

October 13, 1943

[USA / British / Soviet Statement]

FDR Speech File

STATEMENTS FILE

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OCTOBER 13, 1943

The following is a joint statement by the President of the United States, the Prime Minister of Great Britain, and the Prime Minister of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, re declaration of war by Italy against Germany:

The governments of Great Britain, the United States and the Soviet Union acknowledge the position of the Royal Italian Government as stated by Marshal Badoglio and accept the active cooperation of the Italian nation and armed forces as a co-belligerent in the war against Germany. The military events since September eighth and the brutal maltreatment by the Germans of the Italian population, culminating in the Italian declaration of war against Germany have in fact made Italy a co-belligerent and the American, British and Soviet governments will continue to work with the Italian government on that basis. The three governments acknowledge the Italian government's pledge to submit to the will of the Italian people after the Germans have been driven from Italy, and it is understood that nothing can detract from the absolute and untrammelled right of the people of Italy by constitutional means to decide on the democratic form of government they will eventually have.

The relationship of co-belligerency between the governments of Italy and the United Nations governments cannot of itself affect the terms recently signed, which retain their full force and can only be adjusted by agreement between the Allied governments in the light of the assistance which the Italian government may be able to afford to the United Nations' cause.

- - - - -

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OCTOBER 13, 1943.

Immediately after Italy's declaration of war against Germany, Marshal Badoglio issued a proclamation, the text of which follows:

Italians, with the declaration made September 8th, 1943, the Government headed by me, in announcing that the Commander in Chief of the Anglo-American Forces in the Mediterranean had accepted the Armistice requested by us, ordered the Italian Troops to remain with their arms at rest but prepared to repel any act of violence directed at them from whatever other source it might come. With a synchronized action, which clearly reversed an order previously given by some high authority, German troops compelled some of our units to disarm, while, in most cases, they proceeded to a decisive attack against our troops. But German arrogance and ferocity did not stop here. We had already seen some examples of their behavior in the abuses of power, robbery, and violence of all kinds perpetrated in Catania while they were still our Allies. Even more savage incidents against our unarmed populations took place in Calabria, in the Puglie and in the area of Salerno. But where the ferocity of the enemy surpassed every limit of the human imagination was at Naples. The heroic population of that city, which for weeks suffered every form of torment, strongly cooperated with the Anglo-American troops in putting the hated Germans to flight. Italians! There will not be peace in Italy as long as a single German remains upon our soil. Shoulder to shoulder, we must march forward with our friends of the United States, of Great Britain, of Russia, and of all the other United Nations. Wherever Italian troops may be, in the Balkans, Yugoslavia, Albania, and in Greece, they have witnessed similar acts of aggression and cruelty and they must fight against the Germans to the last man. The Government headed by me will shortly be completed. In order that it may constitute a true expression of Democratic Government in Italy, the representatives of every political party will be asked to participate. The present arrangement will in no way impair the untrammelled right of the people of Italy to choose their own form of Democratic Government when peace is restored. Italians! I inform you that His Majesty the King has given me the task of announcing today, the 13th day of October, the Declaration of War against Germany.

- - -

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OCTOBER 13, 1943

Marshal Badoglio communicated Italy's declaration of war against Germany to General Eisenhower in a message, the text of which follows:

I take great pleasure in informing you that His Majesty the King of Italy has declared war on Germany. The declaration will be handed by our Ambassador in Madrid to the German Ambassador, at 3 o'clock P.M., (Greenwich time), on October thirteenth. By this act all ties with the dreadful past are broken and my Government will be proud to be able to march with you on to the inevitable victory. Will you be good enough, my dear General, to communicate the foregoing to the Anglo-American, Russian and other United Nations Governments. I should also be grateful to you if you would be kind enough to inform the Italian Embassies in Ankara, in Buenos Aires, and the Legations in Berne, Stockholm, Dublin and Lisbon.

- - - - -