

and as guardian of the Straits Turkey has agreed to the passage of supplies to Russia. It is satisfactory that the new Turkish Ambassador in Moscow met with a friendly reception. The Turkish press on the occasion of the Soviet anniversary had nothing but compliments for Russia and approval for Marshal Stalin's speech.

The Turkish delegation to the Civil Aviation Conference at Chicago expressed an admirable desire to co-operate with the other nations represented, and there now seems to be some chance that the Turkish Government really means to abandon its absurd policy of secretiveness and exclusion and to afford facilities for civil air routes across Turkey. The first need is a good civil airfield at Angora.

The Turkish Government recognised M. de St. Hardouin last month as representing the Provisional French Government at Angora. The Turkish Ambassador in Paris is to be M. Numan Menemencioglu, the former Foreign Minister. A Turkish Ambassador is also being sent to Rome.

THE MIDDLE EAST.

Expressions of regret and indignation at the murder of Lord Moyne have been received by His Majesty's Government not only from Egypt and the Sudan but from other Middle Eastern countries, including Syria, Lebanon and Iraq. Iraq has been deeply shocked at the news, which incidentally has affected the political outlook by causing attention once more to be focused on Palestine.

The two men arrested, whose names were first given as Cohen and Salzman, have since confessed to the crime. Both came recently to Cairo from Palestine, Cohen preceding Salzman by several weeks. They state that they are members of the Jewish underground organisation called in Hebrew the "Fighters for the Freedom of Israel," but more commonly known as the "Stern Gang." Both appear to have entered Egyptian territory in British military uniform. Under interrogation Salzman gave as the motive of assassination the "bad government" in Palestine, for which Lord Moyne was held responsible.

No agreement has as yet been reached on the distribution of seats in the new Egyptian Parliament, for which elections are to be held in due course. Meanwhile the Egyptian Government has passed a law abolishing exceptional promotions and increases of salary made by the late Government.

Hassanein Pasha, First Chamberlain to King Farouk, was taken seriously ill after attending Lord Moyne's funeral, and will be unable to undertake any duty for some time. It is unfortunate that this pro-British friend and counsellor of the King should disappear from the political arena at the present critical juncture, since it leaves the Palace door open to less beneficent influences. Meanwhile, Lord Killlearn has returned to Cairo from South Africa, where he had been spending a short holiday.

Hassan Nashat Pasha, Egyptian Ambassador in London, having recently married an English wife, has to leave the diplomatic service under an Egyptian law which obliges members of that service to resign if they marry foreigners. He is shortly returning to Egypt, and pending the appointment of his successor, Abdul Fattah Amr Pasha, better known for his brilliance as a squash-racquets player than for his diplomatic qualifications, is to be Minister Plenipotentiary at the Egyptian Embassy.

Rumours are current in Bagdad that the Prime Minister, Hamdi Pachachi, may resign before long owing to continued ill-health. If he does, it may not be easy to find a suitable successor. The Regent does not seem to favour at present the return of Nuri Pasha, and according to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Arshad al Umari, His Royal Highness might select as Prime Minister either Arshad himself or Ibrahim Kemal. Arshad made a good name for himself during his tenure of office as Lord Mayor of Bagdad, and has been one of the most influential members of the present Cabinet. As for Kemal, he is an able man of strong views, but he finds it difficult to co-operate with others. In either case a good deal of manoeuvring behind the scenes would be required before a stable Cabinet could emerge.

The Persian Prime Minister has submitted his resignation. The reason given by him for this step was that, in spite of the support he commanded in the Majlis, he thought his departure from office might help the Russians to resume relations with the Persian Government and to drop their demand for an oil concession. The Shah did not at first wish to accept the resignation, but finally agreed, fearing that otherwise extreme action might be taken by the Russians. M. Saed's successor has not yet been selected.

In conversation with His Majesty's Ambassador the Shah expressed pleasure at learning that, according to the leader on "Persian Oil" in *The Times* of the 3rd November, Russian propaganda was not being accepted in London at its face-value. He did not agree, however, with the suggestion in *The Times* article that there was not "any particular reason why negotiations should have to wait till the end of the war." As the Shah pointed out, it was the presence of Russian troops in Northern Persia that gave Russia an unfair advantage which she had not scrupled to take, and freedom to discuss the question of oil would come with the departure of foreign troops from Persian soil rather than with the end of the war.

Generally speaking, as reported in last week's *Summary*, the strain that arose in Persia over the Russian demand is now a little easier. It cannot, however, be assumed that the crisis is over. M. Kavtaradze is still in Tehran, where he is showing signs of renewed activity; and until we receive an official reply on the matter from the Soviet Government, their attitude to the problem remains in doubt.

The press campaign in Persia continues to be waged on both sides, and while public opinion is still opposed to the granting of a concession to Russia, it would welcome a solution of the problem enabling her to resume relations with the Persian Government. That Soviet influence is not without its effect on certain quarters in Persia is illustrated by the message addressed by the "Central Trade Union Council" to Marshal Stalin on the anniversary of the October revolution. "In the name of all peasants and workers of Persia," runs the message, "the Council send their ardent greetings and the sincere regards of the oppressed people of Persia for the gallant Red Army and heroic peoples of the U.S.S.R. who have saved the Persian nation from the claws of the blood-thirsty Fascist brigands. Long live the U.S.S.R.—the true stronghold of world democracy!" (See also under "Soviet Union.")

THE FAR EAST.

The speech made by Marshal Stalin on the 27th anniversary of the October Revolution, in which he referred to Japan as an aggressor nation (see last week's *Summary* under "Soviet Union"), was, according to a Tokyo broadcast, reproduced in full without comment in all Tokyo newspapers of the 9th November. The broadcast stated that "while no press reaction or official comments are available as yet, the considerable prominence which Stalin's speech shared with other war news in the morning papers is taken as indicative of the keen interest with which his speech was received here." On the following day Iguchi, the Board of Information spokesman, made a statement in which he said that "it is generally admitted by those well acquainted with the circumstances of the Japanese-American negotiations preceding the present war that Japan was not an aggressor." Despite the American press interpretation of the passage as "the Soviet response to the American demand for positive Soviet co-operation in the war against Japan," Iguchi saw no indication in the speech of any change in the policy of the Soviet Union towards Japan. "Keen rational observers," he said, "who can penetrate the fog of complicated international relations, will find out what the Soviet leader had in mind."

In rebuttal of the charge that Japan was an aggressor Iguchi triumphantly quoted Mr. Lyttelton's speech of the 20th June (see *Summary* No. 247), and maintained that the imposition of economic embargoes on Japan by Britain and the United States in 1941 had been "an act tantamount to war." He added that Japan had given sovereign independence to Burma and the Philippines, which had been under British and American rule respectively before the war, and that British and American forces were now invading these countries to take away the independence which they had acquired.

It is an interesting fact that the Japanese publicity authorities should have made no attempt to conceal Marshal Stalin's accusation from the Japanese public and that the only official reassurance on the subject has been a guarded hint of an ulterior motive in the speech. It is probable that the Japanese Government is, in fact, kept guessing as to Soviet intentions, and thinks it just as well to give publicity to Marshal Stalin's remarks, so as to prepare the public for any further hostile developments which may be impending. On the other hand, they are well aware that hard words break no bones, and are able to see what has been pointed out by several columnists in the American press, that

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