

The Norwegian Military Command broadcast from London on the 31st October a warning to the underground forces in Norway, pointing out that events in the North had not so far affected the previous instructions to the rest of the country to avoid open fighting. Such a warning may well have been felt desirable in view of M. Nygaardsvold's broadcast reported in last week's *Summary*. The Home Front leadership has also issued instructions, in anticipation of further intensive efforts by the Germans to break up the resistance movement, strongly emphasising the importance of increased security precautions.

It has now been announced in the Swedish Press and on the radio that the representatives of the Norwegian Government during their visit to Stockholm reached agreement with the Swedish authorities as to the use of the Norwegian police forces trained in Sweden. A number of them, it is said, will depart for North Norway as soon as possible. The total number of trainees is said to be some 11,000. M. Lie and M. Wold have now arrived in Moscow.

The Allied air attack on the Gestapo headquarters in Aarhus University on the 31st October seems to have been extremely successful. The majority of the Danes killed and injured are believed to have been in the German service and the latest estimates of German dead are over a hundred. D.P.T. (4th November) reports that among those killed must almost certainly be included the notorious Gestapo leader Schwitzgebel, who controlled the whole of Jutland. There is also stated to have been an extensive destruction of filed records, a circumstance which should be of great value to the Danish underground movement.

In spite of continued German raids and arrests in Copenhagen, sabotage in Denmark continues unchecked, especially on the Jutland railways, where explosions and dislocations are reported to be of nightly occurrence. A successful *coup* took place on the 6th November, when five Danish patriots captured the largest train ferryboat, normally plying across the Great Belt, and brought it successfully into the Swedish port of Helsingborg. A successful raid was made on the same day on the Public Registry at Aalborg, when card indexes containing particulars of 200,000 persons were removed.

#### LOW COUNTRIES.

The distribution of food in Belgium appears to be improving slightly. The supplies now (see last *Summary*) being furnished by the Allied military authorities are contributing to the improvement, but there is also reason to believe that the Belgian authorities are meeting with more success in their efforts to tackle the food problem. They continue, however, to be subjected to a stream of censure in the Belgian press, which never ceases taxing the Government with weakness. Criticism, though often captious, is sometimes pertinent. Lack of co-ordination between departments undoubtedly exists, and the fact that there are separate Ministries of Food and of Agriculture probably causes some inefficiency. It is also alleged that M. Pierlot lacks the strength to put an end to inter-departmental rivalries.

Meanwhile, however, the Communists have decided to continue to support the Government; that is to say, the Communist Ministers will not resign forthwith; but the Communist press will probably continue to run down the Government, as, indeed, will most other papers. It is a matter of some significance that M. Spaak, who proclaims himself a "militant Socialist," is advocating the formation of a Left-wing *bloc* which would include Socialists, Communists, Christian Democrats and Left-wing Liberals. This project is in the air and has aroused some discussion (see *Summary* No. 263) in many quarters.

The Belgian resistance organisations, especially the Independence Front, continue to be very discontented and to complain that the Government is not giving them due recognition. Many Belgians, on the other hand, are afraid that these bodies may constitute a serious threat to the rule of law. The political situation, therefore, is anything but stable.

In Luxemburg the Government seems to be grappling with the urgent problems of the moment in a workmanlike manner and to be enjoying wide popular support, though some of their measures have been criticised by the Communists.

In the Occupied Netherlands food grows scarcer and German repression becomes more brutal; the rounding-up and deportation of Dutchmen by the German police continues.

The inhabitants of Walcheren are in a sorry plight; large parts of the island are under water—at least at high tide; there is little food; and there may soon be a grave shortage of pure drinking water.

The free Dutch News Agency has published a statement by the Catholic Chaplain-General to the Dutch forces on conditions in other parts of the liberated Netherlands. He draws a vivid picture of the destruction done by the Germans before their retreat and states that rations are so low that those engaged on road repairs or in mining find it difficult to do their job properly. The Dutch, he added, do not complain much; they are grateful for their liberation, but they are "tired and sad" and puzzled by the fact that 10,000 German civilians, brought from the Aachen area to camps on Dutch soil, are being much better fed than they are. They think they should get the food that the Allies are giving the Germans and that the Germans should be put on short commons. Respect for the rules of international law, they argue, does not fill their empty stomachs.

#### ERRATA.

*Summary* No. 262, page 8, last paragraph, line 2, for "exchange rota" read "exchange rate"; line 6, for "outside" read "inside."

#### FRANCE.

The announcement that the Prime Minister and Mr. Eden have accepted an invitation from General de Gaulle and M. Bidault to visit Paris in the near future as the guests of the Provisional Government has been warmly welcomed in Paris. The French communiqué which gave the news on the 3rd November expressed the pleasure which the French Government and people would have in seeing the visitors in the capital to the liberation of which the gallant British forces had so largely contributed. It described Mr. Churchill as "the famous British statesman who during this war has rendered and is still rendering such incompatible service to the entire free world" and Mr. Eden as "the great Foreign Minister whose far-sighted activity is one of the pivots of the great coalition." It added that the visit would give an opportunity for most useful talks between the two friendly Allied Governments. The prospect of such talks has given general satisfaction to the Paris papers, several of which have published leading articles paying warm tribute to Mr. Churchill and Mr. Eden. The Communist *Humanité*, however, fears that the visit may lead to some exclusive Anglo-French arrangement, dictated by "les trusts" and leaving Russia out of account. The French home service of the 4th November broadcast a report of a talk about the Levant by the diplomatic correspondent of the *Agence Française de Presse*, in which he expressed the hope that Syria and the Lebanon would be frankly discussed while the British Ministers were in France.

The State Department announced on the 5th November that an invitation to visit Paris had also been addressed to President Roosevelt and Mr. Hull. The French note conveying this invitation described it as "an expression of the appreciation of the entire French nation for the outstanding contribution which the peoples and armies of the United States have made to the liberation of the capital of France and of the greater part of her territory." Acceptance of the invitation and the date of any visit will presumably depend largely upon the result of the Presidential election.

The vexed question of the Communist-inspired Patriotic Militia or Patriotic Guard (see last *Summary*) is still unsettled. On the 31st October the Council of Ministers showed that they stood firm by their decision to disarm all groups other than the army and the regular police when they unanimously approved a number of measures to implement that decision. A provision that all French men and women who wished to volunteer "for the defence of republican liberties" should give their names to the local town hall or police station appeared, however, to leave the door open for the transformation of the Patriotic Militia into a sort of unarmed Home Guard to protect republican order against internal dangers. Nevertheless, the Government's measures were violently opposed by the Communist Party, whose Political Bureau held a meeting on the 2nd November, at which, it is to be noted, both the Communist Ministers were present. The Bureau issued a lengthy statement (also said to have been unanimously approved) declaring that the President of the Government had once again taken it upon himself to treat the French Resistance movement as a negligible quantity, that the Government's

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