

Chinese; there was a Peking Embassy in Morocco and some relatively minor trade arrangements but these were not important or dangerous. The dangerous element was the continuing war in Algeria. North Africans, pitted in battle against the French, were apt to regard the communist countries as "the enemies of our enemies." Africans generally were inclined to be suspicious when they detected indications of a lack of serious intention to decolonize. There was a feeling that France might have engaged too much support from its NATO allies. At some point, desperation might incline the Algerians to closer relationship with the communist countries and greater influence for the communists. The *Prime Minister* asked whether North Africans thought that NATO had any responsibility for the situation in Algeria and what Africans generally thought about NATO. The *President* replied that people did think NATO had responsibility for the Algerian situation. It was hard for them to think otherwise when the French forces in Algeria were equipped with NATO weapons and Algerians were killed with bombs "made in U.S.A.". Moreover, the votes at the United Nations by NATO countries on Algeria and other colonial questions had strengthened African suspicions of NATO. And at the same time, these things increased Russia's propaganda advantages. The *Prime Minister* asked whether the President could, in fact, confirm that bombs or shells "made in U.S.A." had been used in Algeria. *Mr. Bourguiba* confirmed that this was incontestably so and the United States did not contest it. Clearly labelled American bombs had also been used in the French attack on the Tunisian village of Sakhiet. In general, the role which France had played during seven years of war in Indochina and seven years of war in Algeria had brought a bad reputation to NATO and the Western world. Perhaps Western attitudes towards the Congo and Angola had contributed to this. No Russian bombs had fallen on Algeria but the Algerian nationalists had been supplied with some Czech weapons via Cairo. Fifty-five per cent of the Algerian population is under the age of 20 years. They are aware only of Soviet bloc support and the only weapons they know come from Eastern Europe.

*Tunisia: Mr. Diefenbaker* asked how Tunisia met the problem of communism at home. *Mr. Bourguiba* replied that this was done by trying to remove the causes of communism such as feudalism, starvation wages, etc. There were no laws against communism and the Communist Party was legal. The effectiveness of this policy was demonstrated by the large majority his party had received from the people. The *Prime Minister* commented on the tremendous and impressive majority *Mr. Bourguiba* had received. The *President* noted that there was no similarity with the 98% majority *Mr. Khrushchev* had been given and that Tunisia certainly was not a police state. He and his party had avoided trouble by being able to surmount some of their greatest problems such as unemployment. One of their greatest successes had been in the mobilization of the people by a campaign of information and speeches which had convinced the people of the need to pull themselves out of a state of under-development. Many international experts had been impressed with what had been achieved.

In response to *Mr. Diefenbaker's* question about Tunisia's export trade, *Mr. Bourguiba* said that formerly Tunisia had had a favourable balance of trade. Exports consisted mainly of agricultural and mineral products. For the past year or so the balance had been unfavourable because of relatively large imports of industrial plant and machinery. An effort was being made to diversify sources of production and wealth. The plants being set up were for chemicals and plastics and for refining phosphates for export. In longer term, the recent imports of industrial plant should more than pay for themselves.

The *Prime Minister* asked about the status of Algerian refugees on Algerian soil. What proportion of them were undergoing military training by the Algerian national forces? The *President* replied that there were something over 150,000 Algerians in Tunisia. Of these, about 140,000 were refugees looked after by the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees and the International Red Cross. The remainder, about 10 to 15 thousand, were young men, many of