

communiqué stated that the decision was taken "on reports of the Ministers of War, Navy and Air, and with concurrence of the Inter-allied Command. . . ." The "zone des armées" comprises all French territory situated east of a line running from the Pas de Calais to the mouth of the Rhône. Marseilles lies within it whereas Paris is comprised in the interior zone. The French authorities are also proposing the establishing of a supplementary "combat zone" in South-West France, where a considerable body of German troops is still holding out (see last Summary). They are reported to have been engaged by the F.F.I. ever since the 8th June last. In the meantime, on the proposal of the French Minister for War, the Council of Ministers appointed General de Larminat as Commander of the French Forces engaged on the Atlantic Coast.

The Minister of War has also issued a statement explaining the functions and organisation of the Directorate of the F.F.I. set up by decree of the 19th August. At the same time the *Conseil National de la Résistance* (C.N.R.) and the *Comité d'Action Militaire* (C.O.M.A.C.) issued a proclamation stating that all F.F.I. formations were now under the sole authority of the Minister of War acting through the F.F.I. Directorate. C.O.M.A.C. would now act as an Army Commission which would make suggestions to the Minister on all important questions, particularly those concerning the F.F.I. In addition to the establishment of the F.F.I. Directorate, F.F.I. officers would be appointed to the General Staff and various administrative services of the Ministry of War. "Thus, until a constitution makes possible the normal functioning of democratic institutions and the consequent supervision of the government's actions, the Minister, who is the sole responsible authority, will have at his side an organisation which represents the nation within the framework of the new legality born of the Resistance movement and the national insurrection. Just as the government presided over by General de Gaulle has been set up at the instigation of the C.N.R. and through the revolutionary activity of the Nation, so the *Comité d'Action Militaire* wishes to give the Minister of War and the government the support of all the forces organised and mobilised by the Movements, parties and trade unions united in the C.N.R." In a subsequent press interview M. Diethelm, the Minister of War, stated that 80 per cent. of the F.F.I. had volunteered to serve for the duration of the war. This represented some 250,000 men. Officers and soldiers had only one wish—to fight, but the big question was that of arms and equipment. An interview with General Joinville, head of the new F.F.I. Directorate, was also reported by *Libération*. The General suggested that the unarmed men who could not immediately go to the front might be employed for the time being on reconstruction work as a sort of civil engineer corps, and that others might have their equipment completed and be used in counter-guerrilla warfare. Schools of instruction were being formed to provide F.F.I. officers with regular military training.

Complaints of the slowness of the purge are still made in many Paris papers. Nevertheless reports of arrests, trials and sentences of death or imprisonment continue to come from many parts of France. At its first trial, held on the 23rd October, the special court of justice for the Paris region condemned the journalist and author Georges Suarez to death. A similar sentence has been passed by default on Laval at Marseilles. Two former Vichy Under-Secretaries of State, Gibrat and General Colson, have been arrested as has General Langrogne, manager of the Paris Gas Company and director of the *Chemins de Fer de l'Est*. The press estimates that 2,500 arrests were made in the Nord and Pas de Calais during September and reports that workers in the Carbon Lorraine works at Gennevilliers struck for a fortnight until their demands for the arrest of the general manager, the preferment of charges against other members of the management and the dismissal of senior staff who compromised with the Germans, had been satisfied. In a press conference on the 20th October, M. de Menthon communicated documents establishing the responsibility of Pucheu for the death of 33 hostages at Châteaubriant in 1941. He stated that more than 1,450 cases of communication with the enemy had been submitted to the Court for the Paris region.

By arrangement, the famous French transmission "Les Français parlent aux Français," which under the direction of "Jacques Duchesne" (M. Michel Saint-Denis) has played such a vital rôle in French resistance ever since the summer of 1940, came to an end on the 22nd October. Henceforth the French transmissions of the B.B.C. will be divided into sections, one controlled by the B.B.C., the other by the French Radio services, which wish to avail themselves of the B.B.C. network pending the restoration of a widely-heard French service. (See below under "Spain," "Middle East" and "United States.")

## SPAIN AND PORTUGAL.

The closing by the Spanish authorities of the Irun-Hendaye frontier with France at the end of last week—together with reports of the creation of a security zone along the whole length of the border—is likely to produce the usual crop of alarms and wild rumours. (That may indeed have been the intention.) Several newspapers, quoting an article in *Le Populaire*, the French Socialist paper, of the 21st October, have talked of "20,000 Spanish Republicans and maquisards" fighting in the mountains of Lérida (Eastern Pyrenees) and of "twenty divisions of General Franco's army massed along the frontier" to repel the "Red" invaders. But, in a matter of this kind, it behoves us to be forewarned equally against Falangist hyperbole and journalistic phantasy. In point of fact there has been no news of any fresh forays on the part of the *guerrilleros*, and, altogether, the situation does not appear to have further deteriorated. As for the emergency measures of the Spanish Government, in addition to the reinforced frontier guards, one mobile column from the regular forces is apparently available, and this strength should be ample for dealing with the militant men of the Spanish maquis, who are to be counted in hundreds rather than thousands. *Radio Toulouse* continues to breathe fire and slaughter, but it now seems clear that the group of Spaniards which is in control in that sector, broadcasting in the name of the Communist-sponsored Junta Suprema de Unión Nacional—the turbulent elements in the Pau-Oloron area are shiftless anarchists owing allegiance to no man—is disowned by other Spanish Republican groups. Don Indalecio Prieto is on the prowl in Mexico on behalf of the Committee of National Liberation, and he has apparently delegated powers to Luis Nicolau d'Olwer, a former Cabinet Minister and Governor of the Bank of Spain, to direct activities from Paris against the Franco régime. Señor d'Olwer, a moderate in politics, though something of a Catalan nationalist, has stayed in France all the time since the Civil War. He narrowly escaped the fate of Luis Companys, the ex-President of Catalonia, when, in October 1940, the latter was handed over by the Vichy authorities to Franco justice. There would be a certain piquancy in his representation of the Republicans in France by the side of his fellow-Catalan Señor Mateu, the ex-Mayor of Barcelona, the new Spanish Ambassador-designate in Paris.

The new direct London-Madrid air service was inaugurated on Monday, the 23rd October. The machines at present being used are American twin-engined Dakotas.

A significant change was made last week in Tangier. General Uriarte—who was nominally Delegate of the Spanish High Commissioner in Tetuán—went on leave and has now received orders not to return. His post has been taken over by a civilian, Tomás Suñer, who remains also Consul-General in Tangier and Diplomatic Adviser to the High Commissioner. From the point of view of necessary readjustments after the war this is a move in the right direction.

There had been a certain amount of excitement at the calling of an extraordinary session of the Portuguese National Assembly for Monday, the 23rd October (see Summary No. 262). At the end of the first day, however, it was announced that the business on the agenda had been nothing more than approval of the Government's Bills dealing with industrialisation and, in particular, the development of hydro-electrical enterprise. It should be recorded that Dr. Salazar was eventually persuaded to make a statement on the question of asylum for war criminals. As announced by Mr. Richard Law in reply to a House of Commons question on the 11th October, "the Portuguese Government has informed His Majesty's Government that it will not, by granting asylum in its territory, permit war criminals to escape the decisions of the national or international tribunals competent to try them"; a masterpiece of scholastic subtlety.

## ITALY.

The Italian Press continues to be very busy in attempting to prove that any or every other nation, except Italy herself, is responsible for her troubles. Arguments are also still being devised for the retention of Italy's African colonies although the loss of Abyssinia is, more or less, accepted as inevitable. Some papers argue that Great Britain should not be a party to the dispossession of Italy's colonies because England, according to them, was the "instigator" of Italy's colonial undertakings in the 19th century. The second clause of the

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