

Badoglio's 'Big Stick' Seen Whipping Italians Into Line

People Anxious for Peace But Lack Leadership

By Charles S. Foltz

Madrid — (AP) — Premier Pietro Badoglio's regime has slowly but firmly imposed upon Italy a military dictatorship of the toughest type and the prospects of an Italian surrender now are extremely dim, according to Italians who left Rome only last Sunday.

While the Italian people in general are anxious for peace, these new arrivals in Spain declared, the peace movement lacks capable leadership and Badoglio shows every sign of doing his best to keep it so.

Officers Pleased

The travelers painted this picture of the situation in Italy at the time of their departure:

Officers of the Italian army as a whole are pleased by the change-over from Mussolini to Badoglio and Italy has gained in efficiency as a war machine despite the loss in morale which may have been oc-

castioned by several days of disorders in many places.

These disorders were put down by the application of the "big stick" method, and while it is possible that the whole Italian fabric of resistance might crack if the Allies should quickly smash Axis forces in Sicily and spill over onto the mainland, the popular enthusiasm for peace has cooled off under the stringent methods employed by the new government.

Troops Shoot First

The Italian people have learned that Badoglio, unlike the Fascists, won't take them to jail, beat them up or question them. Instead, his troops are under strict orders to shoot at the first sign of demonstrations or trouble and ask questions later.

Part of the present calm in Italy under the blanket of military dictatorship is due to the failure of the Allies to clean up Sicily last week. Badoglio's press and German propaganda agents are making the most of continued resistance in Sicily to whip up Italian fighting spirit.