

NOTES

Mr. Ambassador, Your Excellency, Dr. Ripley, Reverend
Clergy and "Fellow Explorers":

*Pre-Columbus Day
Reception - Oct. 11, 1967
Wash. D.C.*

This is an occasion when a man appreciates

having the middle name, "Horatio."

Oct 12 Columbus Day
NAMES HONORING COLUMBUS

*Tomorrow
all over
America
Columbus
Day*

Oct 12, 1967
Names do tell a great deal. It is no coinci-
dence that we celebrate the epic achievement of Christo-
pher Columbus in the Capital of our nation, named the
District of Columbia. *(Columbus, Foreign & Intern Educ)*

Within this audience are many distinguished
members of the Knights of Columbus.

Some of you may have attended Columbia
University.

In our own hemisphere is the Republic of
Colombia, a reminder that Spanish-speaking America
rightly shares with pride the immortal deeds of this
great explorer.

Our school children sing with joy, "Columbia,
the Gem of the Ocean."

hat
The New World is indeed the gem Columbus

found in his search for a new passage to the treasures of India.

It was one of our literary giants, Theodore Dreiser, who said: "I had a feeling that somehow the spirit of Italy was like that of America, and that somehow there is a close kinship between us and Italy, and that it was not for nothing that an Italian discovered America."

VISIT TO ITALY

I sensed this spirit during my most recent visit to Rome and to Florence in the spring, and we all felt it during the recent visit of your esteemed President Saragat. L By gathering here today we honor not only the great navigator, but we reaffirm the bonds of friendship which have so long united our two peoples.

L So, I am pleased and honored to accept the Columbus Medal. I look upon it as a symbol of a long

and fruitful association between our two countries.

ITALY AND AMERICA

The Italian nation is very dear in the minds and hearts of all Americans. Millions of our citizens are linked to Italy through ties of blood. All Americans are bound to Italy by bonds of a common civilization which flowered on Italian soil. In addition, we share together a mutual aspiration and a common objective which is a just and lasting world peace.

When we think of your great nation, Mr. Ambassador, we are reminded of the words of Longfellow who said that "Italy remains to all-the land of dreams and visions of delight." In addition, she remains for us today a staunch and steadfast friend, and a valued ally.

SMITHSONIAN

It is very appropriate that at this particular location we honor the 475th Anniversary -- tomorrow -- of Columbus' landing. The Smithsonian Institution symbolize man's boundless quest for knowledge, his

unceasing desire to express himself.

And here we see a magnificent flag which symbolizes America's dedication to the ideal cherished by Italians, too -- freedom.

AMERICA'S WARS

From our Revolutionary War onward, Italian-Americans have distinguished themselves on the field of battle. We remember Colonel Francis Vigo (Veego), who helped win one of our great victories in the struggle for independence, leading to our possession of the Northwest Territory.

Italian-Americans like Joseph Lametti fought in the War of 1812 when the Flag in this Hall was seen "through the rockets' red glare."

In the War Between the States, members of the 39th New York Infantry, known as the Garibaldi Guard, flew the proud banner which had advanced with the patriot, Garibaldi, in the battle for Rome. On that banner were Garibaldi's immortal words "God and the People."

WORLD HISTORY

From ancient Rome to modern Rome, a long series of great Italians have enriched the history of mankind:

In music from Verdi (Vairdee) to Toscanini (Tahskaneenee); in literature, Dante (Dontee); in invention, Marconi, in medicine, in the arts -- countless names, indeed -- in every field of endeavor.

HOLY FATHERS

And may I say to his Excellency, the Apostolic Delegate, in the long and illustrious history of the especially Church, how/blessed we are that in our lifetime, we have known His Holiness, Pope John XXIII, and His Holiness , Pope Pius VI. How often I have quoted from their respective encyclicals "Pacem In Terris" and "The Development of Peoples."

AMERICAN LEADERS

In our own land have been countless great Italian names:

In government -- Anthony Celebrezze
(Sellaabreezee)

In banking -- Gianinni (Geeaninee)

In politics -- LaGuardia

In sports -- DiMaggio and Marciano
(Marseeano)

In entertainment -- stars too numerous to
mention.

Yes, in the White House-- a President whose
mother's maiden name was Fitzgerald but who was--he recalled --
descended from a Venetian family, the Geraldinis --
John Fitzgerald Kennedy.

SCIENCE

And who can forget that one of the greatest
scientific achievements of our era was ushered in by
the superb work of Enrico Fermi. In December, 1942,
when his atomic experiment in Chicago succeeded with
a chain reaction, a coded telephone message was relayed
to Washington; it said, "The Italian Navigator has
landed in the New World."

Enrico Fermi had indeed landed in the New World of nuclear science, just as Christopher Columbus had landed in the New World of this hemisphere.

He had pursued his dream despite repeated rebuff and disappointment.

His vision was boundless, just as our vision must be.

AMERICA'S GOALS

Here at home, we seek an improved social order in which there is freedom from want, ignorance, fear, and discrimination. Our goal is a society where there is hope and fulfillment for all.

Abroad, our aims are essentially the same. We seek a world in which there is freedom from want, hunger, ignorance, disease -- a world in which there is freedom to be free. We want to create a world in which all nations live together in harmony and at peace.

I know, Mr. Ambassador, that your great nation and its people do share our quest for peace, for justice,

liberty and the spiritual and material well-being of all people.

Indeed, as Christopher Columbus chartered the course for the New World, so his spiritual heirs and descendants in Italy have embarked upon a course to revitalize the Old. We recall with admiration the leading role that Italy has played in the construction of Western European unity. We continue to be impressed with the economic progress and the unprecedented prosperity which Italy has achieved at home.

"Sail on" we say. Sail on -- in the tradition of Columbus, sail on to new horizons for the family of man.

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