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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN. *D.F.*

LUNCHEON TOAST: ROME

TUESDAY, JUNE 3, 1975

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MR. PRESIDENT, MRS. LEONE, MR. PRIME MINISTER,

EXCELLENCIES:

I AM DELIGHTED TO BE IN THE ETERNAL CITY OF ROME, THE
JUSTLY CELEBRATED CAPITAL OF ITALY. IT IS A PLEASURE AND AN
HONOR TO BE WITH YOU TODAY IN THIS HOSPITABLE AND HISTORIC PALACE.

I AM MINDFUL OF THE SYMBOLISM OF THIS VISIT,
UNDERLINING AS IT DOES THE TRADITIONAL FRIENDSHIP AND TIES
BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES.

WE IN AMERICA HAVE JUST BEGUN THE CELEBRATION OF THE
TWO HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED STATES' STRUGGLE FOR
INDEPENDENCE. THE VERY NAME "AMERICA" DERIVES FROM AN
ITALIAN NAVIGATOR. AMONG THE ITALIAN CONTRIBUTORS TO THE
EARLY HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN REPUBLIC ARE WILLIAM PACA (PAH-KA),

A SIGNER OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE, AND FILLIPO MAZZEI
(Fee-LEE-po Maht-TSAY), A CLOSE FRIEND AND COLLABORATOR OF THOMAS
JEFFERSON. SINCE THE VERY BEGINNINGS OF OUR COUNTRY, THE
HUMAN TIES BETWEEN ITALY AND THE UNITED STATES HAVE ENRICHED
AMERICA'S LIFE AND CULTURE AND HAVE SERVED TO ESTABLISH THE BASIS FOR
THE DEEP AND WARM FRIENDSHIP THAT EXISTS TODAY.

FOR A QUARTER OF A CENTURY, AS A MEMBER OF THE
UNITED STATES CONGRESS, I SERVED IN OUR NATIONAL CAPITOL BUILDING.
I WAS MINDFUL OF THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF ARTISTS AND SKILLED WORKERS
FROM ITALY TO THE DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION, AND DECORATION OF OUR
NATIONAL CAPITOL.

THE PAINTINGS, CARVINGS, AND STATUES OF ITALIAN CONCEPTION AND
ARTISTRY HAVE BECOME ENSHRINED AT THE HEART OF OUR GOVERNMENT
AS PART OF AMERICA'S HISTORY AND HERITAGE. THIS SYMBOLIZES
ONLY ONE ASPECT OF OUR GREAT DEBT TO ITALY. OUR HEARTS ARE
LIFTED WHEN WE HEAR AMERICA'S MANY BANDS PLAY STIRRING AIRS.

AND WE RECALL THAT PRESIDENT THOMAS JEFFERSON, WHO LOVED THE
MUSIC OF ITALY, INVITED ITALIAN MUSICIANS TO CREATE OUR FIRST
MILITARY BAND.

IN CONSIDERING THOSE WHO HAVE MADE DISTINGUISHED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES, I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS OCCASION TO EXPRESS MY APPRECIATION FOR THE OUTSTANDING SERVICE OF YOUR AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED STATES -- AMBASSADOR ORTONA (or TONE ah).

HE HAS GAINED THE RESPECT AND APPRECIATION NOT ONLY OF AMERICAN PRESIDENTS AND SECRETARIES OF STATE BUT ALSO OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.

AMERICANS IN ITALY NEVER FEEL THEY ARE AMONG STRANGERS.

WE FEEL AMONG CLOSE FRIENDS.

IN THIS RELATIONSHIP, OUR TWO

COUNTRIES SHARE MUCH IN COMMON:

-- OUR CULTURAL, ECONOMIC, FRATERNAL, COMMERCIAL

AND SOCIAL TIES AFFIRM OUR CONTINUED COOPERATION AND CLOSE

ASSOCIATION;

-- OUR GOVERNMENTS ARE COMMITTED TO A WORLD OF FREEDOM

AND PEACE AND TO OVERCOMING TENSIONS WHICH THREATEN THAT PEACE;

-- WE ARE COMMITTED TO THE STRENGTH OF AN ALLIANCE

THAT HAS KEPT MORE THAN A QUARTER CENTURY OF PEACE ON THE

CONTINENT AND WHICH IS INDISPENSABLE TO OUR CONCERTED EFFORTS

TO REDUCE TENSIONS AND INCREASE COOPERATION;

-- OF FIRST IMPORTANCE, WE SHARE FIRM DEDICATION TO
DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT AND THE PRINCIPLES OF FREEDOM AND LIBERTY.
WE IN AMERICA VALUE THE ROLE OF ITALY IN THE WORLD, \ YOUR
CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE, \ AND YOUR EFFORTS TOWARD
A more cohesive
A STRONGER EUROPE WORKING WITH THE UNITED STATES.
^

THESE BONDS AND SHARED GOALS, MR. PRESIDENT, WERE
SET FORTH IN THE JOINT STATEMENT ISSUED ON THE OCCASION OF YOUR
VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES LAST YEAR. THEY HAVE BEEN REAFFIRMED
IN OUR DISCUSSIONS TODAY.

AT THE NATO SUMMIT CONFERENCE IN BRUSSELS LAST WEEK,
THE MEMBER NATIONS OF THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE RENEWED THEIR COMMITMENT
TO THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE AND TO THE PRINCIPLES OF FRIENDSHIP AND
COOPERATION AND THE COMMON DEFENSE WHICH ARE ITS FOUNDATION.

I MUST EMPHASIZE HOW MUCH THE UNITED STATES VALUES ITALY'S
PARTNERSHIP AND ITALIAN CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE ALLIANCE.

WE GREATLY ADMIRE THE LEADERS AND PEOPLE OF ITALY IN
CARRYING THROUGH DIFFICULT ECONOMIC MEASURES WHICH ARE CRUCIAL
IN FIGHTING TODAY'S ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES.

WE ARE KEENLY AWARE OF ITALY'S STRENGTHS. WE ARE PROUD OF OUR
ALLIANCE WITH YOU AND TAKE CONFIDENCE IN THE KNOWLEDGE THAT THIS
RELATIONSHIP IS WELCOMED BY YOU.

MR. PRESIDENT, THE WARMTH OF THE WELCOME GIVEN ME
TODAY BY YOU, BY YOUR GRACIOUS AND CHARMING WIFE, AND BY THE
PEOPLE OF ROME ON BEHALF OF ALL THE ITALIAN PEOPLE HAS BEEN IN THE
HIGHEST TRADITION OF ITALIAN HOSPITALITY. FOR ME THIS DELIGHTFUL
LUNCHEON WITH SO MANY FRIENDS SYMBOLIZES THE DEPTH OF FRIENDSHIP
BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES.

IN THIS SPIRIT, I LIFT MY GLASS IN TOAST TO THE
UNITED STATES AND ITALY, TO OUR CONTINUING, GROWING FRIENDSHIP
IN THE YEARS AHEAD, TO PRESIDENT LEONE, TO PRIME MINISTER MORO,
AND TO THE GREAT ITALIAN PEOPLE.

END OF TEXT