

19 JUNE 1998



BABILONIA
CENTRO DI LINGUA @ CULTURA ITALIANA
VIA DEL GINNASIO 20
TAORMINA 98039
ATTENTION: DIRECTOR ALESSANDRO ADORNO

DEAR ALESSANDRO:

I AGAIN WANT TO THANK YOU AND YOUR STAFF FOR PREPARING ME FOR THE ITALIAN LANGUAGE EXAM THAT I HAD TO TAKE IN WASHINGTON D.C. IN PREPARATION FOR ASSUMING MY DUTIES AS A FIRST SECRETARY AT THE UNITED STATES EMBASSY IN ROME. I JUST RECEIVED THE RESULTS OF THE EXAM AND AM VERY PLEASED. AS YOU KNOW I HAD BEEN STUDYING ITALIAN FOR SEVEN MONTHS AT SEVERAL SCHOOLS ALL OVER ITALY AND HAD SELECTED YOUR SCHOOL "BABILONIA" IN SICILY THIS PAST MAY FOR A TWO WEEK IMMERSION BASED ON THE SCHOOL'S EXCELLENT REPUTATION. AFTER TWO WEEKS OF BOTH CLASSROOM AND INDIVIDUAL LESSONS, I CAN WHOLEHEARTEDLY SAY THAT "BABILONIA" WAS BY FAR THE BEST THAT I HAD ATTENDED IN ITALY. IT ALSO GOES WITHOUT SAYING THAT THERE IS NO MORE BEAUTIFUL SETTING THAN TAORMINA.

I WILL HIGHLY RECOMMEND YOUR SCHOOL TO ANY OF MY COLLEAGUES WHO ARE FORTUNATE TO ATTEND LANGUAGE TRAINING IN ITALY AS I HAVE DONE. IT WAS AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN NOT ONLY THE LANGUAGE BUT ALSO THE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SITUATION, THE HISTORY, ART, CULTURE, FOOD, WINE, SPORTS, AND FOLKLORE. BE SURE TO SEND MY REGARDS TO YOUR STAFF.

CIAO,

Richard G. Irwin

RICHARD G. IRWIN
FIRST SECRETARY
U.S. EMBASSY ROME, ITALY