

Early bc. July 15/4 8.

Italy is in the grip of a general strike today, with widespread violence. This general strike of six million workers, which the Communists have called as a protest against the shooting of Togliatti, the ~~Red leader~~^{Red leader}, described as the worst in Italy since the early days of Benito Mussolini.

Today in Rome, thousands of Reds surged through the streets of the ancient capital, crying - "Revolution! Down with the government!" The National Assembly met ~~in constant session~~ to hear grim news of the Red revolt throughout the country. ^{The} Interior Minister ~~Mario Scelba~~ told the ^{NA} delegates how police guarding Rome's great electric power station at Albazia San Salvatore had been attacked with guns and bombs. ~~And~~ how another Red mob was attacking the government reinforcements going to the relief of the garrison there. The Interior Minister also told ^{how} of three trunk railroads leading to Rome ^{are now} ~~being~~ blocked by explosions. And of an armed mob attacking the city's power station.

The announcement caused an uproar. The Right Wing delegates shouting themselves hoarse with indignation, as the Communists sat quiet and tight lipped. When the Int. Minister continued, the Communists took out newspapers and began to read them aloud. The President called them to order; they refused to obey; whereupon the assembly adjourned.

In Genoa, Italy's largest port, the government proclaimed an emergency. Leftist mobs set up government implacements in the main streets of Genoa. Last night they stormed the telephone exchange and captured the power station, which the police recaptured after a bitter battle.

Italians, in many cities, awoke this morning to find no railroad transportation, electric power reduced to a minimum. Some cities with none at all. No street cars; shops and offices closed. In Rome, electric power so curtailed that the government issued its bulletins on its private radio station in the Viminale Palace, under police protection plus two thousand troops, with tank battalions in support.

The de Gaspari government says it is in a strong

position. Strengthened by the Marshall Plan; also by its great anti-Communist victory in the election three months ago. "Strongly confident", says a Rome spokesman, "that it can defeat this general strike, and restore order, despite temporary Red victories."

And how is Togliatti? The Russian radio today announced that he was dying. But from the Polyclinic Hospital, where the Reds are silently parading with flags and banners bearing the picture of their idol, the Rome government announces that Togliatti is resting quietly, his condition much better. "Reports of his death, which are frequently circulated," says the government bulletin, "are false."x

PALESTINE

The Arab states apparently are thinking it over -- deciding whether to continue war, or work out an arrangement with the U.N. From Beirut, Lebanon, comes word that Arab leaders are now in session -- talking over the U.N. demand for another truce; perhaps end the fighting altogether.

Lebanese newspapers are saying that King Abdullah has been advised by the British to accept the U.N. suggestion; and, that he may do so.

The Lebanese newspapers add that, "international considerations, whose full significance escapes the public, may influence the decision to accept a truce."

Also, news from Jerusalem that Abdullah's Arab legion is holding off -- not attacking -- its officers reluctant to expend any lives until the Arab League decides whether it's to be war or truce. And, most of the other Arab armies are reported quiescent -- waiting for further word.

PERSHING

John J.
General Pershing ~~will~~^{to} be buried with full military honors, on Monday, in Arlington National Cemetery. As he always wished.

On Sunday the body of the General-of-the-Armies will lie in state in the Rotunda ~~of~~ the national capital, to allow the public to pay its respects to the military man of whom *it has been* ~~it can be~~ said: - "he never made a mistake either in strategy or in tactics."

In fact, *Gen.* ~~Black~~ Pershing, ~~as he was known to the doughboys of World War One~~ lived long enough to see the results of the Allies rejecting his advice in Nineteen Eighteen. He was opposed to granting Germany an armistice. He called for unconditional surrender from Germany, and he wanted his troops to march right into Berlin. Otherwise, said he, there would be another war in twenty years, *or so. And how right he was in his prophesy.*

The veteran soldier who went to West Point from his native Missouri, never lost touch with current affairs after he was retired in Nineteen Twenty-Four on account of his age.

As a tribute to his greatness, Congress kept him in active service, and he ^{continued to} served his country faithfully with ~~timely~~ advice. ~~and knowledgeable foresight.~~ In Nineteen Thirty-Nine, when Hitler marched into Poland, Pershing publicly urged ~~us~~ the ~~United States~~ to get ready! ~~for war.~~ In Nineteen Forty-Six he called on Uncle Sam to enforce diplomacy with strength, and he criticized ^{our} wholesale disarmament after World War Two, warning that preparedness for war is a guardian of peace, ^{as he worded it:—} "particularly in the age of the atomic bomb and guided missiles, into which we are entering." ~~and General of the~~
^{PP Gen.}
~~Army~~ Pershing lived long enough to see America building the most effective peace-time army in her history.