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His Excellency Giovanni Castellaneta
Ambassador to the United States
Embassy of Italy
3000 Whitehaven Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20008

Dear Mr. Ambassador,

We request, with the utmost urgency, that you and your Government join with the other nations that have already ratified the Bad Arolsen treaty to release the International Tracing Service Holocaust Archive. We ask that you take the immediate steps necessary to release these archival holdings. As members of Holocaust survivor families, remind you of the humanitarian and moral imperative to remove this remaining barrier to full access to these records.

Those records document the lives of Holocaust survivors and their families during World War II. The survivors have a right to know the fates of their family members while the survivors are still alive. Access is also important for scholars who wish to research official documents while there are still survivors for those scholars to interview.

Time is of the essence in this matter, as hundreds of survivors are dying every day. Please urge your government to expedite the ratification of the treaty authorizing the release of these records.

Respectfully,

GSI Coordinating Committee and Others *

* Names withheld to protect the privacy of the signators