

SURVIVORS OF THE
S H O A H
VISUAL HISTORY FOUNDATION®

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**SHOAH FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES PARTNERSHIP
WITH ARCHIVIO CENTRALE DELLO STATO IN ITALY**

Relationship is a Model for Future Partnerships Around the World

Rome, Italy; October 16, 2002 – In a ceremony held today in Rome, Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation, together with the *Archivio Centrale dello Stato* (Central State Archive), announced a partnership between the organizations that has resulted in two remarkable projects. The event highlighted a partnership that is a model the Shoah Foundation hopes to duplicate in many countries.

Italian State Archivists are currently working with the Shoah Foundation in Los Angeles, unlocking the contents of Italian-language testimonies of Holocaust survivors and witnesses through the process of cataloguing. There are more than 400 Italian-language testimonies in the Shoah Foundation archive. Three archivists will spend between six and nine months each at the Foundation, lending their expertise to the project.

Also, an educational video of testimony from Italian survivors and rescuers was produced in 2000. The *Archivio Centrale dello Stato* is planning to distribute this 40-minute testimony reel to 300 middle and high schools in Rome and the surrounding area. The reel contains the testimonies of Jewish survivors and rescuers and was initially created as an exhibit for the Museo *Storico della Liberazione di Roma*, via Tasso. The *Archivio* has partnered with the Federation of Italian Teachers to create a study guide and to distribute the reel. If this pilot project proves successful, the *Archivio* plans to distribute the reel and study guide throughout Italy. Visual history allows students an immediate and compelling educational experience, as they hear directly from people who lived through an event.

Speakers at the ceremony included Salvatore Italia, General Director of the Italian Archives; Maurizio Fallace, Director of the Archivio Centrale dello Stato; Paola Carucci, former Director of the Archivio Centrale dello Stato; Liliana Di Ruscio, representing the National Federation of Teachers; Doris Felsen-Escojido, representing the Shoah Foundation; Elvira Paladini, representing the Museum of Liberation of Rome; Leone Paserman, representing the Jewish Community of Rome; and Sandro Portelli, representing the Mayor of Rome.

Paola Carucci, who promoted the partnership when she served as Director of the Archivio centrale dello Stato, remarked, "The Archivio Centrale dello Stato holds most of the documents concerning the persecution of Jews in Italy after the Racial Laws and the measures taken in 1944 with a tragic result. It is therefore of the greatest importance to acquire also the testimonies of the protagonists of the events, to give to the Italian public, especially for educational purposes, more complete historical sources."

In a videotaped message played at the event, Steven Spielberg, Founding Chairman of the Shoah Foundation, said, "If future partnerships are undertaken in the same spirit of mutual respect that has

animated our work here in Italy, the survivors' dream that their faces would be seen and their voices heard long after they are gone will continue." (more)

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About the Shoah Foundation

Since Steven Spielberg established Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation in 1994, the Foundation has videotaped the testimonies of more than 50,000 Holocaust survivors and witnesses in 57 countries in 32 languages. Today, the Shoah Foundation's mission is to overcome prejudice, intolerance, and bigotry—and the suffering they cause—through the educational use of the Foundation's visual history testimonies. To this end, the Foundation preserves and provides access to the archive; builds and supports educational programs; and develops educational products based on the testimonies. Individuals interested in supporting the Shoah Foundation are encouraged to call 818/777-4673 or write to PO Box 3168, Los Angeles, California, 90078-3168. For more information, visit the Foundation's homepage at www.vhf.org.

About the Archivio Centrale dello Stato

Established as Archivio del regno (Archive of the Kingdom) in 1875, it became Archivio centrale dello Stato (Central State Archive) in 1953. The Archive holds the following:

- the original collection of all laws and decrees since 1861 to the year before the current one
- all documents of the central State Administration, of the supreme Judiciary, Consult and Control Organs, except for the Presidency of the Republic, The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Senate, the Chamber of Deputies and the Staff of Army, Navy and Air Forces which hold their own historical archives
- private archives of people who had important roles in the political and cultural life of the country
- archives of public national bodies
- photograph and audiovisual archives, microfilm, films

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For more information about the Archivio Centrale dello Stato visit the State Archive's homepage at www.archivi.beniculturali.it

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