

in favour of this war. Nevertheless, they are leaving a free hand to their rulers, who are leading them by the nose with promises that are continually contradicted by facts.

And between the Algerian fighters and the citizens of France there is world-wide public opinion.

After the U.N.O. vote the world is wondering what results the Algerians and the French intend to bring about in consequence of the Assembly's final resolution. World public opinion has the right to know which of the two parties in conflict is ready to submit to what is, if not strictly international law, at least an express recommendation the aims of which, moral in the highest degree, will, if realised, enable thousands of human lives to be saved.

Who—the Algerians or the French—will betray or fulfil the hopes of the world's conscience?

When they arrived in Paris, the French delegation to the U.N.O., both leaders and associates, spoke in terms of a victory won, claiming that the United Nations had accepted the French thesis according to which a statute is to be imposed upon Algeria. True, the French Minister of Foreign Affairs has spoken of the international obligation that France has undertaken, to solve the Algerian problem. However, he sets this obligation in the context of the Prime Minister's statement of 9th January, which is nothing more nor less than a call to the Algerian people to surrender and accept an imposed statute. In other words, the ten days of discussion at the U.N.O. and the General Assembly's recommendation are regarded as factors which do not count.

The French Government has had plenty of time to judge the amount of world disapproval of its policy of force and extermination, but does not seem to have drawn the appropriate lesson.

For this reason the Algerian remain quite sceptical regarding the frankness and honesty of the attitude of Mr. Guy Mollet's Government in relation to a "peaceful, democratic and just solution" in accordance with the principles of the United Nations Charter.

The M.N.A. (Algerian National Movement), whose aim ever since its foundation in 1926 has been to secure for the Algerian people the right to express themselves freely regarding their own fate, continues to strive towards this "peaceful, democratic and just" solution.

This solution does in fact exist, and so do the means of arriving at it. If the French Government accepts without reservation the principle and the aim of this resolution, if it sets this solution frankly, within the framework of the principles of the United Nations Charter, it will not be impossible to find the means to arrive thereat.

These means exist, and have existed since the beginning of the Algerian Revolution.

The national leader, Messali Hadj, has never stopped urging, in his numerous statements, that a round-table conference be called, similar to that which made possible the solution to the problem of Morocco. Some people—subtle agents of Government circles or obvious spokesmen of various interests—are speculating on the political nuances of one or other Algerian national group. Messali Hadj, who is the very embodiment of young Algerian nationalism, does not claim a monopoly role in the dialogue, nor does he take up a rigid stand of wordy intransigence. By experience and by political wisdom, moved exclusively by concern to save thousands of human lives, he sees in the calling of a conference of this kind the effective means of bringing about a cease-fire. Will this happen? It is certain that if a statement of intentions recognising the Algerian people's right to self-determination, in accordance with the United Nations Charter, were to be issued by a conference at which all the elements in the Algerian population, including the French minority, were represented, the National Liberation Army would agree to a truce. That would mark the beginning of a new stage in the settlement of the Algerian question—a stage that would see a new Algeria electing its representatives to a constituent assembly which would decide the framework for relations between Algeria and France.

The United Nations, and with them world-wide public opinion, would then have no need, in the one case to intervene and in the other to be disturbed, for a "peaceful, democratic and just" solution would have been found!

COMMITTEE FOR THE LIBERATION OF MESSALI HADJ and other ALGERIAN POLITICAL PRISONERS.

Chairman: Leslie Hale, M.P. This Committee, supported by a number of personalities, including Anthony Wedgwood Benn, M.P. and Fenner Brockway, M.P., set up to bring pressure to bear on the French Government for the release of Messali Hadj from his enforced residence, under shameful conditions at Belle-Isle (see back page). For the release of all other political Algerian prisoners.

On 14th March, the Committee held a meeting at the House of Commons, on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the National Algerian Movement (M.N.A.). Mr. Mohammed Saadoun, a delegate from the M.N.A., in his address to the meeting, stressed the point that Messali Hadj, the founder of the National Algerian Movement, through at first the Etoile Nord Africaine, the P.P.A., etc., has never ceased to urge a round-table conference and the recognition of the Algerian people's right to self-determination, as the only means of bringing about a cease-fire in Algeria.

People interested in the aims of this Committee should get in touch with the secretary: Lorna Corbett, 15, Ashley Court, London.

EACH DAY'S TERROR

It would be a task beyond the scope of this paper to give a detailed account of the daily events which mark the war in Algeria. We shall content ourselves by quoting some examples from "L'Echo d'Alger", the largest Algerian daily, owned by and serving the wealthy settlers, a paper which is impervious to a "peaceful, democratic and just solution".

In its issue of March 4th, it states the following:

ALGERIAN REBELS KILLED

- 24 at BOUIRA
5 at OUED EL ALLEUG
19 at SIDI AICH
8 at FEDJ MZALA
10 at TIZIOUZZOU
4 at OUED IMBERT

This, under the heading: Sustained Activity of the Pacification Forces — 70 Killed.

ALGERIAN REBELS ARRESTED

- 39 at RELIZANE & TEMMOUCHENT
7 at LEVEILLEY
9 at BLIDA
21 at MAISON CARREE

70

M.N.A. LEADS ALGERIAN GENERAL STRIKE OF JANUARY 28th

Newspaper clipping from 'LA VOIX DU NORD' dated 'MARDI 29 JANVIER 1957'. The main headline reads 'Largement suivie dans notre région, la grève ordonnée aux Nord-Africains par le M. N. A. a déjà donné lieu à de violentes bagarres'. It includes a photograph of Messali Hadj and a sub-headline 'Le président des Assises de la Somme meurt subitement en pleine audience'.

U.N. - Merbah Denounces Terror

ALGERIAN NATIONAL MOVEMENT

Hotel Beaux Arts, Room 505-N, New York

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, March 8, 1957, PRESS RELEASE No. 9-A

Following is the text of a telegram addressed March 7, by Moulay Merbah, Secretary General of the ALGERIAN NATIONAL MOVEMENT, to the President and the UN Secretary General:

The President of the UN General Assembly, United Nations, New York; The Secretary General of the United Nations, New York; Your Highness, Your Excellency,

I have the honour to call your urgent attention to a grave situation whose continuance could shatter all hopes for a peaceful solution in Algeria and would soon necessitate the intervention of the Security Council.

Excellency, on February 15, the General Assembly unanimously approved a resolution on the Algerian Question which its distinguished President described as 'reconciliatory'. The resolution expressing hope for a peaceful democratic and just solution in a spirit of co-operation, aroused great expectations even from those delegations which supported the French position.

The Honourable Chairman of the Political Committee has correctly stated before the Assembly that the resolution 'opens the way to a solution which implies frank, cordial and generous co-operation between France and the people of Algeria.'

Condemnations by French Courts:

At Oran, 46 members of the MNA sentenced by the Military Court. At Constantine, the rebel Bouzenada Mohammed is sentenced to death. Also, Chaabane Tahar.

In Algiers, 2 rebel youths accused of killing a police officer, are sentenced to death by the military court. They are Gacem and Lardi. Their friend, Medjkane, is sentenced to hard labour for life.

Thus for the one day, March 14th, there were 70 killed, 76 arrests, 3 sentenced to the death penalty, 2 sentenced to hard labour for life, 46 being tried... This is pacification by extermination.

The following day, 15th March, "L'Echo d'Alger" reports further:

- ALGERIAN REBELS KILLED
43 in the province of CONSTANTINE
8 at SAKAMODY
5 at AUED EL ALLEUG
1 at ALGIERS (Mustapha Bouireb, well-known football player, "shot while escaping")

TRIALS: The Military Court of Algiers has passed sentences on 16 members of the M.N.A., among them the 4 Mezzi brothers. (The eldest

of these brothers, Allel, is a Municipal Councillor). Three of the brothers have been sentenced to death.

These items of information, far from giving a full picture of the daily tragedy of Algeria, demonstrate the reality of war crimes committed by the Guy Mollet's Government under the guise of "policy of pacification".

TORTURE

First the Brother, and now it is the Sister

Djemila Bey Mohammed, sister of Mustapha Ben Mohammed, a leader of the M.N.A. imprisoned for 18 months, was arrested in Algiers on the night of 6th to 7th March, 1957.

On the 9th March, Djemila had to be carried back to her house by French parachutists. She had lost the use of her limbs during her period of "interrogation".