The original documents are located in Box 34, “6/1/76 - Remarks Upon Signing H.R. 13172: Second Supplemental Appropriations Act of 1976” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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SIGNING CEREMONY, SECOND SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS
ACT OF 1976
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS
SECOND
SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS
ACT OF 1976

MR. VICE PRESIDENT

MR. MINISTER

DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE AND SENATE

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS
THIS SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS BILL AND OUR SIGNING TODAY PROVIDES OVER 12 BILLION DOLLARS TO FUND IMPORTANT PROGRAMS OF ALL CABINET DEPARTMENTS AND MANY OTHER AGENCIES DURING THE REMAINDER OF FISCAL YEAR 1976 AND THE TRANSITION QUARTER.
ALTHOUGH THE BILL CONTAINS A NUMBER OF UNDESIRABLE INCREASES IN SPENDING LEVELS, IT CONTAINS FUNDS THAT ARE NEEDED QUICKLY IN AREAS INCLUDING EDUCATION, HEALTH, ENERGY RESEARCH, VETERANS BENEFITS AND INCLUDING THE UNITED STATES' CONTRIBUTION TO THE NEW INTERNATIONAL FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT FUND, A MAJOR U.S. INITIATIVE AT THE 1974 WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE IN ROME.

LET ME EXPRESS MY APPRECIATION TO BOTH HOUSES FOR THEIR PROMPT AND FAVORABLE ACTION. AT A TIME WHEN NATURAL DISASTER HAS BROUGHT SUCH GREAT TRAGEDY TO THE PEOPLE OF ITALY, AMERICANS EVERYWHERE ARE MOVED TO RESPOND QUICKLY AND IN THE SPIRIT OF PROFOUND FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES.

THESE DISASTER RELIEF FUNDS WILL GIVE US THE WELCOME CHANCE TO BUILD ON THE ASSISTANCE WE HAVE ALREADY BEEN ABLE TO GIVE. ALMOST FROM THE MOMENT THE EARTHQUAKE STRUCK, U.S. AMBASSADOR JOHN VOLPE AND THE U.S. MILITARY FORCES STATIONED IN ITALY WERE ON THE SCENE MAKING OUR INITIAL ASSISTANCE CONTRIBUTION.
ON MAY 13, THE VICE PRESIDENT AND DANIEL PARKER --
MY SPECIAL COORDINATOR FOR INTERNATIONAL DISASTER ASSISTANCE
WENT TO ITALY AT MY REQUEST TO RECEIVE A FIRSTHAND REPORT ON
THE IMPACT OF THE EARTHQUAKE AND ON THE WAYS IN WHICH WE COULD
BEST BE OF ASSISTANCE.

I RECEIVED THEIR REPORT ON MAY 17; AND BASED ON
THIS INFORMATION, OUR SPECIALISTS ARE NOW WORKING WITH THE
ITALIAN AUTHORITIES TO IMPLEMENT THE MOST EFFECTIVE POSSIBLE
RECOVERY PROGRAM.

THE TIES BETWEEN THE AMERICAN AND ITALIAN PEOPLE
ARE BROAD AND DEEP. OUR HEARTS AND HANDS GO OUT TO THOSE
WHO HAVE BEEN STRICKEN AND WHO HAVE LOST LOVED ONES IN
THIS DISASTER.
I know that all here join me in the profound hope that the funds and assistance program made possible by this bill will enable the people of Italy to rebuild their homes and their towns and to place this great tragedy behind them. We want to do everything possible to assist our good friend and ally at this time of great need.