

Present supplies are sufficient only for the public services, and it is unlikely that there will be any coal for domestic heating in Paris this winter. This is all the more serious since daily food rations are still well below the minimum necessary for health, and there is a grave legacy from the occupation of increased tuberculosis, particularly among children. The rise in the price of bread decided by the Cabinet on the 3rd October, at the same time as an increase in the bread ration, has provoked a protest from the C.G.T. which complains that it was not consulted.

It was announced on the 5th October that a Commission had been set up to obtain all available information concerning the acts of Pétain and 59 former Vichy ministers who would be charged with treason under Article 75 of the Penal Code, and be tried by a special military court in view of their importance. It has also been announced that on the 27th August the Minister of War suspended all officers who were not serving regularly either in units formed overseas or in the F.F.I. Such officers were not to wear uniform and would not be reinstated except by decisions in individual cases, which would be justified by acts of clandestine resistance or, quite exceptionally, by an over-riding shortage of officers. Recent arrests include those of Lémery, former Vichy Minister for Colonies; Albertini, Secretary-General of the *Rassemblement National Populaire*; Maurice Pujo, editor of the *Action Française*, and Georges Suarez, director of *Aujourd'hui*. Maurice Chevalier has indignantly denied suggestions that he was a collaborator and a former Republican Minister, M. Anatole de Monzie, adroitly met press accusations by voluntarily appearing before an examining magistrate, who released him after interrogation in the presence of three witnesses. MM. Flandin and Peyrouton and General Bergeret have been transported from N. Africa to the prison of Fresnes.

M. Massigli has had talks at Chequers with the Prime Minister, and on the 9th October was received in audience by the King.

Mr. Duff Cooper communicated Mr. Eden's reply to the Syrian Minister for Foreign Affairs (see last *Summary* under "Middle East") on the 3rd October to M. Bidault, whom he again saw on the 6th. On the same day M. Bidault reported to the Council of Ministers on the situation in Syria and the Lebanon. They approved his proposals, notably in regard to the status of the "troupes spéciales." This means the rejection of the demand by the Governments of Syria and Lebanon that France should abandon control of the special local troops commanded by French officers. It is known that the French authorities on the spot feel that this transfer is the last major concession the French can make; and it is obvious they will only do so as part of treaty negotiations. While His Majesty's Government recognise that the Levant States are substantially independent, and have achieved a position which already makes them individual members of the family of nations, France still has rights under the mandate which have not been surrendered or even closely defined. To liquidate this position clearly requires either a treaty or complete, unilateral surrender of all such rights—and this has not yet occurred in any French pronouncements regarding Syria and the Lebanon.

The circumstance that the French have built up, officered and financed the security force known as "troupes spéciales" is referred to in Paris press comment, which suggests that these loyal troops have been upset by the prospect of transfer to the control of the local Governments. The claims of the latter are declared to be in contradiction with the agreements now in force, which give the French the right to have garrisons in these territories at least until the end of hostilities. The *Figaro* pays tribute to the good faith of the British Government, but expresses some surprise at the return to the Middle East of General Spears. The *Aurore* and the *Populaire* also make critical reference to his rôle, and the latter suggests that the strengthening of British forces in the area "no longer corresponds to any military necessity."

(See also under "Spain.")

#### SPAIN AND PORTUGAL.

An agreement has been signed in Madrid between His Majesty's Government and the Spanish Government for the establishment of a commercial air service between the two countries. Since 1940, air communication with Spain has been through Portugal by the B.O.A.C. service in K.L.M. planes to Lisbon, and by the Lisbon-Madrid-Barcelona line operated by the Spanish *Iberia* Company in Junkers aircraft. The United Kingdom-Lisbon service, which has been running by night since the homeward bound plane was shot down in June 1943

by the Luftwaffe over the Bay of Biscay, has just reverted to its former daylight routine. In the new direct service to Madrid, which will be started as soon as possible, the intention is to re-route via Spain the present daily flight to Lisbon. Lord Templewood availed himself of a trial flight for the new service when he came home last week for consultation.

Before leaving Madrid, His Majesty's Ambassador had another frank conversation with the Minister for Foreign Affairs and gave him the reasons which made almost impossible really cordial relations between Great Britain and Spain. The Franco régime had been too deeply compromised with our enemies for us to forget the past, and, also, the ordinary Englishman could see little difference between Falangism on the one hand and Nazism or Fascism on the other. Señor Lequerica gave the stock answer. Englishmen could not appreciate that in "ungovernable Spain" a rigid system of order was far more important than individual liberty. And, at the present moment, when the Spanish frontier was threatened by Spanish "Reds" in France, there was a real danger of anarchy if control should be relaxed. "Control," of course, takes the form of frequent and frivolous arrests; imprisonment for months without investigation and the farcical procedure which passes for justice, especially in the military courts. Señor Lequerica finally appealed to Lord Templewood to put the Spanish situation in a friendly light in London, and gave on behalf of the Spanish Government a specific assurance to the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State that Spain was anxious not only to break away from Nazi and Fascist influences, but to follow the direction of Great Britain in the field of future politics in Western Europe. But he was left in no doubt of Lord Templewood's conviction that a change of régime was overdue. General Franco is not likely to be very much impressed by his Minister's report of this conversation. He thinks he knows better than His Majesty's Ambassador and can afford to flout Allied public opinion, as is proved by his general reinforcement rather than relaxation of tough Falangist methods of government. One example of this is the reported organisation of a body to be called the "Guardia de Franco," apparently a kind of S.S. recruited from the Falange Old Guard and the Blue Division. Another illustration of Franco "discipline" is the increase in political executions throughout the country which Lord Templewood quoted to the Minister for Foreign Affairs a short time ago (see *Summary* No. 257). For instance, in Málaga during the month of August, twenty-eight persons were executed; this, though revolting enough, is probably not typical, for Málaga has always had a particularly intense political atmosphere, and the local Falange are notoriously vengeful. If all these activities represent General Franco's preparations for fitting Spain into the pattern of an Allied-controlled Europe, he is taking a gloomy view of the future.

Franco-Spanish diplomatic relations should benefit by the appointment of Señor Mateu, Mayor of Barcelona, as General Franco's representative in Paris. But the Spaniards are fretting at what they call the delay of the French authorities in replying to their request for the *agrément*. They are still nervous, too, about the seeming French inability to control the continued activities of the Spanish men of the maquis along the frontier.

The summoning by the Portuguese Council of State of the National Assembly for the 23rd October, nearly a month earlier than the normal date, has given a fresh impetus to the rumours about a breach with Japan mentioned in *Summary* No. 260. There are reports, too, about discreet military preparations, e.g., the selection for special training of those officers suspected of hostility to the régime who would be considered specially fitted for service in the Far East.

Sir Ronald Campbell has told the Secretary-General of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of our dissatisfaction with the Portuguese note on war criminals referred to in last week's *Summary*. He pointed out that the fact of Portugal alone making no pronouncement was in the nature of an invitation to war criminals to seek refuge there. The Portuguese Government, he said, would be laying up for themselves acute difficulties if such persons succeeded in finding their way to Portugal and were allowed to remain. Dr. Sampayo protested that his country had no desire to shelter war criminals, but that, in view of the mystery still shrouding the method by which they were to be brought to justice, Dr. Salazar was deeply anxious not to be involved in an injustice. The Portuguese attitude to this request from her oldest Ally recalls her similar tardiness over wolfram; this is the second time she has been beaten to the post by her Spanish neighbour. But it must be admitted that once the Portuguese do come into line they tend to stay there.

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