

sacrifices and contributing not only to production and to the military efforts of the Axis, but also to the settlement of questions still outstanding with the conquerors." Bastianini's speech was much praised and was contrasted with that delivered last week by Mr. Churchill. Whereas Bastianini had spoken of justice for all people, Mr. Churchill had spoken of destruction, death and what Britain was going to do in future to make the world a place unfit in which to live.

Great interest was aroused in Mr. Churchill's warning of the dangers of a protracted war, and his "pessimistic" statements were regarded as "confirmation of the internal weakness of the enemy alliance which had been noticeable before, but which is now becoming ever more apparent." The abolition of Comintern was branded as the most colossal jest of the whole war, nothing but a piece of clowning and buffoonery. It was said to "cover in ridicule both the Kremlin which decided on it and the plutocracies which requested it because of their unbearable feeling of shame at being the allies of the Bolshevik International."

Italy is engaged in speeding up all her arrangements, military and civilian, for meeting an invasion. Six battalions of the militia have been transferred from the Balkans to other, unnamed, zones. They are said by Galbiati, Chief of Staff of the Militia, to have suffered and inflicted heavy losses on a "treacherous front." Scorza, secretary of the party, has initiated his plan for finding posts for ex-service men and releasing men who have hitherto dodged military service. Mussolini presided over a meeting of the Inter-Ministerial Committee for the Co-ordination of Supplies, Distribution and Prices. The Minister for Agriculture made an optimistic report on the food situation and reviewed the various measures taken to improve and control it. Mussolini stressed the need for intensive action against the black market. An attempt to set off the heavy Italian losses in Tunisia was made by the publication of losses alleged to have been inflicted upon the United Nations. The atrocity campaign is being pursued with vigour, and Aponte contrasted the clean, chivalrous fighting of the Italians with the infamous, criminal and barbarous methods of the enemy.

Our chargé d'affaires at the Holy See has been informed that the Italian Government has now accepted in principle the proposal of His Majesty's Government (see *Summaries* Nos. 189 and 186) regarding the exchange of three Italian prisoners for the three captured British airmen who escaped from hospital to the Vatican City.

The leaflets dropped by the R.A.F. over Rome on the same night that the seaplane base at Ostia was bombed have apparently given a rude shock to those Romans who had convinced themselves that their immunity was guaranteed by the mere existence in their midst of the Vatican City. The dropping of the leaflets was followed a day or two later by a statement in the House of Commons, in which Captain Harold Balfour, repeating similar previous declarations of policy, said that we should not hesitate to bomb Rome if the course of the war should render such action convenient and helpful. From such summarised texts of the leaflets as have been telegraphed to this country, it would appear that Rome was not in so many words specifically placed upon a list of towns to be bombed, but it seems to have figured in a small map of Italy surcharged with a number of arrows pointing to different Italian towns. The mere dropping of the leaflets has given rise to rumours that Mussolini contemplates transferring the Government elsewhere in the hope that this step would lessen the risk of the capital being bombed. (See in particular *Summary* No. 170 and the immediately preceding issues.) It is clear that the taking of this step would be an admission of weakness and might have a disastrous effect upon morale at this critical juncture of Italy's misfortunes.

It is possible that this question was a main topic at a conference of Fascist chiefs which Mussolini addressed at the beginning of this week. Those to whom Mussolini gave "the necessary instructions" in the presence of Scorza were the Directorate of the Federation of Fasci of Rome (province presumably), and the Directorate of the Rome (City) Fascio. The inference, at all events, is clear that the meeting was concerned with the Rome area.

SOUTH-EASTERN EUROPE.

The prorogation of the Hungarian Parliament was actually described by the organ of the Smallholders' Party—a part of the Left Wing and pro-Allied Opposition—as having been "received with satisfaction throughout the country," and the Left Wing Opposition in general, and the Social Democrats in particular, maintained their confident tone after the event. The Social Democrat press

attacked the German minority and the Hungarian Right with relish and vigour, and even replied in a somewhat uncompromising tone to attacks made upon it by the Catholic press, remarking that the latter was quite right in saying that "the Social Democrat Party has not changed." It was, however, wrong in saying that the Socialists were opposed to the National idea. The Government press took little part in these controversies and even engaged in a small private war with the press of the extreme Right.

In the international field the efforts continued to court the friendship of neutrals and smaller Axis Powers, particularly Turkey, Bulgaria, Sweden and Finland—the Social Democrats keeping open a line of their own to their Finnish opposite numbers. The most important event was, however, the arrival in Budapest on the 20th May of General Lukas, Chief of the Bulgarian General Staff. Described as a return of the visit made to Bulgaria some months ago by the Hungarian Chief of Staff, General Szombathelyi, the present visit was probably made the occasion of important consultations.

The Minister of Supply made a reassuring statement on Hungary's supply situation, although indicating further Government control over industry would be needed to ensure fair distribution, particularly of essential manufactured goods and raw materials. It was, however, stated that the position as regards meat, milk and eggs was satisfactory, and cereal stocks should last out to the next harvest, but, in fact, the distribution to the towns is very defective. The press even hinted at the possibility of some relaxations of rationing.

Fuller reports of the important interview (quoted in last week's *Summary*) said to have been given by Marshal Antonescu to an Italian journalist show its tone to have been less confident than first reports revealed. He introduced his assurances of loyalty to the Axis by saying: "I know that our efforts, aimed at our rescue, will give us—even if they fail—the right to independence and power, and, even if not to us, to our sons and grandsons. A State which considers the present generation only is not worthy of its task." A German-Roumanian trade agreement providing for the delivery of agricultural machinery to Roumania up to February 1944 has been signed in Bucharest.

Roumanian youths in pre-military organisations are to be conscribed into the army for a maximum of three months a year for home defence and property protection. Thirteen Roumanians are reported to have been executed for house-breaking during alerts in Bucharest and other Roumanian cities.

Germans from Transylvania are mentioned among the "reliable German elements" recently replacing the population of parts of Luxemburg.

This is the first mention of transfer as applied to this important group.

Inspectors, associated with newly-established control centres, are to increase collaboration between Roumanian industries and to have powers to transfer labour and machinery from one enterprise to another.

More members of the former Roumanian Ministry in London have been deprived of Roumanian citizenship by the Council of Ministers for "actions contrary to the fundamental interests of Roumania."

After extending from the 31st May to the 1st November the time-limit for applications from volunteers for exchange belonging to the Bulgarian minority in Roumania and the Roumanian minority in Bulgaria, the two Governments now announce that the exchange has been abandoned and that applications will no longer be received. (The exchange was originally planned in connection with the transfer of the Southern Dobrogea to Bulgaria under the Treaty of Craiova, signed in September 1940.)

News comes from the Hungarian and Swedish presses of continued fighting in Slavonia and in northern Srem, most of which appears to be controlled by the insurgents. A new campaign, by German troops with Croat and Italian support, against the partisans in eastern Hercegovina was reported by Radio "Free Yugoslavia" on the 17th May and by D.N.B. (which said that the attack was directed also against Mihaylovitch) on the 19th. Units of the 360th German Division were said to have relieved the Italian garrison at Foča; and this was followed by fierce fighting round Kalinovik. "Free Yugoslavia" also reported small-scale successes against the Italians in Montenegro and the Sandjak; but mentioned no chetnik forces nor denounced their leaders. It also reported small-scale fighting in Serbia and Slovenia, and a revival of partisan raids in western Bosnia. It reported nothing from Slavonia and Srem, which indicates that it does not support the insurgents there.

According to "Free Yugoslavia," the Germans are forming a Serbian Division of S.S. under Ljotić, who is a genuine admirer of nazism. And an order, published on the 5th May, threatened communal authorities who declined to accept