

FRANCE AND THE UN

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THE WALKOUT of the French delegation from the United Nations on Sept. 28, when the General Assembly voted to put the question of Algeria upon its agenda was a reflection of the tremendous liberation revolution which has been sweeping the colonial world, especially since the end of World War II.



All the imperialist powers having territories in Asia and Africa—Britain, Holland, Portugal, Belgium, Spain and the U. S.—have been sharply feeling this revolution, the most advanced expression of which was the establishment of the Chinese People's Republic. Not at least, the French empire has been experiencing the great revolution.

In the spirit of ruthless imperialism, the reactionary French government is following the usual futile course of trying to shoot down the colonial revolution. In Indochina, in this respect, the French imperialists took a hard blow in the face; but it does not seem to have taught them any real lessons. Now they are trying the same methods of violence in their efforts to stifle the aspirations of the peoples of North Africa for political independence.

It is not hard to foresee, however, that such repressive measures will have no better success in Algeria, Morocco and other French African colonies than they had on the Asian mainland. The French empire, like those of the other big imperialist powers, is historically on the skids. The peoples of North Africa, like those of Asia, are on the march to freedom and France cannot possibly stop them.

IN THE HIGHLY dangerous Indochina situation of a short while before, which created the serious menace of a world war, imperialist France was able (until the debacle) to get away with the contention that the whole matter was purely an internal affair of France alone and that the United Nations had no concern with it. But it could not make this reactionary fiction prevail regarding the current crisis in North Africa, although it has tried desperately to do so.

The colonial peoples of the world, together with other international democratic forces, proved to be strong enough in the United Nations carry through their conception that the heart of the critical North African situation was the struggle of the several local peoples for national independence.

The UN Assembly decision to put the Algerian question upon

its agenda constitutes one of the most important victories for the democratic forces of the world during the postwar period. This is why the imperialists everywhere are so alarmed about it and also why the French imperialists are trying to force the UN to rescind its action by threatening to quit that organization.

The vote on the Algerian question was one of the most clear-cut lineups of the forces of democracy against world imperialism in the history of the United Nations. On the people's side were ranged countries comprising a large majority of the human race. With great People's China standing in the background, the nations included India, Pakistan, Indonesia, Burma, the Philippines and practically all other European countries except Wall Street-bossed Turkey. They included, too, the most independent countries of Latin America, and of course, the Soviet Union and the European people's democracies.

On the side seeking to prevent a discussion of Algeria were all the imperialist powers affiliated to the UN—the U. S., Britain, France and Belgium—plus the many countries in close affiliation with, or under the thumb of the big imperialist states. The crucial vote clearly reflected the growing solidarity of the colonial and Socialist peoples of the world, which was so dramatically in evidence at the famous conference in Bandung.

THE UN VOTE on Algeria is also not unconnected with the recent Geneva conference. The capitalist world, which is rapidly sinking into general crisis, is saturated with sharp and ever-sharpening internal contradictions and collisions. These include conflicts between workers and capitalists, among rival national capitalist groups and monopolies between the colonial and imperialist countries and among the imperialist powers.

So long as the U. S. brandishing the A- and H-bombs, was able to create a great war scare throughout the world, it was possible for the controlling imperialist groups to bridge over to a considerable extent at least these various internal capitalist contradictions.

The cultivation of an acute war hysteria and the erection of the Soviet Union into a mythical enemy served as a means of subduing the internal difficulties, especially the demands of the workers and of rival capitalist states—to the profit especially of Wall Street. But once the war fear was lifted, as it was at Geneva, then the internal contradictions can the more readily express themselves. All this is one of the elementary reasons why the imperialists, particularly those in the U. S., want the continuation of the cold war.