

# Algerian News

★ A MONTHLY BULLETIN OF NEWS AND INFORMATION ★

MARCH 1957

Vol.1, No.1

## OPEN DEFIANCE OF UNITED NATIONS

### Mollet Government Chooses Policy of Violence

#### EDITORIAL

A SOLUTION WHICH IS PEACEFUL, DEMOCRATIC AND JUST...

After ten days of impassioned debate, the tone of which revealed how violent is the conflict between Algerians and Frenchmen, the U.N.O. has passed unanimously a resolution which expresses "hope for a peaceful, democratic and just solution."

Ten days of discussion, marathon speeches, oratorical battles, polemics, compromises; and at least a massive vote which marks an epoch in the history of the United Nations... Thus the Algerian question, which the French Government regarded as its "private preserve" and kept within the narrow confines of the Palais Bourbon, has burst its way into the international arena and has been extensively explained and defined before world-wide public opinion.

The unanimity of the vote eloquently reveals, if not the firm conviction held by the delegations concerned, then at least their hope that the bloodshed in Algeria may cease and that a solution may be found which is democratic, peaceful and just.

What do the Algerian fighters, the citizens of France and the rest of public opinion think about this resolution, and what do they expect to get from it?

From the Algerian point of view the U.N.O. vote is undoubtedly a step forward on the road to a solution which Algerians desire to be: indeed, one of peace, democracy and justice.

The discussion which has taken place, in minutest detail, of the Algerian question has first and foremost dispersed the doubts which were expressed at one time as to the competence of the United Nations to deal with it. Furthermore, the recommendation adopted by the General Assembly has given the problem of Algeria international status. In this way the fait accompli established by the colonial conquest of Algeria and that country's integration by force into the French colonial system has been called in question by the highest international authority. Henceforth the United Nations will be unable to remain indifferent any longer to this question. They will be obliged to concern themselves with it if France persists in refusing to recognise the Algerian people's right to self-determination in conformity with the principles of the Charter, as is stressed by the terms of the resolution finally adopted. For one reason or another—diplomatic courtesy or political calculation?—the U.N.O. has merely allowed France a respite, and France understands this very well.

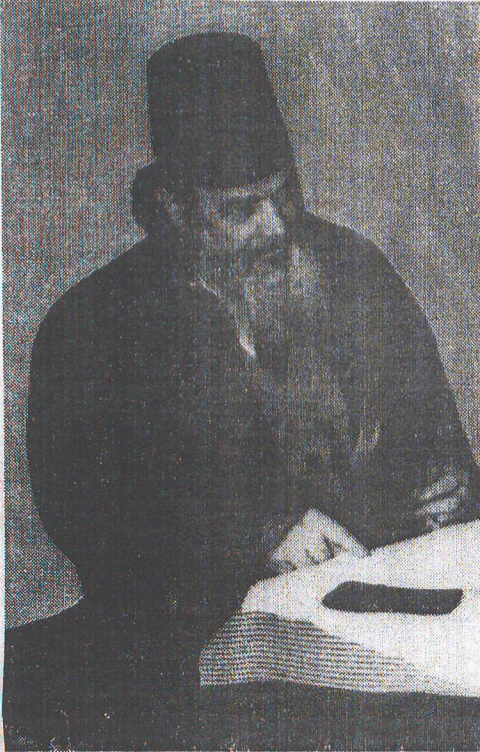
Thus, inasmuch as the U.N.O. has internationalized the Algerian problem, the Algerian people see their struggle crowned with a first and clear-cut success.

But a success is not yet victory. The Algerian revolt will not end until the French Government breaks decisively with its colonial atavism and acknowledges publicly and without beating about the bush that Algeria is a NATION and possess the right to self-determination.

True, the most authoritative opinions agree in recognising that the demands of the Algerian people are legitimate. But they subordinate the effective realisations of these demands to the ups and downs of majorities in the French Parliament.

It must be emphasised, however, that the Algerian question, while it has a direct bearing on the internal life of France through huge military expenses that the war swallows up, remains a question the solution of which is not a matter for bargaining between French political parties, but one for negotiations between the Government and the representatives—all the representatives—of the people subjected to colonial rule.

The French citizen, for whom the war in Algeria means the shedding of his blood and the lowering of his standard of living, would be glad to see the end of the bloodshed, so that he, his relations and his friends could return home. He looks askance at the financial swindling which keeps going a war that does not help the prestige of France and is still less helpful to that country's economic stability. For the French citizen, the U.N.O. vote, if it touches his self-respect a little is a grave warning of still darker developments to come. One can be sure that the French people, who have given 600,000 of their sons, are as a whole not



MESSALI,

"The Permanent Prisoner".

(See Article on back page)

The U.N. recommended that combatants in the war in Algeria arrive at a peaceful, democratic and just solution. The Guy Mollet Government pays no attention whatsoever to this decision. On the contrary, it has commenced a new and violent assault against the Algerian people.

Since the end of the U.N. Debates 600,000 armed soldiers of France have waged a war of extermination on the Algerian front. Each day brings fresh arrests of innocent people, summary executions and illegal condemnations. Security for Algerians is practically non-existent in the cities.

Since the general strike of January 28, the soldiers in Algiers and in the larger cities behave like conquerors. They arrest suspects, question them, and if the desired answers are not given, mow them down in cold blood.

In the "Casbah" of Algiers where about 100,000 people live, there is practically nothing left of the male population.

Dozens of youths are shot down before the eyes of their parents. Others are brought to military camps and tortured, frequently to death. Occasionally, the French authorities make a public announcement that some of those under arrest committed suicide. However, since it is well known that in the cells of the French police, the accused have hands and feet tied, it would be reasonable to ask

how they manage to commit suicide.

The military courts are in continual session. They pronounce the death penalty, seven, eight, ten times a day. The accused are no longer even given the right to choose their lawyers. Executions are carried out almost daily in the courtyards of the three main prisons: Constantine, Oran and Algiers. The Algerian patriots are guillotined as if they were common criminals. They are even refused the right to die in front of a firing squad.

Why this tragic situation, when immediately after the U.N. vote public opinion expected a change in the French policy towards Algeria? Because Robert Lacoste, socialist Governor General of Algeria, promised that in July 1957 the Algerian uprising will be completely suppressed.

Thus, the Guy Mollet Government believes that by increasing its repression it will be able to end the Algerian resistance before the next session of the United Nations in September. It believes that in this way it will have found a solution to the Algerian problem.

It would be erroneous indeed to conclude

from this that the Algerian uprising is under control. For, the present repression which hits the large towns, does not influence in any way the constantly increasing activities of the National Army of Liberation. The latter is still in full fighting form, and more often than not, it emerges victorious from direct engagements with the French army. Repressive tactics in the large cities, summary executions and sham trials, serve rather to reinforce than discourage the Algerian uprising. For, it is unquestionably true that in this battle, the Algerian who fights for the liberation of his homeland has infinitely more faith, and therefore determination than any French soldier who carries out the questionable tasks of killing and torturing innocent human beings.

The Algerian war is by no means over. The United Nations will still have to seek the real solution.

#### An Appeal -

Telegram to Mr. D. Hammerskjold, Secretary-General of the United Nations:

Committee Messali's Liberation draw Your Excellency's attention illegal detention Messali Hadj National Algerian Leader living conditions unfavourable to his health aged fifty nine

Please intervene unconditional liberation of man devoted life for his people and freedom Leslie Hale MP House of Commons London

#### At the United Nations . . .

### These Delegates Differ

The Algerian question has been discussed in the United Nations for ten days. It would be impossible to attempt to give even a representative account of what has been said during this debate. Nevertheless, it seems that there were three main issues on which most of the delegates had concentrated their attentions in developing their different points of view. These are: the question whether Algeria is a part of France, the competence of the United Nations and the principle of self-determination. In the following paragraphs we have grouped some extracts from the speeches of various delegates in order to illustrate the attitudes of each towards these questions.

The French government has always considered the conquest of Algeria not as an act of aggression against the sovereignty and the freedom of this people, but as a legal act whereby it increased both the area of its territory and the number of its population. In other words, Algeria is merely an extension of France beyond the Mediterranean. Neither this argument nor the observation made by Mr. Pineau that for a hundred and twenty years, no state in the world had protested against the matter, seems to have made any impression on the delegates. So the French Minister for Foreign Affairs found it necessary to quote an eminent jurist, Mr. P. Fernandes, a former Foreign Minister of Brazil, whose statement seems to have come just in time to be useful to the French delegation.

"However, in Algeria, there is no question of a discriminatory law nor of a violation of human rights. Nor is it a question of an under-developed country being administered by a Metropolitan country. Algeria forms a group of French Departments. It is part of the metropolitan territory. Its inhabitants, Moslems, Jews, Christians, have the same rights and the same duties. The Moslems can retain, in matters of private law, the personal status governed by their religious laws without prejudice to their citizenship. Legislation of this sort dates back more than ten years and since then, has abolished the characteristics of a colonial regime. At the time of the French occupation, more than a century ago, there was no established sovereignty in this territory. The Sublime Porte had withdrawn its suzerainty. French occupation was agreed upon by the powers and the tribes which divided the territory between them. The present situation in Algeria is a rebellion of guerillas which aims at secession, an attempt to dis-

But Mr. Ortiz, the delegate of Bolivia, a country which had achieved its independence only after a long struggle in 1825, reminded the delegates of several historical examples in which unilateral constitutions have remained dead letters. This was, for instance, the case when Napoleon sent a constitution to Spain and this was the case when Mexico was granted a juridical status which the Mexicans refused. But a more recent example which concerned France directly was that of Alsace and Lorraine. These two countries had been twice annexed to Germany under the German Constitution, but France had always refused to recognise this unilateral imposed status. The

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Moulay Merbah, General Secretary, M.N.A. (right) and Abed Bouhafa listen in at the U.N.

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#### GHANA

Telegram sent to Prime Minister of Ghana on the 7th March, 1957:

Dr. Kwame Nkrumah Accra Ghana

In name of Algerian people in struggle and Messali Hadj congratulations on occasion Ghana's Independence Stop Delegated by National Algerian Movement be present at Celebrations but unable make journey Stop Hoping for future fraternal relations between our two peoples Stop Mohammed Saadoun