

Interview with Albert Breuer: the ceremony to mark the signing of the Rome Treaties (Brussels, 28 February 2007)

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[Étienne Deschamps] Do you remember what the atmosphere was like in Rome on that day, the day of the official signing ceremony?

[Albert Breuer] Yes, it was raining. It was raining, and raining heavily too, and the atmosphere... Italians are not the types... they were not too pro-European. One cannot say that they were anti, but they knew that something tremendous was happening up there, on the Campidoglio. And they came up there.

[Étienne Deschamps] Were they Italian citizens who came, as witnesses?

[Albert Breuer] They came there. They listened to the translation, coming through the loud-speakers that had been put up outside, in Italian. There was an interpreter who spoke Italian. And the people were there. But into the square at the Campidoglio, you cannot fit more than 500 people, at the very most. And they were there, outside, at the foot of the hill; I do not know what happened because I was always stuck there, up above. The only clear memory that I still have, is that one evening, in the Palazzo Venezia, Mussolini's former residence, there was a fabulous buffet! I still dream about that Italian-style buffet... You cannot imagine how it was. Of course all the high society of Rome had been invited, and they had come there. It was good. That was in the evening. Then the next day, *via!* We had to be off.

[Étienne Deschamps] So then you had to pack everything back into the railway wagon?

[Albert Breuer] I did not have to deal with that any longer. I just caught my train and returned to Luxembourg... with a bottle of Chianti, and that was all!