

# How Hitler Uses Italians in His Fifth Column in U. S.

Many of 5,000,000

Here Patriotically Oppose His Plot

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When Hitler's undeclared war against the U. S. A. reaches the stage of open violence, he hopes to have the active aid of 5,000,000 Italian-Americans—"Italians abroad," the Italian government calls them. They are recruited and disciplined by the terror-blackmail methods of the Camorra. Some 15,000 uniformed Black Shirt storm troops are drilling in Italian-American communities. The Italian government's fifth column program in the U. S. bears unmistakable signs of German origin. It began after Hitler's domination of the Axis; it has developed on parallel lines here. Italian and German leaders of the movement move in concert; the organizations meet and drill together.

## Anti-Semitism Preached

On Hitler's instructions, Italian agencies have been imbuing millions of Americans with anti-Semitism and other Hitler policies, using publications, radio and the lecture platform. They praise Hitler and his policies, and are contemptuous of our democracy.

Italian fifth-column activity here has been under direct supervision of official Italian diplomatic and consular representatives. As in the case of Germany, a headquarters organization was set up in the homeland. To disrupt the opinions of Italian-Americans, as in the case of Germany, a bought or blackmailed Italian-American press has greatly furthered the development of the fifth column. As in the case of Germany, Italian consular officials meddle in the affairs of Italian-American organizations.

As in the case of Germany, too, medals are bestowed on U. S. citizens who have deserved well of the homeland. And as in the case of Germany, quasi-governmental officials are busy. Count John de Perdicari, in charge of the Italian Railroads Tourists Bureau here, is frequently with Ernst Schmitz, Hitler's under-cover propagandist and picture taker.

There is a good-sized propaganda front in the Italian Library of Information, headed by Ugo V. D'Annunzio, naturalized American, who receives \$18,000 a year from the Ministry of Popular Culture in Rome.

## Differences in Teachings

There are differences between the Italian and German situations here, however, all encouraging. One is that while Mussolini's consular agents are violating international law and custom in meddling in U. S. politics, the department of Justice sources say there is no indicator: the cautious Duce has permitted them to share in Nazi sabotage plots. Another is that there are robust Italian-American organizations patriotically combating the Nazi-Fascist fifth column, using every device used by Mussolini. Furthermore, while Hitler contends such organizations as the Bund are not Nazi, there are official agents of the Italian Fascist party operating openly in every Italian-American community in the U. S.

The propaganda showered upon Italian-Americans by the *Direzione Generale degli Italiani all'Estero*, a bureau of Italy's Foreign Office, hammers home one main point, a quotation from Mussolini:

"You are Italian even unto the seventh generation."

The national headquarters of Mussolini's plot against the U. S. A.—the *Societa Nazionale Dante Alighieri*—is in the Palazzo d'Italia, Fifth Ave. and 51st St.

A hundred Fascist agents operate in connection with this organization. In the same building are the Italian Consulate General, and various "educational" and "sport" Italian-American organizations.

## In Touch With Consuls

The Dante Alighieri society has branches in each important Italian-American community and each branch keeps in touch with the local Italian consul.

The local headquarters of the society are in New York, and uniformed Black Shirts from several of these *circoli* have marched openly with uniformed Nazi storm troops.

Black Shirt Commander Josef Santi, of the New York area, was chummy with Fritz Kuhn before the law caught up with that Nazi-American.

Another military Italian Fascist organization is the Federation of the Italian World War Veterans in the United States of America, Inc., incorporated in this state. Italian consular agents have openly acted in behalf of this society against patriotic Italian-American veterans' societies.

Four of the five trustees who control it, Vincenzo R. Vedovi, Rosario Catanzaro, Umberto Basile-Pezzula and Guiseppe Brancuccio, are Italian Fascists, not U. S. citizens. The organization strenuously emphasizes the superiority of Italian Fascism to our democracy.

## Fascist League Revived

When Henry L. Stimson was Secretary of State, he brought about the dissolution of the Fascist League of North America, but it has been revived under the name, Italian Lictor Confederation, with headquarters in New York.

Another active Fascist organization, which has made use of the names of prominent citizens, including Governor Lehman and Mayor LaGuardia, is the National United Italian Associations, Inc., 1857 W. 11th St., Brooklyn. The Fascist Duce of this organization is Capt. Vincenzo Rossini. Honorary chairman is Generoso Pope.

Pope is publisher of *Il Progresso Italiano-Americano*, a leading organ of Fascism in the U. S. Although he protests his Americanism, he said to a gathering headed by the Italian consul:

"Mr. Consul and friends: first I wish you to shout with me, 'Down with the enemies of our country!' We can be sure that Italy will triumph under the guidance of the Duce and will be greater and more feared in the future. When Italy can boast sons like you that are present here, then victory is hers. Long live Italy, long live the King, long live Mussolini!"

Pope's paper follows the Italian Fascist line—approving Lindbergh, condemning the transfer of destroyers to Britain, urging peace, omitting derogatory references to Hitler from Wendell Willkie's acceptance speech, and so on.

This is the 16th of a series