

of surgery. He undertook the operation on coming to power in 1958. The following year, he formulated his policy of self-determination for Algeria: a free choice, as soon as circumstances would allow, among integration, secession, or independence in association with France. The Melun negotiations in June 1960 were expected to proceed on this basis, but failed from the beginning. The resumed negotiations at Evian and Lugrin, in mid-1961, had no greater success, as the parties were in disagreement concerning the Sahara and the guarantees for Europeans. Evian and Lugrin, however, brought the parties closer and were followed by unofficial contacts which paved the way for renewed negotiations. The latter, which took place in Evian last February, achieved results.

The French Concessions

The Evian Agreements of March 19, 1962, with the exception of amnesty clauses and transitional provisions, bear essentially on Franco-Algerian co-operation, on guarantees and on the military presence of the French in Algeria. They constitute a ratification of the Gaullist thesis on "independence in association with France". Co-operation extends to the cultural, economic and technical fields, as well as to the development of Saharan resources; France assumes the greater part of the burden, by providing teachers, civil servants, technicians and financial aid up to half a billion dollars a year. Under the guarantees, non-Moslems will have three years to acquire the Algerian nationality while keeping their French nationality or to remain as French citizens domiciled in Algeria. In either case, civic, religious and educational freedoms are ensured. Besides, the French language remains, for the time being, the current language in public office, in business and in court. Public education must include a large French sector, and non-Moslems are promised just representation in public office and in any designated or elected public body. In the military field, Algeria is leasing to France, for 15 years, the base of Mers-el-Kebir, and, for five years, the atomic and technical centres of the Sahara and certain airports.

The Evian Agreements were approved at the July 1 referendum by a vast majority of the Algerians, who gave final sanction to the principle of independence in association with France. A few days later, France acknowledged Algerian independence (on July 3 Canada recognized the Algerian state). The referendum was followed by legislative elections bearing on a single list established by the FLN leaders. In September, Mr. Ben Bella was entrusted by the National Assembly with the task of forming a government; his Cabinet was invested a few days later (Canada recognized the first Algerian Government on October 3). The Algerian Arab Republic was completely in charge of its own destiny.

Post-Independence Problems

The first few months of peace were not without serious difficulties. Before the referendum, the Secret Army Organization (OAS) nearly succeeded in scuttling the Evian Agreements. At one time, the OAS had gained nearly complete power