

controlled paper has attacked the home front for its lack of leadership and discipline.

Soviet sources announced a considerable partisan success on the Javor Planina in Montenegro on the 1st May. The first count of prisoners came to 700. Of these, 300 were Italians; the rest presumably being Serb chetniks. In Hercegovina the partisans were forced to retire from Gatchko. "Free Yugoslavia" Radio also mentioned continued fighting on a small scale in Slovenia, Lika, Southern Bosnia and Slavonia. It repeatedly denounced Stanishitch for collaboration with the Italians. It also suggested that the partisan cause was reviving in Serbia, quoted some cases of sabotage, and called on the Serbians to take to the hills and fight.

Himmler's visit to Zagreb was followed by the dismissal of "all officials, adjutants and commissars of the Ustaš Movement." The Germans have been pressing Pavelitch to improve his régime either by admitting some Croat Peasant Party leaders to power or by sacking many of his useless officials. The first alternative required the Peasant Party's agreement; and accordingly the second has been adopted. Meanwhile, contacts are reported as being maintained between the Peasant Party and the Croat Army, in preparation for the coming of the Allies, but the infiltration of German officers into the Croat Army is also reported. The Catholic hierarchy appears to be increasingly critical of the régime. Even "Free Yugoslavia" praised Archbishop Štepinac for a denunciation of anti-Semitism on the 9th May, which caused Pavelitch to drop some anti-Jewish measures. (This may have been confused with the Archbishop's action in March, when he secured the withdrawal of an order for the registration of all Jews, which, it was feared, would have led to their internment and liquidation.)

The Hungarian Press reports the suspension of the officials of all the Co-operative Societies in Serbia (but not in the Volksdeutsch-managed Banat). Néditch explained that these officials had not shown "sufficient understanding of the situation and of the needs of the Serbian people." The nature of the "situation" was partly explained by *Donauzeitung's* review of the work of "Sada," the Serbian Agricultural Products Company, for 1941-42. The Company's functions in Serbia had been transferred to the "Cereal Centre" and in the Banat to Volksdeutsch organisations. The latter had supplied the German economy in Serbia with surpluses, to be repaid in kind in 1941-42. But the surpluses had not been forthcoming in Serbia in 1941-42. Hence the present system according to which fixed amounts of cereals are collected, and producers have to "adapt their own requirements to the balance left to them." The "Cereal Centre" was using twelve firms, including "Sada," to requisition crops.

In Albania Ekrem Bey Libohova has been given the unenviable task of heading a new Government. His is the fourth Cabinet to hold office this year, and he was Premier himself for a few weeks from the 19th January. General Pariani, the Italian Governor of Albania, has appealed to the people to support the new Government, and Libohova has sent messages, expressing determination and loyalty, to the Italian King, to Mussolini, and to Scorza, Secretary of the Italian Fascist Party.

The *Stockholms Tidningen* reported on the 9th May, from its Berlin correspondent that the Bulgarian army had recently received considerable supplies of highly modern weapons from Germany. The Bulgarian coasts were considered to be strongly fortified and "this sector of Axis Europe" secured in every possible degree. Other reports spoke of German soldiers arriving in Bulgaria.

There was another attempted assassination, this time an unsuccessful one, perpetrated against an engineer employed in detecting secret wireless stations. Two of the perpetrators—one of them a woman—were caught and the police afterwards stated that they were on the track of a vast illegal organisation. Further arrests were also made in connexion with recent assassinations.

The Germans are drawing attention to their humanity towards the Greeks. A Swedish ship carrying German sugar and potatoes has reached the Piræus from Trieste, and six more food ships are on the way. In the first quarter of 1943, Germany sent to Greece 8,000 tons of liquid fuel. Further guerrilla successes are reported.

The fourth anniversary of the signature of the Anglo-Turkish mutually defensive declaration brought friendly references to Great Britain from the Turkish Press, which declared that the attachment between the two peoples had been strengthened by the tragedies of war.

The Allied victory in Tunisia has produced floods of congratulatory comment, and the newspapers not only deride the attempts of German and Italian propaganda to minimise the importance of our success, but they also expatiate upon the moral and strategical consequences of the Axis defeat.

Much satisfaction has, moreover, been felt at M. Stalin's statement to the Moscow correspondent of *The Times* on Poland. His words are interpreted as meaning that a similarly reassuring policy will be extended to other neighbours of Russia and, viewed in this light, they are regarded as extremely important and as being the first step towards the establishment of more open and confident relations between the U.S.S.R. and its neighbours. At the same time there is no indication that all these happy events will produce any concrete change in Turkish foreign policy. Presiding at the inauguration of the Institute of International Law at Istanbul University the Turkish Foreign Secretary, while protesting Turkey's loyalty to her engagements and regard for international law, made it clear that the Turkish objective was "the absolute preservation of all the rights and interests of Turkey, to maintain towards our allies and friends that open-heartedness which enables us to talk to them frankly and openly, and to nourish, even in moments of the utmost difficulty, the single ideal of seeing the Turkey of to-morrow more prosperous and more advanced than at present."

THE MIDDLE EAST.

Our victories in Tunisia have been hailed with enthusiasm by the Egyptian public, who believe that the *débâcle* of the Axis armies is a good augury for the successful invasion of Europe by the Allies.

Discussions in the Egyptian Parliament on the "Black Book" seem at last to be coming to a close, and the Government hope to ask for a vote of confidence on the 20th May. Before that date Makram Ebeid will be given ample opportunity to put his questions before the Chamber. The President of the Chamber turned down as impracticable Makram's original request to cite no less than 60 charges in support of his interpellation on the honesty of the Government, and asked him to adopt some more manageable procedure. This, however, did not satisfy Makram, who, on the 15th May, was still discussing with the President the possibility of a general interpellation. If the Government succeed in getting their vote of confidence, they may decide after all not to go to the country on their own initiative, feeling that such action might be interpreted as a sign of guilt or of doubt in themselves.

Until the 17th May we did not know what the King's attitude would be, though there were indications that he might see reason if we pressed him to do so. On that date the King asked to see His Majesty's Ambassador, who found him in a markedly amiable mood. After renewing his congratulations on the Tunisian victory, the King said that he personally believed a change of Government was advisable, as the present Ministry had lost all its moral authority in the country. If, however, His Majesty's Government considered that its continuance would be of service to them in the interests of the war effort, he, for his part, was ready to maintain the present Government in power for the time being.

Ibn Saud has expressed to His Majesty's Legation at Jeddah his delight at the news of our victory in Tunisia, and has sent a personal message of congratulation to His Majesty's Government. Further light has been thrown on Ibn Saud's views regarding Arab unity. It will be remembered that in February last Nuri Pasha sent his observations on the subject to Ibn Saud, and a summary of the latter's reply to Nuri has now been received by His Majesty's Government. While stressing his deep interest in Arab unity and independence, Ibn Saud insists that the question must be regarded from a purely practical point of view. As to the future status of Syria and Palestine, he wishes them to obtain their independence, but any discussions regarding those countries with His Majesty's Government must be carried out in an entirely friendly manner. He has already made it known both to His Majesty's Government and to the United States Government that, while hoping to see both States independent, he wishes "Syria to belong to the people of Syria and Palestine to the people of Palestine."

On the question of Arab unity in general, Ibn Saud believes that the first step is to carry out sincerely the treaties that already exist between Saudi Arabia and Iraq. He is willing to meet the Iraqis half-way, and more than half-way, in any gesture of friendship. The next step would be for them to consult together on the best means of achieving a satisfactory measure of unity. Each Government concerned should choose a number of persons of integrity and good sense.