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by 10-11-43
re report she
made to Berlin*

Nothing is more stupid than the rumour of my having been an opponent to Germany in politics. One will be able to remember that the politics of the Axis began while I was Foreign Minister, before that time Italy had been pro-Austria and anti-Germany. The pro-Austrian direction had been followed very violently. I remember very well some persons who were very afraid, the day of the Anschluß, that in the archives of the Austrian Foreign Office there ~~would~~ might be found some telegrams and above all two letters which committed their authors very much. Perhaps the German Government disliked me later on but at least I never lied to them. I began to be deviating when others tried to make the German allied believe Italy was materially and morally prepared for the war, which was not true as facts later on proved. When the Führer said in one of his last speeches that he never asked the Italians to ~~begin~~ enter the war, he spoke the truth. We entered the war like hazardeurs, counting on a quick German victory. When the real difficulties began the facade broke down and the real situation in Italy showed itself as I had described it in Salzburg to the Führer and Ribbentrop. That was the reason why I was convinced a benevolently neutral Italy would be much better for Germany than a fighting Italy which only gathered disgraces for the Germans.

I am aware of the enormous difficulties in which Mussolini found himself when he created a new government, but I thought it would be possible to find a group of sane, energetic and willing people to save what was to be saved. When I saw Buffarini Guidi made Intern Minister I gave up all hope. Time will teach many things and one day it will be clear that he was one of the most damaging elements in the Italian and Fascist life, that he was a liar, a slave and a hypocrite and profiteer for 10 years and that all this time he worked for nothing else

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but his personal organization in order to strengthen his own and his friends' position and to have as many financial advantages as possible. Buffarini did his worst service to Mussolini with the case Petacci. Before Buffarini participated in this affair there were only the two direct partners interested in it. Buffarini organized a sort of Maffia and it is not exaggerated to say that a big part of the displeasure against the regime was caused by the case Petacci. When he wanted to make the acquaintance of this people he had himself helped by a man named Donadio who had been in jail ^{and} while with the family of Mussolini himself he had himself helped by another rascal named Fradoni who had gained the confidence of Donna Rachele. Buffarini brought these two together and they became friends and so Buffarini could let Mussolini know all he wanted him to by means of the Petacci and by means of his wife. Of course he will continue this game and with the actual difficulties his system will function all the better. Senise would be able to give exact details about Buffarini. Senise is a honest man and he declared himself against Fascism and in favour of Badoglio only because he had to work together with Buffarini. Once Senise told me he had last september the exact proofs of Buffarini's corruption and that of a group of Buffarini's men (Le Pere, chief director of the "Razza") who were paid for the arianisation of some jews from Padua. Everybody was speaking about this scandal and Senise had the exact proofs. But after having talked to Mussolini, Senise had not the courage to proceed against Buffarini. Senise told me Buffarini received monthly a big sum because he held the office to sgerman (?) South-Tyrol. I am sure he never did anything but only sent this sum to his mistress, Mrs. Billi Liebmann, probably a jew, who was living the last year in Switzerland ^{and probably she is still there} where she was gathering money and accumulating it in Swiss banks.

I know Buffarini is very clever. For some years he decei-

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ved myself too. He is always succeeding in finding a way out. I am sure he is very damaging now to Mussolini. Surely he is not on friendly terms with Pavolini and they will have rencounters, because Pavolini is a honest man but not so sly as Buffarini. He will have rencounters with Ricci too, because Ricci is stubborn and not very clever though certainly loyal.

2 letters written by Ciano to Mussolini and to the director of the newspaper "Corriere della Sera" who published a note that Ciano was the partner of the anti-fascist industrial Achille Lori (?). Ciano is saying in his letter to the Duce that ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ he was calumniated first by the Badoglio-press and then by the fascist press and he is asking him to send his second letter to the director of the "Corriere della Sera". In this letter he is declaring very energetically that he not only had no business connexions with Achille Lori but never had any business connexion with Italian or foreign industrials, merchants, bankers or anybody else and that he is asking the calumniator to come out of the anonym fog and make concret accusations against Ciano. He is not sure if this letter will ever reach Mussolini, maybe Bufferini's gang will hinder it.

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