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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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.

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, WHICH IS 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.

WE WANT TO REDUCE TENSIONS AND REDUCE THE POSSIBILITY OF CONFRONTATION IN CENTRAL EUROPE WHERE ALMOST TWO MILLION ARMED MEN FACE EACH OTHER. 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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