

Hitlerite hangmen." Taking up the point about small nations made by Professor Bogomolets, Tychina proceeds to prove from Ukrainian history since the earliest times that the Ukraine has never been able to remain independent, and never can be independent. Further, the real Ukraine does not wish for independence; it has already found freedom and equality in the Soviet family of nations, and though temporarily submerged by the horde of Hitler's cannibals, it "breathes, lives and fights."

The Third All-Slav Congress in Moscow (the 9th May) appears to have been surrounded by greater pomp and ceremony than either of its predecessors; reports speak of the medley of uniforms, national costumes and emblems, and of an elaborately illuminated programme in old Slavonic lettering. The appeal issued by the meeting urgently called all the Slav peoples to take up arms against Hitler's tyranny. "The time has come for decisive, immediate action." An important feature of the meeting was the long and vigorous speech delivered by Nikolai, Metropolitan of Kiev and Galich, denouncing the Hitlerites as enemies of the Orthodox Church and of all Christianity. No representative of religion had appeared at any of the previous All-Slav congresses.

On the 15th April, 1943, the Præsidium of the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. published a decree imposing martial law on all railways of the Soviet Union (see *Summary* No. 185). A Moscow message of the 19th May reports that a similar decree has now been introduced to cover all marine and river transport.

Much further comment on the Allied victories in North Africa, similar to that reported last week, has continued to appear in the Soviet press. The following statement, in which the African war is definitely given the place of a second front, was made by the military correspondent of *Pravda* on the 13th May: "The defeat inflicted on Rommel in Africa was a component part of the common blow from the East and the West which the Hitlerites faced for the first time in this war. The termination of the African campaign has created favourable conditions for fresh and even more powerful blows from the East and from the West, which will mean the catastrophe of utter defeat for the German-Italian Fascist camp now undergoing a grave crisis."

ERRATUM.—*Weekly Summary* No. 188, page 6, line 27. For "disclosed" read "declared."

#### SCANDINAVIA.

On second thoughts, Quisling seems to have decided not to make much of his proposal to convert Norway's national day—the 17th May—into an anniversary of the foundation of his party. On the 13th May a law was passed, applicable only to the present year, making the 17th an ordinary working day, and the Police Department issued a proclamation on the 15th May forbidding processions, public meetings, the flying of flags at half-mast and the wearing of national colours on this anniversary. Apparently the ban on meetings was not applied to the address delivered by Quisling at the Klingenberg cinema in commemoration of the 10th anniversary of his party. It is reported, however, that his speech was submitted in advance to the German authorities.

The internal evidence of the speech itself may well suggest to some minds that it was drafted or extensively edited by some abler brain than that of the Norwegian Führer. As an oratorical effort, it compares favourably with his previous speeches. Though of great length, and making no sensational disclosures, it was undoubtedly a spirited and competently argued plea for the Nazi New Order, and the thesis that "the European continent must be organised federally round a strong union of the Germanic peoples." It is indeed common ground to both sides that the smaller Powers can hardly hope to survive in isolation; M. Lie looks for support in one direction, Quisling in another. In Norway itself, Quisling's aim is admittedly not based on any hope of securing majority support. It is, in his own words, to create "a fighting-fit revolutionary organisation which is disciplined, able to hit back, willing to make sacrifices, and hold out." If his supporters were really of this character, the movement might actually be formidable.

The Norwegian Church has resumed its leading position among the organs of national resistance, by sending a protest to Quisling against the breaches of international law involved in the labour conscription, as at present applied. The protest states that many Norwegians have been sent to work of a military character, have been put into German uniforms under German military command,

and subjected to German drill. This, it claims, is in conflict both with the Hague Convention and the terms of the labour conscription law. The Church asks Quisling to abstain from conscripting Norwegians for a service which does violence to their conscience and sense of justice.

As a result of this courageous move, it is reported that two of the leaders of the Provisional Church Council, Professor Hallesby and Pastor Hope, have been arrested by the Gestapo and interned in Grini.

An even more sinister development was reported by *Stockholms Tidningen* on the 13th May. The Swedish paper alleges that Quisling had submitted plans to the German authorities for enrolling conscript Norwegians for military guard duty at home, thus releasing German forces. This suggestion was rejected, since the Germans felt that they could not trust such a body in its home country. An order was, however, given to Quisling, according to this report, to mobilise Norwegians between the ages of 20 and 33 for military service abroad, and the plans for such conscription are stated to be now ready. Though this report seems so far unconfirmed, there is evidence that the labour conscripts are being placed in German uniforms in increasing numbers, and allotted tasks of a definitely military character.

On the 12th May the German Government delivered a second reply, in more conciliatory terms than the first, to the Swedish protest against the attack on the submarine *Draken*. They disclaimed a desire to argue the question of international law involved, and promised a separate answer dealing with the allegation of minelaying in Swedish territorial waters.

The Soviet Government has rejected the Swedish protest against the bombing incident at Karlskrona, denying that Russian planes were responsible for the incident.

The Swedish Minister of Education, M. Bagge, speaking on the 16th May, gave his general support to the somewhat controversial views on Nordic post-war co-operation recently expressed by the Defence Minister, M. Sköld (see *Weekly Summary* No. 182). While admitting the difficulties and advocating a gradual approach, M. Bagge expressed his distrust of Allied policy in regard to small neutral States, and considered that Scandinavia should take precautions to safeguard its freedom and independence.

On the 15th May King Christian of Denmark resumed his functions interrupted by his accident and subsequent illness, and marked the occasion by a speech reiterating the necessity for correct and dignified behaviour, and condemning the action of saboteurs. Hitherto, these actions are reported to have been generally popular; at any rate when they involve damage to factories working for the Germans. The King's intervention may, therefore, prove to be important. Incidents of the kind, however, have so far continued to occur. Of these the most important has been the destruction of the largest Copenhagen arms factory—the Riffel Syndikat—which was reported on the 15th May, though this action has been attributed to parachutists rather than Danish saboteurs. Other acts of sabotage have also been recently reported.

The speech delivered by M. Linkomies in commemoration of "Heroes Day" in Finland, on the 16th May, gave no ground for hoping that Finland might before long withdraw from the war. The Finnish Premier urged, on the contrary, a continuance of the struggle, though perhaps the occasion should be borne in mind in estimating his rather militaristic language. Field-Marshal Mannerheim, on the same occasion, declared it to be the duty of his countrymen "to make still further efforts, in order that the deeds of those who have fallen may live on and contribute to final victory."

#### THE LOW COUNTRIES.

The tension which arose in the Netherlands at the end of April has not yet disappeared. Information is none too plentiful, but there have been a number of strikes. The Germans have announced, on the 2nd May, that some 40 persons had been executed, many of them for fomenting strikes; it was stated that all students who had refused to sign the declaration pledging themselves not to oppose the measures of the occupying Power would be deported to Germany; on the 7th May all Dutchmen aged 18–35 were ordered to report at the local labour exchanges. Plainly, the Germans wish to secure as much Dutch labour as possible and also to remove potential enemies in the event of an Allied invasion. It is impossible to say how far they will succeed. If the Dutch refuse to register in large numbers, they will make things very difficult for the