

The International Situation

The German-Italian-Japanese Pact

Japan yesterday formally allied herself with Germany and Italy for the task of establishing a "new order" in Europe and East Asia by signing in Berlin a mutual assistance pact, by all indications aimed at the United States.

The three bound themselves for a period of ten years to come to the aid of any one of the others attacked by a power not at present involved in the European or Chinese-Japanese conflicts. Although political commitments of the three with Soviet Russia were specifically exempted by Article V of the six-article pact, a veiled threat to Moscow was seen.

By the terms of the pact, Japan recognized German-Italian hegemony in Europe. The two dictator nations in turn recognized Japanese hegemony in the Far East, apparently leaving to her determination of the fate of British, French and Netherland possessions there. [All the foregoing Page 1, Column 8.]

The official attitude of the United States, as stated by Secretary of State Hull, was that the announcement of the alliance merely publicly confirmed a relationship already existing. President Roosevelt began a study of the pact's possible effects by conferring with the Cabinet, War, Navy and Defense Commission officials but had no public comment. Possibility of quicker invocation of the embargo on scrap steel and iron to Japan, now scheduled to go into effect Oct. 16, and its possible extension to other war materials was reported discussed. [Page 1, Column 5.] The President was visited during the day by a group of prominent Americans asking more war aid for Britain.

The War in Europe and Africa

The Germans yesterday and last night launched the heaviest attacks in several days on London and other key cities in England. Heavy daylight raids on London and Bristol were reported turned back with a cost to the Germans by early evening of at least 130 planes against thirty-four British defenders, from which fifteen of the pilots jumped to safety. It was estimated at least 600 German planes engaged in the day raids. The day rounded out three weeks of aerial siege of the British capital. [Page 1, Column 3.]

The R. A. F. again Thursday night made devastating attacks on German invasion bases and canals, arterial highways, indus-

The British Ambassador made a similar plea. [Page 2, Column 1.]

Yakichiro Suma, Japanese Foreign Office spokesman, said the alliance did not mean abandonment of Japan's attitude toward the United States and that hope still was held for a betterment of relations. Observers in Tokyo construed the formal junction with the Axis as a desperate gamble that Germany and Italy would defeat Britain before the United States was prepared to give effective aid. The benediction on the pact of Emperor Hirohito—spiritual as well as political leader of Japan—was broadcast to the nation. [Page 1, Column 7.]

Italians were surprised that Japan and not Spain proved the third party to the pact, but quickly recovered and immediately grasped its significance as a warning to the United States to keep out of the conflict. It also was accepted there as a challenge to Soviet Russia. [Page 3, Column 1.]

Information in Shanghai was that Germany was attempting to promote a rapprochement between Moscow and Tokyo, but that the Soviet had set a high price, including abrogation of most of the Portsmouth treaty, which ended the Russo-Japanese War in 1905. A Russian source in London said the pact placed the Soviet in a "dangerous and very grave" situation. [Page 1, Column 6.]

The London reaction was that the publicly announced alliance had served to clear the atmosphere, had brought Britain and the United States even closer together and had removed any brake on all possible aid to China. [Page 3, Column 8.]

trial plants and harbors in Germany proper, the Air Ministry said. The principal attack, a communiqué stated, was launched on the German naval base at Kiel, where the battle-scarred German battleship Scharnhorst is under repair. One raiding pilot said he had never seen such fires as he and his fellow fliers set there. A daylight bombing attack was made on German big gun emplacements at Cap Gris Nez after a short artillery duel with British batteries at Dover. [Page 1, Column 4.]

Both the British and Italians reported air attacks on the other's supply and military bases in Africa. Otherwise all was quiet on that front. [Page 5, Column 6.]