

formed. Such a coalition would probably be against Nokrashy Pasha, who has remained outside these conversations. Towards the end of February the widespread enthusiasm at the breaking-off of the Treaty negotiations had given way to some anxiety at the result of submitting the case to the United Nations, although the general public had become preoccupied with economic troubles and appeared to have lost interest in both national and internal politics. The press continues to attack the Greater Syria plan as a British manoeuvre to divert attention from Egypt and to break the unity of the Arab States.

Syria and the Lebanon

His Majesty's Representatives in Damascus and Beirut were informed on the 26th February that the Egyptian reply had been received. Both the Syrian and the Lebanese Governments concluded from the tenor of the Note that there was nothing more they could do. They had been fiercely attacked in the Egyptian press and by telegraph and telephone, and the Syrian Minister for Foreign Affairs suggested that the present Egyptian Government was so weak, and the internal situation so complex, that a rebuff by the United Nations would be preferred by Egyptians to the resumption of negotiations.

The Greater Syria plan (see also under "Egypt") has remained a subject of interest to the Syrian and Lebanese press. Although King Abdullah has declared his abstention from interference with the internal affairs of his neighbours, there is evidence that privately he talks a good deal on this subject. At the same time the feasibility of the project, which has no backing from His Majesty's Government, is so doubtful that the extent of the discussion of it in the press gives rise to the suspicion that it is deliberately inspired as an item of propaganda against this country, and also against the unity of the Arab League.

Palestine

On the 2nd March statutory Martial Law was imposed on a restricted Jewish area of Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Ramat Gan, Bnei Braq and Petah Tiqvah. The regulations were made under a Palestine (Defence) Order-in-Council and provide for the withdrawal of the usual facilities for civil government (including courts of law), for the closure of banks, and for the control of entry into and departure from

specified areas of persons and vehicles by order of the Military Commander, and for the trial by Military Courts of all criminal offences committed in the specified areas.

This step has been taken as a result of the terrorist outrages of the 1st March, the most serious of which was the blowing-up of the Officers' Club in Jerusalem, in which at least twelve persons were killed and fifteen injured. Attacks on transport occurred on several roads elsewhere in Palestine, causing deaths and injuries. On the 28th February an explosion caused considerable damage to a floor of Barclay's Bank building in Haifa, and several casualties, including two Jews who were injured and have since died.

The announcement of the imposition of Martial Law stressed the failure of the Yishuv to co-operate with the Government in anti-terrorist measures, and the refusal of the Jewish Agency and Vaad Leumi to respond to the invitation to co-operate in bringing terrorists to judgment. The fact was mentioned that vehicles used in attacks at Jerusalem and Haifa on the 1st March had been stolen in Tel Aviv, which was thus clearly linked with these outrages.

The Jewish Agency declare that they will continue their efforts to stop terrorists and undermine their organisation, though hampered by "lack of adequate power." They complain that the Government have failed to give any help on the question of immigration which would have assisted in arousing the community, and that they now seek to punish the community without any real likelihood of deterring terrorists. There had already been indications that the influence of the Agency was rapidly declining, and that, seeing their resolutions denouncing terrorism openly defied, they were seeking popular support in opposition to the Government. The Government have replied to the Agency's statement, which is described as a deliberate misrepresentation of facts. Not only has immigration at the rate of 1,500 monthly been continued after the admission of the 75,000 allowed by the White Paper of 1939, but His Majesty's Government proposed as part of the scheme suggested to the Jewish representatives in the recent talks in London that 4,000 a month should be admitted for two years, after which the rate should be determined, with due regard to economic absorptive capacity, by the High Commissioner, or, in the event of disagreement, by an Arbitration Tribunal appointed by the United Nations. This proposal was

rejected by the Jewish Agency. At the same time the flow of illegal immigrants was unscrupulously promoted and organised by the Agency, and the quota was mortgaged for many months ahead. Deserving applicants for immigration certificates were debarred by inclusion amongst the illegals of a considerable number of terrorists.

An illegal immigration ship, the *Ulva*, re-named the *Haim Arlossorof*, was sighted by naval patrols on the 27th February and arrived off Haifa on the evening of the 28th. The ship was run ashore west of Haifa town and some of the passengers jumped overboard. All were captured. The naval boarding-party met with considerable resistance, but the passengers were eventually trans-shipped to transports in preparation for their journey to Cyprus. An application for *habeas corpus* for these illegal immigrants has been made, and the transports are remaining at sea until the court has discharged the order.

Fauzi al Qawuqchi (see last week's Summary) arrived in Cairo at midnight on the 23rd February, and, although Nokrashy Pasha is said to have been extremely put out by his arrival, he agreed, at Azzam Pasha's request, to grant him a visa to remain for four days. Fauzi is a Lebanese subject, originally from Tripoli, and was indiscreetly entertained by the Lebanese Minister in Cairo. He is also reported to have called at Abdin Palace and on the Mufti. Receptions were being prepared in his honour in Tripoli, since he is expected to go to the Lebanon this week. The Lebanese Minister for Foreign Affairs, however, is warning him that he must be on good behaviour and not go to Tripoli.

Persia

On the 26th February Tabriz radio announced that the Martial Law regulations forbidding political meetings were to be relaxed from that date in order to allow preparations for the elections to be made in an atmosphere of "absolute freedom." Polling is expected to start very soon in Tabriz, and may be already under way.

A much brighter picture of conditions in Azerbaijan than that painted in Summary No. 380 has been provided by Nikpay, former Minister of Posts and Telegraphs (see Summaries Nos. 366 and 374). He informed His Majesty's Ambassador that, on his recent visit to the province, he had seen no sign of disorder nor of excess, and

33267

that conditions were improving daily. According to Nikpay, the Governor-General, Ali Mansur, has the situation well in hand, and even the Soviet Consul-General has said that there had been a general improvement since Ali Mansur's arrival.

Efforts are now being made in labour circles to depose Reza Rusta from his position of Secretary of the Central Committee of the Persian Federation of Trade Unions, and to form a new Executive Committee. On the 13th February a number of workers, claiming to be members of the Federation of Trade Unions, held a meeting, attended by Persian and foreign press correspondents, at which they elected a new Executive Committee. On the 15th February the old Executive Committee staged a counter-offensive on the Trade Union Headquarters, which, however, remained in the hands of the reformers. The Ministry of Labour is now supporting the demands for Rusta's removal. Their opposition to him has been strengthened by the investigations they have been making into Tudeh activities in preparation for the visit of the World Federation of Trade Unions delegation (see Summary No. 381). An imposing dossier has been prepared containing signed evidence of Tudeh malpractices. Much evidence of financial and administrative irregularity appears to involve Rusta.

The eclipse of the Tudeh party (see last week's Summary and Summary No. 375) now appears to be almost complete. In Khuzistan, Kermanshah, Isfahan, Kerman and Gilan party headquarters have been forcibly closed down by the police or by the local population. In Khuzistan several important Tudeh trouble makers have been arrested, while elsewhere many former Tudeh supporters have recanted and joined the Democrat party.

The Persian Government have asked the International Rehabilitation Bank for a loan of \$250,000,000, a course of action which has aroused much adverse criticism in the Persian press. Nearly all the Tehran papers oppose the idea. *Mardum*, the official Tudeh organ, in an article of the 7th February states: "Small nations, Persia amongst them, have very painful memories of past foreign loans. Through this loan the country may come under economic domination, which is the first step towards political domination."

Most papers welcome the attendance of Persian representatives at the Inter-Asian

D 2