RUSSIA TAKES A PLUNGE

THE most important news received from Europe in the past fortnight was the announcement of the political disestablishment of the U.S.S.R. Since the revolution in 1917, Russia has been a single State, with one Army, the Red Army, and one Foreign Policy. Now by a decision of the Supreme Council it becomes a federation of 16 different States, each with authority to establish its own army and conduct its own foreign affairs.

But of the U.S.S.R.'s 193,000,000 people only 150,000,000 are actually Russian Slavs. Instead of one people, the Russians are 175 peoples at least. They speak 150 different languages and dialects, and believe in dozens of different religions. Not only does each people speak and write its ancient and native language, but the Soviets foster this cultural nationalism among all the 175. Peoples that for centuries have spoken an unwritten language without alphabet or

GREAT RUSSIANS, numbering 100,000,000, have spread over all European Russia. They form the great majority of the U.S.S.R.

UKRAINIANS (Little Russians), numbering 38,000,000, are taller and darker than Russians, but use a similar alphabet.

GERMANS, numbering 1,500,000, were settled in the bend of the Volga and the Ukraine. They were moved east when the war started.

BALKARIANS, numbering 43,000, are the aristocrats of the Caucasus. They lately adopted the Cyrillic instead of the Arabic alphabet.
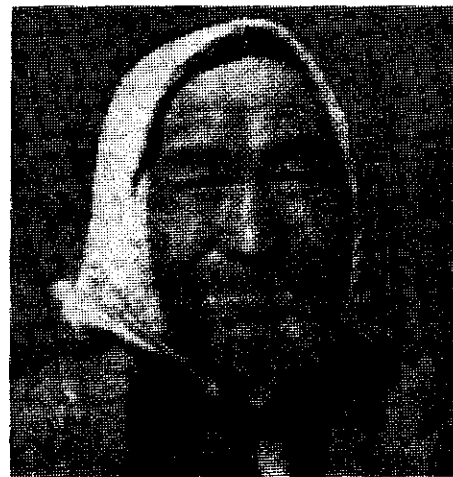
KAZAKHS, numbering 2,000,000, are, with the Uzbeks, the leaders of 9,700,000 Moslem Turco-Tartars of Central Asia.

YAKUTS, numbering 300,000, people the most uninhabitable Lena River basin in northern Siberia. They are related to Turco-Tartars.

TURKMEN, numbering 800,000, live on the steppes north of Iran. There are also 20,000,000 Turco-Tartars in the U.S.S.R.

OSTIAKS, numbering 25,000, breed reindeer along the frozen rivers of western Siberia. They speak a variation of Finno-Ugrian.

KIRGHIZ, numbering 885,000, raise fat-tailed sheep in the mountains next to China. They are descendants of the Mongol hordes.