

Britain Reported Telling Italy Axis Can Benefit Only Hitler; France Given New Pledge of Aid

Chamberlain Works for Conciliation in Rome Talks.

By WILLIAM PHILIP SIMMS

WASHINGTON, Jan. 16.—There is reason to believe that Prime Minister Chamberlain indicated to Premier Mussolini that Hitler is using him as a dupe and that Italy's real interests lie on the side of Great Britain and France.

Germany, I am informed, has given France—and therefore England—categorical assurances that she does not intend to help Italy realize her aspirations in the region of the Mediterranean. Herr Hitler's Foreign Minister Joachim von Ribbentrop has already impressed this upon Paris.

Similarly, London and Paris are convinced of Herr Hitler's protestations of peace, in so far as Britain and France are concerned, providing, of course, they do not interfere with his ambitions in the direction of Russia and the Ukraine.

Duce at Disadvantage

Italy, on the other hand, can be—and now is—extremely useful to Germany by keeping France and Britain on tenterhooks. This she can do merely by continuing her present tactics in Spain, Tunisia and elsewhere around the Mediterranean.

So long as Italy keeps the quarrel going, it is obvious that neither France nor Britain will feel disposed to risk war with the Reich by any very strong opposition to Nazi activities in Central Europe and the Black Sea Basin.

Developments are proving more and more conclusively how the Rome-Berlin partnership is helping the Fuehrer while yielding little of value to Il Duce. In fact, it sometimes nets him a loss.

Back in the days when Germany was weak and Italy the stronger power, Italy was the gainer—morally, economically and even politically—from that partnership. As long as Britain and France were somewhat scornful of both Italy and Germany, the Rome-Berlin axis was a distinct aid to Italy's prestige in Central Europe and the Balkans.

Italy Losing Prestige

Today the picture has changed. Germany has become by far the mightier of the axis powers and gradually is reaping the lion's share of the profits. She is even robbing Italy of some of the advantages which the Entente once netted that country.

Austria, for instance, used to look to Italy for protection. Italy once mobilized her troops at Brenner

BOTH ALLIANCES PROVE STRENGTH

Rome Paper Says Ententes Were Emphasized in Conference.

ROME, Jan. 16 (U. P.).—The chief point on which Prime Minister Chamberlain and Premier Mussolini agreed in their talks here was that Great Britain is closely allied to France and that Italy is bound more firmly than ever to Germany, it was disclosed today.

This was made plain in a semi-official Italian version of the talks, published by the Information Diplomatica which the Government utilizes to disseminate news.

"In a necessary tour of the horizon, naturally certain questions of a general character were faced," said the agency of the talks, "and while the British Prime Minister referred to the close relations between Paris and London, on the Italian side it was declared in the most formal manner that the basis of Italian diplomacy is and remains the Rome-Berlin axis."

Sig. Mussolini also took occasion, according to the statement, to say that it was absurd to deny belligerent rights to the Rebels in the Spanish civil war, and to announce that it would be impossible to negotiate an agreement with France until the Spanish war had ended in a Rebel victory.

Pass to keep the Nazis from seizing Vienna. Now Austria has been swallowed up by Germany.

Italian influence in Hungary once was very strong, if not predominant. Today it has been supplanted by Budapest's eyes are on Berlin. Pretty much the same thing has happened to Italy throughout the Balkans. Economically and politically, the power of the Nazis is penetrating deeper and deeper towards the Bosphorus and the Near East. That of Italy is receding.

Much in Common

If the Reich should become so all-powerful that she could wipe Britain and France from the map, the best Italy could expect would be the status of a dependency. Carefully concealed though it is today, German scorn for Italians is proverbial.

On the other hand, Italians, French and Spaniards are all Latins. Britain imperatively needs the friendship of all three.

Halifax and Bonnet Talk At Council Session Of Duce's Aims.

GENEVA, Jan. 16 (U. P.).—Viscount Halifax, British Foreign Secretary, has assured Georges Bonnet, French Foreign Minister, that Great Britain could not stand by unmoved if France were attacked by any country, including Italy, it was understood today.

The assurances were given at a private dinner conference at the Carlton Hotel last night, immediately after Viscount Halifax's arrival from Rome.

The result of the assurances, following immediately upon the British-Italian talks at Rome, seemed to be that the entente between France and Great Britain, and the axis between Germany and Italy, were stronger than ever—and that the two groups in consequence were more sharply divided from each other.

Nevertheless, there was reason to believe that France, with the approval and co-operation of Great Britain, was ready to make practical concessions to Premier Benito Mussolini in the Mediterranean provided he made his demands direct to France and pursued them in a temperate way. So far Italy has made no demands officially.

Both Ministers came ostensibly to attend the 104th meeting of the League of Nations Council. Actually they came at least as much to discuss the British-Italian talks at Rome.

Mr. Bonnet seemed completely satisfied at the report he obtained from Lord Halifax.

Lord Halifax apparently emphasized strongly in his report to Bonnet, the assurance Sig. Mussolini gave that he would not endanger European peace in pursuing his campaign for concessions from France, but that, at the same time, he intended to take up his claims after the end of the Spanish war.

There was a growing belief here that Britain and France were agreed that concessions must be made to Sig. Mussolini sooner or later, though not involving territorial sacrifices.

LONDON SENDS 'LAST WARNING' TO JAPANESE

Manchukuo Prepares to Sign Anti-Communist Bloc Treaty.

LONDON, Jan. 16 (U. P.).—A tug-of-war between Government departments on the question of bringing economic and commercial pressure against Japan for interfering with British interests in China was revealed today with the contents of a new and stronger British note to Tokyo.

The note was made public as Prime Minister Chamberlain returned from his official visit to Rome for appeasement conversations with Premier Mussolini.

The note, delivered on Saturday, reflects the desire of the Foreign Office to take a strong stand against Japan because the United States is following that policy.

It was learned that the British note was communicated to both the United States and France, and that France, fully approving it, may act similarly.

The note closely resembled the one sent by the United States on Jan. 1. It firmly refused to accept Japan's plan to create an economic bloc of Japan, Manchukuo and China without regard for the Open Door policy guaranteed by the Nine-Power Treaty.

It was understood that the British note had been approved by the United States and French Governments before it was sent to Tokyo, and that France would send a similar note to Japan soon.

Called "Last Warning"

British diplomatic correspondents asserted today that their Government's note was a "last warning" to Japan and predicted British, French and American economic penalties against Japan if she continued ignoring protests.

Although the note did not mention retaliatory action, it was understood that the Foreign Office would like to strike at Japan's trade and give financial aid to China. The Board of Trade and the Treasury Departments, however, want to deal cautiously with the Japanese on the ground that Britain's \$1,500,000,000 investment in China and valuable British trade with the Far East

would be endangered if Britain provoked Japan.

It was believed that Mr. Chamberlain ultimately would decide the issue. Some quarters thought his decision would be largely determined by President Roosevelt's action, if any, toward alleged Japanese discrimination against United States commerce in China.

Mr. Chamberlain's return to London yesterday was quiet. He will report to the Cabinet Wednesday on the results of his conference at Rome. Two persons were arrested charged with using insulting words and behavior during a demonstration at Victoria Station when he arrived.

Manchukuo Ready To Join Fascist Bloc

TOKYO, Jan. 16 (U. P.).—A dispatch from Heikung, Manchukuo, announced today that Manchukuo, the puppet state which Japan formed from Chinese Manchuria, had "decided" to join the Japanese-German-Italian anti-Communist agreement, and had "started negotiations for formal entry. It was forecast that there would be little difficulty in effecting Manchukuo's adherence."

Japs Make First Raid On Chinese Capital

SHANGHAI, Jan. 16 (U. P.).—Seventy-six Japanese airplanes did heavy damage and caused many casualties in a raid on Chungking, the emergency Chinese capital, dispatches said today. It was the first raid on the city proper.

It was estimated that 150 persons drowned when bombs capsize three river junks to which refugees had fled, the dispatches said, in addition to persons buried in debris. The Chinese military made plans today for the evacuation of women and children and all others whose presence is unnecessary in Chungking, because of continued Japanese bombings.

HONGKONG, Jan. 16 (U. P.).—Nine hundred Chinese soldiers escaped from internment camp here today by tunnelling 250 yards along the beach. Only six were recaptured.

LOYALISTS BACK TO BARCELONA'S DEFENSE LINES

Rebels Advance to Within 30 Miles of Government Capital.

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was asserted that his troops had reached the outskirts of Azusa, only 14 miles from the railroad which is the chief Rebel supply line from southern Spain and the Mediterranean.

Veteran Loyalist To Come to America

BARCELONA, Jan. 16 (U. P.).—Gen. Jose Asensio Torrado, veteran Loyalist Army commander, has been named military attaché to the Spanish Loyalist Embassy at Washington, it was announced today. He aided in stopping the first Rebel attacks in the Guadarrama Mountains north of Madrid.

Hoover Wants U. S. To Admit Children

WASHINGTON, Jan. 16 (U. P.).—Former President Herbert Hoover joined a group of religious leaders today in urging America to open its doors to a "proportionate share" of refugee children from abroad.

Mr. Hoover telegraphed the Rev. Anson Phelps Stokes, canon of Washington Cathedral, that the refugee proposal "should be supported by every American." He denied that it would "add distress to our unemployed." He did not mention Germany by name, but said this country should receive "refugee children from Europe."

Mr. Hoover's views were made known as Solicitor General Robert H. Jackson told the National Con-

ference on Palestine that Jews must look to the Holy Land for refuge because there are so few nations in the world free from political chaos.

A plea for admission of German children to this country was presented to President Roosevelt last week over the signatures of more than 50 prominent churchmen, including His Eminence George Cardinal Mundelein and Dr. Harry Fosdick of New York. That petition suggested possible Congressional action to permit the entrance of German children above the present immigration quota.

SANTIAGO, Chile, Jan. 16 (U. P.).—The Conservative newspaper La Union today attacked President Roosevelt's foreign policy as endangering the sovereignty of Latin American nations and warned each nation to look for the motives "hidden behind the good neighbor slogan."

"The United States policy is guided by economic interests," the newspaper, published at Valparaiso, said. "The United States sees its markets threatened by a resurrected Germany, by a disciplined Italy and by Japan."

BERLIN, Jan. 16 (U. P.).—Count Stephen Osky, Hungarian Foreign Minister, arrived today on a three-day visit to discuss European diplomatic problems. Count Joachim von

Ribbentrop, Foreign Minister, and Bernardo Attolico, Italian Ambassador, met him at the station.

FRAHA, Jan. 16 (U. P.).—The Czechoslovak Government has been asked officially by the German Government to send from 80,000 to 100,000 Czechoslovak workers to Germany to take temporary jobs. Negotiations are under way, it was announced.

MOSCOW, Jan. 16 (U. P.).—Five Moldavian officials of the National Police (formerly the secret police) were shot on Jan. 2 after their conviction on charges of fabricating evidence, making illegal arrests and extracting confessions by illegal methods, it was announced today.

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