

December 6, 1976

## Office of the White House Press Secretary

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

Following this morning's arrival ceremony, the President met in the Oval Office for 60 minutes with Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti. The Prime Minister was accompanied by the Director General of the Italian Foreign Ministry Mario Mondello and the Italian Ambassador to the United States Roberto Gaja. Secretary of State Kissinger, Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs Brent Scowcroft and U. S. Ambassador to Italy John Volpe participated on the U. S. side. This morning's meeting marked a continuation of the process of high-level consultations which the President has conducted with leaders of the Italian Government throughout his Administration. The President and the Prime Minister discussed a wide range of international and bilateral issues of mutual interest. These included the preparedness and security of the Atlantic Alliance, prospects for growth in the major industrial countries, and other economic issues. The Prime Minister reviewed various aspects of his government's programs, and U. S. support for the Italian government's efforts to institute an effective program to bring down inflation and lay the basis for renewed confidence and prosperity. Both the President and the Prime Minister expressed their satisfaction with the excellent state of U. S. -Italian relations.

During the course of his Official Visit today and tomorrow the Prime Minister has, in addition to his talks with the President, scheduled meetings with other U. S. officials including the Secretaries of State and Treasury, CEA Chairman Alan Greenspan and Arthur Burns. The President will give a dinner at the White House this evening in honor of the Prime Minister and the Vice President will host a luncheon in his honor tomorrow.

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