

The event was hailed in similar fashion in the Protectorate. There, on the 29th October, Moravec broke an unwontedly long silence with a speech reviewing the achievements of the Krejčí Government during the past three years. It was the familiar story: they had buried the old antagonism between the Czechs and Germans; poverty and hunger were nowhere to be seen; Bohemia and Moravia were enjoying blessed tranquillity in a war-torn Europe; and, finally, the collapse of the Slovak rising meant that for a second time, and now finally, the idea of a Czechoslovak Republic had been buried.

## POLAND.

There is as yet no news of any decision having been taken by the Polish Government on the problems raised in the Moscow conversations, which were discussed in *Summary* No. 264. M. Mikolajczyk has laid them before his Cabinet, the Polish National Council in London, and the official Underground movement in Poland.

On the 26th October he had a talk with Mr. Churchill, who gave the House of Commons an account of the Moscow discussions the same afternoon. In that speech Mr. Churchill said he hoped M. Mikolajczyk would "soon return to Moscow," and that "a good arrangement" would "be made which will enable him to form a Polish Government on Polish soil—a Government recognised by all the great Powers concerned." It was, he said, His Majesty's Government's aim that the Polish people should "find in Europe an abiding home and resting-place, which, though it may not entirely coincide or correspond with the pre-war frontier of Poland, will, nevertheless, be adequate for the needs of the Polish nation and not inferior in character and quality, taking the picture as a whole, to what they had previously possessed." Mr. Churchill hinted at the necessity for wasting no time in "indecision or in protracted negotiation," and observed that "if the Polish Government had taken the advice we tendered them at the beginning of this year, the additional complications produced by the formation of the Polish National Committee of Liberation at Lublin would not have arisen."

In the meantime, there is an absence of comment on these problems from Moscow, and broadcasts by the National Liberation Committee's station, except that the latter continues to abuse the reactionary *émigré* Polish Government in London (without naming M. Mikolajczyk) and urges the need for a definite and speedy solution. The Liberation Committee is proceeding more rapidly, according to a Moscow broadcast, with the allocation of land in liberated Poland to the peasants; and is appealing for aid, and especially for food, for the population. It claims that U.N.R.R.A. aid is being delayed owing to action by the Polish Government in London, but for this accusation there seems to be no justification. It is stated that oil is already being produced from the oil-wells in the liberated parts of Galicia west of the southern extension ("Line A") of the Curzon Line.

## SOVIET UNION.

Red Army troops captured Kirkenes on the 25th October and have reached Neiden, 12 miles inside the Norwegian frontier. In face of bitter German resistance little progress has been made in East Prussia during the past week, and there has been no great change immediately to the south, except that Jablonna, on the Vistula 8 miles N.N.W. of the Warsaw suburb of Praga, was wrested from the Germans on the 28th October. On Czechoslovak territory Mukocevo was liberated on the 26th and Uzhorod on the 27th October, whilst in Yugoslavia to the north-west of Belgrade the towns of Novi Sad and Apatin on the left bank of the Danube were freed on the 27th and 28th respectively.

On the 24th October, at Tehran, M. Kavtaradze held a press conference in the Soviet Embassy (see below under "Middle East") at which he discussed the recent talks with the Persian Government on the subject of the Soviet demand for oil concessions, but the open attack which he there made on the Persian Prime Minister had had its forerunner in a leading article in the Moscow newspaper *Trud* on the 22nd of the month. This article quoted certain Persian papers to show that M. Saed's policy had led to internal disorders, especially in Kurdistan, and had been disastrous for Persia. *Trud* seems, too, to have gone so far as to make the entirely unwarranted statement that the Prime Minister's duplicity was also shown by the intensification of the subversive work of pro-Fascist elements in Persia and by open tolerance on the part of the Government of continued efforts of evilly-intentioned elements to disrupt communications, and thereby prevent the flow of Allied supplies destined for use in the struggle against

Germany. The Soviet newspaper, after making the further charge that peaceful elements attempting to carry out the obligations imposed by the 1942 Treaty were being persecuted, asserted ominously that the future of Persia depended on close relations with the Soviet Union and on the faithful execution of the treaty.

On the 29th October Moscow Radio broadcast a *Tass* statement denying that the Soviet Union intended to participate in the international conference on civil aviation which opens on the 1st November in Chicago. The reason given was "the fact, which has become known in recent days, that Switzerland, Portugal and Spain, with which the Soviet Union does not maintain diplomatic relations and which have pursued for many years a pro-Fascist policy hostile towards the Soviet Union, have also been invited to the conference." In a recent correspondence in *The War and the Working Class* some contributors have urged that the time was ripe for strong Soviet steps to put an end to the anomaly of non-recognition of the U.S.S.R. by the three countries in question. It is thus possible that (among other reasons for its refusal to attend the conference) the Soviet Government hopes that the Western Allies will bring pressure to bear on these Powers to establish normal relations, and at the same time wishes to give notice that the U.S.S.R. will not tolerate them as members of the world security organisation, at any rate until relations have been established. This view is not contradicted by the fact that when the Soviet Government accepted an invitation to attend the conference on civil aviation, about a month ago, it knew what Powers were to be invited.

The signing of an armistice with Bulgaria (for the terms see under "Bulgaria") was discussed in a long article in *Pravda* of the 30th October, which was mainly recapitulatory, and embodied no points of special interest. It expressed in conclusion the gratification of the Soviet people that the Bulgarians had at last made an end of the criminal fratricidal policy, in relation to the other Slavs and in particular to their liberators the Russians, which had been pursued for the past thirty years by the pro-German rulers of Bulgaria.

On the 26th October the Information Bureau of the People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs stated that on the preceding day M. M. A. Kostylev, Soviet representative in Italy, had informed the Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs of the decision of the Soviet Government to establish full diplomatic relations with Italy. The *agrément* of the Italian Government has been requested to the appointment of M. Kostylev as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the U.S.S.R. in Italy. (For the previous history of Soviet relations with Italy and the appointment of M. Kostylev, see *Summaries* Nos. 232-3 and 237.)

Estonia is the first of the Baltic Republics to appoint a Commissar of Foreign Affairs. It was reported from Tallinn on the 31st October that Hans Kruus had been chosen for the post. M. Kruus, a scientist and a deputy director of Tartu University, was Deputy Prime Minister in the Cabinet formed in Estonia in June 1940 after the conclusion of the Agreements between the Soviet Union and the Baltic States, but before the incorporation of the latter in the U.S.S.R. He held no post in the August Cabinet set up after the incorporation, but became rector of Tartu University, and was evacuated to Russia after the German invasion of Estonia.

Roumania has come in for criticism of her delay in fulfilling the armistice terms, parallel to that meted out a week earlier to Finland (see *Summary* No. 264 under "Finland"). A *Tass* message from Bucharest of the 25th October alleged that several Roumanian institutions and organisations were trying to sabotage the carrying out of the armistice terms in regard to the return of Soviet equipment, of which a great deal had been discovered by the control commission, in particular steam boilers, machine tools and no less than 3,000 tractors. Further, the Roumanian Government was charged with delay in putting into effect the promised purge of the administration. In the country at large, 500 members of the Iron Guard had been arrested, but a large number of them, including many leaders, were said to be still at liberty.

By a decision of the Council of People's Commissars of the U.S.S.R. dated the 4th October this year, Colonel-General Golikov has been appointed Delegate of the Council of People's Commissars of the U.S.S.R. for the repatriation of citizens of the U.S.S.R., who have been in captivity or forcibly driven away to Germany or German-occupied countries. Colonel-General Smorodinov and Lieutenant-General Golubev have been appointed Deputies and Major-General Dragun and Major-General Smirnov assistants of the Delegate for Repatriation. The Delegate for Repatriation is charged with directing the repatriation of citizens of the U.S.S.R. from Germany and from German-occupied countries as they are liberated by the Red Army and Allied troops, and with organising the sending home of liberated Soviet citizens.