

AMBASSADOR PETER F. SECCHIA

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Background

- Raised in New Jersey
- U.S. Marine Corps, 1956-1959
- Graduated, Michigan State University
- Salesman, lumber mill, British Columbia
- Friendship with Congressman Gerald R. Ford
- Leadership positions in Republican Party
- Involvement in Bush's Presidential Campaign, 1988
- Nomination to be U.S. Ambassador to Italy
- John Tower difficulties
- Critique of "career people only" argument
- Case of getting landing spots for Italian jets
- Opposition to Mr. Secchia's nomination
- President's desire to see his Ambassador during his trip to Rome
- Senator Malcom Wallop
- Effect on family while confirmation process was being held up
- Confirmed, late June 1989

Italy

1989-1992

- Ambassador
- U.S. priorities
- Importance of bilateral Italian relationship & NATO
- Working relationship with U.S. Embassy
- Explosion of Giovanni Falconi
- Reform of laws & U.S. efforts to help capture Toto Riina
- Al Jawary extradition
- Instability of Italian government
- Power of the party secretary in Italian politics
- Coalition governments, selections of ministers
- Resignations of ministers and changes in government
- Farm subsidies in Italy
- Italian desire to be a part of Europe
- Government political/ economic partnership
- Power of businessmen and companies in the political process
- Corruption
- Raoul Gardini
- End of Cold War and changing nature of political parties
- Regional mentality of Italians, lack of national presence
- Industrial leaders of Italy
- Labor leaders
- The concerns of Italian industrial leaders

Contacts with Communist Party (PCI)
Breakup of Yugoslavia
Refugees from Albania
Personalities in Italian government
Visits by Congressmen, Secretary Baker, President Bush
Italian-American Congressmen
Diplomatic social life in Rome
Pecking order of foreign delegations
Inefficient secretaries
Typical day in the Embassy