

No. 213). There is, however, a new note of victorious confidence in all of them. Thus the first slogan, acclaiming the revolution, declares that it "created the mighty Soviet Power, the foundation of the freedom and independence of the peoples of the U.S.S.R., the bulwark of peace among peoples." In hailing the Red Army, it is emphasised that it "has driven out the German-Fascist invaders beyond the boundaries of our motherland, and is smashing them on German territory." References to the Allies are also warmer. The Anglo-Soviet-American alliance will ensure not only victory but also "a stable peace between the peoples of the whole world." Greetings are extended to "the brave British and American sailors" as well as to "the gallant troops of Great Britain and the United States, who are smashing the Hitlerite hordes in Western Europe." The Yugoslav, Polish, French and Czech peoples are also singled out for special mention. In the case of Poland, controversial issues are carefully avoided, the appeal being to "patriots of Poland" to assist their liberators—the Red Army and the Polish Army, with no mention of the P.C.N.L.

The Soviet campaign against those European Powers which have not recognised the Soviet Government (see last week's *Summary*) is developing briskly. On the 4th November, Moscow Radio broadcast in Russian a communiqué of the Information Bureau of the People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs on Soviet-Swiss relations. This communiqué revealed that on the 10th October, the Swiss Minister in London forwarded to the Soviet Government through its Ambassador in London a memorandum containing a proposal for the re-establishment of diplomatic relations. After summarising this memorandum the statement continues: "It is, however, a matter of general knowledge that during many years the Swiss Government, in violation of its old democratic traditions, has been pursuing a pro-Fascist policy hostile to the Soviet Union, which together with other democratic countries is consistently waging a struggle against Hitlerite Germany in the interests of peace-loving nations." The Soviet Government therefore "refused to accept the proposals of the Swiss Government . . . since the Swiss Government has hitherto not disassociated itself in any form from its former policy of hostility to the Soviet Union." Switzerland has never recognised the Soviet Government, and the latter may well find irresistible the desire to inflict a public humiliation on so belated a penitent. Its attitude may, however, be part of the wider war of nerves which the Soviet Government is waging against some neutrals, and in particular against Spain. If relatively harmless Switzerland is handled so roughly, what will the Soviet attitude be towards Spain, whose Government is treated by Soviet propaganda as an Axis satellite, and some of whose generals are on the Soviet list of war criminals? *Izvestiya's* foreign observer returned to this familiar Soviet topic on the 3rd November, stating that "Fascist Spain is Hitler's last bulwark in Europe," and that "people naturally ask: 'Will the Madrid lackey outlive his European boss?' This question cannot be deemed irrelevant either for the cause of victory over Germany or for the future of European peace. That is why ripening events in Spain attract the close attention of public circles in all democratic countries." So once again Soviet interest in the future of Spain, and unqualified condemnation of the Franco régime, have been made clear to the world.

The Soviet press and radio campaign against the Persian Government (see *Summary* No. 265 under "Middle East") continues, reinforced this week by a long article on "Events in Persia," in *Izvestiya* of the 4th November, which accuses the Persian Government of violating its treaty and agreement obligations to the U.S.S.R. *Izvestiya* states that in contravention of clause 13 of the Soviet-Persian Treaty of 1921, the Persian Government, "willingly inviting concessionaires from other countries, raised obstacles to the operations of the Soviet-Persian Khurian joint stock company." M. Saed's Government is once more charged with apathy in prosecuting Hitlerite agents, and the Prime Minister himself "with plain hypocrisy and double-dealing," whilst *Izvestiya* vigorously disputes the Persian allegation that the requests for oil concessions made by Great Britain, the United States and the U.S.S.R. had been treated equitably. For the first time in this controversy the presence of American troops in Persia is questioned as being incompatible with "the sovereignty and independence of Persia, which has no treaty alliance with the United States (see also under "Middle East")."

An article on the presidential elections in the United States which appeared in the official *Izvestiya* on the 5th November is remarkable mainly for its bold title: "President Roosevelt's election is guaranteed." The tone of the article is unqualifiedly pro-Roosevelt, and it even mentions "reports in Republican headquarters" that "a sham 'attempt' on Dewey" is being prepared, the

responsibility for which would be laid on the American Communists. Even this, however, could not help Governor Dewey, but would merely expose him utterly "in the eyes of those who still harbour some illusions on his behalf."

On the 4th November the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet awarded the Order of Lenin to a number of Soviet diplomats, including M. Gousev, the Soviet Ambassador in London; M. Gromyko (Washington), M. Malik (Tokyo), and M. Panyushkin (Ambassador to China, who has been in Moscow for health reasons for the last six months). The Order was also awarded to three Deputy-Commissars for Foreign Affairs—M. Kavtaradze (who recently wielded the big stick in Persia—see *Summary* No. 265), M. Lozovsky and M. Dekanozov. The Order of the Red Banner of Labour was awarded (among others) to M. Orlov (Soviet political adviser on the Control Commission in Finland), General Maksimov and M. Kostylev (the recently appointed Ambassadors to Persia and Italy respectively), M. Solod (Soviet Minister to Syria and the Lebanon), M. Lavrentiev (recently appointed People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs of the R.S.F.S.R.), and M. Sobolev (Minister in London).

The end of the harvest this year was marked by several statements on the Soviet agricultural position. One broadcast talk recalled that on the eve of the war 250,000 collective farms replaced the former small-holdings of 25 million individual peasants. The technical advantages of this change-over from small-scale to large-scale mechanised farming were stressed, as well as the fact that in the pre-war period Soviet agriculture had 480,000 tractors and 154,000 combines (worked by 970,000 tractor-drivers and 255,000 combine-harvester operators). Agriculture was then 70 per cent. mechanised, and this resulted in important increases in agricultural yields. Furthermore, writing recently in *Krasny Flot*, the People's Deputy Commissar for Agriculture, M. Benediktov, declared that the total increase in the sown area this year in collective farms amounts to 12 million hectares, of which 9 million are under grain. He said that as a result of the increased sown area, accompanied by higher yields, the country will receive far more agricultural produce than during the preceding war-time years. He did not, however, add that there will be many more mouths to feed.

#### SCANDINAVIA.

The dissolution of the Civic Guard, or Skyddskår, in Finland, the decree for which passed its third reading in the Diet on the 3rd November, has caused great local depression, and is described in a Helsinki message to *Svenska Dagbladet* as "the hardest blow to Finland since the Armistice was signed." These regrets are not, however, shared in labour circles, which have always regarded the institution with suspicion as a reactionary body; in spite of the agreement between the Social Democrats and the Skyddskår during the "winter war," *Arbetarbladet* states that it knows of no instance where organised Swedo-Finnish workers have joined it. Originally, indeed, the Skyddskår was formed surreptitiously to counter the Bolshevik revolution, and formed the nucleus of the White Guards who suppressed communism in the stage of the war for independence which began early in 1918. The organisation was legally recognised as a part of the military forces of the republic in 1927, though at this stage the step was stubbornly resisted by the Social Democrats. Later, however, the organisation developed valuable social and educational features, which are remembered with wistful regret, and it was regarded as a cherished part of the national life. Considering its origin, however, and its pronouncedly *bourgeois* colour, it could hardly have been expected to meet with the approval of the Soviet Union.

The Germans and quislings are making intense propaganda of the evacuation of the civil population from Northern Norway, which they represent as a voluntary flight from the advancing Russians. On the other hand, Norwegian sources point out that Jonas Lie, who has been put in control of Troms and Finnmark and armed with fresh powers in the Police Department by a decree signed by Quisling on the 2nd November, addressed the people of Kirkenes and Bjørnevatn immediately before the capture of this region by the Soviet forces, declaring that all houses would be destroyed by the Germans and the civil population compulsorily evacuated. Inhabitants of the Lyngenfjord-Skibotn area are also reported to have been compulsorily evacuated. A ship's steward who endeavoured to persuade an evacuation ship to make for a Soviet-controlled port has been condemned by a special court and subsequently shot.