

The claim raised, in an interview, by the Greek Minister of Information to that bone of contention, Southern Albania, or, as the Greeks call it, Northern Epirus, had unfortunate repercussions in Albania and, although the minister appears to have spoken without the authority of the Greek Cabinet, the fact that the speech was broadcast from Cairo lent some colour to the general Albanian belief that the claim had British backing. Enver Hoxha, the F.N.C. leader, declared to Allied representatives that on the 29th September a mixed force of Germans and Colonel Zervas's men had attacked the F.N.C. at Konispol, which is just on the Albanian side of the frontier, and that he had ordered the F.N.C. to pursue this force into Greece. We have warned him not to provoke the Greeks. EAM delegates are now reported to have reached his headquarters.

Bulgaria.

The armistice has still not been signed, and the Bulgarian army has still not evacuated Greek and Yugoslav territory. There is much to be said for the Turkish view that the Bulgarians hope to escape with their ill-gotten gains, firstly by posing as co-belligerents in the fight against the Germans in Yugoslavia, and secondly by subscribing to a Balkan federation, inclusive of Macedonia, under the auspices of Marshal Tito. But these sneaking hopes must have been dashed by a letter from the Communist leader, Gheorghii Dimitrov, to the Bulgarian Communists which, as it was sent from Moscow, must be taken as having the authority of the Kremlin behind it. Dimitrov writes that, as co-operation between the three Great Powers both now and after the war is essential to Bulgaria, all intrigues directed against that co-operation must be suppressed. Recent Bulgarian misfortunes, he continues, have been due to Bulgarian chauvinism, to the project of Greater Bulgaria and to the policy of Balkan hegemony. Such ideas must be abolished and a great task of re-education undertaken.

Professor Tsankov's five-man Government in exile, whose sole function is to use the German wireless in the forlorn hope of stimulating resistance to the Allies in Bulgaria, continues to put out stories of the bolshevisation of Bulgaria and of the horrors accompanying the process. But in actual fact the new Government appears to have been taking genuine and successful steps to check hotheads who regarded the arrival of the Red Army as a signal to introduce Communism by violent methods. In the above-mentioned letter Gheorghii Dimitrov tells the Communists, as the chief element in the Fatherland Front, to co-operate in a brotherly way with the other elements and to give them their due, and in its published reply the Communist Party promises to do so. The correspondent of *Svenska Dagbladet* reports that Bulgaria has not turned Communist and he considers she is unlikely to do so in the near future. Yugov, the Communist Minister of the Interior, gave him positive assurances in this sense.

On the 2nd October a new law established People's Courts for trying politicians, officials and others who promoted the pro-German policy against the interests of the nation. In a broadcast on the subject the Prime Minister said that henceforth people taking the law into their own hands would themselves be mercilessly punished, and he appealed for discipline and order. A few days later the head of the People's Militia forbade militiamen to carry out any more arrests of Fascists or searches in their houses except in the manner authorised by the new law.

Turkey.

Sir Maurice Peterson took up his duties at Angora on the 4th October. Writing in the semi-official *Ulus* on the same day M. Atay gave it as the view of the Government that the chief guarantee of peace in the Balkans and throughout the world lay in co-operation between Russia and the great democracies. A few days earlier the Turkish Prime Minister had told the British Chargé d'Affaires that Turkey wanted no differences between Russia and Great Britain. The wish thus repeatedly expressed for an Anglo-Russian understanding is no doubt sincere enough, for with the Red Army on her Thracian frontier and with stories circulating of an impending Slav union from the Black Sea to the Adriatic and Salonica, the Turkish Government naturally pins its hopes on British influence with Russia. The rulers of Turkey incline to think that the former Foreign Minister, M. Numan Menemencöglü, was wrong in gambling on Anglo-Russian differences and, feeling that they have already missed one opportunity, they would probably be only too glad to adapt to the present situation an alliance they originally made with us in order to meet the threat of

the Axis. It is understandable, therefore, that M. Muvaffak Menemencöglü, the brother of the ex-Foreign Minister, should have been asked to resign from the direction of the *Anatolia Agency* after he had allowed it to give prominence to reports from Sofia of disunity between Anglo-Saxons and Russians.

The Turkish press and wireless have given a becoming welcome to the British landings on the Greek mainland and islands in the Aegean and to the re-establishment there of the authority of the exiled Government. A Greek deputation arrived from Chios at Izmir to buy supplies, and Greek ships left Izmir laden with food-stuffs. The Turkish Red Crescent at Edirne (Adrianople) is also reported to have given sugar to the Greeks in Thrace.

Turkish steamers have resumed twice-weekly sailings between Istanbul and Izmir, and regular sailings between Izmir and Iskenderun (Alexandretta) via Mersin are expected to start again this month. The quantity of goods exported and imported by rail over the Bulgarian frontier is now negligible.

THE MIDDLE EAST.

The past week in Egypt has been marked by two events of importance: the fall of the Nahas Cabinet, and the conclusion of the Arab Conference. Increasing tension had persisted between King Farouk and the Egyptian Government since the 15th September, the date of the Ghazzali incident (see *Summaries* Nos. 259, 260 and 261), and was abruptly ended by the dismissal of Nahas by the King on the 8th October. The Arab Conference terminated on the 7th October, and the King, who was anxious not to interfere with its proceedings, delayed taking action until it was over. It appears that Nahas had actually summoned a meeting of the Cabinet for the evening of the 8th October, when he intended to submit his resignation to the King as a protest against our "intervention" over the suspension of Ghazzali. The Palace, however, anticipated this step by a few hours, and Nahas was dismissed by the King that afternoon.

In point of fact, we did not intervene officially in the Ghazzali affair; but His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires gave his personal advice to both parties in an attempt to bring them together, while he informed Nahas that his case was too weak for us to support him if he persisted in his refusal to compromise. It soon became clear that, unless Nahas gave way, the King would dismiss him. The suspension of Ghazzali was only the last of a series of incidents leading to difficulties between the Palace and the Government, and it is pretty certain that, even if this affair had been smoothed over, some other cause of dispute would have occurred before long. The Royal Rescript announcing Nahas's dismissal is couched in terms of almost brutal frankness, and shows the acute stage which relations between them had reached.

The new Prime Minister, Ahmad Maher Pasha, was formerly a strong adherent of Nahas and the Wafd, but broke away in 1937 to form his own party, the "Saadist," named after Saad Zaghloul. He had an unsavoury reputation at the time of the murder campaign in Egypt in the early 1920's. In May, 1925, he was actually tried for complicity in the murders, but was acquitted by a majority verdict of two Egyptian judges, which led to the resignation of Judge Kershaw, the British President of the Court. He has been several times President of the Chamber of Deputies, and since the conclusion of the Anglo-Egyptian Treaty has shown statesmanship and capacity as a parliamentarian. At the beginning of the war he was a strong advocate of Egypt's participation.

In a statement to the press the new Prime Minister delivered a violent attack on the dictatorial methods of Nahas Pasha, and said that the new Government's aim was true democracy. He advocated "close collaboration with Egypt's great Ally who is shedding her blood at the same time as the other democratic nations for the defence of right and liberty." On the other hand, *Reuter* reports that one of the first acts of the new Prime Minister has been to release from confinement his brother, Ali Maher, who has long been interned for his anti-Allied intrigues, as well as Makram Ebeid and other political internees. By the 9th October, Ahmad Maher had formed his new Cabinet, which is a coalition of the Opposition parties. The Prime Minister himself becomes Minister of the Interior, while the notorious Mahmoud Nokrashi is Minister for Foreign Affairs, and Makram Ebeid once more takes over the Ministry of Finance.

The "Preparatory Committee" of the Arab Conference, which ended last week, has published a summary of its resolutions. These include the creation of a League of Arab States, with a Council on which all the States will be

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