

STORM IN A TEACUP.

All round San Marino (the world's smallest republic) lies Italian territory - and, for the time being, an Italian blockade. There's a storm in this teacup state - the Italy's sealing off the frontier, except for journalists and cameramen, until San Marino decides which of its two Governments is the real one. By the look of the place, everyone must be indoors thinking it out.

San Marino's Parliament had a Communist-Socialist Majority - until recently, when six members changed sides. The Christian Democrat opposition set up a rival Government - but the old Government armed their supporters and refused to budge. They declared that they were the legal Government until elections had been held - and that they proposed to hold them.

Communist foreign secretary Dr. Gino Giacomini enters Government House to discuss the crisis with his colleagues. Italy, Britain, France and the United States recognise the rival Government, who have set up their headquarters in a half-built iron foundry - also with their private army. The constitution, they declare, doesn't allow for an election at the moment, so they are the legal Government.

Communist and Socialist supporters demonstrate - but the pressure of outside events is too much. They hear their leaders admit that Italy can starve them out, so they're resigning. Peace returns to the pocket state - till the next time!