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LETTER DATED 12 APRIL 1956 FROM THE REPRESENTATIVES OF
AFGHANISTAN, BURMA, CEYLON, EGYPT, INDIA, INDONESIA,
IRAN, IRAQ, JORDAN, LEBANON, LIBYA, PAKISTAN, PHILIPPINES,
SAUDI ARABIA, SYRIA AND YEMEN, ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT
OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

We, the representatives of Afghanistan, Burma, Ceylon, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Pakistan, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Syria, and Yemen, have the honour, upon instructions from our respective Governments, to bring to the attention of the Security Council, under Article 35, paragraph I of the United Nations Charter, the grave situation in Algeria, as set out in the enclosed memorandum, which is likely to endanger the maintenance of international peace and security.

We beg to request Your Excellency to circulate this letter among the members of the Security Council.

Accept, Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration.

Permanent Representatives of:

Afghanistan	Abdul Hamid Aziz	Jordan	Abdul Monem Rifa'i
Burma	U Win	Lebanon	Edward Rizk
Ceylon	Senarat Gunewardene	Libya	Saddigh Muntasser
Egypt	Omar Loutfi	Pakistan	Mohammad Mir Khan
India	Arthur S. Lall	Philippines	Felixberto M. Serrano
Indonesia	Sudjarwo Tjondronegoro	Saudi Arabia	Abdullah Al-Khayyal
Iran	Djalal Abdoh	Syria	Rafik Asha
Iraq	Abdul Karim Gailani	Yemen	Ahmad Zabareh

His Excellency
Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge, Jr.
President, Security Council
United Nations
New York 17, N.Y.

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM ON THE ALGERIAN QUESTION
SUBMITTED TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL

1. It may be recalled that the question of Algeria was brought to the attention of the Security Council on the 5th of January 1955 in a letter sent by the Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations (No. S/3341). The Saudi Arabian Representative reserved the right of his government to request the President of the Council to call a meeting to consider this matter.
2. At the Bandung Conference held in April 1955, the Asian-African States declared the support of the rights of the people of Algeria to self-determination and independence and urged the French Government to bring about a peaceful settlement of the issue without delay.
3. As this question continued to remain unsolved, the Bandung powers had to resort to the United Nations for a peaceful settlement based on law and justice and in conformity with the legitimate wishes and aspirations of the Algerian people. The United Nations General Assembly, by a majority vote, decided to inscribe the question of Algeria on the Agenda of its 10th Session.
4. The Asian-African States, along with other States, later in the tenth Session of the General Assembly, agreed to postpone discussion of the Algerian issue. This move was inspired by the new constructive steps taken by France on the questions of Tunisia and Morocco, and was intended to give France an opportunity to reconsider its policy also on the question of Algeria.
5. Postponement of discussion of the Algerian question was a gesture of conciliation. The French Government, however, persisted in ignoring the legitimate demands of the Algerian people and the appeals of the Bandung Conference. The situation, consequently, continued to deteriorate.
6. Because of the gravity of the situation, the representatives of the Asian-African States met on the 25th of January 1956. They reviewed the situation, and in a statement, expressed their "grave concern" that "no improvement in the situation has taken place". The Group expressed the hope "that the French Government will take expeditious action to find a satisfactory and just solution to the question of Algeria."

7. In spite of all these repeated appeals, the French Government refused to enter into negotiations with the representatives of the Algerian people to meet their legitimate demands. Instead, the French Government has intensified the use of force in its policy of repression. Reports from Algeria put the total casualties, as a result of this policy, at thousands of killed and wounded. Pitched battles and skirmishes are occurring every day. The French Government is deploying more and more troops to Algeria and casualties are mounting as military operations continue throughout the country. Algeria appears to be in a state of siege.

8. On the strength of available evidence, it seems abundantly clear that conditions are deteriorating and are likely to endanger peace and security in the area. In our opinion, the United Nations cannot remain indifferent to the situation in Algeria which is a threat to peace and security, involves the infringement of the basic right of self-determination, and constitutes a flagrant violation of other fundamental Human Rights.

