

19½ milliard for agriculture. He said that it was planned to increase output by 66 per cent. in industry and by 90 per cent. in mining. A 50 per cent. increase in the yield per hectare was also envisaged. M. Hebrang did not say by what means these increases in "labour productivity" were to be obtained.

Greece

At the meeting of the Chamber on the 22nd April the Premier reviewed the Government's work during the two months' recess. M. Maximos, after warmly thanking Great Britain for past help, referred to the Greek Government's appeal to the United States. The Government realised that the proposed assistance meant a greater obligation on the part of Greece to sustain democratic ideals. To be worthy of American help Greece must suppress the rebels who were trying to establish a totalitarian régime and must also curb all other anti-democratic manifestations. The Greeks could then turn all their efforts to reconstruction, success in which would be the justification for President Truman's policy. The Government regretted the need to impose law by force but would couple continued generosity to those who surrendered with stern measures against the rest. They had turned the corner, thanks to the work of the armed forces, but there were still trials ahead. The Government meanwhile had given all possible aid to the United Nations Commission and awaited their findings with a quiet conscience. During the debate which followed M. Sofoulis deprecated the Government's use of force to end the rebellion and urged a greater extension of the amnesty, while MM. Markenzinis and Turkovasilis thought the Government's measures not drastic enough and urged them to outlaw all leading Communists.

The Greek Army have continued to make satisfactory progress against the rebels. The commander of the Second Army Corps has announced that the whole mountainous region of Thessaly from the line Metsovo-Kalabaka south-wards to Karpenisi, an area of 4,000 square kilometres, is now under State control. He added that, since operations began, more than two-thirds, about 1,200, of the estimated number of bandits in this area had been either killed or captured, or had voluntarily surrendered. (British sources, quoting reports received up to the 23rd April, have not so far confirmed more than about half this number.) It is estimated, however, that, in this heavily wooded country, many bandits are escaping and it may take many

months before the country is completely cleared.

Further north there have been several more reports of bandits escaping over the border into Bulgaria and Yugoslavia: it is confirmed, for instance, that in the course of mopping-up operations in the Mount Belesh area, north-east of Doiran, a band (closely pursued by Greek military forces) crossed into Yugoslav territory whence they opened fire on their pursuers. In the same area a Greek Spitfire shadowing bandits near the border was fired on both by Greek bandits stationed on the highest ridge of Belesh, who fired down on the aircraft flying below them on the Greek side of the mountain, and by other Greek bandits on Yugoslav territory immediately North of Lake Doiran.

In the Peloponnese the situation is again reported to be bad. The main reason given for the recent deterioration in the situation is that the large number of armed "Rightists" has become divided between (a) those owing allegiance to local Populist leaders like Mavromikhalis and Turkoyasilis and (b) followers of Zervas. These factions have on occasion fought among themselves. Meanwhile, on the 23rd April, Communist bands on Mount Parnon who were only temporarily dispersed almost without casualties in Zervas's recent operations, inflicted a severe reverse on a gendarmerie company which is reported to have lost 70 to 80 men.

Discussions have continued on the nature and the terms of reference of the rearguard section of the United Nations Frontier Commission which is to be left in Greece.

Albania

The press and wireless campaign against this country has been kept up unrelentingly by the Albanian authorities. Thus the Tirana Radio's political commentator told his French-speaking listeners on the 21st April that if they were fair-minded they would have to admit that the U.K. Government had deliberately engineered the Corfu Channel incident and its sequel in order to create trouble for Albania, whose "only crime is that she occupies a strategic position in the Mediterranean. The British would like Albania to become their operational base, like Greece." The only trouble for us was that although "the Albanian people have always been anxious to establish friendly relations with the British people," they had "learnt a few lessons from this war" and were now "resolved to go their own way and pursue a foreign policy of complete independence." In view of the fact that Enver Hoxha is at

least as much in Tito's power as Tito himself is in Stalin's, the last sentence of this broadcast appears to stand in some need of qualification.

A new Albanian Minister to the U.S.S.R. called Mihal Prifti left Tirana for Moscow on the 19th April. He does not appear to have held a post of any great importance or responsibility before, and his main task now will certainly be to transmit home faithfully and promptly the orders that he receives from the Kremlin.

Bulgaria

During April the chief subjects discussed by the Grand National Assembly have been foreign policy and the budget. The (Communist) Minister of the Interior dropped perhaps the most interesting remark made in the course of the budget debate when he was unexpectedly asked by an Agrarian deputy if it was true that there were 35,000 secret service agents employed in the State Security Department. "No," answered M. Yugov without turning a hair, "we have only 3,167." (Presumably it depends on whom you include and whom you leave out.) The most interesting speech during the foreign policy debate was that made by M. Petkov, who defined the attitude of the Agrarian Opposition in some detail. On many points in this one field they find themselves in agreement with the Government. The whole Bulgarian people, he tactfully said, stood for the maintenance of cordial relations both with the Soviet Union and with Yugoslavia. At the same time there could surely be no question of Bulgaria's being seriously asked to cede Pirin Macedonia to Yugoslavia: on the contrary, the Bosilegrad and Tsaribrod strips of territory [taken from Bulgaria in 1919 under the Treaty of Neuilly] ought in justice, he thought, to be given back, and he hoped that as a friendly gesture Yugoslavia would formally waive her reparations claims. Good relations with Greece, he felt, were dependent upon the establishment of really democratic governments in both countries [i.e., not only in Greece] and upon the acknowledgment of Bulgaria's claim to Western Thrace. Petkov deplored the Government's "malicious" press campaign against the United States and Great Britain, which, he said, ought to be stopped at once and could only do their own country harm in the long run. By their gratuitous mishandling of the recent currency changes they had alienated these two great Powers still

further, and also in particular France, already upset by the needless restrictions being imposed on French schools. He also took this opportunity to criticise the Bulgarian diplomatic service as "corrupt and incompetent." [The great majority of the old career diplomats were dismissed during last year's purge and replaced by Communist nominees.] The Government had little enough to say to all this in reply.

Reliable reports disclose that the Sovietisation of former German businesses and industrial establishments in Bulgaria is in full swing. The Fokke-Wulf Aircraft Company, the Deutsche Lufthansa, the Société Allemande de Navigation Danubienne, Siemens Schuckert, Bayer-Farma and other undertakings have all been taken over by the Russians, and so has the Deutsche Bank. Moreover, all State-owned factories connected with the armaments industry have Russian specialists and inspectors working in them. It is believed that the Pirin coal-mines have a new and exclusively Soviet-run directorate, while several of the engineers and foremen are certainly Russian. On the other hand, since the last elections in November 1946, the number of immigrant Russian families in Bulgaria is thought to have remained almost stationary at the approximate figure of 65,000 persons. A few hundreds may have arrived at Plovdiv during March. For whatever purpose, the Soviet Legation at Sofia are believed to have changed 800 million leva on or about the 7th March, exclusive of the funds of the Soviet military authorities. It is said, incidentally, that ordinary Bulgarian citizens are becoming increasingly restive and indignant at the shameless way in which the officers in command of the various Occupation Army units allow their men to strip requisitioned premises bare, right and left, removing not merely beds, blankets and upholstery, but even window-frames and doors.

With the exception of the popular banks, all co-operative organizations have by now joined the Communist-dominated central union.

The Government press has denied any intention of nationalising the land.

Turkey

While waiting for President Truman's proposals to take final shape in Washington, the Turks have maintained a robust attitude towards the Soviet Union. The Turkish press has been busy answering the