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THE SCOTSMAN

EDINBURGH, THURSDAY, Nov. 6, 1941

SUN		MOON (Last qr., 12th)	
Rises	8.28 a.m.	Sets	7.29 a.m.
Sets	5.22 p.m.	Rises	7.10 p.m.

Black-Out Hours—5.52 p.m. :: 8.0 a.m.

DR BENES'S VISIT

It was the privilege, yesterday, of Edinburgh to welcome Dr Edvard Benes, second President of the Czechoslovak Republic, on a visit to Scotland. Dr Benes comes as the chosen representative of a people who temperamentally have much in common with the Scots. They are peoples who share a passionate attachment to democratic institutions and are alike in the respect which they show towards the individual. They are marked by a dogged tenacity and a determination of purpose: by a tendency to abhor social and educational inequality. It is, presumably, not novelty which attracts so many soldiers of the most inland country in Europe, when on leave, to this sea-girt northern land but a community of sentiment and identity of ideal. This of temperament are reinforced by those of culture. There is this difference that Scotland, which, has long since been integrated into the great Commonwealth of Nations, has been saved the horrors of invasion which Czechoslovakia, geographically so exposed, has had to endure. We in Scotland to whom freedom means so much have watched with unbounded admiration the courageous demeanour of the Czechs in the face of unspeakable brutalities and outrages. With sorrow and anger we have seen the calculated destruction of the institutions in which the Czechoslovak people took such pride. Unlike other subjugated nations they did not even have the chance to fight for their homes. Only a few thousand Czechs succeeded in escaping to this country and in joining the common struggle. But Dr Benes himself symbolises and embodies Czech aspirations as no one else can. He has carried on with dignity and fortitude the great traditions laid down by his friend and predecessor, the President Liberator Masaryk. Dr Benes is familiar with Scotland through her literature and philosophy. Perhaps he will discern in Edinburgh a resemblance to his own lovely city of Prague. As he journeys through Scotland he will find abundant proof of the respect and veneration which this country has for himself and for his imprisoned countrymen.

President Benes has come to Scotland not simply as an honoured guest, but also as an interpreter of the present conflict. Yesterday, in the first of a series of addresses, he gave an analysis of the forces which precipitated this war and propounded the basis on which he thinks a liberated Europe must rest. He made it clear that the war was started not to adjust geographical boundaries but as a deliberate attempt on the part of the Nazis to dominate the world. This much has become increasingly plain, but Dr Benes, speaking objectively and with detachment, presented in startling perspective the full extent of German depravity. Compared with the Kaiser's methods Hitler's are infinitely more abominable. For the one scrap of paper which symbolised the beginnings of the last war, Europe is now littered with torn-up treaties. Hitler has far outstripped the Kaiser by using every device, for years, to demoralise his people and exterminate any feelings for decency, justice, or honour. The rights, the only claims which Hitler recognises are those of Germany. Dr Benes thinks that the war in Russia has sealed Hitler's doom, that it may not be long before a general Allied offensive prepares the way for the complete military collapse of the Nazis. It is, at any rate, encouraging that a statesman of such stature believes that the German disintegration may come very suddenly and perhaps soon. The President has left it until a later date to speak at length on his conception of a post-war Europe, but he did offer an outline. The most interesting feature of this is the idea that Europe should include various federations or confederations, strong and linked presumably by natural ties. As yet he has not described precisely of what national elements these political organisations would be composed. Nor has he indicated whether he would urge federal or confederal systems, their being material differences of structure. This project would involve the destruction of dictatorial government in Europe, the creation of a new system of security, a reorganisation of economic collaboration, and the adherence of Great Britain, France, and Russia. It has the great advantage of being based on realistic considerations and of involving no cataclysmic operations in the political sphere.

Italy Feels the Pinch

THERE are signs that Italy is feeling the pinch of war in a political as well as an economic sense. That there is some political trouble is strongly suggested by the fact that at the end of last month Mussolini transferred or removed 60 officials of the Fascist corporations. That the *Regime Fascista* should have been allowed to publish an appeal to the authorities to take severe measures against "the fifth column which we have here" indicates a desire on the part of the Government to have an excuse for adopting sterner measures of repression possibly against more of less innocent grumblers. There will be plenty to grumble about in Italy this winter. Food is growing scarce, though starvation is not to be expected. Milk has a poor fat content, spaghetti is a darkish grey and the bread is growing black. The oil and fat ration amounts to about 10½ pounds per head annually compared with nearly 20 pounds before the war. Bread itself is rationed. The Nazis are taking much of Italy's olive oil, in exchange for which they supply wheat, and they are giving coal in exchange for rice, but the Italians realise that the profit of the transaction goes to Germany.

Fascist Italy is beginning perhaps to notice that there are other methods of subjugating Italy than the simple procedures of the mediæval Emperors who invaded the country. Hitler's plan is more subtle. He conquers his ally, not his enemy. For the sake of the alliance Italians are being sent to the Russian front, though the flow of Italian troops to Russia seems to amount to no more than a trickle which is displeasing to Hitler. The suggestion is made from Lisbon that Hitler is now controlling Italy through Farinacci, the former secretary of the Fascist Party, who is certainly one of the strongest Italian critics of Italy's war effort. It is perhaps significant, however, that the Italian Press prefers to take the view that the Russian campaign is virtually over. No doubt this line was at first dictated from Berlin, but as the Russian war is not over the continued insistence of the Press on this theme is almost sure to cause discontent, especially if more Italians are being sent to Russia, as the Leipzig wireless alleged yesterday. Italians have every reason for discontent but it would be rash to imagine that they are ripe for revolution. Their method is "the stab in the back," and Hitler is not yet so weak and the grip of the Gestapo is not yet so relaxed as to offer Italians an opportunity. When Hitler suffers one or two defeats, Italian discontent may become an important factor in the disintegration of his power.

The Air Offensive

EVIDENTLY the Air Ministry have felt that some explanation was due to the public as to why our air offensive against Germany has not grown in strength, weight, and range as the Prime Minister and others led them to believe it would. The explanation is not quite convincing. We were told that as the nights became longer and darker we should be able to carry the air war into Eastern Germany. Now it is stated to be inevitable that the bomber effort should fall during November and December. Uncommonly unfavourable weather is blamed for the fact that in the quarter, August, September, and October, the tonnage of bombs dropped on Germany and German-occupied territory was not greater than it was in the summer quarter, May, June, and July—10,000 tons. The total is impressive, but we are not told how much of it fell on Germany, and how much on German-occupied territory. Although we did not carry out nearly so many raids on Germany last month as we did in October 1940, because of the bad weather, it is pointed out that our "bombing effort" was nearly double. Our night defences generally, it is stated, are ahead of Germany's, but we experienced a considerable, perhaps not an undue, loss of bombers. On one occasion when we lost 11, it was explained that we had 300 bombers engaged, so that the loss was less than 4 per cent.

During recent weeks we appear to have concentrated our efforts largely against enemy shipping, and during October we carried out an average of 10 a day of such attacks with results that have been heavily damaging to German transport. Since the German warships, Scharnhorst, Gneisenau, and Prinz Eugen, took refuge at Brest we have carried out between 1500 and 2000 "sorties" against them, and have kept them off the Atlantic for seven months. We must continue our attacks on them so long as they are there, but one wonders whether taking advantage of Germany's present preoccupation in Russia, a large-scale naval and military raid could not have seized the French port, and put the German warships out of commission for good. That would effectively have rid us of the necessity of constantly keeping them under observation, and sending bombers to attack them from time to time.

SADLER'S WELLS BALLET

Triple Programme

GEOFFREY TOYE'S fantastic ballet, "The Haunted Ballroom," the classic "Orpheus and Eurydice," and "Les Patineurs," make a varied programme at the King's Theatre last night. On the fatalistic theme of the doom of the Ballroom's frequenters, Mr Toye has built up a ballet which has allowed the choreographer, Ninette de Valois, to construct the striking groupings to which "The Haunted Ballroom" owes its success as spectacle. The cast, was headed by Robert Helpmann and Margot Fonteyn. Mr Helpmann, statuesque and expressive, appeared again as Orpheus in a ballet which is unusual in so far as it introduces solo voices, and thus combines four distinct arts. The beauty of the scenes appealed to the large house, but it was perhaps in "Les Patineurs" that the glory of pure ballet found its best expression. The bewildering succession of dances, in which Mary Honer, Leo Kersley, and other members of the company took part, and the striking costumes of William Chappell made this ballet an expression of pure joy. The arrangement of Meyerbeer's music was by Constant Lambert, the Director of the orchestra.

SIR WALTER MONCKTON

To be Propaganda Chief at Cairo

SIR WALTER MONCKTON has been appointed to act as head of the Propaganda and Information Services under the Minister of State in Cairo. He will take up this appointment as soon as he has finished the conversations he is conducting in Russia, and has reported to the Minister of Information.

Sir Walter called at Cairo on his way to Russia. He is now in the new Russian capital, Kuibyshev, where he arrived on Monday.

During his absence from London, Mr Cyril Radcliffe will act as Director General of the Ministry of Information.

U SAW LEAVES FOR HOME

THE Hon. U Saw, Prime Minister of Burma, left England yesterday for Lisbon, on the first stage of his journey home.

"England has been very kind to me personally," he told a reporter. "I only wish that she will be equally generous to my country."

LONDON NEWS AND COMMENT

[FROM PRIVATE CORRESPONDENCE]

LONDON, Wednesday Night

Man-Power Problems

REPORTS current in London to-day that the Government were contemplating a new and expanded scheme of compulsory service, military or industrial, for both men and women are described by the Ministry of Labour and National Service as being entirely unauthorised. Apart from that statement, the officials of the Ministry have no comment to make on the various suggestions in the reports—the raising of the military age for men, the introduction of compulsion for women, and other new developments. It may be assumed, of course, that all these matters have been engaging the attention of the Minister of Labour for some considerable time, and Mr Bevin himself has given more than one hint of his intentions. It is certain that, when Parliament resumes, he will be pressed to translate his speeches into action and take effective steps to secure all the man-power and woman-power that he requires. He will need further legislation to do this, and it may form the most important item of business for the beginning of the new session at Westminster.

Conditions in Finland

When one comes to consider the conditions that obtain in Finland at the present time, the apparent readiness of the Finnish people to go on fighting Germany's war is the more incomprehensible. According to the latest information to reach this country, a large number of factories and businesses have had to close down or restrict their activities owing to lack of raw material, export difficulties, and shortage of labour. The food situation is described as desperate, the harvest position being even worse than in 1940, when only 620,000 tons of grain and barley were harvested, compared with 840,000 tons in 1938. Even rationed bread is always obtainable, and the fruit harvest has been a total failure. Butter rations have been further reduced, and coffee and tea consumption will have to cease entirely in a few months time. Fish supplies, on which the population has for some time mainly relied, have seriously decreased, on account partly of army requirements and partly of fishing difficulties, and the working population is living practically entirely on bread and potatoes.

Arrests of Japanese

It is possibly no more than a coincidence that two Japanese business men should have been arrested by the British authorities in India and Burma, but it may induce the Japanese Government to investigate more rapidly the reasons for the detention of the two British subjects, Mr Mason and Mr Martyr, in Tokio. Japan is much addicted to high-handed action of this kind. It was not so long ago that the British Government had to protest against the arrest of Other British subjects, who were subsequently released without being given any clear explanation for the arbitrary action taken by the Japanese authorities. It may be assumed that the two Japanese subjects have been arrested on substantial grounds.

New York's Mayor

Mr La Guardia's re-election as Mayor of New York is the result of a contest in which there were many cross-currents and diverse issues. But it is welcomed wholeheartedly in London, for Mr La Guardia is here classed along with President Roosevelt and Mr Wendell Willkie as one of the best friends this country has in the United States in these times, when such friends are of great value. He is a very busy man, but, if he could find time to visit this country he would be assured of a reception which would show him how much his efforts for the cause of the Allies have been appreciated on this side of the Atlantic.

Scottish M.P.s

Sir Percy Hurd, Unionist member for a Wiltshire constituency, has given notice of a question he will address to the Secretary of State for Scotland. He will ask how many Scottish M.P.s attended the conference which Mr Johnston recently convened in Edinburgh to consider Scottish questions; how many were absent; and whether it is proposed to develop this expression of Scottish national feeling by delegating to such a Scottish Parliamentary conference the discussion of Scottish local matters which now come before the British Parliament and thus lessen the time available for urgent general subjects. That is Sir Percy's question, but the Scottish Secretary has already answered part of it. Mr Johnston recently declared that the fresh legislation necessary to provide the statutory powers for business meetings of Scottish members in Edinburgh could not be contemplated in wartime. Actually, the gathering which he convened at St Andrew's House was for the double purpose of giving facilities for Scottish members to inspect the headquarters of the Scottish Office and to come into contact with the officials of the various departments. Scottish problems were not, so far as I know, discussed at this meeting, although the Secretary of State indicated that other similar gatherings might be arranged later at which M.P.s from various districts could confer with the Departmental chiefs. The attendance was certainly not an impressive one, but there were two reasons which possibly contributed to the fact that less than half of Scottish M.P.s were present. One was that a number of them are serving in the Forces or in other important war posts. Another was that, as the meeting was clearly stated to be informal and not of a nature that is business assembly, some may have had more urgent duties elsewhere.

Art in the Street

Because of the paper shortage the street hoardings are not so well covered by posters as they used to be. That other provider of street art, the pavement artist, has been a declining number of recent years, and it was on occasions like this that one finds his work worth inspecting. Even less seldom does one come across the practising artist who will draw or paint a portrait, generally from a photograph. One has his pitch near Trafalgar Square—a practitioner in oils, and perhaps the only one. The war, however, has opened up a new field which provides scope as well as a livelihood for the pictorial artist. Wood has had to replace plate glass in shop fronts in the bombed areas, and it offers a surface for decorative effect. The subject may be a landscape or it may be descriptive of some phase of the war effort. The work requires a special technique and the use of weatherproof paints. Not all of it reaches the high standard that would be desirable in these open-air murals. Some I have seen approximate to a kind of rough and ready scene-painting, but the idea is said to be spreading among shopkeepers, and the opportunity thus afforded is one not to be despised by artists who have been hard hit by the war.

Fire-Fighting Demonstration

Though small in scope, the Fire Guard Exhibition opened at Charing Cross Underground Station, London, to-day, by Miss Wilkinson, Joint Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Home Security, covers nearly all that requires to be known by Fire Guards, and the public generally. By posters, models, and text it indicates the best way of dealing with incendiary bombs, and stresses the important fact that the prime duty of a Fire Guard is to prevent fires rather than try to do the work of the Fire Brigade. Example being better than precept, it was a happy thought to arrange twice daily a demonstration of actual fire-fighting in an adjacent courtyard. Here a trained party of three dealt with miniature fire bombs, both amongst furniture and in the open, and the public are invited to crawl through a twelve-foot long tunnel filled with smoke. It was remarkable how many volunteers there were for this experience, and they ranged from young boys and girls to one or two women and men of advanced years. Though they emerged coughing most of them said that it was easy, and that the ordeal had given them confidence should they have to face the real thing. Allowing for the difference between a simple demonstration and actual warfare, the main lesson to be learned from the show is the necessity of keeping one's head and using common sense.

Travelling Early

Apparently the continued advice to travel early in the day addressed to shoppers and other people not compelled to follow the time-table of business hours begins to show an appreciable effect. It has been found necessary to point out that morning journeys should not be taken early enough to clash with the rush of travel to work. The new alterations in London shop hours, for the winter months, appear to be as likely as not to add to existing complications in respect of travel. The West End stores are now closing at 4 o'clock, in order to allow their employees to reach home before dark, but they are also opening earlier in the morning. The same policy was adopted last winter, when general conditions were more discouraging to unnecessary travel than they have been so far, this season. If the shops open earlier it may be assumed that some, at any rate, of their customers will adjust their shopping time accordingly. But other factors in the situation probably have greater relevance. It is much easier to travel comfortably to, from, and round about London, even in the rush hours, than it was twelve months ago. People are not "staying at home" as they did, and, in the absence of still stronger representations from the authorities, they may easily feel that the crowding of trains and buses is a familiar and therefore unimportant matter.

MEN AND AFFAIRS

A Scotsman's Log

EDINBURGH, Wednesday

President Benes

THREE facts which appeared to have impressed various people who heard President Benes speak to-day are the smallness of his stature, the vigour and lucidity of his English, and his approachability. It was obvious from his various speeches that he has already established strong similarities between Scotland and his own country. As a speaker his style is more academic than oratorical. Although he speaks with a foreign intonation, his command of English is perfect, as could be seen from the occasional impromptu deviations which he made from his script. In speaking he continually accentuates and emphasises his points by characteristic gestures, a shrugging of the shoulders, and an expressive use of his right hand.

After the official ceremony at the Czechoslovak House were over, the President was engaged in animated conversation with many of the guests. Later, at the private luncheon, at which he was the number of Scottish friends which are discernible in Czechoslovak literature. The poet Neruda made frequent references to Robert the Bruce and James Douglas, and another Czech poet, J. V. Slavek, had been deeply influenced by Burns. David Hume had made a great impression on Czech philosophy, and the late President Masaryk had made a study of the Scottish philosopher's writings.

At the luncheon Sir Malcolm Robertson paid a graceful tribute to Madame Benes, who, he disclosed, during the last war had been conspicuous for her sufferings and indignities in an Austrian prison.

Dr Soukup

One of the most interesting speakers of the day was the Rev. Dr J. Soukup. It fell to him to make the opening address at the Czechoslovak House, and to propose the toast of the City of Edinburgh—or, as he amended it, "Auld Reekie"—at the luncheon. Both of these duties Dr Soukup discharged with admirable simplicity, and a sense of the occasion. Many Scotsmen, indeed, must have paid tribute to Edinburgh with less charm and fluency.

To Dr Soukup goes the main credit for establishing the Hut House. It was due to his initiative and energy that the arrangements were carried through, and for some time he has been enthusiastically engaged in organising the Hut ceremonies. Dr Soukup, a young man, is already well known in Edinburgh. After studying at the Sorbonne and Prague he was invited to come to study at New College. There he obtained his doctorate for a thesis on Masaryk. For some time he has been acting as Scottish representative for the Czechoslovak Ministry of Information.

Dr Soukup told us how Dr Benes was able to make his way to France during the last war. He travelled through Austria and Switzerland with a passport which he had himself "forged." When President Masaryk heard of this the late President remarked that if the enemy were so easily fooled they would certainly lose the war.

The Wayward Language

A contributor to our correspondence columns has mounted another offensive against the wayward language. He selects, for inspection five "bad words"—*conflict, incidentally, ideal, large, demote, O.K.* The implication is that we should proceed immediately to wipe out these pockets of verbal resistance, thus purifying the mother tongue, and safeguarding our children against noxious influences.

This column, in what it has to say, is painfully aware of its violent prejudices, for it will be equally generous to my critics.

I have been guilty with some regularity. For instance, we have slipped into the habit of saying "in contact" instead of "to make contact with" or "to make contact" by and large" where perhaps *sub specie æternitatis* would have done; we have "incidentally" sinned. It can be argued that these expressions are useful currency; they present definite nuances and inflections and make possible a certain informality of mood or approach which is not otherwise attainable. And they have a certain historical significance, and even dignity, in virtue of their association—"a restless, changeable, and disturbing age.

Per contra we are quite willing to see "demoted" hurled at a word which horrified our grandfathers—it was the issue of a dockers' broadsheet. The word, purists, is "decasualisation."

Verbal Antecedents

It may interest our correspondent to know that his strictures on the use of "contact" as a verb are mild compared with the charges filed against it in 1931 by Mr F. W. Lienau, of the Western Union Telegraph Company, who, in a memorandum to employees used the following language:—

Somewhere there cumbers this fair earth with its bathsome presence a man who, for the common good, should have been strangled in early childhood. He is the originator of the hideous vulgarism of using *contact* as a verb. So long as we can meet, get in touch with, make the acquaintance of, call on, interview, or be introduced to people, there can be no apology for contact.

As for "O.K." (now almost respectable compared with "Okey Doke") that tireless philologist H. L. Mencken has succeeded in finding at least two etymologies, ranging all the way from a contraction for *Old Kockuk* to *Aux Cayes*, a port in Haiti. The term, he finds, was in familiar use before 1840, and was used by President Wilson—who accepted it. Choctaw etymology—in approving official papers. The British Privy Council decided that it was good English, thus setting aside a dissenting opinion handed down by the High Court of Rangoon. The Institute of Electrical and Electronic Radio Conference assented to its use in telecommunications as signifying "we agree." One writer, summing up the case for the defence, claims that regardless of its possible illegitimacy, it has a convincing and captivating ring, and it is undoubtedly the most popular of all American slang or idiom. "O.K."

Amateur Fireman

Fiorella La Guardia, who has been re-elected Mayor of New York City, will be able further to indulge one eccentricity—his partiality for fires. The Mayor is incurably romantic where conflagrations are concerned, and has an understanding with the fire department to notify him immediately an outbreak is reported. Then, more often than not, the Mayor suspends whatever he happens to be doing, and rushes in a fast car to the scene of the blaze.

Once arrived, he takes a critical interest in the proceedings, and is apt to take a hand in quenching the flames himself. The regular firemen do not react to this august interest in a too kindly fashion for the "little Flower" is apt to get in the way, and, besides, he is a heavy responsibility to have around when roofs are falling.

Mr La Guardia expressed his interest in fire-fighting in a very practical way. He designed a new fireman's helmet recently which is said to be of revolutionary structure. Whether or not the firemen will wear it is another matter. American firemen tend to be conservative, and may resent a tampering with the traditional pattern of their helmet, even if it is the Mayor himself who has done the remodelling. Mr La Guardia will naturally wear his new hat when he resumes his hobby during his renewed term of office.

DISINTEGRATING GERMANY

Dr Benes Says End Can Come Very Suddenly

WE MUST FIRST WIN A MILITARY VICTORY

Dr Benes, the Czechoslovak President, seen at the opening of Scottish-Czechoslovak House in Edinburgh yesterday. The group also included (left to right) Sir Malcolm Robertson, Madame Benes, the Rev. Dr Soukup, Lady Robertson, and the Countess of Elgin.

PEOPLE do not sufficiently appreciate the extent of the present interior disintegration of Germany, or the fact that the end could come very suddenly, said Dr Eduard Benes, President of the Czechoslovak Republic, speaking in Edinburgh yesterday. Dr Benes said this would not happen without a military victory, but the attack on Russia was suicidal for Germany.

Dr Benes also discussed the need for creating a new system of security in Europe, and said the freedom of the Continent was indivisible.

Dr Benes, accompanied by Madame Benes, fulfilled a number of engagements in Edinburgh during the day, in the course of which, with the Right Hon. Sir Malcolm Robertson, P.C., G.C.M.G., chairman of the British Council, he opened the new Scottish-Czechoslovak House at 34 Lauder Road. Later, he gave an address on "For what are we fighting?" in the Pollock Memorial Hall, under the auspices of the University and the British Council; and in the evening he was entertained by students in the Union.

HIS SECOND TIME IN EXILE

Professor William Wilson, Dean of the Faculty of Law, presided at the Pollock Hall meeting, and he was accompanied on the platform by Sheriff Brown, the Rev. Principal Cairns, Sir J. Donald Pollock, Sir Malcolm Robertson, and Sir George Morton.

Dr Benes said their reception meant much to one who was for the second time in exile in the course of two world wars which threatened the existence of his country was at stake.

Proceeding to examine the factors that led to the present war, Dr Benes said the crisis of 1938, which concluded with the decision made by the four Powers at Munich, was only the first step towards the realisation of the Nazi German plan of world domination.

In a moral sense the success of the Nazis meant the end of the civilisation of the twentieth century, and for the people under their power a life that was not worth living. That was why to-day we were fighting. (Applause.)

BASIS FOR PEACE

The basis for a peace in Europe must be found in some form of European security. It can be found in Central Europe, said Dr Benes, if it is sufficiently realised that in an age of mechanised and aerial warfare neither France nor Great Britain can isolate herself from Central Europe, which cannot be left to German domination or to the tender mercies and rivalries of other Great Powers.

The freedom of Europe is indivisible. Slavery and violence in Central Europe must lead sooner or later to slavery and violence in France and Great Britain. From 1930 to 1939 these fundamental truths of European politics were completely forgotten. From the pretext that the peace of Versailles was not in all respects just, there emerges the Nazi theory that Central and Eastern Europe should live under the domination of Germany. It led inevitably to war.

We are engaged in a fight between two worlds which cannot be reconciled. In this conflict there is not, and will not be, any neutrality. It must be won decisively. (Applause.) We must leave nothing undone.

WAR IN RUSSIA DECISIVE

People do not sufficiently appreciate the extent of the present interior disintegration of Germany or the fact that the end could come very suddenly. This will not happen without a military victory, but the war in Russia seems to be decisive.

The attack on Russia was suicidal for Germany, and the events of next spring will make this evident. Italy is also disintegrating. Intense military efforts by the Allies in the Mediterranean will be another factor in securing victory. At the moment there is a general offensive of the Allies can really be said to be in progress, the dictator States with all their military power will collapse into chaos.

FUTURE POLICY

When the war is over it will be imperative to create a new system of security in Europe which will upset evil in its early stage and make the rise of a new Hitler or Mussolini impossible. The new system of solidarity must for him the fulfilment of the following needs, which Dr Benes said were really a summary of the eight points of the Atlantic Charter:—

(1) The liberation of all the occupied countries and the destruction of the Fascist and Nazi dictatorships;

(2) New federal or confederate units in different parts of Europe;

(3) The creation of a new system of security that will better correspond with a post-war situation than did the League during the last few years, and will render impossible a recurrence of what happened, externally and internally, to Germany and Italy;

(4) A new system of economic collaboration which will prevent an economic conflict between the democratic States as well as the revival of the autarchic totalitarian state.

A LAST CHANCE

With regard to the first point, Dr Benes said after the war they could not tolerate in their sphere a dictatorship. The economic sovereignty which prevailed after the last war amongst the small nations and States must be limited, especially on the Continent of Europe. Victory for the Allies was necessary to give to the people of Europe again faith in human dignity and respect for the universal principles of morality. If we did not build up a system of international security we would be involved in another war which would destroy not only the small but the great States.

We had now a last chance of saving Europe and probably the world. (Applause.)

Principal Cairns moved a vote of thanks, and Sir George Morton seconded.

BREAD AND SALT CEREMONY

Scottish-Czech Relations will be Strengthened by New Centre

President Benes entered the Scottish-Czechoslovak House at 34 Lauder Road under the crossed flags of Czechoslovakia and Scotland, their staffs bound with laurel, but, before doing so, broke bread which was offered him by the use of thanksgiving, dipped it in salt and ate it—an act symbolic of well-being to the house entered. He was received by Miss Ruzena Mrstikova, hostess of the House, who presented Madame Benes with a bouquet. A bouquet was presented to Lady Robertson by Miss Mrstikova.

Among the guests were the Countess of Elgin, Lieut.-General A. F. A. N. Thorne, G.O.C.-in-C. Scottish Command, Sir J. Donald Pollock, Rector of the University of Edinburgh, Sir John Lorne MacLeod, S.S.C., Sir Stanley Cursiter, R.S.A., Director of the National Galleries of Scotland; the Very Rev. Dr Alexander Martin, D.D., Principal W. J. Curtis, D.D.; Sir Robert Greig, Dr George A. Waters, Principal Hubert Wellington, Sir John Watson, K.C., and Lady Watson, Mr J. Liddell Geddie, president of the Scottish Centre of P.E.N., Mr H. Harvey Wood, Scottish Regional Officer of the British Council, and Mrs Harvey Wood; Dr J. R. Peddie, C.B.E., Mr J. Ewart Bell, Secretary to the Trustees for the Universities of Scotland; Captain Jastrzembski, Polish Army; Professor Alan Ogilvie, the Rev. Professor Hugh Watt, and Mr J. F. Beattie, of the National Library of Scotland.

The Rev. Dr Lumir Soukup, who presided, said he hoped Scottish and Czechoslovak people would find a real home in the House which, without the help of the British Council and Czechoslovak Ministry of Foreign Affairs would not have been established. Its main purpose was to deepen the spiritual things. The house, in their hearts, are a small territory of Czechoslovakia in Scotland.

SCOTTISH-CZECHOSLOVAK RELATIONS

President Benes, in declaring the House open, said that he welcomed the project which would, without doubt, greatly contribute towards the further strengthening of Scottish-Czechoslovak relations. He spoke of the important contacts which existed between Scotland and Czechoslovakia in the Middle Ages, and in the beginning of the modern age, and said that in future the House would be a notable centre in which would be concentrated all Scottish-Czechoslovak activities aiming at Scottish-Czechoslovak understanding. He was glad that the House was in Edinburgh which, owing to its magnificent position as well as its artistic and literary and artistic fame, might rightly be described as the Athens of Scotland, famous for its schools and educational institutions which had so much played such an important role in Scottish culture. He was sure that the future efforts of the Scottish-Czechoslovak House would be developed in the sympathetic atmosphere in which lived Buchanan, Burns, Hume, Robertson, Walter Scott, and Mackenzie.

He wished to express his cordial thanks to the British Council, which had done so much in the sphere of inter-Allied activities, and, in particular, the Czechoslovak Centres had been created by the British Council and where in Great Britain. A Czechoslovak institute had been founded in London and was developing most successful activities in the fields of literature, art and science. Scotland recalled to Czechoslovakia solitary but natural beauties of their own home country, and Scotland was returned by the sympathies of the good Scottish people. They where they would be able to build a pleasant refuge and an agreeable home, a friendly atmosphere which they would appreciate the more the greater was the news reaching them from home of the savagery of Heydrich and of the horrors of Nazi violence. The Czechoslovak House also serve as a Slavonic Society, a Student's Union, and certainly also as a centre for the Scottish-Czechoslovak Christian Fellowship, a Scottish Committee for the welfare of the Czechoslovak troops in Great Britain, and the like. He wished all success to the future creative activity of the Scottish Czechoslovak House.

BRITISH COUNCIL'S AIM

Sir Malcolm Robertson said that the idea of the British Council was to spread abroad in all countries the knowledge of our culture, look on life, our mentality, our arts and sciences, and our achievements in engineering. President Benes had assured him that the moment the war was over they would be able to spread our culture on a good and broad basis. The Centre would be the start of what he hoped would develop into a great world movement.

GERMANY'S "INEVITABLE DEFEAT"

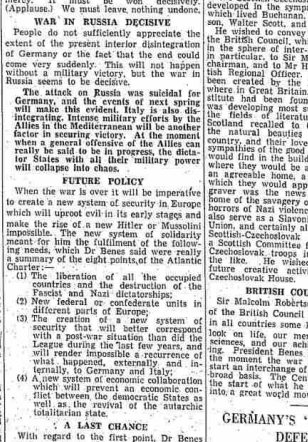
Dr Benes Replies to a Student

"Hitlerite Germany has no moral fort and that is why I have been sure of Hitler's fall from the beginning," said Dr Benes, when he addressed a largely-attended meeting of students in the University Union.

"Nazism is nothing but violent immorality, disruption, moral sickness, and the decadence of the human spirit. That is why I was always against so-called appeasement of Hitler, and always refused to deal him personally. The proper way to deal with him and with Nazism is to fight on to the bitter, inexorable end."

At the close of his address, Dr Benes expressed willingness to reply to questions. One of the students who accepted the invitation took up the conviction expressed by Dr Benes in the inevitable defeat of Germany, and asked him how he anticipated the course of events which would lead to the ending of the war by a German defeat.

"In the course of this reply in which he said was a rather difficult question, Dr Benes disclaimed any right to speak as a military strategist. It was not only a military war but an extremely complicated phenomenon from the sociological point of view. There was only one section in which Germany was stronger, and that was the military section. Hitler must lose in the long run. The war could not be won without the military defeat of Germany, and Great Britain and her Allies, with America, must produce, produce, produce to make up the lag in way in the creation of the modern military machine. He was satisfied that the disruption of the social and economic life of Germany was far more advanced than the other military generals knew. The great fighting on the Russian front was a fundamental basis of the coming German defeat because for the first time the so-called Blitzkrieg had been stopped. The invasion of Russia was suicidal.



Dr Benes, partaking of bread and salt, offered by one of his countrywomen, before entering the House.

THE COURT

BUCKINGHAM PALACE, November 5

THE Rt. Hon. Sir Earle Page (Australian Minister without Portfolio), the Rt. Hon. Anthony Eden, M.P. (Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs), had audiences of the King this morning.

Lieut.-General Sir Ronald Adam, Bt., had the honour of being received by His Majesty.

The Rt. Hon. Sir Kingsley Wood, M.P. (Chancellor of the Exchequer), had an audience of the King this afternoon.

The Duke and Duchess of Kent visited an exhibition and sale of goods made by war disabled ex-Servicemen, held at the Lord Roberts Memorial Workshops, 122 Brompton Road, Knightsbridge, this afternoon.

The Lady Delia Peel was in attendance.

FORTHCOMING MARRIAGE

MR S. F. MACDONALD—MISS SETON GORDON

The engagement is announced between Mr Stephen Fraser MacDonald, Lovat Scouts, youngest son of the late J. R. M. MacDonald of Largie and Mrs Morrison MacDonald, Largie Castle, Tayinloan, Argyll, and Caitriona, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Seton Gordon, Upper Duntulm, Isle of Skye.

SIR R. GORDON-FINLAYSON

Oldest General in Home Forces to Retire

GENERAL SIR ROBERT GORDON-FINLAYSON will retire shortly from his appointment as General Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Western Command, it is understood.

He was appointed to the Command, which includes Northern Ireland, in June last year, and was the oldest General in the Home Forces at the time of his appointment, Sir Alan Brooke. He is 60, and an Aide-de-Camp General to the King.

Sir Robert served in France, Belgium, and Russia in the last war. From May 1918 to June 1919 he was Deputy Commander, North Russia.

He was mentioned in dispatches eight times, and received many honours and decorations, including the C.M.G. and D.S.O. He was born in 1881, and was Director of Staff in 1937. For a time he worked in the War Office on Operations and Intelligence, but for the last three years he was the 3rd Division on Salisbury Plain. This was at the time of the evolution to full mechanised basis.

He commanded the Rawalpindi District in India from 1931 to 1934, and subsequently the 3rd Division. In 1938 he assumed command of the Aldershot Division, Sir Robert dealt with many questions arising from the advent of the Militiamen. He is an expert apple tree grower, and likes fishing and big game hunting. One of his sons is in the Artillery and the other is in the R.A.F.

LUNCH HOUR CONCERTS

Vocal and Piano Recital

THERE was again a large and interested audience for yesterday's lunch hour concert in the National Gallery, when a programme of songs and pianoforte music was presented by the Misses Jean Summers and Grace Johnston. Miss Summers put Arne, Handel, Delius, Schumann, Vaughan Williams, and Arthur Benjamin into her programme, providing a selection of songs which was agreeably away from the beaten track. Arne's "O Ravishing Delight," and Handel's "Oh! Had I Jubal's Lyre" were given with the finish demanded by the formal elegance of the music. The brilliance of Delius's "Spring, Delight May Come and Go" responded, as was the quality of Sachnowsky's "The Clock." Throughout there was singing infused with an excellent understanding. Two little of Schubert's heard—a statement which is prohibitive of any adequate comment. Miss Johnston's choice of the Sonata in A minor, Op. 164, as one of her solos, was therefore welcome. The Sonata was given with capital effect. Later, she played some Chopin and Brahms throughout with a fine technical accomplishment. In addition to her solos, Miss Johnston played Miss Summers's accompaniments artistically.