

# The French Colonialists gain from the SPLIT IN ALGERIAN LIBERATION MOVEMENT

THE struggle of the Moslem people of Algeria for independence from French colonial rule has been a long and bitter one.

Though the overwhelming majority of the Algerians have always desired independence, they have not found it easy to agree on the best methods and organisational forms to be used to bring about this end.

Algeria was conquered by the sword just over a hundred years ago. It took the French troops no less than seventeen years (1830-1847) to complete the task against the Algerians, who were led by their famed commander, Abd el Kader.

Though there were intermittent uprisings in Algeria after that period, it was in France after the First World War that the first national organisation aiming at independence was properly established.

The organisation was known as the North African Star, and was set up in Paris in 1925 under the leadership of MESSALI HADJ, a worker at the Renault factory.

Drawing its support from Algerian emigres in France, it was pledged to a three-pronged programme: total independence for Algeria; the withdrawal of occupation troops; and the formation of a national army.

## 1934-7 ANTI-FASCIST

The North African Star was dissolved by the French, whereupon it reconstituted itself into the Glorious Star. Under the leadership of Hadj and his colleagues this organisation played a significant role in the anti-Fascist demonstrations in France during the period 1934-7.

Their reward was to be dissolved by the Popular Front Government in 1937, when the French began violently to repress Algerian nationalists both in Algeria and France.

## MESSALI GAOLED

At this stage North Africans in France decided to organise separate organisations for Algerians, Moroccans and Tunisians, so Messali and his compatriots founded the Algerian People's Party (P.P.A.) with headquarters in Algiers.

The period 1937-1939 was one of intense anti-colonialist struggle in Algeria, led by the P.P.A. Messali was frequently gaoled, and it was while he was in gaol that he was elected with a crushing majority in local elections held in 1937. The elections were promptly declared null.

In September 1939 the P.P.A. was banned, and there followed a

struggle, and the Movement for the Triumph of Democratic Liberties (M.T.L.D.) was established, with with the released Messali as president.

## M.T.L.D. SPLIT

This became the most popular organisation in Algeria, but in about 1950 a split became apparent in its ranks. The two main groupings were the "Messalists," who stood for a policy of election boycotts, and the "Centralists," who desired to win reforms by co-operating with the French.

Messali was once again deported, and the split widened into an open break. Each faction called a conference at which the other was ex-

cluded from the M.T.L.D. rian traders and peddlers in France and a small number of students living in France.

FLN-MNA rivalry, especially in the collecting of funds to be sent to Algeria, is the cause of many bloody feuds which have given the French Government a pretext to detain persons indefinitely without trial, for new powers of police search etc.

## COMMUNIST PARTY

A third party in the field is the Algerian Communist Party, distinguished by the fact that it has both French and Moslems in its ranks. At the beginning of the rebellion it had its own fighting force, the Fighters of the Resistance, who concentrated largely on sabotage in the towns.

The Algerian CP proposed a united front with the FLN, but this was refused by the FLN, which called upon the CP to disband itself and allow its members to join the FLN.

The CP refused to disband politically, but dissolved its fighting force, which joined up with the FLN army. The CP at present organises material and medical supplies for the FLN army.

The respective strengths of the FLN and the MNA are disputed by the two organisations, but the FLN's claim that it is supported by 80% of the Algerians appears to be justified. The remaining 20% support the MNA and other organisations, including a number of freebooters.

## AIR PIRACY

Of the original 34 members of the National Council of the Resistance which was set up in 1954 to direct the activities of the FLN, a large number have fallen in battle, or been captured and tortured to death by the French.

In addition five leaders were treacherously captured by the French in an act of piracy last year and are being held in a French gaol.

Nevertheless, the FLN has gone from strength to strength. The head of the Cairo office of the FLN said in a press interview last week that the Liberation Army was stronger and better organised than ever. The military situation had never been more advantageous to the Algerian people, he declared.

He added that the FLN had a growing influence and prevailed over practically the whole of Algeria.

THERE are frequent reports in the daily press about rivalry between different sections of the Algerian liberation movement. This rivalry is said to be responsible for the frequent assassination of Algerians by Algerians in Paris. The French Government claimed too that it was the cause of the recent massacre at the Algerian village of Melouza, all of whose inhabitants were mysteriously killed, though the Algerians claim that the French were in fact responsible.

We are pleased to be able to print this article giving the background to the development of the different groupings in the Algerian independence struggle.

The article is based on information supplied especially for New Age by DESMOND BUCKLE, the well-known commentator on African affairs, who now lives in London.

period of underground activity. The Vichy authorities arrested Messali in 1941 and sentenced him to 16 years' hard labour.

To suggestions by his judges that he collaborate with the French, he indignantly replied: "In my veins Arab blood boils, and this Arab blood rejects all servitude and all humiliation."

The hopes raised by the Allied landings in North Africa in 1943 were dashed when many Algerian leaders were deported and Messali himself sent to Brazzaville in the French Congo to complete his sentence.

After the war with the adoption of the new democratic constitution of the Fourth French Republic, it was decided to carry on a legal

## INDO-CHINA INFLUENCE

All the while a third group was forming. Influenced by events in Indo-China, it decided that force alone could force the French to concede independence. Led by Mohammed Khidder (former Algerian deputy in the French Parliament) and Ahmed Ben Bella (former warrant-officer in the French Army, who had fought in distinction against the Germans and in Indo-China), the group formed the Revolutionary Committee for Unity of Action (C.R.U.A.).

They tried to reconcile the Messalists, whom they reproached for their personality cult and "sterile maximum demands," and the Centralists, whom they thought too prone to compromise, but without success.

They then decided to go over to action and present the two sides with a fait accompli. On November 1, 1954, they launched surprise attacks against French police posts.

The Messalists condemned the attacks and formed a new organisation—the Algerian National Movement (M.N.A.).

The "Centralists" in the main joined the C.R.U.A. and together with a number of Ulema (Moslem preist-scholars) formed the National Liberation Front (F.L.N.).

## CAIRO HEADQUARTERS

In April of last year the F.L.N. leaders, who had their headquarters in Cairo, were joined by the Democratic Union of the Algerian Manifesto (second largest party to the M.T.L.D. it had until then sat on the fence).

The Messalists then formed units to fight in Algeria, and Messali at first called all the fighters his own. Indeed, many of the FLN looked upon Messali with affection and reverence.

The FLN has gained much in strength, appealing largely to the workers and youth. It has a working class nucleus, has wide support amongst the part-proletarians who form the majority of the population, and includes the intelligentsia, youth, peasantry, traders and the few capitalists.

The MNA has the support of the older workers (over 30), the Alge-

## All Syrian Parties Welcome Soviet Note

LONDON.

ALL political parties in Syria, including the opposition Shaab Party, have expressed thanks to the Soviet Union for the stand it has taken in regard to the Middle East as expressed in the notes it recently delivered to Britain, France and the U.S.A.

The notes reiterated the desire of the Soviet Union to see a negotiated peace for the Middle East and the ending of arms deliveries to the Middle East by all countries. It also warned the Western Powers that the only way to ensure peace in the Middle East was to stop threatening and exerting pressure on the Arab countries.

Both the Syrian Prime Minister, Sabri Assali, and the Foreign Minister, Salah Bitar, publicly welcomed the notes and expressed their thanks to "anyone" ready to stand by Syria in her struggle for peace and independence.

For the Syrian Opposition the secretary of the right-wing Shaab Party, Dr. Dawilibi, was even stronger in his praise. He said he could not but admire the notes, and thanked God that there was one Great Power of considerable influence in international affairs which raised its voice in defence of the weak.

According to the London Times, other political leaders from all parties have announced themselves similarly impressed.

## SECOND AFRO-ASIAN CONFERENCE IN CAIRO NEXT YEAR?

LONDON.

THE latest call for the convening of a second conference of African and Asian countries has come from a prominent Indonesian statesman, Mr. Ali Sastroamidjojo, in reply to questions put to him by press correspondents in Moscow.

Mr. Sastroamidjojo, who is a former Prime Minister of Indonesia and is one of Indonesian President Sukarno's right-hand men, was on a ten day visit to the Soviet Union.

He said that the declaration signed by the representatives of 20 Asian and African countries at Bandung in his country, was being successfully implemented.

He drew attention to the fact that the peoples of Asia and Africa had widely celebrated the second anniversary of the Bandung Conference, thus emphasising its primary importance.

In reply to a further question, he said that he felt that a second conference of African and Asian peoples was needed, and he hoped that such a conference would be convened early next year.

He added that he would welcome a proposal to hold such a conference in Egypt.

As far as the agenda for such a conference was concerned, he favoured that the international situation should play the decisive role,

though problems of economics, cultural and political co-operation should also be examined.

## SOVIET-INDONESIAN RELATIONS

Dealing with his experiences in the Soviet Union, he said that as a result of a number of meetings with Soviet Government and party leaders, he had established that there was every opportunity for further broadening and strengthening Soviet-Indonesian relations. He remarked that he had found his talk with Khrushchov very instructive.

He added that he was highly pleased with his visit to the Soviet Union which he referred to as "this great country" which fought for "world peace and against colonialism."

"During my stay," he concluded, "I had the opportunity to get a better insight into the life of the Soviet people and to become convinced of the determination of the Soviet people staunchly to defend world peace."







## SPOTLIGHT on SPORT by Robert Resha

# Is Mokone A "Has Been"?

ELIJAH MOKONE, once regarded as the maestro of South African boxing, is at it again. This time he squares up with Edward "Croucher" Kekana at the B.M.S.C., Johannesburg, this Friday.

This is Mokone's first fight since he surprisingly lost his lightweight title to Johnny Linda of Durban on August 27.

This fight must provide the boxing fans with an answer to the question, "Is Mokone a has-been?" His defeat by Linda has set tongues wagging. Some say he is finished. Others say no, the reason was Asian flu. Those who saw the fight in Durban just shrug their shoulders. But on Friday we shall get it from the horse's mouth.

Other interesting fights on this packed bill will be a lightweight six-rounder between Chris Monare and Ralph Spabangu, and Jerry Moloi and Leslie Tangee in the feathers.

### Rugby Officials Sensitive

Rugby officials are becoming super sensitive and can no longer tolerate criticism or even publicity of their views.

Other last week Dr. Danie Craven, president of the South African Rugby Board, and Mr. H. J. Sanderson, president of the Transvaal Rugby Football Union and Vice-president of the S.A. Rugby Board, advocated some "control of the Press."

Mr. Sanderson does not like the Press mingling with officials and players. His fears are that mingling enables the Press to overhear private conversation between officials.

On the other hand the rugby chief, Dr. Danie Craven, would like to see "only approved" reporters accompanying Springbok touring teams.

Rugby officials have become too sensitive to criticism. They are going too far when they want to pick and choose reporters. The Press is the watchdog of the public.

### Transvaal Were Lucky

TRANSVAAL were extremely lucky to beat Rhodesia by 16 points (two goals, two penalties) to 11 (one goal, two penalties) at Ellis Park last Saturday. Transvaal will now meet Natal in the semi-final for the Currie Cup, at Ellis Park, this Saturday.

It was a clean, fast match from start to finish and it was rather unfortunate that Transvaal won through a disputed try. From my own observation, and this was shared by almost all those who sat next to me, the Rhodesian centre Christie Stander appeared to have dotted the ball before Norman Erasmus dived on it. It is, however, significant that the 27 points scored by both sides in this match came as a result of mistakes made by the players. In spite of all this I think the referee, Mr. Blignaut, handled the match well.

The game was fifteen minutes old when Rhodesia opened the score with an opportunist try by Van Jaarsveldt. A scrum was ordered 10 yards from the Transvaal scoring line. Transvaal forwards heeled,

Mathews (half-back) collected the ball and passed to Buys (full-back) who dropped the ball and Van Jaarsveldt was there to dot down.

A few minutes after this Rhodesia were awarded a penalty kick at an awkward angle 35 yards away but the stylish Griffiths found no difficulty in sending the ball high up over the cross bar to bring the score to Rhodesia 8, Transvaal 0.

The second half was to see the unpredictable Transvaal rallying to match victory from the Rhodesian side. But it was no easy going. The mobile Rhodesian forwards were on top in the tight scrums and loose mauls, as well as in the line-outs.

On the other side Transvaal used every opportunity that came their way, with Joe Kaminer, the smart attacking centre. Time and again he opened holes in the Rhodesian defence but the forwards came to the rescue of their threes.

#### TRANSVAAL SCORE

Transvaal opened their score with a penalty goal by the sure-footed Erasmus. This was followed by a spectacular move by Rens (flyhalf) who passed to Bridger (centre) and Bridger gave a timely pass to the winger, Pelser. He brushed off the Springbok winger, Van Vollenhoven, passed full-back Griffiths and scored. Here again Erasmus did not fail the Transvaal with the conversion. Erasmus converted another kick at goal from a penalty awarded Transvaal.

Then came the last and disputed try by Prinsloo for Transvaal. Erasmus was there again to convert to bring the score to Transvaal 16, Rhodesia 8. A few minutes before the last whistle Griffiths converted yet another penalty kick to bring Rhodesia's total score to 11 points.

Transvaal selectors must find another flyhalf. Natie Rens was only a shadow of his former self.

Two other players who must be taken out of the team that is going to play Natal are Mathews and Buys. Mathews gave the poorest show of his career last Saturday. He was sluggish and clumsy. Buys is just as bad. His positional play is faulty and he has not got a pair of safe hands. What is more, he is in difficulty in finding touch under pressure.

### Charged With Holding Illegal Meeting

#### PORT ELIZABETH.

Arising out of the activities on June 26, when a prayer meeting was held at the T. C. White Hall, New Brighton, to round off the day's activities, two ministers of religion and three others were this week served with summons on a charge of holding a meeting of more than 10 Africans without obtaining a permit from the Native Commissioner.

According to the charge the prayer meeting for which a permit to use the hall was obtained was an illegal meeting. The charge has been framed under the regulations which were promulgated in March, 1956, banning meetings of Africans in the municipal areas of Port Elizabeth and Humansdorp.

Those who have been summonsed to appear in Court on October 4 are: Rev. S. A. Antoni, Rev. J. Zweni, Mr. K. J. Mjo, Mr. M. L. Mancoko, Mr. R. D. Radu,

# ALTHEA GIBSON HAS REACHED THE TOP

By Roosevelt Ward Jr.

## NEW YORK.

ALTHEA Gibson has, at long last, reached the summit.

It was a long, precipitous climb for the garage mechanic's daughter. It took more than a decade of trying.

The date was Saturday, July 6, 1957. The sun that blazed down upon Wimbledon, England sent the thermometer above 90. The slender woman from Harlem faced her moment of destiny.

She stood poised at centre court, seeking the unofficial world tennis title, the elusive and coveted Wimbledon crown which had been snatched from her grasp only one year ago.

Facing her across the net was an irrepressible blonde of equally humble background—Darlene Hard, a 21-year-old waitress from Montebello, California.

## A Rough Path

Three times before, Miss Hard had tasted defeat at the hands of the hard-hitting New Yorker. But at Wimbledon, the bouncy, ebullient Californian had been playing the tennis of her life and was given a good chance to upset top-seeded Althea. What happened is history.

After the match, 29-year-old Althea stood before the Queen of England and received her shining gold cup, designated queen of the net world. Her accomplishment goes far beyond the narrow limits of the sport itself.

The path had not been easy for her. From the very beginning it had been over-strewn with towering, discouraging obstacles. Many bleak moments, many despairing turns where someone of lesser mettle would probably have called it quits. The final goals had come so tantalizingly close at times.

Many observers have likened Althea Gibson's tennis saga to Jackie Robinson's in baseball. There are many parallels.

## Impressive Strokes

If anything, Althea has had the harder of the sledding. Jackie, at least, performed in a mass sport subject to the democratic pressures of a mass public. Althea participated in a game snobbish in both its origin, its surroundings and, to a much lesser extent—its appeal.

Althea's sports beginning is traced to the teeming streets of Harlem some 13 years after her family brought her from Sumpter, South Carolina at the age of one.

At the age of 14, she was playing in the park and Negro tournaments, impressing tennis followers with her strong overhead game, speed and versatile strokes.

Eventual championships were predicted by all her admirers. The only reservation was whether she would be able to get the exclusive club and major tourney experience so necessary for big time tennis success.

In 1950, at the age of 22, when most first-rank tennis stars are well on the way to tourney fame and peak development, the big chance came for Althea.

Her first chance to compete in U.S. Nationals at staid Forest Hills came only after a loud and bitter uproar demanded her admittance.

The successful campaign was given a resounding assist by former tennis great Alice Marble, who, without mincing any words, lambasted U.S. Lawn Tennis Assn. officials for hedging on Althea's application.

"Althea has proved that she is better than many players allowed to play in former tournaments." Miss Marble declared in a public statement. "It will be a disgrace if she is turned down because of her race."

## Uneven Career

Although Althea was shunted to a "clubhouse" court in her first appearance at Forest Hills, she almost accomplished one of the biggest upsets in tennis. After taking her first engagement from the veteran Barbara Knapp of Britain, she was on the way to defeating the high-ranked Californian, Louise Brough, when a two-day postponement because of rain helped thwart her bid.

From that moment, Althea's career has been brilliant—although uneven.

During her many years of major tourney competition her lack of early tourney experience was displayed in erratic play. When at her best, she was peerless. At worst she was erratic.

In 1955 she almost gave up, but an invitation to participate in a world-wide tennis tour changed her mind and proved to be an eventful decision.

Faced with a steady diet of competition against the world's best tennis stars, her steady game sharpened, her confidence rose

and she developed into one of the greatest players in the game.

Once again in 1956, the elusive Wimbledon and Forest Hills titles slipped her hand, snatched by the cool-playing veteran, Shirley Fry of Florida. Miss Fry laid down



her racket after this double victory and left Althea the top-ranked player in the world.

The U.S. National title at Forest Hills is her only remaining goal. But it matters not whether she wins the second big one or goes on to win many others—Althea has already written: "Mission Accomplished."

#### RECORDS FOR SALE

New Age has been given a large selection of records in beautiful condition to sell for funds. 78 speed. They will be sold cheaply. Amongst these records are Overtures, Violin Solos, Concertos, Symphonies, Light Classical, Excerpts from Operas etc. etc.

These records are now in New Age offices Johannesburg (102 Progress Buildings) and can be bought direct from our office. Terms strictly cash.

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#### Germiston Racing

Following are High Treason's selections for the racing at Germiston:

Maiden Plate: 1. Legal Love; 2. Double Chance; 3. Silknot.

Gosforth Handicap: 1. Crosby; 2. Spectre; 3. Samoyed.

Moderate Handicap: 1. Allegiance; 2. Bleriot; 3. Ship Owner.

Hazeldene B: 1. Togatus; 2. Mimos Road; 3. Tyrolean Lad.

Germiston Handicap: 1. Settling Day; 2. Lord Henley; 3. Lens.

Hazeldene C: 1. Loom Lass; 2. Straatton; 3. Fossil.

Hazeldene D: 1. Milltia; 2. Nile Maiden; 3. Reprint; 4. Quarter Master.

Progress Plate: 1. Fire Bolt; 2. King's Love or Belitia; 3. Lone March.

#### SYMPATHY

Tshume—Deepest sympathy to the Tshume family on the passing of Gladstone, a dear comrade who will always be most lovingly remembered.—Mike and Shulamith Muller.

The Textile Workers of South Africa extend their deepest sympathy to Mrs. Tshume and her children on the death of Gladstone Tshume.

Gladstone Tshume was well known to textile workers as the founder of the union in Port Elizabeth and one of their greatest fighters. After his banning by the Government in 1953 he was forced to leave the union but his pupils carried on the struggle.

These new leaders whom he trained mourn his loss but are determined to win the unity he fought for all his life.

Inserted by the African Textile Workers' Union and the Textile Workers' Union, S.A.

#### SYMPATHY

The whole progressive movement has suffered a great loss in the death of Gladstone Tshume. We, who were in the Textile Workers' Union know the great contribution which our late comrade made towards a free South Africa. We must honour his memory by redoubling our efforts in the great struggle for a free South Africa. We extend our deepest sympathy to his wife and children.—Arnold Selby.

#### WASHING

A Good Job Guaranteed if you give your Washing to Mrs. Salamina Tuge, 166, 13th Avenue, Alexandria. Washing can be done at home or taken away whichever is the most suitable.



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