

# F. D. R. ACTS IN CO

## Pope, Mussolini Ready to Mediate In Polish Dispute

ROME, May 6 (UP).—Fascists put the emphasis on peace tonight with both Pope Pius XII and Premier Mussolini understood to be ready to use their good offices for solution of conflict between Germany and Poland.

### EUROPE

**ROME**—Pope Pius XII and Mussolini, it was reported, stand ready to assume roles of peacemakers in German-Polish situation over Danzig and the Polish Corridor. Fascists moderate toward Warsaw.

**LONDON**—Britain tempers unfavorable reply to Russia's proposal for a triple military alliance with England and France. Way is kept clear for further negotiations.

**BERLIN**—German feeling against Warsaw mounts with reports of "terrorism" in the Polish Corridor. Hundreds of Germans reported "fleeing for safety." Nazi press irate.

**PARIS**—France's passive defenses strengthened by seven decrees of Daladier Cabinet. Foreign press control tightened. European crisis reviewed by Foreign Minister Bonnet.

**MILAN**—Mussolini firm in determination to restrain Hitler in Polish crisis, Europe hears, as Foreign Ministers von Ribbentrop and Ciano end first day's conference here.

## Nazis Ask Italian Aid On Danzig

MILAN, May 6 (INS). — To what extent Italy will support her axis partner in Germany's demands on Poland was the paramount question before Foreign Ministers Joachim von Ribbentrop of Germany and Count Galeazzo Ciano of Italy as their initial conversation ended at Milan tonight.

Italian backing for a plebiscite in Danzig, it was understood, was sought by Von Ribbentrop. The German is said to be using this particular point in an effort to bind Italy more closely to Germany, in spite of Italy's reluctance to fight for the Reich over the Danzig issue.

Press attaches made known at the outset that the conversations would be shrouded in secrecy, but there was no attempt to deny repeated reports that Il Duce is seeking to restrain Hitler from precipitate action.

Mussolini's reported role as "peacemaker" was hinted at yesterday by Virginio Gayda, Fascist editor.

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Swiftly following shift of European tension to the Polish Corridor as a result of Poland's rejection of Adolf Hitler's demands for return of Danzig and a German right-of-way to East Prussia, all indications in authoritative Fascist quarters pointed toward action designed to return Mussolini to the role of "peacemaker" in which the press featured him during the Sudeten crisis.

Developments included: Semi-official disclosure that Pope Pius was working actively for peaceful conclusion of the Polish-German controversy. He was believed to be prepared to use his good offices, if such action were welcomed by both Berlin and Warsaw. The Papal Nuncio to Germany, Mgr. Cesare Orsenigo, visited Hitler yesterday and may come to Rome later to report.

Statements in Fascist quarters that Poland has left the door open for settlement of the conflict—contrary to Berlin press statements—and that Mussolini is willing to act as mediator in view of

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close Italian relations with Poland and the unwillingness of Rome to be dragged into a war over a "comparatively minor issue" such as Danzig.

Opening at Milan of a conference between Italian Foreign Minister Count Galeazzo Ciano and Nazi Foreign Minister Joachim von Ribbentrop, who has just come from conferences with Hitler, on axis problems in general and the Polish issue in particular. Ciano was understood to be emphasizing the Italian desire for peaceful solution.

All Italian newspapers assumed a moderate tone toward Poland and expressed confidence that a solution could be reached.

The possibility of some action by the Pope apparently depended entirely on the attitude of Hitler and of Polish leaders. Mgr. Orsenigo's visit to Hitler was either to appeal for moderation or to make definite proposals, according to semi-official Vatican sources.

Some quarters understood that the Nuncio asked Hitler if he

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### Rome's Version



Young Fascists hit their stride in Fascism's copycat goose-step in parade. Dictator Mussolini will

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# Pope, Mussolini Would Mediate In Polish Crisis

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would welcome Vatican efforts to remove Polish-German differences in line with the Pope's recent radio appeal for world peace and with a similar appeal which he is expected to make tomorrow when he addresses the Algerian Eucharistic Congress. It was officially denied, however, that the Pope was preparing to appeal directly to the heads of governments as had been reported earlier in London.

## Paris Issues New 'Defense' Decrees

PARIS, May 6 (INS).—Seven new decrees designed to strengthen France's passive defenses were issued today as the Cabinet of Premier Daladier held a vital meeting at which the European crisis was thoroughly reviewed.

The decrees provided for tighter control over the foreign press, defense lessons for French children at all schools, modification of military requisition laws pertaining to supplies and of the laws of maritime insurance and war risk clauses, reorganization and improvement of production of minerals essential to national defense.

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**WEATHER MIRROR**

SUNDAY, MAY 5