



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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REMARKS PREPARED FOR DELIVERY BY SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION
JOHN A. VOLPE AT LUNCHEON HOSTED BY MAYOR OF GENOA, OCTOBER 8,
1969

I am most grateful to the city of Genoa and to the International Institute of Communications for giving me the opportunity to visit this beautiful city. How appropriate that this famed Institute should be located here in this great port, for Genoa is a center of international communications. Throughout the centuries, with their eyes toward the seas, the Genoese have had an international outlook. Genoese mariners have long been famous throughout the world whose seas and oceans they have sailed. It is staggering to think how much trade has been conducted from the port of Genoa over the centuries. And it is important to realize that this peaceful commerce has been, and is, an important link among nations and peoples. In truth, this trade is a very real and tangible form of "international communications."

So I find great pleasure in being in this great port, this unique city. And I am especially glad that I have come at this particular time -- on the eve of the anniversary of one of one of the most important events in the history of the world -- the discovery of the New World by the great

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mariner, Genoa's most famous son, Christopher Columbus, who first sighted the shores of America on October 12, 1492, 477 years ago.

In proclaiming Columbus Day this year, President Nixon likened our astronauts' magnificent journey to the moon to Columbus's great voyage to the new world. Both voyages, he said, were "expressions of man's great ambition to confront the unknown and to master the challenges of distance and space." I am happy to be able to add that this great attribute of the human spirit continues to be found in both your country and mine.

I have had the opportunity during this brief visit to see for myself how the spirit of adventure and progress continues to imbue the life of your city whose future achievements seem destined to continue the great traditions of your famous sons of past centuries.

May it be ever so. And may the long tradition of friendship, affection and trust between Italy and the United States continue to serve as an inspiration, not only to our own peoples, but to all mankind.

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