

CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

The sixth week of the Slovak revolt passed without any notable developments in the military sphere. The resistance movement's communiqués refer to German attacks in the Handlová sector and the Hron and Upper Váh valleys, claiming that these were held, but otherwise fighting seems to have been on a limited scale.

In Bratislava, Premier Tiso, on the 4th October, made a full-length statement of his Government's policy. After stressing that the first task was to liquidate the rising and achieve regeneration, Tiso dealt individually with every branch of the State administration. Full attention would be paid to the perfecting of the nation's social policy for the creation of a Slovak social State based on the protection of the family; an ordered economy would be established and profiteers and hoarders ruthlessly attacked; the Slovak railways would be improved, and this would entail the rationalisation of skilled labour; the Ministry of Defence had been adapted to the needs of the State and would be charged not only with all Army affairs but also with State security; the Hlinka Guard, in its rôle of a People's Militia, was also incorporated into the military administration; soldiers' pay and compensation were to be increased; foreign policy would "continue to be guided by the principles of Slovak-German alliance and friendship." In the course of a reference to the German Ethnical Group in Slovakia, the Premier declared it his ambition "to solve the problem of different nationalities living together in the spirit of the modern ideals of the New Europe."

The speech was well-enough conceived, but provided a clear case of ambition outrunning all possibilities of performance. The Slovak press duly welcomed and praised it, but Karmasin, the leader of the German Ethnical Group, commenting on the programme in a broadcast read for him on the 6th October, made it plain that, from the point of view of his Group, it was inadequate and unsatisfactory. He pointed out that for two years he had been warning the Bratislava Government without avail of increasing anti-German feeling in Slovakia. ("From the refusal of any tram-conductor to speak German to a passenger to the burning down of a German school and to a battle of annihilation against Germans is undoubtedly a straight line.") The Premier had failed to mention that the losses of the German Ethnical Group exceeded the Slovak losses or any question of restitution. "The principles of collaboration must be shaped afresh," Karmasin went on to claim for his Group the greatest possible measure of self-administration—it should be responsible for its own fate and "should be entrusted with spheres of activity which hitherto have been the monopoly of the State Administration." There have been ominous precedents for this kind of outburst by a German minority leader and it will be interesting to observe the consequences in Slovakia.

In Rome on the 26th September the Italian Government solemnly repudiated "the Munich Agreements of the 29th September, 1938, the so-called Ciano-Ribbentrop Award made at Vienna on the 2nd November, 1938," and any of their consequences that "may have aimed at harming the independence of the Czechoslovak Republic."

POLAND.

The last shot was fired by General Komorowski's forces in Warsaw at 10 p.m. on the 2nd October. The surrender took place, as Mr. Mikolajczyk said on the 4th October, "after all hopes of relief from outside had failed, because attempts made by the Soviet forces and the Polish formations co-operating with them to force a crossing of the Vistula in the Warsaw area had proved futile." As he said three days later, "the fight continues"; and although General Komorowski himself is reported as having gone into captivity with his troops, his Home Army in other parts of German-occupied Poland is carrying on. In all, according to the Polish Telegraph Agency's figures, some 100,000 were taken prisoner during the period the 1st August to the 15th September, and according to Professor Grabski 25,000 more were taken prisoner at the capitulation, while twice the latter number were killed, wounded or missing during the revolt. As to the civilian population, the Polish Red Cross was recently informed that 243,000 had passed through the Pruszkow camp. The German Overseas News Agency stated that 280,000 civilians were still in Warsaw at the time of the capitulation. German reports stated that fighting was resumed after the capitulation by some insurgents. It is clear that a few escaped across the river to Praga and joined up with General Zymierski's forces. Two of these, who spoke over the Lublin Radio, declared that more could have done so, and had decided to make the attempt,

but were forestalled by General Komorowski's order to capitulate. The rising continues to be represented by the organs of the National Liberation Committee as a political miscalculation, and this attitude continues to find support in the columns of *Izvestiya* and *Pravda* in Moscow.

The German authorities, according to their own account, have kept their promise, made early in September (see *Summary* No. 257) to treat as prisoners of war members of the Polish fighting forces in Warsaw who surrendered; and have also stated that they will take no reprisals for action taken by the civilian population in support of the rising. Their lot is already grim enough, as it is announced that the entire population of the areas in which the fighting had taken place was to be evacuated, that half the houses in Warsaw were damaged beyond repair, and that German troops have been ordered to loot such as remain.

Meantime the German press and radio make use of the occasion to renew their endeavours to persuade the inhabitants of occupied Poland that the Warsaw rising was a blow directed against the Polish nation by the U.S.S.R. and Great Britain, and that the insurgents were betrayed by these two Powers, although the rising would never have succeeded since the German forces have always been too strong.

As to the post of Commander-in-chief it is not expected that General Komorowski's capture will alter the present arrangement for the exercise of his functions during his absence (see *Summary* No. 261).

Plans have been announced by the Polish deputy Minister of Commerce for the reconstruction of Warsaw according to a scheme estimated to cost £200 million.

It is announced from Lublin that the Liberation Committee is preparing a bill to ensure that land belonging to absent owners shall be restored to them.

SOVIET UNION.

The Red Army completed the occupation of the island of Dägo on the 3rd October and since then Osel has almost been freed from the Germans. On the 7th October a large-scale offensive started from the area west of Siauliai, which has already brought the Russians to within 12 miles of Memel (Klaipeda) and about the same distance from the East Prussian frontier where it meets the sea. Only comparatively small strips of the Lithuanian S.S.R. are now in enemy hands. The Germans report Russian attacks from a bridgehead about 40 miles south of Warsaw, but the Soviet communiqué is silent on the subject. Some progress has been made in Northern Transylvania and places only 12 miles from Cluj have been captured, but it is in Hungary, west of the Carpathians, and in Yugoslavia that the most striking successes have been won: The Russians have pressed into Hungary on a front of over 100 miles to a depth of 50 miles, and already closely threaten Szeged and Debrecen, whilst Budapest itself is only 60 miles away. In Yugoslavia to the south of Szeged the River Tisa, a tributary of the Danube, has been crossed on a front of 40 miles, and in the loop of the Danube south of the Iron Gates a German formation, which had been surrounded, has been liquidated. A further Russian advance here has cut the Belgrade-Nish railway.

On the 9th October the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State, accompanied by the C.I.G.S. and General Ismay, arrived at Moscow by air and were met at the airfield by M. Molotov, M. Vyshinsky, the D.C.G.S., General Antonov and other Soviet officials, as well as by the British, Canadian and United States Ambassadors and the Australian Minister. A meeting between Mr. Churchill and Marshal Stalin, in the presence of M. Molotov, Mr. Eden and Sir Archibald Clark Kerr, took place later in the day.

Moscow radio announced on the 5th October that the Order of Suvorov, 1st Class, had been awarded by the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. to Lord Beaverbrook, Lord Privy Seal, and to Mr. Oliver Lyttelton, Minister of Production, "for outstanding services in the organisation of the delivery of war supplies to the U.S.S.R. from Great Britain, which played an important part in the struggle against the common enemy." General Mark Clark, United States Army, received the same award for "outstanding military activities" in Italy, whilst "for outstanding direction of operations in the forcing of the English Channel and the invasion of France by British and American armed forces, as a result of which troops of Great Britain and the United States, jointly with French armed forces, inflicted heavy defeat upon the German Army, liberated considerable parts of French and Belgian territories with their capitals, Paris and Brussels, and also entered Luxemburg and Holland, the Order of Suvorov, 1st Class, is awarded to Field-Marshal Sir Bernard