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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN *h.g.*

ARRIVAL STATEMENT IN ROME

TUESDAY, JUNE 3, 1975

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PRESIDENT LEONE, MRS. LEONE, MR. PRIME MINISTER,
EXCELLENCIES AND FRIENDS:

MR. PRESIDENT, MRS. FORD AND I EXPRESS OUR GRATEFUL
APPRECIATION FOR YOUR WARM WELCOME. WE ARE DELIGHTED TO
BE HERE. THE UNITED STATES AND ITALY ARE CLOSE FRIENDS AND
CLOSE ALLIES.

THIS FACT WAS APPARENT DURING PRESIDENT LEONE'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON
IN 1974. THAT VISIT WAS MEMORABLE TO ME AS THE FIRST VISIT BY
A EUROPEAN HEAD OF STATE TO THE UNITED STATES DURING MY PRESIDENCY.
THE VERY POSITIVE RESULTS OF OUR DISCUSSIONS WERE REFLECTED IN THE
U.S.-ITALIAN JOINT STATEMENT ISSUED LAST SEPTEMBER.

NOW, DURING MY FIRST VISIT TO EUROPE AS PRESIDENT, I COME TO ROME
TO CONTINUE OUR CONSULTATIONS ON THE MANY ISSUES OF GREAT IMPORTANCE
TO BOTH OUR COUNTRIES.

OUR DISCUSSIONS TODAY WILL BE INSPIRED AND STRENGTHENED BY THE RESULTS OF THE NATO SUMMIT MEETING IN WHICH BOTH OUR COUNTRIES PARTICIPATED LAST WEEK -- AND BY OUR REAFFIRMATION, TOGETHER WITH THE OTHER NATO MEMBER NATIONS, OF OUR DEDICATION TO ALLIANCE GOALS. EXTRAORDINARY TIES OF FRIENDSHIP AND KINSHIP LINK OUR PEOPLES.

IT IS MY PLEASURE TO BRING TO YOU THE GREETINGS AND HIGH REGARD OF THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES FOR ITALY. IN A WORLD OF RAPID AND DRAMATIC CHANGE, ITALIAN-AMERICAN FRIENDSHIP STANDS OUT AS A SYMBOL OF STABILITY AND RESOLVE.

I KNOW THAT OUR MEETINGS WILL REINFORCE THE TRADITIONAL BONDS OF
AFFECTION AND COOPERATION BETWEEN OUR TWO NATIONS, THUS
CONTRIBUTING TO OUR GOALS OF PEACE AND PROSPERITY FOR ITALY,
FOR THE UNITED STATES, AND FOR ALL NATIONS.

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