he must leave early for Questions.

As you know, the Prime Minister likes small meetings. In addition, she knows President Cossiga well, and regards him as a close friend. My recollection of their last encounter is that he asked almost everyone to leave the room. I think we should plan on a maximum of three people on each side: the President and the Prime Minister, the two Ambassadors and Vattani and me.

C.D. POWELL

Richard Gozney, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

7 September 1990

*Dear Charles,*

State Visit by President Cossiga

The Prime Minister has agreed to host a lunch for the Italian President on Wednesday 24 October, followed by talks. Even if lunch starts promptly at 1.15 pm, it may not finish until nearly 2.45 pm. President Cossiga must now leave 10 Downing Street at 3.30 pm, so the talks will probably last only about 45 minutes.

We shall be sending you a draft guest list for the lunch (65 guests). We imagine that the Prime Minister would expect the Foreign Secretary to attend. He would be happy to do so, but FCO questions are that afternoon, so he would have to leave 10 Downing Street by 2.15 pm. We hope that this is acceptable.

We also need to decide on participation at the talks. Basing themselves on what we agreed for the State Visit postponed from 1987, the Italians have said that their preference would be for an Italian party of eight: the President, Foreign Minister, Deputy Foreign Minister, Secretary General of Foreign Ministry, Secretary General of Presidency, Ambassador in London, Diplomatic Advisers to President and Foreign Minister. The Prime Minister might prefer a more restricted attendance. We could therefore invite the Italians to limit their party to President Cossiga, the Italian Ambassador in London, plus or minus the Foreign Minister and a note-taker (probably the President's Diplomatic Adviser), and an interpreter. Foreign Minister de Michelis may just opt to watch FCO Question Time from the Distinguished Visitors' Gallery; the Foreign Secretary will be giving de Michelis a separate lunch the next day. The Italians might press for one extra member in their party, probably Deputy Foreign Minister Vitalone, or MFA Secretary-General Bottai, particularly as President Cossiga ran into some controversy on a recent State Visit to Paris when he made political statements without the approval of the Italian Government. If they ask for this, I hope that we can agree; we would be happy to field a matching FCO senior official, in addition to HM Ambassador, Rome, but exact balance is not necessary.

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*Lidians*  
 (R H T Gozney)  
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq  
 10 Downing Street



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10 DOWNING STREET  
LONDON SW1A 2AA

*From the Private Secretary*

17 September 1990

*Dear Sir,*

STATE VISIT BY PRESIDENT COSSIGA

Thank you for your letter of 17 September about the State Visit of President Cossiga. I agree that we should accept the four on the Italian side. The reference to Vattani is just me making a muddle.

*Yours sincerely,*

CHARLES POWELL

J S Wall Esq  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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*C.C.C.*



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

17 September 1990

*Sea Charts*

State Visit by President Cossiga

Thank you for your letter of 7 September to Richard Gozney.

On the question of participation in the talks with the Prime Minister, the Italian Ambassador insists (as did the Italian Head of Protocol, when he was here on a reconnaissance visit last week) that when the President holds talks with a foreign Head of Government he must, on constitutional grounds, be accompanied by his Foreign Minister (or perhaps the Deputy Foreign Minister). The Italians have hinted that de Michelis would not be in President Cossiga's suite at all if it were not for his necessary attendance at these talks.

Could we therefore accept four people on the Italian side: the President, Foreign Minister (or Deputy Foreign Minister), Ambassador and a note-taker (probably Ambassador Dominedo, the Diplomatic Adviser to the President; Vattani, whom you mention, is Andreotti's adviser and is not in the party) plus an interpreter?

As you know, the Foreign Secretary will have to leave after lunch to answer questions in the House but this does not affect our advice on de Michelis' attendance.

*James*  
*Stephen Wall*

(J S Wall)  
Private Secretary

C.D Powell Esq  
10 Downing Street

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For Pol: States Dist.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
MAIL ROOM

