

by Kraljevo and by the Sandjak into Bosnia. The Red Army has occupied all Batchka, including Novi Sad; and the front is moving westwards across Srem, from which the numerous local Germans are migrating.

The partisans have occupied Split, Omish and the south Dalmatian coast almost to Kotor, except for the delta of the Neretva. In Bosnia they have taken Travnik, and are attacking Zenica and the Mostar-Sarajevo-Brod railway line. In Macedonia the Germans are being compressed between Bulgarian forces pushing forward from the east and partisans who have occupied Kichevo on the west.

Mr. Churchill made a short statement in the House of Commons on the 27th October on his discussions concerning Yugoslavia in Moscow. He said: "We are acting jointly, Russia and Britain, in our relations with both the Royal Yugoslav Government, headed by Dr. Shubashitch, and with Marshal Tito, and we have invited them to come together for the common cause, as they had already agreed to do at the conference which I held with them both at Naples. . . . We have invited them to come together and form a united Government for the purpose of carrying on the war, and, of course, until the country itself can pronounce. . . ." Shubashitch and Tito, in fact, met on the 25th.

Greece.

Speaking in the House of Commons on the 27th October, Mr. Churchill said that Great Britain had now redeemed the pledge, made in 1941, that her forces would return to Greece. The lawful Greek Government was now sitting in Athens, and the Greek Brigade would soon return with honour to its native land. The much-needed supplies of food would soon be distributed in Greece, and His Majesty's Government would do its best to assist the Greek Government in stabilising Greek currency. His Majesty's Government did not wish to become an arbiter in Greek affairs; its wish and policy was that the Greek people should decide in perfect freedom upon the form of government under which they wished to live. Until such a decision was made, His Majesty's Government was, naturally, preserving its relations with the Greek Royal House and with the existing constitutional Government, and regarded them as the authority to whom it was bound by the alliance made at the time of the Italian attack on Greece.

After considerable difficulties, particularly in his negotiations with the Liberal Party, M. Papandreou has succeeded in reconstructing his Cabinet, though one or two seats still remain to be filled. All the Communist and EAM representatives who joined the Government in September have been included in the reconstructed Cabinet, and several Liberals have been brought in to replace those who resigned at the end of August, but, as the Cabinet is still not quite complete, it is too early to say definitely how the balance between the various parties will finally lie.

General Spiliotopoulos has been made Director of the Ministry of War, and Brigadier Katsotas, a former commander of the First Greek Brigade in the Middle East, succeeds him as Military Governor of Attica. A law has been passed whereby the Minister of War is authorised to call up soldiers and reservist officers of four classes (ages 26-29); ELAS is to be demobilised; another law provides for the trial and punishment of traitors by special courts.

Mr. Eden, Mr. Macmillan, Lord Moyne, and General Maitland Wilson arrived in Athens on the 27th October. The Allied authorities are doing their utmost to assist the Greek Government to deal with its financial and economic difficulties, and it is hoped that arrangements may be made to import from the Middle East a limited quantity of goods of small bulk and high local value, which the Greek Government will sell for purposes of revenue.

Albania.

After broadcasting an appeal for order, which proved to be its swan song, the puppet Government of Ibrahim Biçaku resigned on the 26th October, leaving it to such civilian officials and army units as exist to carry on the administration in the north where its writ still ran. The Regency Council was dissolved at the same time. The F.N.C. are already in control of three-quarters of the country, and are systematically taking over further territory as the Germans evacuate it. The evacuation in the north is perhaps proceeding more quickly than hitherto, but it is orderly. The F.N.C. have attacked Tirana repeatedly, penetrating more than once into the centre of the town, and the Germans there have begun to destroy their equipment and stores. A strong enemy column with tanks fought its way from Tirana to Elbasan along the road which the F.N.C. had closed. A thousand Balli Kombetar troops were cut off round Kavaje, 15 miles south

of the capital. Damage done by the Germans to the oil wells at Kuçove before they evacuated the district on the 17th October may suspend working for a few weeks. The capture of Ohrid by Macedonian partisans will make escape difficult for further German troops from the south, who have been concentrated at Korça.

Bulgaria.

At the opening of the armistice discussions in Moscow the Bulgarian Foreign Minister, M. Stainov, based an appeal for just treatment of his country on the plea that the war declared by a previous Government against the Western Democracies offended the Bulgarian people's conscience and that they had shown this by the struggle of the partisans, the revolution of the 9th September, the present purge and the army's operations against the Germans. He professed a desire for close friendship with Bulgaria's neighbours, great respect for Great Britain and the United States, and profound love and gratitude for the liberator Power. In accepting the armistice M. Stainov declared that Bulgaria had already complied with much of it and that she hoped by co-operating increasingly with the United Nations to take her place among them even before peace was concluded. The armistice was duly signed on the 28th October by Marshal Tolbukhin for Russia and by Lieutenant-General Gammell for the Allied Supreme Command in the Mediterranean. Its terms are far from vindictive. Bulgaria undertakes to disarm German troops and intern German civilians; to make the Bulgarian forces available for service as required by the Soviet High Command, and to reduce them to a peace footing at the end of hostilities with Germany; to afford Russian and other Allied forces all facilities for movement; to release Allied prisoners and people interned on ideological grounds and to repeal discriminatory laws; to co-operate in bringing war criminals to trial and to suppress Hitlerite and Fascist organisations; to submit publications, wireless and films to the censorship of the Soviet High Command; to surrender German war material and German and Bulgarian loot; to return ships and other property of the Allies; to make regular payments of Bulgarian currency and to supply goods and services, as required by the Soviet High Command; and to accept an Allied control commission which will be presided over by a Red Army officer until the end of hostilities with Germany and will supervise the execution of the armistice. The reparation to be made to the Allies including Greece and Yugoslavia is left for future determination. Other provisions affecting those two countries are that Bulgaria, while forbidden to employ her troops on the territory of any of the Allies without that Ally's leave, is bound to withdraw Bulgarian troops, authorities and civilians from the occupied territories, to repeal legislation connected with their annexation, and lastly to provide food at once for the Greeks and Yugoslavs who have suffered from Bulgarian aggression.

In the present Bulgarian situation the dominant feature is the indirect, rather than direct, influence of Russia. The press conforms to the Soviet style. Political commissars have been appointed in the army. Committees of the Fatherland Front have been set up in all localities and in all sections of the population. The Fatherland Front Militia in uniform recalls the N.K.V.D. in plain clothes. In industry increased hours and Stakhanovist activity are boosted and there is a drive for contributions for the front. Accommodation is rationed. Thanks to their greater energy, resourcefulness, ruthlessness and single-mindedness the Communists have got a disproportionately big influence in the Government, but for the present at any rate they seem bound to keep step with its other elements—the Tsveno, the Agrarians and the Social Democrats. Under the leadership of G. M. Dimitrov, who recently returned from exile, a single National Agrarian Union has been formed, and as the Agrarians represent the large peasant majority this is likely to counteract a swing to the extreme left. Meanwhile hotheads are restrained. The press tells Agrarians and Communists not to hinder the revolution by disagreeing among themselves. Yugov, the Communist Minister of the Interior, sternly rebukes members of the Militia for arbitrary arrests and confiscations.

A good deal of publicity was given to the hard fighting by which the Bulgarian army captured Stracin and other positions in its advance on Skoplje.

Turkey.

On the 29th October, the twenty-first anniversary of the foundation of the republic, the main theme at Angora was the peaceful development of the new Turkey both in the past and in the future. President İnönü said that the Republican régime had been a period of national prosperity and that its object for the future was to make Turkey a land of justice and equality and a useful member of the family of nations. They believed greater prosperity was in store