



notes for  
history

# PROCLAMATION OF THE ALGERIAN NLF

Algerian People,  
Militants of the national cause:

OUR CONCERN in issuing the present statement is to make clear to you — who have been called upon to pass judgment on us (the former in a general way, the latter in a very particular way) — the profound reasons that have led us to act, setting forth our program, the meaning of our action, the soundness of our viewpoints, the objectives of which continue to be National Independence within the framework of North Africa. We also wish to avoid any confusion that may be created by imperialism and its agents, both those in the administration and the dirty politicians.

In the first place we consider that, after several decades of struggle, the National Movement has reached the final stage of fulfillment. Indeed, the objective of a revolutionary movement is to create all the conditions for a liberating action, and we believe that, as to the internal aspects, the people are rallied round the watchword of independence and action, and as to the external aspects, the atmosphere of truce is favorable to the solution of minor problems — among them our own problem — particularly with the diplomatic support of our Arab Muslim

brothers. In this sense, the events of Morocco and Tunisia are significant and profoundly affect the process of the liberation struggle of North Africa. We must point out, in this regard, that for a long time we have been the forerunners of unity of action, which unfortunately has never been achieved in these three countries.

Today both have resolutely undertaken this road while we, relegated to the rear, suffer the fate of those who have been left behind. Our national movement — destroyed and paralyzed by years of inaction and routine, badly oriented, deprived of the indispensable support of public opinion, overcome by developments — is now progressively disintegrating, to the great satisfaction of colonialism, that considers that it has scored the biggest victory in its struggle against the Algerian vanguard. This is a serious time!

In the face of this situation, which might become irretrievable, a group of responsible young men and conscientious militants — rallied round most of the elements who are still wholesome and determined — have decided that the time has come to rescue the national movement from the blind alley in which it has been trapped by personal strifes and struggles for influence, and put it back on the path of the genuine revolutionary struggle alongside the Moroccan and Tunisian brothers.

We must make clear, in this regard, that we are independent of the two clans that are striving for power. Considering the national interest over and above all petty and erroneous considerations of people and of prestige, and in accordance with revolutionary principles, we have aimed our action solely against colonialism, our one and only enemy, which is blind and has always refused to grant even the slightest freedom by means of peaceful struggle.

We believe that these are reasons enough to present our movement of renovation under the name of **National Liberation Front**, thus freeing it from any possible commitment and offering all Algerian patriots from all social strata, from all truly Algerian parties and movements, the possibility of joining the liberation struggle without further consideration.

In order to be precise, we will outline below the main points of our political program:

**OBJECTIVE:** National Independence through:

- 1) The restoration of a sovereign, democratic, and social Algerian state within the framework of Islamic principles.
- 2) Respect for the fundamental liberties, regardless of race or creed.

**INTERNAL OBJECTIVES:**

- 1) **POLITICAL CLEANUP** in order to put the national revolutionary movement back on the right path, destroying all traces of corruption and reformism, the cause of our present backwardness.
- 2) **UNION AND ORGANIZATION** of all the wholesome energies of the Algerian people so as to wipe out the colonial system.

**EXTERNAL OBJECTIVES:**

- Internationalization of the Algerian problem.
- Achievement of North African unity within its natural Arab

Muslim framework.

- Within the framework of the United Nations Charter, affirmation of our sympathy toward all the nations that would support our liberation action.

#### MEANS OF STRUGGLE:

In accordance with revolutionary principles, and taking into consideration the internal and external situation, to pursue the struggle by all means until our goal is attained.

To this end, the National Liberation Front will carry out two essential tasks simultaneously: internal activity both on the political plane and in the action itself, and external activity so that the Algerian problem will turn into a reality throughout the whole world, with the support of all our natural allies.

This is a huge task that calls for the mobilization of all national energies and resources. The struggle will be a long one, it is true, but the outcome is certain.

Finally, in order to avoid fallacious interpretations and evasions and to demonstrate our genuine desire for peace and avoid the loss of human lives and bloodshed, we present a platform of honorable discussion with the French authorities, should they act in good faith and should they, once and for all, recognize the right to self-determination of all the peoples under their domination.

1) To acknowledge the Algerian nationality through an official statement abrogating all edicts, decrees, and laws that make Algeria a French territory, against the history, geography, language, religion, and habits of the Algerian people.

2) To enter into negotiations with spokesmen authorized by the Algerian people, on the basis of the recognition of the one and indivisible Algerian sovereignty.

3) To create an atmosphere of trust by releasing all political prisoners, repealing all the extraordinary measures and putting an end to the repression against the fighting forces.

#### IN RETURN:

1) French cultural and economic interests which have been honestly acquired will be respected as well as individuals and families.

2) All Frenchmen who wish to remain in Algeria may either retain their original nationality — and will therefore be considered foreigners under the existing laws — or adopt the Algerian nationality, in which case they will be considered as such as far as rights and obligations are concerned.

3) The bonds between France and Algeria will be defined and subjected to an agreement between the two powers on the basis of equality and mutual respect.

Algerian! We invite you to study our program. You should join us to save our country and help regain national liberation. The National Liberation Front is your front; its victory, your victory.

As for us, we are determined to continue the struggle, and based on your anti-imperialist sentiments, we are ready to give our all for the nation.

November 1, 1954

THE SECRETARIAT