

Bulgaria.

The armistice delegation led by M. Moshanov left Cairo for Sofia a week ago. British and American liaison officers entered early into unofficial contact with Bulgarian authorities in the hope of ensuring order in Bulgar-occupied Greece, but it was subsequently agreed between the British, United States and Soviet Governments that an unqualified Bulgarian withdrawal from this territory and Yugoslavia must precede the signature of an armistice. The Bulgarian Government is now reported to have ordered all Bulgarian civilians to leave, and the Foreign Minister, M. Petko Stainov, has described Bulgaria as collaborating with the Allies and determined to do her utmost to be recognised as an Ally herself.

Speaking on the 17th September the Prime Minister, M. Gheorghiev, outlined his foreign policy as comradeship with the Russian people, friendly relations with the Western democracies and Balkan peoples, a "brotherly" settlement of Balkan problems and self-determination for Macedonia. M. Kozasov, the Minister of Propaganda, also told correspondents on the 22nd September that the Bulgarian Government would leave the Macedonians free to express their will and believed that the political status of that territory would be decided by agreement between the Balkan States under the auspices of the United Nations. Two days later the Foreign Minister affirmed his desire for a solid agreement with Yugoslavia, and his confidence in future collaboration with Marshal Tito. Two public meetings have been held to promote rapprochement with Yugoslavia, one of the main principles of the Tsveno group to which the present Prime Minister and his War Minister, Col. Damian Velchev, belong, and which indeed they founded in 1928. At the first meeting a Bulgarian-Yugoslav society was started. At the second, reported to have been enthusiastic meeting of thousands, after speeches by the Prime Minister and the Ministers of the Interior and Propaganda, a colonel representing Marshal Tito's Partisans declared that at last the two peoples standing united with all Slavs and led by the Red Army would destroy the final remnants of Nazism. Lastly, after several years of exile in Palestine, Dr. Georgehi Dimitrov, a leader of the left-wing Agrarian Party, has returned. As this party, known also as the Pladne group, stands for friendship with Yugoslavia, Dr. Dimitrov's return should help that cause. But he is not to be confused with his namesake who figured in the Reichstag fire trial and became secretary of the Comintern.

On the 17th September, M. Yugov, the Communist Minister of the Interior, found it necessary to counter current rumours and to declare that there was no question whatever of setting up Communism and that the new régime was essentially democratic. The national committee of the Fatherland Front also issued a statement that the Soviets reported to have been established in Varna and other towns could only have been new branches of the Fatherland Front. That in the enthusiasm of the moment there had been a tendency to go to extremes appears, however, from the Foreign Minister's admission on the 24th September that, though the Government now controlled the situation, there had been disorder. Even more illuminating is an order issued to the army by Colonel Velchev on the 20th September. The Minister for War thereby set up courts, including representatives of the Fatherland Front and of the Partisans, to investigate cases where revolutionary enthusiasm had undermined military authority. He stated that, as deputy commanders with political training were shortly to be appointed, soldiers' committees were not only superfluous but harmful. Insubordination and interference with commanding officers was to be reported, and commanding officers were to use all means to prevent the irregular arrest of officers or men. No flag must be flown above the Bulgarian flag and none but the military salute must be used.

The Government denied a rumour that the three former Regents had been sent to Moscow by the Soviet authorities. It was stated that they were being detained for trial in Bulgaria. A committee is said to be engaged in drawing up the charges against members of the previous régime. An individual against whom the accusation is likely to be particularly serious is Gabrovski, who was notorious for the brutality of his repressive measures as Minister of the Interior under Filov and who, after escaping by a subterfuge to Turkey, has found himself handed back to the Bulgarian authorities. Christov, who had a less unsavoury record as Minister of the Interior under M. Bozhilov, is reported to have taken his own life.

In a recent broadcast Mgr. Stefan, the Metropolitan of Sofia, welcomed the Fatherland Front Government as truly representing the authority of the people. He too stressed the need for Slav solidarity and rapprochement with Yugoslavia,

and, after appreciative references to Great Britain and the United States, he abounded in expressions of brotherly affection for Russia.

Turkey.

The Turkish Government has been as good as its word in refusing to allow Turkey to become an asylum for our enemies. It duly sent back to Bulgaria Gabrovski, the ex-Minister of the Interior, who had been admitted by error. It refused a visa to the Hungarian Minister at Sofia, and Beckerle, the German Minister, and his staff are reported to have waited in vain on the frontier. What exercises the Turkish Government is the presence of the Red Army on that same frontier. Nor is the Turkish Government's uneasiness in any degree lessened by the coolness of the present Russian attitude to Turkey. The Soviet Ambassador, for example, omitted to call on the new Turkish Foreign Minister, and Russian broadcasts have charged Turkey in strong terms with having continued to help Germany even after breaking off relations. German propaganda continues its old game of playing on Turkish fears of Russia, and it may well be that it has some success not only among Turks at large but also among the ruling clique at Angora.

The Turkish press betrays considerable anxiety at the protraction of discussions at Dumbarton Oaks. Ready as Turks ever are to suspect that Turkey will have her future settled for her by the big Powers, one commentator suggests that the plan evolved by the big Powers should be referred to a conference of all the smaller Powers. As to Germany, the press recognises that her resistance is, and may continue to be, formidable, but it deplores it as only involving the German people in useless and increasing suffering. Of Bulgaria the Turkish press has been very critical, and this reflects the view of the Angora Government.

THE MIDDLE EAST.

The Ethiopian Government has now replied to our note requesting the Emperor to withdraw his time-limit (see last week's *Summary*). After stating that the Government will do its utmost to facilitate the work of the British delegation under Lord De La Warr, the Ethiopian reply concludes by indicating that the time-limit must stand, but adds that the two Governments may confidently expect the conclusion of a new agreement in the near future. It is clear therefore that the Emperor has decided to stick to his time-limit, in the hope perhaps of putting pressure on the delegation as the final date of the 25th October approaches.

No solution has yet been found of the crisis that began in Egypt on the 15th September with the suspension by the Egyptian Government of Ghazzali Bey, Director-General of Public Security, for carrying out the King's orders to remove some offending streamers (see last week's *Summary*). His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires has been in frequent touch with both parties, and he has so far succeeded in persuading both to refrain from precipitate action. The latest development in the controversy is a proposal by Nahas to transfer Ghazzali to another post, but the Palace has intimated that it will not accept such a proposal unless Ghazzali is first reinstated. It seems unlikely that Nahas will agree to this.

The King's annoyance with the Government for suspending Ghazzali was increased still further a few days later by what he regards as a personal slight to himself from the Prime Minister, who, in his broadcast address of greetings to all Moslems on the occasion of the *Id al Fitr* (the Feast after Ramadan), laid stress on the constitutional Government of Egypt, but omitted all reference to King Farouk. Nahas too, it appears, was earlier aggrieved at not being invited to attend the King on the 15th September from the Palace to the Mosque, as is the usual custom, and decided to absent himself altogether from the ceremony. The deadlock therefore remains, with each side sore with the other, and neither willing to give way.

Ibn Saud, having received from Nahas an apology for his rudeness and a further pressing invitation to attend the preliminary conference on Arab Union, has now decided to send Shaikh Yusuf Yasin as his delegate. At Nahas's request, he has also advised the Imam of the Yemen to follow suit. The conference was opened at Alexandria on the 25th September, when Nahas welcomed the delegates at an afternoon tea-party. Contrary to an earlier report in the Egyptian press, *The Times* says that no Palestinian delegates were invited, nor

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