

The authorities have attempted several means of encouragement to the severely tested population. Goebbels held a conference in Berlin on the 21st and 22nd June concerned with propaganda problems. Although Goebbels' own speech was almost exclusively on air raids, the full report shows that other topics were discussed. Rather less has been said of late about retaliation, but considerably more about the success of the German anti-aircraft defences in crippling the enemy's bombing strength. *D.N.B.* announced that in the first twenty-six days of June almost 500 enemy aircraft had been shot down, and explained that this was equivalent to the loss of six entire squadrons and 3,000 trained personnel, in less than a month. The cult of hatred is a feature of the press, but other sources do not indicate any marked response to it among the public. Goebbels' most recent broadcast claimed that such a raid as that on Wuppertal was received by both press and public with less alarm and exaggeration than those on Coventry had been. Germans, he said, had to prove every day afresh to the enemy that their morale was equal to the burdens of the war: "in such a situation national discipline is the supreme demand."

The same speech asserted that "the battle of Europe must be fought in Europe itself," which may have sounded unimaginative to those who have already been fighting it in the Ruhr for some weeks past. But his words indicate the increasing apprehension of approaching Allied attack. That the people may not be taken by surprise, invasion is discussed, the alternative lines of attack upon Southern Europe are compared, and the public is warned that, although the war should seem to be "in the doldrums," things are happening and great changes are imminent. The editor of the *Frankfurter Zeitung*, after a tour of the Mediterranean front, has urged that the "Italian gate" into Europe is the most likely to be attacked, and that its defence is the most decisive present task of the Axis Powers. Precise information regarding actual defence preparations is not available, but it seems clear that German forces have been increased, both in the Balkans and in the Italian zone.

The Fortress of Europe is very far from being the united and determined military camp that the Germans have claimed it to be, and in the past week evidence has accumulated of the strain that its defence imposes upon its masters. Rudolf Kircher, during the tour first mentioned, found that in Greece "many people actually wish for an Anglo-American invasion." In Turkey, on the other hand, about which Germans ask many questions, the situation is thought, or at least said, to be satisfactory. A Turkish general, although not the man originally invited, has arrived with his military mission in Berlin, and is expected to visit the Eastern Front. Kircher, however, admits that the real concern of Turkey is to secure the Straits and to keep her territory free from invasion; his article suggested that these practical factors would outweigh any professed friendship for Germany.

At the other end of the Mediterranean the attitude of Spain appears less satisfactory for Germany. It is thought in particular that the Spanish Government should be more active in curbing Allied propaganda and excluding refugees. An unconfirmed report from Stockholm speaks of a chain of observation posts set up by the Germans along the Franco-Spanish frontier in order to stop or reduce the influx of fugitives into Spain. As the Spanish Government is apparently anxious for up-to-date armaments, much will depend on whether Germany is able to implement promises of supply, and to do so at more favourable prices than the Spaniards would get from the Allies. Kircher found that in the Iberian Peninsula the situation was judged "very soberly and correctly"; "the greatest interest of the Portuguese, Spaniards and Turks at the moment is to be spared from the war."

Northern Europe, too, show some signs of being restive. Finnish protests of determination to stay in the war are now so regular as to suggest persistent rumours to the contrary. The Finns are still not members of the Tripartite Pact, and recent reports suggest that liaison between their forces and the German General Staff is far from close. Until recently Finnish relations were reported to be much better with the German Wehrmacht than with the Nazi Party. In the Baltic States, too, where a more repressive policy has been followed than that favoured by some of the German leaders, reports suggest that hopes of securing any significant degree of co-operation from the native inhabitants are dwindling.

At home Speer has continued his publicity campaign by allowing journalists to inspect captured Allied tanks and to compare them with the new German "Tiger." Foreign correspondents have received reports as to the increased firing power now available to the German soldier, and have inclined to interpret these as indicating that Unruh's efforts to find more men for the forces are not calculated

to produce the required superiority of fighting strength needed for forthcoming campaigns. The voluminous articles which appeared in the press on the 22nd June, the second anniversary of the war against Russia, gave no hint of any decisive developments this year. Encouragement was sought in the fact that the campaign was still taking place far outside the frontiers of Germany, and in assurances that war with the Soviet Union could not have been avoided, and that much has been done to weaken Russian resistance.

Within the last few days both the Ministers of Finance and the Minister for Economics in the Reich have given public assurance that fears of inflation are unfounded. In a speech to Inland Revenue officials Schwerin von Krosigk, after making the point that surplus purchasing power is the real problem for all countries waging war, claimed that a planned economy could deal with such a situation by freezing the surplus, but that a liberal economy was powerless to prevent inflation. A decree issued by Speer at the end of March, by which private firms were to acquire equipment hitherto loaned to them by the Reich for war purposes, indicates another attempt to reduce the surplus of which Krosigk spoke. Private reports forecast the withdrawal of some of the paper money now circulating in increased quantities, a point referred to by Funk in a radio speech on the 28th. Funk appealed to Germans to save rather than spend, and spoke of heavier taxes being introduced against various forms of spending.

German agriculture, too, has its problems. A recent report from a northern district describes the combination of labour difficulties, equipment shortage and transport delays which together make "work on the farms more difficult than ever." Apparently a good deal is being done by local self-help associations to help farms whose owners are away on service. *D.N.B.* broadcast on the 28th an appeal to farmers which admitted that despite excellent weather a record harvest must not be hoped for owing to the shortage of labour and tools. The appeal, which urged that "every single bushel counts," said the national food position in the next 12 months depends entirely on the efforts of Germany's rural population. In view of the need for fat, the harvesting of oil crops must be carried out with special care.

The Gauleiter of Hanover recently spoke sharply about irresponsible elements among youth. The reference seemed to be to slovenly appearance, loitering and hooliganism in the blackout, and a later statement from the press office of the same Gau suggested that parents and schools had put pressure on the authorities to act. All parents, said the statement, would be grateful to the Gauleiter for pointing out that the comprehensive care of youth "is an important task in the defence of the Reich." Police round-ups have resulted in gangs of vagabond lads being put to hard work, such as cleaning or digging throughout Sunday mornings, failure to turn up being punished by arrest. This sort of situation may lie behind a rather cryptic decree issued early this month by the Reich Youth Leader and the Minister of the Interior, creating provincial subordinates of the Reich Youth Leader so that "administration on the Gau level be henceforth staffed with qualified Hitler Youth leaders." But the decree admits that owing to war conditions any of the proposed changes will have to be elastic and introduced gradually. Still more recently Himmler, as Chief of Police, has re-issued, in a slightly more stringent form, the order of the 9th March, 1940, for the protection of juveniles. Minors under 18 years old are forbidden to be out after dark, in public-houses after 9 p.m., or to attend cabaret or variety shows. The order, which was due to come into force on the 23rd June, provides for the fining and "detention" of parents neglecting their duties.

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There have been no recent developments of striking significance in either the Protectorate or Slovakia.

The Czech Fascist organisation, "Vlajka," has disbanded and its local branches have been instructed to liquidate and hand over their property to the German Red Cross. This movement, which originated before Munich, has failed to develop as the Germans would have wished and has presumably outlived any usefulness it may have had.

Lengthy lists have recently been published of Czechs whose property has been confiscated. For the most part the names are those of persons already executed for anti-German crimes.

An additional clause has been added to the Danish-Slovak Trade Agreement which provides for a further exchange of goods to the value of 2 million

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