

The original documents are located in Box 42, “12/6/76 - Remarks at State Dinner in Honor of 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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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

REMARKS AT DINNER FOR PRIME MINISTER ANDREOTTI

MONDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1976

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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

MR. PRIME MINISTER, DISTINGUISHED ITALIAN

GUESTS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

PRESIDENT LEONE OF ITALY WAS THE FIRST STATE VISITOR

I WELCOMED TO WASHINGTON AS PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

TONIGHT WE ARE ONCE AGAIN CELEBRATING THE OFFICIAL VISIT

OF A DISTINGUISHED ITALIAN LEADER, PRIME MINISTER ANDREOTTI.

THESE TWO VISITS SYMBOLIZE THE CLOSE FRIENDSHIP OF OUR TWO

COUNTRIES AND THE CONTINUITY OF AMERICAN SUPPORT FOR

A VALUED ALLY.

EARLIER THIS AUTUMN WE WELCOMED THE VISIT OF THE
ITALIAN FIRST LADY, MRS. VITTORIA LEONE, WHO ADDED HER GRACE
AND FRIENDSHIP TO THE ALREADY IMPRESSIVE ITALIAN CONTRIBUTION
TO OUR BICENTENNIAL.

THE PERFORMANCES OF THE LA SCALA OPERA, THE LOAN OF THE
VENUS DE MEDICI (May - dee - chee) TO OUR NATIONAL GALLERY, ITALIAN
PARTICIPATION IN THE TALL SHIPS REVIEW, AND MANY OTHER
BICENTENNIAL EVENTS, WERE SYMBOLS OF WHAT AMERICANS HAVE
GAINED FROM OUR RELATIONSHIP. FOR THIS, THE AMERICAN PEOPLE
ARE GRATEFUL.

THE GIFT THAT MRS. LEONE PRESENTED ON BEHALF OF THE
ITALIAN PEOPLE -- A PORTRAIT OF THOMAS JEFFERSON WHICH HUNG
FOR NEARLY 200 YEARS IN THE CONVENT OF LODI (Low-dee) IN ITALY --
TODAY HANGS IN THE OVAL OFFICE. THIS IS A TREASURED REMINDER
OF ITALIAN-AMERICAN FRIENDSHIP.

MR. PRIME MINISTER, FOR TWO CENTURIES ITALIAN
CULTURE HAS ENRICHED THE LIFE OF THE UNITED STATES WITH UNIQUE
CONTRIBUTIONS.

HISTORIANS POINT OUT THAT THOMAS JEFFERSON, IN WRITING THE
DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE, DREW ON THE WISDOM OF HIS
ITALIAN FRIEND, FILIPPO MAZZEI (Fee-lee-po) (~~Ma~~ts - SAY)
IN THE DRAFTING OF SEVERAL NOW-IMMORTAL PHRASES.

OUR CAPITOL BUILDING IS ENHANCED BY ITALIAN ART AND
ITALIAN ARTISANS. THE VERY NAME, "AMERICA," COMMEMORATES
AN ITALIAN.

ALONG WITH ITALY'S CULTURAL CONTRIBUTIONS, CAME
MANY MILLIONS OF ITALIAN EMIGRANTS. AMERICA IS PROUD OF ITS
CITIZENS OF ITALIAN ORIGIN. THIS IS PERHAPS ITALY'S GREATEST
CONTRIBUTION TO AMERICA, AND WE ARE TRULY GRATEFUL FOR IT.

WE AMERICANS HAVE TRIED TO RECIPROCATE BY SHOWING
THE ITALIAN PEOPLE HOW MUCH WE VALUE THEM AS FRIENDS.
THIS WAS THE SPIRIT BEHIND THE MARSHALL PLAN, AND IT WAS
DEMONSTRATED AGAIN LAST MAY WHEN AN EARTHQUAKE STRUCK NORTHERN
ITALY.

THE RESPONSE OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE AND OUR CONGRESS WAS

IMMEDIATE• WE PASSED LEGISLATION IN RECORD TIME TO HELP

EARTHQUAKE VICTIMS REBUILD THEIR LIVES AND THEIR HOMES•

I WAS PROUD TO SIGN THE MEASURE• *and carry out the terms*

MR. PRIME MINISTER, PRESENT CONDITIONS POSE

A SEVERE CHALLENGE TO THE INDUSTRIAL DEMOCRACIES OF THE WEST,

MANY OF WHICH SUFFER FROM RECESSION, UNEMPLOYMENT,

INFLATION AND THE ABRUPT AND STEEP RISE IN ENERGY COSTS•

AS YOU NOTED THIS MORNING, THIS IS A PARTICULARLY CHALLENGING
TIME FOR ITALY. BUT YOUR GOVERNMENT REACTED VIGOROUSLY
AND RESOLUTELY. I AM IMPRESSED BY YOUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS.

UNDER YOUR CONTINUING STRONG LEADERSHIP,
MR. PRIME MINISTER, I AM CONFIDENT THAT ITALY CAN RETURN TO
BALANCED GROWTH AND ECONOMIC VITALITY. THIS IS IMPORTANT TO
ITALY; IT IS IMPORTANT TO AMERICA -- IN PART BECAUSE OF THE
VITAL INTERESTS WE SHARE AS INDUSTRIALIZED DEMOCRACIES.

THE ITALIAN PEOPLE HAVE MADE CLEAR THEIR COMMITMENT TO DEMOCRACY
AND DEMOCRATIC METHODS. I AM EQUALLY CONVINCED THAT ITALY
WILL MAINTAIN ITS STRONG COMMITMENT TO THE COMMON GOALS WE
SHARE AS PARTNERS IN THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION
A SECURE PEACE, DEMOCRATIC FREEDOMS, AND ECONOMIC WELL-BEING
FOR ALL OUR PEOPLE.

MR. PRIME MINISTER, I KNOW THAT YOU ARE AN ADMIRER
OF THE GREAT ROMAN STATESMAN CICERO. IN HIS WORDS,
"WHEN GOOD MEN OF LIKE CHARACTER ARE JOINED IN FRIENDSHIP,
THERE WE FIND THE NOBLEST AND STRONGEST UNION."

THE DISCUSSIONS WE HAVE HAD TODAY HAVE REINFORCED
MY CONVICTION THAT HIS WORDS APTLY DESCRIBE THE RELATIONSHIP
BETWEEN OUR TWO PEOPLES.

IT IS WITH PLEASURE AND CONFIDENCE THAT I EXPRESS THE CONTINUED
BEST WISHES OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, AS WELL AS THE CONTINUED
FULL SUPPORT OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT FOR YOUR GOVERNMENT
AND THE POLICIES IT IS FOLLOWING.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, I ASK YOU TO JOIN ME IN A TOAST
TO THE PRIME MINISTER OF ITALY, TO THE ENDURING FRIENDSHIP
BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES, AND TO OUR MUTUAL COMMITMENT TO
PEACE, FREEDOM AND PROGRESS FOR ALL MANKIND.

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