

Berlusconi in the U.S. on Columbus Day

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Bush invited Italy's Prime Minister to dine at the White House. "It will be a great occasion to celebrate and renew our long-lasting and intimate friendship".

The piece of news was given today by the Italian Premier Silvio Berlusconi during a press-release at Palazzo Chigi.

At the presence of the US Vice-President Dick Cheney he explained that his decision is due to a particularly kind invitation extended by President Bush: "He has asked me to go to the United States



for Columbus Day. He desires to organize a dinner in my honor", he said.

The Premier claimed that he has advised Bush to postpone the invitation due to the political commitments the latter will have to face in view of the imminent US Presidential elections.

But, as Berlusconi himself suggested, the President has insisted to the point that he has finally decided to accept: "I am deeply grateful to Bush and I will certainly be in the United States on Columbus Day. It will be a great occasion to celebrate and renew our long-lasting and intimate friendship", he finally added.

(M.M.)

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