

Certainly, if it is a fact that the Governor of Warsaw has issued orders to the German inhabitants of the city not to go out of their houses during the night, conditions must be depressing for the occupants, even apart from the risk of air raids. It is reported that during April the Poles carried out death sentences on fourteen Gestapo agents in the district of Kielce and on forty in that of Lublin. Some of the news recently received goes to suggest that the Germans are trying to provoke a rising of the Poles; the leaders of the underground movement are, however, determined not to come out into the open and launch a large-scale insurrection until they receive instructions to do so from General Sikorski's Government.

General Sikorski is now with the Polish Army of the Middle East in Iraq.

It is now known that at any rate part, perhaps all, of the Polish gold which was saved from Poland at the beginning of the war in romantic circumstances is still stored in the neighbourhood of Dakar, whither it was sent by the French authorities against the wishes of the Polish Government on the collapse of France in June 1940. During the past three years rumours have more than once been current to the effect that it had been sent by the Vichy authorities to Metropolitan France.

SOVIET UNION.

The principal activity on the eastern front during the past week has been the bombardment from the air by both sides of railway junctions and important centres behind the line. Kursk, which had also been raided on the 22nd May, was, according to Russian accounts, attacked in daylight on the 2nd June by nearly 500 German aircraft, of which over 120 were destroyed against a Russian loss of 30 machines. The German High Command announced on the 6th June that, during the previous night, a strong formation of bombers had attacked armament works at Gorki (Nizhny Novgorod) on the Volga, causing big fires in the industrial installations and fuel dumps. On the other hand, aircraft of the Red Army have also been busy bombing the railway junctions at Smolensk, Karachev (30 miles east of Bryansk) and Krasny Bor (west of Smolensk), and on the night of the 3rd June 520 aircraft bombed Orel, losing, according to Moscow radio, only one aircraft in the process.

Partisan warfare, too, has evidently been raging actively of late. The *Berliner Börsen-Zeitung* of the 29th May published an article by General Otto Schulz, who admitted that there were frequent occasions when food, ammunition, transport and mail did not reach the front, and depots, dug-outs and billets were destroyed: "Patrols, soldiers on leave and wounded are fired at. The partisans compel the Axis to garrison second-line localities heavily; railway depots, construction work, and even railway tracks, must be guarded by day and by night to prevent the partisans from mining them. It is not possible for trains and single cars to proceed unguarded. Thus a numerous personnel is required for guarding and security services." *Transocean* of the 4th June announced that for a whole week Minsk had been the scene of a large-scale anti-Partisan operation, with every street, every house and every inhabitant being searched and examined. According to *Transocean*, not one of the 130,000 inhabitants was overlooked. The scale on which this raid was carried out is evident from the fact that the entire city was surrounded by a cordon of police and soldiers, whole regiments of police taking part.

Moscow comment on the revolution in the Argentine has so far been scanty. *Pravda*, of the 7th June, published an article on the subject, in which the Republic was described as having been the "minefield of the Nazis in Latin America," and the Castillo Government as having done nothing to hinder the damaging activities of the Fascist agents. Hitler had decorated Castillo, but "the people assessed the activities of Castillo in a different way" and had overthrown him. *Pravda* judged, however, that the new Government's declaration did not yet completely clarify the situation.

The Communist party's organ gave a much more cordial response to recent events in Algiers; the arrival there of General de Gaulle and the formation of the French Committee for National Liberation being hailed as events of great political significance: "The newly-formed committee will constitute a central French power which will have under its authority all French territories which are free of the enemy, and all French armed forces, until the day when the liberation of France permits it to hand over its powers to a provisional government constituted according to the laws of the French Republic." Although Moscow has consistently maintained close relations with General de Gaulle and

his National Committee, there was no attempt in the article to exalt Fighting France at the expense of General Giraud; the disputes which had so long divided the two parties were referred to and it was asserted that Vichy agents and supporters had done their best to multiply them, but the overcoming of them was claimed as "a big advance towards the complete unity of all French people who strive for the liberation of their country."

The collaboration note was firmly struck, too, in a statement made by M. Krutikov, at the closing session of the Food Conference at Hot Springs, to the effect that the Conference had brought victory nearer, because it had increased the fighting strength of the Allies by further strengthening their collaboration; and, again, that the creation of an Interim Commission to formulate plans for a permanent organisation had laid a firm foundation for the future collaboration of nations in the field of food and agriculture. Apart from this statement there are, indeed, signs that, now that the extent of the devastation caused by the war to the interior economy of the U.S.S.R. is becoming more fully realised, there is a disposition on the part of Soviet official circles to contemplate and perhaps welcome Allied participation in its rehabilitation.

M. Kalinin despatched a telegram to His Majesty the King, on the occasion of his Birthday, in which he conveyed his heartiest congratulations and sincere wishes for His Majesty's good health and happiness. The message also wished the British people success in the fight against the common enemy.

Pravda has continued the process of educating its public in the importance of the war at sea, by publishing an article reviewing the whole work of the Royal Navy in the war. The author told the Soviet peoples that in 1940 the Navy not only saved the backbone of the British Army from France, but warded off invasion of the British Isles by Hitler's armies. In the next phase of the war it had effectively coped with its strategical task of combating the submarine menace. "In three years of war, 530 enemy submarines were sunk or damaged by the British Navy and its Air Arm." In the Mediterranean it had won a number of victories over the Italian Navy and had contributed by blockade to the final victory in Africa. In the present phase of the war the Navy guarded the North Atlantic communications connecting the United States and Canada with Great Britain and the Soviet Union. *Pravda* emphasised, in conclusion, that naval supremacy was becoming greater, and that, combined with aerial supremacy, this must be an important factor in attaining ultimate victory. Such tributes to the Royal Navy and such appreciation of the meaning of sea warfare were not offered for public consumption in the U.S.S.R. a year ago!

Moscow Radio broadcast a full report of the recent discussion in the House of Commons on the subject of the activities of the foreign-language newspapers published in this country, the questions and Mr. Brendan Bracken's answers being quoted verbatim.

By a decree of the Council of People's Commissars of the U.S.S.R. dated the 4th June, a second State War Loan was floated, planned to realise 12,000 million roubles, redeemable in twenty years. As in the case of the First State War Loan (see *Summary* No. 132), the loan is divided into two issues—a lottery issue and an interest-bearing issue. The prizes in the lottery issue, to which only individuals may subscribe, range from 200 to 50,000 roubles, and one-third of the bonds issued are prize-bearing. The remaining two-thirds are to be redeemed at face-value at the end of the twenty years. The other issue of the loan bears interest at 2 per cent. and is available to be subscribed for by both individuals and institutions. The campaign on behalf of the loan was opened by M. A. G. Zveryev, People's Commissar for Finance, in an address which was broadcast, and the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions issued a directive to all trade union organisations throughout the country enjoining them to take an active part in the campaign for the success of the loan. Similar encouragement was given by agricultural bodies, and it need hardly be said, therefore, that Moscow Radio was able to announce that, within 24 hours of its being floated, the second State War Loan had been over-subscribed to the extent of 2,561 million roubles. Subscription to it continues.

As a result of the wholesale dislocation of population in the U.S.S.R. caused by the German invasion, in the course of which it is probable that over 20 million people have had to find an alternative dwelling place, the Soviet Government is once again faced with the problem of coping with a host of children who have lost their parents. Moscow Radio announced on the 5th June that enquiry bureaux have been set up by the militia (municipal, &c., police) of the various republics, provinces, &c., to which parents may apply for information as to their lost children.