

**A. LEBANON. — Political Crisis. - Resignation of M. Sami Solh. - Opposition Allegations of Governmental Corruption. - General Strike in Support of Opposition Parties. - Resignation of President el-Khoury after Intervention of Army C-in-C. - General Chenab appointed Interim Prime Minister. - M. Chamoun elected President of the Republic. - General Chenab resigns from the Premiership.**

The Prime Minister of the Lebanon, M. Sami Solh, resigned on Sept. 9 following widespread criticisms by the Opposition parties of alleged Governmental corruption, mismanagement, and inefficiency. On Aug. 27, a fortnight before his resignation, M. Solh had declared his intention of seeking powers from Parliament to rule for six months by decree-law, had intimated that he would ask for a vote of confidence, and had announced the Government's intention of putting in hand a number of reforms, including the distribution of land to the peasants, amendment of the electoral law, reform of the judicial system, and the dismissal of inefficient or redundant Government employees. Subsequently, however, M. Solh took no steps to call for a vote of confidence, his resignation being precipitated when two of his Ministers tendered their resignation on the ground that the Prime Minister intended to avoid asking Parliament for such a vote.

Following M. Solh's resignation, President Bechara el-Khoury appointed a three-man "emergency Cabinet" to hold office for an interim period until he had completed negotiations with the political parties for the formation of a new Ministry. The members of the three-man administration, none of whom were politicians, were M. Nazim Akkari (chief of the Prime Minister's office), who combined the Premiership with the portfolios of the Interior, Foreign Affairs, Defence, Agriculture, and Information; M. Basil Trad, who became Minister of Finance, Economy, Public Works, Education, and Health; and M. Mussa Mubarek, who took the portfolios of Justice, Social Affairs, and Posts and Telegraphs. Both M. Trad and M. Mubarek were senior officials of the Customs administration.

The Opposition parties, led by the Socialist Party, had in the meantime formed a "popular front" to enforce their demands for Governmental reforms, had demanded the resignation of President el-Khoury (who had been accused by the Opposition of favouring the "corrupt" elements in the Government), and had called on the population to support these demands by launching a general strike of indefinite duration. In response to this call, a general strike occurred throughout the Lebanon on Sept. 15 and continued on the two succeeding days; nearly all shops, offices, factories, etc., remained closed in Beirut and other towns during this period, but there was no interruption of essential services, nor any major incidents. Meanwhile, the President had called on M. Saeb Salam (a former Minister of the Interior) to form a new Government, but M. Salam failed to obtain any response from the Opposition leaders.

The intense campaign waged by the Opposition, supported by the population through the general strike, culminated on Sept. 17, when the parties of the "popular front" sent a letter to President el-Khoury demanding his resignation as a condition of ending the political crisis. The President's resignation was also demanded the same evening by General Fuad Chenab, the Commander-in-Chief, who had intervened in the crisis on behalf of the Lebanese Army, and by M. Saeb Salam, who had informed the President of his inability to form a Cabinet. In the early hours of Sept. 18 President el-Khoury accordingly tendered his resignation, after having agreed to the appointment of an interim Cabinet in which General Chenab would hold the Premiership together with the portfolios of the Interior and Defence, the other portfolios being distributed between M. Akkari and M. Trad, members of the "emergency Cabinet" appointed after the resignation of M. Sami Solh.

On taking office as Prime Minister *ad interim*, General Chenab issued a proclamation emphasizing his intention of acting in strict conformity with the Constitution, and declaring that he would resign the Premiership immediately a new President had been elected by Parliament. When the Lebanese Parliament met on Sept. 23, it elected M. Camille Chamoun (a prominent member of the Socialist Party, and a former Minister in London) as President of the Republic in succession to M. Bechara el-Khoury, the voting being 74 in favour and only one against. In a statement made after his election, President Chamoun praised the efforts of General Chenab, whose intervention in the crisis had, he said, prevented political strife; promised drastic reforms in the country's political life; and said that he would work for the strengthening of friendship with the Arab League countries and for a solution of the Arab refugee problem.

President Camille (Kemal) Chamoun, a member of a prominent Maronite family, was born in the Lebanon in 1899, practised as a lawyer in Beirut, and has played an important role in Lebanese public life since 1936. During the French pre-war mandatory regime he was Minister of Finance and Public Works, and in 1943, at the time of the Franco-Lebanese crisis which led to the emergence of the Lebanon as an independent State, he held the post of Minister of the Interior. In 1944 he became the first Lebanese Minister in London, a post he held for three years, and after his return to the Lebanon became Minister of Finance and Minister of the Interior in Cabinets headed by M. Riad es-Solh. He resigned in 1946, subsequently became one of the leaders of the Socialist Party, and played a leading part in the movement which led to the resignation of President el-Khoury.

General Fuad Chenab, a member of one of the oldest families in the Lebanon, studied at St. Cyr (the French Military Academy), served as a captain in the French Army before the war, and at the time of the proclamation of Lebanese independence in 1943 was raised to the rank of general, subsequently becoming Commander-in-Chief of the Lebanese Army. He is a descendant of the Emir Ismael el-Chenab, who succeeded in obtaining a measure of autonomy for the Lebanese people at the time of Napoleon's Egyptian campaign, and who was subsequently deposed and died in exile at Constantinople.

In conformity with the Constitution, General Chamoun tendered his resignation to President Chamoun on Sept. 18. During the next five days M. Abdullah Yafi (a former Prime Minister) and M. Saadi Mounla (a deputy) made successive attempts, at President Chamoun's request, to form a Government, but without success. Press reports from Beirut state that the Socialist Party, led by M. Kemal Jumblatt, had refused to enter a new Government unless allotted a majority of portfolios, and that the "popular front" parties had, moreover, made their entry into such a Government conditional on (a) the implementation of the reforms that had been demanded, (b) the entry of "new and strong elements" into the Government, and (c) the elimination of all persons who had allegedly been responsible for the "corruption" of former administrations.—(Le Monde, Paris - Le Figaro, Paris)

(Prev. rep. Lebanon, 12113 B)

**B. UNITED KINGDOM. — Atomic Energy. - Export of Isotopes. - Isotope School at Harwell.**

The Board of Trade Journal published a Ministry of Supply announcement on Sept. 20 which stated that Britain was now the largest exporter in the world of radioactive materials for peaceful purposes. A total of 9,578 consignments of isotopes had, it was stated, been sent out from the Atomic Research Establishment at Harwell during the year ended June 30, 1952, of which 3,053 consignments had gone to 37 different overseas countries. The announcement added that another indication of the growing international interest in the by-products of Britain's atomic energy programme had been the steady flow of scientists to the Isotope School at Harwell, where the technique of using isotopes was taught; to date, 133 scientists, doctors, and engineers had passed through the school, of whom 102 had come from Britain and the remainder from India, Australia, South Africa, Belgium, Egypt, Greece, the Netherlands, Israel, Italy, Norway, Spain, Sweden, and Yugoslavia.—(Board of Trade Journal)

(Prev. rep. Harwell, 11873 B)

**C. DENMARK - SWEDEN. — New Protests to Soviet Union against Extension of Baltic Territorial Waters.**

The Danish and Swedish Governments announced on June 1 that both countries had again protested to the Soviet Union against the latter's unilateral extension of her territorial waters in the Baltic to 12 nautical miles. The Notes, which followed a series of earlier protests by both countries to Russia on this issue, reiterated the charge previously made by the two Governments that the Soviet action was contrary to the principle of freedom of the high seas, and renewed an earlier proposal that the dispute should be submitted to the International Court of Justice.—(Berlingske Tidende, Copenhagen - Politiken, Copenhagen - Svenska Dagbladet, Stockholm)

(Prev. rep. 10965 F; 10913 B)

**D. INDIA - PAKISTAN. — Introduction of Passport and Visa System for Travel between the Two Countries.**

The Government of Pakistan announced on Aug. 16 that the system of passports and visas for travel between Pakistan and India by nationals of the two countries would be introduced as from Oct. 15. A similar announcement was made by the Indian Government on Aug. 23.

The decisions of the two Governments followed discussion on the main features of the new passport system proposed by the Pakistani Government in April last, full agreement having been reached on all major points.—(Indian and Pakistan High Commissioners' Offices, London - The Statesman, Calcutta - The Hindu, Madras)

(Prev. rep. 12213 B)

**A. WIRELESS Broadcasts to Finland. - B.B.C. casting to "In Advisory Committee commencement of Seaborne Radio"**

A detailed account of broadcasts to East London during September. The B.B.C. and which a summary discussed the un-broadcasts to the adduced evidence broadcasts were intended.

Radio and the "the supplement to the first country its own. . . . From countries to into Great Britain had Empire; but the purpose was to make the Colonial Empire 1938 that Great Britain East and in Spain of the Munich crisis to Europe. It was one of overseas a recognized force contact with Allies and their country with which to un world the function been in the sphere the nations. But under its rule from a different role: the oppressed population. That is how radio has. Although the British Rumanian, Bulgarian had a special German Britain was not the "Voice of America" had a special program in a number of languages Azerbaijani, Estonian, Tartar, and Ukrainian had programmes in France, Spain, and Europe in several languages such as "Radio by private America."

Communist Distortions many examples of the institutions by such controlled countries article on "Great Ispedia, described as than 60 volumes . . . of knowledge in the tion, the Soviet Encyclopedia officially composed of In fact, power is controlled who are the tools of men of the political right by law." The British and after the Second impoverishment of The chief factor in Britain's increased working-class has been policy of nationalization assisted the formation

British education serving "the Imperial Education Act of 1918 came to power in 19 workers." In the 1920s wrote that English had decadent tendencies "cosmopolitan and anti-post-war years" had sung to American imperialism Graham Greene, Stephen Mangan were described democracy and devoted preparers of a new world similarly described a at the service of America