

ACC

10000/143/1035

THE KING'S P
JUN. 1946

10000/143/1035

THE KING'S PROCLAMATION & THE GOV'T'S ANSWER
JUN. 1946

TRANSLATION M.C.THE KING'S PROCLAMATION AND THE GOVERNMENT'S ANSWER. (A)The King's proclamation.

On assuming the Luogotenenza Generale del Regno before, and the power of the Crown after, I declared that I would submit myself to the vote of the people, freely expressed, on the institutional form of the State.

I made the same affirmation after June 2, certain that all would have waited for the decisions of the Corte Suprema di Cassazione, to whom the law had entrusted the control and the proclamation of the definite referendum results. In face of the provisional and partial communication made by the Supreme Court, in face of the reserve to announce before 18th June the judgement on the claims and to make known the numbers of voters and votes non valid, in face of the question raised and not resolved to calculate the majority, I, myself, once again yesterday, repeated that it was my right and duty as King that the Corte di Cassazione made known if the republican institutional form had reached the needed majority.

Suddenly, in the night, in open contempt to the law and to the independent and sovereign power of the magistracy, the Government has committed a revolutionary deed, assuming by arbitrary and one-sided action that what did not pertain to them and placed me in the alternative to provoke a bloodshed or submit myself to violence.

ITALIANS!

While the Country is but free of a tragic war, its frontiers threatened and its very unity in danger, I believe it is my duty to do what is yet in my power to prevent other sorrows and tears to the people who has so much suffered.

I trust that the Magistracy, whose independent traditions of liberty are one of the Italian glories, may voice its say freely: but, not wanting to oppose by force the abuse of power, nor render myself a party to the unlawfulness committed by the Government, I leave the soil of my Country, hoping thus to save the Italians from further mournings and sorrows.

In making this supreme sacrifice for the welfare of the Country, it is my duty as an Italian and as King, to voice my protest against the violence perpetrated : a protest in the name of the people and the Crown, of the Italians at home and abroad, who have a right to see its fate decided according to the law, and in such a way that all doubts and suspicions be dissipated.

To all those who are still faithful to Monarchy, and to all those whose souls rebel to the injustice, I recall to them my example, and exhort them to avoid a more acute tension of dissensions which might lead to more serious peace treaty terms.

With my heart griefstricken, but with my conscience at peace for having done everything in my power to fulfill my duties, I leave my own country.

Let those who swore to serve the King consider themselves free from their oath, but free to serve their Country, as they have faithfully served and trusted across many hard trials in the past.

I turn my thoughts to all those who fell for Italy and to the Italians all. Whatever fate is Italy's lot, my Country can always rely on me as its most devoted son.

LONG LIVE ITALY!

Rome, 13 June 1946.

UMBERTO

THE GOVERNMENT'S REPLY

The King's departure, which took place at 3,40 p.m. at CIAMPINO had been carefully kept hidden from the Government. The Ministry of Air was rung up at last moment by organizers of departure not to inform the Presidente del Consiglio, as they would do so themselves.

But the President was duly informed from other sources. On making certain that goal was LISBONA, he offered no objections.

Shortly after the King's departure, rumors spread that the proclamation in question would be transmitted to the Italians.

The proclamation is a painful document drawn on false basis and artificial arguments. It is false what it defines as plain "communication" the notes of referendum results issued by the Cassazione on 10 June. What it mentions as a sudden statement by the Consiglio del Ministry of the past night, around the constitutional effects of the proclamation, is a falsehood. The facts are all on the contrary. In fact during the night of 10 June, the Consiglio while recognizing referendum results in favour of the Republic reserved to decide on concrete measures deriving from them.

After this, and notwithstanding these decisive statements, the King continued to meet for two consecutive days the President in connection with a regency, and no mention was made to "revolutionary action" or "one-sided arbitrary move".

The Government, notwithstanding the difficulty to agree on the two contrary theses, continued with negotiations, until they were suspended by phone message by Avv. LUCIFERO.

Yesterday morning, the King sent the noted letter, in which he ignored the proclamation by the Corte di Cassazione and thus obliged the Government to insist on the constitutional effects of the proclamation.

It is against this second order of the day by the Consiglio. that the royal proclamation accuses of "revolutionary move" and "arbitrary one-sided powers". In the said order of the day, no mention whatever is made of taking over any authority or making use of it, but the question is only raised as to competency. In fact the Government has remanded the deliberations of concrete measures, announced last Monday.

"No contempt for the law or for the sovereign independency of the magistracy" nor of obliging the King to choose "the alternative of provoking a bloodshed or be submitted to acts of violence."

He could have calmly continued his discussions and consultations. The Government, especially the President of the Consiglio, had up to the last moment proved that they only wished for a peaceful solution.

1030