

on what happened to the deportees in one at least of these camps, that at Treblinka near Malkinia on the Warsaw-Bialystok railway line. There are grave reasons to fear that, over and above the numerous deaths from exhaustion, under-nourishment and ill-treatment which occur among male Jews in the prime of life who are sent to this camp and put to work in it, both men, women and children have there been deliberately slaughtered *en masse* in lethal chambers. The news from Treblinka was certainly among the contributory causes which led Dr. Szmul Zygielbojm, the Jewish Socialist leader, to take his life as reported in last week's *Summary*.

The underground organisation in Poland continues to be very active and the latest reports received record acts of sabotage committed in the Lodz district, that is to say, in the so-called "incorporated territories," as well as in the General Government. This is interesting, as hitherto the organisation has only come out into the open in Central and, to some extent, in Eastern Poland.

The Pope has appointed Mgr. Godfrey, the Apostolic Delegate in this country, to be his Chargé d'Affaires to the Polish Government. This news, when it becomes known in Poland, will certainly make a very good impression and help to counter the German propaganda which has always tried to convince the Poles that the Vatican has no longer any interest in Poland as a State.

General Sikorski has left for the Middle East in order to pay his long-deferred visit to the Polish Army there.

The Polish Government have appointed General Joseph Haller, a member of the Cabinet, to be their permanent delegate in the Middle East.

SOVIET UNION.

There has been no change in the military situation on the eastern front during the past week, but the commencement of new large-scale operations can scarcely be delayed much longer. Great satisfaction was shown in the Soviet press at the news of the destruction by the R.A.F. of the two dams in the Ruhr, both *Pravda* and *Trud*, the organ of the Central Trade Union Organisation, publishing leading articles which gave very full appreciations of the importance of the event. Similarly, the press gave a very full report of the Prime Minister's speech at Washington, which was also broadcast to the U.S.S.R.; including the passage contrasting the number of enemy divisions with which the Red Army is at grips with the fifteen divisions destroyed by the Allied forces in Tunisia, and that which expressed Mr. Churchill's and the President's desire that a meeting which had long been sought between them and Marshal Stalin, and later with Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek, should take place at no distant date. Unusual confidence was shown, in an article broadcast by Zaslavsky on the 23rd May, in a comparatively speedy break-up of the Axis, such expressions being used as: "Two or three mighty blows from the west and the east, and the brown crayfish will crawl in all directions out of the upturned basket," and again: "The war is developing, and the moment is approaching when the Axis will not withstand the pressure. Then the crisis in the Fascist camp will become a catastrophe. Then the hour of retribution will strike."

By a resolution dated the 15th May, but not published until the 22nd May, the Presidium of the Executive Committee of the Communist International announced the dissolution of the Third International as the directing centre of the International Working-Class Movement. The action of the Presidium in arriving at such a definite decision without its prior submission to the various national sections for their consideration was explained in the Moscow announcement as being due to the impossibility in the circumstances of the war of convening a Congress of the organisation, and the resolution was merely put forward in the form of a proposal to be ratified by the sections. Under its terms, the latter were freed from obligations devolving on them from the statutes of the International or the resolutions of its congresses. All supporters of the International were at the same time called upon to concentrate their energies "on wholehearted support and active participation in the war of liberation." It may be taken for granted that the decision to abolish the Comintern was not adopted on the initiative of the Presidium even, but was dictated by the Kremlin; and it must be acknowledged that the moment for action was singularly well-chosen. From the point of view of home politics alone this must have been a matter of some importance, since there would be many zealots of the Communist Party who could confidently be expected to regard with dismay what amounted to a public abandonment of the great Communist aim of world

revolution. But on the one hand the prestige of Marshal Stalin and his régime in all probability never stood higher in the Soviet Union than it does to-day; and on the other hand, the striking successes recently gained in Africa and in air attack on the Axis, by proving to the Soviet peoples the determination of the allied, yet capitalist, peoples to go all the way with them in fighting the common enemy, and by demonstrating the complete loyalty of these capitalist nations to their governments, have shown up the falsity of much Communist Party doctrine. For well over a year now it has been generally considered that the Soviet Government was no longer much interested in the Comintern, the headquarters of which have been variously reported to have been evacuated to Ufa, Sverdlovsk and Novosibirsk. It was even suggested at one time that the places of residence of some leading personages of the organisation were under surveillance, whilst other leaders were believed to be in distant concentration camps. The announcement of the 22nd May stated that: "Long before the war it became more and more clear that, with the increasing complications in the internal and international relations of the various countries, any sort of international centre would encounter insuperable obstacles in solving the problems facing the movement in each separate country," but apart from that it may well have been realised at last by Marshal Stalin and other objectively-minded leaders of the Soviet Union that the very idea of their internal politics being directed by a body set up in a foreign capital was enough to sway working-class opinion in the British Empire and the United States, at any rate, against communism; whilst in dealings with foreign governments the existence, even if only in the background, of the Comintern, with its unsavoury reputation for subversive activities, was a hindrance to closer relations such as it seems clear that Stalin would like now to see established with friendly Powers. The disappearance of the Comintern may indeed mark the consummation of a successful campaign on his part to convince Party opinion that, as he said in his speech of the 6th November, 1942, "the logic of events is stronger than any other logic," and that, in spite of the difference in the ideologies and social systems of the countries composing the Anglo-Soviet-American coalition, there exists ample basis for common action. It would be wise, however, to suspend a final verdict as to the wholeheartedness or otherwise with which the decision to abandon the attempt to dictate from Moscow the working-class movement in every country in the world has been taken. Marshal Stalin has more than once of late emphasised the right of every nation to arrange its affairs as it wishes, but non-interference in internal politics should be the natural corollary. For this reason much importance will attach to such questions as to whether subsidies will continue in the future as in the past to flow from Moscow into the treasure chests of foreign Communist Parties or of subversive movements, and whether revolutionaries from outside the U.S.S.R. (*e.g.*, India) will be welcomed to the U.S.S.R. and courses of instruction in revolutionary activities arranged for them, as was the practice prior to the war.

As a result of an interview on the 18th May between His Majesty's Ambassador and M. Molotov, a little more light has been thrown on the status of the Union of Polish Patriots. The People's Commissar categorically denied that the Union approximated in any way to the French National Committee or its Czechoslovak counterpart, and he was equally emphatic that it was not to be looked upon as the competent Polish authority in Moscow. M. Molotov was at pains to explain that it was precisely because it had been foreseen that some misgivings would be felt concerning the Union and the formation of the Polish Legion that the facts had been made public by the Soviet Government. M. Maisky has also assured the Secretary of State that no idea was contemplated of establishing some authority in the U.S.S.R. which might in the end be regarded as being in the nature of a Polish Government. Meanwhile, although a formal reply has not yet been received, it is understood that the Soviet Government will agree to Polish interests in the U.S.S.R. being looked after by Australia.

Mr. Joseph Davies, who is in the U.S.S.R. as Special Envoy of the President of the United States, arrived in Moscow by air on the 19th May; he had already visited Kuibyshev and Stalingrad. On the 20th May he was received at the Kremlin by M. Molotov and subsequently by Marshal Stalin, to whom he handed a personal letter from Mr. Roosevelt. Nothing is known as to the contents of the letter, but the atmosphere engendered by the visit appears to be very cordial, and on the 23rd May a banquet was given in the Catherine Hall of the Kremlin in honour of Mr. Davies, which was attended by, among others, Marshal Voroshilov and MM. Beriya and Mikoyan, of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party, Admiral Kuznetsov, People's Commissar for the Navy, General Golikov and M. Litvinov. His Majesty's Ambassador and members of the Embassy and the