

Italian Ambassador Protests 'Campaign' To Stir Animosity Also Denies Consuls In U. S. Engage in Political Activity

Italian Ambassador, Prince Colonna, today lodged a vigorous protest with Secretary of State Hull against what he termed a campaign to stir up animosity in this country against Italy.

After calling on Secretary Hull this afternoon, the Ambassador issued a statement denying that Italian consuls in this country have taken part in any "so-called un-American activities."

The statement referred to reports published in some newspapers today concerning alleged political activities of Italian consuls and Italian citizens in this country.

Political Activity Denied:

"The Italian consuls," the statement said, "have always strictly limited their activities to their legal consular functions and the Italian nationals in the United States have always kept the most irreproachable conduct, keeping themselves apart not only from the so-called 'un-American activities' but from any political activity whatsoever."

The statement added that the Italian literary society Dante Alighieri, mentioned in some reports as an organization for Fascist propaganda, was merely an association of persons interested in the Italian language and Italian literature.

Charge Called Preposterous.

"It would be utterly preposterous to make it appear as an organization pursuing political purposes," the statement added.

There was no elaboration on announcement of presentation of the "vigorous protest" against what the Italian Ambassador considered an anti-Italian propaganda campaign here. He apparently referred to the published reports charging Italian consuls of organizing persons of Italian descent in this country to support Fascist aims.