

# NEW AGE

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## ALGERIAN CEASE-FIRE

Peace descends on the blood-drenched fields of Algeria. The peace of the brave. The peace of freedom. The peace of victory. The Algerian personality now emerges into the full sunlight of liberation.

As we join all men and women with love of freedom in the heart in offering our warmest congratulations to the Algerian people and their brave leaders we bow our heads in memory of all those who brought freedom to their land at the cost of their own lives.

IT will not do to forget that nearly one million Algerians will not see the dawn break over their land, but whose blood and bones give to that dawn its colours and its strength.

It will not do to forget that thousands upon thousands suffered the most heinous of tortures but did not break. We shall all remember the tortured and the dead even as we rejoice with all the people

able consequence of the sadistic tortures of the paras in Algeria.

No better tribute can be paid to the patriots in Algeria and the democrats in France than to repeat this line of Algeria's national anthem: "We have given you, our hand, O Glory!"

The full details of the Algerian settlement are not yet available. But from the extracts that have appeared in our press it is clear that the

and social". It proposed a platform for discussions with the French authorities to achieve this goal which included:

"(1) the opening of negotiations with authentic spokesmen of the Algerian people, on the basis of the recognition of Algerian sovereignty 'une et indivisible'.

"(2) the introduction of an atmosphere of confidence



Premier of the Provisional Government, Ben Youssef Ben Khedda.

laws by virtue of which Algeria is 'French soil'."

In return for which: "French cultural and economic interests will be respected, as well as persons and families.

"All French citizens desiring to remain in Algeria

single-handedly had ended this disastrous war. It is rather surprising to find Pandit Nehru echoing this sentiment. But, after all, the whole world knows that it was precisely the most chauvinist, militarist sections in France and among the French Algerians who brought de Gaulle to power on May 13, 1958.

It was their belief that given the authoritarian rule in metropolitan France, the war in Algeria would be fought to the finish, without mercy or scruple. Nothing that

# GREAT VICTORY OF LIBERATION STRUGGLE

of Algeria and all the democrats of France.

It must be stressed that the democrats of France, above all the French Communists, from the very outset gave their full support to Algeria and repeatedly warned that Algeria's wounds were also the wounds of France.

They warned that the barbarism in Algeria would mean the emergence of savagery in France. They have been proved all too correct. The plastic outrages in Paris are the inevit-

Algerian liberation movement has won the basic aims for which it has fought ever since the first day of November 1954.

Let us recall that the declaration of the Algerian National Liberation Front (FLN) set as its goal "the restoration of the Algerian state, sovereign, democratic

brought about by the freeing of all those detained, by annulment of all arbitrary measures, and by ending all legal action against the combatant forces.

"(3) the recognition of Algerian nationhood by an official declaration abrogating all edicts, decrees and

will be allowed to opt for their original nationality, in which case they will be considered as foreigners, or for Algerian nationality in which case they will be considered as Algerians, equal both as to rights and duties. "The ties between Algeria and France will be the object of agreement between the two powers on the basis of equality and mutual respect."

As against this expression at once of indomitable will and flexible tactics the French answer had always been—terror and subjugation through terror.

● In 1954 Mitterand then in-charge of Algerian affairs said that only negotiations France could conduct would be war!

● In 1956 Soustelle declared "all must know, here and elsewhere that France will not leave Algeria anymore than she will leave Provence and Brittany. Whatever happens the destiny of Algeria is French." Later in the same year the Social Democratic leader Guy Mollet declared that "France will remain present in Algeria."

● And what about de Gaulle? It is being made out that it was this "great man" who

de Gaulle did for close on two years gave these lumpen elements any reason to believe that he was going to ignore their mandate.

For two whole years de Gaulle did his best to stamp out the Algerian revolution with a policy of blood and iron. But to no avail.

In the meantime pressure for negotiations in Algeria began to mount. In the United Nations the Afro-Asian powers and the Socialist countries won majorities for their resolutions urging the beginning of negotiations in Algeria. In France the people in general grew increasingly restive that the "hopeless war" was continuing.

It was against this background that de Gaulle began to vary his tactics. He now let it be known that he was not against Algerian self-determination with certain limitations. He wanted the Algerians to agree to a cease-fire prior to negotiations.

He wanted the Algerians to give up their sovereignty over the Sahara. He wanted the Algerians to give up to the colons the most fertile coastal areas. In short, it was a crisp-

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THE FRENCH WORKING CLASS fights staunchly against OAS fascists, despite de Gaulle's bloody repression.

by MOHIT SEN

















# UNDEMOCRATIC SET-UP FOR GOA OPPOSED

The Maharashtra State Executive Committee of the Communist Party of India having discussed the recent developments in regard to Goa, has issued the following statement:

**T**HE question as to what is to be the future set up of Goa now occupies the attention of the people in India and particularly the attention of the people of Maharashtra. That question is even more important for the people of Goa, who have been dominated and ruled by the Portuguese for over 400 years. The Goan people had not tasted even those small liberties and semblance of democratic rights, which the Indian people, next door to Goa, had even under the British imperialists.

In the last 14 years since the achievement of Indian independence, thousands of those Goans who have been coming to India and lived here have seen and felt the contrast between liberated India and enslaved Goa. The intellectuals, workers, artisans and

others who have gone back to liberated Goa and those who were already inside, all those together now want to establish a democratic life for all Goans and develop their lives and living as an integral part of the Indian people.

Parliament has passed a Bill, amending the Constitution of India and incorporating Goa, Daman, and Diu in the Indian Union. It is a welcome fact.

At the same time, this welcome act was accompanied by a most unwelcome measure, that makes Goa a centrally administered territory. Eight lakhs of Goans will be governed by a Civilian administrator, directly responsible to and under the advice of the President.

Goans will have no right to elect their representatives in

any shape or form. Goa has been allotted two seats in Parliament, but the people of Goa are not considered fit enough to elect them or anybody, not even the administrator, who will legislate and rule in their name. This is not only a mockery of Goan freedom but also of Indian democracy.

The Maharashtra State Executive of the Communist Party emphatically condemns this denial of democratic rights to the Goan people who are in no way inferior to the Indian people in their fitness to have democratic rights for themselves.

## PART OF MAHARASHTRA

There are varying opinions as to how the Goan people should find their democratic set up and in what shape and form. The Goan people by historical tradition, cultural make-up, affinity and lan-

guage, are a part of the people of Maharashtra. The people of Maharashtra naturally desire the people of Goa to be united with them. The demand for the merger of Goa with Maharashtra is a natural and historically correct demand. However, since this desire does not as yet receive a response in some sections of the people in Goa because of long years of Portuguese rule which severed them from the Marathi people, the desire of the people of Maharashtra, must be first explained to the people of Goa and should receive their democratic consent.

Some sections legitimately feel that the Goans, if merged in Maharashtra may not get the special consideration, they deserve, as for example in the matter of employment and trade. The reply to this can be that these matters can be specially provided for, as was done in the case of Vidarbha when the Maharashtra State was formed.

Some reactionary interests taking advantage of this situation want to incite communal differences. The merger demand is sought to be identified with Hindu interests and the separate state demand is identified with the Christians. This obviously is wrong and harmful.

The Executive is of the opinion that the foremost task today in Goa is to

secure it a democratic set up where its own elected representatives can decide on the question of merger with Maharashtra.

The Goan people must be roused to demand the abolition of the Administrator's rule and the establishment of democracy in Goa.

The fight for political democracy for the Goan people cannot be conducted in a healthy and effective way unless the working class and the peasantry establish their own organisations for better wages and trade union rights, for better laws, for reduction of the enormous land rents and for scaling down of the cost of living. Feudal laws and feudal oppression are in supreme command over the lives of the villagers, which has got to be done away with.

The Goan people must unite themselves without interference of communal, caste or religious beliefs or prejudices. They must demand political democracy, freedom to organise, united organisation of workers, peasants, students and other progressive sections of the people and work for a happy future.

The Executive demands that the system of permits to enter Goa must be abolished forthwith and every citizen of India must have the right to enter Goa, as part of our country.

## ALGERIA

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pled, beaten Algeria that he offered.

The Algerian Government with pride and confidence spurned this spurious self-determination. They announced that there could be no negotiations except between equals. They declared that Algeria's integrity and Algeria's sovereignty were not for sale. What could be negotiated would be details effecting the future relations between the two sovereign states.

Ultimately this stiff-necked French "saviour" had to bow. In March 1961 talks began at Evian. They broke down, were resumed in July at Lugran, broke down again and were resumed and carried on to successful conclusion only from the middle of February this year.

What was it that broke the pride of de Gaulle, who symbolised the aspirations of the French imperialists?

Pride of place must be given, of course, to the great heart and strength of the armed Algerian struggle for freedom. Starting from individual acts of heroism, branching into protracted guerrilla war, the Algerian freedom battle soon assumed the shape of a regular war fought by a regular army. In the towns also the demonstrations, particularly in December 1960 helped to shatter French authority and confidence.

In the second place we must honour the democrats of France foremost among whom were the glorious Communists of France. Solidarity actions were unceasing and on ever increasing scale. However, it was not a matter of mere solidarity.

The struggle to end the war in Algeria transformed itself into the struggle to bar the road to power of fascism in France, for democratic renewal in the metropolitan country.

We need only recall the tremendous movements that swept France. It became known that torture was the main instrument of rule in Algeria. Henri Alleg's book "La Question" became the best seller, stirring the conscience

of France. Great work was also done by such radical intellectuals as Jean-Paul Sartre. Political and moral bankruptcy became the fate of all who supported the war in Algeria.

Then came the great general strike and demonstrations which saved France from the "generals' insurrection". It was clear that plebian France was on the move. Finally, came the great demonstrations of this year in protest against the OAS outrages and the brutalities of de Gaulle's police. It was clear that plebian France would not wait any longer for peace to come of itself in Algeria.

Mention, thirdly, must be made of the international solidarity that Algeria received, right from the outset but with ever increasing momentum. Nor was it a question only of solidarity from public figures and mass organisations. It was above all solidarity at the governmental level.

The sovereign states, particularly those bordering on Algeria not only recognised the Revolutionary Provisional Government of Algeria but extended to it every material and moral assistance. This solidarity reached its high watermark at the Belgrade conference of non-aligned countries last year.

The Government of India openly and consistently expressed its support for Algeria's freedom struggle. It vigorously championed the cause of Algeria at the United Nations General Assembly. It, however, remains a sad fact that till the very end the Government of India did not recognise the Revolutionary Provisional Government of Algeria. This only cast a blemish on its own reputation.

Such anti-imperialist solidarity between sovereign states, who are by no means socialists, is a new feature of our new epoch. It is a galvanising factor. To underestimate or to cast doubts, as some over-radical elements tend to do, is a grievous mistake and leads to isolationist tactics.

Mention must finally be made of the great contribution of the Socialist camp.

Naturally the biggest contribution from this decisive sector of the world community came from the Soviet Union. Soviet support to Algeria's struggle took the most diverse of forms.

But, above all, it was Soviet strength that gave the imperialists cause for pause. It was the Soviet strength and skilful diplomacy that decisively turned the balance of world force against imperialism, isolated it, disunited it, and impelled it to negotiate.

It should be mentioned that such decisive contributions to Algeria's freedom struggle were being made by the Soviet Union simultaneously with its strenuous efforts for general and complete disarmament. Life itself refuted those who claimed that the struggle for disarmament would make the Soviet Union subordinate its endeavour to aid the liberation wars then raging.

Life itself has proved the correctness of this simultaneous struggle of the Soviet Union and has shown that the diplomacy of peaceful coexistence is itself of big support to all peoples struggling to win or to maintain their freedom.

It is evident that the struggle in Algeria is by no means over. There will undoubtedly be attempts both by de Gaulle and by the OAS to subvert the settlement that has now been reached. In particular, the OAS may well launch upon extremely adventurist action both in metropolitan France and in Algeria. The de Gaulle regime will also attempt to put as many obstacles as possible in the working out of the referendum and subsequent evacuation.

Conflicts will no doubt arise with regard to the working of Sahara oil resources and functioning of the bases temporarily retained by the French.

But the Algerian people—and their many and mighty friends—have no reason for despondency even if they have need for vigilance. The sun of Algerian freedom shines strongly. No dark clouds can obscure its brilliance nor chill its warmth.

## Madras Dockers Plan Solidarity Action

**T**HE Madras Dockers under the leadership of the Madras Harbour Workers' Union will boycott the Japanese ships from March 25 to 27 in response to an appeal by the Second All Pacific Asian Dock Workers' Conference and the All Japan Dock Workers' Union.

Presently the Japanese Dock Workers are carrying on a vigorous campaign for decasualisation and for higher wages.

"It is eight years since Japanese Dock Workers started their struggle for decasualisation of dock work. Backed by the Opposition parties, they have presented a Bill on Decasualisation of Dock work to the Diet Session every year. However, Japanese shipping monopolies and their Government patrons have shelved the Bill in utter disregard of this demand and the resolutions of the ILO inland transport committee. The Japanese Dock Workers are forced to work long hours for low wages. Their living conditions are so bad they cannot get married even when they reach a marriageable age."

The Japanese dockers under the leadership of the All Japan Dock Workers' Union are waging a powerful campaign including a strike to attain their various demands including the promulgation of a Port Labour Law which can guarantee security of service and a higher wage to the dockers. The All Japanese Dock Workers' Union, one of the seven sponsoring unions of the Second All Pacific and Asian Dock Workers' Conference has issued an appeal for solidarity

action. The Second All Pacific and Asian Dock Workers' Conference gave a call for observing March 27, 1962 as a solidarity day of Pacific and Asian dockers.

The Madras Harbour Workers' Union which is also one of the sponsoring unions of the Pacific and Asian Dock Workers' Conference has decided, in response to the appeal to "boycott all Japanese vessels and all vessels carrying cargo to and from Japan vis-a-vis any Indian port. The boycott shall be effective from March 25 to March 27, 1962. The boycott shall be in respect of both export and import cargo. "This boycott shall be an expression of solidarity and support to the Japanese Dock Workers who are ground down under the most appalling conditions of work.

A. S. K. Iyengar, General Secretary of the Union has communicated the Union's decision to the Port authorities. He has also sent the message of solidarity to the All Japan Dock Workers' Union. Com. Iyengar has also addressed a letter to Mr. Ikeda, Prime Minister of Japan asking him to concede the just demands of the Japanese dockers.

This is not the first time the Madras Dockers under the leadership of the ATTUC Union have gone into solidarity action with the international working class. At the time of the Suez War in 1956, the Madras dockers successfully boycotted the British and French vessels. A grand action of international working class solidarity indeed!