

The Italian Socialist Party has recently conducted a poll among antifascists in Italy who listen regularly to the British and American broadcasts in Italian. We are summarising the resultant opinions:-

1. The general verdict is negative.
2. The tone of the broadcasts is usually demagogic primitive vulgar generic and presumptuous. Listeners in Italy are usually of a higher than average cultural level, and they find it very offensive that Italians should be spoken to in this manner.
3. There is a total absence in the broadcasts of any ideal political thought superior to that of the adversary, a total absence of any large-scale political perspective giving weight to the generic words of freedom justice etc. to which Italians are as used as they are to the sound of the mandoline.
4. Propaganda based on terror, bolstered up by threats of destruction, results from a psychological error already proved false in other countries (Spain, England etc.) The Italians have had ocular proof that the Allied airmen deliberately bomb and machine-gun the civilian population, and for this reason all distinction in their minds between the Allies and the Fascists is tending to disappear. "They're all the same", they say. Appeals to Italian fear will remain without effect. The Italian civilian population is behaving under the bombs just as the English did.
5. Listeners deplore the absence of any concrete facts giving an impression of the superiority of the democratic regimes over the dictatorships. More helpful, they think, than protestations of eternal friendship for the Italian followed immediately by threats of total annihilation, would be items of news such as these: the Fascist printing-presses in Tunis and Tripoli are now printing democratic Italian newspapers; the property of the Fascists who are now in flight from these towns has been confiscated; the villas and mansions of the high Fascist officials of Tripoli have been confiscated and turned into rest-homes for tired workers and crèches for the children of the poor; there have been improvements in the working and living conditions of the Italian working-men remaining in Abyssinia; the treatment by the Allies of the Italian colonists of Tripolitania has been such and such.
6. Listeners deplore the scanty importance given to the strikes ~~made~~ being made by Italian workers.
7. They also deplore the scanty attention paid to the Italian antifascist movements.
8. More details and news could be given about resistance to the Nazis in Poland, Norway, Yugoslavia, Holland etc.; not only news of assassinations, but also — for example — constructive news of how clandestine newspapers are written and distributed in these countries, etc.
9. Allusions to the Italian ancestry of many American soldiers makes no effect whatsoever. The Italians are used to killing each other. The speeches of Fiorello La Guardia, made in a rather comical Italian and in a style such as not even the department-store ~~advertising~~ advertisements in Italy would dare to use, might be abandoned without great loss.
10. All allusions to racial equality merely call forth irony, because the U.S. immigration laws (laws still in force) are based on racial discrimination between the peoples of Europe.
- II. The voices and accents of some of the present Italo-American announcers are distressingly reminiscent of the voices of village mountebanks. It would be an improvement if their place could be taken by people who can speak Italian.
12. However, listeners say that when they happen to tune in to the Italian broadcasts from Moscow, they suddenly realise that the British and American broadcasts might be a lot worse than they are.

Recently improvement in American Radio from N.A.

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Retransmission from London 7-30 PM June 9. 7.10 re

Roselli. Matt. etc. — very good — Man spoke well.