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Letter from Geraldine Ferraro to an Italian Journalist

Geraldine Ferraro

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MONDALE/FERRARO

for America

October 3, 1984

[REDACTED]
30171 Mestre
Venezia, Italy

Dear [REDACTED]:

Thank you for your interest in my candidacy. I am enclosing some background materials I believe will answer most of your questions.

I have visited Italy twice. A family visit in 1979 was devoted to sightseeing and visits to relatives of my late father, who had emigrated to the United States from Marcianise, in Casserta, in 1920.

The next year, 1980, President Jimmy Carter named me to a delegation which came to Italy to examine the damage caused by the terrible earthquakes of 1980 and to assess American aid efforts. We toured the stricken provinces and held meetings in Naples and Rome.

I certainly hope to visit the country of my forebears many more times and I especially hope to visit Venice. I commend the efforts that have been made to restore and preserve this beautiful and historic city.

Like other ethnic groups in America, Italian-Americans have tended to become more conservative as they have become more successful and "Americanized." But they are, I believe, conservative in the original sense of the word -- not the meaning used by the current Administration.

Of course, we want to give our children more than we had. We want to assure a secure future for ourselves and our elderly parents. And we want to protect what we have worked for by building an effective and sensible defense. But I do not believe Italian-Americans can ever be a selfish people who would deny the opportunity to succeed to those still struggling to make their way. Nor do we want government to dictate our family and religious values.

As a people that has suffered ethnic discrimination and stereotyping, Italians and Italian-Americans have a special obligation to uphold these values and communicate them both in Italy and in the United States. I hope that my candidacy will enhance the image of persons of Italian heritage here and throughout the world.

I thank you again for your interest and look forward to seeing your newspaper article.

Sincerely,

Geraldine A. Ferraro

The Mondale/Ferraro Committee, Inc., 2201 Wisconsin Ave N.W., Washington, DC 20007 (202) 625-1600

Paid for by the Mondale/Ferraro Committee, Inc.