

to be a corridor for any attempt at renewed German aggression. "Our neighbour must be a free, strong and democratic Poland which discards for ever imperialist intentions with regard to the Ukrainian and Byelorussian peoples." Moreover, only if men who made it their aim to liberate the Polish people from feudalism and give them land were in power, would Poland cease to be a centre of trouble and a war menace. From this the article went on to use Lublin Committee propaganda, already dealt with above under "Poland," to make insinuations against M. Mikolajczyk. Fortunately *Izvestiya's* tone is more hopeful, the Soviet Government's organ going so far as to say that "there is reason to believe that in the not distant future the Polish problem will find a satisfactory solution." Still more reassuring is the emphasis laid by *Pravda* in its concluding paragraphs on the growing co-ordination of the actions of the Allied Powers and the value of that co-ordination. The Anglo-Soviet Treaty, strengthened by the close collaboration of Great Britain and the Soviet Union with the United States, could rightly be called "a corner-stone not only of the joint struggle against Hitlerite Germany, but also of the future stable peace in Europe. The importance of the Moscow meeting lies in the fact that it is a putting into practice of the Anglo-Soviet Treaty." It is worth noting that the Communist Party's newspapers all over the Union will have printed those two sentences, and thus once again have proclaimed the Party's faith in the Treaty.

Tass was authorised on the 21st October to describe as mendacious and as absolutely not corresponding with the attitude of the Soviet Government assertions attributed by it to the *Chicago Sun's* London correspondent, to the effect that the Soviet Union maintained that France should not be admitted to participation in the military occupation of Germany, nor for that matter the smaller countries whose troops are fighting against Germany. The *démenti* also covered the alleged statement of the correspondent that France should not be regarded as a Great Power until she proved that she is such by restoring order inside her own country, and was followed on the 24th October by an announcement that the Soviet Government had been informed that the Governments of Great Britain and the United States were to make a simultaneous declaration recognising the Provisional Government of France. "The Soviet Government, animated by unalterable friendship towards democratic France, welcomes these decisions. . . . The Soviet Government hereby makes known its decision to recognise the Provisional Government of the French Republic and its desire to appoint Soviet Union Representative Bogomolov as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary in France."

On the 20th October Mr. Herbert Lehman, Director-General of U.N.R.R.A., announced that, "at the suggestion of the Government of the U.S.S.R., the despatch of an U.N.R.R.A. mission to Moscow, originally announced in September, had been "postponed for the time being." It seems, too, that, when Mr. Lehman wished to discuss this decision with the Soviet delegate (M. Sergeev), both the latter and his deputy proved to be curiously inaccessible, and the Director-General has had to write formally to M. Molotov expressing a hope that he might yet be allowed to proceed to Moscow. One can only speculate as to the reasons for this attitude, but it may be recalled that Soviet publicists have never concealed their anxiety lest the administration of relief should be made to serve political purposes, in the same way as, they allege, it was used as an anti-Bolshevik weapon after the last war. There is also the familiar Soviet reluctance to see foreigners acting in an official capacity on their territory, coupled perhaps with a fear that the Western democracies might win too much credit for the relief administration (*cf.* Yugoslavia's refusal of relief from U.N.R.R.A. unless administered by Yugoslav officials—see *Summary* No. 261 under "Yugoslavia").

It was reported from Bucharest on the 18th October that the Allied Control Commission had up to the present discovered in Roumania more than 120 enterprises which had been transported thither from the U.S.S.R. during the Roumanian occupation of "Transnistria." They were mainly factories of the food industry, though a power station and eleven cinemas were included. Work had started early in October on returning all this equipment to the U.S.S.R., and Odessa had already received back a cake factory, trolley-buses and museum exhibits. A census of Soviet citizens deported to Roumania was also being taken; 8,910 had been registered in Bucharest and Craiova alone, of whom 1,027 had already been repatriated.

It was announced in Moscow on the 20th October that the Soviet Government had agreed to compensate the Anglo-Canadian concessionaires of the nickel mines in the Petsamo area, returned by Finland to the U.S.S.R. under the

Armistice Agreement of the 19th September. The representatives of the Soviet Union, and of Great Britain and Canada, had accordingly signed a Protocol to that Agreement on the 8th October providing that, in compensation for the transfer to the U.S.S.R. of the Petsamo nickel mines, together with all the property and apparatus appertaining to them, formerly operated for the benefit of the Mond Nickel Company and the International Nickel Company of Canada, the Soviet Government would pay to Canada during the course of six years from the date of the signing of the protocol 20 million United States dollars, valued at 35 dollars to 1 ounce of gold. According to the *Montreal Gazette*, this settlement is regarded in Canadian circles as "good business for all concerned." The Soviet Government was said to deserve full credit for the notable promptness of the settlement, the adequacy of its terms and the fairness of the principles recognised. The pact was an impressive and encouraging token of the efficient, decisive and mutually satisfactory basis upon which the Soviet Government was capable of doing business in commercial and industrial undertakings of international scope.

The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Karelo-Finnish S.S.R., by a decree of the 23rd October, appointed Joseph Ivanovich Syukiyanen as the first People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs of the Republic. M. Syukiyanen was secretary for propaganda in the Central Committee of the Karelo-Finnish Communist Party for some time before the war.

By a decree, published by *Tass* on the 19th October, of the Presidium of the Supreme Council of the Uzbek S.S.R., M. Yakub Yusupovich Aliev has been appointed People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs of the Uzbek S.S.R.; he is not to be confused with two other new Foreign Commissars of the same name, M. K. E. Aliev, the Foreign Commissar for Turkmenia (see *Summary* No. 251), or M. M. I. Aliev, the Foreign Commissar for Azerbaidjan (see *Summary* No. 257).

For reactions in Persia to the Russian demand for oil concessions, see under "Middle East."

SCANDINAVIA.

The notorious chief of the Finnish State Police, Anthoni, has decided to make a virtue of necessity and return voluntarily to Finland from Sweden, where he had arrived as a refugee without a valid passport. The Governor of Stockholm concluded his investigation of the case on the 15th October, and the Swedish radio announced on the following day that Anthoni would not be granted asylum as a political refugee.

It is clear, however, that the withdrawal of Finland from the war, and the advance of Soviet forces to the Baltic through Estonia and Latvia, have created a refugee problem for Sweden of considerable delicacy. The influx from north Finland is reported to have reached nearly 28,000 persons by the 13th October. The situation has aroused considerable criticism in the Swedish press. *Dagens Nyheter*, the 13th October, suggests that the work of the Foreign Office and passport authorities is rendered futile by the activities of the Aliens Commission, and instances the reception of the foreign correspondent of *Berliner Börsen-Zeitung* after his visa had been refused on the ground of his dubious past. Another case ventilated is that of the anti-Communist Finnish writer Tigerstedt, who is alleged to have broken a pledge against propaganda activities, made on his arrival in Sweden, by contributing an article to the organ of the German Legation in Stockholm. *Morgontidningen* also protests against the reception of Aari Kauhanen, a former employee of the Finnish State Police.

A more serious agitation has been started in the Communist paper, *Ny Dag*, the 17th October, directed against the reception of refugees from Estonia and other Baltic States. All in all, it states, nearly 30,000 Balts have hitherto been received, and, while some of these may be quite inoffensive, the paper alleges that a comprehensive and frankly anti-Soviet organisation from these regions has recently been under construction in Sweden, the main task of which is conspiracy against the Soviet Union and the organisation of political centres in collaboration with German and Swedish Nazis. In this development *Ny Dag* alleges the positive co-operation of Swedish authorities, in spite of the fact that the Government of Sweden has recognised for more than four years the incorporation of these territories in the Soviet Union. The American Legation in Stockholm is also accused by *Ny Dag* of promoting and financially supporting this migration across the Baltic, and the paper even suggests the identity of a member of the Legation staff with a minister in the Estonian "national" Government. These allegations have been denied by the United States Legation, which states that its assistance to Baltic refugees has been limited to those persecuted by the Nazis.