

# MUSSOLINI DEPOSED AS ITALIAN LEADER

## BADOGGIO SETS UP MARTIAL RULE

### POPULAR REJOICING HERALDS END OF FASCISM

LONDON, Monday.

Mussolini has resigned and the King of Italy has assumed supreme command of the Italian armed forces.

This dramatic announcement, which may well be taken as a clearcut indication that Fascist Italy's sun has finally set, was made last night by Rome radio and was followed by a proclamation from King Victor Emmanuel calling on all Italians to take up their posts.

A message from Berne stated that Scorza, the Secretary of the Fascist Party, and the entire Cabinet had been detained under a heavy guard outside Rome.

Demonstrations are reported to have broken out in many parts of the country, with the people celebrating the end of the Fascist regime.

Reuters correspondent at Stockholm asserted that Mussolini was captured while trying to escape to Germany.

#### TEXT OF ITALIAN PROCLAMATIONS

The full text of King Vittorio's proclamation was:

"Italians, from to-day I assume the High Command over the armed forces. In this solemn hour of grave anxiety, descending on the fate of our Fatherland, everybody must take up his post. No recriminations can be allowed.

"Every Italian must bow before the grave wounds that have rent the sacred soil of our Fatherland. Italy, through the valour of her troops and determination of her civilian population, will find in the respect of her old institutions a way of recovery. More than ever before I am indissolubly united with you by an unshakeable faith in the immortality of the Fatherland."

Marshal Badoglio's proclamation was:

"Italians. On the orders of the King Emperor, I am taking over the military government of the country with full powers. The war continues. Italy, grievously stricken in her invaded provinces and in her ruined towns, maintains her faith in her given word, jealous of her ancient traditions.

"The ranks should be closed around

traditions.

"The ranks should be closed around the Majesty of the King Emperor, the living image of the Fatherland, an example to follow. The call of the day is precise and unmistakable and will be scrupulously obeyed. Whoever thinks to frustrate the non-turb public order, will be inexorably punished. Long live Italy, long live the King."

The American Associated Press version of King Vittorio's proclamation quotes the King as saying that all Italy denounces the invader who has wounded the sacred soil of Italy.

The proclamation was countersigned by Marshal Pietro Badoglio, whom the King had appointed to succeed Mussolini as Prime Minister and Chief of the Government. Badoglio also issued a proclamation in which he asserted that the war would continue.

Mussolini's resignation was first disclosed to the Italian people at the beginning of the final news bulletin at 10.45 p.m. The proclamation was read without any introduction, and immediately afterwards Rome radio continued its transmission without an intermission.

A clandestine Italian radio station, describing itself as "Station of Italy, Balbo Group," this morning started broadcasts on a wavelength that the Italian news service normally uses.

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The announcer said that Mussolini was a coward, and added, "The House of Savoy was attempting to disarm Fascism, but the Fascist Party won't let itself be disarmed."

Rome radio has made abundantly clear the purpose of the recent meeting between the dictators. Mussolini must have gone to tell his Fuehrer that he was faced with a crisis and that Germany could count no further upon his assistance. It must have been a meeting of intense drama.

It is almost impossible to foretell the future. The House of Savoy appears to have taken a prominent part in events which led to Mussolini's resignation. However, neither the King nor the House enjoys any wide measure of popularity in Italy, and in the industrial north they are definitely unpopular.

It does not seem possible that King Vittorio and Marshal Badoglio should succeed where Mussolini failed in persuading a people tired of war and deeply hating her allies, to continue to fight.

The Berne correspondent of the "New York Times" says that the announcer on Rome radio, after notifying Mussolini's dismissal, said that with the fall of Mussolini and his band, Italy takes the first step towards peace. "Finished is the shame of Fascism. Viva la Pace! Viva il Re!" he added.

The diplomatic writer of the British United Press points out that Mussolini's activities had been a mystery for the last few months. He has not been seen in the bombed towns and has not spoken publicly.

Rome radio announced that the following proclamation had been issued by Marshal Badoglio:

"Italians must take their places at the bench and duty. This is not the time for demonstrations, which will not be permitted. The demands at this present grave hour are soberness, discipline and patriotism.

"Each one must work to do everything for the supreme needs of the nation. Assemblies are forbidden and gatherings are to be dispersed. Public control is in the hands of the military authorities. Commanders of the armed land defences are to assume the care of public order and force is to be used wherever necessary to bring anyone disobeying to their senses. With the armed forces the State police are to give a hand in maintaining order.

"A curfew will be imposed from dusk to dawn. No civilian must be out during this period; the exceptions are priests, doctors and mid-

wives. So long as possible rail services will still continue to run. Civilians travelling in trains must carry their identity cards.

"Public offices of all kinds, theatres and sports halls will remain shut during the curfew hours. Signalling either by mirror or light is forbidden. Permits to carry firearms are cancelled, as well as the assembly of more than three persons in public or locked premises. The sale of firearms and ammunition is prohibited.

"Printed bills and manuscripts of any kind are forbidden in a public place, with the exception of Catholic Churches. Identity cards must be produced when demanded. Papers may print only one edition daily. Doors of public buildings leading to highways must remain open, and at night be illuminated in accordance with the prevailing blackout regulations."

The Pope is reported to have urged

King Vittorio to declare Rome an open city, according to a Vichy message received at Madrid.

The Pope is also reported to have expressed interest in the suggestion that Italy should make peace before an Allied invasion of the mainland.

Rome radio stated officially that the Italian army had taken over all public order throughout Italy and that a curfew had been imposed from dusk to dawn.

According to the British United Press, Rome news transmission station had been off the air at times since yesterday afternoon.

The Rome shortwave transmission for the Pacific and East Asia came on as usual early this morning, but the whole of its comments on the developments were confined to the official announcement.

Rome radio this morning repeated its broadcast of last night and then followed with some lively gramophone records, while Berlin radio also followed its announcement with gay tunes.

The Swedish newspaper, "Svenska Dagbladet," stated that the German commander (General Kesselring), the German Ambassador (von Mackensen) and Marshal Badoglio conferred in Rome, while the German overseas radio remarked that the conversations were considered as a sign that the Axis were determined to defend Sicily to the last.

Swiss radio reported that telephonic communications between Switzerland and Italy were resumed. Rail traffic had continued regularly and several trains from Italy had arrived at Chisso.

Italians in the northern towns of Milan, Venice and Turin had taken the

Italians in the northern towns of Milan, Venice and Turin had taken the news of Mussolini's resignation calmly.

Sixty thousand Italian prisoners of war in Britain have not yet been informed of Mussolini's resignation but they will know at 7.45 p.m., when Rome radio will be specially tuned in to sets at those camps.

## WORLD REACTION TO RESIGNATION

LONDON, Monday.

Officials at London and Washington are examining the war situation in the light of Mussolini's dramatic resignation, stated the diplomatic correspondent of the Press Association. The British War Cabinet is considering all available information.

It is expected that the Prime Minister (Mr. Churchill) will make an early statement in the House of Commons.

### Britain

It may be taken that the attitude of Britain and the United Nations towards Italy and all other countries associated with the Axis is and will remain unchanged, and the only terms on which they will treat with a new Italian Government are the terms of unconditional surrender.

The news hit London like a thunderbolt. Officials of the Ministry of Information hardly dared believe it was true. Newspaper correspondents crowded the Foreign Office room, eagerly seeking the reactions.

The first reactions in informed quarters are that there will be no change in the military situation and a possible surrender should by no means be considered the logical outcome of Mussolini's exit, says the Press Association. The Allied offensive will continue until Italy capitulates.

The real danger concerning Italy is the period of political chaos. Mussolini held all the higher offices in the State and for nearly 22 years no opposition was permitted, so it seems that without a leader the party must also disappear.

Recently Scorza conducted a drastic purge of officials who, like their predecessors, had proved inefficient and failed to whip up any patriotic fervour for the defence of Italy.

The underground movements remained alive throughout the long years of the Fascist regime, but they lacked organisation for a growing resistance. The position of the Italian troops in the Balkans is likely to become even worse as the result of the political situation in Italy.

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Yugoslav forces will not increase

their efforts to make the lives of the Italian soldiers less unbearable.

The resistance in Greece, which is growing, is more thoroughly organised and is likely to increase in operations against the Axis garrisons.

When the news was received at Whitehall it caused a terrific fury and Ministers were notified immediately. The Prime Minister (Mr. Churchill) was early at his desk awaiting further announcements, and he discussed the implications of the development.

The whole world is asking this morning what is happening next in Italy. After the dramatic broadcast announcing that Mussolini had resigned there has been no authoritative information from Italy. The B.U.P. states that a tight censorship has been imposed and it is possible to say from past experiences that no news will get out of Italy except that which has been released officially through the Rome broadcasts. Nothing untoward has happened and Marshal Badoglio appears to have the situation well in hand.

The B.U.P. added that one fact stood out and that was that a Fascist dictatorship had ended and that Badoglio had established a military dictatorship with the support of the army. It looks as if Italy has two new rulers and that an attempt is being made to save as much of Italy's face as possible.

"The Times": "The 'glorious comradeship in arms' of Hitler and Mussolini has snapped. There is no doubt

solini has snapped. There is no doubt that Mussolini's resignation will have a significant repercussion throughout the Balkans and will further awaken confidence in an Allied victory."

Calling to the Italian people to accept the Allied offer of an honourable capitulation and to clear the Germans out of their country, the B.B.C., in a broadcast to the Italians, which was repeated at intervals, said: "To-day the world is witnessing the collapse of Italian Fascism—a prelude to the downfall of Fascism everywhere. The Italian Fascism was broken down by two irresistible forces. The first was the power of the Anglo-Saxon democratic ideals and the second was the will of the Italian people which rightly gauged the power of the United Nations arms."

"After 21 years the Italians were set on a course towards the kind of Government the United Nations stand for. The past few weeks have shown the rottenness of Fascism and the inability of the Third Reich to hold up a regime through which they hoped to force the Italians to remain in the war."

"The task of the Allied armies and the Italian people will not be completed before the last German soldier on Italian soil is either killed, captured or thrown out of the Peninsula, or before the Italian Government has accepted the Allied offer of an honourable surrender. The Italians have begun to show their confidence in the pledged word of the Allies. Thus the prospect of defeat of Hitlerism and a peace in the near future is appearing on the European horizon."

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## WORLD REACTION TO MUSSOLINI'S DISMISSAL

(Continued from Page 1)

### United States

This was stated by the Washington correspondent of the "New York Times," who says it is also thought that Hungary, Rumania and Bulgaria will hasten peace appeals in order to get better terms.

The announcement completely surprised Washington. President Roosevelt and the Secretary of State (Mr. Cordell Hull) maintained silence while most other officials refused to make a statement until the situation can be assessed from official reports. The Attorney-General (Mr

tion can be assessed from official reports. The Attorney-General (Mr Biddle), however, said it was the first evidence of the internal breaking up of Italy.

The United States military and diplomatic circles are regarding the Italian news as the first step towards an Italian peace appeal, which will be followed by an Allied occupation especially of the northern airfields.

The former Italian Foreign Minister (Signor Sforza) warned that no confidence could be placed in the new regime if it retained some of Mussolini's Cabinet, but his impression was that Badoglio was shrewd enough to avoid such a gross blunder.

Referring to the bombing of Rome Sforza said that those who challenged the necessity to bomb the city would now regret the impudence of their critics. He was convinced that the end of Mussolini was the direct result of the bombing.

A leading Italian anti-Fascist Prof. Borgese, of Chicago, warned that the Allies must be prepared against another Darian regime, for Badoglio was responsible for the Ethiopian campaign and its terrorism. The professor also recalled that King Vittorio had allowed Fascism to grow in Italy.

In a shortwave broadcast to Italy Mayor La Guardia warned that the Allies would continue the war until the Fascist Government was eliminated completely. He added that the news thus far received from Rome did not indicate a fundamental change involving the destruction of Fascism.

Referring to Badoglio's statement that the war would continue, Mayor La Guardia said that the Allies would not tolerate Fascism any longer.

The American Associated Press report suggests that Mussolini's downfall may be the beginning of an Italian peace move, and says the appointment of Badoglio means that the Fascist Party has been swept away, along with the Duce. "Mussolini has crashed and with him the whole Fascist regime must inevitably come tottering to its ruin."

The Mayor of New York (Mr. La Guardia) told reporters that he expected Italy's surrender within a few days, adding, "Mussolini will go down in history as a betrayer of Italy."

In the early morning broadcast to Italy the B.B.C. declared that any Italian Government that kept Italy bound to Germany must be eliminated.

"Italian soldiers must abandon the fight. One enemy alone now remains for the Allies and for Italy—Nazi Germany," added the B.B.C.

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The Washington correspondent of the "New York Times" remarked that if the Italian Fleet, which had done so little fighting, were to surrender it would give the Allied navies control of the Mediterranean and release Allied naval power for the reinforcement of the Pacific.

Military authorities also admit that they over-estimated the Italian will-to-fight, and because at times in Tunisia the Italians had performed well their low morale in Sicily had come as a surprise. If the Italian forces in Sicily are typical of those on the mainland the conquest of Italy will be less difficult than anticipated.

Observers suggest that Marshal Badoglio was chosen as Prime Minister because he is known as anti-German; also that King Vittorio Emanuele's assumption of the office of Commander-in-Chief is believed to protect Italy from a coup d'etat.

The Office of War Information said that the announcements by Rome radio indicated no change in the form of the Italian Cabinet. There was nothing to suggest that the Fascist Party would not continue to govern the country. Although Mussolini had been replaced, there was no reason to believe that the essential nature of the Fascist regime had been changed.

The change in Government is considered to be an effort to evade an anti-Fascist revolution, which seemed imminent.

## Canada

One of the first reactions came from Ottawa, where the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) said the resignation appeared to be the beginning of the end of the Fascist regime.

## Russia

Speaking over the Moscow radio, the Soviet commentator on international affairs (Viktorov) says that a blow against Germany by the Allies would coincide with the tremendous blow from the east and transform the present Fascist crisis into a catastrophe.

He states that the German July offensive against Russia, on which the enemy placed such great hopes, was based on a real total mobilisation of the very last resources of Germany. Every German was asking himself, in view of the concentrations on the Russian front, what would happen when a second front opened in Europe.

"Only joint blows from the east and west can put an end to Hitler's hopes," warned Viktorov.

## Pressure Expected on Vichy

The Berne correspondent of the "New York Times" says that rapid developments are expected in France. He states there is a strong possibility that Italian occupation troops at Savoy and on the Riviera will be recalled, in which case the Nazis will

be expected to turn to the French Fascist leaders (Doriot and Bucard) in order to cow the French masses while military moves are adjusted to the new situation.

Neutral military observers believe that the turn of events in Italy will force the Germans to attempt to reduce the length of the defence lines of the "Atlantic Wall."

Berlin radio's announcement of Mussolini's resignation added that it was assumed that Mussolini had resigned because of health reasons.

## "Got Out While Going Was Good"

SYDNEY, Monday.

Mussolini, founder of the new Roman Empire, having lost it, was going while the going was good, said the leader of the U.A.P. (Mr. Hughes) to-day.

"I suppose the real explanation is that Italy is out of the war and that it has been deserted by Germany," he continued.

"Technically, Italy is still in the war, but if there had been a ghost of a chance of her fighting on and making a fight of it, Mussolini would not have left.

"One thing is clear—his going is not only good for Italy but good for the world. The Allies will feel more disposed to treat Italy generously," Mr. Hughes added.