

and they would always be ready to share any burden necessary for the attainment of world security. The Prime Minister, M. Saracoğlu compared the deficit, the empty barns and the insufficient coal of 1942 with an abundance which he announced, not only of corn and coal but also in the Treasury. He, too, predicted prosperity. The semi-official *Ulus* declared that there was no fundamental difference among Turks. Their purpose was to raise the country to the highest social level. After twenty-one years of peace their concern still was to reconstruct and rehabilitate, and this meant a long struggle. Consequently they hoped for a new world order where war would be banned.

THE MIDDLE EAST.

The Egyptian Government has dismissed a few more officials. Like most of those removed when the Government first came into power, they had openly sided with the Wafd, and the dismissal of all such was probably inevitable. Some of the provincial governors have also been retired or absorbed into the Ministry of the Interior, most of their successors being senior men who had been got rid of in the early days of the late régime.

The provincial changes have doubtless been made with a view to assisting the Government in the forthcoming elections, which may be held in the near future. It is believed that the King insists on the distribution of parliamentary seats being on a coalition basis, and that Ahmad Maher has reluctantly agreed. The proposed distribution would give 55 seats each to the Saadists, Liberals and Makramites (followers of Makram Ebeid), 20 to the Watanists (Nationalists) and 14 to the Independents, while 65 seats would be freely contested. One unsatisfactory feature of this distribution is the excessive representation (20) allotted to the Watanists, who have never before had more than 4 or 5 Deputies in the Chamber. This party holds extremist views, and is known to be anti-treaty and anti-British.

During his recent visit to Cairo, Mr. Eden met the Egyptian Prime Minister and the Minister for Foreign Affairs, as well as Hassanein Pasha, First Chamberlain to the King. Both the Prime Minister and Hassanein assured the Secretary of State that the Egyptian Government intended to co-operate fully with Great Britain and to carry out during the war the part of a loyal ally. The Prime Minister further assured Mr. Eden that his Government was not dismissing officials because they were Wafdist, but because they had engaged in improper practices or were otherwise unfitted for their posts. He himself was resolutely opposed to victimisation for political reasons. As to the King, Hassanein told Mr. Eden that His Majesty was no more anti-British than he was himself, but that His Majesty had been led astray by bad advisers, notably Ali Maher, at the beginning of his reign. Hassanein was convinced that the King firmly believed that his country's future was bound up with that of Great Britain, and that His Majesty would do all in his power to co-operate with us. On the following day Mr. Eden was received by King Farouk, whom he thanked for the assurances His Majesty had recently given regarding Anglo-Egyptian relations. To this the King replied that he had no wish to embarrass his country's ally during the war.

It turns out that Abdul Rahman Azzam is not after all to go to the Levant States as Egyptian Minister. It is proposed now to put him at the head of a new Department for Arab Affairs. Azzam, who is himself of Arab stock and has long been interested in the affairs of the Arab world, is obviously cut out to take a leading part in connexion with Arab affairs under the present régime.

Certain members of the Syrian Government, including the Minister for Foreign Affairs, met General Beynet and Count Ostorrog last week, when discussions were held regarding the transfer of the *Troupes Spéciales* and the proposed treaty with the French. On the second day the meeting was attended also by the Lebanese Foreign Minister, much to the annoyance of the French. The French representatives took up the line that the question of the *Troupes Spéciales* must be discussed separately with each State, and that it was indissolubly linked with that of a treaty; while the Syrians said that the *Troupes Spéciales* were a matter of common interest to both States, and that they must be transferred at once as a preliminary to further negotiations. Though at one point the Syrians said that they would sign no engagement with any country during the war, later they asked the French what sort of treaty they had in view, to which the French replied that they wished for a "treaty of alliance" on the lines of those made by Great Britain with Egypt and Iraq.

Meanwhile, it is reported from Paris that General de Gaulle recently told a press conference that "the Syrians and Lebanese were independent, and independent from all sides." He went on to say that "it would be regrettable were

France to learn one day that the difficulties she was experiencing elsewhere had been complicated by artificial difficulties provoked at Beirut or Damascus. If this proves to be the case it must cease."

The Iraqi Minister for Foreign Affairs, who recently returned to Bagdad from Syria, with the intention of sending an official communication to His Majesty's Ambassador and the American Minister about General Beynet's statement concerning Lebanese independence, has wisely changed his mind. Sir K. Cornwallis, upon whom the Minister called on his return, after reading the draft, advised against its despatch, and after some argument the Minister agreed. The latter emphasised in conversation that the Arab States as a whole were strongly opposed to any further treaties that gave a special position to any outside Power. He added that, should the situation in the Levant States deteriorate, they might appeal to the Arab Committee which had recently met at Alexandria, and which would doubtless be able to reassemble at short notice if necessary.

The conclusions reached by the committee at Alexandria were welcomed by the Palestinian Arabs, who especially applauded the clause dealing with Palestine. They were also gratified at the reception accorded to Musa Alami as their representative.

The Jews have been showing signs of nervousness about the future of Palestine, and the Jewish Agency has made a formal pronouncement rejecting partition and reaffirming as the Zionist objective a Jewish State embracing the whole of the country.

Intensive police measures against the Jewish terrorists continue, and several successful round-ups have been made. The population as a whole was impressed by the official communiqué on lawlessness, as well as by the deportation of the 251 persons who had been detained under the emergency regulations. The Hebrew press has sounded a more chastened note, and the basis of the communiqué is not seriously challenged. On the 26th October, sixteen days after the issue of the communiqué, the *Vaad Leumi* published a warning to the terrorists that unless their activities ceased the Jewish community would take action against them. At the same time they protested against the terms of the communiqué. It is not yet possible fully to estimate Jewish reactions to the deportations, but no doubt as much as possible will be made of what is claimed as "the right of every Jew to be in and remain in Palestine."

Almost the sole topic of interest in Persia during the week has been the decision by the Persian Government to postpone until after the war the granting of any oil concession, including, of course, that demanded by Russia. Those newspapers which are under Russian influence have attacked this decision violently, and have launched a campaign against the Prime Minister and the majority of the Majlis which agrees with him. On the other hand, some six or seven papers support the Persian Government. In one article the writer states that, when Persia was herself starving two years ago, she spared wheat and rice for Russia, then hard-pressed by Germany. He goes on to say that if, when she is fighting for freedom, Russia uses the mailed fist against Persia, surely this will wound Persia's feelings.

On the 24th October M. Kavtaradze held a press conference in the Soviet Embassy at Tehran, at which he stated, according to *Tass*, that the Persian Government had not put forward a single plausible explanation for its decision. He added that, while the friendship between his country and Persia could not be shaken, "the disloyal and unfriendly attitude taken by Premier Saed to the U.S.S.R. excluded the possibility of further collaboration with him."

In other ways the Soviet authorities have been continuing the war of nerves. On the 22nd October lorry-loads of armed Russian troops ranged past the Majlis, while Deputies were subjected to moral pressure on the issue. On the 27th October a demonstration, in favour of an oil concession to Russia, took place in Tehran, organised by the Tudeh Party and attended by Russian military police. The effect, however, both of M. Kavtaradze's statement to the press and of these anti-Government demonstrations has been to strengthen support for the Prime Minister both in the Majlis and among the public. General feeling is still opposed to the Russian demand (see also under "U.S.S.R.>").

THE FAR EAST.

The principal Far Eastern event of last week was the naval battle, or rather group of battles, in waters adjacent to the Philippines following on the American landing on the island of Leyte. The Japanese Navy attempted a stroke with

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