

JUNE 3, 1975

Office of the White House Press Secretary
(Rome, Italy)

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

President Leone and President Ford met alone for thirty minutes. They were then joined by their advisers and conferred for an additional forty minutes.

The meetings were good and friendly.

The subjects included: (1) General European/American relations. This included a discussion of the recent NATO meetings in Brussels and Italy support for the concept of European integration. The U. S. officials said they looked with sympathy on this concept. (2) East/West relations. Both countries expressed their continuing interest in detente with the Soviet Union. (3) The Middle East. President Leone mentioned his frequent visits to the Middle East and said he was doing what he could to bring about a peaceful settlement. The U. S. expressed the belief that Italy is playing a constructive role in the Middle East. The American officials discussed the meetings in Salzburg, Austria with President Sadat of Egypt. The American officials said the meetings had positive results but no final results. (4) The situation in the Mediterranean. (5) Energy. (6) The Economic situations in the two countries. The two countries discussed continuing economic cooperation. Both governments said they are convinced that there is a growing interdependence with both the industrialized countries.

While President Leone and President Ford were meeting privately, Foreign Minister Rumor and Secretary of State Kissinger held a separate meeting. They discussed the Middle East and the European Security Conference.

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