

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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REMARKS PREPARED FOR DELIVERY BY SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION
JOHN A. VOLPE IN RESPONSE TO TOAST BY PRIME MINISTER RUMOR,
ROME, ITALY, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3, 1969

Mr. Prime Minister, I thank you for your gracious welcome and
this delightful occasion to confer informally with you.

Transportation has played a key role in the relations between our
two countries and continents ever since Columbus discovered America and
Vespucci gave his name to it. The boldness and daring of those and
other Italian pioneers have been an inspiration to explorers throughout
the centuries.

Their achievements were, I know, in the thoughts of our own astronauts
whose recent landing on the moon parallels, across the years, the achieve-
ments of Columbus in discovering new worlds. It was particularly fitting
that one of the astronauts, Michael Collins, should have been born here
in Rome and that all three of the moon voyagers will be visiting Italy in
two weeks' time.

I consider myself particularly fortunate, as one having such close and
treasured connections with Italy, to have been asked by President Nixon to
make this trip. The President deeply valued the opportunity to meet with

(more)

you last February and was greatly touched by your thoughtfulness in making the journey to Washington to attend the funeral of President Eisenhower.

In the discussions I have had and will be having during this stay, I will do what I can to strengthen these bonds and, specifically, during this stay, I hope to bring some of the problems we have encountered in the transportation field closer to a solution as well as to initiate new ventures in joint research development in this field.

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