



*PL Powell*  
*to see + p.*

BRITISH EMBASSY.  
ROME.

1. Mr Richardson

18 August 1988

Miss B Brett Rooks  
WED  
FCO

2. cc Mr Baigue <sup>cl</sup>

cc Mr Givens, (ERD)  
Reserve J.  
De. 26/8.

**Mr Wicks No 10**  
Sir G Little, MUI

Dear Biddy,

*H Brewer*  
26/8

ITALIAN SHERPA

1. In her letter to Caroline Elmes of 11 August Nicola Brewer (ERD) asked whether there was anything we might add to the personality note which you are preparing on Umberto Vattani's relationship with De Mita.
2. I do not think there is anything we can usefully say at this comparatively early stage for we have nothing to go on. Vattani has certainly got his feet firmly under the desk and seems to be enjoying his new position in Palazzo Chigi. On the two or three occasions where I have talked to him he has given me to understand that his relationship with the President of the Council is quite straight forward and that he has no problem of access. But he has not yet said anything (and we know each other pretty well) that would amount to a confidence. I shall, of course, hope that he will as time goes on and there will be more opportunity as we get down to the arrangements for the bilateral Summit.
3. My personal view, for what it is worth, is that Umberto is very much Andreotti's man. I thought it mildly significant, for example, that during his recent telephone conversation with me about the venue for the Summit he stressed Andreotti's wish that it be held in Villa Taranto. I do not think he once mentioned the name of De Mita. Nor did he say, in terms, that he had consulted him following the Ambassador's earlier call to discuss the Summit arrangements. But we should not, perhaps, read too much into that. These are early days.

*Yours ever*

*T C Wood*

T C Wood

NLW  
Vattani had never met De Mita, who accepted him entirely on recommendation, right or wrong. He is Andreotti's man.

*Ch*

3



*[Faint, illegible handwritten text]*

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office  
London SW1A 2AH

Telephone 01-

270 2571

Your reference

Our reference

Date

15 August 1988

N L Wicks Esq CBE  
10 Downing Street

Dear Mr Wicks, *or.*

/ By way of a postscript to my letter of 9 August, you may be interested in the enclosed short character sketch of Signor Vattani (who until recently was Minister Counsellor at the Italian Embassy here), prepared by our Western European Department.

Yours ever

Nicola Brewer

N Brewer (Ms)  
Economic Relations Department

cc. Sir G Littler, HMT

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*1 CP my case to see  
2 per. (Shopy file)*

UMBERTO VATTANI

Diplomatic Adviser to Signor De Mita.

Formerly No 2 at London Embassy (1985-88). Intelligent, articulate, urbane, with a deep interest in all cultural matters. Wealthy and a collector of objets d'art. [REDACTED]

But he has a good sense of humour (when it can be tapped) and he is unquestionably able. An activist, not to be daunted by opposition. Repays personal cultivation (once personality barriers are overcome).

Perfect English. Soignée wife, Paola.

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