

British Cabinet's Emergency Meeting On Spain

MEDITERRANEAN NAVAL CLASH FEARED

MADRID ACCUSES ITALY AND GERMANY

EXODUS FROM THE CAPITAL

THE British Cabinet met yesterday to discuss the Spanish situation. This rare procedure is an index of the gravity of the situation created by General Franco's blockade threat.

In some quarters it is suggested, says the Press Association, that should General Franco establish a blockade off Barcelona, he might do so with the assistance of Italian warships with the consequent danger of a clash with other Powers in Spanish waters.

It is such a possibility as this that is causing the tenseness in the present situation.

Yesterday as the Spanish Government issued a declaration to the world accusing Italy and Germany of aiding and abetting General Franco and declaring that they were confident of the aid of Russia and Mexico, the Italian and German envoys to the newly recognised Insurgent "Chief of State" arrived in Seville.

They were received by General Queipo de Llano and are proceeding to Burgos to-day.

The forces defending Madrid launched another fierce counter-attack during the day, taking advantage of the fact that owing to the bad weather no insurgent aeroplanes were up.

A message from Lisbon last night stated that although the weather had improved the aerodromes near Madrid were flooded and this prevented any machines taking off.

The Madrid Defence Committee claims as a result of the new counter-attack to have bettered its positions in all sectors around Madrid.

The Spanish Government, in an official communique, published in Valencia—200 miles from Madrid—claims further that the Madrid troops have succeeded in driving a wedge between the Casa de Campo and the University City, thus completely cutting off the insurgents who are inside Madrid. This is not confirmed.

The insurgents have claimed no new advance in the past 24 hours. They merely deny all the Spanish Government's claims.

Madrid itself yesterday was a pitiful sight, with women, children and old men flocking through the streets in an endless stream, to seek safety away from the war, following orders that Madrid must be evacuated by all non-combatants.

BRITISH CABINET. The Press Association learns that the calling of yesterday's special meeting of Ministers at Downing Street was contemplated on Saturday in view of the possibilities of the Spanish situation.

It is pointed out that Madrid has never asked for belligerent rights which would be an admission that a state of civil war exists instead of a rebellion.

The view is expressed in London political circles that at yesterday's meeting Ministers may have considered whether in British interests the existence of a state of war in Spain should not now be formally recognised.

Such an action would mean that Spanish naval ships on either side would be entitled to search British ships proceeding to Spanish ports. At present any such attempt would be regarded by Britain as an act of piracy.

It is understood that Mr. Eden will probably be in a position to make a statement in the House of Commons to-day.

The German torpedo boats, Tiger, Itis, and Jaguar, left Brest yesterday evening for the Mediterranean.

Nearly seven tons of explosives destined for the fortifications in Eastern France, have been stolen from a goods truck, and it is feared that they may have been sent across the frontier into Spain.

EXPLOSION ON WARSHIP. Trustworthy reports from Cartagena state that a violent explosion occurred in the Spanish Government cruiser Miguel de Cervantes, Saturday evening, says a "Times" Gibraltar telegram. The ship suffered serious damage has a bad list and is completely disabled.

It is reported that all Spanish Government merchant shipping is being armed in order to harass General Franco's ships in the Straits.

The Government warships were reported yesterday to have been preparing to attack the insurgent warships in the Straits. The Press Association special correspondent with the Nationalist forces



THE BOMBING OF MADRID FROM THE INSIDE:—One of a series of exclusive pictures of the bombing of Madrid were taken by a Planet News staff photographer at the risk of his life in the city of Madrid. He writes in his captions that two buildings were bombed while he was in them and the city is in a state of unbelievable chaos. Photo shows houses beside the Toledo Bridge, burning after an insurgent air raid.

MR. de VALERA'S FIRST FLIGHT

Joking Remark Comes True: Lindbergh His Pilot

A FEW years ago Mr. de Valera was asked if he would like to fly, and jokingly he replied: "My first flight will be with Lindbergh." The joke came true on Saturday, when Mr. de Valera made his first flight high up over Dublin's fog—with Colonel Charles Lindbergh.

The flight in the Colonel's beautiful new Miles Mohawk monoplane, just registered as "G.—A.E.K.N.," lasted five minutes. Alighting with a smile the President of the Executive Council said: "I enjoyed it thoroughly."

The Colonel said it was a pleasure to have given Mr. de Valera his first flight.

Mr. de Valera and Colonel Lindbergh then went to the Officers' Mess, where they were entertained to lunch.

On his arrival, Mr. de Valera was received by Major General Brennan, Chief of Staff, and Major P. Mulcahy, Officer Commanding the Army Air Force.

None of the soldiers who were on duty in the grounds knew that the tall figure, dressed in the Sidcot flying-suit, with flying-helmet, flying-boots and goggles was the President of the Executive Council.

WAVED TO MR. AIKEN. Mr. de Valera arrived at midday, accompanied by Mr. Frank Aiken, Minister for Defence, and walked up the field from the officers' quarters to the start-off, where Colonel Lindbergh carried out a number of tests during the morning.

He climbed into the 'plane quickly and waved to Mr. Aiken as the machine took off.

Colonel Lindbergh, having left his hotel early on Saturday, a.d. taken his luggage with him, inspected the 'plane and spent an hour in the air. He said he was very satisfied with the test.

After one solo run he flew Major Mulcahy, and then gave flights to Major-General Brennan, Commandant G. J. Carroll, Mr. R. W. O'Sullivan, aeronautical engineer to the Army Air Force, and Capt. W. P. Delamere.

Mr. J. J. Leydon, Sec., Dept. of Industry and Commerce, was present. Colonel Lindbergh's black and orange 'plane, which has a span of 95 feet, has an all-up weight of 2,700 lbs. The length is 25 ft. 6 ins., and height 6 ft. 6 ins. Other details of the plane were given exclusively in THE IRISH PRESS.

Colonel Lindbergh, who always manages to be elusive, avoided the autograph-hunters very efficiently.

So far as is known, only one woman obtained his autograph, Miss Lillie Dillon, a member of the Irish Aero Club, who was the first aviator to land on the Aran Islands by air, and who has crossed the Irish Sea fifteen times in her own 'plane.

Miss Dillon met Colonel Lindbergh on his arrival at Baldonnel on Thursday.

DEPARTURE POSTPONED

Colonel Lindbergh who had intended to leave Baldonnel aerodrome for England, yesterday, postponed his departure owing to adverse weather conditions. Accompanied by Mr. Frank Aiken, Minister for Defence, Seán O h-Uadhaigh, Chairman, Aer Lingus Teoranta, and Mr. J. J. Leydon, Secre-

"Missing" List Lengthens

TWO DUBLIN BOYS SOUGHT BY FAMILIES

TWO young Dublin boys are now missing.

They are: Cecil Martin, aged 14½ years, of Wilfred, Harold's Cross, and Simon Devoiy, 14½ years, of 65 Devenish Road, Kimmage.

Devoiy has been missing since Wednesday last, and Martin since Tuesday.

Both are about 5 feet 2 inches in height. Martin has fair hair and freckled face, and Devoiy has black hair and a cast in his left eye.

River dragging was carried out at Ennis in the search for Thos. Ciohessy, of Market St., Ennis, who disappeared from his home on Thursday evening.

On a bridge spanning the River Ferris were found his coat and cap.

In a pocket of the coat was found a message for his relatives.

No trace has been got of the missing Dublin teacher, Miss Jane A. Leslie, who left her home, Immissionagh, Greenfield Park, Stillorgan Road, on Nov. 6, to drive a friend to Baginbun St. Hospital, and who has not since been found.

An IRISH PRESS reporter was told yesterday that inquiries are still being made in the South of England where, it is thought, Miss Leslie may have gone to visit friends.

Mrs. Victoria McIntosh (33), of South Circular Road, Rialto, Dublin, who was last seen by her husband at their home on Nov. 11, is still missing.

£2,059 For Spanish Catholics

The Bishop of Down and Connor, Most Rev. Dr. Mageean, at the opening of the Catholic Missionary Exhibition in St. Mary's Hall, Belfast, last night, announced that £2,059 had been contributed in the dioceses for the Catholics in Spain.

German Engineer Sentenced To Death In Russia

Confessed To "Mass Murder" of Miners, Says Soviet: Berlin Protests

DEATH sentences were passed on the German engineer, Herr E. M. Stickling, and the eight Russian technicians arraigned with him by the Military Collegium of the Russian Supreme Court yesterday at Novosibirsk, Siberia. All are to be shot.

They were charged with being concerned in a "Trotskyist plot" of counter-revolution espionage and terrorism.

The German Ambassador in Moscow, Count von Schulenberg, yesterday, in consequence made further representations to the Soviet Government.

He is stated to have declared to the Soviet Government that the accusation against Herr Stickling was unworthy of belief and to have "demanded as a first measure that adequate time should be given for the carrying through of the appeal."

The sentence has aroused indignation in Germany and the Official News Agency last night headed its report "Monstrously High-handed verdict in Novosibirsk."

"Der Montag" calls the sentence "a true example of International scandal" comments: "This groundless injustice shows how justified is Germany's attitude to the terrorists of the Soviet Union and how necessary are the warning to the civilised world to join for the sake of peace in the Anti-Bolshevik bloc."

"CONFESSIONS." A visit to the Gestapo (German Secret Police), was described by Stickling when he was cross-examined yesterday in open court for the first time.

Stickling said (according to the official Soviet Tass Agency), that he made the visit to the Gestapo when he was last on vacation and spoke to an official of the Gestapo about sabotage work carried out by him when in the U.S.S.R.

He confirmed that besides wrecking work in the Severnaya Mine, he directed wrecking activities by the Peshkhoneff group in the Zentralsaya Mine—all upon the direct instructions of the official of a foreign state.

The witness, Goritzky, who was interrogated by the court, referred to "serious defects" in the Severnaya Mine, which, he said, were the fault of Stickling, who occupied the post of Chief Engineer of the Mine.

The accused: Leonenko, Andreyeff, Noskoff and Peshkhoneff testified that both the poisoning by gas of workers on December 23, 1935, and the mine explosion of September, 1936, were intentionally carried out by their counter-revolutionary wrecking group "which prepared mass murders of workers."

Experts questioned by the Court confirmed that the work in the Zentralsaya mine was conducted "in a criminal manner."

Unless the Central Executive Committee of the Communist Party commutes the sentences within seventy-two hours all the convicted men will be handed over to a firing squad.

The sentence was passed by the presiding Judge Uriach—the judge who less than three months ago sentenced Zinovieff and Kameneff to death and passed judgment in the celebrated trial of the Metro-Vickers engineers.

VOLUNTEERS FOR SPAIN

GENERAL O'DUFFY AND PARTY SAIL FROM LIVERPOOL

A PARTY of 32 Irishmen, headed by General O'Duffy, sailed from Liverpool on Saturday for Lisbon.

General O'Duffy, who, like his men, was dressed in civilian clothes, refused to discuss the intentions and movements of the party, but one member admitted that they were bound for Spain, "to fight for their faith."

The majority of the men were under 25, and little luggage was carried. Some of the men are believed to have formerly held rank in the Free State Army, while others are stated to be students.

The men came from Dublin overnight in the Lady Munster, which was delayed owing to fog.

"WILL HELP IRISH UNITY." Interviewed in Dublin prior to his departure for Spain, Capt. P. Quinn, Gowran House, Co. Kilkenny, made the following statement: "I believe that if an Irish Brigade succeed in reaching Spain, and there fights against Communism and all its terrors, it will do more good than anything else to help the Irish people to organise at home and bury political differences in the interests of national unity. There may be people who will look unfavourably at the Brigade, but let them not criticise it too much. "We have too many political wise men in Ireland, and too many political camps."

"An effort should be made by the foremost statesmen and politically-minded men to come together and bury their party differences and aim at national political unity."

"If the present-day leaders are not prepared to do this then they should not be jealous of other men or interfere in their effort to obtain national unity."

"A Youth movement organised on Christian principles is absolutely essential and the opinions of such organised youth should be regarded as an important matter in the life of this country."

"I trust that the Irish Brigade while fighting for the glory of God and the honour of Ireland against Communism will be the means of bringing about a desire for national unity."

Capt. Quinn is a member of the Fine Gael Executive and one of the founders of the Blueshirt movement. He is also a member of the Central Staff League of Youth.

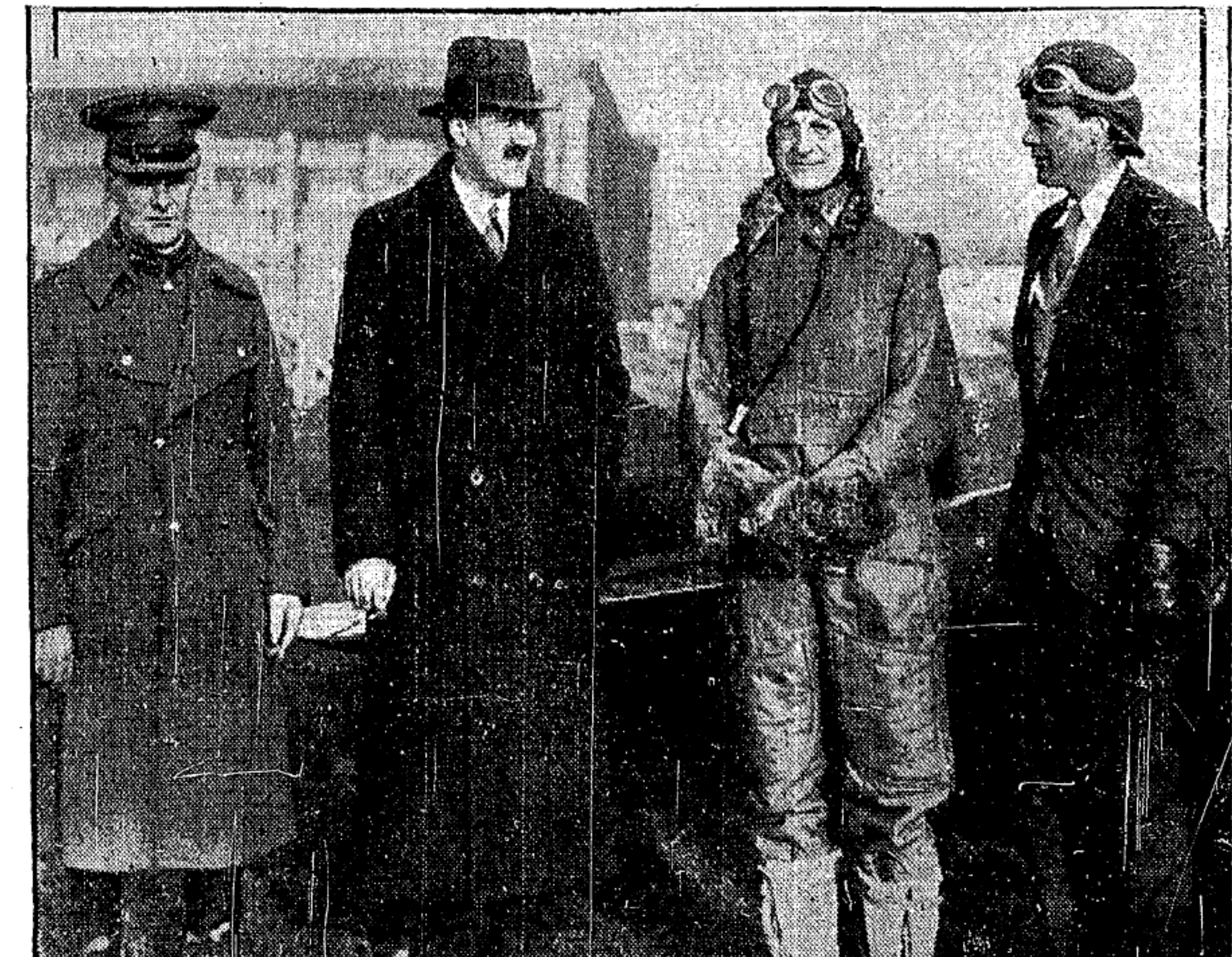
Mr. Thomas Hudson, Newmarket, Thomastown, Co. Kilkenny, who left with the Irish Brigade for Spain, took a prominent part in the Anglo-Irish war.

"MR. REITON ENJOYING HIMSELF." Mr. T. Coyte, speaking at Cathal Brugha Street, Dublin, yesterday, said that people would be glad to know that Mr. "Paddy" Reiton was getting on well on his Mediterranean cruise and was able to enjoy himself in the Bay of Biscay drinking "creamy pints," as had been quite shamelessly admitted in the Press during the week.

Mrs. Sheehy Stieffington said some people had been expressing fears for General O'Duffy's safety abroad in his mission to bring Christianity to Spain, but there was no reason for alarm, because the General would be back after Christmas to bring Christianity to Ireland.

Madame MacBride also spoke.

Landless Men's Request.—A meeting of Arvaghs (Co. Limerick) landless men and economic holders unanimously adopted a resolution calling on the Minister for Lands to acquire for division a local holding, which, it is stated, is about to be offered for sale.



MR. DE VALERA'S FIRST FLIGHT:—A group taken at Baldonnel Aerodrome on Saturday, prior to Mr. de Valera's flight with Col. Lindbergh, in the latter's new plane. (L. to R.)—Major Gen. Brennan, Chief of Staff, Mr. F. Aiken, Minister for Defence, Mr. de Valera and Colonel Lindbergh. [I.P. Photo (F.)]

(Continued on Page 2.)