

Such a development would not necessarily conflict with the pursuit of a pro-Allied, or, more strictly, a Pan-American foreign policy, and Admiral Storni, the Foreign Minister, has told His Majesty's Ambassador that the Government would follow a line whole-heartedly Pan-American. He added that it was imperative that Argentina should be associated with all discussions on the problems of post-war reconstruction. His Majesty's Ambassador did not fail to point out that this was an additional motive for severing relations with the Axis.

Disgust at the venality of Argentine politics, together with the fear that President Castillo's policy of "prudent neutrality" was in fact the reverse of prudent and was endangering Argentina's post-war position, both from a political and from a military point of view, would appear to have been the determinants of the *coup d'Etat*. A gradual movement towards a break with the Axis would therefore seem to be inevitable, though there have been rumours that it may be confined, at least at first, to a break with Japan, on the ground that Japan was an aggressor against an American State. Neither this reasoning nor this action, however, would be likely to satisfy Argentina's neighbours, nor those other United Nations with whose discussions on post-war planning Argentina wishes to be associated. Meanwhile it is satisfactory that the protests of the German, Italian and Japanese Embassies against the suppression of cypher communications by radio have been ignored, though the ban on cypher communications does not, it should be noted, fully conform with the resolution of the Rio de Janeiro Conference of 1942, which called for the suspension of all communications with the Axis.

In sum, the Government of President Ramirez is feeling its way slowly. It is not a Government from which we can expect much genuine sympathy. It is inspired by a sense of political realism and a nationalistic fervour. It should find no difficulty in combining authoritarianism at home with a policy of Pan-American conciliation abroad.

On the 16th June the Mexican Ministry for Foreign Affairs announced that Mexico and the U.S.S.R. had agreed to raise their respective legations to the rank of embassies. Cuba, on the same date, conferred a similar honour on its legations in Chile, Peru, Brazil and Argentina. In Central America there is a small "constitutional" crisis in Nicaragua, where President Somoza, whose term of office expires in 1947, is already anxious to secure its prolongation and has promoted a bill to amend the Constitution for this purpose. This has caused such vexation and ill-feeling among his opponents and possible successors, who, however, lack the resources, both political and military, at the President's disposal. The Uruguayan Government, having recognised the French National Committee at Algiers (as reported in last week's *Summary*), is now somewhat embarrassed by its precipitate action.