

at war with the United States, Japan's very deliberate failure to distinguish between Britain and the United States in her simultaneous attack and declaration of war upon both countries may make it impossible for Germany to do so either.

It was characteristic of German propaganda technique on the eve of an act of Axis aggression that on the 5th December the *Deutsches Nachrichten-Büro* stated categorically: "There is no crisis in the Far East," and the Wilhelmstrasse announced: "It is absolutely unwarrantable to speak of a Far Eastern crisis as the British and United States press does." It is rather less understandable that German communiqués and military statements regarding the progress of the war against Russia should have begun to admit so openly that winter is seriously reducing the scale of operations and that the capture of Moscow is now not probable before the spring. The official communiqué of the 8th December pointed out that the movements of motorised troops will be hampered by the extreme cold, and *Deutschlandsender's* commentary on this found it necessary to add that "this does not mean that all hostilities will now suddenly cease. . . . Doubtless a certain amount of small-scale warfare will continue on some sectors of the front throughout the winter," though "it is well imaginable that in the Moscow and Leningrad sectors, for instance, no movements at all may be possible." Though this may be a sincere attempt to prepare the German people for a virtual standstill on the Russian front for several months, it may quite possibly have the intention of misleading Germany's enemies regarding her plans and intentions. Any relaxation of effort on the part of the Russians, in anticipation of a lull in the German offensive, would be most welcome on the German side, but if this were to follow (which is extremely unlikely—see further under "Soviet Union"), advantage might be taken of it in directions quite different from that "revealed" in these latest German communiqués. It should be noted that the *Deutschlandsender* commentary referred to above concluded with the words: "We shall have to expect war developments during the coming winter months which will have a decisive influence on the course of the war during 1942."

Some decisive German move in French North Africa in the near future, especially in view of the progress of the Libyan campaign, is by no means unlikely, but it now appears less probable that this would also involve any immediate move into or against Spain or Portugal. As regards West Africa, much, of course, depends upon the result of the latest Franco-German conversations (for which see "France"). The Germans have in the past been cautious about Dakar, partly through fear of provoking the United States to play a more active part, but they may now, of course, consider that the United States Government has its hands too full in the Pacific to intervene elsewhere. This may also influence their policy in Latin America, which is nevertheless likely to be confined to a redoubling of propaganda and Fifth-Column activities and to more enterprising efforts—in conjunction with the Japanese—at sabotage. Meanwhile, in Turkey it has been noticed that the influx of Germans is still continuing at a disturbing rate. Many Germans appear to believe that Turkey will be Germany's next victim, though the basis for this belief is not clear.

There is further good evidence that Hitler's power and prestige remain as great as ever, and that Göring is certainly no longer out of favour—if he ever was—though Ribbentrop now plays only the rôle of a lackey, fearful even of addressing his Führer unless he judges the latter's mood to be amenable. But he appears to continue useful, for it has been announced that he is about to pay a visit to the Balkan capitals. Bucharest and Budapest are specifically mentioned as on the route of what are being described as "hunting" expeditions, and his conversations there may seek to make capital out of last week's British declaration of war upon Hungary and Roumania, and also to probe the Transylvanian ulcer. It is difficult to envisage him, nevertheless, in the rôle of Solomon in this dispute between the two satellites, especially as he was the principal author of the two equally unworkable Vienna awards which so considerably increased the friction. Goebbels, in *Das Reich* of the 5th December, adumbrated his favourite argument that "our Germany is quite a new Germany that can be compared neither with Germany of 1914 or 1918, nor with that of 1923 or 1932." He also drew a parallel with the Thirty Years War, which Germany managed to survive, though her population was decimated, and "the German people were almost paralysed for blood and tears, without collapsing morally." Party speakers have been concentrating on the theme that Germany failed in 1918 not because her armies were defeated but because the home front

was weak, and that this is being guarded against to-day. It is, indeed, extremely difficult to obtain authentication of reports of underground opposition or subversive activities inside Germany itself, though many of these are forthcoming, alleging, for instance, that a Communist newspaper is being secretly published in Berlin, and that the city is often plastered at night with anti-Nazi posters, which are always discovered and torn down by the police before morning.

Dr. Conti, the German Health "Leader," has, in an interview, declared his support of euthanasia for "hopeless" cases, and has admitted the increase of tuberculosis in Germany. Though this has been contradicted in a broadcast to Spain, it is also believed that there has been an increase in tetanus among German troops, as compared with the last war, and that wounded soldiers are not always given the requisite anti-tetanus injection in the field.

The German press has made much of the case of a Polish Jew, recently sentenced to death for "race-pollution." It was stated that he had assumed a false Aryan name and enrolled himself in the Nazi party, using the uniform and badge thereby acquired to ingratiate himself with the opposite sex!

CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

The press campaign in the Protectorate against President Beneš and the exiled Government has assumed a shriller note than perhaps ever before, as a result of the meeting of the State Council in London and of the presidential address (see *Summary* No. 112). The speech is treated not as self-evident proof of Beneš's confidence in a united nation, but as an admission that even his fellow-exiles no longer follow him, and that he has reached "the end of his criminal illusions. Special abuse is reserved for M. Maxa (the former Minister in Sofia), who has replaced the Socialist leader, M. Bechyne, as Chairman of the Council. Tuškany, perhaps the principal "Haw-Haw" of Prague, after references to a murky past of bribery and corruption, argues that Bechyne was "not Red enough for the London Jews." *Slovák*, the official organ of the Bratislava Government, refers to Mgr. Macháček, who has replaced Dr. Hodža as the chief Slovak Vice-President, as a forger and a cardsharp, and describes "the more intimate circle of Beneš" (which includes at least a dozen of the most prominent and reputable political figures from Left to Right in the old Republic) as "almost entirely made up of shady Jewish Bolshevik adventurers." These gutter-pressmen habitually talk of "Beneš's Jew-boys": but nobody had hitherto gone so far as the *Pražský List*, whose editor had the assurance to speak of President Masaryk's "Jewish origin" (1) and of Mme. Masaryk (an American of old Huguenot stock) as of pure Jewish blood.

On a different footing is the statement of President Hácha to the press. His opening attack on President Beneš as propagating "under the influence of his Jewish surrounding the lost cause of the Reich's enemies," had the clear ring of German inspiration: the rest, in which he claims never to have led the nation after a will-o'-the-wisp, nor to have indulged in any illusions, and exhorts his compatriots not to look for salvation abroad, may have been his own composition. M. Fousek, the leader of the Government Party, also did his duty by the régime by insisting that Hácha's speech represented real conviction and not German dictation. At the same time Heydrich himself, by suspending the state of emergency in five districts (but not including Prague and Brno) as recognition of a more sensible attitude on the part of the public, and also by receiving deputations of subservient peasants, seeks to create the impression that the watchword "Back to the Normal" is meeting with increasing success in the country. At the same time, however, steps are being taken for the systematic removal of officials who are "politically unreliable": and Karl-Hermann Frank has made it known that German will be the language, not merely of the Protectorate but also "of the new European Imperium." A useful footnote to this statement was made by Herr Friedl, leader of the German Party in Slovakia, who recently ridiculed people who talk about politics and insist upon criticising. "Politics," he said, "are not decided by us unimportant people, but solely by the Führer for the entire European reconstruction space." The altogether grovelling attitude of the Slovak Premier, M. Tuka, is brought out by statements which he made to the press on returning from the Berlin Congress. In his

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