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## Weekly Political Intelligence Summary No. 192

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## EUROPE.

## GERMANY.

THE main news of the week is that ten days of June have passed without any sign of a German offensive in Russia. It is not yet clear whether the Swedish report that, according to views expressed in Berlin, "the Fortress of Europe needs a quiet year," is a kite or another outcrop of the defensive spirit which was so evident in General Dittmar's last broadcast. In view of the discussion aroused by the General's theory of an "active" state, intermediary between offensive and defensive action, Berlin comment has attempted to explain that the conviction of German strength was the background of his argument: the question of the hour is not which side is able to attack, but which side is forced to attack. The tone of this broadcast corresponds to the situation on all fronts; there is no sign of immediate air reprisals nor of any major move of German forces in Southern Europe. "We are waiting," said Goebbels at the end of the week.

In the same speech Goebbels revived his claim that Germany is attacking with the U-boat in a manner comparable to the Allied use of the bomber. The sinkings claimed for May (380,000 tons by U-boats, 50,000 tons by the Luftwaffe) must have made it difficult for his public to believe that such losses were as "annihilating" as he maintained, or more devastating than the raids. Official admissions that defence measures against U-boats have increased in strength have no doubt spread the scepticism already noticeable in parts of Germany. Yet since the eclipse of Rommel, Dönitz has probably more prestige than any other military leader save General von Manstein, who is believed to have "held" the Russian Front.

But waiting does not imply inactivity. A broadcast of this week spoke of the farthest theatre of war and the smallest private house as forming a single front, which, "however quiet it may seem, is most active." The emphasis has shifted from activity in defence and fortification to activity in preparation and production. A decisive offensive is envisaged only after accumulation of fresh stocks and after extensive rearmament. The official most in the public eye at

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