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EUROPE.**GERMANY.**

WHILE journalists have gathered in the Wilhelmstrasse to hear Dr. Schmidt comment on the dissolution of the Comintern, the German Government and people have been facing very different realities—intense air raids and hardly less intense preparation and reorganisation to meet the expected attack. The nation has by now become invasion-conscious; the "war of nerves" dominates the Press and the relative absence of actual fighting increases the tension. Official assurances about the impregnable defences of Europe seem to have evoked public criticism; it is now admitted that those of the southern front are in great part mobile, and should not be compared with the constructions on the Atlantic coast: "Europe has no South Wall." Talk of the European "fortress," implying that all Germany has to do is to defend it, is also felt to have gone too far. A leading article in the *Deutsche Allgemeine Zeitung* is emphatic that "the military area of Europe is being neither besieged nor assaulted; on the contrary, it is a centre of strength which is better qualified for offensive thrusts than the enemy is."

Yet at the moment the talk is all of defence. German troops are reported in Sardinia, German aircraft in Sicily. (The possibility of "another Salonika" is discussed.) Attention is directed to the Western Mediterranean, "where Italy is the sensitive point," and the intentions of Turkey are much debated: reasons are given why Turkey is not likely to enter the war against Germany. Official German comment directed to allaying the general mood of tension mostly stresses the difficulty of supplying an invading force over sea routes. This, it is said, was the lesson of Africa, and Germans are reminded that U-boats are watching the enemies' lines of supply. It is pointed out further that troops possessing land communications can be quickly concentrated in force upon any threatened point.

Uncertainty regarding the next move on the Russian Front is also great. The renewed heavy fighting in the Kuban is claimed to have ended in "crushing defeat" for the Russians. "Tense calm" was the keynote of General Dittmar's

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