



# DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

# NEWS

## OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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72-S-69

STATEMENT OF SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION JOHN A. VOLPE, IN RESPONSE TO  
PRESIDENTIAL DECORATION, ROME, ITALY

I am deeply moved by the honor you have just conferred upon me, as one with deep ties of both family and affection in Italy, I am profoundly conscious of the honor you have done me. No one has followed with greater interest and pleasure the remarkable history of the Italian Republic since 945 and the growth of its economy and democratic institutions which has brought it into the forefront of the world's great industrial powers as a bastion of peace and freedom in Europe and in the Mediterranean Basin. In addition, Mr. President, I and all of my colleagues in the United States Government are deeply aware of the vital role which you, personally, have played in shaping the post-war history of Italy and in strengthening the traditionally close ties which bind our countries together.

I bring you the warm personal greetings of President Nixon who recalls with so much pleasure the open-hearted hospitality which you and all of the Italian people extended to him on his recent visit.

I look forward in the days ahead to the opportunity of talking with members of the Italian Government and to the occasion this affords for reinforcing the bonds of amity between our countries. I hope, too, that this visit may provide the opportunity for examining any problems which exist

between us and helping to speed them toward the early solution of which they are capable, given the undoubted good will which exists on both sides.

I will have the opportunity on this trip to visit not only the capital, but also the great cities of Naples, Milan and Genoa. And, not least, the little village of Pescosensonesco in the Abruzzi from which my family came many years ago to the United States. I know that I will find in each of these places the same warm hospitality which you are extending to me today.

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