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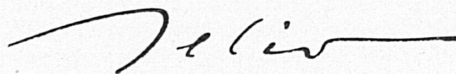
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TO OUR AMERICAN GUESTS

To the officers and soldiers of the United States Army a hearty welcome. When, months ago, you left your own great country and travelled across oceans, continents, your life was in the hands of God, your spirit and your body fought the famous battles for liberty and freedom. Today a peaceful era reigns again, but great have been the losses mankind suffered, much blood was spilled in this gigantic human struggle. Yours was the victory and the dark forces that once threatened the entire world are vanishing. Amidst this greatest of all wars the little island Switzerland remained untouched. Mountains and rivers formed a natural barrier, strengthened by the soldiers of our army, and the determined will of our people. Hard work and an unshakeable faith in the ultimate destiny kept us together in spite of different language and religion. Dark were the nights in villages and towns until the fast advancing allied armies reached the shores of this once isolated, peaceful island. The joy which will greet you everywhere these days is an expression of relief and thanks and at the same time confirms the old existing friendship between the two democracies on both Atlantic sides. No better tie can be created between nations than that based on a friendly personal meeting. You are the heralds from across the sea and we are glad to offer you the hospitality of our country. The seed now planted during your short visit may grow into a tree of everlasting friendship between our peoples, whose way of life may differ, though our ideals have so much in common.

We welcome you and hope you will enjoy the few days in our midst.



ENRICO CELIO

Federal Councillor,
Chief of the Federal Transportation
and Communication Department.

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