

## BADOGGIO REGIME FACES CRITICAL TEST

# ITALIAN SENATORS WANT WAR ENDED

## PEOPLE DEMAND EARLY PEACE

LONDON, Tuesday.

The Berne correspondent of the "New York Times" says that if Marshal Badoglio fails to take steps to satisfy the national desire for peace by the week-end, he will be forced to resign.

Outwardly the public interprets the Marshal's assertions that the war will continue as a device to gain time for negotiations, but the renewal of the Allied general offensive against Italy in the remaining Sicilian positions struck an ominous note which the public has not failed to heed.

The "Daily Mail's" correspondent on the Italian frontier reports that Italy's principal Senators met in Rome on Sunday and decided to inform Marshal Badoglio that, in their view, the war should be terminated as speedily as possible and, if necessary, by capitulation.

The correspondent adds that persistent reports from Italy state that a "peace march" on Rome is being organised in several centres to force Badoglio's hand.

A message from Zurich stated that public opinion had stiffened in Italy against the Allied demands for capitulation, according to "Neue Züricher Zeitung," following the increased Axis opposition in Sicily.

The British United Press correspondent on the Italian frontier reports that Marshal Badoglio, King Victor Emanuel, the Foreign Minister (Baron Guariglia), Count Grandi and several Senators conferred for two hours in Rome on Monday about whether Italy should con

two hours in Rome on Monday about whether Italy should continue the war or surrender unconditionally.

The King and Count Grandi favoured immediate solution, but others were for fighting on in the hope of securing a negotiated peace.

According to Algiers radio, the Papal Secretary for State (Cardinal Maglione) had an interview with the British Minister to the Vatican on Monday.

Swiss radio said that the situation in Italy was causing grave concern and anxiety is being also expressed in Berlin, Budapest, Bucharest, Sofia and Tokyo, where grave decisions may have to be taken.

The situation has given rise to great hopes among nations which have been victims of the Axis Powers and those hopes are increasing subterranean activities against the armies of occupation.

Rome radio keeps up three main propaganda themes, claiming that the Italians will have to fight or lose, that all is quiet in Italy and that Communists were responsible for last week's disturbances.

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Italy will be out of the war shortly. This is the consensus of civilian and military views within Government circles in Washington, according to the New York "Herald-Tribune's" correspondent, who reveals that Marshal Badoglio made several approaches for surrender last week.

The principal approach, in effect, was that the Allies agree not to invade Italy and use it as a base for future operations. The Germans were agreeable and offered to withdraw all troops from Italy. However, General Eisenhower summarily rejected the offer, since the Allied grand strategy requires the use of Italy as a base for future operations.

Meanwhile, German troops are still reinforcing Italy, via the Brenner Pass. Observers believe that if this continues Italy will become a battleground not only between Allied and German troops, but German and Italian forces.

The British United Press correspondent on the French frontier says that troop-laden and munition-laden German transport planes started flying from Marseilles and Toulon for Corsica and Sardinia, indicating that the Germans intend to defend those islands if the Italians surrender.

The correspondent continues that Italy is living in agony of suspense. A week of Badoglio's military regime has gone without signs of the eagerly awaited peace. The people now bitterly realize that the war is continuing. German troops, who disappeared from the streets of Milan at the beginning of last week, were again seen.

Reports confirm the concentration of large German forces in the Po River region. The Germans are reported to have assumed control of all strategic positions, also all industrial and military installations in the Upper Adige zone.

Every possible measure has been taken to avoid a clash with Italian

troops, but a number of incidents developed along the two main Po Valley railway lines.

### Peace Demonstrations

Reports from the Swiss frontier state that peace demonstrations, particularly in the industrial north, have been intensified. Newspapers in Milan and Turin, which are not so servile as those in Rome, are openly condemning Badoglio for his failure to sue for peace.

According to German-controlled radios and neutral sources, there is great transport confusion in Northern Italy, where the population is abandoning cities under the Allied threat to resume intensive bombing. Milan is being evacuated. Packed

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Berne reports state that sabotage against the war effort is spreading. Reports reaching Switzerland state that disappointment is widespread throughout Italy. At first the rejoicings were more in honour of peace, which was expected very soon, than at the downfall of Fascism. Many voices have been raised against the continuance of an Axis alliance.

Reports reaching Calro state that two industrial millionaires in Turin, who are extreme Fascist collaborators, were lynched.

"Popolo di Roma" says that 4000 political prisoners were returned to their homes from exile in Italian islands.

The German newsagency announced from Rome the appointment of a new Italian Charge d'Affaires to the Holy See (Babusci Riggo) following the resignation of Count Ciano. Riggo was a former Embassy counsellor at the Vatican.

According to Brazzaville radio, 23 sailors were killed at Pola when they resisted German efforts to seize Italian ships.

German overseas radio stated that the 1937-42 class in Italy will be called up between August 3 and 12. It added that the call-up was ordered before the change of Government and that Marshal Badoglio has not altered the arrangements.

Tokyo radio stated that the Italian Foreign Minister (Baron Guariglia), in greetings to the Japanese Foreign Minister (Mr. Shigemitsu), declared that Italian foreign policy remained unchanged and "Italy considered it a great honour to continue collaboration with the Tri-partite Pact."

Mr. Shigemitsu replied, stressing Japan's resolve to continue the struggle against the Anglo-Saxons.

Berlin radio quoted the German newsagency as stating that the Allies had not addressed the same demands to Germany as to Italy.