

**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.

OF GREAT IMPORTANCE, THIS BILL CONTAINS 25 MILLION DOLLARS IN DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE WHICH I REQUESTED OF THE CONGRESS ON MAY 11 TO HELP THE ITALIAN NATION RECOVER FROM THE DEVASTATING EFFECTS OF THE EARTHQUAKE OF MAY 6.

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●

END OF TEXT