

recalling soldiers who had left their units. The Germans, in their communiqués, regularly emphasise that courage and tenacity with which the Hungarian troops are fighting, but they have obvious reasons for doing so.

Besides advancing across the passes of Ruthenia, the Red Army has continued its advance into Transylvania. The prospects of escape of any German or Hungarian forces were further diminished when Debreczen fell on 20th October, and Nyiregyháza two days later. In further advances in this area, the Russians claim to have reached the Tisza, but further south, German and Hungarian troops were resisting stubbornly round Szolnok. On the Bácska front Soviet troops reached Baja and Zombor.

Roumania.

The efforts of the Communist leaders to oust the government of General Sanatescu and to get the control of affairs into their own hands continue.

In a proclamation in which Lucrețiu Patrașcanu, the Communist leader in the Government announces the resignation of the Government, which, as far as can be ascertained at present, is not founded upon fact, he attacks his colleagues with vicious invective. He and the Social Democrat leader, Petrescu, made a gesture of resigning their portfolios in such a way that they could have repudiated the resignations if convenient.

The present position is somewhat obscure. It appears that the Government remain in office until some reconstruction can take place. A great deal will depend on the action of the Soviet High Command. The Communists are banking on Soviet backing. The threat of a general transport strike, if the strike materialised, would lead to a great deal of disorder and the Soviet authorities would not want to spare troops from the fronts to deal with it. A mass demonstration was held on the 19th October in which the Communist press announce that 50,000 persons took part, though other observers put the number at not more than 15,000, of which a large proportion were women and children. The tragedy is that there is no really strong man to take the lead. Many hopes centre on the King. He has shown up extremely well throughout the crisis and has the advantage of being able to consult the Queen-Mother, who has shown herself during this difficult time to be possessed of tact and sound judgment.

Yugoslavia.

On the 20th October, after a week of fighting in the streets, the German resistance in Belgrade ended. Soviet and Partisan troops occupied the city. Neditch and his Ministers were reported, three days earlier, to have fled. On the 21st King Peter broadcast a message of joy and thankfulness to his people. Partisan Headquarters and many members of the Partisan Supreme Council (Avnoj) have moved from the island of Vis to Serbia. Meanwhile the Yugoslav Premier, Dr. Shubashitch has left Italy to meet Tito.

The valley of the southern Morava appears to be completely cleared of the enemy. Bulgarian troops took part in the operations and have also helped in the taking of places further west. The only line of escape for the Germans in the south seems to be by Kosevo and the Ibar and west Morava valleys, and then through Bosnia.

Soviet troops have crossed Batchka and reached Baja on the Danube.

Partisan forces have occupied Dubrovnik (Ragusa) and other places on the South Dalmatian coast.

The economy of the "Independent State of Croatia" appears to have completely broken down. The Ustasha authorities have hardly any means of transporting food supplies. In Zagreb the trams ceased running on the 18th.

Radio Sofia, of the 19th, made an addition to previous statements about the meeting of the Partisan National Liberation Council of Macedonia on the 2nd August (see *Summary* No. 255, page 14). It said that the Council had proclaimed "Macedonian" as the proposed State's official language. (The Slavs form considerably the largest element in Macedonia, and theirs is clearly the language mentioned. So Turks, Vlachs, Albanians and others have their warning.)

Dr. Marushitch, one of Tito's nominees in the Yugoslav Government, in which he is Minister of Transport and Justice, recently told members of the Yugoslav Shipowners' Committee that after the war Yugoslavia would possess Fiume and Trieste. And Radio Free Yugoslavia has surpassed itself by saying that in Trieste "the Italian inhabitants express their unshakable desire to live together with the Slovenes in Yugoslavia."

Greece.

The Greek Government disembarked at Piræus on the morning of the 18th October, and later in the day M. Papandreou made a long speech to a large crowd in Constitution Square. EAM had turned out in force, and were noisy, but not disorderly; nationalist organisations appear not to have been in evidence. M. Papandreou's speech went down well. After expressing his gratitude to the Allies, he went on to speak of the future of Greece, defining the policy of his Government as the complete national fulfilment of Greece and the full security of her new frontiers. Northern Epirus formed an indivisible part of Greece, and the Dodecanese would come back to her. (As reported by Cairo Wireless, the Prime Minister's speech contained no mention of Cyprus; reports in the British press that he had laid claim to "Northern Cyprus" are presumably due to confusion of the words "Epirus" and "Cyprus.") While not defining any claim against Bulgaria, B. Papandreou said: "Speaking about the Greek frontiers of Macedonia and Thrace, M. Venizelos said: 'Greece lacks a backbone.' The time has come to acquire one." For eight years the Greek State had been under dictatorship and occupation; this must cease. The armed forces must be reorganised as a National Army, taking orders only from the Government; police and gendarmerie must be purged and reorganised. The atmosphere must be cleared by severely punishing profiteers and the few traitors. As soon as possible a plebiscite would be held, also elections for a Constituent Assembly and for municipal councils and mayors.

There is a good deal of political activity in Athens. M. Sophoulis and the Liberal Party have, after some hesitation, agreed to co-operate with M. Papandreou. M. Santos, the Communist leader, is believed to be anxious to join the Government, and nationalist circles are said to be uneasy in case M. Papandreou should give an extra seat to the Communists. MM. Santos, Zevgos, and Joannidis have informed the Prime Minister that they fully support the views expressed by him in the speech quoted above.

M. Papandreou and Professor Svolos have been holding consultations with the British and American authorities on the rapidly deteriorating financial situation (see last week's *Summary*). According to Professor Svolos, the situation was such that either civil servants and public officials must be paid in kind, or else yet more drachma notes must be printed. The latter course would merely aggravate the crisis, the situation is extremely grave and it is feared that, unless supplies and transport are increased immediately, there may be a complete collapse of public security.

Albania.

Although the Germans have been reacting vigorously to F.N.C. threats to their garrisons and communication, their evacuation of Albania is proceeding. The large concentration of Germans at Korça has fought its way northwards past the F.N.C. All German civilians are reported to have been evacuated from Tirana, only a small military staff remaining there. The chief German garrison is now at Elbasan and has suffered in repeated attacks by the F.N.C. On the 15th October, the F.N.C. entered Valona and on the same day Enver Hoxha, the F.N.C. leader, arrived at Berat with part of the F.N.C. headquarters. The British mission to the F.N.C. is also there. In the north-east, Prizren was captured by the F.N.C. on the 4th October.

Bulgaria.

Two Bulgarian armies have been engaged against the Germans in Yugoslavia, and Bulgarian troops co-operated with Marshal Tito's partisans in the capture of Nish and Vranje. The Sofia press and wireless gave a good deal of publicity to these "co-belligerent" exploits. Moreover, Bulgarian publicity reveals a strong tendency to court the new Yugoslavia of Marshal Tito. It has recalled the proclamation (see "Yugoslavia" in *Summary* 255) at Bitolj on the 2nd August of Macedonia as a member of a Yugoslav federation, with its own government, assembly, official language and national day, and with equality for men and women. It has called for recruits for the "National Liberation Army of Macedonia" and it has emphasised the importance of the new Macedonian State as the kernel of Yugoslav-Bulgarian friendship which in its turn will be the basis of a Balkan *entente*. Remarks to this effect by Dr. Todor Pavlov, the Communist member of the Regency Council, have been broadcast to fortify the theme.