

colleagues from Istanbul and elsewhere on 26th March was ascribed by the press to the need to answer American enquiries as to the precise kind of help they really want. Now that they regard effective assistance as a foregone conclusion, they may have more than their usual difficulty in making up their minds. When first commenting on the news of President Truman's message to Congress, M. Recep Peker, the Prime Minister, spoke of applying American financial help to industrial and economic schemes and to roads, transport, and social institutions, and he recalled that more than half the country's revenue was spent on defence. After struggling for years with the question "guns or butter?" the Turks may well be carried away by the quasi-certainty that they will get both and have only to specify details. Indeed some Turkish commentators have been a little inclined to look the American gift horse in the mouth and to take it as the due reward of Turkey's war-time role or of her evolution towards democracy, two subjects on which she deserves neither the smug credit taken by Turkish publicists nor the constant invective of the Soviet press and radio. All the same there is little doubt that, thanks to President Truman's initiative, the general apprehension of Russian intentions has been replaced by hope of better relations with

#### THE MIDDLE EAST

##### Egypt

The pause which has followed the important debates in the Senate and the Resolution of the Arab League on the Egyptian question comes as somewhat of an anti-climax after these events, and there is still no news of the next step which the Government propose to take, or as to how they expect to extricate themselves from the difficulties in which their policy of extremism may land them. They must, by now, be fully aware that they can expect no further concessions from His Majesty's Government which would help to save their faces and permit them to withdraw from the project of appealing to the United Nations, and, in spite of the form of the unanimous resolution passed by the delegates to the Arab League Council, they can hardly have been left in any doubt of the true sentiments of the delegates or of their expectations of the result of the appeal when it is made.

The Minister of Finance, Abdul Maguid Badr Pasha, in the course of his Budget

Russia. In Government circles, nevertheless, there is constant fear that Great Britain and the United States may seek to appease the Soviet Government at Turkey's expense.

Until the question of American help overshadowed all else, party politics had been pursued with considerable acrimony in the press, in the Grand National Assembly and at local elections. The allegation of the Democratic (minority) Party that the Republican People's Party owed its victory in the municipal elections at the small town of Uşak to malpractice, created a good deal of fuss. The Democrats also made wholesale charges of intimidation by the gendarmerie during the municipal elections and the election of village headmen (muhtars) throughout the country. A reform on which the Democratic leader, M. Celal Bayar, is now concentrating is that votes should be fairly counted—which was not the case everywhere at the last general election.

At the invitation of the Speaker of the House of Commons six Turkish deputies—of whom two will be Democrats—will visit the United Kingdom in May. In return three British M.P.s have been invited to visit Turkey towards the end of April, after the Cairo meeting of the Inter-parliamentary Union.

speech in the Chamber of Deputies on the 24th March announced that, at the preliminary talks about Egypt's sterling balances, the proposal of His Majesty's Government that the credit should be scaled down as being a war-debt between two Allies, had been rejected by the Egyptian Government on the ground that Egypt's war effort had much exceeded that called for by her international obligations. He gave some details also of the Government's plans for social reform, upon which they propose to spend something over £E26 million in the course of the next five years. The profits which have accrued from cotton sales during the war are to be devoted to the supplying of drinking-water in the villages. The General Reserve has been increased by over £E10 million during the financial year just ended, and now amounts to nearly £E68 million.

The resignation of Sir Hubert Huddleston from the post of Governor-General of the Sudan and the appointment of Sir Robert Howe in his place seem to have

baffled the Egyptian press, whose comments vary from that of *Akhbar al Yom*, which says that it is the result of the demand of the Egyptian Government, to that of a correspondent in the *Ahram*, who condemns the appointment and urges the appointment of an Egyptian.

The press campaign against British institutions in Egypt—which has been strongest in the organ of the Young Egypt Party, the *Misr al Fattat*—appears to have stimulated the series of bomb attacks which have recently occurred in Alexandria, and a more recent one on the premises of the Anglo-Egyptian Union in Cairo. The British Institute and the premises of the "Brethren of Freedom" have both been damaged, and an unexploded bomb has been found in Victoria College. There were no casualties.

##### Palestine

The appeal, reported last week, in which the Jewish Agency called upon the Yishuv for a united effort to develop and improve its economic position (which has been interpreted as an appeal to avoid strikes and lock-outs) was probably a result of the criticism to which the Agency has been subjected as a result of its passive attitude in face of the severe economic damage suffered from the imposition of Statutory Martial Law. In an attempt to re-establish its prestige the Agency has warned the public that the Government is trying to drive a wedge between the Yishuv and their national institutions, hoping that those who deviate from the line prescribed by the Agency or collaborate more than the Agency think desirable will be branded as quislings. The Agency statement has received some approval for the maintenance of the policy of the Basle Congress, but, on the whole, criticism in the Palestine press has been hostile, the right-wing *Haaretz*, which has been particularly vocal, saying that the Agency has undermined its own authority, and pointing to the need for strong leadership and effective representation. The London *Jewish Chronicle*, in a leading article on the 28th March, says: "the time has come—indeed it is long overdue—for Zionist and other Jewish bodies to meet together in an enlarged Jewish Agency expressing the widest possible measure of agreement that can be achieved in World Jewry on questions relating to the Jewish National Home and its future."

His Majesty King Abdullah, in a press interview at Amman on the 23rd March, is said to have advocated large-scale Arab

immigration to Palestine as the best means of combating Jewish immigration and maintaining the Arab majority in the country.

The Arab Higher Executive met on the 26th March and approved new statutes for youth organisations which are to be published in a few days. They are also proposing to send permanent missions to London and New York and other delegations to organise the Arab communities in Europe, America and Asia. A cable is reported to have been sent to the four Foreign Ministers in Moscow drawing their attention to the Arab case in Palestine.

The second anniversary of the founding of the Arab League was widely but peaceably celebrated on the 22nd March.

(See also under "Arab League" and "Iraq".)

The Jewish Telegraphic Agency reported on the 24th March that a "cease fire" order had been issued to the Irgun Zvai Leumi pending "the result of negotiations now being conducted with responsible Jewish circles." In spite of this, acts of terrorism continue, and a British Army officer and a police officer were murdered near Ramleh on the 29th March. What is described by the correspondent of *The Times* as "the maniacal tendency" of the terrorists is further illustrated in the beating to death in the streets of Tel Aviv of a Jew who, it seems, had been some time ago unpopular with the Jewish community. On the 24th March the Palestine Discount Bank in Tel Aviv was held up by an armed gang who got away with £P27,500. A clerk who attempted to intervene was wounded. Explosions followed by fire caused serious damage to the oil storage tanks at Haifa on 31st March.

##### The Arab League

After the meeting of the Council on the 24th March at which the Palestine question was examined, a *communiqué* was issued announcing the unanimous decisions which had been reached. After a reference to the failure of the London Conference decisions are recorded to defend the Arab cause before the United Nations and to form a Committee to organise all the measures necessary for this purpose. The Council go on to recommend to the Governments of the Arab States that they should provide funds for the Arab Higher Committee so that it may intensify its propaganda campaign, and also that it may "send Palestinian scholastic missions to specialise in science and arts with a view to the creation