

that many peoples in Eastern Europe fear that the Soviet Union will seek to impose upon them its own peculiar type of democracy. Further, said the paper, there is a danger that some Powers will try to win the favour of the United States at the expense of the rights of others, unless a truly democratic world organisation is created. It may be noted, in this connexion, that the Dutch are somewhat anxious lest the United States should seek to subject the Netherlands East Indies to some form of international control after their liberation. Such a course has, for instance, recently been advocated by Professor Raymond Kennedy.

From the Low Countries there is little news of importance. But it is worth mentioning that Mussert has forbidden any of his followers to accept a Government appointment without having obtained permission from the N.S.B. State Secretariat.

Elias, the V.N.V. leader, in a speech on the 6th June, while reaffirming his loyalty to the Dietsch ideal, pointed out that this should not be construed as anti-German. But he added that, though the day of small sovereign States was over, there must be "no annexationism, no Anschluss in any form, no imperialism, but the National Socialist conception of . . . popular communities gathered round . . . Germany. If, holding these views, I am not considered worthy to be considered Germany's friend, I ask to be told so, and will draw the necessary conclusions." Elias also delivered a veiled attack on De Vlag, that thorn in his flesh, which has of late made much parade of activity (see *Summary* No. 194). Evidently Elias is having increasing difficulty in holding the V.N.V. together. He dare not either sacrifice Flemish Nationalist ideals altogether or break with the Germans by upholding them inflexibly. The Flemish traitors during the last occupation failed to avoid a similar dilemma.

FRANCE.

General de Gaulle's twenty-four-hour visit to Tunis, beginning on Saturday afternoon, the 26th June, seems to have been a triumphal progress; and one of his supporters was reported by *Reuter's* correspondent as declaring: "This is a real plebiscite. It is a foretaste of what will happen in France." Whatever truth there may be in this prophecy, all reports concur regarding the rousing nature of his reception, which necessarily had a more personal character than the enthusiastic reception accorded to General Giraud, when he was among the Allied Generals who took the salute in the great march past of Allied troops in Tunis on the 23rd May (see this *Summary*, No. 190). At the same time reports show that the reception was accorded definitely to the man who symbolised French resistance and the will for renovation; and Republican sentiment seemed fully satisfied to see in him the symbol. In addition to the ceremonies of laying wreaths (one being at the British War Memorial) and various receptions, General de Gaulle visited the Bey and was decorated by him with the Order of the Blood Royal, a special distinction which makes of the General a brother of the Bey. In the course of a speech in which he claimed, as always, to speak on behalf of France, General de Gaulle insisted on the feeling of unity which united the people of France with the Allied peoples. He recalled that twenty-five years ago France had given without count to the common cause and to-day was entitled to the consideration, esteem and respect of all. Their duty as Frenchmen was to liberate her, drive out the enemy, and punish the traitors responsible for her calamity.

The prospect of General de Gaulle's strengthening his political position in North Africa is no doubt further increased by the projected visit of General Giraud to the United States. On the other hand the Committee of National Liberation, with its predominantly civilian personnel, has already acquired a greater strength of its own in consequence of its success in achieving a compromise regarding the problem of the command of the French forces after General Eisenhower's intervention. The Permanent Military Committee to be set up is to have a permanent secretariat, it will derive its finances from a single source and its authority from the full French Committee of National Liberation of fourteen members, whose number has now been completed by the arrival of the Commissioner for Information, M. Bonnet. In addition to the two respective nominees for the army—Generals Juin and de Larminat—it is understood that General Giraud's nominees for the Permanent Military Committee are Admiral Collinet and General Bouscat as his Naval and Air Chiefs of Staff; Admiral Auboyneau is understood to be General de Gaulle's Naval nominee, but no decision has been reached on an air appointment.

M. Boisson's resignation from the post of Governor-General of French West Africa has now been finally accepted by the French Committee of National Liberation. He had already tendered his resignation to General Giraud, after the latter had, on the 14th March last, publicly repudiated the Pétain régime to which Boisson maintained that his allegiance was pledged. He none the less realized that an understanding with General de Gaulle was essential; but he could not renounce his own loyalties. While this attitude, which received public expression, led to an equivocal situation in regard to the internal administrative position of a territory coming under General Giraud as Commander-in-Chief for French North and West Africa, Boisson's support of the Allied cause has been unquestioned since he rallied to it on the 23rd November last. None the less, the situation has necessarily become still more equivocal since the establishment of the French Committee of National Liberation on the 3rd June. Though all political and refugee prisoners and internees have now been released in West as well as North Africa (as announced on the 24th June), Boisson's past anti-Gaullist record is not forgotten in Dakar itself, where anti-Boisson demonstrations marked the celebrations by General de Gaulle's supporters of the anniversary of the 18th June, 1940, while he has continuously been attacked on the Brazzaville wireless (and recently even on the Algiers wireless) and in Fighting French publications in London and throughout the world. On the 24th June he again telegraphed his resignation to General Giraud. The Committee were informed of the resignation on the 25th June, and M. Boisson was asked to remain at his post until a successor can be found. The Allies are insisting that the successor should be acceptable to them.

The "Délégations Financières," which are elected by the Assemblies of Algeria and control the budget, met for the first time for three years on the 22nd May, when they were opened by M. Peyrouton. The Chairman of the Finance Committee subsequently reported that the budget for 1943 amounted to 3,500 million francs, *i.e.*, a 60 per cent. increase over 1939. This budget was approved by the Algerian Supreme Council in extraordinary session on the 18th June; and on the 19th General Catroux, the new Governor-General, terminated the Council's proceedings by saying that stocks, especially wheat, should be built up against the liberation of France, warning them at the same time that the period of restrictions would not end with the war. In another speech, on the 23rd June, the Governor-General made the point that he considered the union of France and Algeria as a "dogma"; at the same time the General—who is also Commissioner for Moslem Affairs in the French Committee of National Liberation—declared that he would try to solve local problems in such a way as to bring about the complete unity of the Moslems with France.

One of the matters that has occupied the North African Administration, and latterly the newly-founded French Committee, has been the position of the Communist Deputies and of the other Communists in North Africa. Most of these Deputies had been arrested between September 1939 and April 1940, the Party, as well as all Communist groups, having been itself dissolved by a Daladier Government decree of the 26th September, 1939—itsself largely a consequence of the Party's attempt to justify the Soviet invasion of Poland. Sixty of the seventy-four Communist Deputies were deprived of their seats in January 1940 by a practically unanimous vote of the Chamber and a unanimous vote of the Senate. Most of the arrests and condemnations took place in the following March. The twenty-seven Deputies who were actually imprisoned were moved later to the Maison Carrée prison at Algiers, where Gaullist propaganda has presented them as victims of the Vichy régime—whose widespread anti-Communist measures and sentences in France are, however, distinct from the pre-collapse sentences on the Deputies. The Deputies were released by General Giraud towards the end of February last; and in a Press declaration the released Deputies paid a tribute to Generals Giraud and de Gaulle and proclaimed their resolve to work with all their might for French union and liberation. Their illegal weekly—*La Lutte Sociale*—came out this May with a special May Day edition. The death of one of their number, M. Prachay, was the occasion of a ceremonial funeral later in the month. Shortly after the arrival of General de Gaulle the Communist Party took a prominent part in the "First Congress of Fighting France" held at Algiers in the presence of the General on the 6th June. On the 8th one of the Communist Deputies, M. Barel, announced over the Algiers wireless to his comrades in France that "the sad period of oppression which had descended upon France and her Empire shortly before the present war" (*i.e.*, after the signature of the German-Russian Pact in

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