

REMARKS - VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT HUMPHREY
LUNCHEON BY THE VICE PRESIDENT IN HONOR OF MARIANO RUMOR
SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE ITALIAN CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY
BLAIR HOUSE October 16, 1967

It is a pleasure to welcome to Washington a political leader who has achieved great distinction in his country and on the European Continent.

We welcome our honored guest, Mr. Mariano Rumor, as Secretary General of the Christian Democratic Party of Italy and as President of the European Federation of Christian Democrats. We are pleased you could come here to Washington to meet with President Johnson, with Secretary Rusk and other members of the Executive Branch, with distinguished Senators and Congressmen - and American private citizens.

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Your presence here today, Mr. Secretary General, reminds us of the important contribution which Italy has made and continues to make to the successful evolution of the Western world of free men. From the days of Prime Minister de Gasperi, Italian leadership has shown courage, wisdom and statesmanship in furthering and promoting European unification, the Atlantic Alliance, and a just and lasting world peace.

The maintenance of a free and vigorous democracy in the Italian Peninsula is of vital importance not only to the Italian people, but to all of us. It is a source of great satisfaction that the center-left coalition Government is working well. We know that you, Mr. Secretary General, together with

Prime Minister Moro and Vice Premier Nenni, share in the responsibility for this experiment which has provided a strong and stable government in Italy for the past four years. I was deeply honored to be able to confer in Rome earlier this year with the leaders of that Government.

We welcome you here as the President of one of the two great political movements of post-war Europe, the Christian Democratic movement. As President of the European Federation of Christian Democrats, you have recognized that political parties can share in the contribution which the Old World makes to the New. You and your Christian Democratic colleagues share with European Social Democrats a conviction that Europe has a political contribution to make in the developing areas of the world.

We know of the special interest which you have in Latin America. We value especially the contribution which you as Europeans can make to political development in this hemisphere. As we face the next decade, we are more aware today than five years ago that the economic progress we seek, and the social justice we aspire to, can be securely achieved only where political institutions are strong and where political leadership is secure. Whether in Europe, the United States, or Latin America, until ways are found to strengthen the political fabric of society . . . to perfect the institutions which are the sub-structure of a stable political system, we can have no assurance that the economic and social modernization can proceed without interruption.

The growth of modern political parties - which today are flourishing in Europe - is an indispensable ingredient for that political development we seek in this hemisphere.

So we welcome a greater European contribution to the political, cultural, social and economic life of the Americas. We welcome Europe in our hemisphere, not as a rival for power, but as a partner for progress - for we are all of us the children of Europe.

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We welcome you as a leader of an outward-looking Europe, a Europe which seeks to extend the benefits of Western civilization and culture to those millions of men and women - in this hemisphere and around the world - who are struggling for a chance to lead a truly human life.

Gentlemen, may I ask you to raise your glasses in honor of The President of the Italian Republic.



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