

## ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION No. 188

# STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED JANUARY 8, 1998

By Assemblymen **ROCCO, DORIA, Talarico, Asselta, Geist, Lance, Assemblywoman Crecco, Assemblymen Gusciora, Moran, Augustine, Garrett and DeSopo**

- 1 **AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION** calling on the Congress of the United States to  
2 pass H.R.2090 and on the President and State Department to cease urging  
3 the United Nations Security Council to give permanent seats to Germany  
4 and Japan to the exclusion of Italy.  
5
- 6 **WHEREAS**, Thousands of Italian-born immigrants and Italian-Americans  
7 suffered a grave injustice at the hands of the United States Government  
8 during World War II and now the nation of Italy is poised to suffer an  
9 injustice because of the misguided foreign policy of that same government;  
10 and
- 11 **WHEREAS**, The freedom of more than 600,000 Italian-born immigrants and  
12 their families was restricted during World War II by federal government  
13 measures that branded them as "enemy aliens" and required them to endure  
14 travel restrictions and the seizure of personal property; and
- 15 **WHEREAS**, While thousands of Italian-Americans were performing exemplary  
16 service in or dying as a result of heroic action in this country's armed  
17 forces, thousands of other Italian-Americans and Italian-born immigrants  
18 were arrested on suspicion of treasonous activities and hundreds were  
19 interned in military camps; and
- 20 **WHEREAS**, This occurred at a time when Italian-born immigrants were the  
21 largest foreign-born ethnic group in the United States; and
- 22 **WHEREAS**, The distressing details of this shameful policy have remained  
23 shrouded in secrecy for 50 years and have never been acknowledged by  
24 the federal government; and
- 25 **WHEREAS**, H.R.2090 of 1997, sponsored by Congressman Lazio of New  
26 York and officially titled the "Wartime Violation of Italian American Civil  
27 Liberties Act," orders the preparation of a government report detailing the  
28 personal property loses, civil liberty infringements and other injustices  
29 suffered by Italian-Americans during World War II; and
- 30 **WHEREAS**, The bill also requires the President of the United States, on behalf  
31 of the Government, to formally acknowledge that these events represented  
32 a fundamental injustice against Italian-Americans; and
- 33 **WHEREAS**, Now the nation of Italy is being subjected to injustice because of

1 the adoption of a misguided policy by the United States to urge that Japan  
2 and Germany be given permanent seats on the United Nations Security  
3 Council to the exclusion of Italy; and

4 **WHEREAS**, Since World War II, Italy has emerged as the world's fifth largest  
5 economy, a vital contributor to the international geopolitical peace process  
6 and in the words of President Clinton "...one of our closest allies and  
7 strategic partners in the world community"; and

8 **WHEREAS**, Despite these facts, the policy being pushed by the United States  
9 government clearly treats Italy as an inferior nation and reduces it to  
10 second-rate status on the world stage; and

11 **WHEREAS**, This House believes that it is fitting and proper for it to call  
12 attention to the injustices that have been visited upon Italian-Americans in  
13 the recent past by the United States Government and its current attempts  
14 to carry out an injustice against the nation of Italy; now, therefore,

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16 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:*

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18 1. This House calls on the Congress of the United States to pass  
19 H.R.2090, officially entitled the "Wartime Violation of Italian American Civil  
20 Liberties Act," and it calls on the President and State Department to cease  
21 urging the United Nations Security Council to give permanent seats to  
22 Germany and Japan to the exclusion of Italy.

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24 2. Duly authenticated copies of this resolution, signed by the Speaker of the  
25 General Assembly and attested by the Clerk thereof, shall be transmitted to  
26 the presiding officers of the Congress of the United States and every  
27 representative thereto elected from this State, and to the President of the  
28 United States, the Secretary of State and the United States Ambassador to the  
29 United Nations.

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STATEMENT

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34 This resolution calls on the Congress of the United States to pass  
35 H.R.2090, officially titled the "Wartime Violation of Italian American Civil  
36 Liberties Act," and it calls on the President and State Department to cease  
37 urging the United Nations Security Council to give permanent seats to  
38 Germany and Japan to the exclusion of Italy.

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