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2011-2184-F

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**Collection/Office of Origin:** Speechwriting, White House Office of  
**Series:** Speech File Draft Files  
**Subseries:** Chron File, 1989-1993

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**OA/ID Number:** 13488  
**Folder ID Number:** 13488-014

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**Folder Title:**  
American Embassy, Rome, 5/28/89

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Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
<b>G</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

MAY 23, 1989

INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH:

CHRISS WINSTON *W*

FROM:

MARK LANGE *ML*

SUBJECT:

AMERICAN COMMUNITY GREETING, ROME

Attached are talking points for your greeting of some 600 American and Italian staff members and their families at the Villa Taverna in Rome, on Sunday, May 28, at 2:30 p.m.

You may want to informally recognize three Italian employees, who between them have given 101 years of service to the U.S. mission, and who will be retiring in a few weeks.

Ms. Lea Simcic, Commerical Assistant, retires after 40 years.

Mr. Eugeni Conti, Federal Benefits Unit, retires after 40 years.

And Mr. Otello Marcucci, electrician in General Services, retires after 21 years.

**TALKING POINTS: AMERICAN COMMUNITY GREETING  
VILLA TAVERNA  
SUNDAY, MAY 28, 1988  
2:30 P.M.**

**0 AMBASSADOR RABB... RUTH... FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES:  
IT'S A PLEASURE TO BE HERE AT VILLA TAVERNA.**

0 YOU'VE ENJOYED EIGHT YEARS OF OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP UNDER AMBASSADOR MAX RABB. I WOULD LIKE TO THANK MAX AND RUTH FOR THEIR MANY CONTRIBUTIONS. THEY HAVE KEPT AMERICAN-ITALIAN TIES STRONG AND PRODUCTIVE.

0 YOU CAN LOOK FORWARD WITH CONFIDENCE TO THE ARRIVAL OF YOUR NEW AMBASSADOR, MY GOOD FRIEND PETE SECCHIA. THE SENATE SHOULD COMPLETE ACTION ON HIS NOMINATION SHORTLY -- AND HE AND HIS CHARMING WIFE JOAN SHOULD BE HERE BEFORE LONG.

- 4 -

0 THANKS IN LARGE MEASURE TO YOUR EFFORTS, OUR VISIT HAS GONE VERY WELL. WE'VE HAD GOOD TALKS WITH PRESIDENT COSSIGA AND THE PRIME MINISTER -- A GALA EVENING LAST NIGHT -- AND A MOVING CEREMONY AT NETTUNO THIS MORNING. I KNOW HOW MUCH WORK GOES INTO MAKING THESE EVENTS POSSIBLE -- AND I'D LIKE TO THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU'VE DONE.

- 5 -

0 I'VE BEEN AN AMBASSADOR ABROAD; I KNOW THAT THE CONTINUITY AND EXPERIENCE OUR NATIONAL EMPLOYEES PROVIDE IS INVALUABLE. WE ARE GRATEFUL TO THEM, AND GLAD TO SEE OUR ITALIAN FRIENDS HERE THIS AFTERNOON.

- 6 -

0 TO THE STUDENTS WHO ARE WITH US TODAY, FROM THE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS IN ROME, LET ME WISH YOU THE VERY BEST. I HOPE YOU CAN TAKE THE FULLEST ADVANTAGE OF YOUR EXPERIENCE LIVING AND STUDYING IN ROME.

- 7 -

0 WE NOW GO TO BRUSSELS FOR THE NATO SUMMIT -- AND THEN ON TO BONN AND LONDON. BUT WE WILL NOT FORGET OUR FIRST WONDERFUL STOP HERE IN ROME. THANK YOU ALL VERY MUCH -- AND GOD BLESS YOU.

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(Lange/Wallace)  
May 23, 1989  
5:30 p.m.  
[AMERCOMM.TPS]

TALKING POINTS:

AMERICAN COMMUNITY GREETING  
VILLA TAVERNA  
SUNDAY, MAY 28, 1988  
2:30 P.M.

- o Ambassador Rabb... Ruth... friends and colleagues: it's a pleasure to be here at Villa Taverna.
- o You've enjoyed eight years of outstanding leadership under Ambassador Max Rabb. I would like to thank Max and Ruth for their many contributions. They have kept American-Italian ties strong and productive.
- o You can look forward with confidence to the arrival of your new Ambassador, my good friend Pete Secchia. The Senate should complete action on his nomination shortly -- and he and his charming wife Joan should be here before long.
- o Thanks in large measure to your efforts, our visit has gone very well. We've had good talks with President Cossiga and the Prime Minister -- a gala evening last night -- and a moving ceremony at Nettuno this morning. I know how much work goes into making these events possible -- and I'd like to thank you for all you've done.
- o I've been an ambassador abroad; I know that the continuity and experience our national employees provide is invaluable. We are grateful to them, and glad to see our Italian friends here this afternoon.
- o To the students who are with us today, from the international schools in Rome, let me wish you the very best. I hope you can take the fullest advantage of your experience living and studying in Rome.
- o We now go to Brussels for the NATO Summit -- and then on to Bonn and London. But we will not forget our first wonderful stop here in Rome. Thank you all very much -- and God bless you.

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**TALKING POINTS: AMERICAN COMMUNITY GREETING  
BRUSSELS, BELGIUM  
MAY 30, 1989  
2:15 PM**

- BARBARA AND I ARE PLEASED TO HAVE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO VISIT THE BRUSSELS AMERICAN SCHOOL.

- 2 -

- I WANT TO COMMEND MY HOST HERE, DR. JENNIFER BECKWITH, FOR THE WORK YOU DO AT WHAT IS REALLY A RATHER LARGE ONE-ROOM SCHOOLHOUSE -- KINDERGARTEN ON UP.
- I ALSO WANT TO RECOGNIZE OUR AMBASSADORS: MIKE GLITMAN, OUR ENVOY TO BELGIUM, AMBASSADOR TO NATO ALTON KEEL, AND AMBASSADOR TO THE EC ALFRED KINGON.

- 3 -

- YOU SERVE WITH DISTINCTION IN VERY DEMANDING ASSIGNMENTS.
  
- AND IT'S A TEAM EFFORT. ALL OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE FAMILY MEMBERS IN THIS ROOM CONTRIBUTE TO OUR SUCCESSES.

- 4 -

- RIGHT NOW, BRUSSELS IS THE HUB OF SOME OF THE MOST IMPORTANT AND EXACTING DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS IN THE WORLD.
  
- BARBARA AND I REMEMBER OUR TIME IN CHINA -- THE EXCITEMENT, AS WELL AS THE DIFFICULTIES AND RISKS INVOLVED IN FOREIGN SERVICE LIFE.

- 5 -

-- I ASSURE YOU, I'LL BE DOING ALL I CAN TO MAKE YOUR OVERSEAS DUTY AS REWARDING, SAFE AND FULFILLING AS POSSIBLE.

-- THANK YOU FOR THIS KIND WELCOME. ON BEHALF OF ALL AMERICANS, LET ME THANK YOU FOR THE REAL CONTRIBUTION ALL OF YOU MAKE TO ADVANCE AMERICA'S MISSION IN THE WORLD.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary  
(Rome, Italy)

For Immediate Release

May 28, 1989

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT  
AT AMERICAN EMBASSY COMMUNITY GREETING

American Embassy  
Rome, Italy

2:30 P.M. (L)

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. Thank you, Mr. Secretary, and thank all of you for that warm Memorial Day Weekend welcome. First, to Ambassador Rabb and Ruth, let me simply add our profound thanks for a job well-done. I'll tell you, you stay around Max for about 24 hours, and that energy level -- that exhausting energy level is something. And it all has been steered into improving relations -- this energy of his -- improving relations between Italy and the United States.

And yesterday, when I met with the Italian leaders I told them, I don't believe this relationship -- this bilateral relationship -- has ever been stronger. And I think a large bit of the credit for that goes to our Ambassador and his wife. And then I'd have to add to every single one of you that works here in the United States Embassy, thank you for a job superbly done. (Applause.)

I will say just a word about our new Ambassador, Pete Secchia, a good friend of both the Secretary's and mine, he'll do a good job -- energetic. He knows what he doesn't know. He knows he going to have to learn a lot from the staff here. But you're going to like him and I'm convinced the Italians will as well. I believe the Senate will act promptly on that nomination. And he and his Joan, that Jim Baker and I know very well, will be along, but what remarkably big shoes they have to fill.

Thanks, in large measure, to your efforts -- I agree with Max -- this visit has gone well. I saw Barbara Watson, who is the admin officer of the United States Embassy. And I looked at her very carefully before I went over and shook hands. And I wanted to see if she looked in a high state of irritation -- (laughter) -- or if she looked perfectly normal. And I would say this -- I saw her -- it wasn't that she looked on edge at all -- (laughter) -- but I told her that we would leave on time. And she smiled from ear to ear and was very gracious. (Laughter.)

And I say all that because I have been on the receiving end -- when I served in China -- the receiving end of a visit from a President of the United States and I know what it's like -- a pluperfect pain. (Laughter.) No, she was very pleasant about it. And it gives me the occasion to thank all of you -- the admin and the security and the political side of the Embassy and commercial or military -- whatever -- for the superb cooperation. Our people tell me they've never seen a more cooperative effort, and I think it has shown through in the way this visit has gone. And I might say, parenthetically, my thanks to the members of the U.S. Navy for providing us that wonderful music here on this very celebratory day.

Now, we've had good talks here -- substantive talks with President Cossiga and then with -- of course, with the Prime

MORE

Minister, the Foreign Minister. We had a gala evening last night and then -- I agree with the objective side of what Max said about the ceremony at Nettuna -- oh, I'm sure most of you all have been there. And if you haven't, you've got to see it. You've got to see that tribute to those who gave their lives fighting for our country, fighting for freedom. It was very, very moving for Barbara and me. And I expect any American who goes and takes a look at that beautiful cemetery will have that with them for the rest of their lives. And so I want to thank those who handle that end of our visit -- those who serve to keep up that beautiful memorial to our fallen brothers.

I know, as I say, that this has been a complicated event. And now, as you know, we go on from here to NATO -- to the meeting there that is very, very important for the Alliance. I happen to believe this Alliance has never been stronger. And I salute my immediate predecessor, President Reagan, for his role in guaranteeing the strength of the Alliance.

So we go there in a time of great optimism -- a time when our values worldwide are winning -- the values of freedom and democracy and all the things that we believe in and things these kids learn about in school every single day and get from their families. So it's an optimistic time for the Alliance. And it's a great time for the United States of America.

I look forward to that part of it. But there was something more than symbolic about Italy being my first stop. Because I think it signals to the Italian people how important we view not only their participation in NATO and their willingness to undertake complicated NATO assignments, but the strength of our bilateral relationship that so many of you have worked many years to encourage and to strengthen. So I'm grateful again for that. And please make no mistake -- when we chose Italy we did it very, very carefully. And we came here to symbolize exactly this -- the strength of the friendship between our two peoples.

Now, thank you all very much. What I really want to do -- and I don't know that we can talk these kids into it -- but what I really want to do is see if we can get the kids -- and to be a kid, you've got to be -- (laughter) -- you guys are out -- you've got to be, what, about 15 to come so we can have a group picture taken up here. And if anybody feels offended, we've got to do that. But in the meantime, let me end this way because this is a marvelous Memorial Day Weekend. And let me simply say thank you and God bless the United States of America.

Thank you all very, very much.

END

2:39 P.M. (L)