

through the utter defeat of Hitler's army and the unconditional surrender of Hitlerite Germany." It is noteworthy that in this article there is expressed once again that anticipation of the moment when peaceful construction will again be possible, which has become such a marked feature of late in Soviet thought.

On several days in the middle of the month Axis propaganda made a great feature of a statement alleged to have been made by M. Litvinov at a press conference in Tehran during his journey from Washington to Moscow, to the effect that the U.S.S.R. was not satisfied with an outlet to the Aegean Sea and wanted one to the Adriatic as well. The ambassador was further credited in this connexion with having presented a plan for incorporating Croatia, Dalmatia, Slovenia, Istria and Trieste in one State; but *Tass Agency* on the 19th June stated that it was authorised by him to say that neither in Tehran nor in any other place on his journey from the United States to the U.S.S.R. did he make any political declaration, give any interview to journalists, or even meet them.

The prospects of an early liquidation of the differences between the Soviet Government and the Polish Government in London will scarcely have been improved by the holding in Moscow about ten days ago of a "Congress of Polish Patriots," with its accompanying speeches, articles and messages; nor is it clear what was the particular occasion for it, unless it was intended as an inaugural meeting for the Kosciuszko Division. The praesidium included Wanda Wasilewska, Colonel Z. Berling, Commanding the Kosciuszko Division, Colonel V. Sivitski, its Chief of Staff, and Franciszek Kupski, a partisan, and a priest, who has been made chaplain to the division. Both Colonel Berling and his deputy-commander, Major Vladimir Sokorski, bitterly attacked General Anders, accusing him of having refused to let the Polish troops fight at the side of the Red Army; and the former made a statement regarding the future of the division which may be of some importance (see also *Summary* No. 187), in which he said: "The Soviet Government and the Supreme Command of the Red Army do everything to help to create a strong and efficient army division, which will serve as the foundation for the future Polish Army." At the conclusion of the Conference, apart from the usual message to Marshal Stalin, telegrams were despatched to the Prime Minister, President Roosevelt and President Beneš, to which, so far as is known, there have been no replies. The message to the Prime Minister contains the old claim: "We value as the apple of our eye unity in our ranks," whereas the whole movement of the Poles in Moscow can only tend to produce the reverse; and that addressed to President Beneš did its best to make mischief by expressing pain at the "aggravation of Polish-Czechoslovak relations caused by the government of General Sikorski." Marshal Stalin, in replying to the message received by him, contented himself with greeting the Union of Polish Patriots, who had begun the work of uniting its forces and strengthening the friendship between the peoples of Poland and the Soviet Union, and with a promise that the Soviet Union would do all that was possible to strengthen Polish-Soviet friendship and to aid in the creation of a strong and independent Poland.

An article in *Pravda*, entitled "Unity of the Slavs," attributed the over-running of Czechoslovakia, Poland and Yugoslavia one at a time to the lack of unity which had existed then among the Slav peoples. Germany was doing her best to disrupt the new unity, but without success, and: "Hitler's accomplices amongst reactionary Polish émigrés had found themselves politically isolated." Reference was then made not only to the Poles in the U.S.S.R., who had only one thought, which was to liberate their homeland, but to an organisation of Polish emigrants in London, "Unity and Action," which had sent a message to the All-Slav Committee in Moscow disclaiming the idea that Poland could be freed by "passivity, withdrawal of troops from the battlefield and violation of Allied unity."

By a decree dated the 14th June, 1943, of the Praesidium of the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R., ranks have been accorded to the diplomatic personnel of the People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs, of Embassies and of Legations of the U.S.S.R. serving abroad. It is ordained in the decree that the ranks of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, and Minister Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary (both first and second class) are to be conferred by decree of the Praesidium of the Supreme Soviet, whilst other ranks can be conferred by order of the People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs.

On the 19th June M. Oumansky presented his credentials as Soviet Minister in Mexico.

## SCANDINAVIA.

A recent report from Norway paints a somewhat disquieting picture of declining morale among the people. Malnutrition, arrests and ill-treatment are alleged to have produced a mood of resignation and lack of fighting spirit which would have been unthinkable a year ago. It is difficult to assess the trustworthiness of this report, since it has for some time been evident that there exists a school of thought in Norway which advocates more active measures of resistance as an essential element in maintaining morale, and which is accordingly dissatisfied. Other reports have hitherto spoken in general of a home front as determined and courageous as ever. Some increase in apathetic resignation is, however, to be expected in the present circumstances, and there seems little doubt that there was a lack of prompt leadership in organising resistance to the latest measure of German control—the labour conscription.

On the other hand, there seems no doubt that there has been an increasingly extensive refusal to obey orders to work on behalf of the German war effort, as the true scope and object of the new measure became realised. The instructions issued through the underground press have been very firm in enjoining evasion of such work as is not in the national, but the German, interest, and though it may to some extent be true that such directives do not elicit the same ready response as formerly, it is a fact that of 400 workers recently conscripted from Aker only 100 reported for service, and, when the arrest of recalcitrants was ordered by the Gestapo, only 50 of the missing persons were in fact to be found, the remainder having successfully evaded capture. The Swedish press reports that the police are also searching for as many as 1,700 citizens of Oslo, who have similarly ignored the call-up.

Apart from this, there have, as previously reported, been a number of acts of resistance of a more active character, the latest being the killing of a German lieutenant at an ammunition depot in Raufoss, in south Norway, which led to the arrest as hostages of two of the leading inhabitants, with a threat that these would be shot if the perpetrators were not discovered by the 1st July.

The truth probably is that there has been some decline in the morale and discipline of the general population, but that the core of the home front, and the spirit among Norwegians capable of directing it, remain almost as sound as ever, though arrest and execution may have disposed of some of the leading spirits.

In Denmark, at any rate, there seems to be no suspicion that the attitude of the Norwegian home front is other than admirable. A crowd on a recent occasion spontaneously broke into the Norwegian national anthem, with the result that a broadcast of the proceedings was abruptly cut off. Danish morale itself is certainly on the up-grade; there is no diminution in acts of sabotage, though the latest instances reported, a chemical factory at Hedehusene and a badminton hall at Sundby, seem to have had no clear relation to resistance to the German war effort, which was not affected. There has been a curious fluctuation in the German policy with regard to according publicity to such incidents. Originally it was forbidden to report sabotage in the press, then the policy was reversed, and full reports were not only permitted but encouraged. Now, however, the former prohibition has been resumed, since the number of cases formed a damaging commentary on Dr. Best's policy of conciliation.

General von Hanneken is reported to be disappointed at the unwillingness of members of the Danish army to support the German war effort. He is believed to have requested the total disbandment of the army, though the request was not pressed in view of the opposition it encountered. The Danish Government has, however, agreed to stop all preparations for the usual annual mobilisation, though the surrender of mobilisation lists, which was demanded, does not appear to have been conceded.

If the return on leave of a large number of men from the Frikorps Danmark was intended to serve the end of German propaganda, the actions of the men themselves have effectively defeated this object. Their disorderly behaviour in several places has led to disturbances and contributed to increase the existing unpopularity of the movement.

The Danish Nazi Party is suffering from numerous defections, and its leader, Clausen, is acknowledged, even in the ranks of the Party itself, to have become politically impossible. A circular recently sent to National Socialists in the Viborg district openly stated: "Politically Fritz Clausen is a dead man," while an advertisement in *Jyllandsposten* grasps at a statement by the leader that he would like to see a competitive Party, and urges that he should be taken at his