

THE INDEPENDENT

The adverts are sponsored by "L'Altra Napoli" ["The Other Naples"], set up by Ernesto Albanese, president of the Italian Olympic Committee, after his father was murdered at the entrance of his home in the city last year by bandits who remain at large. Mr Albanese told La Repubblica newspaper: "The sense of our organisation is that the south of Italy should be on the agenda of national politics. The government has the duty to tap immense potentiality and resources of the south, which today are suffocated and frustrated." Of the election of "Lord" Napolitano, he said: "It's a great opportunity. Italy cannot go to work for the development of Iraq and forget about a place like Naples, which is sinking from a lack of opportunity and legality."

Meanwhile, a tourism official said the watches should get the official go-ahead next week. But fears were voiced yesterday that they may not work as planned. As they will not be available in the shops, they may become valuable collectors' items - and worth stealing in their own right.

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