

*Der Neue Tag* of the 20th October reported that Henlein had appointed Gruppenführer Franz May as Gaustabsführer of the Volkssturm in the Sudetenland, and on the 2nd November *D.N.B.* announced that 90,000 Sudeten Volkssturm had taken part in the 1944 defence rallies which ended on the 31st October.

## POLAND.

The Polish Government is still hesitating to make any public definition of its policy concerning the recent Moscow conversations. It is possible that such a decision may become easier to make as soon as the results of the American Presidential Election will have thrown light on the probable attitude of the United States in World Affairs. In the meantime any immediate acceptance, for instance, of the Curzon Line would necessarily seem in Polish eyes like surrender of a bird still partly in the hand; while the future expectation of compensation in the west and of Allied guarantees of Poland's integrity and independence must still seem like birds very much in the bush.

On the other hand, a pronouncement reported to have been made at the week-end by M. Strasburger, Polish Minister Resident in Cairo, in which he said that Vilna and Lwow were even dearer to Polish hearts than Warsaw, and that to give up the Galician oilfields would risk the economic ruin of Poland, should not be taken as indications of the form which the decision of the Polish Government is likely to take.

In the meantime the Soviet administration and the Polish National Liberation Committee in Lublin continue to treat the Curzon Line and its southward extension in Eastern Galicia ("Line A") as a provisional boundary. Thus, since its liberation in the fourth week of October, Suwalki has been under the administration of the Lublin Committee. That Committee has on the other hand been advising the Poles at Lwow to withdraw to the west.

The National Liberation Committee in Lublin has published a decree dealing with speculation and war profiteering (25th October). Progress is reported in the dividing up of large estates, particularly in the province (*voivodeship*) of Rzeszow, *i.e.*, the portion of the province of Lwow situated west of the southern extension of the Curzon Line. A beginning has been made at Lublin in the trial of two former collaborationists. Fifty other cases are shortly to be tried.

It was reported in a *Tass* message that Metropolitan Andrew Szeptycki, Archbishop of Lwow and primate of the Uniate Church in Eastern Galicia, had died in Lwow on the 1st November at the age of 79. He was described by *Tass* as head of the Greek Catholic (another name for Uniate) Church in the U.S.S.R., and it has announced that the administration of that Church had been taken over by Metropolitan Joseph Slepoy (Slipij), who, after being for many years director of the Uniate Seminary in Lwow, had recently been made Suffragan Bishop of Lwow.

## SOVIET UNION.

In the far North no fighting has been reported in the Soviet communiqués since the 1st November, when an Order of the Day proclaimed the complete liberation of the Petsamo Region. In East Prussia only defensive fighting has been mentioned, in the area round Goldap, which the Germans claim to have recaptured. No progress has been reported in Poland, but in Hungary the left bank of the Tisza was cleared (2nd November), Szolnok captured (4th November) and a rapid advance between the Tisza and the Danube has brought the Red Army to the outskirts of Budapest.

In an Order of the Day issued on the 7th November Marshal Stalin announced that the Soviet State frontier had been restored along its whole length, which, if taken literally would mean, that the last remnants of German resistance in the Latvian S.S.R. have been overcome, although this was not specifically stated. This great achievement, announced on the anniversary of the October Revolution, was celebrated by twenty-four salvoes in Moscow, Leningrad, Kiev, Minsk, Petrozavodsk, Tallinn, Riga, Vilna, Kishinev, Tiflis, Sevastopol and Lvov. In the same Order Marshal Stalin claimed that in the summer battle for Byelorussia 540,000 Germans had been killed or captured; in the Ukraine a further 250,000 officers and men had been accounted for.

On the 6th November, the 27th anniversary of the October Revolution, Marshal Stalin made his annual speech to the Moscow Soviet. In reviewing

military developments his theme was "the astounding precision" with which the programme of common action drawn up at Tehran had been implemented. "Our Allies accomplished a mass landing operation on the coast of France that was unparalleled in history for scope and organisation," and this "second front in Europe" engaged up to 75 German divisions. Thanks to this help the Red Army, which a year ago was fighting virtually single-handed, had put out of action 120 German and satellite divisions (presumably in the whole course of the war). In 1943 the Red Army faced 257 enemy divisions, of which 207 were German: the figures were now 180 German and 24 Hungarian divisions. "It cannot be doubted," the Marshal added, that "Hungary will also be put out of action in the nearest future." Germany, isolated in Europe, now "finds herself on the brink of inevitable destruction." "To-day the Red Army has . . . more tanks, guns and planes than the German Army": and they are superior in quality.

Turning to politics, the Marshal again took up the theme of Allied solidarity (apparently addressing his remarks not least to those members of the Bolshevik party who are not as convinced of the wisdom of a policy of collaboration with the Western Allies as he is). "There is talk of differences between the three Powers on certain security problems. Of course, there are differences, and they will arise on a number of other issues too. Differences of opinion occur even among people in the same party." What is surprising, the Marshal continued, is not the existence of disagreements, but the fact that "they are so few and that as a rule in practically every case they are resolved in a spirit of unity and co-ordination among the three Great Powers." Marshal Stalin referred particularly to the decisions of the Dumbarton Oaks Conference and to the "spirit of complete unanimity" which had prevailed during the recent visit of Mr. Churchill and Mr. Eden to Moscow. All the efforts of the Hitlerites to divide the United Nations had failed because "the alliance between the U.S.S.R., Great Britain and the United States is founded not on accidental transitory considerations but on vitally important and long-term interests."

Finally Marshal Stalin dealt with the treatment of Germany after defeat, and with "making impossible new aggression and new war, if not for ever, then at least for a long time to come. After her defeat Germany will, of course, be disarmed, in the economic and in the military-political sense." But that is not enough. "It is common knowledge," he declared, "that the German leaders are already preparing for a new war." History has shown the advantages which the aggressor enjoys. Marshal Stalin quoted the Pearl Harbour incident, the loss of the Philippines, Hong Kong and Singapore, to show that Japan, "as the aggressive nation, proved to be better prepared for war than Great Britain and the United States, which pursued a policy of peace." The U.S.S.R. had similarly lost the Ukraine, White Russia and the Baltic area because she was less prepared for war than Germany. So the problem is "to preclude fresh aggression on Germany's part and, if war should start, nevertheless, to stifle it at its very beginning and give it no opportunities to develop into a big war . . . Apart from the complete disarmament of the aggressive nations, there is only one means to this end": to establish a security organisation representing the peace-loving nations, whose controlling body has at its disposal the minimum of armed force necessary to prevent aggression, and "to oblige this organisation to employ these armed forces without delay, if it becomes necessary, to avert or stop aggression and to punish those guilty of aggression." This must not be "a repetition of the sad memory of the League of Nations," which had neither the right nor the means to avert aggression. These steps will be effective if the Great Powers "continue to act in a spirit of unanimity and concord . . . They will not be effective if this essential condition is violated."

Soviet territory, Marshal Stalin continued, has been cleared "now and for ever" of the Hitlerite filth. It now remains for the Red Army, jointly with its Allies, "to finish off the Fascist beast in its own lair, and to raise over Berlin the banner of victory. There is reason to expect that this task will be fulfilled by the Red Army in the near future."

Marshal Stalin's reference to Japan is new and encouraging. Not only did he describe her as an "aggressive nation," but by demanding "the complete disarmament of the aggressive nations" he included by implication that of Japan. His clarification of the Soviet Government's position with regard to Germany should finally silence whispers suggesting the possibility of any Soviet-German "deal."

The slogans put forward by the Central Committee of the Communist Party for the Anniversary of the Revolution are on traditional lines (see *Summary*