SWEEP SEEN AS MENACING BRITAIN

Pact Between Reich, Turkey Will Seriously Cripple Moscow, However

MOSCOW—(AP)—Soviet Russia is watching intently the German drive toward dominance in the Near East.

Recent news of a $60,000,000 German commodity loan to Turkey—making possible large purchases of German arms and machinery—aroused particular interest in Moscow.

Turkey not only is Soviet Russia’s trans-Caucasian neighbor, but guardian of the Dardanelles gateway to the Mediterranean, and a pro-German policy in Ankara might be even more of a menace to Moscow than a pro-German government in Prague.

In the Soviet press, however, the steady southeastward march of German economic and political influence is pictured primarily as a menace to Britain.

Hitler’s bloodless capture of the Czechoslovak bastion “opened the gate to the Near East and to the richest possessions of the British Empire,” according to Pravda, the Communist party newspaper. Germany, successful in its economic penetration of the Danubian countries, now is “establishing new lines of commerce” linking India with the Rhine, via the Near East and the Danube.

This Soviet view does not correspond entirely with Germany’s own statement of the case. But it is interesting to recall that Hitler’s minister of economics, Herr Funk, on his recent return from Turkey, said that Germany had succeeded in establishing “an economic sphere stretching from the Baltic to the Black Sea.”