

Danish krone. Denmark will supply machinery, tools, electrical goods and tinned fish, Slovakia cellulose wool, textile products and oak timber. Slovakia is having difficulty in delivering the timber quotas she has contracted with foreign countries owing to her shortage of wagons for timber transport and of skilled labour.

There is obviously little sympathy in Slovakia for the war against Russia, and *Slovak* has had to complain of the lack of sympathy and respect shown to wounded soldiers back from the front. An interesting sidelight on the extent of Slovakia's participation in the fighting was provided by a Bratislava broadcast acclaiming the 151st victory of the Slovak air contingent since last autumn. One sentence of the report ran: "The 151st air victory of our flight, which consists of only nine pilots, is the best proof of the great skill of these airmen."

## POLAND.

During his recent visit to the General Government, which was undoubtedly connected with the labour drive, Herr Sauckel delivered at Cracow what seems to have been an exceptionally violent speech even for a Nazi leader. He warned his hearers not to count on Germany's capitulating: if the worst came to the worst Germany would resist to the bitter end and in such a way that neither in Poland nor anywhere in Europe would one stone be left on another. As might be expected, in his speech he alternately threatened severe measures of repression if the Poles did not finally make up their minds to come into line with Germany and promised better food and housing conditions and better treatment in general to those who showed themselves "obedient." Replying to these threats and blandishments the Directorate of Civil Resistance again called on the Poles to boycott all German measures and especially their attempts to recruit labour for the Reich. As a result, no doubt, of this attitude of the underground organisations, the German authorities have recently again proceeded to mass arrests, especially in Warsaw, where, in the course of one razzia, they arrested 1,800 persons, mainly of the intelligentsia. 700 of the arrested were charged with complicity in secret action against the German régime. On the 29th May 400 men and 26 women of this group were executed in Warsaw: the lot of the rest is at present unknown. Similar arrests, though on a smaller scale, are reported from some of the provincial towns of western Galicia. In the "Incorporated Territories," both in Posnania and in the districts of Ciechanow and Mlawa to the north of Warsaw the Polish population is once more being subjected to violent persecution. Poles are being robbed of the scanty remains of their property and deported to the Reich. Similar arrests are also reported from Pomerellia, the so-called "Corridor," and from Lwów. The Warsaw booksellers have received from the German authorities a further list of 400 Polish books which may not be sold.

According to information received from Jewish sources since the beginning of this year the Germans have deported 34,000 Jews from Czestochowa and about 100,000 more from the ghettos of 13 small provincial towns of the General Government. It is not known to what destination these persons have been sent.

Mgr. Godfrey, the Apostolic Legate, has presented to the Polish President his letters of credence as Vatican Chargé d'Affaires to the Polish Government.

President Roosevelt has sent a personal letter to General Sikorski which has just been delivered to the latter in Beirut after being flown across the Atlantic to this country and hence by air courier to the Middle East. The contents of the letter are as yet unknown but it is noteworthy that the President's letter was despatched from Washington very soon after he had received through Mr. Davies the reply to his letter to Marshal Stalin.

## SOVIET UNION.

There has been no change in the military situation on the Eastern front during the past week.

Both *Pravda* and *Izvestiya* published leading articles on the occasion of the second anniversary of the opening of the Soviet-German war, which closely followed the line taken in the Special Communiqué, to which allusion was made in the last *Summary*. Exaggerated emphasis on the second front question was avoided, but *Izvestiya* quoted from the communiqué the phrase, "Without a

second front, victory over Hitlerite Germany is impossible." Marshal Stalin, too, in his reply to President Roosevelt's message of good-will on the occasion, concluded with the words: "Victory will come all the sooner, of this I have no doubt, the sooner we strike our joint united blows against the enemy from the East and from the West." In this connexion it should be recorded that, during a journey undertaken in April of this year to Sverdlovsk and Chelyabinsk, a member of the Foreign Office heard scarcely any mention of the second front. When the subject did crop up, it was treated in a curiously apologetic way. Everybody, without exception, asked when the war was going to end, and said that it must be soon. They constantly referred to the Prime Minister's statement about the war going on until 1944 or 1945, and asked why he said it and whether he really meant it. On the other hand, it did not appear that the possibility had ever entered their heads of giving up fighting until the Germans were defeated; it was merely that the complete upheaval in their lives, and the general strain and tension in which they were living, made them feel that things could not go on like this indefinitely. *There was no defeatism or feeling of despair, but rather a desperate determination to defeat the Germans quickly.* The visitor noted a universal and quite obviously genuine enthusiasm for Anglo-Soviet-American collaboration, now and after the war, based largely, he thought, on a longing to be free from the sense of isolation which has been drilled into them for so many years. Their only doubt about such collaboration was as to whether they could trust us and the Americans to play the game. Munich had sunk in very deeply, and was constantly referred to, so that the impression was gained that it would take time for the suspicions arising from it to be dispelled entirely. The people encountered on the journey were surprisingly well-informed about the exploits of the 8th Army, and were full of praise for the raids on Germany. "Their respect and admiration for the Prime Minister seemed to be second only to that for Stalin." The doubts of British reliability referred to above had, indeed, according to a telegram from His Majesty's Embassy, been genuinely felt among members of the Party until quite recently, and it is significant that on the 11th June a prominent official of Voks told a member of the Embassy that at last she believed that Great Britain would not conclude a separate peace.

On the 25th June a further statement was issued by the Extraordinary State Commission for the investigation of crimes committed by the Axis in the occupied zone of the U.S.S.R., which dealt with the plundering in January 1943 of the Rostov Museum, which had been evacuated to Pyatigorsk, the poisoning in December 1941 of about 1,000 patients in the Sapogov (Kursk Province) hospital for nervous diseases, and the torturing and shooting of 248 Soviet citizens at Kupyansk (Kharkov Province). In each of the above cases a protocol had been drawn up by commissions set up locally to investigate the circumstances, and from these protocols "the members of the Extraordinary State Commission ascertained the following facts:—

1. The Rostov Museum of Fine Arts was plundered and its treasures taken to Germany by General Mackensen, Commander of the First Tank Army, and by Mueller, Chief of the Propaganda Department of the First Tank Army.
2. The patients who were undergoing treatment in the Sapogov Psychiatric Hospital, Kursk Region, were poisoned on the orders of Flach, German Commandant of the town, and Dr. Kern, and the actual carrying out of the order was supervised by Wegemann, an interpreter at the German Commandant's office.
3. The torturing and shooting of peaceful citizens of the town of Kupyansk was carried out on the orders of Kargan, Chief of the German Secret Field Police and of Schweize, his assistant.

For these crimes in Pyatigorsk, Kursk and Kupyansk the Extraordinary State Commission holds responsible Mackensen, Commander of the First Tank Army, Mueller, Chief of the Propaganda Department of the First Tank Army, Commandant Flach, Dr. Kern, the interpreter Wegemann, Kargan, Chief of the Secret Field Police, and his assistant Schweize."

An article in *Pravda* carried the matter still further, since, after naming the people responsible on the spot for the atrocity and pillage, it declared that "these cannibals carried out Hitler's will. Mackensen was fulfilling the orders of the super-thief Alfred Rosenberg. This representative of Hitler will answer for the systematic destruction of the monuments of Russian culture." In conclusion, the article declared in regard to German war criminals: "They will