

moderate members of the Government are probably prepared to deal with these, but General Farrell is said to be a daily reader of the latter.

Some support for Argentine neutrality was given by the Pope (see last week's *Summary*, under "Vatican"), whose message to the Eucharistic Congress in Buenos Aires, after referring to his visit to the 1934 Congress, expressed satisfaction that the city was once again celebrating the Christian faith, while elsewhere the sky was darkened by the horrors of war; the Pope invited the Argentine people to withdraw their eyes from these horrors and from worldly discord, "created by egoism and a desire for power and worldly gain," and thanked Argentina for her noble succour to the people of Rome, threatened by death through starvation.

Meanwhile Mr. Stettinius, in his Press Conference of the 18th October, was asked to comment on reports that Mr. Hull was discouraging the holding of a Pan-American Conference to discuss the Argentine and other Pan-American problems: he replied that no formal proposal has been made for the calling of a conference of Foreign Ministers, though informal exchanges of views and full consultation between the American Republics through diplomatic channels was continuing, and would continue, on questions affecting the hemisphere.

Revolutionary movements are reported from no less than three of the Central American Republics. In Guatemala the state of tension referred to in last week's *Summary* has come to a head and fighting was reported in the streets of the capital on the 20th October. The transference of General Ubico's power to the Legislative Assembly last July was in itself remarkable, considering that the general might have counted on the loyalty of the army and the police. By Guatemalan standards, he was not well and truly beaten; he handed over power to a group of his colleagues, and he himself did not even leave the country. The opposition had not therefore attained its objectives. General Ubico's successor, General Ponce, was chosen Acting-President at a packed meeting of the Assembly, and he fixed presidential elections for the 17th-19th December. The present revolution is reported to have begun as a revolt of the presidential guard. Weapons appear to have been distributed to the populace and there has been bloodshed; the situation has been further confused by the arrival on the scene of bands of half-armed Indians. The Government of General Ponce was overthrown because, it was said, "he refused to yield up the acting-presidency." General Ubico, whose life was in danger during the revolution, was given refuge in the British Legation, and General Ponce is reported to have left the country.

In El Salvador a disturbance on the night of the 20th, accompanied by shooting in the streets, led to the resignation or deposition of the Provisional President of the Republic, General Menéndez, who, together with a number of prominent Liberals, is reported to be under arrest. The National Assembly, meeting in a military barracks, nominated Colonel Osmín Aguirre Salinas, hitherto Chief of Police, to succeed him. A new Cabinet has been formed and Colonel Aguirre has issued a proclamation in which he promised to guarantee political freedom, especially the vote, and individual liberties, provided these "do not exceed the limits prescribed by law."

Broadcast reports from Mexico refer to unrest in Honduras, alleging that forces of exiles have invaded the country from the neighbouring republics. The Honduran Government is said to have declared that the revolutionaries, who had occupied the town of San Marcos (near the Salvadorean border), were put to flight by military aircraft.

The attempted invasion of Nicaragua by exiles who had taken refuge in Costa Rica (see last week's *Summary*) seems to have failed without causing great concern to President Somoza in Nicaragua.