

shall be brought up to its normal complement in men and material." It is remarkable how the Red Army has succeeded in the past few years in recovering gradually so many of the peculiarities and privileges associated with non-revolutionary armies; ranks, such as colonel and general and marshal, special uniforms for officers with gold piping and gilt buttons, gold badges of rank for general officers, and now at last a Guards unit!

The Finnish reply to the United States note was not well received in Moscow, and, when M. Lozovski at a press conference was asked to comment, he said that the reply contained so much distortion of fact and so many lies that the imprint of German fascism was clearly discernible in it. He emphasised that by going through the files of the *Pravda* it was quite easy to see how fantastic was the statement that that paper on the 23rd June, or for that matter at any time, had said that all Finns ought to be exterminated. He finished with words which may be ominous for the future: "The Finnish Government has demonstrated once again that Finland has ceased to exist as an independent State and its note does not merit any attention."

Soviet relations with Turkey, which at the best of times are clouded by mutual suspicions, will not be improved by a series of incidents ascribed by the Turkish Government to Soviet nationals. Reference was made in No. 110 of the *Summary* to the attack by a submarine alleged to belong to the Red Fleet on a Turkish motor boat. His Majesty's Ambassador in Angora was told on the 14th November by M. Sarajoglu that confirmation had been received that the submarine was, in fact, Soviet, and the only doubt remaining was as to whether the incident occurred in Turkish territorial waters or not. If it did, a serious view would be taken of it. Unfortunately, about the same period there have been other infringements of Turkish sovereignty, apparently committed by Soviet intelligence agents in Eastern Turkey. A man was allegedly landed from a motor launch, armed with a Soviet revolver and electric torch and under orders to proceed to a particular destination, and after a few days to return to the shore and be taken off again. He was arrested and gave away the signals to be made to the launch, as a result of which there was a shooting affray with the launch when it came back to the Turkish coast. Another Soviet citizen has been arrested who is alleged to have been leader of a small mounted party which entered Turkish territory for espionage, probably across the frontier from Azerbaijan. He is alleged to have had a wireless apparatus and a cypher in his holsters, and previously to have been through a six months' course in espionage. The Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs remarked that hitherto his Government had not strengthened their forces on the frontier, but that, in view of such proceedings, they would probably feel bound to do so now. There can in present circumstances, of course, be no question of aggressive intentions on the part of the U.S.S.R. against Turkey, and it seems more than probable that the latter two incidents were the work of the local military intelligence organisation seeking to establish whether there were German military activities in progress on Turkish soil. It is unfortunate, however, that causes of friction such as these should arise just now, since it is believed that Soviet representatives have been rather going out of their way to improve relations, and on their side the Turkish authorities, according to M. Sarajoglu, have been doing what they could to suppress subversive activities organised by the Germans on Turkish soil and directed at the small nations of the Caucasus region.

SCANDINAVIA.

The Finnish reply to the United States was published on the 12th November, and took the anticipated line of a refusal to discontinue hostilities, on grounds of national security. It had a remarkably sympathetic reception in the Swedish press, amounting, indeed, to a general chorus of approval. A point particularly stressed is the absence of any guarantees of Finnish security, and it seems possible that a convincing reassurance on this point, even if it were restricted to the duration of the war, might induce the Finnish Government to modify its decision and withdraw in fact, if not in form, from active participation in the war. Apart from a very small minority, the people of Finland are actuated by no other motive than mistrust and fear of Russia. Though a small body of Finnish volunteers is said to be serving with the Waffen S.S. on the Moscow front, the general feeling

towards the German forces is one of dislike: a recent example of this is a letter from a Finnish soldier, published in *Suomen Sosialidemokraatti*, protesting against the use of the Nazi salute in greeting German officers. This feeling of dislike extends from the ranks to the higher command, who are reported to be anxious to get rid of these alien forces as soon as possible. A Finnish pastor, interviewed by a Swedish paper, states that the people are obviously tired of fighting, while he draws a gloomy picture of the food situation, which appears already to be affecting the poorer sections of the town population with something like actual famine. In Helsinki on the 13th November, M. Tanner, the Minister for Commerce, held out prospects of the demobilisation of a large part of the Finnish forces as soon as considerations of security had been satisfied, and other official hints to the same effect leave little doubt that this genuinely represents the policy of the Government. As to the point at which security is attained, however, there is obvious room for a wide difference of opinion.

In Sweden, the presence of the German troops in Finland gives rise to a certain amount of anxiety, particularly in view of reports of the construction of aerodromes near the Swedo-Finnish frontier. It is also believed that German experts have recently been paying a rather sinister attention to Swedish conditions, in a military school at Königsberg, previously devoted to preparations for the Russian campaign. The danger is not, however, believed to be imminent, but it provides an additional reason for the desire of Swedes to maintain the bonds of sympathy uniting their country and Finland, in the hope that both countries might eventually unite to resist a German invasion.

The present indications are that the Swedish Government is really more hopeful of postponing than of permanently averting a conflict with Germany, in spite of its declared determination to preserve a neutral attitude as long as possible; its policy is to fight a delaying action, in which German demands are met with as much resistance as can be indulged in without risk of precipitating the catastrophe. This policy, however, inevitably exposes it to criticism from all the parties to the struggle.

The only fresh development in regard to the ships detained at Göteborg has been a refusal by the judge of the Göteborg court to allow additional safeguards against their removal. The Swedish radio announced on the 12th November that the Norwegian shipowners had asked for the immobilisation of the vessels by the removal of parts of the machinery, but this precaution was rejected as unnecessary.

The firm rejection of the latest German demand for transit facilities through Sweden is said to have stimulated anti-Swedish propaganda in the German army. The criticism of Swedish neutrality in the German press has also been somewhat accentuated recently.

Anti-Swedish propaganda is also a feature of the controlled press in Norway, and Quisling himself included some uncomplimentary references to Sweden and its press in a speech delivered in Trondheim on the 16th November. To his Norwegian opponents Quisling adopted a threatening tone; the choice before them, he said, was co-operation or destruction. It seems to be true that further severities are contemplated: a number of fresh death sentences have been pronounced, though their execution seems so far to have been held in suspense. On the 16th November such a sentence was passed for an attempt to escape to England, and, in announcing the fact, the Norwegian radio disclosed that the six men recently executed had been guilty of a similar offence. The controlled press has also reminded the public that retention of wireless sets may, in serious cases, expose the offender to the same Draconian treatment. It is evident, however, that there are still large numbers of Norwegians who are prepared to run the risk; the frequent announcement of the discovery of single unsundered sets suggests that most cases are published; it is evidence rather than the practice of listening to London is still widespread than that the task of coping with it is nearing completion. The loyalist front is still firm, in spite of all dangers, and the severity of the control merely testifies to the strength and tenacity of the national resistance.

LOW COUNTRIES.

A speech of Seyss-Inquart at Cologne on the 13th November, summarised in Dutch from the Hilversum station next day, provides an interesting corrective to the recent claims of Mussert and his propaganda service that he had secured