

## ANTI-FASCISM HERE A MYTH, BALBO SAYS

*General Tells Mussolini in Report That Greeting He Has Received Proves This.*

ROME, July 23 (AP).—In a report wired to Premier Mussolini today, General Italo Balbo said that the existence of anti-Fascist sentiment abroad was a myth which was exploded by the enthusiastic welcome his air squadron has received in America. He declared that there was no sign of such a feeling anywhere, but that, on the contrary, Italians and Americans alike gave the fliers the most hospitable greetings.

The man who probably will become Italy's first Air Marshal—a rank created Saturday at Mussolini's suggestion—devoted considerable space in the report to warm appreciation of President Roosevelt's cordiality and character.

"His sincere simplicity of ways, expert opinions and exquisite affability win one's friendship immediately," said General Balbo. He added that he found the President had a profound knowledge of aviation.

The General said that President Roosevelt showed the highest esteem for Premier Mussolini and a deep understanding and appreciation of the spirit in which he was handling international problems.

Enthusiastic over the reception given him and his companions in New York, General Balbo said: "Never in my life have I seen such an imposing gathering as that at the Madison Square Garden Bowl. It was an unforgettable spectacle."

He continued that he had deliberately given a speech there of political propaganda character, accentuating its Fascist tone, "to show those who still do not believe that the miserable remains of international anti-Fascism is forced to resort to a 'bluff' destitute of any seriousness and consistency."

"Hitherto we have been hesitant about adopting it because of its additional weight, but Post's experience will now supply positive data for judgment. This, I think, is technically the most important contribution to aviation by this flight. However, it was in any case Post's personality that was the decisive factor of his wonderful success. I extend warmest felicitations to him and to the people of the United States."

The Montagspost writes:

"Post's achievement cannot be rated high enough. It not only establishes an American record, but it is the song of songs on human energy and strength of will."