

the undertaking recently given on the subject of war criminals (see *Summary* No. 261). One of the most virulent clerical nationalists left in an important educational post has now been removed in the person of Presbyter Sepich, till now Rector of the College of San Carlos. A leader in the extremely undesirable *Cabildo* expresses concern at "the sudden fall of so many true nationalists" and at the public demonstrations which their discomfiture has occasioned.

Dr. Ramón Castillo, President of Argentina until the *coup* of June 1943, has died in Buenos Aires at the age of 71. According to the press he had made his peace with the elements responsible for his overthrow.

In view of the announcement of the early transfer of United States' naval strength to the Pacific for the war against Japan, it is reported that the Brazilian Ministry of Marine have examined proposals for entrusting Brazil exclusively with patrolling that part of the South Atlantic hitherto patrolled jointly by the United States Fourth Fleet and the Brazilian Navy. The Brazilian War Ministry has issued a statement ascribing depressing reports of Brazilian losses in Italy to fifth column activities, and urging the public to "act boldly with those spreading such rumours." General Eurico Gaspar Dutra, the Brazilian Minister of War, arrived in London on the 12th October from Italy.

By a decree of the 16th August, published on the 11th October, Mexican citizens may now serve in the forces of the United Nations without forfeiting Mexican citizenship.

The immediate cause of the recent reconstitution of the Chilean cabinet (see last week's *Summary*) has now been made clear by an announcement from President Ríos that he is compelled to relinquish his duties for a month to undergo treatment for a duodenal ulcer. The new Cabinet has therefore been selected for its non-controversial merits. President Ríos' place will be taken by the Minister of the Interior, Sr. Alfonso Quintana Burges, who has been nominated Vice-President, and the Minister for Foreign Affairs takes charge of the Ministry of the Interior.

General Noguera Gómez, one of the most prominent of the numerous Nicaraguan exiles in Costa Rica, is reported to have led a small party of supporters along the Costa Rican-Nicaraguan frontier where they had a brush with Costa Rican officials, in which several of the latter were killed. When last heard of, the Nicaraguan force was proceeding up country with two machine-guns of its own and two taken from the Costa Ricans. A number of Nicaraguan exiles have been taken into custody as a result of this abuse of Costa Rican hospitality. The General is now reported to have been killed.

#### UNITED NATIONS.

The second phase of the conversations at Dumbarton Oaks took place from the 29th September to 7th October between the officials of the United States, the United Kingdom and the Republic of China. Sir Alexander Cadogan was obliged to return to London after the opening session and Lord Halifax took his place as head of the Delegation. Dr. Wellington Koo led the Chinese Delegation and made a deep impression on the other delegates by his direct and courteous handling of the situation. As a document had already been agreed with the Soviet Delegation, which could not be altered except by agreement with them, a course which would have necessitated long delay, no attempt was made to amend the original document. This procedure was the more acceptable to the Chinese Delegation because they had submitted at an early date a document giving their own views (see *Summary* No. 261) to the United Kingdom and United States Delegations and this had been fully taken into account during the first phase of the discussions.

There was some desire on the part of the Chinese Delegation to issue a supplementary document in the name of the three Powers but it was found on a close examination of the first agreed document, the "Proposals," that so many of the Chinese suggestions had already been incorporated in it that a supplementary document would contain only a very few clauses. The examination of the "Proposals" with the Chinese showed that they were in substantial agreement with the other Delegations and consequently that it could be issued in the name of all the Four Powers. The Chinese did, however, bring up a number of points for clarification and discussion and some of these, which do no more than underline those already inherent in the "Proposals," were incorporated in an agreed draft which will be submitted to the three Governments with the object of securing their incorporation in the basic instrument at the appropriate time.

It was thus possible for the "Proposals" to be published on the 9th October by each of the Four Governments in its own capital. The importance of the document which was printed in the principal newspapers, was everywhere recognised, but naturally it will take some time before all its implications are fully realised by public opinion. Meanwhile it must be remembered that it cannot be officially communicated to other Governments with a view to holding a Conference to draw up the "Charter" along the lines suggested in the "Proposals" until the Four Powers have come to an agreement concerning the method of voting which will determine how the large powers granted to the Security Council for the maintenance of international peace and security will be exercised.

The most important question to be decided is whether a member with a permanent seat on the Security Council shall have the right to prevent any action in a dispute in which it is itself a party. The Soviet Delegation thought that the States with permanent seats should retain the right of veto in all cases. The British and United States Delegations, on the other hand, were of the opinion that in such a case the States with permanent seats should be in the same position as smaller States. On the one hand, it was argued that world peace depends on the unanimity of the Great Powers who must settle their differences by conciliatory methods and not by the threat of sanctions which might lead to a world war. On the other hand, it is urged that it is undesirable to set up in the world two systems of law in international affairs especially as the Moscow Declaration has already promised that the organisation will be based on the "sovereign equality of all peace-loving States." There is also some difference of opinion as to whether decisions should be made by a two-thirds or a simple majority.

These questions will have to be settled at a higher level. Some other points such as the list of original members and the qualifications for membership and the method of taking over from the League of Nations that part of its organisation, assets and liabilities, which it is desired to incorporate in the new organisation, will also need to be further considered and agreed upon.