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Pres file

September 18, 1967.

Mr. President:

State says that they have just learned that Saragat may raise the question of Italian immigration quotas. There are some 100,000 Italian brothers and sisters of US citizens who wish preferential status. Under existing legislation it will be possible to issue visas to them at a rate of only about 5,000 per year.

You may wish to tell Saragat:

- Under the Immigration Reform Act of 1965 total immigration from Italy rose from 10,344 in FY 1965, the last full year before the act, to 26,077 in FY 1967 -- second only to Great Britain and Northern Ireland (27,364) in the Eastern Hemisphere.
- The new Act sets an annual limit for any one country of 20,000. Parents, spouses, children -- but not brothers and sisters -- are exempted.
- There are several bills before Congress to provide "immediate relative status" (and thus exemption from the limit to brothers and sisters and their spouses and children. But chances of passage are not great.

W. W. Rostow