

In March 1956, Morocco and Tunisia achieved complete political independence of France. This encouraged the Algerian nationalists to stiffen their own demands. No progress was made in finding a solution for the Algerian problem, and France was obliged to increase substantially the numbers and strength of its forces in Algeria. Rebel attacks and acts of terrorism continued during the summer and early autumn and the cost and extent of French military action in Algeria mounted.

In October 1956, there occurred three important events in the Algerian struggle. On October 1, 15 Arab and Asian states requested that the General Assembly of the United Nations include the Algerian question in the agenda of the eleventh session. Some time later French naval forces intercepted a ship (the *Athos*) carrying arms from Egypt to the Algerian rebels. This foreign assistance was brought to the attention of the Security Council which, however, took no immediate action on the complaint. Then, on October 21, to the indignation of the Moroccan and Tunisian Governments, the French military authorities contrived to have an aircraft, flying from Rabat to Tunis and carrying five leaders of the Algerian rebellion, land at Algiers where the nationalist leaders were arrested.

In New York, the French Delegation continued to maintain that the United Nations was not competent to consider the Algerian question, but, on this occasion did not oppose the inscription of the item on the agenda of the eleventh session. It was their aim, they said, to explain to members the situation in Algeria, its background, the problems, and the solution France proposed for those problems. They were not prepared to enter into a debate on the question and indeed, having explained their own policy for dealing with this domestic problem, considered that the whole matter should be dropped from the agenda.

Consideration of the Algerian item commenced in the First (Political and Security) Committee of the General Assembly on February 4. M. Pineau, Foreign Minister of France, gave a long and lucid exposition of the French point of view. He traced the history of Algeria under French rule and dealt in detail with the efforts made by the French Government to improve conditions in Algeria and to achieve an equitable political solution which would take account of the rights of all racial groups in the country as well as the legitimate interests of France. He explained French proposals for the future organization of Algeria and spoke of the benefits that could attend the emergence of a "Eurafrican" whole. "Europe in its entirety, bringing to Africa its capital and its techniques, should enable the immense African continent to become an essential factor in world politics" M. Pineau said.

Principal spokesman for the Algerian nationalists' point of view in the debate which ensued was M. Zeinmedine, the Representative of Syria, who delivered a speech almost as long as that of M. Pineau. From his account of the history of the area to his interpretation of French plans for the future of Algeria, M. Zeinmedine's statement represented a view in almost every aspect diametrically opposed to that presented by M. Pineau.

From this and subsequent statements by various delegations, it became apparent—if it had not been from the start—that no majority could be found for a resolution that would either condemn France or applaud France for her Algerian policies. The Canadian view was that the Algerian conflict