

REDS RECOGNIZE ITALIAN REGIME

Badoglio Thus Wins First Diplomatic Victory.

By Associated Press.

NAPLES, March 13.—Soviet Russia and Italy are exchanging ambassadors, the government of Marshal Pietro Badoglio announced tonight, marking the first diplomatic recognition by any of the United Nations of the Badoglio regime.

Diplomatic relations between Italy and Russia were severed June 22, 1941, when Benito Mussolini declared war on the Soviet nation, the day after his axis partner, Adolf Hitler, invaded Russia.

Badoglio, in a message to Premier Marshal Joseph Stalin, said:

"At the moment in which our two countries decide to exchange official representatives, I particularly wish to underline to you, Marshal Stalin, that all the Italian people are fully conscious of the imposing and victorious Soviet war effort. They are more than ever convinced of the necessity of restoring Italian and Russian relations on the basis of the constructive and friendly cooperation which was temporarily and tragically abandoned by the regime which today we are fighting together."

Opens New Chapter.

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An official Italian spokesman said the resumption of direct relations between Italy and the Soviet union represented "the closing of a chapter and the opening of a new phase of Italian international life."

"It is therefore an event of the greatest importance and significance, the import of which undoubtedly will be fully appreciated by Italian public opinion on both sides of the battle line," the spokesman added.

The communique announcing that the two nations are exchanging ambassadors said:

"Following a wish officially expressed some time ago on the part of Italy, the government of the U. S. S. R. and the royal Italian government had agreed to establish direct relations between the two countries.

"In compliance with this decision, the two countries will proceed without delay to the exchange of representatives enjoying the usual diplomatic status."

The Badoglio spokesman said that "the new Italy," during the nearly six months she has been classed as a cobelligerent with the United Nations, "has given conclusive proof of her good will, her loyalty and her decided and firm intention of total cooperation with the United Nations."

Realistic Course.

"Italy and Russia," he added, "realistically take stock of these circumstances and draw therefrom no less realistically the obvious measures which represent indeed the necessary prerequisites of a truly constructive policy."

In further commenting on the diplomatic exchange the spokesman said that it is "unnecessary, and might indeed at the present be untimely, to dwell on the implications of this event in regard to the present Italian situation."

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The Italian people, the spokesman said, will not forget that Russia "stretches out her hand in one of the most tragic moments of their history."

(Russia's action in diplomatically recognizing the Badoglio regime was in line with a similar step taken last August when the Soviet Union gave fuller recognition to the French committee of national liberation than was given by either the United States or Britain.

(While the United States and Britain gave the committee only limited war-time recognition as an administrative agency in the French overseas territories which acknowledged its authority, the Russian government said the group would be recognized as the "representatives of the state interests of the French republic and as the leader of the interests of the French republic and of all the French patriots fighting against the Hitlerite tyranny.")