

"Government of great landowners and barons," seeing that it contains representatives of the Polish peasantry and working classes. The Poles do not put forward any claims to Ukrainian or Lithuanian or White Russian lands, but they will not give up Polish Wilno and Polish Lwów. The Poles were very glad when in 1917-18 the new régime in Russia cut itself off from the old pan-Slav doctrines which were really a form of Russian imperialism. In conclusion the *Dziennik* describes the "Union of Polish Patriots" as a fiction, the maintenance of which impedes the restoration of Polish-Soviet collaboration.

The recent news from Poland goes to show that under orders of the Directorate of Civil Resistance a great deal of destruction of German Government offices and their contents has been taking place in many parts of the General Government, especially in the provinces of Lublin and Kielce, which are more or less in the centre. The main object of the Poles is to destroy all the lists and other papers dealing with the recruiting of labour for the Reich and also with the requisitioning of crops. The Directorate also called on the peasants not to organise this year any of the usual Whitsuntide processions and demonstrations for fear of provoking German reprisals. Whitsuntide is the traditional festival of the Polish peasants and is to their political Party what the 1st May is to the Socialists.

The President has appointed Dr. Emanuel Szerer to represent the Jewish Socialist Party, the "Bund," on the Polish National Council in the place of the late Dr. Zygielbojm.

In view of General Haller's bad health M. Tadeusz de Romer, who until recently was Polish Ambassador to the Soviet Union, has been appointed in his place Polish Government Delegate in the East. M. de Romer is at present in Palestine.

M. Stańczyk, the Polish Minister of Public Welfare, has been visiting the camps of Polish refugees in India and is now in Delhi.

General Sikorski has said good-bye to the Polish Army in Iraq and proceeded to Syria.

SOVIET UNION.

Once again there is no change to be recorded in the situation on the Eastern front. German strategical bombing operations, which had begun with attacks on Gorki, and later gravitated down the Volga to Saratov, were mostly directed during the past week to the lower reaches of the river, against Astrakhan and shipping on the river and estuary. The Air Forces of the Red Army seem once again to have largely confined their bombing activities to attacks on German lines of communication. There is no means yet of judging the measure of success achieved by the German raids, but it has been found necessary for *Pravda* to publish a warning to fire-fighting and other A.R.P. services to maintain a full state of readiness in every factory, and local Party organisations have been reminded that their primary task is to keep the A.A. defence system in fighting trim. It may well be that long immunity from attack from the air had caused some relaxation of vigilance, resulting in avoidable damage by bombs and fire.

The second anniversary of the German attack on the U.S.S.R. found morale in that country at a high level. Press correspondents agree in testifying to the confidence felt by the Russians in themselves and their armed forces, and this judgment finds confirmation in an account given by Mr. Joseph Davies of his recent visit to Moscow, Kuibyshev and Stalingrad, from which he returned across Siberia. He said that he found "an extraordinary quality of unspoken confidence and quiet strength" in the leaders, whilst he described Marshal Stalin as looking "well, strong and unworried." As to the army, its "morale is stronger than ever; the stubborn resistance and support of their people is everywhere apparent. They seem like men who have withstood the worst and who believe that they cannot be beaten."

Both the Germans and the Russians have issued statements reviewing their respective achievements during the two years' fighting, and have quoted figures of the losses they claim have been inflicted by them. Needless to say these figures bear no comparison with each other, the Germans, for example, claiming to have captured some five and a half million prisoners and to have inflicted a total loss of 20 million; whilst the Russians only admit a total of 4,200,000 killed and missing.

The Red Army, on the other hand, claims to have killed or captured 6,400,000 Germans, which estimate certainly does not correspond with recent German official figures. It would be fruitless, and in any case outside the province of the *Summary*, to attempt to balance the scales in this respect, but it is indeed significant that the military correspondent of *D.N.B.*, after reviewing the events of the past two years, should not have found it in him to go further than to say: "Drawing up a balance of the two years of war against the Soviet Union, it can be said, particularly on the ground of the most recent experiences, that the German front is strong enough to prevent the Bolsheviks from flooding Europe," and then to add, as it were as an afterthought: "It may even be said over and above this that it is strong enough, and holds a sufficiently favourable position, to follow its offensive tradition and to achieve its aims, which have been planned with German thoroughness." Great importance was rightly attributed in a Soviet Special Communiqué, broadcast on the 22nd June, to the operations of the partisans, and it was claimed that during the two years they had killed 300,000 men and blown up 3,000 trains, 895 dumps and 3,263 bridges. Once again, even if the above figures are not accepted in detail, the continuance of gloomy German allusions to the activities of the partisans and to the losses incurred thereby, affords confirmation of the general picture. In reviewing the events of the past two years, the claim was made in the Communiqué that "the rout by the Red Army of the German troops at the approaches to Moscow was the deciding military event of the first year of the (Soviet-German) war, and also the first large defeat of the Germans in the second world war," and that "the winter campaign of 1942-43 was the turning point in the whole course of the war." The Allies were reminded, too, that the German success last summer had only been made possible by the fact that, in the absence of a second front in Europe, all the German reserve divisions could be thrown on to the Eastern front, and a great superiority in man-power thereby obtained. As to the future, although defeat after defeat in Russia and Africa had shattered the might of the German Army and crippled Germany's capacity for waging war, the Soviet people and the Red Army did not underestimate the seriousness of the struggle in the future: "The balance of forces has improved to the benefit of us and our Allies. But this is not enough for victory. Everything now depends on how the Allies will be able to exploit the favourable situation for a second front in Europe, without which victory is impossible."

The President of the United States, the United States Secretary of the Navy and the Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives, have all sent messages to Moscow in connexion with the anniversary, and, by a decree of the State Committee for Defence, on the 22nd June an exhibition of weapons captured in the fighting against the Germans in 1941, 1942 and 1943 was opened in Moscow.

It is strange that it should have become necessary at this juncture to issue an official denial from Moscow that peace talks were being carried on between a Soviet diplomatic representative and German officers, but it would appear that the Swedish newspaper *Nya Dagligt Allehanda* recently published a story to the effect that Mme. Kollontai had been engaged in such talks and that the negotiations broke down on questions concerning territory. Who floated the tale is not known; Dr. Schmidt at a Wilhelmstrasse press conference on the 17th June, according to *N.P.D.*, "laughingly refused to discuss" the story, which he described as "fabulous nonsense," whilst the Soviet *démenti* dismissed the entire report as "manifestly absurd and ridiculous." Whether or not this was one of the familiar German *ballons d'essai* which have been so frequent a manifestation of late it is impossible to say, but Moscow, not content with issuing its *démenti*, evidently considered it advisable to leave friend and foe alike in no two minds as to Russian intentions. *Pravda* on the 14th June published an article, entitled "The Sole Path to Peace," which noted that in German-Italian Fascist camps they had begun talking about peace now. This peace palaver was being "disseminated by Berlin through 'neutral channels,' through quislings of all sorts. . . . But these are attempts with faulty means. Hitlerite manoeuvres can deceive no one. . . . Either the freedom-loving peoples will be delivered . . . and will be able to engage in peaceful construction within the framework of their national independence, or the wheel of history will turn back and the time of slavery and mediæval barbarity will come again. *There is not and there cannot be any middle course.* The freedom-loving peoples have made their choice, and, however difficult may be the road to victory, however thorny the road to stable and lasting peace, it will be travelled to the end. *The road to peace goes*