

Across Algeria's Borders — World Help to Brave People



Soldiers of the Algerian Liberation Army prepare for an attack.

HERE in the barren sands on the Tunisian frontier 170,000 have found a desolate refuge from direct military attack. With anxiety they think of those left behind; daily they hear of compatriots being shot.

Obscene

A Page of the most respectable Western newspaper appears obscene amid these people. Increased arms spending, troop movements, companies' balance sheets, diamonds for fair ladies, napalm bombs for dark children.

Cookery recipes become an insult to a woman who has to walk 700 yards to fetch a bucket of water to boil a handful of semolina for a meal for three children.

The struggle of the Algerian people for self-determination is not a conflict in which honest people can raise doubts on whose side justice lies.

One hundred and thirty years of French colonialism, of exploitative oppression followed by the present massacres are ample justification for the Algerians' demand to be again masters in their own land.

It is often forgotten that the people of North Africa are by no means "primitive" people. Their civilisation goes back 3,000 years. This is the spot where the great town of Carthage stood, the most important trading centre of the Mediterranean. For 100 years she withstood Roman imperialism until she was mercilessly razed to the ground in 146 B.C.

North Africa not only served as the granary of the Roman Empire; she also contributed her fair share in human material culminating in the election of a North African, Septimus Severus, as Roman Emperor (A.D. 193).

St. Augustine, the churchfather, was a native of North Africa. Ibn Khaldun, the first sociologist and greatest historian of the Middle Ages, lived here.

The whole country gives ample evidence of past splendour. Punic harbours, Roman amphitheatres, magnificent Arab architecture; few people know that our own contemporary architecture and cubism were directly inspired by the North African building style.

"Don't tell me what they were

in the past," a tense, red-faced French soldier said to me in the train. "Today they are savages. They can't do a thing for themselves unless we do it for them. One can't reverse history."

The same old story: "an inferior race"—the usual justification for exploitation and oppression. Ninety (new) francs they pay him per month while stationed in Algeria. Roughly twice as much as he would earn in a civilian job in France.

"Did you never hear about Oran, the French village the Germans razed to the ground in the last war? And about the French maquis who fought to liberate France from nazi occupation?" I asked him.

One cannot learn from history unless it is taught at school. The Western Establishment has done all in its power to keep the minds of the youngsters ignorant about the most recent past.

In spite of all the squalor, the maimed and the undernourished people I saw, the positive features overwhelmed me and moved me most. The epic of a great people united in struggle.

Prior to French military occupation Algeria could boast of five Arab universities: there were faculties for medicine, pharmacy, law, science and philosophy. There were colleges in Alger, Constantine, Biskra, Tlemcen and Mazoune. These colleges were on a par with similar institutions of learning of Europe or Egypt.

Indebted

People in the West must know that the modern scientific development in Europe is greatly indebted to the Arab contribution to learning.

A great deal of Arab science entered Europe through the Jews who found a refuge in Holland when they were expelled from Spain by the Catholics. They brought the art of lens-making into Europe (Spinoza was a lens maker) which was the prerequisite for microscopical research and modern medicine.

The French colonialists closed all institutions of higher learning in Algeria, leaving intact only the obscurantist religious schools at-

tached to the mosques. A tiny elite of Algerians had access to French education, the rest of the people were forced to remain illiterate.

Ninety per cent of all teachers had to be Frenchmen. The best qualified Algerian had fewer chances than the least qualified Frenchman.

For the Algerians: menial jobs, and long stretches of unemployment.

Several hundred thousands were forced to leave their families and seek work in France. Even these were not given equal pay. They did not have the benefit of the family allowances which the French worker receives in addition to his basic wages. Nor did the health insurance cover the needs of his family in Algeria.

So the Algerian worker in France is forced to send the better part of his wages home to feed his family. The sad result is seen in the high proportion of Algerian patients in France suffering from deficiency diseases and stomach complaints caused by inadequate diet, as a French doctor pointed out to me in Paris.

The great turning point of the Algerian struggle was in May 1956, when the Algerian workers in France struck unanimously in support of the F.L.N. This strike was supported by the Algerian students in French universities as the first great expression of solidarity between the Algerian intelligentsia and the working class. Most students lost their scholarships and had to find jobs to maintain themselves.

At that moment an assistance committee of the Algerian Trade Unionists in France emerged to raise funds to help the students to continue their studies. Most of the students had to find a refuge in Switzerland and continued their studies in Lausanne.

Seized

In January 1958 the funds for the students' assistance were seized in a raid by the French police. Over a million (old) francs were lost.

An appeal had to be launched to the World University Service; private and public scholarships were made available in many

countries so that over 1,000 student could be kept in universities.

In spite of the heavy toll of their war casualties (200 Algerian doctors were killed in the war) they have more trained people at their disposal today than at any time before.

Not only the Socialist countries, but also such organisations as the West German trade union movement adopted young Algerians to be trained in skilled industrial work, a development the French always tried to prevent.

A splendid feature is the educational work which the Provisional Algerian Government has organised for the orphaned refugee children. With the exception of a Dutch woman doctor and the French wife of an Algerian educationist all people in charge are Algerians.

In spite of the appalling shortage of teaching equipment, the lack of textbooks and maps, their schooling is excellent. Most of the children are between eight and 13. They are taught Arabic, French, maths, history, geography and art.

I wondered why they do not invite teachers from other Arab countries to help, to ease their tremendous work.

"Only we know what our children went through," said Mustapha Hammam, the gaunt, intensely dedicated young director of the school. "Once they are older they may go and study anywhere, but we would not like a teacher to be unjust or hard on them, because he does not know their backgrounds as we do."

Love

Considering what these kids went through, considering the lack of comfort and the inadequate diet, I felt it was simply the love and the patience of these people who care for them that turned them into such delightfully affectionate little persons as they are now.

Teachers, helpers, cooks and children, they all live together, a huge family all waiting for the day when they can go home and rebuild their country.

The solidarity of the international working effort of thousands

DOUAR CHOTT, Tunisia. A PERSON'S views are bound to change profoundly when he makes the short trip from the fashionable places on the French Riviera across the Mediterranean.

There the luxury hotels, the obligatory six-course dinners, the yachts of the oil magnates; on the other side the Algerian people, haunted, starving, heroically resisting through seven years in one of the most ferocious colonial wars.

By A Special
Correspondent

of friends the world over have greatly helped the Algerian people in their struggle.

Cotton fabric for 50,000 garments and bagsful of rice from China; grain from the U.S., sewing machines and surgical instruments from the G.D.R., tinned food from Hungary, thousands of tracksuits for the boys from Norway.

Friends

All parcels are beautifully wrapped up with little shoes, socks and underwear for the cold season. Even toys and coloured pencils tucked into jacket pockets and a note of greetings with a reply card attached.

"We want to know who our friends are," the president of the Algerian Red Crescent said to me. "Our people want to thank them personally, and we shall not forget them once we are free."

"Please tell our friends how very much we appreciate their help: but please send us your penicillin, antibiotics, vitamins, tonics. We shall never forget the help you are giving us now."

They are wonderful, generous people. Not one of them will fail his people. Neither must we fail them.

Cuba Ready For Invaders

CUBA recently celebrated the third anniversary of its revolution with an hour-long military parade, accompanied by a flypast and followed by a speech by the Prime Minister, Dr. Castro.

Dr. Castro warned in his speech that any invader of Cuba would face execution. He said: "We are going to exterminate any enemy who lands on our coasts."

Referring to the tanks at the end of the parade, Dr. Castro said: "These were not tanks against a people, but a people with tanks. They are not offensive weapons."

"Without Yankee imperialism we would not need a single tank, a single gun, a single aircraft, a single soldier," he added.

SPORT

Papwa Cracked By Tough Opposition

KIMBERLEY

From L. HIMSON

ISMAIL CHOWGLAY, the 26 year-old Western Province left-hander caused the biggest upset in the record book of the South African Non-European Golf Association when he won the 1962 open 72-hole championships which was played over three days on the White Kimberley Golf Club's new grass course here last week.

With so many thrilling finishes and switching of top places, this year's championships had all the topsy-turvy upsets of snakes-and-ladders. Climbing the ladders were the tall and crowd-pulling Chowglay, Fiver Mazibuko, the noted Transvaal golfer, and the Pretoria Country Club's caddie master, 24 year-old Johannes Semenga. But sliding down the snakes was the former champion, Papwa Sewgolum of Natal, Simon Cox Hlapo last year's runner's up and holder of the Free State and Transvaal titles, and David (Bobby Locke) Motati with them were many other top-ranking golfers like the Western

Province champion Phillip van Diemen.

Not only did Chowglay turn out to be the shock rival to the defending champion Papwa, who encountered the toughest opposition since he won the title at Cape Town in 1959, but he also proved to be the saviour of Western Province—by restoring their lost glory in non-white golf.

FIRST ROUND

In the first round Chowglay snatched a one stroke lead, though he was level with Phillip Van Diemen and Percy Mazibuko of Transvaal with a one under par 35 after the first nine holes. He finished with a par 37 for the next nine holes for a total of 72. Close behind was Fiver Mazibuko who filled second position with a par round of 73. His elder brother Percy was next with a round of 74.

The Western Province champion 48 year-old Phillip Van Dieman and the Transvaal Veteran Jacob Gumbi shared fourth position. Simon Cox Hlapo was next with Borman and Butelezi of Durban with 76. Five

strokes behind the leader, Papwa shared the six place with four others.

But Papwa cracked badly, he could only return 82—the best he could do on the first nine holes was 43 and he finished the homeward journey in 39.

Apart from being 13 strokes behind Chowglay and filling only the thirteenth place, Papwa just made the qualifying total.

This is the sad chapter of a golfer who was the golfing wonder and who has almost become a legend.

RESULTS

I. Chowglay (W.P.) 72-74-74-77-297
F. Mazibuko (Tvl.) 73-74-76-78-301
J. L. Semanya (Tvl.) 79-72-72-79-302
P. L. Paul (N) 78-75-76-77-306. **S. Cox Hlapo (Tvl)** 76-73-77-80-306.
R. Ditsebe (Tvl) 20-76-75-76-307.
G. Diamond (E.P.) 80-77-79-72-308
S. Pawpa Sewgolum (N) 77-82-77-72-308. **E. O. Lee (Tvl)** 77-73-80-79-309. **P. Mazibuko (Tvl)** 74-78-79-78-309. **S. Dondatshe (Tvl)** 77-74-84-74-309.

ELANDSFONTEIN TRIBESMEN OPPOSE EXPROPRIATION

DURBAN

THE militant spirit of those whom the Government is trying to push off their land all over South Africa was demonstrated once again recently when a section of the Bakgatla tribe here at Elandsfontein made an application to the Supreme Court to appoint someone over the head of their Chief who would help them oppose their proposed expropriation.

In his application Mr. Alexander Motsepe, on behalf of the tribe, said that the Government was going to expropriate Elandsfontein and that the tribesmen living there were supposed to move to Hammanskraal, near Pretoria. He and the majority of the others, none of whom has yet moved, were opposed to the expropriation. They had not been given proper notice of the expropriation meetings, and those meetings that had been held were neither properly constituted nor representative.

The application was dismissed with costs by Mr. Justice Steyn. The judge said the Bantu Tribal Authorities Act did not make any provision for a Chief to be superseded if the tribe did not agree with the course of action decided on by him. Mr. Motsepe had not satisfied the Court that the action he had taken had been in the best interests of or on behalf of any number of tribesmen.

Eighty-four members of the tribe,

Object To Police Searching Of Women

GRAHAMSTOWN

People are indignant at the manner in which the police have been stopping buses and searching people in an attempt, it is said, to curb the illicit liquor traffic.

The mailers have been having a difficult time, and have had to run for it with their bottles, but a shocking feature of the raids has been the searching of the women on the buses. Their baskets have been ransacked and they themselves have been subjected to innumerable indignities.

The men regard this searching of their wives and mothers as degrading and feel strongly that it should be stopped immediately.

who have lived on Elandsfontein for over sixty years, subsequently appeared in Court on a charge of "wrongfully entering or remaining on a farm without the permission of the owner, the Department of Lands".

The hearing was adjourned pending a further application to the Supreme Court to have the expropriation order set aside.

S.B. Intimidation Tactics Against Indian Youth

DURBAN.

A CAMPAIGN to intimidate officials and members of the Natal Indian Youth Congress has been carried out by members of the Special Branch in Durban.

The intimidation tactics came a week after a successful Youth Congress demonstration against Prof. Olivier, the Rector of the tribal college at Salisbury Island, who was invited to address the annual speech day at the Clairwood Indian High School. (See New Age, December 14.)

Parents were also intimidated and told that if their sons associated themselves with Youth congress activities, their jobs would be jeopardised. Among those interrogated was Mr. Sonny Bhagwan, the secretary of the Natal Indian Youth Congress. He was questioned about the explosions that were attempted in Durban recently.

In a statement to New Age, Mr. Sonny Bhagwan said: "These Gestapo methods will not succeed in frightening the youth, who are determined to fight Nationalist Baasskap rule till the end".

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Your Slip Is Showing!

THE SABC's slip is showing. Judging by letters signed by Mr. Jan Olivier, the News Editor, someone on the staff of that organisation is badly in need of an elementary course in basic English. Here are some excerpts from his latest letter to correspondents:

- "Allow me thus to explain to the other correspondents in aid of what this questionnaire is."
 - "Wil be interested to help us to give to . . ."
 - "It will be appreciated if you will return . . ."
- Talk of bilingualism, this is really English as she aint!

"Reorientation" For Ghana Detainees

Mr. Tawiah Adamafo, the Ghana Minister of Information, said recently that, as far as he knew, the Government had no immediate intention of bringing the alleged conspirators belonging to the Opposition before the special High Court, which can impose the death penalty for treason.

He told a press conference that the Government did not wish to try the alleged conspirators and then execute them, because after a period of "reorientation" they could become useful citizens. Such "reorientation" could be either passive or active, said the Minister. Some of those detained were already regretting what they had done.

Have you sent your donation this week?

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"Mr. Paljas" Comes To Cape Town

"Mr. Paljas," a new Musical with a distinctly Cape flavour, will play to multi-racial audiences at the Labia Theatre, beginning with a Gala Opening in aid of Eoan Group funds on Saturday, January 13.

A multi-racial venture, "Mr. Paljas" is full of fun as well as fish hooks, with its setting in a simple fishing village. According to Fred Engelen, the distinguished Flemish producer directing the play, "Mr. Paljas" is "a vital theatrical experience".

Local talent has been given full opportunity to prove its worth. The cast is headed by Danny Josephs in the title role, with Ayesha, an accomplished singer, as his leading lady. Sons and daughters of Hout Bay fisherfolk lend authenticity to this bright and colourful musical. Several members of the "King Kong" cast will also take part. Harry Bloom, of King Kong fame, has written the script and his wife, Beryl Bloom, the lyrics. Music is by Stanley "Spike" Glasser, choreography by Gwen Michaels and decor by Frank and Doreen Graves.

ABOVE: George Tau, leader of the chorus discusses a tricky point with "Spike" Glasser, who wrote the music for "Mr. Paljas." George has only recently returned to South Africa after playing in the successful overseas run of world-famous "King Kong."

BELOW: This lovely lady's stage name is Ayesha. An accomplished and experienced singer, she takes the part of the heroine, Tina.



KIMBERLEY SPECIAL BRANCH IS BUSY

KIMBERLEY.

THE Special Branch have been active in the Kimberley district—both at work and at play—according to reports which have been received by New Age.

On one occasion five members of the Special Branch invaded a committee meeting of domestic workers in Galeshewe Village and took the names and addresses of those present. One of the detectives dropped his revolver while doing so.

The people present later left for a public meeting at Greenpoint. One of them, Miss Monica Matshediso, told the detectives that she too was going to Greenpoint, but she learned later that the detectives had been to her home in the middle of the night and had knocked up her sick mother to find out where she was.

Nine Special Branch detectives with a tape recorder, together with 12 armed policemen, were in attendance at the Monkeynuts Hall meeting in Greenpoint.

Detectives again visited Miss Matshediso on December 8 and asked her where she had obtained her Lutuli badges and where the local workers' conference was to be held. They received no information from her.

Meanwhile in the Vryburg area last week, Mr. Joe Morolong told New Age that certain members of the Special Branch used his name to give themselves a good time during the period of the May demonstrations.

SUCH NICE FRIENDS

In the process of their search for Mr. Morolong, whom they could not find, members of the Special Branch visited people whose addresses they had obtained from letters taken during raids on Mr. Morolong's home. Two of them introduced themselves to one man as being close friends of Mr. Morolong, and said that they believed he was in the vicinity.

Mr. Morolong was to have come with them on this visit, they said, but they had missed him as he had left earlier.

"It was the talk of the town, that day, that I had such nice friends running around in a fish-tail sedan," Mr. Morolong told New Age. "They were taken to places where I had never been before and given VIP treatment by both black and white. They ate and played and were entertained by using my name for their own ends."

These tactics could cause harm to himself in person and to his political reputation, Mr. Morolong said.

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