

CONFIDENTIAL



SAS Spadolini will be  
in Luxembourg  
(Now overtake by  
tel. to be sent) J. 24/6

Private Secretary

## NEW ITALIAN GOVERNMENT

WED

1. Signor Giovanni Spadolini is expected to inform President Pertini on 27 June that he has succeeded in putting together a new coalition government. He will, at the same time, announce his list of Ministers. Apart from the minority Republican Party led by Signor Spadolini himself, the coalition will include the Christian Democrat, Socialist, Social Democrat and Liberal parties. A Personality Note on Signor Spadolini is attached.

2. The Embassy in Rome will telegraph confirmation of Signor Spadolini's appointment as soon as it is announced. The present Foreign Minister, Signor Emilio Colombo, is widely expected to retain his post. He is also expected to represent Italy at next week's European Council meeting. Signor Spadolini is unlikely to attend himself, but his office have as yet been unable to give a firm decision. I shall submit a message of congratulations from the Prime Minister to Signor Spadolini as soon as the situation is clearer.

*D. A. S. Gladstone*

26 June 1981

D A S Gladstone  
Western European Department

cc:

Mr Bullard

Mr Fergusson

PS/LPS  
PS/PUS

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SPADOLINI, Senator Giovanni

Secretary of the PRI

(Republican)

Born Florence 1925

Professor of History at Florence University. Has specialist knowledge of Church-State affairs during and after the Risorgimento and has written several books on the subject as well as a number of political biographies. Editor of 'Il Resto del Carlino' (1955-1968) and of 'Corriere della Sera' for February 1968 till March 1972 when he was sacked, allegedly because the paper lost money during his editorship. It was generally accepted that there was no political motive for the dismissal.

Senator for Lombardy since June 1972, Spadolini has continued to write articles for 'Epoca' and 'La Stampa' and to give lectures. He has been the leader of the PRI group in the Senate. Was Minister for Cultural Affairs and Environment under Moro, 1974-76. He became Party Secretary in September 1979. He is the only Party Secretary at present who chooses to sit in the Senate rather than the Chamber; this reflects his preference for a more orderly form of political debate and dislike of tactical battles in Parliament (always fought in the Chamber).

Consistently friendly towards Britain. Loquacious and somewhat pompous in manner, but can perform quite effectively on television and is popular with journalists. Highly intelligent and occasionally witty. Speaks French and some English. Unmarried.