6-4-1948

Receipt of a Letter of Appeal from Dolores Susin of Belluno, Italy. 1948 June 4.

Strom Thurmond

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Recommended Citation
Thurmond, Strom, "Receipt of a Letter of Appeal from Dolores Susin of Belluno, Italy. 1948 June 4." (1948). Strom Thurmond Collection, Mss100. 334.
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STATEMENT OF J. STROM THURMOND, GOVERNOR OF SOUTH CAROLINA, UPON RECEIPT OF A LETTER OF APPEAL FROM DOLORES SUSIN, OF BELLUNO, ITALY, JUNE 4, 1948.

A young Italian girl wrote Governor J. Strom Thurmond today to ask whether she is right in thinking that "after America can come only Heaven."

The letter, written in Italian, was translated for the Governor by Mrs. Antonia Fogle, of 504½ Capitol Place, Columbia, the wife of a South Carolina G.I., who has been in this country only a year.

Written in a legible hand on what Mrs. Fogle described as fourth-grade note-paper, the letter requested that its writer, Dolores Susin, of 90 Via Feltre, Belluno, Italy, be placed on the list of those receiving packages from America.

As translated, the letter said:

"Dear Governor:

"Among my neighbors there are some people that have relatives in America. Some has an uncle, others a brother or a father. I am the only one with bad luck and I do not know where to make a request and when I see or hear that my neighbors receive some American packages I feel sad. I think about America as the country of magicians and fairies where everything works wonderfully and where girls of my age have good time and are always happy. Reading my books in the school I created a personal landscape of that land and sometime I think that after America can come only the Heaven. Am I right or wrong? Pardon me, President, if I chosen the address that attract me more. I did that because Caroline is the name of my grandmother beloved. I wish that the American grandmother will be as good and dear as the Italian one.

Yours truly,

Dolores Susin
Via Feltre-90
Belluno, Italy"
Governor Thurmond's reply said, in part:

"My Dear Dolores:

"We are going to do what we can to see that you, too, receive some packages from America.

"Here in the State of South Carolina we also think that, 'after America can come only the Heaven.' But we know that we are only a small part of a great world in which many people, unlike ourselves, are suffering for the lack of food.

"Although we do not really have any fairies or magicians to help us run this great nation, we do have the magic of the democratic spirit, and the faith that men should be free to live their own lives."