

P.L. - Sunoco. Friday, Oct. 4, 1940.

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The Hitler-Mussolini conference is not at all illuminated by the official communique issued as the two dictators parted company. It's the usual meaningless nothing - merely stating that the heads of the two nations discussed all problems in a spirit of complete ~~cordiality~~ cordiality. That's the way it has been hitherto when Hitler and Mussolini have met - official secrecy.

More informative, if not a hundred per cent authoritative - is Mussolini's editor, Gayda, called the Duce's mouthpiece. He gives a whole series of things discussed for winning the war - including Spain. Franco doesn't seem to be joining up as readily as spokesmen of the axis have been predicting. <sup>W</sup> And, ~~Gayda~~ Gayda also included - the United States. Hitler and Mussolini, says he, discussed the American policy of aiding Great Britain, also - the American attitude toward the new military alliance between the ~~axis~~ axis powers and Japan. That sounds reasonable enough. The U.S.A. must be much in the thoughts of the two dictators.

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Gayda apparently implies, however, that their conference was not directed against the United States. Mussolini's editor puts it in these words:- "It must be said above all, that the meeting does not imply any plot against the ~~xx~~ peace and tranquility of countries not participating in the war."

Berlin is using louder words than Rome, including the exceedingly loud word - cataclysmic. Nazi spokesmen point out that this is the third time that Hitler and Mussolini have met this year. The first was in March, just before the over-~~whelm~~ing blitzkrieg was launched. The second was in June, as France was ~~xx~~ collapsing. Now the third - which the Nazis maintain is of equally momentous and ominous consequence. The Brenner Pass meeting, they say, will have cataclysmic results for Great Britain. They add that Hitler and Mussolini agreed on final plans for the much-talked of invasion of Britain and for the Italian drive against Egypt - which has not continued as rapidly as it began. Well, we'll have to wait and see how cataclysmic it all will be.

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London has a different idea, and suspects that in their talks the two dictators made ~~fx~~ frequent use of the word -

peace.

The London Star tonight gives the opinion that the result of the Brenner Pass conference will be - a peace offensive.

KING

George the Sixth of Great Britain had a narrow escape today. He was nearly bombed. The Monarch of the British Empire was inspecting London wreckage, his incessant task nowadays. There was an air raid alarm, but that didn't deter the King at all. In one place a Nazi screamer-bomb crashed down, one of those high explosive missiles that emit a shrieking sound - to terrify. It exploded with shattering violence, and just as it did the Royal automobile drove up. In it - George the Sixth, coming to inspect the area. You can imagine the war reception the Sovereign got from his subjects who were taking the bombing with plenty of English grit.

Save for this incident, today's bombing story is the same as usual -- terribly the same.

ROOSEVELT.

69  
Today the White House took official cognizance of that burning question:- "Whom does Hitler want elected in November? Which candidate does the Nazi-Fascist Axis favor? Some old-fashioned Americans might growl - who cares? But these are not old-fashioned American days. Some people, in fact, make Hitler the number one figure in that peculiarly domestic concern of ours - the election.

Today at the White House Press Conference, President Roosevelt drew attention to a New York Times dispatch from Rome which stated that the Nazi-Fascist powers are out to beat Roosevelt. The article in fact hinted that Hitler and Mussolini are likely to do something that ~~would~~ would be ~~of~~ move in the Presidential campaign over here. One of the paragraphs the President read to the Washington correspondents went as follows:- "The Axis", it says, "is out to beat President Roosevelt, not as a measure ~~of~~ <sup>of</sup> interference in American internal politics but because of the President's

foreign policy and because of everything for which he stands in the eyes of Italians and Germans. "This election," the Times dispatch continues, "is realized to be of vast importance to the Axis. Therefore," the paragraph concludes, "it is normal strategy to do something before November Fifth, which would somehow have a great effect on the electoral campaign." One wonders just what the Axis powers might do that could have a great effect on the electoral campaign.

Kiss a few babies?

After reading the article aloud, the President was asked whether he was referring to the charge made by his running mate, Vice-presidential candidate Wallace? The charge that Germany and Italy would welcome the election of Willkie. The President did not answer directly. He said he was merely drawing the attention of the story ~~to~~ to the newspaper men, and added that they might draw their own conclusions.

WELLES.

The United States got some more advice today from <sup>that</sup> a distinguished Englishman - H. G. Welles, author and philosopher. <sup>H.G.</sup> Welles said today that the great world hope consisted of a combination of Great Britain, the United States and Soviet Russia. Strange bedfellows, Churchill, Roosevelt and Stalin. But H. G. Welles doesn't think it strange at all. He says the Soviets would be a nice partner for Great Britain and the United States. He described the Soviets as, in a state of - "Liberal Evolution."

It may be a little hard for mere Americans to detect the liberalism in Stalin's Red dictatorship, and as for evolution - the Moscow Communists usually spell <sup>evolution</sup> ~~it~~ with an "R". (As for the pact with Hitler and the Soviet grabbing of territory, Welles says it's all - self-defense. Even Finland, the Red attack on Finland being just so much Soviet self-defense.

H. G. Welles amplifies on his theme that the United States ~~is~~ should stay out of the present war - all

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because of American politics. He told the newspaper men  
that a Nation to go into war should be united - "A condition,"  
he added, "which as you know does not prevail here today."  
He said the European situation was badly enough muddled as  
it is without the introduction of American politics, which  
Welles described as "terrifying politics."



SOVIETS.

Word from London indicates that Great Britain is making an approach to Soviet Russia with reference to the Far East. (More than that, London reports it as a three-cornered set of negotiations, both Great Britain and the United States confabulating with the Soviets.) The news given out today tells of a conference held in London yesterday by Secretary of Foreign ~~Xi~~ Affairs Butler and Stalin's Ambassador, Maisky. It is understood that the Butler-Maisky talk at the foreign office concerned the Far Eastern situation - Japan, and the Japan Axis Alliance. The London approach to the Soviets, it was pointed out, follows conversations in Moscow between United States Ambassador Steinhardt and Stalin's Foreign Commissar, Molotov. Not only that, there have been recent conferences in Washington, at the State Department - between under-Secretary of State Sumner Welles and Soviet Ambassador Omansky.

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All of this leads informed sources in London to believe that the British and our own American selves are

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acting in unison in sounding out the Soviets about the  
new German-Italian-Japanese Military Alliance.

TRIAL.

In France the trial of government figures connected with the war produced its first verdict today. The former Minister of Education, who held office during the disastrous war with Germany, was on trial. His name is Jean Zay. The accusation against him was - desertion. He was an Army officer, and he fled ~~to~~ France when the armistice and surrender to Germany occurred. He was one of a number of prominent political figures who took a steamship and sailed across to French North Africa. There they were all arrested.

The issue of the trial in France today was made the more doubtful by a trial held in North Africa yesterday.

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Georges Mandel, one of the ace political personalities of France, faced a colonial court martial on a war charge - and was acquitted. That, however, was not decisive, because Mandel was thereupon ordered back to France to face a tribunal now sitting at the City of Riom. He was once a Chief Aide to Clemenceau, the tiger of world war fame. For years he has been regarded as one of the major powers in French governmental

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circles. His acquittal by the African Court Martial yesterday seemed highly significant.

Then today came the proceedings at Riom against Jean Zay, the former Minister of Education. His defense was that he, an officer, left France because he was informed that the French government had decided to go to Africa - and continue the war from a colonial base. This was confirmed by other officials, who moreover testified that the former Minister's military record was excellent. On the other hand, stood the contention that a military officer had no right to leave his Army unless so ordered by his military superiors. The fact that he was informed that the Government intended to leave France gave him no such privilege.

The Court deliberated, and returned a verdict of guilty. The former Minister of Education was convicted. The maximum legal penalty that can be inflicted on him consists of military degradation from rank - and deportation. In France hitherto the term "deportation" frequently meant -

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exile to Devils Island. But that hardly seems likely in the case of the former Minister of the Government. For one thing, they might have trouble deporting people to Devils Island - the war situation being what it is.

The most significant thing about today's news is that the much publicized French trials on war charges has given them first verdict - guilty.

## JAPAN

56

The news in Japan today made frequent mention of the word "America". To begin with, a spokesman of the Japanese foreign office made a radio address, in which he reckoned with the likelihood of the United States doubling its war aid to Great Britain. He also reckoned with another possibility - that the United States might go ~~ix~~ into the war on the British side. He said that these contingencies had been a factor with Germany, Italy and Japan in negotiating their military alliance.

A more important pronouncement was made by the Japanese premier, Prince Konoye. He spoke of the United States in terms of conciliation on the one hand and defiance on the other. He urged that Japan would like to come to an understanding with the Washington government, would like to adjust its relations with the United States. Also - with Soviet Russia, said the Premier. He urged the United States to collaborate in the task of establishing a new order in East Asia. That term "new order" doesn't sound so sweet to American ears, not with its implications of Japanese aggression. Prince Konoye's idea of an understanding was put in these terms:

7  
"Should the United States," said he, "recognize the leadership of Japan, Germany and Italy respectively, in East Asia and Europe - the three powers would logically recognize the United States leadership on the American continents."

The threat he uttered employed the words - "fight to the finish". He said: "Should the United States deliberately refuse to understand the intentions of the three powers and consider the triple alliance as hostile to the United States and challenge the three powers, we are ready to accept such a challenge and fight to the finish."

The Honorable Premier puts himself in the guise of waving an olive branch in the one hand and brandishing a bludgeon in the other.

HULL

8

Here are a couple of rumors, which are answered tonight, One from London states that United States Ambassador Joseph B. Kennedy is soon to resign - his place to be taken by William C. Bullitt, United States Ambassador to France. Mr. Bullitt is Ambassador to France all right, but he's in the United States - without showing much sign of returning to the nation to which he is accredited. That nation being - ccnquered France. Secretary of State Hull today was asked about the story of Kennedy resignation. He dismissed it by saying - it's just another report.

8 1/2

The second peace of theoretical news more directly concerns the Secretary of State. It comes from Tokyo, which would seem a distant place for getting news about events in Washington. A Japanese newspaper today published a story that Secretary of State Hull is to resign from the Roosevelt Cabinet in January. Asked about that one, Cordell Hull repeated the phrase of ~~for~~ off-hand denial - just another report, said he. The Secretary of State added the ~~xxxxxxxx~~ comment that in any



national crisis like the present one, he would be willing to serve his country in any capacity - from bookkeeper on up the line.

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ENDING

9

The World Series? Haven't you heard? Detroit won again - seven to four. Seven seems to be Cincinnati's unlucky number. Last ~~x~~ year the Yanks beat them in the last two games for the World Series by scoring seven runs in each. The Tigers licked them in the first game this year with seven runs. And now again today - with the big ~~right~~ Tiger rally in the seventh inning.

2 1/4

Now Hugh, tell us about something that brings good luck.