

APPENDIX

Appeal made on occasion of the Algerian-Moroccan conflict

On October 16, 1963, by El Mehdi Ben Barka
in the name of the UNFP.

PEOPLE OF MOROCCO:

The Moroccan monarchy has just begun, by the orders of imperialism, a war of aggression against the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria. This armed conflict, which began several days ago on the Algerian-Moroccan border, constitutes grave treason, not only to the dynamic Algerian Revolution, but, in general, to all Arab revolutions in favor of liberty, socialism and unity, and to the world national liberation movement in its entirety.

It is my duty as the spokesman of the UNFP to interpret the aspirations of the Moroccan people, to proclaim here that *the people of Morocco will never agree to bear arms against their brothers, the people of Algeria, no matter what the pretexts manufactured by governments for their own personal and obscure designs.* This is all the more evident in as much as world public opinion is aware of the synchronism surrounding the operation for territorial claims, the border incidents which were all preceded by a

generalized repression affecting the popular progressive organizations of Morocco, whose thousands of militants were arrested under the pretext of a "plot" against the monarchy. All this coincided with the attempts at internal uprising in Algeria and had as its common objective diverting the Moroccan and Algerian peoples from a revolutionary road by embroiling them in minor conflicts benefiting imperialism.

Imperialism does not view with pleasure the fact that the young Algerian state is passing through the transitory phase without any obstacles. It cannot admit that Algeria's revolutionary power is resolutely on the road to stability and reconstruction, after the people had proclaimed their Constitution and elected their President, our militant comrade Ahmed Ben Bella.

Imperialism cannot stand by and see in Algeria the failure of the plans that have permitted it to undermine power in other recently independent countries, and to install itself there behind the curtains of supposedly national governments, docile instruments for the maintenance of imperialism's economic, military, technical and cultural domination.

On the other hand, this is the very essence of neocolonialism.

People of Morocco:

You, better than anyone, should understand the nature of this neocolonialism which you have seen, during eight years of experience, undermine the independence for which you have fought and sacrificed your best children. You have understood that power has been transformed into a protectorate of the interests of foreign colonists who continue to occupy one million hectares of our best lands, as well as of the interests of foreign capital which predominates in many sectors of our economy and continues to plunder our wealth.

And now this same neocolonialism is trying to convert Morocco into a platform of aggression against the Algerian Revolution, using pseudo-nationalist slogans, mercenaries and corrupt politicians concerned with conserving or recovering their ministerial posts even at the cost of betraying

the true interests of the nation and sacrificing the lives of innocent Algerians and Moroccans.

For this reason, it is the duty of the Moroccan people to undo this neocolonialist maneuver and to stop the armed conflict, paralyzing the criminal hands that have appropriated power and that are armed, financed and led by the imperialists.

Militant Revolutionary Arabs, People of Africa and Asia:

I turn to you as a militant Arab and as the leader of the Movement for Afro-Asian Solidarity to ask you to side with the people of Morocco, to protect them from the imperialist conspiracy that intends to involve Morocco in a war of aggression against its brother, Algeria.

There can be no border conflict between these two nations, Morocco and Algeria, united by many centuries of common history and struggle against the colonial system, as they are today united in their aspirations for a Great Maghreb, an extension of the Arab Union founded on sound bases and indissoluble unity on a continental (African) scale.

The only ones who are interested in this armed conflict are the forces of imperialism determined to stop the Arab national liberation movements and to obstruct Africa's development, progress and unity.

For this reason it is important that the popular masses of Africa and Asia, particularly in the Arab countries, that their national organizations and leaders, stop the treacherous aggression and compel its instigators to return to peaceful negotiation, as provided for in the Addis Ababa Charter of the independent states of Africa.

Militant brothers of Morocco:

I make this appeal to you, in spite of the blockade that has surrounded our masses and gripped our organization for three months, after this repressive action whose sequels we are still suffering and which, in reality, is an aggression

against the Moroccan and Algerian peoples, and against our two fraternal revolutions led by the NLF in Algeria and the UNFP in Morocco.

The mask has been torn away, revealing the real aspect of the agents of neocolonialism; feudalism, opportunists and professional politicians who have been usurping power for three years, and who today have put the Moroccan state, with its treasury and army, at the disposal of imperialist designs.

These usurpers of power by treason, repression and fraud, have placed our country in an asphyxiating isolation in respect to the Arab countries and the Afro-Asian states. They have weakened Morocco internationally, disparaging the interests of the Moroccan people whose constant struggle is intimately linked to the struggle of all peoples in revolution against colonial and feudal exploitation.

We are certain that thanks to this solidarity of the peoples and that thanks to this faith in our common destiny, we will overcome this momentary crisis and liquidate the sequels of imperialism, extirpating its last roots from our beloved and great United Maghreb.