

SEPTEMBER 29, 1976

Office of the White House Press Secretary

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

The President met this morning for 45 minutes with Italian Foreign Minister Arnaldo Forlani. Minister Forlani was accompanied by Raimondo Manzini of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ambassador Roberto Gaja. Deputy Secretary of State Charles Robinson and Brent Scowcroft, Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs also participated in the meeting. Minister Forlani is in the United States for the current session of the UN General Assembly.

The President and Foreign Minister Forlani discussed a number of political, economic and defense matters of current importance to the United States and Italy in the context of our interests as NATO Allies and industrialized democracies. The President welcomed Minister Forlani as the first representative of the newly formed government under Prime Minister Andreotti, and the President informed the Foreign Minister that he is looking forward to continuing close consultations with the Italian Government on all issues of mutual interest.

Foreign Minister Forlani described the relief and reconstruction efforts being undertaken by his government in the earthquake stricken Friuli area and thanked the President for the contribution of the American people to the recovery efforts. The President stated that the American people stand ready to provide additional assistance, if necessary, to bring the reconstruction efforts to a successful conclusion.

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