

which the Arab delegates will follow in New York. They are believed, however, to be strongly opposed to the appointment of any fact-finding commission after their previous experiences of such bodies, and may try to insist upon the whole question being discussed at the General Assembly. The Amir Faisal, who is representing Saudi Arabia, spoke with much earnestness and feeling to the Oriental Minister in Cairo of the disaster which an upheaval in the Middle East would be to both the Arabs and the British.

There is little political activity evident on the part of the Palestine Arabs, and the Mufti, in spite of rumours of his departure to Syria or the Lebanon being imminent, remains in Cairo.

Demands which have been put forward for the Jewish Agency to have official representation at the Assembly, on the ground that it is recognised as the representative of Jewry in regard to Palestine, have not gone unopposed. The American Council for Judaism, which is strongly assimilationist, and the American League for a free Palestine, are both against any such representation. The former says that it regards the American delegation as the only spokesmen for American Jewry; the latter that recognition of the Jewish Agency would imply either that Jewish citizens of countries other than Palestine are not full citizens, or that they have a dual allegiance.

(See also under "United Nations.")

Iraq

Mulla Mustafa Barzani (see last week's *Summary* under "Persia") was reported by the Chief of the Persian General Staff to have left Persia on the 18th April with 500 armed men and 6 Persian army deserters, and to be heading for Barzan. His Majesty's Ambassador, Baghdad, reports that Mulla Mustafa entered Iraq, having come *via* Turkish territory, accompanied by 200 armed followers. He has now withdrawn to the neighbourhood of Argosh, north north-east of Barzan, where he is penned in by the Iraqis, who are being helped by the Turks. There appears to be a possibility of his being able to break back into Persia, but the harrying that he has received from the Persian army will doubtless not tempt him to do so, except as a measure of desperation. All reports testify to the skill and endurance of the Barzanis; His Majesty's Consul-General, Tabriz, writes of their "superb fighting qualities."

The attitude of the Iraqi Government is to refuse to grant them an amnesty, and to demand unconditional surrender. They also insist on punishment for the leaders of the Dohuk insurrection of July, 1945, which led to action by the Iraqi army against the Barzanis and their eventual entry into Persia in October of that year. So far, there are no signs of a sympathetic rising among the Kurdish chiefs of Iraq.

Persia

On the 22nd April El Aris, the leader of the delegation from the World Federation of Trade Unions, submitted his report for the signature of his colleagues. Harries, the British representative, stated that he could not agree to this report which was, in effect, a sweeping indictment of the Persian Government and a vindication of Reza Rusta. El Aris then drastically amended the findings of his report, which now omit any reference to Rusta but confirm recognition by the World Federation of Trade Unions of the Central Committee of Trades Unions and recommend that the clubs and premises of the Persian Federation of Trade Unions be restored to the Federation. The revised report also urges the Government to release any innocent workers who have been imprisoned, and recommends that the new Trades Union elections be held under supervision of the World Federation of Trade Unions, following a congress of all Persian workers. Harries has initialled the recommendations, but has added a reservation to the effect that he cannot agree with many of the statements in the report itself.

The charges to be preferred against Reza Rusta (see last week's *Summary*) are much more serious than mere financial irregularities. According to the Minister of Labour he will be charged with undermining the security of the country, co-operating with the rebels and secessionists, inciting the citizens to insurrection, murder and encouraging the armed forces to mutiny.

The Pars News Agency has stated that Persia's reparations claim against Germany (see *Summary* No. 388) amounts to \$955,000,000, a figure which has also been quoted by Muzaffar Firuz, Persian Ambassador to Moscow, in a statement to press correspondents.

The Persian left-wing press appears to be growing less hostile towards the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company. This is largely due to the Company's policy of inviting Tehran editors to visit their establishments and see

things for themselves. An article which appeared in *Aras* (which has replaced *Iran-i-ma*) in March is very fair towards the Company, as the following extracts shew. "The British are trying hard to approach the Persians. . . . The A.I.O.C. has already taken plenty of steps, and will take others in future, to satisfy the workers as far as possible." Such statements,

coming from a paper like *Aras*, are decidedly healthy signs.

An Indian Trade Delegation, led by Mr. Isfahani, which has been visiting Tehran, has attracted much attention. Mr. Isfahani stated that the aims of the delegation, which had no political significance, were to improve trade and to strengthen the friendship between the two countries.

ASIAN RELATIONS CONFERENCE

The above Conference (see *Summary* No. 386) ended on 2nd April. The proceedings, if inconclusive, appear at least to have been reasonably harmonious, a fact which, considering the diversity of outlook represented, is somewhat remarkable. There does appear to have been a cleavage of outlook, however, as to whether the Conference should confine itself merely to exploratory issues—a view held by the Chinese delegation and an influential section of the Indian representatives—or should formulate a definite policy of Asiatic co-operation. The latter view was supported by delegates from South-East Asia and the Soviet republics, as well as by Nehru himself. There was unanimity of opinion on the need to resist foreign exploitation, but this was not accompanied by marked hostility towards the West. The correspondent of the *News Chronicle* has stated that the delegations from the smaller States shewed signs of nervousness against any tendency to dominate by India and China, regardless of the fact that, unless these two countries achieve internal unity, neither will be able to exercise much influence towards unifying Asia.

The one positive achievement of the Conference was the decision to set up an Asian Relations Organisation for which a Provisional General Council is to draw up a

constitution. Nearly all the Asian countries, including the Soviet Republics, are represented on this body, over which Pandit Nehru will preside. The primary object is to co-ordinate the work of branch institutes for the study of Asian affairs in all the countries concerned. The next Conference is to be held in China in 1949.

That the Conference achieved so little is not surprising. Its very terms of reference precluded it from reaching any major decisions. Furthermore, it was hampered by the non-participation of the Muslim League, Mr. Jinnah staunchly refusing Pandit Nehru's efforts to secure his co-operation. But the Conference was not entirely valueless.

Summing up the position, Mr. Iqbal Singh, in *The Spectator*, states:—

"It had a psychological value which cannot be exaggerated. It underlines the sense of Asiatic solidarity which had hitherto been only a sentimental assumption. . . . What is more, the Conference made it clear that there is no disposition in Asiatic political circles to-day any longer to tolerate foreign domination, or even patronage, and that from now on Asiatic nations are determined to take their full share in international affairs in their own right, rather than as agents of Western Powers."

THE FAR EAST

Japan

Unofficial returns for the general elections show only one striking change in the composition of the Lower House: the Social Democrat Party has increased its membership from 98 to 143 and thus becomes the major Party. Its gain has not, however, been obtained at the expense of the two conservative parties, which now together total 259 seats as against 253. Roughly speaking, the composition of the House is now:—

Right—			
Liberals . . .	133		
Democrats . . .	126		
		259	
Centre: Social Democrats	143		
Left . . .	64		
		207	
			466

But this grouping is deceptive because the Social Democrat Party itself has a