

*Tuesday, August 21*

Visited the U. S. press control officers who supervise the Italian press. The censorship of the Italian press was explained to us—it is conducted along the lines explained to us at Bad Homburg in Germany. Later we visited the Allied High Command and had a splendid conversation with Admiral Ellery Stone, in command of the civil affairs of Italy. The Admiral explained to us the conduct of the Allied Occupation Command of Italy, and described the integrated command. The British, Russians, French, and other commissioners sit on a board with him and he in turn acts as Commander-in-Chief of the Civil Command of Italy.

The Admiral indicated that he felt their procedure was much better than that of Berlin as, by their procedure, the Allied forces in Italy could settle their problems behind closed doors and then an order could be issued by one Commander, and not by each of the Allied Commanders, as in Berlin.

We were told (not by Admiral Stone but by diplomatic representatives of ours and the British Government) that the Russians grab everything, and that it is most necessary for us to have 100,000 men here in uniform to insure law and order.

Our Army and Navy officials advise that we should stay out of the Italian politics; let the Italians run their own politics, but supervise the business of the nation, such as food supplies, transportation, etc.

Members of our High Command in Rome expressed great satisfaction that General MacArthur had been given supreme command in Japan. They thought it would be suicidal to allow the Russians to participate in the Japanese Command.

### ***Confidential Chat with Count Umberta***

After a delightful visit with our Military Command we went to the palace of Crown Prince Umberta, and had a delightfully friendly and personal chat with him.

The Royal Palace is a lovely building reflecting the grandeur of antiquity. Prince Umberto is a man of about 45 and thin. His face reflects a sad attitude. Speaking perfect Oxford English, he was entirely willing to talk with us off the record, and said it would be excellent for our Government to publicize amongst the Italian people the good features of our democracy, and offset the Russians who have so much opportunity to reflect continually in the press the benefits of collectivism, as is now the case.

The Prince, off the record, told us about many important political undercurrents in Italy.

He stated he would gladly step down if that is what his people wish; that though he had been trained from childhood to rule his people, personally he preferred the quiet of civilian rather than public life. He wanted, however, to do what was right for his people as they were then poorly fed and clothed.

He stated there were 22,000,000 eligible voters in Italy of which there were only 2,000,000 registered eligible for voting at the next election. The people of Italy, he said, were frightened to go to the polls. Dominated by Fascism for 17 years, they were fearful of harm to their persons if they went and voted as they felt. They must be trained in the ways of democracy and it would take time, patience and perseverance on the part of our Army officials. Prisoners of war, he thought, should come home before an election was held.

The Italian people, the Prince said, were saying, "Mussolini gave kilos of macaroni per week; under the democracy of the Americans we are getting nothing." He reflected the sentiment General Keyes expressed to me at Salzburg. The nation that feeds the Italians will have the Italians.

One of the members of the Prince's household said forcefully that the Americans should not leave Italy—that the "brains" of our Army, if only in skeleton force, should stay to maintain law and order; that if our Army departed they were intensely fearful of Communism.