

they do it through a modified AMG or through some other kind of organization, the fact remains that the Allied powers will want to keep an eye on the future government and economic development of Italy. If the Allies are guided by the unselfish, democratic principles which are given as the reasons for our participation in the war, they can greatly assist Italy.

But I am fully convinced that the future of Italy will be more prosperous and peaceful and illustrious if the masses realize that the destiny of our beloved land lies in their own hands. I am not advocating a policy of class distinctions. On the contrary, I want to put an end to the age-long distinctions which have cursed all the nations of the earth from time immemorial. I believe in the soundness and fairness of the masses. I trust them. I know that they are more likely to look after the welfare of the entire nation than will any small group.

Because of this conviction, I hope that the five-party coalition will have sense enough to stick together after the Germans have been driven out of Italy. The component members of the five parties represent practically all the same strata of the Italian population. If they have the wisdom to realize the need of their united effort, and are animated by genuine love for Italy more than by the desire to enhance the power and prestige of the individual group, the future of Italy will be the envy of the world.

But the masses need guidance. The multitudes have a warm heart, and an instinctive craving for decency and justice. But they often lack the knowledge and foresight needed to act wisely. They must have leaders with vision and with a passion for justice to all. It makes little difference if they come from the concentration camps or from exile. What counts is the convictions and the character and wisdom of the men who will have the tremendous responsibility of enlightening and guiding the masses.

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ONE cannot think of the future of Italy without thinking of the future of Europe. Only in a framework of European economy and political regime can one conceive of the future of Italy along with other nations; and then again, only under people's democratic regimes of Europe can Italy, with her millions of people, live in peace and live the creative life of which she is capable, as we know from her long history since the days of Dante.

Italy, like all Europe as a whole, is overpopulated, perhaps to a higher degree than any other country. In the past sixty years, the ruling class of Italy has attempted to solve the problem of overpopulation by an expansionist policy. When the country was too weak to compete with other industrial and colonial countries, even

to a small degree, the surplus population emigrated, especially to the Americas; but even this could not cure the evil, since Italy's agrarian economy was too primitive to satisfy the needs of the masses of the peasants who constituted the great majority.

Later on, the Italian imperialists engaged in colonial expansion and in the development of industries. They failed in both because they were too weak, in comparison with rival imperialist countries, to achieve the first aim, and because the natural resources of the country were inadequate to achieve the second one. The Italian ruling class simply could not conquer and could not convert the country to a manufacturing center with imported raw materials.

The outcome of the Italian imperialist efforts brought the country, after the last war, to an economic impasse. Mussolini, with his adventurist policies in Abyssinia and Spain, was inevitably pushed into the arms of German imperialism, forcing the country into the most disastrous war in its whole history.

Today, Italy has become the battlefield between the forces of Nazi tyranny and the forces of the democratic nations. Her future depends on the victory of the United Nations and a people's peace. If the people of Italy succeed in their struggle to choose their own form of government and reconstruct the country in the people's interest, then not only will they rid themselves of reactionary forces, both domestic and foreign, but they will also contribute to the democratization of all Europe.

Indeed, in the postwar political struggle—after the crushing of Hitlerism—around the issue of the future political and economic shape of Europe, the victory of the people of Italy will carry great weight. The five-party coalition, it seems to me, is the only preliminary basis for a broad democratic government.

Under a people's democratic regime, the various countries of Europe, while keeping their continental natural boundaries, with changes here and there, are bound to establish a united agrarian and industrial economy. Italy, France, Germany, and other countries will then solve problems of overpopulation as they arise and when they arise, not as separate states, but as part of Europe. Emigration may be necessary in the future, but not in the sense of conquering other people, backward or civilized, but in the sense of living together with them on a basis of full equality. We can take a leaf from the history of the Soviet Union of how to solve the whole problem of nations and national minorities, both in Europe and outside of Europe.

THE people of Italy have a big job ahead. They have to combat the desperate effort of the old forces to return in a new form and with new slogans. If reaction prevails again in Italy, after the defeat of

the Nazis, then Italy will again become a member, or, rather, a blind tool of the monopolists and cartelists, thus bringing greater catastrophe to herself and to the people's cause in Europe. Italy (like any other country) has no future whatever as an independent country if the old forces prevail.

In this respect, the attention not only of the people of Italy, but of all anti-fascist forces outside of Italy, especially in the United States, must be concentrated on the question of the administration of Italy while she is being liberated. With the understanding that no action whatever should stand in the way of military operations, and that such cooperation with the Allies should be complete, the anti-fascist forces of Italy must unite around the five-party coalition. They must do this not only to prevent fascist elements in Italy from taking advantage of the AMG but also to organize the people and make them deeply conscious of the character of the war and of the kind of peace they must have.

It seems to me that all anti-fascist forces inside and outside of Italy must intensify their educational and organizational activities among the people. The Italian-Americans, who are a great numerical, moral, and political force in this country, must play their very important part; and that means they must be mobilized.

One important factor both in the liberation of Italy from the Nazi tyranny now and in the establishment of a people's government in the country is the cooperation of its organized popular forces with the Balkan peoples. Already we have indisputable evidence of such cooperation between the Italian armed forces in the Balkans and the Yugoslav and Greek guerrillas. This fraternization is not a casual incident or phenomenon. It means the gradual but fast deterioration of fascism in the armed forces of Italy and a definite new orientation in national, political, and social concepts.

Sen. Elbert D. Thomas

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NO COUNTRY in Europe has more problems facing her than Italy in becoming a nation worthy of a leading position in the sisterhood of nations in the new democratic world. First, she has fascism to overcome. That will not be easy, as Mussolini has destroyed practically every person that we would call political, and without political persons democracy is impossible. Second, her educational system must be revised so that some semblance of freedom of thought may have a chance. Third, she must have a new system of justice, freed from the single-will notion that courts should be controlled by political decree, so that judges may be permitted to administer justice and not politics.

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