

An important development in co-ordinating and publicising revolutionary movements throughout the African continent has taken place with the publication of the first edition of a new Algerian weekly called "AFRICAN REVOLUTION". An English speaking edition to be published soon in London is envisaged. The function of the paper, according to an editorial in the first issue, is to be the organ of the African people's movement for freedom, and to spread accounts of the experiences of African countries in their struggle for economic freedom. The present issue carries an article, entitled "Spear of the Nation", written by Oliver Tambo, vice-president of the African National Congress of South Africa. "Spear of the Nation", is of course, the name of the terrorist body currently organising and carrying out selected acts of sabotage against the S. African administration, as previously reported by us in the "Bulletin". This is one of the most hopeful signs in this part of the African continent.

Oliver Tambo writes in this issue: "For thirteen years the African people replied to terrorism with peaceful means, but this has not stopped the constant massacre of Africans through the courts, police guns and the policy of Apartheid; it has not stopped the White regime from continuing in the double objective of annihilating the black population of South Africa and of carrying out aggression against other African countries. In the face of such a situation the African National Congress calls on the African people to participate in an unprecedented struggle and mobilisation for combat in an all-out open struggle." He concluded: "Power and ultimate victory belong to the African people, whose fighting slogan is: Power to the People". The director of "African Revolution" is Jacques Verges and its chief editor is Zohra Drif, wife of Algerian vice-premier Rabah Bitat.

Also writing in the first issue is president Ben Bella, expressing support for the journal and the struggle it represents. He describes the resort to force of the South African people as "a legitimate action that deserves complete moral support and practical support from all the peoples and governments of Africa", and Ben Bella went on to say: "Algeria will study with all the governments concerned the necessary and resolute actions to put an end to such a policy (ed.: i.e. Apartheid etc.)".

THIRD AFRO-ASIAN PEOPLES SOLIDARITY CONFERENCE REPORTS.

In Northern Tanganyika, the third meeting of the Afro-Asian Peoples' Solidarity Conference is currently being held. Speakers from many countries spoke encouragingly on developments in the world revolutionary scene, according to reports currently to hand. The Algerian delegate: Ben Habyles, had this to say at the plenary session of the conference: "Independent Algeria regards as its fundamental objective, the giving of unconditional support in all forms to the African Peoples' struggle for independence, for this struggle is inseparable from our own".

The delegate from Tanganyika African National Union said that his organisation stood for: "Complete eradication of colonialism and its remnants. Political independence, without economic independence is not enough." The Mozambique delegate condemned NATO for supplying arms to Portugal which were being used against the Mozambique people.

Despite the agreement by the Conference participants that no dispute between Afro-Asian countries should be brought up, the Indian delegate referred to the Sino-Soviet border dispute and disparaged China by referring to "aggression". This was later criticised by the Nepal delegate (Nepal has concluded a border dispute with China with no difficulty), and had this sombre note to sound: "Nepal's development is much handicapped by a neighbouring country who likes to blackmail her for ulterior purposes".

Many countries and organisations were represented at the Conference including the Soviet Union, Japan, India, Nepal, Korea, China, Iraq, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Yemen, Sierre Leone, Palestine, Oman, Kenya, Northern Rhodesia, Rwanda, Mongolia and Liberia. The total number of delegates is likely to reach four or five hundred with representation from over 60 countries. When the second conference was held in Conakry in 1960, only 10 of the 59 countries had achieved independence, but now 33 African countries have achieved independence covering 87% of the total population.

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ALGIERS,
27th Jan 1963.

Dear Friend,

At the end of a short journey in Europe in December, during which I have had the opportunity of meeting various circles, I have returned confirmed in the belief of the extreme importance of the idea of a European Conference for Aid to Algeria.

I have suggested this project to President Ben Bella, who wants to support it as a very useful and necessary thing.

The conference should take place in Algiers in April or May 1963. A Government Commission has already been set up to organise the welcome and the stay here of the participants. I myself am a member of it.

The conference would bring together important representatives of the scientific, technical, financial, intellectual, Trade Union and political world of Western Europe, (Germany, England, Austria, Belgium, Spain, France, Holland, the Scandinavian Countries, Portugal and Switzerland), who want to give technical, cultural, financial and humanitarian aid to the new Algeria.

As you are aware the needs of Algeria in this field are immense.

It appears to me very necessary that these various Europeans who are able to understand the need for considerable, systematic, and sustained aid to the new Algeria, and to the newly liberated countries of the "Third-World" (Translation note: the underdeveloped third of the world, especially, Afro-Asia), should be able through this conference to bring about a form of co-operation for aid to Algeria which will be a model in this respect for the rest of Africa.

The reverberations of such a conference, the first of its kind, would initially be very considerable in Africa, but equally so in the whole Third-World. There is here the very considerable possibility of co-operation between the left and liberal wing of Europe, and the Colonial Revolution, which would become lasting and systematic, extending itself to the whole of Africa. The holding of the Conference will open up immense possibilities for encouraging the widest European circles to interest themselves in an active and constructive manner in the Revolution of the Colonial countries and the liberated countries of the Third-World.

We are convinced that all the aspects and implications of such a project being realised will not be missed by you and that you will not economise your efforts in bringing about the success of the Conference.

Concretely, in our opinion it is necessary to proceed thus: to create in your country, a National Committee as representative as possible, having a core of active people who would bring about as large a representation as possible at the Conference from your country. Each National Committee must be responsible for covering the return travelling expenses of its national delegation to the conference. On the other hand, the stay of the delegates in Algeria would be taken care of by our own Commission.

The National Committee would be in liaison with a European Committee which would sponsor the organisation of the conference, and this committee would be composed of as representative a basis as possible from important personalities in the scientific, technical, Trades Union, and political fields. In each country it is necessary to contact likely personalities in order to obtain their support as soon as possible for such a European Committee.

The conference would last three or four days, but the stay in Algeria of the participants could be extended by one or two weeks according to their wishes, in order that they or some of them at least could examine on the spot the problems of providing financial, humanitarian and cultural aid to Algeria, to hold conferences, and visit the country. All the expenses would be covered by our Commission here and the best facilities would be offered to make their stay as useful and agreeable as possible.

As to the date of the conference, April or May is envisaged at the latest, and the precise arrangements will be left to the European Committee who will be charged with the responsibility of organising a precise agenda and form of the conference, in consultation with our Commission here. Knowing that you will commence immediate work in the spirit of this letter, we send our fraternal greetings,

M. PABLO.