

SEPTEMBER 23, 1975

Office of the White House Press Secretary

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

The President met for 45 minutes this afternoon with Italian Foreign Minister Mariano Rumor who is in the United States for the United Nations General Assembly session. Italian Ambassador Roberto Gaja, Secretary General of the Italian Foreign Ministry Raimondo Manzini and General Brent Scowcroft also participated in today's talks.

At the time of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe in Helsinki in late July-early August, Foreign Minister Rumor participated in President Ford's consultations with Italian Prime Minister Aldo Moro. Today's meeting provided the occasion for a cordial and very useful review of the major topics of current bilateral interest as well as international issues of interest to the United States and Italy. Italy is currently serving in the Presidency of the European Community and the meeting provided a very welcome opportunity to continue US-EC consultations on topics of current interest to the United States and the European Community.

The President and Foreign Minister reviewed the current status of US-Italian relations as well as the general situation along NATO's southern flank. Both agreed on the importance that both the United States and Italy attach to close and continuing consultations, both bilaterally and in NATO, on matters of mutual interest.

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