

appointments or neglected or abandoned their duties with a year's forced labour or internment, with fines up to 10,000 dinars.

Economic chaos continues to reign in Croatia, and prices are said to have risen five-fold in the last few months. All the stožerniks (provincial Ustaš leaders) were summoned to Zagreb for a conference with their new chief, Sušić, and Government representatives on the 4th to the 6th May. And on the 19th the Croat S.S. Division was ceremonially taken over by the German and Croat authorities at Zagreb.

Rumours of impending changes in the Bulgarian Cabinet again appeared in the foreign press and were again denied. A new appointment was made when on the 17th May P. Aldashov, former Director of the Commercial Bank, was made Chief Commissary for War Economy. There were as usual many arrests, both for "Communist propaganda" and terrorism, including that of the alleged murderer of Pantev, and for profiteering.

As mentioned above, General Lukas, Chief of the General Staff, visited Hungary; and an unconfirmed newspaper report stated that King Boris had sent a letter with a personal message to President İnönü.

Greek reports stated that Bulgaria was extending her occupation of Greece to the provinces of Florina and Pella, to the neighbourhood of Kilikis and to the Chalcidice peninsula. According to Bulgarian sources, Bulgarian Moslems are not being allowed to settle in Thrace and the Aegean provinces.

M. Tsouderos has been completing the rank of his new Ministry in Egypt; M. Sophocles Venizelos finally joined it early this month and is Minister of Marine; opposition to Admiral Voulgaris has been overcome; he took the oath as Minister for Air on May 20; and two Ministers who had been sent to arrange matters with the Greeks in England and the United States have been recalled so that as many members of the cabinet as possible may be in the Middle East. Further, two Greek colonels joined the two Greek brigades at the middle of the month with a view to taking over command from the British brigadiers who would remain temporarily in an advisory capacity.

In Greece itself resistance is gathering more and more strength, and dissensions which spring partly from divergent political views and partly from the personal rivalry of guerrilla leaders should be mitigated by the agreement of the various rebel bands to co-operate while respecting one another's local independence. The puppet Government's proclamation appealing to the population to support the Axis forces in their fight against bolshevism and promising an amnesty to all rebels who surrendered arms by the 20th May seems merely to have had a tonic effect. From Epirus and Thessaly come more stories of successful attacks on German and Italian contingents and of sabotage on the railways, and in the Olympus area the rebels are reported to have set up courts of village elders and to be collecting the taxes and distributing them as relief. Not only in Athens but throughout the country clandestine newspapers are published daily with the London war news. In the face of all these reports it may well be true that the Axis authorities are taking hostages in Thessaly, Salonica and Western Thrace. There is perhaps some truth in reports that General Pangalos is raising, and the Germans equipping, two battalions in Athens and two more in Salonica, which the Axis authorities hope to use for the maintenance of order, but the General hopes to use to seize power if the Axis forces withdraw.

The memorandum on the post-war treatment of Germany, published in this country on the 17th May by a group of members of both Houses of Parliament, has had a thoroughly bad press in Turkey. To the Turks it recalls the harsh terms of Sevres which they themselves evaded, and it makes them ask if we have learnt nothing since Versailles. Although the memorandum is recognised as unofficial, they have been inclined to suspect that its publication was officially countenanced and that now we are getting on top we are beginning to display our true colours. In any case Turkish feeling is unanimous that the memorandum will tend to rally all Germans round Hitler. The trend of Turkish policy, however, is indicated by the Government's decision to resume direct relations with Greece by re-accrediting to the King of the Hellenes in Cairo its ambassador, who was withdrawn from Athens on the fall of Greece.

#### THE MIDDLE EAST.

Makram Ebeid's interpellation on the honesty of the Egyptian Government was discussed in the Chamber last week, and by the 20th May the debate was reported as having gone well for the Government. It should have ended that

day, when the vote of confidence was due to be taken, but one more day was allowed for the debate owing to the indisposition of Makram Ebeid. It was expected that the vote would be taken after the Government had made its reply.

At the audience given to His Majesty's Ambassador on the 17th May by King Farouk (see *Summary* No. 189) the King handed to Lord Killearn a written statement to the effect that, though he himself considered that there should be a change of Government, he was willing to maintain it in power "if the British Government insisted" on doing so. He referred also to the present Parliament as "admittedly partial." It was obvious that we could not agree with this paper as a statement of policy, unless certain expressions were amended or excised, without accepting responsibility for keeping the Wafd in office. Had we done so, we should have been blamed for any error the Government made. Certain changes in the paper were therefore proposed by His Majesty's Ambassador. Fortunately the King accepted without much demur all the modifications suggested, and on the 22nd May Lord Killearn received from the King an amended paper omitting all the passages to which we took exception.

In the conversation that followed the King repeated that he was acting not in accordance with his own inclination or with what he believed to be in the best interests of his country, but solely because he wished to help us in our war effort. His request that we should restrain the Government from attacking him or his entourage had already been met by a timely warning to Nahas from the embassy. In spite of this, however, to a question in the Chamber concerning a debt alleged to be due from Hassanein, for furniture supplied by the Government industrial school, the Minister of Education replied that the allegation was true, upon which the Opposition left the Chamber in protest against any discussion involving the head of the Royal Cabinet. It was in fact an organised attack on Hassanein, which is regarded by the public as an indirect but deliberate attack on King Farouk himself. Thanks to the efforts of His Majesty's Ambassador, however, the President of the Chamber undertook, if the Chamber approved, to prevent publication of the parliamentary question and answer, and to see that no mention of them was made in the minutes circulated to the Deputies, though they could not be expunged from the official records. This proposal was passed by the Chamber. There the matter rests for the moment, but it is unfortunate that such a hitch should have occurred just when it looked as if there was a chance of bringing about a truce between the King and the Wafd.

No announcement has yet been made by the authorities in Beirut and Damascus as to the date of the forthcoming elections. Dr. Tabet, the head of the Lebanese State, says that he will announce elections in the Lebanon as soon as the Syrian Government announces them in Syria. Meanwhile, the Syrian Government has been postponing the matter partly, at least, because it hears that the elections in the Lebanon are likely to be long delayed. General Catroux has now telegraphed instructions to M. Helleu, his representative at Beirut, to arrange for both the Lebanese and the Syrian elections to be held early in July.

On the 20th May Admiral Auboyneau, representing the Fighting French naval authorities in the Levant, without warning or consulting us beforehand, stated in a broadcast address that the Fighting French intended to resume control of the naval defence of the Levant States. He referred to the arrival of reinforcements for the French naval forces there, and added that others would follow in order that "the defence of these provinces, which France has still a mandate to protect, may become once more, in fact, a French responsibility." The Admiral ended his speech by declaring that France would "maintain in all circumstances her historical positions," and that France and her navy would continue to watch over Syria and the Lebanon. The Fighting French already control the civil administration of the Syrian and Lebanese ports, but it appears, from conversations with Admiral Auboyneau, that they intend to ask us to hand over to them also the operational control, which is at present in our hands.

Further evidence is to hand regarding the views of the extreme Zionists in Palestine. At a meeting early in April, Mr. Ben Gurion is reported to have told members of the *Haganah* (the illegal Jewish force) that the policy of the Zionist organisation is to bring as many Jews as possible to Palestine. To realise their aims it was necessary to use illegal means, and Palestine Jewry now had a force at their disposal capable of overcoming any obstacle. Palestine in short, must become a Jewish State, if necessary by force!

The moderate Zionists, on the other hand, are said to advocate the formation of a Jewish State only in that part of Palestine where the Jews already are in a majority, the State to join the Arab Federation, if and when formed, as a self-

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