

IRRITATION IN GERMANY

A SERIES OF SETBACKS

REPLY TO ARMS REPEAL

From Our Special Correspondent

ROTTERDAM, Nov. 5

A note of acute irritation can be traced in the comments of the German Press on some of the events of the last few days. It is probably attributable to the series of setbacks which German diplomacy has recently suffered.

The signature of the Pact between Turkey and the western Powers has been followed in quick succession by the raising of the arms embargo in the United States, the dismissal of the group of Italian Ministers and officials most closely associated with the Axis policy, and the internment of the German prize crew of the City of Flint by the Norwegian authorities.

The Germans are particularly annoyed about the last incident, and the German Chargé d'Affaires in Oslo has received instructions to make a strong protest. The Germans claim that in trying to land an American seaman who was suffering from a sore toe in Haugesund for medical treatment, they were merely doing their best to comply with President Roosevelt's request to show all possible consideration for the American citizens on board the vessel.

The incident of the City of Flint is, of course, a small matter compared with the raising of the arms embargo in America. This is taken in Berlin as proof that the United States, while posing as a neutral country, has in practice abandoned her neutrality. Such an action, it is stated in well-informed circles, calls for a suitable reaction by the German Government. The Wilhelmstrasse is believed to be considering what form this step should take.

AXLE-GREASE

The German Government are also extremely angry that reports of a visit to Rome by Field-Marshal Göring should have got into the Press. Your Rome Correspondent's statement that the German Embassy in Rome had confirmed the report has elicited an indignant denial from the German News Agency that the German Embassy in Rome receives British correspondents, although your Rome Correspondent had not suggested anything of the sort. Since the report was also sponsored by representative Italian newspapers, one must assume that if the Field-Marshal does not go to Rome after all, it will not be because there was never any intention of his doing so, but because, on maturer consideration, it was realized that his mission was not likely to have the results expected of it.

Meanwhile the German Press gives a little whitewash to the façade of the Axis by professing to be highly pleased at the *rapprochement* between Italy and Greece, and representing it as a severe blow to British diplomacy.

"FUEL TO THE BLAZE

OF WAR"

Timis, 28.10.39.

NEW IDOLATRY CONDEMNED

THE POPE ON LIMIT OF STATE POWER

PEACE UNDERMINED BY FALSE IDEALS

From Our Own Correspondent

ROME, Oct. 27

Pope Pius XII issued to-day his first Encyclical letter. Opening with the words "Summi Pontificatus," the Encyclical, which is dated from Castel Gandolfo on October 20, is for the most part devoted to "some fundamental observations" on the errors of modern civilization and thought which lie at the root of the present evils, and to a penetrating exposition of the practical application of Christian doctrine to modern political life. The Letter is therefore largely political in its thesis, and embodies frank criticism of the doctrines and practices of totalitarian States.

After recalling that this year marks the fortieth anniversary of the consecration of mankind to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, and also the fortieth anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood, the Pope briefly refers with gratitude to the many tokens of attachment to the Church and to the Vicar of Christ manifested at the time of his election and coronation both by members of the Roman Catholic Church and others, and makes a specially warm allusion to "our dear Italy," whose representative, since the Lateran Pacts, "occupies a place of honour among those officially accredited to the Holy See." Proclaiming then his intention to testify to the truth with Apostolic firmness, the Holy Father addresses himself to the pronouncement of his fundamental observations, while putting off till another time less disturbed by calamitous external events "a full statement of the doctrinal stand to be taken in face of the errors of to-day."

CAUSE OF SOCIAL EVILS

The radical and ultimate cause of the evils of modern society is found in "the denial and rejection of a universal norm of morality as well for individual and social life as for international relations." When God is denied, every basis of morality is undermined. This denial of the fundamentals of morality originated in Europe and had led not a few separated brethren to overthrow the central dogma of Christianity, the Divinity of the Saviour. The much vaunted laicization of society had caused to reappear in regions where for centuries Christian civilization had shone, the signs of a corrupt and corrupting paganism. Hence so-called progress was really retrogression; elevation was grovelling; arriving at man's estate was stooping to servility. When Europe was bound together by identical ideals derived from Christian teaching, men had an effective moral sense which left the way open to an honourable settlement of their dissensions and wars. But to-day there was pessimism, and dissensions arose from the deep spiritual conflict which had overthrown the principles of private and public morality.

Religious and moral agnosticism, the Pope proceeds, has produced two errors making almost impossible the peaceful intercourse of peoples. The first of these pernicious errors is "forgetfulness of the law of human solidarity and charity, dictated by our common origin, the equality of rational nature in all men, and the redeeming sacrifice of Christ."

After expounding and illustrating these three