

The original documents are located in Box 42, “12/6/76 - Remarks at the Arrival Ceremony for Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti of Italy” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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PRESIDENT'S REMARKS ON THE ARRIVAL
OF PRIME MINISTER ANDREOTTI
DECEMBER 6, 1976

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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

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PRIME MINISTER ANDREOTTI, I AM DELIGHTED TO

WELCOME YOU AND YOUR PARTY TO WASHINGTON.

MR. PRIME MINISTER, I HAVE LOOKED FORWARD TO THIS

MEETING SINCE JULY WHEN YOU TOOK OFFICE AS PRESIDENT OF THE

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS.

SINCE THAT TIME, YOU HAVE WORKED INTENSIVELY AND WITH GREAT
COURAGE AND DETERMINATION ON THE DIFFICULT ISSUES FACING YOUR
NATION AND YOUR GOVERNMENT. I AM EXTREMELY PLEASED THAT ~~NOW~~
YOU HAVE FOUND TIME FOR THIS VISIT AND FOR CONSULTATIONS ON THE
BROAD RANGE OF INTERESTS SHARED BY OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS.

DURING THE LAST TWO YEARS, THE UNITED STATES
AND ITALY HAVE CONSULTED AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL WITH GREATER
FREQUENCY THAN EVER BEFORE. PRESIDENT LEONE'S STATE VISIT
TO THE UNITED STATES IN 1974 WAS THE FIRST STATE VISIT OF THE
FORD ADMINISTRATION.

OUR LEADERS HAVE MET AT NATO SUMMITS AND ECONOMIC
SUMMITS AND AT THE EUROPEAN SECURITY CONFERENCE.

I REMEMBER WITH GREAT WARMTH MY OWN TRIP TO ITALY A YEAR
AND A HALF AGO AND THE FRIENDSHIP EXTENDED TO ME ON BEHALF
OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE BY THE ITALIAN PEOPLE AND GOVERNMENT.
their

WE ARE FRIENDS. WE ARE ALLIES. WE HAVE
WORKED TOGETHER AND SOLVED PROBLEMS TOGETHER, ~~AND~~ WE WILL
DO SO IN THE FUTURE. FEW COUNTRIES HAVE SO SPECIAL A
PLACE IN THE HEARTS OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.

THE UNITED STATES AND ITALY ARE COMMITTED TO
FREEDOM AND SHARE A FIRM DEDICATION TO DEMOCRACY.

WE ARE BOTH COMMITTED TO THE STRENGTH OF THE
NORTH ATLANTIC ALLIANCE AND TO THE REDUCTION OF TENSIONS
WHICH THREATEN INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND STABILITY.

AMERICANS VALUE THE CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE OF ITALY

IN THE WORLD.

WE DEEPLY APPRECIATE YOUR CONTRIBUTION TO NATO, YOUR
CONTRIBUTION TO A STRONGER EUROPE WORKING TOGETHER WITH THE
UNITED STATES, YOUR CONTRIBUTION TO THE DIALOGUE WITH THE
DEVELOPING NATIONS, AND YOUR DEDICATION TO PEACE AND
INTERNATIONAL UNDERSTANDING.

MR. PRIME MINISTER, OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS HAVE
MADE IT A PRIORITY TASK TO STRENGTHEN THE NORTH ATLANTIC
ALLIANCE. THE ALLIANCE HAS MADE PROGRESS IN STRENGTHENING
ITS DEFENSES, STANDARDIZING EQUIPMENT, AND COORDINATION OF
STRATEGIES AND PLANNING. MUCH MORE NEEDS TO BE DONE.

ALL OF US KNOW THAT THE DEFENSIVE STRENGTH AND COHESION OF
OUR ALLIANCE ARE CRUCIAL TO THE BALANCE OF POWER IN EUROPE
THAT IS ^{*critical*} SO CRUCIAL TO EUROPEAN FREEDOM AND INTERNATIONAL
SECURITY.

OUR ALLIANCE, ** OF COURSE, ** HAS A PURPOSE BEYOND
MILITARY DEFENSE. THE UNITED STATES AND ITALY BOTH RECOGNIZE
THAT WESTERN UNITY IS A PILLAR OF WORLD PEACE.

must
WE ~~WANT TO~~ REDUCE TENSIONS AND REDUCE THE POSSIBILITY OF
CONFRONTATION IN CENTRAL EUROPE WHERE ALMOST TWO MILLION
ARMED MEN FACE EACH OTHER. *must*
WE ~~WANT TO~~ PROMOTE MUTUALLY
BENEFICIAL COOPERATION BETWEEN WESTERN AND EASTERN EUROPE.

THE INDUSTRIAL DEMOCRACIES, IF WE ARE TO BE MASTERS OF OUR
DESTINY, MUST WORK TOGETHER. FOR WE SHARE BASIC COMMON
INTERESTS ON GLOBAL ISSUES FROM DEFENSE TO ENERGY, THE
ENVIRONMENT, TRADE, AND RELATIONS WITH THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES
OF THE WORLD.

MR. PRIME MINISTER, OUR DISCUSSIONS ON THESE MANY
ISSUES WILL BE OF GREAT VALUE TO THE UNITED STATES, NOT ONLY IN
PRACTICAL TERMS BUT TO REAFFIRM OUR PROFOUND FRIENDSHIP.

FEW NATIONS ARE LINKED AS STRONGLY AS THE UNITED STATES OF

AMERICA AND THE REPUBLIC OF ITALY BY HISTORY, CULTURE,

ECONOMICS, AND THE EMIGRATION OF PEOPLES.

OUR FRIENDSHIP HAS DEEP ROOTS THAT ENSURE ITS PRESERVATION.

ITALY'S CONTRIBUTION WAS ONE OF THE HIGHLIGHTS OF AMERICA'S

BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION.

WE ESPECIALLY WELCOMED THE VISIT OF MRS. VITTORIA LEONE,
THE FIRST LADY OF ITALY, WHEN THE LA SCALA OPERA CAME HERE
FOR ITS SPECTACULAR PERFORMANCE. THE AMERICAN PEOPLE
THANK YOU.

I LOOK FORWARD WITH GREAT ANTICIPATION,
MR. PRIME MINISTER, TO OUR TALKS. AS TWO DEMOCRATIC ALLIES,
WE HAVE A LARGE AREA OF COMMON GROUND AND MANY COMMON
CONCERNS. I BID YOU AND YOUR PARTY A VERY HEARTY WELCOME
TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

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