

of a University of Science and Arts in Palestine." Lively opposition is expressed to the continuance of Jewish immigration, and a protest is registered at the weakness of the measures taken against illegal immigration by His Majesty's Government.

The Council's previous decision regarding the unity and independence of Tripolitania was confirmed, and the Secretary-General was instructed to "make representations" so that the Arab League or "certain Arab countries" should participate in any enquiry or plebiscite destined to determine the political status of the country. The threat of famine is referred to, and the Secretary-General is to call upon the Arab countries for help if it becomes necessary.

Yusuf Yasin has told the Cairo correspondent of *The Observer* that the decisions were reached in absolute goodwill and understanding, and that he feels that the League has gained in strength and determination.

The appointment to the Secretaryship-General of the League was originally for a period of two years, which is now up. In spite of much discontent which has been expressed outside Egypt at Azzam Pasha's handling of the affairs of the League, there is, so far, no indication that any change is to be made.

#### Iraq

Nuri Pasha has told His Majesty's Ambassador that he regards the decision of the Arab League on Egypt as "illegal" (in the sense that it is not binding on Iraq unless it is approved by the Council of Ministers and confirmed by Parliament), although he excuses Fadhil al Jamali for failure to stand up alone against the views of the other delegates. His Majesty's Ambassador has, at his suggestion, written him a letter expressing surprise and concern at the terms of the resolution, and asking him how far the Iraq Government feel themselves to be bound by it. It remains to be seen how far Salih Jabr's new Cabinet (see below) are prepared to follow Nuri's lead in this matter. Article 7 of the Arab League Pact states clearly that "unanimous decisions by the Council are binding on all members of the League."

Meanwhile, in the hope of recalling the League to consideration of Iraq's views on Palestine instead of backing Assam's on Egypt, a joint meeting of both Houses of Parliament was summoned on the 24th March, at which a number of speakers criticised the Arab League for its inefficiency, lack of unity and neglect of the Palestine question. Finally, a resolution

was adopted requiring the League unanimously to approve the following action:—

- (1) The United Kingdom and the United States to be informed that they are responsible for the present critical state of affairs in Palestine;
- (2) The Arabs to go to the United Nations and demand the setting-up of an independent Arab State of Palestine. If this demand is not met, reconsideration is to be given to economic and political relations with the United Kingdom and the United States;
- (3) Full boycott to be imposed on Zionist goods, including those in transit.

If the resolution is not adopted by the League Iraq will consider herself free of all responsibility in the matter. This provision is intended to imply that Iraq might suspend her membership, or even withdraw from the League altogether. It appears from the *communiqué* issued by the League Council that they were unable to go so far as the Iraqi resolution demanded, and it remains to be seen how the Iraq Government will now act.

Meanwhile, Nuri Pasha has refused the Regent's request to form a new Government, and Salih Jabr has accepted the invitation to do so. Nuri has privately given as his reason for refusal that he can no longer work with the Regent, "who is always interfering."

The new Cabinet was formed on the 29th March, as follows:—

Prime Minister and Acting Minister of Interior: Salih Jabr.  
Finance: Yusuf Ghanima.  
Foreign Affairs: Muhammad Fadhil al Jamali.  
Justice and Acting Economics: Jamal Baban.  
Communications: Dhia Ja'far.  
Defence: Shakir al Wadi.  
Education: Taufiq Wahbi.  
Supply: Abdullillah Hafidh.  
Social Affairs: Jamil Abdul Wahhab.

#### Persia

On the eve of the Persian New Year (the 21st March) the Prime Minister made a long broadcast speech in which he announced details of his Government's Seven-Year Plan. This is, in effect, a blue print for the total regeneration of Persia. The expenditure involved is nearly rials 600,000 million (about £450 million), the equivalent of some fourteen years'

annual ordinary revenue on the present basis. The Prime Minister stated that the larger part of this sum—the minimum needed to ensure to Persia her rightful place among the nations—would come from the national capital resources. There was no reference to the request for a loan from the International Bank (see *Summary* No. 383).

The full details of the plan are not yet known, but the main items covered are health services, education (see *Summary* No. 384), railway construction (see *Summary* No. 385), Army and security services, housing, industrial expansion (particularly in the spinning, sugar-refining and chemical industries), irrigation (including the construction and completion of ten dams) and agricultural development (especially in the fields of mechanisation and research).

On the 22nd February the Persian Government passed a decree preventing the dismissal of surplus workers from any factory without the prior sanction of the Ministry of Labour. This does not, however, apply to the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company. The new law has been passed with the object of safeguarding the interests of those employees, particularly mill-workers, who were taken into employment as the result of Tudeh pressure on their employers, many of whom are now anxious to reduce their staffs.

In this connection a statement by the Labour Attaché to His Majesty's Embassy, Tehran, is of considerable interest:—

"The Tudeh Trade Union Movement, which twelve months ago claimed 300,000 members, held a monopoly position as representing workers, intimidated employers and forced the Government into granting concessions, is now a very dim shadow of its former self [see *Summary* No. 383]. The Government, which had been waiting for an opportunity to attack the political and anti-national activities of the Tudeh Party, used the successful conclusion of the Azerbaijan campaign as the occasion for organising Trade Unions under the aegis of the Prime Minister's Democrat Party. There was continuous friction, with incidents of physical violence,

between the members of the two rival Trade Unions, and throughout the country there were allegations by the Tudeh Unions that their premises and clubs had been invaded and seized by the Democrat Union."

But, as is pointed out by the British Military Attaché, "no false deduction should be made to the effect that the Tudeh Party, either in its original or reformed state, is dead. It is working actively underground in Abadan, and in Tehran it is biding its time, hoping, not unreasonably, that the general dissatisfaction with the existing state of affairs will pave the way for its return . . ."

#### Ethiopia

There have been signs for some time that discontent at the incompetence of Ministers and officials has been growing. The Emperor has, of late, ceased to give that daily attention to administrative detail which he used formerly to display. The reason for this is not clear, but the result is that administrative chaos and incompetence is rife, and a situation is developing which is giving rise to some anxiety.

Relations between Ethiopia and His Majesty's Government are governed by the Agreement signed at Addis Ababa on the 19th December, 1944, which superseded the "Agreement and Military Convention of January, 1942." Article 6 establishes a British Military Mission, which is a unit of the military forces of His Majesty the King but is responsible to the Ethiopian Minister of War for the organisation, training and administration of the Ethiopian army. Article 7 provides for British military administration of the Ogaden district and a "reserved area" to the west of the British Somaliland frontier. Although efforts have been made to persuade the Emperor to give serious attention to rectification of the frontiers—which would include a settlement of the Ogaden and the "reserved area"—no progress has been made, and the suspicion has arisen that delays are deliberately created pending a settlement of the future of Eritrea by the United Nations.

#### THE FAR EAST

##### China

In Nanking interest has been centred in the proceedings of the third plenary session of the Kuomintang Central Executive Committee, which opened on the 15th and

was brought to a close on the 24th March. General Chiang Kai-shek's speech before this Committee was mainly concerned with a lengthy survey of Kuomintang activities, in which he bluntly invited attention to