

# THE OIL 'MIRACLE' IN THE SAHARA DESERT

## THE PEOPLE OF NORTH AFRICA

### Coming into Their Own

THE Arab people of North Africa, as in the Middle East, are at last coming into their own. For more than a century the object of imperialist rivalry and plunder, they are now learning to turn this rivalry to their own account.

The Algerians, Tunisians and Moroccans not only want full national independence and sovereignty, but they also want to enjoy what the French prospectors have found in their lands.

That, they know, requires about \$400 million capital.

France's stupid and cruel policy in Algeria has ruled her out as the country from whom such capital will be sought.

### WITHOUT STRINGS

Although there are "moderate" circles in these countries that look to America for aid, the U.S.'s failure to give unconditional sup-



THERE were unbelieving smiles in oil company board rooms when the French Government announced at the end of last year that big reserves had been struck in the Sahara.

But all doubts disappeared when a Minister of the Sahara was appointed who prophesied that France would solve all her economic problems in the desert.

In March this year, while France was still smarting under the Suez fiasco, the Finance Minister, told industrialists that France, which imports 27 million tons of oil a year, would within five years be supplying more than half of her needs.

Four months later, M. Lejeune, the first Minister of the Sahara, advanced the day of self-sufficiency to 1960 and told how this "miracle of the Sahara" was to come about.

### VAST AREA

The hot waste that this name conjures up, stretching 500 miles south of coastal Algeria, 20 times the size of Britain, is a vast mountainous area with peaks rising to 11,000 feet.

- It is the hottest spot on earth, and the temperature varies from 40 to 120 degrees Fahrenheit between night and day.
- It comprises nine-tenths of Algeria but contains only 800,000 people, less than one-twelfth of Algeria's population.

## FRANCE

### "We're Saved"

FROM this terrain the French ruling class is now making a desperate bid to extract and control a monopoly of those raw materials which will put France back in the Big Power race with West Germany and Britain.

It is because its system is deeply committed that its political representatives shout so hysterically in the French Assembly, "Algeria is French."

Prospecting, which started soon after the war, had by the end of last year begun to produce its first results, and to lay bare potential wealth which excited hardboiled oil companies in Britain and U.S. to start bargaining for concessions.

The oil reserves are estimated at 100 million tons. Work has already begun on a 100-mile pipeline to take the oil to the railhead at Touggourt.

- Oil is not the only treasure concealed in the desert. Reserves of iron ore estimated at 3,000 million tons, one of the five largest known deposits in the world, are to be found in this area.
- Over other parts of the Sahara,

geologists and scientists, with the use of helicopters, are still discovering deposits of uranium, wolfram, manganese, copper and phosphates.

### INSULATION

In order to exploit the exploitation of these riches under its own control, the French ruling circles decided this year to set up a special organisation, the Common Organisation for the Regions of the Sahara.

By means of this organisation, with its economic and military aspects, the French aimed to detach the whole desert area from Algeria in the hope that it could be insulated from Arab nationalism.

They also wanted to provide guarantees that would attract foreign capital, but at the same

time make sure that the U.S. oil companies never got hold of a more than 49 per cent control of any one concern.

France is, of course, not the only country interested in the vast wealth of the Sahara.

## USA and BRITAIN

### Waiting for the Vacuum

FRANCE is angry at the way her American and British allies are stabbing her in the back in order to capture the Saharan prize for themselves.

The Americans are reported to have carried on negotiations with the Algerian nationalists behind the backs of France. The recent arms deal with Tunisia showed clearly that the U.S. and Britain are preparing to abandon France completely as far as her struggle in North Africa is concerned.

Their object is quite clear. They are now posing as friends of the Arabs in North Africa so that they can step into the 'vacuum' when France is finally kicked out of her possessions.

## SPAIN

### The Hard Way Out

THE discovery of oil in the Sahara has given the Spanish rulers the hope that they will be able to find an easy way out of their economic difficulties.

For a number of years Spain has posed as the friend of the Arabs, and have watched with glee the increasing difficulties which the French have found themselves in.

Whereas the French granted independence to French Morocco, only after a bitter battle, the Spanish gave up Spanish Morocco without a fight.

Now that the Sahara is known to have oil, the Spanish are not so ready to abandon their remaining colonial possessions in North Africa.

Hence the fighting going on at present between Moroccans and Spain for control of the small Spanish enclave in Morocco at Ifni.

It is not that Ifni is itself so important. The Spanish fear that when Ifni falls, the people of Rio de Oro (the last large Spanish colony in North Africa) will take to arms for their freedom too.

As our map shows, oil has been discovered near the borders of Rio de Oro. The Spanish will no doubt try to hold on to this territory with all the forces at its disposal.

### DOWNFALL

These forces are, however, not very great. Franco is in a weaker position at home than ever before. A costly, unpopular war in North Africa could precipitate his downfall.

As it is, his troops are finding it difficult to hold tiny Ifni.

Franco may thus be forced into an alliance with France. The pooling of their forces, however, will not help either country very much, for even combined they have not the power to control North Africa.

## FRANCE REFUSED ARMS TO YEMEN

### LONDON.

THE French Government's anger over the U.S.-British arms supplies to Tunisia was made all the greater by France's own refusal two months ago to supply arms to the Yemen, it was revealed in London this week.

The Yemen at that time sent a request to Paris, and the French Government consulted London. The British Government urged against the supply of arms to Yemen—where frontier battles with British forces in the Aden Protectorate have gone on for years—and the French Government turned down the Yemeni request.

port to the Algerian freedom fighters, and America's policy of blatant interference in the Middle East, has to a large extent lost her the friendship of the Arab masses.

The only other possibility remains the Socialist sector of the world. The Arabs have been grateful to the Socialist countries for their support for the general Arab independence struggle.

They have also been impressed by the policy of the Socialist countries of granting economic aid without political strings.

In the not too distant future, the people of North Africa may well turn to the Socialist countries for aid, and with such aid convert the riches of the Sahara into prosperity for themselves, thus achieving their full liberation from imperialism.

## Factory Changes In Hungary

### LONDON.

FACTORY committees under the trade unions are to be instituted in Hungary to extend factory democracy. Workers' councils are to be abolished.

A resolution to this effect has been passed jointly by the Hungarian Government and the Presidium of the Central Council of the National Federation of Free Hungarian Trade Unions, according to Hungarian newspapers.

All State enterprises, including factories, mines, farms, railway and postal and telegraphic services, are required to form factory committees.

Two-thirds of the committee members will be staff members of the trade union and leading members of the management, the remaining third will be elected directly by the workers.

# Meet "Tricky Dick" Nixon

AMBITION today can be spelled N-I-X-O-N. In a country where all go-getters are brazen gods, at least for those who worship at the shrine of Business) Mr. N. is the arch-priest.

Now, more than ever, Richard Nixon, twice U.S. Vice-Presi-



Vice-President Nixon.

dent, is only a heartbeat away from the Presidency—the throne of his ambition.

When it happened before, at the time of Eisenhower's previous illness, Nixon's own pulse must have throbbed the quicker.

But the number of Nixon devotees in America's ruling circles is well matched by the number of his detractors. To some he is the Golden Boy. He is well loathed by others.

At 44, after only 11 years in politics, he has gathered unloving

epithets by the score. "Tricky Dick," "McCarthy in a White Collar," "Old Nick" and "The Unprincipled Salesman" are only some of them.

After giving up ambitions as an actor, he was a small-town divorce lawyer in California, later during the war—on the dry land serving as a naval lieutenant of mid-America.

### ANSWERED AN AD. . . .

Nixon, on being demobbed in 1946, answered a newspaper advertisement inserted by a Republican Party committee in a Californian district desperately searching for a Congressional candidate. He was accepted and, to the surprise of all, won the election.

But how? His opponent was Jerry Voorhis, a New Deal Congressman, now head of America's Co-operative movement. Voorhis declared his anti-Communism and lost the C.I.O. endorsement by this action, but "Tricky Dick" managed to smear him with the naughty word.

Would-be voters received anonymous phone calls like: "I just want to let you know that Voorhis is a Communist," after which the line went dead.

### . . . AND BECAME VICE-PRESIDENT

The 1946 Congressman became Senator in 1950 and Vice-President in 1952, serving, on the way, the Un-American Activities Committee.

He outvied fellow-Senators in Red-baiting; drafted or supported anti-labour legislation such as the Taft-Hartley and McCarran Acts; an injunction against steel workers; the slashing of spending on housing. He opposed curbs on profiteering during the Korean war.

But this would-be President's foreign policy record is more alarming.

In April 1954, there was almost a "Mr. Nixon's War." That is

what a Democrat Senator called his advocacy of armed intervention in Indo-China on behalf of the French colonialists.

The supreme test was when he nearly came unstuck in the 1952 Vice-Presidential election over a revelation that he had received

In America they say that anybody can become President.

Here we give a short biography of just one of those 'anybodys', who without any special ability other than a knack of unscrupulously climbing on the right bandwagon at the right time, has raised himself to the threshold of the U.S. Presidency—Richard Nixon.

18,000 dollars as a "fund" from Californian businessmen. With the help of 30,000, 14 directors and script-writers, 6½ hours rehearsing and his own fine resonant voice, Nixon got away with it on television.

### "MODERATE"?

Lately, it is said that the small, neat man with the brooding face that a toothpaste smile never altogether lightens, has trimmed his sails. He has become a "moderate"; salesmanship has groomed itself for statesmanship.

"Moderate" is a relative term in American politics. In October 1956 he was saying that Adlai Stevenson's suggestion that the President should ban nuclear weapons tests was "catastrophic . . . one of the most extraordinary and appalling statements."

He called the recent 64 Communist Parties' statement a "massive non-military offensive."

But the American people may make the "moderate" trim his sails a great deal more.



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**Fourth Race:** 1. Midnight; 2. Yukin; 3. High Temper.

**Fifth Race:** 1. Speedy Action; 2. Kariba; 3. Majorette.

**Sixth Race:** 1. Ashdown; 2. Annes Cat; 3. Solar Flower.

**Seventh Race:** 1. Native Man (Nap); 2. Belmont Jet; 3. Phoenix Band.

**Eighth Race:** 1. Miranda; 2. Discussion; 3. Oddelia.

**Ninth Race:** 1. Il Bacio; 2. Solar Cycle; 3. Binnacle.

**Jo'burg Summer Handicap:** 1. Tiger Fish; 2. Windjammer; 3. Casbah.

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## FARMERS RUINED BY FLOODS

JOHANNESBURG.

**HUNDREDS** of African farm labourers in Amersfort near Wakkerstroom in the Eastern Transvaal face hunger and ruin.

Many who had expected to reap a rich harvest this year, saw their efforts swept away by the recent flooded Vaal River.

The flooding river caused havoc wherever it floods. Local farmers in the District have refused to assist their labourers with food or money.

In an interview with *New Age*, Mr. Joseph Mathebula, the local Chairman of the African National Congress said the damage caused to their mealie lands had forced Africans to offer their stock for sale in order to buy food.

The cattle, he said fetch £15 or £16 at auctions in Wakkerstroom.

Mr. Mathebula said that on one farm labourers work but earn nothing. They have been offered a piece of ground on which to plough, but it is situated on the river bank.

"For the past seven years we have been unable to reap a good harvest." Mr. Mathebula added that the farmers do not allow their labourers to break their service contracts, or to leave to find work in the towns.

The U.S. Secretary of Labour has prophesied that unemployment in America next spring will be higher than it was this year. In February this year there were 3,121,000 officially unemployed, and a figure of 4,000,000 has been mentioned as a possibility for next February.

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## A.N.C. THRIVES ON ARRESTS

RUSTENBURG.

The arrest of Transvaal ANC officials on the charge of not having night passes has led to even greater enthusiasm for the ANC, evidenced by the formation of a new Congress branch there.

Huge crowds came to the court case in which those arrested, among them the Transvaal President Mr. E. P. Moretsele were charged, and soon 200 members had joined the new branch.

A house where the branch had gathered for a meeting last week was raided by the police and two blank membership cards removed.

## POLICE APARTHEID

JOHANNESBURG.

Non-European policemen were debarred from the ceremony which marked the official opening of Randfontein's new £105,000 police station by the Minister of Justice, Mr. C. R. Swart recently.

Crowds of Non-European spectators who gathered in the police yard to have a glimpse at the minister, were chased away. Many had to watch the ceremony behind a gate fence a distance of 100 yards away from the pavilion.

None of the 60 Non-European police stationed at Randfontein appeared or received medals at the parade. They form the majority of the police in the area.

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## TREASON TRIAL

Have You These Papers?

**T**HE Treason Trial Defence is in urgent need of the following documents and appeals to any reader of New Age who has one or more of those listed below to post them immediately care of the Johannesburg New Age Office, P.O. Box 491.

All copies of the **LODESTAR**, in particular the issue of November 1953 and May 1954.

**Bulletin of the Transvaal Committee of the Congress of the People**, 17.5.1955.

**Bulletin for Peace and Friendship**, June 1953 and August 1954.

**The Report to the 42nd Annual Conference of the African National Congress** (1954).

## THE CASE OF THE MISSING RING

**T**HERE are very good reasons why African women do not want to carry passes which will put them in the clutches of the police. Mrs. Margaret Mofokeng has her own personal experience to go by.

A mother of three children, the youngest an infant of 2½ months, she was employed as a domestic servant in Caritonville, near Johannesburg.

One morning her employer accused her of stealing her diamond engagement ring.

Mrs. Mofokeng denied the charge. She was ordered to look for the ring and told if she did not produce it she would be handed over to the police. Her employer grabbed her by the arms and shook her.

### WENT TO POLICE

After this incident Mrs. Mofokeng put her baby on her back and went towards the police station.

Her employer apparently telephoned the police station while she was on her way, for when she reached the charge office she was told to go back to her employer's house.

Shortly after that the police

van arrived, police searched her room and she was driven back to the charge office.

There she was handcuffed by a White policeman who said she must tell him where the ring was.

The policeman then seized hold of her wrists and pulled her about, the baby still on Mrs. Mofokeng's back.

### HIT HER SEVERAL TIMES

"I told him to take the handcuffs off," said Mrs. Mofokeng, "because my baby was falling off my back. He did so. I sat down on the floor with the baby on my lap and then the policeman took a stick and hit me several times across the shoulders with it."

Mrs. Mofokeng has bruises and scabs above both wrist joints, and these are now slightly septic. She also has bruises across her back.

After a short while during which Mrs. Mofokeng was kept in a room adjoining the charge office her employer telephoned and told the police to release her.

Later that day when Mrs. Mofokeng went to collect her wages she saw the ring on her employer's hand.

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