population of West Bohemia must give all to aid the Allied armies. Czechs of all parties liberated by the advance of the Third American Army will group themselves around the national committees set up in accordance with well known principles once more given by the new Czechoslovak Government and firmly rejecting all Western interests, will unite in all their strength to build up the first organs of a public democratic administration and maintain public order.

The local Czech representatives will place themselves at the disposal of the American Army authorities and will contribute to the swift organization of work for the Allies by their knowledge of local conditions.

All loyal Czechs living in the frontier regions will see to it that all German traitors and collaborators are taken into custody and rendered harmless.

As the American Army is entering our country, don’t forget—and we are convinced the American Command will not forget—that those regions are still infested with Nazis. They are the districts where Henleinism originated. They are the regions which were the hotbeds of Nazism and the source of internal weakening of the Republic, an instrument for the attack of German imperialism upon Czechoslovak independence. These are the regions where the German population went over as one man to the service of the enemy’s brutal, mad ideology of Pan-Germanic savagery. All these signs and influences against which the whole civilized world rose, must disappear if the Republic and Europe are to live in freedom and human dignity.

Let all who contribute to the liberation of Czechoslovakia remember this. Citizens of the Republic, our aspirations are being realized. Let us be worthy in fight and in thought. We welcome the American and British Allies and offer them thanks and firmly believe that our people will find in the common crusade of Russia, England and America, support and inspiration for the final struggle for a free Republic and for creative work of the Czech and Slovak nations in a free, united and democratic Czechoslovakia in the heart of Europe.

Czechoslovak Government Information Service.

DENMARK

Danish Post-Liberation Problems

The following are excerpts from an address by Minister of Denmark to the United States Henrik Kauffmann, April 9, 1945.

... When the Allies landed on the Continent last year General Eisenhower asked the Danish Underground to attack Denmark’s transportation system; his orders were carried out immediately. In January, when the Allied offensive on the Western Front began, railway sabotage in Denmark was stepped up. As a result the German reserves in Norway, which would have been highly useful in Germany, were cut off. As General Eisenhower stated last month in one of his special communiques, this was an effective contribution to the military operations on both the Western and Eastern Fronts.

Denmark’s early liberation is now certain. The next couple of months, however, may become the most trying the Danish people have been through so far, a time which will demand great devotion and courage, and no less, coolness, calmness and discipline. Many young Danes must have been tempted today, on the 5th anniversary of the German invasion, to begin to throw the Germans out; it is hard to wait patiently, until the day General Eisenhower gives the signal.

The liberation will not mean that all problems are solved. On the contrary, new problems will arise. It might be far more difficult than generally realized, quickly to provide Denmark with what is necessary for the country’s productive machinery. The limited supplies which are available in the world will have to be shared with other suffering nations. But I feel certain that the Danish people will meet these difficulties without complaint. For a number of years we will have to tighten our belts, but we know that one thing is more precious than anything else—freedom. The coming year will see a free Denmark, that is what is important to all Danes.

The years following liberation will require that all Danes continue to unite, as they have done throughout the years of occupation. Reports from Denmark prove that all circles and parts have solemnly agreed to do so. There must be room in the coming government both for the older and more experienced and for the young and vigorous—those who have taken the active lead during these five years—those who have saved the future of Denmark to whom the future belongs.

Come what may, we shall build a Denmark as happy and wholesome as ever before, a Denmark that fully realizes the importance of spiritual forces, a Denmark which is ready to fulfill its international obligations to the utmost, a Denmark which together with its Scandinavian brothers will endeavor to do its part in building a bridge between the nations of the world.

All of us who are present here today join with the thousands of Danes all over the world in sending our warmest thoughts to our countrymen, to our staunch King and to each man who is his own way is defying the German invaders—in sending to them our hopes for an early liberation, our wishes of good luck at our prayers for them in their final fight. Whatever happens, we know that they will take it in such a way that we can be proud of them. May God give them strength and courage!

Danish Information Service.

FRANCE

France’s War Against Japan

The following is the text of a speech by General de Gaulle, Paris, March 14, 1945.

During the past six days, heavy fighting has been going on in Indo-China between the French and Japanese forces. In Hanoi, Hue, Langon, and Sontey, our troops set up a stiff resistance and are now continuing the fight on the outskirts of these towns. Up until now, all enemy attacks in Monjay have been repelled. In Cochin-China and along the Mekong River small-scale engagements are being fought and are spreading.

In this way, a new phase of the war in the Far East has begun. After great successes achieved over all his adversaries, the enemy is now seeing American fleets, squadrons and troops advancing from one Pacific island to another, straight toward the very heart of Japanese territory. The enemy knows that after nearly eight years of fighting, Chinese resistance is more determined than ever. He measures the difficulties arising in the Dutch East Indies, because of the guerrilla warfare of detachments which always remained there. In Burma and in the Gulf of Bengal, the enemy can feel the weight of the powerful means of action being assembled there by the British. Consequently, the enemy would like to annihilate the barrier courageously set up against him by our army which is reduced in number, scattered, and poorly equipped, but assisted by the population.

While France was undergoing the trials of invasion, she never forgot the brave Frenchmen and Indo-Chinese who were isolated in the face of the Japanese invaders’ crushing superiority. France knew that the Allied help asked for at the time of the enemy’s first
ultimatum in June, July and September, 1940, and in January and February, 1941, could not possibly be given. France knew of the bloody sacrifice of the Langson garrison in September, 1940, the determined defense of the Mekong, in January, 1941, against Japan’s Siamese allies and the brilliant naval action of January 17, 1941, when the old destroyer “La Motte-Picquet” and a few auxiliary French vessels sent the Siamese fleet to the bottom. France was not unaware of the anguish and discouragement which the policy of abandonment practiced by Vichy caused in these colonies during all those ghastly days. But, gradually, France felt the flame of liberation springing up in the Army, the Government, among high-ranking officials and the population.

Not for a single hour did France lose the hope or the determination to recover a free Indo-China. During the worst moments of the Japanese advance, the French National Committee, which was speaking and acting in the name of France in Empire territories which had already been liberated, placed the then vital bases of New Caledonia, the New Hebrides, and the French establishments of Oceania at the Allies’ disposal for strategic purposes. This made it possible to maintain a liaison with America, on one hand, and with Australia and New Zealand on the other. The National Committee, today the French Government, has never ceased to encourage by secret and difficult means, a resistance movement which was gradually organized in Indo-China as it was in the Metropole. For whether it was in Brazzaville, Alger, Hanoi, or in Nantes, Lyon, or Paris, nothing could prevent French unity from remaining indivisible.

Today, the struggle which has opened between the invader and our forces in Indo-China is developing according to a plan drawn up by the Government and under the orders of Government-appointed leaders. In this way, the efforts, sacrifices, and heroic deeds of our brave fighting men, were, are and shall be at the service, and for the advantage of France, as were, are, and shall be the many heroic deeds, sacrifices and efforts expended on all the battlefields of the world by all whom honor has assembled around the flag.

Ah! how well we know all that the valiant men of Indo-China lack in material means, for until now, it has been our lot, in this new war, to be unable anywhere to return to the fight save with a broken sword or a borrowed blade. In Indo-China, as elsewhere, the enemy had the advantage of seizing armaments that were in the arsenals. In the situation in which France is momentarily placed, she is not responsible if the forces she prepared a long while ago to help Indo-China should not be in line beside those of the Allies. But no matter what may be the conditions under which the Indo-Chinese resistance is placed, it must arise and fight. In a large measure, the total and speedy victory of the Allied nations in the Far East is at stake. The honor of France and the future of French Indo-China are at stake.

Yet! the future of French Indo-China, for a solemn pact between France and the peoples of the Indo-Chinese Union, is now being sealed in the common trial and in the blood of soldiers. We well know that it is easy for our Japanese adversary to build up by feints and artifices—as one makes a paper dragon—the appearance that the occupied populations accept his tyranny. But we know that realities will not be mislaid by these false appearances. In truth, the Indo-Chinese Union was never more opposed to the enemy from the North, nor more determined to find within herself, with the help of France, the conditions for her own development in all the fields where her great future lies—political, economic, social, cultural, and moral.

Henceforth the veils of mystery are torn away and the French Government will soon make known in what fields and by what means this will be accomplished.

In Indo-China, as everywhere, the trial of this war is a boiling cauldron. Indeed, one might have feared that our doom was sealed within it, but it is now possible to hope that our rebirth is being forged in this cauldron. Our acts will decide it. Fighting men of the Indo-Chinese Resistance, all the men and women, who in France or overseas are bound together under the same flag, are looking at you and thinking of you. They know that you are and will be worthy of your duties. But you must also know that it is your fight which will open the ports of destiny.

French Press and Information Service.

Financial Policy of the Provisional Government

The following is the summary of a speech by Minister of Finance René Pleven before the Consultative Assembly, Paris, March 25, 1945.

From August 31, 1939, to December 31, 1944, the Treasury met expenditures (including expenditures of the Alger Government) of 1,960 billion francs. 1,102 billions were for French needs and 858 billions went directly or indirectly to the occupying enemy. Demands on the Bank of France led to a considerable increase in the circulation of money. Roughly, circulation as well as the public debt is, therefore, four times greater than in 1939.

Total budgetary expenditures in 1945 (including new unavailable expenditures now being made) will be about 400 billion francs as against 81 billion for 1938. M. Pleven feels that his estimates are reliable and will show but little error whether with respect to indispensable welfare measures or new measures concerning civil servants, their hiring, their employment or their standard of living.

To these expenses must be added credits listed in the budget to permit the sale below cost especially of such articles as bread and coal; subsidies to transport; credits covering the deficit arising from special production operations, imports and reconstruction.

Cash payments resulting from reciprocal aid agreements between France and the Allies and items under the heading of expenditures for construction of dwellings amount to 500 million francs per month; salaries of workers employed by the Allies at their bases, 600 million francs per month; rail transport, 400 million francs per month; industrial orders, 1,284 million francs per month; use of postal, telegraph and telephone services, 60 million francs per month; thus, our direct contribution to the Allied war effort amounts to an average of about 3,100,000,000 francs per month.

The counter-part of these expenditures have been delivered and are daily being delivered to us by the American and British authorities on the one hand in arms for the reconstruction of our Army and Air Force, and on the other hand in steel, various metals, petroleum and chemical products, synthetic rubber, food products which until hostilities with Germany have ceased and until the end of the war in Europe is formally declared by the President of the United States, will by virtue of agreements recently negotiated be delivered to France by the United States free of charge as part of the war effort. It should be added that processing of these raw materials by French industry will furnish important resources to the Treasury.

On the eve of the war, 30.5 percent of fiscal revenues were accounted for by income tax receipts, 50 percent by sales taxes, 11.5 percent by inheritance taxes. At the beginning of 1945, income tax receipts amounted to 52 percent of the total, sales taxes to 38 percent, inheritance taxes to 10 percent.

How are we going to meet the largest budget in the history of France with ordinary receipts?

Confiscation of Illicit Profits—There are 92 Confiscation Committees functioning in France today. As of March 21, 29,000 individuals or legal persons have been charged. On March 31, the declarations of all those who may have traded with the enemy will-