

SPECIAL ATTENTION: Mr. Hood
Mr. Griffith
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PRIORITY

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ITALYMAN-IN-THE-STREET INTERVIEW ON GENEVA CONFERENCE

SOURCE ROME: ROME News Bureau.

DATE OF OBSERVATION: Current period.

EVALUATION COMMENT: None.

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Here is a man-in-the-street GENEVA Conference reaction interview that we came upon accidentally and, therefore, write up separately:

The person interviewed is a driver and general handy-man for an owner-farmer near ROME. He is about 35, above average intelligence, married, father of one child. Interview began after a few minutes conversation about Italy's economic problems, when he spoke of effects of World War II and said another war would be disastrous.

Q. - What did you think of the GENEVA Big-Four Conference? Was it useful?

A. - It was a good thing. America gained a big advantage. Everybody knows the Russians will take everything they can get and you cannot count on anything they promise. But it was good to have the meeting. The only trouble is, that when the Russians slow down they are just waiting until they get ready to push again. Now America has pushed a little bit. But when you have the Russians backing up, you have to keep on pushing. We should press them as hard as they would press us.

Q. - What about President EISENHOWER's proposal for atomic controls and air inspection of various countries to enforce it?

A. - EISENHOWER did a good thing. But the Russians will never accept it.

Q. - What was good about it?

A. - He put it right up to them. You and I know who really (over)

wants peace. But President EISENHOWER's proposal put the cards right on the table. The Russians will never accept it. But now nobody has a right to make any mistake about it. The whole thing is, he proved how far America is willing to go to get agreement and peace. Now if the Russians accepted it it might help prevent a war; and when they do not then people can see that they are not honest when they talk about peace.

Q. - Why should not they accept it?

A. - They never act that way. They want to keep the pressure on all the time. They never want to let any of their secrets out. They just want to get everybody else's. They are not interested in coming to terms with the Americans. Right now they do not want war. They are way behind America in technical development and -- sure they have come a long way up in production, but it still is not far enough to match the West. They never could have beaten the Germans in the other war without the help of America. President EISENHOWER did a good thing but they will not agree to it. Whatever they do agree to, it will only last as long as it suits them. We have them retreating now. We should keep on pushing our case. We do not want war, but when they are backing up we ought to keep right on pushing them -- right back to MOSCOW, or as far as we can.

(The interview ended here because the man had work to attend to.)

End