

inquiry. The affair of the arms depôts was followed by the discovery of a subversive organisation inside the prison of Fresnes and the arrest of an Air Force General. A number of former "collaborators" who had taken refuge in religious houses were arrested, and this immediately led to a violent anti-clerical campaign in the Left-Wing press. The greatest sensation was perhaps caused by the discovery that a certain Joanovici, who had been a leading black marketeer, was both a collaborator and a resister and had useful connections within the Paris prefecture of police. The shortcomings thus revealed within the ranks of the police led to the suspension from his functions of M. Luizet, the Paris Prefect of Police, although his patriotic record remains untarnished. The efficiency of the magistrature has also been brought into question by the affair of René Hardy, another resister who was acquitted of a charge of collaboration with the Gestapo only to be re-arrested a few days later when new evidence was brought against him and he confessed. All these scandals have been used for political purposes by the Communists.

The High Court of Justice, meeting on the 25th March, sentenced to five years imprisonment M. Camille Chautemps, a well-known Radical Minister of the Third Republic, who was one of those Ministers who urged the conclusion of an Armistice in 1940. M. Chautemps is at present in the United States. On the 28th March Admiral de Laborde, commander of the French fleet which was scuttled at Toulon in November 1942, was sentenced to death.

The Franco-Italian Agreement, concluded last November, for the immigration into France of 200,000 Italian workers in 1947, was signed in Rome on the 21st March. The Italians are being received on favourable terms; they will be permitted to send home to their families 40 per cent. of their earnings or, if their families go to France with them, they may send 20 per cent. of their earnings to Italy.

(See also under "Germany" and "The Moscow Conference".)

#### SWITZERLAND

On the 24th March the Secretary of the Swiss Chamber of Commerce in Austria spoke to Austrian businessmen about Austrian-Swiss trade difficulties. He told how the trade agreement of August, 1946, was preceded in November, 1945, by barter agreements with Tyrol and Vorarlberg,

which were disguised, rather than superseded, by the clearing agreement of October, 1946. Austrian exports to Switzerland in 1946 amounted to 41,700,000 Swiss francs, which was equal, in monetary value, to the highest pre-war figures. 80 per cent. of these exports were composed of goods manufactured from Swiss materials. Excluding goods delivered by Switzerland though not of Swiss origin, Switzerland exported to Austria goods valued at 19,500,000 Swiss francs. She also delivered relief consignments worth more than 20,000,000 Swiss francs.

Trade between the two countries was hindered by the unfavourable rate of exchange and by the Austrian fuel crisis. In time, Austrian reconstruction and renewed trade in Central Europe would remove conditions which had abnormally increased the mutual dependence of Austria and Switzerland. Switzerland would continue, however, to be dependent on Austrian timber, iron and steel, and would always be a good customer for leather and art goods while she herself could take Germany's place in providing dyes, chemicals and pharmaceutical products. Having introduced many improvements in her export industry during the last eight years, Switzerland is well able to re-equip Austrian industries with high-grade machine tools, textile and timber processing machines.

Three questions of foreign politics hold the main interest of Swiss public opinion. They are Switzerland's joining the United Nations, the future of Germany, and the attitude towards the Soviet Union. Much is said by the Swiss Press and official circles of Switzerland's intention of joining the United Nations, but only if she is allowed to maintain her traditional policy of neutrality.

#### SPAIN

Don Juan's consultations with his advisers (see *Summary* No. 384) have only confirmed the line already recorded here. There can be no question of negotiations with General Franco, except such as should lead to his handing over power to the Prince: and the idea of a Regency Council is ruled out. Discussions on the basis of a Right-Left entente are to continue, it being understood that the moment for action will depend on the Generals holding command in Spain, who alone can "deliver the goods." For that reason there can be no overt dealings with the Llopis Govern-

ment-in-exile as such, inasmuch as it represents the opposite pole of "Republican legality" and includes a Communist Minister.

Stung to action maybe by the moves of his opponents General Franco chose the eighth anniversary of the Nationalists' victory in the civil war for a formal proclamation of the long talked-of project of restoring a monarchy in Spain. At the tail end of one of his characteristic homilies, on the evening of the 31st March, he announced the setting-up of a Regency Council whose function it should be to nominate a royal successor in the event of his death or disability. Meanwhile the headship of the State, by Article I of the Bill for the succession, is formally vested in the Caudillo. The terms of that Article, as announced, are: "Spain as a political unit is a Catholic and social State which in accordance with its traditions becomes a kingdom." Article 3 makes it quite clear that the Spanish Horthy will see to it if he can that his successor is someone of his own choosing: . . . "a person of royal blood, having been proposed by the regency council and the Government together and accepted by two-thirds of the Cortes . . ." [On the face of it this rules out a Franco dynasty!] But "should it be the opinion of the meeting that no person fulfilling these conditions is available, or should its proposal be rejected by the Cortes, a regent may be proposed." The regency council is to consist of: the Cardinal Primate (or, failing him, the most distinguished archbishop), the Chief of the General Staff (or, failing him, the senior of the Chiefs of Staff of the three Services), the President of the Council of State, the President of the Supreme Court of Justice and the President of the Institute of Spain, together with one counsellor nominated by each of the chief vocational groups in the Cortes.

This specious gesture is exactly in line with the cherished notion of resuscitating "the traditional Council of the Realm" which General Franco trotted out in the spring of 1945, following the proclamation by Don Juan in Lausanne (on the 22nd March) indicating that the claimant to the Throne would have no truck with Franco and the régime and would sponsor a liberal, progressive programme of conciliation. Everything that has happened since then has only fortified Don Juan in those intentions. Nor can the Caudillo imagine, one would think, that such a patent fake will in any way mitigate the general condemnation of his régime abroad—and specifically

in the Resolution of the United Nations Assembly of the 12th December last. What he may be playing for is to grapple to himself the wavering allegiance of some of his Army colleagues and other notabilities who may be expected now to take the line of least resistance and stick to their guns—and gains.

For the past three weeks the Spanish press and radio have been orchestrating their hymns of praise for the memory of General Primo de Rivera on the occasion of the anniversary of his death in Paris in March, 1930, six weeks after King Alfonso XIII "dropped the pilot." On the 25th March his body (which was brought to Madrid at the time of his death and accorded a State funeral) was exhumed and laid in state at the Ministry of War. Elaborate arrangements were announced for the translation later in the day of the Dictator's remains to his birth-place, Jerez de la Frontera—where his only surviving son, Miguel, formerly Minister of Agriculture, is now the mayor. All schools and universities were closed in tribute to his memory.

The reason for this unwonted pomp and ceremony is not apparent. Presumably the Government had come to the decision that in present circumstances Spaniards would be disposed to look back with nostalgia to that six and a half years' period of order and (material) progress under Army rule before Republican agitation got under way, and that now was the time to take over, for the greater glory of the Caudillo, the assets of the spiritual heritage of that period, which have hitherto been exploited exclusively by the Falange party through the "legend" of José Antonio, its founder.

There are signs that the personal intrigues of Falange leaders are once more causing the Generalissimo a certain amount of trouble. The name of Manuel Hedilla—the Falange leader who was ousted in 1937 at the time of General Franco's decree for the unification of all parties, by which he became all-powerful—has cropped up again. Since he was released from prison last September he has been lying very low, but now, it appears, some of the Old Guard Falangists are working to stage a come-back for him, as the apostle of the *real* Party doctrines against the time-servers and yes-men. This group, incidentally, is jealous of the alleged success among some sections of the workers of the Minister of Labour, José Antonio Girón. Another group, composed of the old original members of the