

POLAND.

During the past week the Polish emigration in this country, and indeed Polish political life in general, has suffered a serious loss by the suicide of Mr. Szmul Zygielbojm, who represented the Jewish Socialist Party known as the "Bund" in the Polish National Council. Mr. Zygielbojm was a good Polish patriot who took an active part in the defence of Warsaw in September, 1939. Ever since his arrival in this country and especially since the news of the liquidation of the Warsaw ghetto with its accompanying horrors was received here in the autumn of last year, he has been tireless in his efforts to find a means of putting an end to the German annihilation—persecution is too mild a word—of the Jewish race in Poland. His death, no less than those of several hundred thousand Jews in Poland, must be laid to the account of Nazi Germany.

M. de Romer, the Polish Ambassador to the Soviet Government, has reached Persian territory.

The Polish underground organisation has followed up the execution of Krüger, reported in last week's *Summary*, by procuring the death of a prominent Gestapo officer named Schultz, notorious for his cruelty in the examination of arrested Poles. Schultz had been warned beforehand that the death sentence had been passed on him by the Directorate of Polish Civilian Resistance. There is no doubt whatever that these executions are the work of the Polish underground organisation and that that organisation is in the closest possible touch with General Sikorski's Government in this country. It is to be hoped that the persons responsible for the broadcasts of the Soviet-controlled "Kościuszko" station were unacquainted with the facts when a few days ago they put out the statement that the execution of the two Poles employed in the Warsaw Labour Office reported in last week's *Summary* had been condemned by that very organ of the underground press which had published the news as a warning to all other Poles employed in the administration.

SOVIET UNION.

Soviet air raids on railway junctions and German bases in occupied Russia continued during the past week. They included a heavy attack on Warsaw on the night of the 12th May.

On the 11th May M. Molotov issued a further long note on German atrocities, dealing with "mass forcible deportation into German-Fascist slavery of Soviet citizens, and responsibility for such crimes." The note is based on evidence drawn from many sources: captured German official documents, German press accounts of the extent of deportation, letters from relatives to German troops at the front, statements by surviving inhabitants of reoccupied Soviet territory, and, surprisingly, letters from Soviet citizens actually working in various parts of Germany.

The note is similar in tone to those previously issued on other aspects of German guilt, and the following points alone appear to deserve mention here: (1) the Soviet Government regards it as irrefutably established that the Hitlerite Government "has committed unprecedented crimes in violation of the most elementary rights of nations (possibly a mistranslation for "international law") and against the rights of man"; (2) as in all such documents, Soviet claims to the Baltic States, Western Byelorussia and Western Ukraine are fully emphasised in the lists of localities where specified atrocities were committed; (3) the field of responsibility, and the area over which retribution will fall, are extended in comparison with previous notes. Retribution will overtake not only the "ringleaders of Hitlerite Germany" and such "already convicted criminals" of the second order as Sauckel, Koch, Lose, Kube and Rosenberg ("chief inspirer of the German-Fascist slaveowners"); the Soviet Government also holds fully responsible "those private persons in Germany who are inhumanly exploiting in their enterprises or households the forced labour of peaceful Soviet citizens." Personal lists, the note continues, are being kept of all Hitlerite officials and of private persons in Germany guilty of "the inhuman exploitation and death" of Soviet citizens; (4) the concluding paragraph of the note appears intended to link the Soviet demands for retribution more closely with those which will be put forward by the other United Nations; after pointing out that hundreds of thousands of peaceful citizens of the occupied lands, all of them separately named, are suffering the same fate as the Soviet citizens referred to in the body of the note, it continues: "The Soviet Government expresses its

confidence that all the interested Governments are unanimously of the opinion that the Hitlerite Government and its agents should be made to bear the full responsibility and suffer the severest punishment for their monstrous crimes."

A *Pravda* editorial of the 13th May, under the title of "Curses and Death to the Hitlerite Slave-Owners," described M. Molotov's charges as "a terrible link in the bloody chain of Hitlerite crimes." Germany's evil deeds were "an insolent challenge to all European culture. . . . Such crimes have never been witnessed, even in the Asiatic steppes under Genghis Khan and Baty Khan." Germany had become "a vast slave-market." Demands for revenge and injunctions to hate the Hitlerites have been plentifully repeated in other organs of Soviet propaganda during the past few days.

A German reply to M. Molotov's note (*D.N.B.*, the 12th May) says that "if people from the Ukraine and other liberated Eastern territories are working in Germany, this is only the expression of their active participation in Europe's struggle against bolshevism." The assertion that their reward is cruel treatment "is to be denied with contempt."

During the past week there have been no important developments in regard to Soviet-Polish relations.

The Polish "Kościuszko" Division now being formed in the Soviet Union has been the subject of several further statements in the Soviet press. This force, reports *Krasnaya Zvezda*, though under the operating direction of the Soviet Supreme Command, will not form part of the Red Army. It is described as the foundation of a truly fighting Polish Army. Its officers will be Poles and commands will be in Polish; it will use the Polish anthem, take a vow of loyalty to the Polish people, wear the Polish army uniform of 1939 and follow the Polish national banner of white and red, bearing the well-known Polish eagles. Wanda Wasilewska, in an interview with *Krasnaya Zvezda*, has stated that while some volunteers will be accepted, the division will be composed of Poles who resided in the Western Ukraine and Western Byelorussia. Colonel Berling, commander of the division, is reported to have said that the only volunteers will be Poles who lived in the Soviet Union before 1939.

These statements stir many questions and doubts. The Polish anthem, the vow of loyalty to the Polish people, the white and red banner with Polish eagles, would seem to indicate a force owing allegiance to some recognised Polish authority. But the division, though not formally part of the Red Army, is to be recruited, and not on a voluntary basis, from Poles whom the Soviet Government now counts as its own citizens. According to *Wolna Polska* of the 13th May, the organisation of a Polish force to fight beside the Red Army is one of the activities of the Union of Polish Patriots. Thus it would appear that the union itself is the recognised Polish authority to which the "Kościuszko" Division owes allegiance. Little is known of the status and membership of the union. But if it is a body of Poles who still retain Polish citizenship, its control over a force of Soviet (Polish) citizens would seem to be as anomalous as would be the position of a force of Soviet citizens marching under the Polish national flag and singing the Polish anthem.

A report that the Canadian Ukrainian Committee has handed to Mr. Mackenzie King a memorandum stating that the Ukrainian people want a separate and independent Ukraine has evoked two sharply condemnatory articles in the Soviet press. Writing in *Pravda* of the 13th May, the president of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences, Bogomolets, recalled previous attempts to set up an independent Ukraine, which were merely cover for attempts to enslave the Ukraine and transform it into a German colony. "A similarly degrading rôle of traitors to their people is played by the Ukrainian-German Nationalists in the present war and their agents in Canada."

Professor Bogomolets went on to point out that a small or medium State is not in a position to defend its existence before the attack of a great aggressive Power, and in order to protect itself must enter into close alliance with a neighbouring great, freedom-loving Power and, if circumstances are favourable, must enter into a Union of States with it as an equal member of the union. Professor Bogomolets clearly meant this statement to explain the decision of the Ukraine to join the Soviet Union after the last war; but it has been taken up and widely used in Axis propaganda on the post-war intentions of the U.S.S.R. towards its Western neighbours.

An article by Pavlo Tychina, poet and member of the Ukrainian Academy, entitled: "Take your filthy hands off the Ukraine," refers to "the unsolicited magnanimity of the sly foxes" who wish to set up a separate Ukraine. "The foxes are out to deliver the Ukrainian people into the bloody clutches of the