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President's Meeting with Italian President Leone
September 25, 1974

Statement for White House Press Secretary

Following the welcoming ceremony this morning, President Ford and President Leone met together in the Oval Office for 90 minutes. The two Presidents, who were joined by Secretary Kissinger and Italian Foreign Minister Moro, had a very full discussion of US-Italian relations and a wide variety of international problems of mutual interest. The conversation was marked by a spirit of friendship and candor.

During the meeting there was a broad-ranging and useful exchange of views on US-European relations and international issues, including the finance/energy situation. The participants discussed the importance of regular consultations among the members of the Atlantic Alliance on bilateral questions and international issues; President Ford reaffirmed his commitment to close and continuing consultations with the leaders of Western Europe.

President Leone invited ~~to~~ President Ford to visit Italy and the President accepted in principle.

President Ford and President Leone agreed that their consultations today were valuable and mutually beneficial.

The 2 PRESIDENTS will meet again tomorrow afternoon.
There will be a formal communique at the conclusion of the visit ~~tomorrow~~.

Q: Did President Leone ask the President for financial assistance for Italy?

A: I do not have ^{all} the details of the discussions between President Ford and President Leone.

Q: Were current political developments in Italy discussed?

A: They ~~may have~~ ^{did} come up, but I am ~~certain they were not the focus~~ of these discussions. ~~which~~ centered on bilateral relations and international issues.

Q: Have President Ford and President Leone met before?

A: I am not aware of any previous meeting.

Q: Did they discuss the energy problem and any possible solutions?

A: Yes. They reviewed much of the ground covered in the recent speeches of President Ford -- including the pressures on the international financial system.

Q: When did Leone become President of Italy?

A: I believe President Leone took office in December 1971.

(FYI: The term of the Italian Presidency is seven years. Prior to that he was a senator in the Italian Senate.)

Q: Was there a specific reason for the visit -- Cyprus, domestic financial difficulties in Italy?

A: President Ford invited President Leone in order to discuss a broad range of issues of current interest to the US and Italy. The visit was not occasioned by a specific event or problem.

Q: Where does President Leone go from Washington?

A: President Leone will travel to New York, where he will address the UN General Assembly.

Q: How long will President Leone be in the US?

A: President Leone will return to Italy on Sunday, September 29.

May 4, 1976

CONNALLY TO FORM ORGANIZATION TO
DISCOURAGE ELECTION OF ITALIAN COMMUNISTS

Q. What is the President's reaction to John Connally's announcement that he is forming an organization to discourage Italians from voting Communists into power in elections this summer? Does Connally's membership on the PFIAB pose a conflict of interest problem?

A. While we have seen the reports of the announcement, it is not yet clear what the activities of the organization would be. Beyond that, we couldn't comment on its possible activities or what impact such an organization might have, let alone what Mr. Connally's role might mean.

BACKGROUND FACT SHEET
ITALIAN EARTHQUAKES

U.S. Assistance --Italian Earthquake

Current estimates of dead, injured and homeless:

- 812 dead
- 2,300 injured
- 45,000-60,000 homeless

* * * * *

U.S. assistance to date totals approximately \$574,000, including,

- use of U.S. Search and Rescue helicopters
- provision of foodstuffs (apmx \$50,000)
- provision of 1,500 tents capable of sheltering some 9,000 people (this includes more than 1,000 specially configured family-size tents from AID's disaster relief stockpiles;
- provision of stretchers, blankets, sheets, medical supplies
- provision of fuel
- loan of two US disaster relief specialists
- May 9, a U.S. Army convey departed Aviano AFB for the stricken city of Forgoria with heavy reconstruction and earth-moving equipment.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
WASHINGTON

THE ADMINISTRATOR

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

MAY 08 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: ITALY EARTHQUAKE

The earthquake damage in Italy affects a NATO partner, an advanced country--their needs are less fundamental than those of other countries normally associated with U.S. foreign disaster assistance.

Italy is more developed than most disaster assistance recipients; the needs of the U.S. Government are thus to determine if we can fit in usefully with qualitative capabilities which the Italians might not have immediately available in this remote area. In this regard, we have been in contact with Ambassador Volpe and have identified for him a range of technical assistance we can bring to bear if such assistance is needed and requested by Italy. Ambassador Volpe and we are assessing the relationship of the political sensitivities extant at the moment to the nature of U.S. Government involvement in the relief effort.

To date we have responded with assets available within Italy. At the request of local authorities (as differentiated from a formal Government of Italy request), we have deployed helicopters from a U.S. NATO-related military base located near the affected area for search and relief purposes. We have also provided tents and other commodities to meet the shelter needs of a relatively small portion of the affected population.

We are prepared to draw down on commodities from the A.I.D. regional disaster relief stockpile which happens to be in Western Italy (Leghorn). Short to mid-term and long term assistance requirements will obviously differ. The United Nations Disaster Relief Office advises that the Government of Italy has dispatched 5,000 troops to cope with the urgent needs of thousands of homeless persons. During the immediate relief stage, certain specialized forms of U.S. technical assistance may prove to be helpful to the Italian Government; these include professionals skilled in the earthquake-related considerations affecting epidemiology, structural engineering and water resources. In the mid and long term, particularly in the rehabilitation and reconstruction effort which will embrace an area of unknown dimensions, more sophisticated forms of technology, particularly pertinent to planning needs, may prove to be of far greater value to the Italians than emergency-oriented technical assistance.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

-GDS-

W4M 11/30/00

The overall goal of our assistance is to not only help meet humanitarian needs but also to strengthen a NATO ally and NATO itself. We are, for example, considering using NATO as the vehicle for providing specialized U.S. assistance to meet gaps in not only their immediate but also their mid to long-term needs. The use of NATO in this fashion might strengthen NATO's image and role.

We will ensure that you are kept up-to-date through regular channels on this situation. We will keep you posted on matters which are not normally included in situation reports.



Daniel Parker
President's Special Coordinator
for International Disaster
Assistance

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

-GDS-

ITALIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE

Q. Is there any possibility that the magnitude of this U. S. aid is linked to the Italian -- or the American -- political scene? Is there a trans-Atlantic vote-buying attempt?

A. This is humanitarian assistance -- assistance in keeping with America's tradition of providing what aid this nation can to those hit by a major natural disaster. As you may recall, as recently as February, the President requested disaster relief funds to enable the United States to respond to the tragic earthquake in Guatemala. The President is requesting these relief funds for Italy to permit the United States to help alleviate the suffering caused by the earthquake.

Q. The President just vetoed a major foreign assistance bill -- why the change of heart on Italy?

A. This request for disaster funds to meet urgent human needs caused by an unforeseeable natural disaster is unrelated to foreign aid, which is to carry out specific long-term economic development projects.

Q. The President's letter to the Senate includes the phrase: "Notwithstanding, Section 10, of Public Law 91-673." What does this phrase mean?

A. This phrase enables the Congress to make the emergency appropriation available in a single legislative act, rather than acquiring separate authorizing legislation as well as this emergency appropriation. The need in Northern Italy is immediate, and the proposed legislation would enable the Congress to help the United States meet that need.

Q. Why is the Vice President going? Is his presence really necessary if the AID Administrator is going?

A. As was announced earlier this month, the Vice President is visiting the Federal Republic of Germany May 13-15, He has rearranged his departure schedule to permit him, at the President's request, to stop in Italy to receive a first hand report. As the President's message to the Congress indicates AID Administrator Parker will stay a longer time in Italy to review the situation and in greater detail.

July 19, 1976

AID TO ITALY

Q: Mr. President, Chancellor Schmidt on Saturday was quoted as saying that the United States, Germany, France and Great Britain have informally agreed to bar loans to Italy if Communists participate in the Italian Government. Your Press Secretary, Mr. Carlson, has said he would have no quarrel with the Chancellor's words. Is this the case, and, if so, isn't this blatant interference on Italy's internal affairs?

A: It is fair to say that I do not differ with Chancellor Schmidt on this issue. Let me put it in perspective. In recent months, this Administration has stated the understandable concern the United States would have if Communists were to participate formally in any NATO member government. This is a concern we have expressed to other members of the Alliance. It is a concern based on the view that Communist parties have long advocated programs detrimental to NATO. This is a concern which would apply to Italy as to any other member of the Alliance.

Specifically with regard to Italy, while the June elections were, of course, an internal Italian matter, we were pleased to note that the non-Communist parties made a strong showing, underscoring the democratic interests our two countries share.

The question of loans to developed countries with special needs and experiencing economic problems or payments deficit problems was one which I specifically addressed in my statement at the conclusion,

July 27, 1976

COMMUNISTS CHAIR FOUR ITALIAN PARLIAMENTARY
COMMITTEE

Q: Do you have any comment on the victory by the Italian Communists in winning chairmanships of four parliamentary committees?

A: We went over this ad nauseam last week. I think the President's position is well known and I have nothing to add.

August 5, 1976

AID TO ITALY

Q: Chairman Morgan released a letter yesterday from Brent Scowcroft stating that aid to Italy was discussed at Puerto Rico. What actually happened?

A: As we said at the time, the subject of aid to Italy if the Communists entered the Italian government was not on the agenda at Puerto Rico but ~~the generalization was~~ *this and other issues were* discussed around the margin of meetings. However, there was no agreement entered into by the United States with France, West Germany, and Great Britain, or any other country on the question of assistance to Italy if the Communists entered the Italian Government.

(Scowcroft letter to Chairman Morgan attached. The letter was released by Morgan but will not be released by the White House.)

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 3, 1976

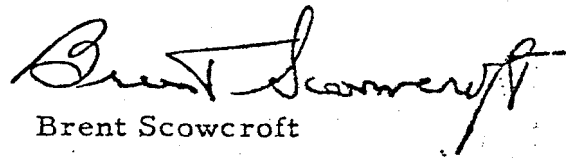
Dear Mr. Chairman:

This letter is in response to your request for comments on H. Res. 1427.

Paragraphs 1 and 2 of H. Res. 1427 are similar to an earlier resolution of inquiry (H. Res. 1295) introduced by Congressman Harrington on the same subject. As you know, we commented on this earlier resolution by my letter to you of June 16, 1976. The views expressed at that time are applicable to the current resolution, and I enclose a copy of my previous letter for your reference.

With regard to paragraph 3 of H. Res. 1427, contrary to the impression conveyed in some press reports, there was no agreement entered into by the United States with France, West Germany, and Great Britain, or any other country on the question of assistance to Italy if the Communists entered the Italian Government, although the general issue was discussed at the economic summit meeting in Puerto Rico in June. Accordingly, a privileged resolution on this subject appears unnecessary.

Based on the above considerations, it is our belief that approval of H. Res. 1427 by the Committee on International Relations and the House of Representatives would serve no useful purpose and would be incompatible with the public interest.


Brent Scowcroft

The Honorable Thomas Morgan
Chairman
Committee on International Relations
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

[9/29/76]

ANNOUNCEMENT OF PRESIDENT'S MEETING WITH
ITALIAN FOREIGN MINISTER FORLANI

(Announcement to be made at September 28 press briefing,
or to be used in confirming meeting if earlier announcement
made from Rome)

The President will meet with Arnaldo Forlani, the Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs, on September 29, 1976 at 10:30 a.m. Minister Forlani will be coming to Washington from New York where he is attending the current session of the UN General Assembly. The meeting will provide the opportunity for an exchange of views on issues of current interest to the United States and Italy, continuing the President's practice of close consultations with NATO allies. This will be the President's first meeting with a member of the new Italian Government formed under Prime Minister Andreotti.

* * * *

Q: What items will be on the agenda?

A: As in the past, there is no set agenda. I would anticipate that they will discuss recent political and economic developments in Italy, US-European relations, international developments such as the situation in Africa, and possibly U.S. assistance to the earthquake victims in Friuli.

Q: What is Forlani's political position in Italy?

A: Forlani is the Italian Foreign Minister. He has also previously served as Italy's Minister of Defense. At present, he does not hold an official position with the Christian Democratic Party. Formerly, he was the Party's Secretary General.

Q: Have they met before?

A: Minister Forlani has visited the United States several times, but has not previously met with the President.

Q: Will Forlani meet with other U.S. officials?

A: Forlani is scheduled to meet with Secretary of State Kissinger in New York later this week.

PRESIDENT'S MEETING WITH ITALIAN FOREIGN MINISTER FORLANI

Wednesday, September 29, 1976

White House Press Guidance

The President met this morning 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.

* * *

Q: Did the President and Forlani discuss the issue of Communist participation in the Italian government?

A: As I stated before, they did discuss a number of bilateral matters. I do not know if they discussed the issue of Communist participation, but the President's position on this is well known.

(FYI: He has stated repeatedly that while it is up to the people of Italy to chose their own form of government, formal Communist participation in the Italian government would be detrimental to the common interest we share as democracies and as members of NATO. END FYI.)

Q: Will the United States provide substantial economic assistance to help Italy out of its financially troubled position? Was this discussed?

A: The President and Minister Forlani did discuss the economic issues that face Italy and agreed to consult on economic cooperation.

Q: Who else will Forlani be meeting this week?

A: Minister Forlani is scheduled to meet in New York with Secretary of State Kissinger later this week.

PRESIDENT'S MEETING WITH ITALIAN PRIME MINISTER ANDREOTTI

Monday, December 6, 1976
White House Press Guidance

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 US-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.

ANDREOTTI VISIT

Q: Is it not unusual that a Prime Minister would pay an official visit to Washington during a transition from one Administration to another?

A: I believe the President touched on this in his remarks at this morning's welcoming ceremony. Over the past two years, the United States and Italy have consulted regularly and at the highest level -- perhaps with greater frequency than ever before. In fact the visit of Italy's President Leone in 1974 marked the first State visit of the Ford Administration. Prime Minister Andreotti has dedicated his efforts since becoming Prime Minister last July to addressing the issues facing him at home. We are pleased that he has found the time for this visit. This is the first mutually convenient time for the visit.

Q: Isn't it true that Andreotti only wanted to come here to obtain a commitment for large-scale economic assistance?

A: No.

Q: Does this mean there will be no direct American assistance?

A: That question would need to be considered in the context of the negotiations between the International Monetary Fund and the Italian government. We would not want to get into a discussion of that until we have a better impression of the outcome of those negotiations.

Q: Was the purpose in asking Andreotti to come to Washington to talk about the Italian Communists?

A: No. The purpose was to talk about problems of mutual interest devolving from the kind of relationship we have with Italy as trading partners, friends and allies. The nature and composition of the Italian government is for the Italians to decide. The President's position on the question you have raised is well known, and I will not repeat it now.

Q: Will Andreotti meet with President-elect Carter, Cyrus Vance, or anyone from the transition team?

A: I understand that Vice President-elect Mondale is scheduled to meet with Andreotti. I would refer you to the Vice President-elect's staff.

Q: Has Andreotti been to the United States before:

A: Yes. He has been here several times -- most recently in 1975. He was also here on an official visit as Prime Minister in April 1973.

ITALIAN ELECTIONS

Q: ~~Mr. President~~, would you comment on the outcome of the Italian regional elections? Specifically, in your view what effect will the communist gains have on Italy's support of NATO and on the Alliance as a whole?

A: The Italian elections are, of course, an internal political matter.

The United States attaches great importance to our relations with Italy

-- both bilaterally and in NATO. *The President's* ~~my~~ recent trip to Italy served to

underscore this fact. I am sure that Italy and the United States will

continue to be guided by this spirit of friendship and cooperation in dealing

with matters of interest to our two countries.

EUROPEAN TRIP - ITALY

Q: Mr. President, why are you going to Italy?

A: During his State Visit to Washington last year, President Leone invited me to visit Italy -- an invitation I have accepted with pleasure. We are especially concerned about developments in the Mediterranean. My trip to the NATO Summit also affords the welcome opportunity to travel to Italy to meet with President Leone and also to have further discussions on issues of common concern with Prime Minister Moro and other Italian leaders.

THE VATICAN

Q: Mr. President, why are you meeting with the Pope? Does this meeting foreshadow a new policy between the US and the Vatican -- the Catholic Church? What is the purpose of the meeting?

A: I am pleased that my visit to Italy will give me the opportunity to visit the Vatican City and to have an audience with His Holiness Pope Paul VI. I welcome this opportunity to discuss humanitarian issues with him and also to have the benefit of his views on problems of world peace. Our relations with the Vatican are excellent.

State Department
Friday October 3

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for not releasing it to the committee?

A I think Larry Eagleburger's statement explains the basic attitude of the Secretary and the Department on this question. Frankly, at this stage, until we get the subpoena and examine it and study it, I do not wish to comment on it, because I have not seen it yet.

Q Bob, there is quite an uproar in the Italian press about Mr. Almirante the head of the Neo-Fascist party in Italy, who was received by the White House, on a lower level, not by the President. Do you have something on this?

et seq.
A Yes, I do. I can give you a couple of comments.

First, I want to tell you that the MSI leaders were not received at the White House by immediate White House advisors to the President. Rather they met with members of the National Security Council staff over in the Executive Office Building. We understand that the scope of Mr. Almirante's visit to the United States, which was at his initiative and not proposed by the United States Government, was to develop parliamentary contacts. Within this context, he had a number of meetings on the Hill with Senators and Representatives, one of whom subsequently

requested that Mr. Almirante be received by a member of the Executive branch to discuss foreign policy matters.

In response to this Congressional initiative, and as a courtesy to the member of Congress concerned, Mr. Almirante and two of his associates met, as I just mentioned, with members of the NSC staff.

Q Who were the congressmen?

A I do not know. I do not have that in my guidance. But let me look into it, if I can.

Q Who did they meet with?

A I do not know. I do not have the names of the two. I do not even know whether it is two or more. I just have "members of the NSC staff."

Q Did he try to have contacts with you -- with the State Department?

A I am unaware that he sought any contacts with the State Department.

Q Well, Bob, isn't this problem compounded by the fact that the State Department has denied visas to other political figures in Italy on the left?

A As far as any visa question being involved here, there was none. He was found to be eligible to receive a