

Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research

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Lectures of

# *Algerian foreign Policy*

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Prepared by

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2nd lecture

**The development of Algerian foreign policy 1**

## 1- The development of Algerian foreign policy

Algerian foreign policy has gone through many phases, starting from the colonial phase or the period of the war of liberation until the present day, where Algerian foreign policy has crystallized from revolutionary premises and well-established principles that have not changed since the dawn of the Algerian revolution, where it has remained firmly established to this day, despite the transformations that the world has known in terms of principles and foundations..

### 1- Algerian diplomacy before independence

The diplomatic activity of the Algerian revolution dates back to before the outbreak of the Algerian revolution, but with the beginning of the French colonization of Algeria, where the Algerian diplomatic activity dates back to the beginning of the French occupation of Algeria, where Hamdan Khoja recorded the most important crimes and testimonies in a semi-petition that reached the size of the volume, which was known as "The Mirror" in which he mentions the glories of Algeria, saying "Algeria is for the Algerians" and Hamdan Khoja made many tours in the East and Europe explaining the tragic conditions of Algeria. [Salah Ben Kobi, Algerian diplomacy between yesterday and today, Algeria, National Agency for Publicity, 2002, p. 12.]

With the beginning of the activity of the national movement, there was a different activity according to each national trend, as the movement for the victory of democratic freedoms established since 1945 a foreign mission in the Egyptian capital, Cairo, where it was tasked with linking contacts with the latter on many issues, where the mission included in 1951 each of the gentlemen:

Mohamed Khider, Hocine Ait Ahmed and Ahmed Ben Bella. [Omar Boudarsa, The Diplomatic Activity of the Provisional Government of the Algerian Republic, Algeria: Dar Al-Hikma Publishing, 2014, p. 127]

The importance of the external dimension of the planners of the Algerian revolution can be shown in the following points with regard to the activity before the outbreak of the Algerian revolution in the following: [Ibid., p. 128.]

1/ The leadership in charge of preparing the Algerian revolution sent a delegation to Switzerland in July 1954 to talk with the two conflicting currents within the Movement for the Victory of Democratic Freedoms, the Messalists and the Centralists.

2/ The revolutionary leadership took advantage of the presence of Mohamed Khider and his stay in Cairo to gain the support of the Egyptian government

along with Ahmed Ben Bella and Hussein Ait Ahmed, and this translates the revolutionary leadership's orientation towards working at the international level and mobilizing global support for the revolution and from the statement of the results of external action is to gain Egyptian support, which was broadcast in the statement of the first of November on the waves of the Egyptian radio Voice of the Arabs and the establishment of an office in Cairo.

3/ Mohamed Boudiaf has been appointed to coordinate the FLN's activity internally and externally.

Within the framework of the National Liberation Front's support for its armed struggle with political action, especially in the foreign field and diplomatic activity, where the National Liberation Front (FLN) identified after the Soummam conference the transformations in the foreign policy of the Algerian revolution by turning to the United Nations to raise the Algerian issue and establishing eight foreign policy offices and committees in Cairo, Damascus, Tunis, Baghdad, Beirut, Jakarta and Karchi, New York, with the appointment of Mohamed Lamine Dabbaghine as responsible for Algerian diplomacy in the Algerian interim government, and here we find the shift and focus on the international dimension to gain support for the Algerian cause by opening offices and working to provide all the data on the Algerian revolution. Ardavan Amir aslani , Ardavan Amir aslani , l'âge d'or de la diplomatie algérienne, Constantine : media plus , 2015 ; p 19 ]

The decisions of the Somma conference focused on activating foreign policy and diplomacy in order to gain global support, especially the United Nations, and to pressure French interests abroad, especially economic, as well as on Latin America, especially the Arab community in it, as it was decided as follows : [ Abdelkader bousselham , la diplomatie algérienne ; Alger : Edition dahlab, 2015, p55]

- Opening a permanent office in the United Nations and the United States of America for the National Liberation Front.
- Opening a representation of the National Liberation Front in Asian countries.
- The formation of an internal body in the National Liberation Front (FLN) whose task is to organize the Front's participation in international conferences and gatherings in support of the national cause.
- Establishing an office for the press and media and a publishing house and documenting events with pictures and films for the national cause.

After that, the National Liberation Front established departments at the level of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, namely the department of "the Arab world", the second "Africa - Asia", the third "Europe and America" and the fourth "socialist countries", in addition to the activity of the Association of Algerian Muslim Students Abroad, especially Cairo University, the University of Baghdad and Damascus, which had a basic and intensive activity to introduce the Algerian cause and gain official and public support for it, as this activity was led by Eid Al-Hamid Mehri and then Tawfiq Al-Madani, without neglecting student activity in France, especially Grenoble, Paris and the Zitouna Mosque in Tunisia . [Ardavan Amir Aslani , op cit ; p 21 ]In 1954, offices of the National Liberation Front were established abroad in Cairo and Nador in Morocco, Switzerland and Madrid, and between 1956-1957 offices were opened in Baghdad, Rabat, Jeddah, Damascus, and in 1958 offices were opened in Jeddah, Amman, Beirut, Benghazi, Belgrade, Vienna, Brussels, Oslo, Aleppo and Basra in Iraq. Algerian diplomacy activity at the foreign level to introduce the Algerian cause . [ Ardavan Amir Aslani , op cit , p 59 ]

Offices were also opened in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and Buenos Aires, Argentina, for coordination in the Americas, and on February 6, 1960, the President of the Provisional Government, Abbas Farhat, supervised the opening of a group of representative offices of the Algerian Provisional Government, including : [Ibid. p 59.]

Turkey office supervised by Colonel Omar Amran

Pakistan office supervised by Major Idir

□Beirut office represented by Ibrahim Kabwiyah.

Tokyo office represented by Ibrahim Qafa

□Accra office in Ghana represented by Frantz Fanon

□Belgrade office represented by Boukadoum.

Mohamed Khider and Hocine Ait Ahmed were also entrusted with coordination with Arab countries, and Ahmed Ben Bella and Mohamed Boudiaf were assigned the task of logistical support between home and abroad.

With regard to the consular activity of the foreign representations of the Algerian government, namely: [Ammar Boudarsa, previous reference, p. 214.]

Approving the Cairo office as the headquarters of the central administration of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs supervising sixteen (16) foreign offices :

- Preparation of passports.

- Regulation of traffic licenses.
- Preparing visas and residence permits, especially for those heading to Egypt.
- Regularization of the status of Algerian refugees.
- Organization of administrative correspondence.
- Reporting.

Resolving differences between Algerian refugees and providing them with assistance

- Linking relations with the media that enable advertising.

Algerian students also had a role in diplomatic work and the definition of the national cause can be summarized as follows: [Salah Ben Kobi, previous reference, p. 70.]

At the beginning of the academic year 55-56 AD, the General Union of Algerian Muslim Students established offices at all French universities and even existing in Algeria.

Mohamed Siddiq Ben Yahya as president and his deputies Amara Rachid, Ahmed Taouti Mohamed Lounis, Mustafa Saber, Saleh Ben Qi, Abdel Halim Ben Hussein "International Relations", Hafsa Beskri, Secretary General, Zalkhia Ben Kaddour, Secretary of Finance, while the foreign offices are based under the chairmanship of Awada Ben Attouche.

This external student activity was led by three students who had the greatest impact in supporting the Algerian cause at the external level, namely Mohamed Khemisti and Mohamed Siddiq Ben Yahya and Lakhdar Brahimi, Mohamed Khemisti was 26 years old student at the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Montpellier and became the president of the Algerian Muslim Students Organization in 1956 and is considered a very close friend of Ahmed Ben Bella by virtue of the fact that they are from one region and is Mughniyeh, and was arrested then in 1957 Siddiq Ben Yahia was a 23-year-old law student and a trainee in a law firm and is considered one of the founding members of the Union of Algerian Muslim Students and represented Algeria between 1956 and 1960 in Cairo, the United Nations, Accra, Monrovia, Tripoli, Indonesia, Moscow and London, and participated in the Evian negotiations in 1961 . Ardavan amir Aslani , op cit ; P22]

As for the foundations and objectives of the diplomatic activity of the interim government 1958/1954, it came in the following context, which gave another

strategy to Algerian diplomacy during the Algerian revolution: [Ammar Boudarsa, *op. cit.*, pp. 133-134.]

The charter of the Soummam conference stressed that it is the duty of the revolution to be regularly keen to preserve the independence of the Algerian revolution completely and to stay away from any pressures that affect the decisions of the leadership, even from the closest brotherly and friendly countries, but this does not mean not consulting, but its decisions were taken by its own hands.

Giving the diplomatic activity of the Algerian revolution a responsible character so that the greatest support of the countries of the world can be obtained to benefit from their solidarity with the cause of the Algerian people materially and morally.

In 1958, the so-called Coordination and Implementation Committee established what is known as the ministerial departments, which included the Department of Foreign Affairs headed by Mohamed Lamine Dabbaghine, which was considered the nucleus of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which will be led by the same person after the establishment of the interim government of the Algerian Republic on 19/09/1958, and its gains abroad became like travels and consulates.

The policy of the interim government was divided and directed to geographical areas dealing with it with the aim of achieving actual gains for the national cause, as it focused on the Arab countries for many reasons, the most important of which is the cultural, religious, linguistic and geographical convergence, where we find foreign policy towards the Arab countries as follows: [Ammar Boudarsa, previous reference, p. 144.]

The Liberation Front stressed in a statement the first of November 1954 on the external dimension of its revolution, which seeks to achieve the Arab Maghreb Union, and the neighboring countries had great importance for material support with weapons as well as the containment of penal refugees, which prompted France to build the Charles and Maurice lines in 1958 and 1957 respectively, along with Libya in 1957 after the entry of the Sahara Front and increased the cohesion of the Maghreb peoples with the incident of Sakiet Sidi Youssef on 08/02/1958, as well as the Tangier Conference in April 1958.

As for Libya, the Libyan King Idris Al-Senussi provided great support and provided safe passage for weapons from the Egyptian Matrouh to the Algerian border, and this explains the capital, Tripoli, hosting three conspiracies of the National Council of the Algerian Revolution 59/1960 - August 1961 and 1962.

After the discovery of oil in the Sahara, Morocco and Tunisia demanded the amendment of the border with France, where Morocco announced the acquisition of the border drawing committee with the Moroccan government in August 1958, this is what the interim government considered an act contrary to the values of common struggle and external struggle and the same trend taken by the Tunisian President Habib Bourguiba, who will announce the need to redraw the Algerian-Tunisian border, which he officially confirmed before the Tunisian National Assembly in September 1959. [Ibid., p. 146.]