March 9, 1943

: General O'Dwyer

: Paul J. McCormack

Re: Doris Marron Mattoli

I talked with Gilson Blake, Assistant Chief, Special War Problems Division, State Department, regarding the Mattoli family and their desire to come to the United States from Italy as soon as possible.

Mr. Blake informed me that they were in the same circumstances as hundreds of other American nationals who likewise desire to return, but that inasmuch as shipping from Italy to the United States is controlled by the military, it is unlikely that very many civilians will be returned in the very near future.

Mr. Blake suggests that Mrs. Mattoli be advised to register herself and her three children with the American Consul in Rome for purposes of indicating her desire to return to the United States. By this device she will appear on a so-called eligible register of American nationals who desire to return. Mr. Blake recalled that only one civilian, to his knowledge, had been returned to the United States from Italy in the past year and that one only because he had sufficient funds to pay his own transportation costs and because of certain military contacts that worked to his advantage.