

**SECRET**

Copy No 183

(16370)

[W 7519/351/50]

## Weekly Political Intelligence Summary No. 189

FOREIGN OFFICE,  
(RESEARCH DEPARTMENT),  
MAY 19, 1943.

### CONTENTS.

	Page		Page
Europe—		Europe ( <i>contd.</i> )—	
Germany ... ..	1	Italy ... ..	11
Czechoslovakia ... ..	3	South-Eastern Europe ... ..	13
Poland... ..	4	Middle East ... ..	15
Soviet Union... ..	4	Far East... ..	17
Scandinavia ... ..	6	United States ... ..	18
The Low Countries ... ..	7	Latin America ... ..	20
France ... ..	8		
Spain and Portugal ... ..	10		

### EUROPE.

#### GERMANY.

THE Germans have accepted defeat in Tunisia, protesting that they would not minimise its importance as a military reverse but that it could not be called decisive. The German High Command's communiqué of the 13th announced that all resistance from Axis forces had ceased, and thus let loose a flood of comment on the whole campaign, most of which emphasised how much had been achieved by the tenacity and heroism of troops which had succeeded in delaying every stage of the Allied advance in Africa. Much praise was given to the Italians, and it was implied that they would fight even more strongly at home than abroad. A recurring feature of the comment was emphasis on the advantage to the Japanese of the long Axis fight in Africa, which, indeed, was said to have made possible an early offensive in the Far East. It was pointed out that such an offensive would be the more likely to succeed because much of the material intended to be used against it had been diverted to Africa.

The German people were not encouraged to seek further reasons for the defeat than the weight of numbers opposing the small Axis armies. Replying to Attlee's proportion of four to one, *D.N.B.* suggested that ten to one would have been nearer the mark. One account broadcast on the German Home Service actually spoke of an "Axis victory" in view of the dislocation inflicted on the enemy. Much comment on the last stages of the fighting was not unlike that used at the time of the Stalingrad defeat; many accounts stressed the fact that "the troops have fought to the last cartridge." The public was urged to take heart from the fact that the successful general of the African armies, Rommel, although at present ill, was recuperating for the "new task" which the Leader would assign to him.

The shock of the defeat is evident from the general uneasiness as to what is going to happen next. The impression that Europe is now actually threatened with invasion is the background of a good deal of what has been said and written