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LETTER DATED 5 JANUARY 1955 FROM THE REPRESENTATIVE OF SAUDI ARABIA
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour, upon instructions from my Government, to bring to the attention of the Security Council under Article 35, paragraph 1, of the United Nations Charter, the grave situation in Algeria.

In the opinion of my Government this situation is likely to endanger the maintenance of international peace and security.

I reserve the right of my Government to request the President of the Security Council to call a meeting of the Council to consider this matter and to take the necessary measures in accordance with the Charter.

An explanatory note on this item is hereby enclosed.

I beg to request that this letter with the explanatory note be circulated among the members of the Security Council.

Accept, Sir, etc.

/s/ Asad Al-Faqih
Permanent Representative

EXPLANATORY NOTE ON THE SITUATION IN ALGERIA

During the first week of November last nationalist uprising expressed itself once more against the repressive and unjust French administration in Algeria. It was characterized this time by its co-ordination and wide scope. The New York Times described it as one of the gravest insurrections that France has faced in thirty years.

The French Government and authorities at once sought to wipe out this nationalist surge by all means at their disposal. They likewise sought to disparage the aims of the nationalists and to tighten the censorship on news emanating from the area. In spite of these measures they were unable to conceal their great surprise at the magnitude of this uprising, when they discovered that the entire military and police power within the country, vast as this power was, was still entirely inadequate to cope with the situation. Several hundred heavily equipped troops were at once dispatched from France by air on the first day. The French Premier sent in addition three battalions of parachutists. Completely equipped French enforcements continued to arrive in Algeria in ever larger quantities. Premier Pierre Mendès-France announced in the National Assembly on 11 December that he had sent to Algeria by that date some 40,000 troops, that a comparable number was sent to neighbouring Tunisia, and that the Government was further seeking to strengthen their equipment and organization. Five days earlier, the Minister of the Interior, Mr. Mitterand, announced in the French National Assembly that France had more than 70,000 troops in Algeria and that that number was not too great to assert France's intention to hold Algeria.

The French Premier declared openly in the National Assembly that the only method to affirm France's presence in North Africa was by show of force. This French military might was charged with liquidating the nationalist forces. Le Monde estimated the number of the participants in the early attacks to be some 4,000 nationalists, and stated that they were in uniforms and armed with guns, and operating from headquarters in the region of Aures.

Simultaneously with these extensive military operations the French have been launching their customary brutal colonial oppressive measures. Arrests throughout

the country are being made by the hundreds; nationalist parties have been outlawed and nationalist newspapers banned; public and private liberties have been restricted; and thousands of people have been ordered to leave their homes, as French troops occupied entire towns in the areas surrounding the nationalist concentrations.

The French Minister of the Interior has stated that the French Government will not entertain nationalist demands in Algeria. The situation has become so grave that he stated before the "Interior Committee" of the National Assembly that the only negotiation with the Algerian nationalists was war. Meager as the press dispatches have been on the Algerian situation, they nevertheless continue to bring alarming news of the approaching bloody operations. Le Monde speaks of the "little war" which is gaining each day in intensity and cruelty. A New York Times dispatch dated 19 December states that the military operations against the nationalists began in earnest and have gained momentum since. The French Minister of the Interior went so far as to say that steps have already been taken to bring in troops of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to Algeria should that become indispensable.

The Government and people of Saudi Arabia view the present situation in Algeria with great alarm and deep concern. Nor in our opinion can this situation fail to arouse the alarm and concern of the Arab and Moslem worlds as well. We recall with horror and disgust the massacre of 1945 when French troops and bombers swept through scores of villages of the Constantine province of Algeria slaughtering over 40,000 men, women and children, without any cause or justification. It is the view of my Government that the situation in Algeria is one which might lead to international friction and is likely to endanger the maintenance of international peace and security.

The Government and people of my country have for long watched with profound anxiety the French attempt to obliterate the national, cultural and religious characteristics of Algeria. The French Government sought to accomplish this loathsome effacement of a Moslem Arab country under the guise of the status which it imposed on it. Under that fictitious status it is now justifying the present and planned ruthless military operations to liquidate the nationalist uprising against French colonial rule in Algeria.
