



# A NEW MOLOTOV COCKTAIL

*BOTH wars with which the modern world has had such painful acquaintance have been followed by hard bargaining. At Paris in 1919 several months were consumed in securing agreement, not between the Allies and the defeated nations, but between the victorious Allies themselves. It is perhaps not surprising that now and then during the conference of the Council of Foreign Ministers which has been sitting in London side currents should have been observed which have carried attention for the moment from the main theme of the parleys—the drafting of peace treaties.*

Such a diversion was provided by the Press conference given in London by the Soviet Foreign Commissar, Mr. Molotov, at a time when the Italo-Yugoslav frontier—one of the most important issues in the framing of a peace treaty with Italy—was under consideration by the conference representatives. Although Mr. Molotov dealt at length with the Yugoslav claims on the Julian March (Venezia Giulia) and emphasised the strong support of his country for the present

regimes in Hungary, Rumania and Bulgaria, the most noteworthy passage from his statement to newspaper correspondents dealt with his country's attitude to the Italian colonies. He gave a clear hint that the Soviet Union desired to be given a trusteeship over Tripolitania (the western portion of Libya) and admitted Russian interest in Eritrea, the Italian colony on the Red Sea. Mr. Molotov went further than that. Asked whether collective trusteeship was not the more satisfactory solution, he replied that collective trusteeship was a great principle and should be applied in some areas, as suggested by the San Francisco conference, but that in regard to the Italian colonies the principle of individual trusteeship should not be ignored.

Mr Molotov's chief argument against collective trusteeships was that there had been no instances of such methods or control in the past, and he therefore felt that care should be taken in applying them now. On the other hand, there had been examples of trusteeships or mandates by individual nations and, while not all had proved satisfactory, the experience was there. He suggested that some might be "emboldened to try collective trusteeship in practice if those who are confident that it will be a success pointed to other territories—not necessarily Italian—where it could be applied." He did not indicate which other territories