

FRANCE.

The question of the form of recognition to be accorded to the French Committee for National Liberation, which has been under discussion between His Majesty's Government and the Government of the United States since before the committee's inception on the 3rd June, has not yet been decided. On the 8th June MM. Hoppenot and Baudet, on behalf of the committee, formally informed the Secretary of State in Washington of the formation of the French Committee for National Liberation and the transfer to it of all functions heretofore carried on by the elements composing it. The communication they left with Mr. Hull also expressed the committee's confidence that it would be recognised by the United States Government as "the organ qualified to lead the French effort in the war and in inter-Allied co-operation and to protect and defend all French interests." Mr. Hull, in his reply, intended as an interim statement, contented himself with welcoming the spirit in which the committee had been formed. A similar communication was made to the Foreign Secretary on the 10th June by M. Viénot.

Also on the 8th June Mr. Churchill declared in the House of Commons that "the formation of this committee, with its collective responsibility, supersedes the situation created by the correspondence between General de Gaulle and myself in 1940. Our dealings, financial and otherwise, will henceforward be with the committee as a whole." The "further and larger question" of "the degree of recognition of this committee as representative of France" required consideration from the British and United States Governments; "but if things go well I should hope that a solution satisfactory to all parties may shortly be reached."

On the same day the French Committee issued in Algiers the text of the ordinance by which it was set up on the 3rd June. Though in its preamble it stated that, as the territory of France was occupied, "the exercise of the sovereignty of the French people, the foundation of any legal power, is suspended," it declared that the committee would conclude treaties and agreements with foreign Powers. The two Presidents jointly accredited representatives abroad, and it was to them that foreign representatives would be accredited. The fourth article said that the committee would exercise its powers until liberation had proceeded far enough to allow of the formation, according to the laws of the republic, of a provisional Government, that date being at latest that of "the liberation of the whole territory."

His Majesty's Government have been reluctant to commit themselves about recognition before the Algiers Committee gave proof of its stability and have not yet replied to M. Viénot's communication. The question is now under consideration. His Majesty's Government have throughout kept in close touch with the United States Government, and it is to be expected that any further action will be taken by agreement between the two Governments and, it is hoped, that of the U.S.S.R. The Netherlands, Belgian, Luxemburg, Czechoslovak and Yugoslav Governments and certain Latin American Governments have already recognised the committee.

M. Massigli's arrival in London on the 5th July should provide an opportunity for clearing up any last-minute difficulties regarding recognition, the British attitude towards which has recently been influenced by French policy in the Levant in connexion with a recent incident and a speech of the 20th May by Admiral Auboyneau (see under "Middle East" and also this *Summary*, Nos. 190 and 195).

In the meantime, the matter of recognition was not broached by the Prime Minister when, in reply to two questions in the House of Commons regarding the position of the French Committee and its relations to General Eisenhower, he defended the intervention of the 19th June, which had been made on military grounds and "implied no decision to invest General Eisenhower with full control over the political organisation in North Africa." Mr. Churchill recalled his statement of the 8th June and declared that the committee was working on the basis of collective responsibility.

Though General Giraud favoured the appointment of a Military Governor-General to succeed M. Boisson, with a civilian as second in command, he later withdrew his point, and the French Committee of National Liberation finally nominated unanimously M. Cournarie to the vacant post on the 1st July. M. Cournarie, who was born in 1895, entered the colonial service in 1920 after distinguished military service throughout the last war. He has spent his entire colonial career in the French Cameroons, where he held the post of Chief

Administrator when he joined "Free France" on the 28th August, 1940—the occasion when the mandated Cameroon territory, and the French Equatorial Colonies rallied to General de Gaulle. That November he was appointed Governor of the Cameroons. He is known as a conscientious, hard-working colonial official, though somewhat parochial in outlook and hardly of the Governor class. Mr. Roosevelt has now concurred in his appointment, but wishes the Committee to be reminded that the military interests of the Allies in Dakar are still paramount.

In the course of what Mr. Macmillan has described as the French Committee's "best week's work so far," it has also decided that the *état de siège* powers rested in the Commander-in-Chief for North and West Africa should be delegated to the Governor-General of Algeria for that province (this decision automatically terminates Admiral Muselier's appointment as keeper of law and order in the Algiers area); it has set up a military tribunal to review the conduct of certain officers towards internees in internment camps; it has established a legislative committee to give advice on drafting decrees before promulgation, and a *tribunal contentieux* to settle disputes arising out of legislation—these two bodies to relinquish their powers to the *Conseil d'État* after liberation. The Committee has also approved the setting up of a Council of Youth, under the Commissariat for the Interior, to co-ordinate the activities of the existing Youth movements.

On the 2nd July General Giraud left on a fourteen days' visit to the United States. The Committee have arranged that in his absence his presidential functions will be vested in the Committee as a whole and that on his return he will have the right to demand that any decision taken in his absence should be reconsidered in his presence. General Juin is acting for him in his military capacity. General Catroux has gone to the Levant States to wind up his affairs there. M. Philip, as well as M. Massigli, is due in London to arrange about the transfer and reorganisation of departments, M. Couve de Murville to discuss financial questions.

It was reported on the 1st July that Admiral Robert had sent a message to the United States Government through the American Naval observer in Martinique asking for a representative to be sent to discuss terms on which a transfer of authority in the French West Indies might take place. Admiral Hoover, who has previously negotiated with Admiral Robert, was sent to investigate. In the meantime the Algiers Committee on the 3rd July appointed M. Hoppenot as their representative in any negotiations which might take place with Admiral Robert and the United States Government about Martinique.

Inside France, as resistance to the labour conscription measures increases, so do Laval's measures to punish offenders. The laws of August 1941, dealing with "terrorist activity," have now been codified and extended. "From now on all infringements furthering terrorism, Communism, anarchy or national and social sedition, or provoking or arousing a state of rebellion against the legally established social order will be immediately referred to the Special Section of a Court of Appeal and sentences carried out immediately" (Radio Toulouse, the 30th June). These "Special Sections" have been empowered since August 1941 to pronounce the death sentence.

Groups still holding out in Savoy and neighbouring mountainous regions have been receiving new additions, the latest news being that hundreds of men from the Mediterranean coast are escaping to the Alpes Maritimes, or Grenoble or Savoy itself to avoid deportation. The police patrol roads and railways. A mayor and a *conseiller général* of Savoy were dismissed for helping young men to avoid conscription. The *Basler Nachrichten* recently gave 250,000 as the figure of those who had been thus successful—presumably since the introduction of labour conscription in September last.

Youths are now being taken to Germany directly they are released from the *Chantiers de la Jeunesse*, often without seeing their families. Students who (particularly those of Paris) took an active part in resisting, are now being appealed to obey the call-up, and workers hitherto engaged in the Todt Organisation in France are now being sent to Germany. The number of French workers who left France for Germany between the 1st April and the 23rd June amounted to 100,085, but 220,000 were needed by the 1st July to complete Laval's agreement with Sauckel. (See *Summary* No. 192.)

Nine train loads of repatriated prisoners (comprising in all 9,000) who are reported to have arrived at Compiègne between the 10th June and the 1st July, would seem to be among the 50,000 due to be released against the 250,000 workers supplied before the 1st April in virtue of the agreement published on the

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