

all the more highly appreciated in Italy because the recent allocation by Funk of Italy's and Germany's spheres of economic control virtually grabbed Central Europe for his own country and confined Italy to the Mediterranean and the countries finding there the principal outlet for their commerce. Such an arrangement drew at least one Italian protest at the time. It can easily be imagined, then, what is being thought in Rome of von Papen's "interview" (see under South-Eastern Europe) with a Spanish journalist in Angora, which, in advocating Turkish mediation at the conclusion of the Russian campaign, is stated to have argued that, if Great Britain rejected this mediation, she would be forced out of the Mediterranean, where two strong nations would remain, Turkey in the East and Spain in the West. Italy, apparently, was completely ignored. So much for *mare nostrum*.

General Pricolo, Chief of Staff of the Italian Air Force and Under-Secretary for Air, has "resigned" and been replaced by General Fougier. General Pricolo recently visited the eastern front, and a probable explanation of his supersession is that there may have been differences between him and the Germans. General Fougier was in charge of the ill-fated Italian squadrons which made such a poor show when they were detailed to participate alongside their German colleagues last year in the Battle of Britain.

SOUTH-EASTERN EUROPE.

Fuller information is now available as to the heroic and desperate resistance to the Germans which has been spreading throughout wide districts of Eastern Yugoslavia, fanned by the savage methods of repression adopted by the High Command under General Danckelmann. The story of secret negotiations between General Neditch and the insurgents, after the capture of Valjevo by the latter, was not accurate in the form originally given to the press; but it now appears that, when Neditch was forming his puppet Government in August, messages passed between him and certain of the insurgent leaders, who were anxious to co-operate in any pacification genuinely deserving of that name. Discussions broke down because the Germans demanded unconditional surrender, and rejected with contumely the triple conditions put forward by the insurgents—an end to punitive expeditions, restriction of German garrisons to Belgrade and Nish, and "Serbia to be left in peace." Following upon this, hostilities flared up again, and the co-operation of the guerrillas with the numerous armed regulars still in the mountains grew much closer. Pechanats, the veteran leader of the wild Chetnitsi, but a man of bad personal reputation, with sinister legends round his name, was ready for a bargain with the Germans, but was repudiated by the great mass of insurgents, who turned more and more to Colonel Drazha Mihailovitch, whose headquarters are in Western Serbia and who has established contacts with the other main groups in Central Bosnia, Southern Herzegovina and Montenegro. Another less numerous group of real Communists by persuasion is also at large and is believed to be holding a certain number of German soldiers as hostages. On the 7th November General Neditch himself broadcast a crude attack upon Colonel Mihailovitch, whom he accused of "working for Red Moscow, on orders from London"; and the Germans renewed their threats of shelling Belgrade if resistance continued. A German propagandist officer haranguing the crowd and threatening wholesale evacuations from Belgrade was asked why the townsmen should be held responsible for what happened in the mountains. To this there came the rejoinder that Belgrade had produced the *coup d'Etat* of last March and had thrown out the whole German campaign by a month. Neditch's radio activities have provoked a frontal attack from General Simovitch himself in the name of the exiled Government. In this Neditch is roundly accused of glorification of nazism, of pouring oil on the flames, of condoning German crimes and provoking civil war, and of acting as an open rebel against Government and King. The Premier formulates a clear demand that Germany and Italy shall treat as regulars men who are still fighting for their country under regular officers and are entitled to all the rights of war. He closes with a telling passage which shows that it is the deliberate aim of the Germans to create a mortal feud between Serb and Croat, and with an eloquent appeal to the nation to preserve the integrity of Yugoslav at all costs. It is the official policy both of General Simovitch and of His Majesty's Government to discourage

internal dissensions among the Yugoslavs; and Moscow is being asked to urge those insurgents who are Communist in sympathy to place themselves at the disposal of Mihailovitch as a national leader.

The Pavelitch Government may claim a slight political success in the fact that Dr. Djafer Kulenovitch, who succeeded the late Mehmed Spaho as the recognised leader of the Bosnian Moslems, has accepted the post of Vice-Premier in the place of his brother Osman, who now becomes a Foreign Office official. Osman represented nothing, but Djafer's adhesion means that Pavelitch has had some success in fanaticising the Moslems, and that perhaps, under fear of reprisals for their proved excesses, they may be jostled into permanent support of Puppet Croatia. Meanwhile, there has been a bomb outrage at Split against the military band of the Alpini. The Italians have made 150 arrests, and it will not be the fault of their allies if they are not persuaded to indulge in reprisals.

The Roumanian plebiscite hung fire sufficiently for the Government to order two prolongations: the first day (the 9th November) brought barely a million votes, but by the Saturday evening 3,391,225 "Yes" had been recorded and only 165 "No." The Conducator doubtless knows his people; to the foreign critic he seems to have proved too much.

Claiming to have his story from reliable eye-witnesses, the American radio commentator from Angora, Mr. Agronsky, reports what, if authentic, is one of the worst massacres of Jews in all history. After the Roumanian occupation of Odessa, 220 Roumanian soldiers, including General Glogogeanu and the Chief of the Military Police, Colonel Davila, were killed by the explosion of a time bomb; and on the 23rd October, by way of reprisals, 25,000 Jews—men, women and children—were herded at random into the military barracks and machine-gunned in batches. A few weeks earlier a large proportion of the Jews from Bessarabia and Bukovina appear to have been evicted from their homes at four hours' notice and transported in crowded cattle-trucks to Transdnistria, where they were placed in open-air camps and are alleged to be dying at the rate of a 100 a day. At first a protest from the Orthodox Metropolitan of Czernowitz secured a reversal of the eviction, but the order was reimposed, thanks to the insistence of Herr von Killinger, the all-powerful German Minister at Bucharest. The estimate of 100,000 Jewish victims may belong to the growing list of exaggerated atrocity tales from Eastern Europe; but there can be little doubt that there is a deliberate design on the part of the Germans and their Roumanian tools to use the present abnormal situation as an excuse for drastic blood-letting and transplantation, worthy to compare with the treatment of the Armenians in the Great War.

Meanwhile, friction between Roumanians and Hungarians grows steadily more acute, and on both sides open expression is constantly given to the view that only war between them can solve the Transylvanian question. A few weeks ago Marshal Antonescu visited Turda—long a centre of brawling between the two races in the old Hungary; and, according to the Hungarian press, he there promised to lead the Roumanians to the "lost cities" of Transylvania. "To Cluj!", it appears, is the new patriotic salute. The embarrassment which this dispute between their two allies used to cause the Germans in the earlier stages of the Eastern war has yielded to a feeling compounded of resignation and *Schadenfreude*, and there is slowly emerging an astute design for re-establishing Transylvania's traditional status as a vassal State, but this time no longer under Magyar hegemony, but with the German minority, reinforced by the "Swabians" of the Banat and even of Hungary proper, holding the balance between the other two races and itself enjoying the same virtual ex-territoriality which Germany is demanding for all the other German minorities in South-East Europe. The apparent rapprochement between Andreas Schmidt and Franz Basch, the German Nazi Bonzes in Roumania and Hungary, has caused some nervousness in Bucharest; and the suspicion that far-reaching plans are under consideration is confirmed by an article in the *Deutsche Allgemeine Zeitung*, to which the Budapest radio gave surprising publicity, foretelling the transfer of Europe's centre of gravity eastwards, and a vast scheme of colonisation, no longer resting upon religious zeal or on haphazard gold-rushes, but on methodical planning. The recent rumour that Horia Sima had been assassinated by the son of one of his victims has not been confirmed; but it is known that the Germans are again flirting with the Iron Guard, and threatening to play them off against the Conducator.