

CONFIDENTIAL

PRIME MINISTER

MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT OF THE ITALIAN SENATE

You are to see Senator Spadolini briefly on 20 June. It is really only a courtesy call: he declined to come to London unless you would agree to see him. He is, of course, an old friend.

You may take the opportunity to ask him about the political situation in Italy and whether he expects Craxi to come back as Prime Minister. You might also talk about prospects for the European Council in Madrid, the general East/West scene following the NATO Summit and Gorbachev's visit to Germany, and perhaps the Middle East. Quite frankly, it does not matter what you discuss as long as he is seen to have a meeting with you!

CDP

C. D. POWELL

16 June 1989

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RS/4



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

5 April 1989

*Message noted  
AP 6/4  
aj*

*Dear Charles,*

Visit of Senator Spadolini

Thank you for your letter of 16 March offering a call on the Prime Minister by Senator Spadolini on 20 June from 1630-1700.

Senator Spadolini's office have now confirmed that the timing is convenient.

I am copying this letter to Paul Stockton (Lord Chancellor's Department) and Brian Hawtin (Ministry of Defence).

*Yours ever,*

*R. Howard Gozney*

(R H T Gozney)  
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq  
10 Downing Street

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etc 8m

10 DOWNING STREET  
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

16 March 1989

Dear Richard,

**VISIT OF SENATOR SPADOLINI**

Thank you for your letter of 15 March about Senator Spadolini's visit to London from 20-23 June. It is a very difficult time given that we shall have Mr. Hawke here and have also suggested a visit by the Spanish Prime Minister. The only time the Prime Minister could offer would be 1630-1700 on 20 June. I should be grateful if you could put this to the Italians.

I am copying this letter to Paul Stockton (Lord Chancellor's Department) and Brian Hawtin (Ministry of Defence).

Yours sincerely,  
C. D. Powell

(C. D. POWELL) -

Richard Gozney, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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etc

10 DOWNING STREET  
LONDON SW1A 2AA

*From the Private Secretary*

16 March 1989

Thank you for your letter of 14 March about Senator Spadolini's visit. The dates on which he is coming are rather difficult for the Prime Minister since we have a major visit from the Australian Prime Minister and most of his Cabinet. However the Prime Minister would certainly not wish to miss a chance to talk to Senator Spadolini and could see him at 1630 on 20 June for about half-an-hour. I very much hope that this will be convenient.

It is very kind of you to suggest that the Prime Minister and Mr. Thatcher might come to dinner during Senator Spadolini's visit. They were grateful for the invitation. But I am afraid it simply will not be possible for them to accept, given all their other engagements that week.

(C. D. POWELL)

His Excellency Signor Boris Biancheri

EA



*Prime Minister*

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

*Agree in principle* London SW1A 2AH

*no a brief meeting* 15 March 1989  
*with Spadolini?*

*CAP 15/3*

*MS*

*Dear Charles,*

Visit of Senator Spadolini, President of the Italian Senate

Senator Spadolini, President of the Italian Senate, will be paying an official visit to the UK from 20 to 22/23 June at the invitation of the Lord Chancellor.

Senator Spadolini is the Deputy President of Italy and has the strongest claim to succeed President Cossiga. He is the dominant personality in the Republican Party, the most influential of the smaller parties in the coalition. The Prime Minister will recall Senator Spadolini from his time as President of the Council (1981-82) and also as Defence Minister (1983-87). He was her host during her visit to Italy in 1982. Senator Spadolini is widely respected and his record, particularly as Defence Minister, is distinguished. I attach a personality note.

We have explained that the Prime Minister has a very busy programme. But the Italians will remember that the Prime Minister received the President of the Italian Chamber of Deputies, Signora Iotti during her official visit to the UK last June. As Senator Spadolini is both more senior and more important than Signora Iotti, he would hope to be received by the Prime Minister too even if only briefly.

The Foreign Secretary hopes for the reasons outlined above that the Prime Minister will be willing to receive Senator Spadolini for a brief call. I understand that the Lord Chancellor shares this hope.

I am copying this letter to Paul Stockton (Lord Chancellor's Office) and Brian Hawtin (MOD).

*Yours ever*

*Richard Gozney*

(R H T Gozney)  
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq  
10 Downing Street

## SPADOLINI, SENATOR GIOVANNI

President of the Senate. Former Minister for Defence and President of the Council (Republican).

Born Florence 1925.

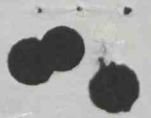
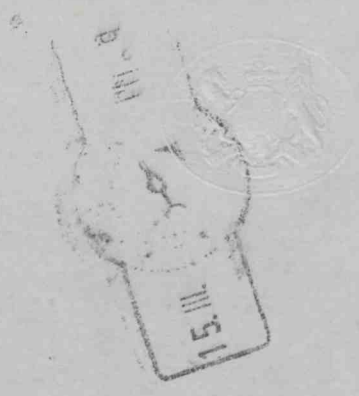
Professor of History, Florence University, and President, Bocconi University, Milan. Expert on Church-State affairs during and after the Risorgimento. Has written several books on this as well as a number of political biographies. Editor of "Il Resto del Carlino" (1955-68) and of "Corriere della Sera" from 1968-72, when he was sacked, allegedly because the paper lost money during his editorship.

Senator for Lombardy since June 1972, Spadolini continued to write articles for the press, and to give lectures, even when President of the Council. He has been the leader of the PRI group in the Senate and Chairman of the Education Commission of the Senate. Was Minister for Cultural Affairs and Environment under Moro, 1974-76, and Minister for Education under Andreotti in 1979. As Republican Party Secretary from 1979-87, he was the only Party leader who chose to sit in the Senate rather than the Chamber, reflecting his preference for a more orderly form of political debate.

Spadolini formed his government in June 1981. He was Italy's first non-Christian Democrat President of the Council. He surprised most observers by his energy and capacity for coalition management, and made a real effort to implement key elements of his government's programme, notably the limiting of inflation to 16% in 1982 and restriction of the PSBR. He formed a second government in August 1982 but resigned in November 1982 after failing to resolve the dispute between his two key economic Ministers, Andreatta and Formica, over Italy's uncontrollable public deficit. The excellent performance of the PRI in the June 1983 elections owed much to the reputation and image Spadolini acquired as Prime Minister. His withdrawal from Craxi's government in October 1983 over the Achille Lauro affair illustrated the depth of his personal animosity towards Craxi. He brought the PRI back into government in a hastily-arranged settlement of the dispute and failed to gain the public support for which he was aiming. He visited Britain in November 1981, was host to Mrs Thatcher in July 1982.

As Defence Minister (from 1983-87) he travelled overseas regularly and seemed at times to conduct his own (pro-Israeli) foreign policy. Elected President of the Senate in July 1987. Has performed effectively but, by the nature of the job, with a lower public profile than hitherto.

Overweight, loquacious and somewhat pompous in manner, he finds it difficult to overlook that he was once head of government. But he comes across well on television and is popular with journalists and with the public at large. A gift to cartoonists. Hard-working. Food is his main recreation. Highly intelligent and occasionally witty. Speaks French and some social English. Unmarried. Very friendly to Britain.



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E. R.

Charles

20 June  
1630 - 1700

AP  
10/3

MRS. PONSONBY

Signor Spadolini, President of the Italian Senate, is visiting London between 19 and 23 June. It is the worst possible time. But he is an old friend of the Prime Minister's and of equivalent rank to the Speaker of the House of Commons. Is there any way we can find half an hour for him on one of those days?

CDP

CHARLES POWELL

15 March 1989

206625



*The Italian Ambassador*

*Italian Embassy,  
4, Grosvenor Square  
London, W. 1.*

2747

14th March, 1989

*Dear Charles,*

Further to our telephone conversation, I am writing to confirm that the President of the Italian Senate, Senator Giovanni Spadolini, will visit London from the 19th to the 23rd June next.

It is President Spadolini's fervent wish to meet with the Prime Minister during his stay and I should be grateful if you would kindly let me know whether and when this is possible.

May I also add that we shall give a dinner in honour of President Spadolini and, should the Prime Minister prefer it, the meeting could take place on that occasion. There is no need for me to underline that my wife and I would be immensely honoured and delighted if the Prime Minister and Mr Thatcher were to accept our invitation. I understand that the Prime Minister is going to be extremely busy at that time, but I wish to assure you that we would do our utmost to fit the dinner in with her other engagements.

I look forward to hearing from you and remain

*Yours sincerely*

*Boris Biancheri*

Boris Biancheri

Mr Charles Powell  
Private Secretary to the Prime Minister  
(Overseas Affairs)  
10 Downing St,  
London S W 1