

Requests for Specific Aid: SERAFINI, NATALINO (M.R.)

000186

APR 4 - 1945

Dear Mr. Serafini:

I have your letter of March 30, 1945, concerning your desire to arrange to bring your daughter to this country from Italy.

I am sorry that the War Refugee Board is not in a position to help you with this problem, since immigration matters are not within its jurisdiction. I am informed, however, that a number of private organizations may be able to assist in matters of this nature, and I suggest that you write to any one of the agencies named in the enclosed list for information as to what action can be taken at this time to arrange for your daughter's entry into the United States.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) William O'Dwyer

William O'Dwyer
Executive Director

Mr. Natalino Serafini,
913 North Drake Avenue,
Chicago, Illinois.

Enclosure.

EBT EBT:inp 4/3/45

000187

March 20th, 1945
913 North Drake Avenue
Chicago, Illinois

War Refugee Board,
J.W. Peltie
Exec. Director
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Sir:

My daughter Annela Serafini, born on February 26th, 1929 in Ponte San Pietro, Lucca, Italy, is now residing with Mrs. Enis Tisani, Ponte San Pietro, Lucca.

I, Natalino Serafini, born on December 25th, 1905 in Ponte San Pietro, Lucca, have been an American citizen since 1916 through my father, and I came to the United States in 1936.

My wife arrived here on the Manhattan Mon June 12th, 1940, taking with her our little boy, Vittorio Enrico Serafini, born on April 16th, 1935, but she was unable to take our little girl with her because new rules and regulations were put into effect relative to the citizenship of foreign born children of American parents, born prior to a certain year did not automatically become U.S. citizens and etc...

Before my wife departed from Italy she approached the American Consal in Lucca and was informed that my daughter could enter the U.S. on the "extra quota" and that it would take a period of 2 or 3 months before necessary documents could be issued.

My wife departed without my daughter in hopes of being reunited with her in a few months, here in the U.S., but unfortunately the war broke out which impeded her passage.

Now the condition of the child, as to her health and education is a precarious one. I would like to have her here safe in our home, with proper food, clothing and education. As the child grows older it will become increasingly difficult to assimilate with facility and be at ease with other school children. I would like to give to her a normal education and now is the time to start. You see she will be greatly handicapped because she isn't even versed in the Italian language.

To send her to an Italian school will cost a large sum of money. I couldn't very well send money to educate my daughter when the family with whom she is living is sick and hungry, and I can't afford to support them all.

I am appealing to your excellent humanitarian organization for assistance. Can my daughter enter the U.S. as a refugee child as hundreds of children from England and elsewhere have entered and sought foster parents? I am ready and willing to incur any expense for her entrance, because I want my child to grow up and be like any normal American girl. If I wait till the end of the war, she will be raised her teens, an age when one becomes indifferent to schools and books, especially if the individual is a foreigner.

Will you please give me some enlightenment as to what course I should follow for her complete entrance into the U.S.A.?

Sincerely yours,

Natalino Serafini

per

Anna Madonia

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