

Open  
letter

## INCHIOSTRO SIMPATICO

**A mother begs  
Your help,  
Mr. Menzies**PRIME MINISTER  
RIGHT HONOURABLE  
MR. R. G. MENZIES  
CANBERRA

Dear Sir,

It is on behalf of an Italian mother that I take the liberty of addressing this appeal to You. A mother's grief stops at no obstacles, and this mother has knocked at all doors, filled countless applications, contacted Australian and Italian Immigration Officials in a fruitless bid to have her daughter with her in Australia: the wall of bureaucracy has stood all efforts.

Now, after six years of unsuccessful struggle, this unfortunate mother puts all her remaining hopes in this plea believing that, with Your personal intervention, her seventeen-year-old daughter may finally be allowed to come to this country.

With all the strength that we mothers gather when one of our children is taken away from us I beg You to consider this pitiful case sure that the appeal will not remain unanswered like a voice in the desert.

In the year 1951 Mrs. Maria Bando Bianucci disembarked at Melbourne and joined her husband. She was accompanied by two of her three children while the other, namely Jolanda, had remained in Italy. Why she had been left behind is soon explained.

Some time before, one of Mrs. Bianucci's youngest children had become ill. Afraid that her husband would never see the child again if he had come to work, she decided to leave Italy at the shortest notice possible. Unfortunately at the time her husband, Salvatore, who had had to pay his fare to Australia without any assistance, could not afford to have all his family in Australia at once and it was therefore decided to leave Jolanda, who was then eleven years of age, at some relatives' well enough money was saved to pay her fare.

A few months after Mrs. Bianucci's arrival, an application was filed for a Landing Permit in favour of Jolanda. When she underwent medical examination, it was found that her eyes were affected by an ailment (retinite pigmentosa) which is

causing dragging her towards total blindness. For this reason her application was rejected.

For six years her parents fought an unrelenting battle but, as time passed, their grief for the tragic conditions of their daughter increased as hopes faded.

You understand, Mr. Menzies, that a girl in such conditions needs all the care and affections of her mother; You also know that a mother's heart bleeds to death until she has seen the most unfortunate of her children. The alternative of leaving Australia has of course been considered, but that would destroy the future of the other two children, now acclimatised to the new environment, and bring to a wasteful end years of sacrifices, toil and hard won savings.

Furthermore, on July 27th 1955 the Bianucci's became naturalised (Certificate of Naturalisation No. 2477) bringing up the strange situation in which two Australian citizens are refused permission to be reunited with their own child. How litigious this is I will not stress; it is enough to say that it is

very inhuman.

I realise that bureaucracy has to follow a certain path but You, as Prime Minister, can personally give a helping hand when a worthy case demands special attention. And such undoubtedly is this case. Not so long ago Mr. Eisenhower, President of the United States of America, interested in



IOLANDA BIANUCCI

similar circumstances and brought in an end to the sufferings of an American's mother, CAN'T the same be expected from You?

Once the girl arrives in Australia, her parents shall spare no efforts or money in order to have her treated by the best specialists and it is possible that her ailment (which despite its gravity, is not infective) may not deprive her of her eye sight.

Mr. Menzies, all Italian mothers in this country strongly believe that Your heart will be touched by this plea and that they will receive a further proof that Australia has really become a homeland for them and their children.

LENA

