

# The Influence of Figures on the Algerian Independence Struggle 1955-1962

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**Abstract:** This study discusses the role of Algerian revolutionary figures in fighting for independence from French colonialism through international diplomatic strategies during the period of 1955-1962. The main focus is on discussing the contributions of Algerian political figures and students in internationalizing the issue of Algerian colonialism and building support from Asian and African countries. The participation of Hocine Ait Ahmed and M'Hammed Yazid in the 1955 Asian-African Conference played a significant role in the development of international strategy. Lakhdar Brahimi and Mohammad Seddik Benyahia were involved in the international student propaganda mission through the 1956 Asian-African Student Conference. This research employs a historical method comprising four steps: heuristics, criticism, interpretation, and historiography, through the study of primary and secondary documents. The research findings indicate that the success of Algeria's external struggle was closely tied to the diplomatic strategies implemented by these figures, such as advocating for Algeria's cause at the United Nations, establishing FLN representative offices, fostering solidarity through student networks, and strengthening international relations with the United States and communist countries to support Algeria. The support obtained from Asian-African countries proved to be a moral and political force in pressuring France's position on the international stage and accelerating the process of Algerian independence.

**Keywords—** Revolutionary Figures; Algerian Independence Struggle

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Algeria is a country located in North Africa. Algeria was a French colony for 132 years, from 1830 until it gained independence in 1962 [1]. The prolonged period of colonialism had a devastating impact on Algeria. The legalization of Algeria as French territory in July 1834 opened the region to European settlers, known as *pieds-noirs* [2]. The increasing migration of *pieds-noirs*, combined with the Jewish community in Algeria, further restricted the space available to the Algerian people. As a result, all sectors in Algeria—including social, economic, cultural, and educational—became increasingly aligned with the colonial power. The assimilation of Algerian Muslim culture and education into French culture led to the loss of basic rights for the Algerian people. In 1954, over 90 percent of the colonized population was illiterate, and only one in ten Muslim children attended primary school [3].

The emergence of the revolutionary movement was a direct consequence of colonialism. The Algerian War of Independence faced imbalances in political, economic, and human aspects, as well as from a military perspective, in terms of strength, weaponry, and training. Therefore, swift action

was needed to prepare for the revolutionary movement. Diplomatic activities became one of the objectives and appropriate steps to accelerate the preparation for the revolution [4]. Intensive diplomatic activities aimed to provide the political, material, and moral support needed by the Algerian struggle.

Hocine Ait Ahmed stated, "Integrating the people's war into the international context will arouse the greatest sympathy and support. He added, "International support for our struggle is one of the strategic elements" [5]. This indicates that the internationalization of Algeria's struggle was a key hope for the success of the revolutionary movement.

The Algerian movement's struggle targeted Asian and African countries (oppressed or former colonial countries). The solidarity of oppressed nations would form an anti-colonial revolutionary movement aimed at supporting Algeria's liberation. Ultimately, the international struggle became one of the objectives of the National Liberation Front as the Algerian revolutionary movement proclaimed on November 1, 1954.

The initial success of the international strategy was marked by the participation of external figures in the 1955 Asian-African Conference. Additionally, the involvement of the student movement became an important part in promoting

international solidarity [6]. The participation of Algerian students (UGEMA/ *Union Générale des Étudiants Musulmans Algériens*) in the Asian-African Student Conference successfully gathered solidarity and moral support from Asian-African students from 27 countries and, of course, support from the Indonesian people and government [7].

The struggle for Algeria's internationalization became a grand strategy by leveraging its position in the midst of the Cold War. According to Connelly (2001), international strategy is a major strategy that supports diplomatic lobbying with mass demonstrations, media, and UN debates in the struggle for the Algerian revolution. Additionally, the holding of international conferences influenced the struggle for Algeria's internationalization [8]. The holding of the Asian-African Conference influenced the struggle for independence in African countries [9]. The Asian-African Conference became a historical solidarity of oppressed nations to help one another and deliver a decisive blow against exploitative powers, supporting and increasingly taking over the Algerian Revolution [10]. According to Grovogui (2016), the Asian-African Conference supported the right to self-determination for the Algerian people from France [11]. Asian and African countries were determined and served as the strongest supporters in opposing French colonialism and supporting the Algerian struggle [12].

The above description highlights the importance of international strategy in the Algerian liberation struggle. However, it is important to understand that the role of key figures was crucial in carrying out these activities. Therefore, this study aims to analyze how the roles of key figures influenced the direction of the Algerian independence struggle within the context of international relations and Asian-African solidarity during the period 1955–1962. This study will discuss (1) the participation of figures in the 1955 Asian-African Conference; (2) figures and their roles in the Algerian independence struggle; (3) the impact of the roles of Algerian figures on the Algerian independence struggle from 1955 to 1962.

## 2. RESEARCH METHOD

This research is historical research, which uses historical research methods to examine and critically analyze past events and records, as well as human activities, in a sequence of events and time frames [13]. This research uses a historical research method consisting of four stages, namely: (1) heuristics; (2) criticism; (3) interpretation; and (4) historiography.

In the heuristic stage, the author searches for sources to obtain information, data, and facts from several references in the form of books and scientific journals. The sources obtained are then classified into two types, namely primary and secondary sources. Primary Sources

The criticism stage aims to verify the accuracy of the information from the sources through internal and external criticism [14]. Internal criticism aims to review the accuracy

of the source's content, while external criticism reviews the validity of the sources used. The next stage is interpretation. In this stage, the author connects and relates historical facts that still lack meaning to form a cohesive whole.

The final stage of the historical research method is historiography. Historiography is the activity of presenting the final results in writing and communicating them to readers. Historiography is presented by reconstructing past events based on facts found imaginatively. Historiography is the final stage of the author's work to determine the overall results [15].

## 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### 3.1 PARTICIPATION OF FIGURES IN THE ASIAN-AFRICAN CONFERENCE OF 1955

The Algerian Revolution through international strategy was an important step in the liberation of Algeria. International strategy became the main focus of three external Algerian figures, namely Ahmed Ben Bella, Mohammad Khider, and Hocine Ait Ahmed, who were based in Cairo. The formation of the external delegation was also supported by Egyptian President Gamal Abdul Nasser [16]. The role of these external figures was to secure foreign support for the rebellion and obtain weapons, supplies, and funds for the regional commanders. However, after the formation of the National Liberation Front on November 1, the external delegation movement was responsible for the political direction of the Algerian revolution and the implementation of the international strategy outlined in the external objectives of the National Liberation Front.

The external objectives to be achieved were (1) the internationalization of the Algerian issue, (2) the achievement of North African unity within the Arab-Muslim framework, and (3) the affirmation of sympathy from all nations to support Algeria's liberation efforts in accordance with the United Nations Charter [17]. To achieve these objectives, a division of tasks was necessary. Ahmed Ben Bella was responsible for organizing trips to the Middle East and North Africa for the delivery of weapons, Mohammad Khider was responsible for the overall direction of FLN diplomacy, and Hocine Ait Ahmed organized activities in New York and at international conferences [18].

Algerian external figures immediately prepared themselves to participate in the upcoming Asian-African Conference. The participation of the delegation amid the rise of developing countries was expected to provide advantages in building coalitions with participating countries and revolutionary figures such as Jawaharlal Nehru, Soekarno, Gamal Abdul Nasser, Chou En Lai, and other revolutionary figures. Therefore, discussions regarding the participation of the Algerian delegation in the conference became a serious topic in Cairo.

Hocine Ait Ahmed was determined to carry out his plan to participate in the conference despite opposition from

Egyptian intelligence services. This was because the Egyptians wanted to keep the Algerian delegation under close surveillance and keep the movements of the external Algerian delegation secret. Additionally, the Egyptians believed that the Algerian uprising had not yet had a significant impact, unlike the struggles of neighboring countries such as Morocco and Tunisia. However, Hocine Ait Ahmed was determined to maintain his freedom of movement by any means necessary. The leadership of the "Algerian Revolution" belongs solely to the Algerians, stated Hocine Ait Ahmed [19].

The external delegation in Cairo was expanded by two members: Hocine Lahouel and M'hammed Yazid. They joined the external delegation, which previously consisted of activists from the MTLD [20]. M'hammed Yazid, who was eloquent and fluent in English, became a good collaborator for Hocine Ait Ahmed. Ultimately, Hocine Ait Ahmed and M'hammed Yazid would participate in the 1955 Asian-African Conference. However, Algeria's efforts to participate faced challenges from President Jawaharlal Nehru [21].

Hocine Ait Ahmed was one of the influential figures in Algeria's independence struggle. He had been involved in Algerian politics for a long time. He joined the PPA at the relatively young age of 16 in 1942, formed a military operation called the Organisation Spéciale (OS) in 1947, became a member of the MTLD in 1948, and a member of the CRUA. The CRUA changed its name to the National Liberation Front (Front de Libération Nationale/FLN) in October 1954. Subsequently, Hocine Ait Ahmed became one of the nine chefs historiques (historical leaders) who formed the National Liberation Front, which was proclaimed on November 1, 1954 [22]. Meanwhile, M'hammed Yazid, a member of the PPA who joined in 1945, was an activist fluent in English and joined the Algerian external delegation based in Cairo.

The political activities of Hocine Ait Ahmed and M'hammed Yazid, along with Hocine Ait Ahmed's strong determination, successfully brought the Algerian issue to the Asian-African Conference. Hocine Ait Ahmed and M'hammed Yazid were elected as representatives of the FLN, and the Algerian delegation, along with Tunisia (represented by Saleh Ben Yusuf) and Morocco (Allal el-Fassi), formed a joint delegation within the North African context and participated as observers [23].

Observer status is intended for countries that do not yet have diplomatic relations and have not yet recognized the struggle. For Algeria, joint struggle within North Africa is the only way to achieve internationalization of the Algerian issue. Therefore, the presence of the Algerian delegation at the Asian-African Conference is expected to gain the main benefit of recognition and support for the Algerian independence struggle.

Observer countries were given the opportunity to deliver speeches at the opening session of the conference. Representatives of the North African delegation spoke about

a joint memorandum with an appendix on Algeria. The memorandum requested the conference to support the right to self-determination of the Algerian people and called for the Algerian issue to be brought before the United Nations. In addition, the delegation also believed that the conference could adopt a resolution stating support for the right to self-determination and independence for Algeria [24]. Based on this memorandum, it is clear that the Algerian delegation had high hopes that the conference would support the Algerian people's struggle for self-determination to achieve independence.

The Algerian delegation's struggle at the 1955 Asian-African Conference brought benefits to the internationalization of the Algerian issue. According to M'hammed Yazid, Algeria's trip to Bandung had two objectives: to bring the Algerian issue to the international stage and to carry out a propaganda mission [25]. The Algerian delegation's struggle received moral support from delegations present at the conference, such as Indonesia, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Libya, Pakistan, Syria, and the People's Republic of China, which directly and indirectly opposed colonialism and supported North African countries, including Algeria's struggle against French colonization.

The Algerian issue gained international recognition through the final communiqué resolution of the Asian-African Conference [26]. The conference condemned violations of basic human rights in the fields of education and culture and other forms of cultural oppression. Additionally, the conference expressed support for the Algerian people's right to self-determination and urged the French government to resolve the issue as soon as possible without delay [27]. Furthermore, Algeria's struggle for independence received moral, political, and other forms of support from Asian and African countries through the Bandung Principles, which were adopted as shared principles and guidelines.

The participation of Hocine Ait Ahmed and M'hammed Yazid in the conference brought advantages to Algeria's struggle within the United Nations. According to M'hammed Yazid's report on international activities, the impact of the Asian-African Conference gave Algeria hope to appear at the 10th session of the United Nations General Assembly [28]. Algeria's struggle at the United Nations was pursued by Hocine Ait Ahmed and M'hammed Yazid by opening an FLN office in New York.

The prominent participation of Hocine Ait Ahmed and M'hammed Yazid in the Asian-African Conference in 1955 led to condemnation of French colonialism and a reminder of the situation in Algeria. This marked the establishment of international relations with Asia and Africa and continued participation in meetings held under its auspices. Efforts to strengthen Algeria's struggle were also made in the United States, a country influential in shaping international opinion, providing support at the United Nations, and advancing Algeria's propaganda efforts.

The internationalization of the Algerian issue also expanded into the student sphere. Students played a crucial role in carrying out propaganda missions and fostering international solidarity among students. Algerian students contributed to the Asian-African Student Conference held in Indonesia in May 1956. Algerian students also successfully established the FLN office in Indonesia as the first FLN representative office in Southeast Asia [29].

The hijacking of an aircraft carrying an external delegation had an impact on the international struggle. The role of Algerian leaders grew stronger after the formation of the Provisional Government of the Algerian Republic (GPRA) on September 19, 1958. Algeria's international strategy for independence strengthened its international mission with Asian and African countries and countries connected to the non-aligned movement. Additionally, Algeria's foreign policy shifted its focus from Western nations to communist countries to strengthen the Algerian independence struggle.

The GPRA's foreign policy decided to strengthen and expand friendships with the communist world. Within this framework, the government decided to build strong relations with communist Asia first in order to intensify our relations with various socialist countries in Europe [30]. Establishing relations with communist countries did not mean allying with this group, but was aimed at strengthening Algeria's struggle for independence in the face of the French government.

### 3.2 FIGURE AND THE ROLES IN THE ALGERIAN WAR OF INDEPENDENCE

The Algerian struggle for independence was inseparable from the role played by revolutionary figures. External delegations were tasked with carrying out international activities, including garnering moral and material support, expanding international relations, and pursuing diplomatic strategies in the interests of Algeria's struggle for independence.

#### 1. Hocine Ait Ahmed

Hocine Ait Ahmed was one of the influential figures in the Algerian independence struggle. His career in the Algerian revolutionary struggle began as one of the founders of the National Liberation Front (FLN), a pioneer of the international struggle, and one of the founders of the Algerian external delegation based in Cairo. Hocine Ait Ahmed carried out his duties as an external delegate by participating in conferences with the aim of bringing the Algerian issue to the United Nations. The first step he took was to participate in the Asian-African Conference in 1955, held in Bandung, Indonesia. Hocine Ait Ahmed's participation in the conference established good relations with the Asian-African bloc, which served as a sponsor for Algeria's struggle within the United Nations General Assembly and Security Council. Hocine Ait Ahmed became Algeria's delegate in New York to carry out his mission at the United Nations.

#### 2. M'hammed Yazid

M'hammed Yazid is an Algerian intellectual who is fluent in English. M'hammed Yazid joined the external delegation and carried out international activities and missions. Yazid also collaborated as an external delegate with Hocine Ait Ahmed to participate in the Asian-African Conference and was assigned together as the Algerian delegation for the UN mission in New York. M'hammed Yazid is skilled in English and a seasoned lobbyist who has established relationships with Asian-African countries, Latin America, and strengthened ties with the United States, including approaches with John F. Kennedy and other politicians [31]. In subsequent developments, M'hammed Yazid was appointed as Minister of Information for the Provisional Government of the Algerian Republic (GPRA) at the time of its declaration on September 19, 1958 [32].

#### 3. Abdelkader Chandlerli

Abdelkader Chandlerli joined Algeria's external delegation in Cairo in 1956 [33]. Abdelkader Chandlerli was assigned as an external delegate in New York in 1956 [34]. His duties included advocating for Algeria's issues at the UN, conducting propaganda through universities and the media, and lobbying opinion makers and politicians [35]. Abdelkader Chandlerli then took over the New York office and replaced Yazid as head of the Algerian information office in New York [36]. These efforts were aimed at maintaining contact with various parts of the UN, providing information and promoting public relations, contributing to the success in developing sympathetic support for the FLN.

#### 4. Mohammed Seddik Ben Yahia dan Lakdar Brahimi

The Algerian independence struggle was also supported by student groups. Mohammed Seddik Benyahia and Lakhdar Brahimi joined a student organization called the *Union Générale des Etudiants Musulmans Algériens* (UGEMA), which was formed in Paris in July 1955 [37]. Mohammad Siddik Benyahia served as the president of UGEMA based in Algiers. Lakhdar Brahimi was the vice president of UGEMA. UGEMA was a civil organization affiliated with the FLN, although not entirely under its control. UGEMA also became part of the FLN's struggle, which was declared at the second congress held in Paris as a commitment to fight French colonial occupation by implementing the FLN's global diplomacy and recognized as the exclusive representative of the Algerian people [38]. Students played a significant role in international activities. They also played a crucial role in the FLN's international lobbying efforts [39] and participated in fundraising for the FLN to support the independence revolution [40]. Mohammad Siddik Benyahia and Lakhdar Brahimi traveled to Indonesia to attend the Asian-African Student Conference held in 1956 [41]. This activity was part of the FLN's diplomatic strategy through its international mission in Southeast Asia.

### 3.3 THE IMPACT OF ALGERIAN LEADERS ON THE ALGERIAN WAR OF INDEPENDENCE, 1955–1962

The struggle of Algerian revolutionary leaders gave them an advantage in diplomatic strategy and in establishing international relations, in addition to their struggle through warfare. The participation of Hocine Ait Ahmed and M'hammed Yazid in the Asian-African Conference in 1955 had an impact on the development of relations between Algeria and Asian-African countries as well as non-aligned countries, and they actively participated in the activities carried out.

The struggle for Algerian independence was successfully addressed on the United Nations agenda. This advantage prompted Hocine Ait Ahmed and M'Hammed Yazid to immediately open an FLN office at 150 East 56th Street as the FLN's representative to carry out Algeria's struggle at the UN [42]. The lobbying efforts of external delegations toward Asian and African nations ultimately succeeded in bringing the Algerian issue onto the agenda of the 10th session of the UN General Assembly under the title "Question of Algeria," discussed on September 30, 1955. The struggle over the Question of Algeria was then regularly discussed every year, from the 10th to the 16th sessions of the UN General Assembly, until Algeria gained independence. Diplomatic efforts with Asian and African countries at the UN were made to produce a resolution on the Algerian issue.

The Algerian issue at the UN was consistently addressed through resolutions sponsored by Asian and African countries from the 11th to the 16th sessions of the UN General Assembly. The Algeria issue at the UN was consistently addressed through draft resolutions sponsored by Asian and African countries from the 11th to the 16th sessions of the UN General Assembly. Resolutions on the Algeria issue were successfully adopted at the 15th and 16th sessions of the UN General Assembly. The UN General Assembly adopted Resolution 1573 (XV) with a vote of 63 in favor, 8 against, and 27 abstentions on December 19, 1960, and Resolution 1724 (XVI) was adopted with a vote of 62 in favor, 0 against, and 38 abstentions on December 20, 1961, during the 16th session. Both resolutions supported the Algerian people's right to self-determination and called for continued negotiations between the two parties.

Relations with Asian-African and non-aligned countries brought the Algerian issue to the Brioni Conference, organized by three heads of state: Josip Bros Tito (Yugoslavia), Gamal Abdul Nasser (Egypt), and Jawaharlal Nehru (India), held on July 18–19, 1956 [43]. The Brioni Conference provided moral support for Algeria's struggle in accordance with the principles of non-alignment and the Bandung Principles. The conference firmly opposed French colonialism in Algeria and supported a fair and peaceful solution through negotiations and a ceasefire to resolve the conflict peacefully.

Student involvement in the Algerian independence struggle had an impact on moral support and solidarity among international students. The participation of Mohammed Seddik Benyahia and Lakhdar Brahimi in the 1956 Asian-African Student Conference successfully garnered support from 27 countries across Asia and Africa, strengthening solidarity against colonialism and influencing international opinion. Additionally, since the Asian-African Student Conference was held in Indonesia, support for Algeria's independence struggle was also voiced by the local community, including local students, farmers, and most importantly, direct support from President Sukarno. Direct support from the Indonesian government provided office facilities for the Algerian delegation residing in Indonesia as the first FLN office in Southeast Asia and as the Algerian representative office in managing and carrying out activities in Indonesia [44].

The conclusion of the conference gave Lakhdar Brahimi a new role as the FLN representative in Indonesia. This gave him the advantage of garnering moral support and propaganda through publishing *Algerian Bulletin*, collecting funds for Algerian needs, and establishing relationships with figures and society in Indonesia [45]. In the early 1957s, Lakhdar Brahimi received funding assistance through the Algerian Fund Committee which was formed in Indonesia. More interestingly, fundraising is utilized through "Oppression of the People show entitled Algeria" which took place at the Arts Building, Jakarta, succeeded in raising funds for Algeria, increasing a sense of solidarity, concern and as a medium for propagating the Algerian problem to Indonesian society [46]. Strengthening support from non-Asian African countries was also a concern of the Algerian Independence struggle. This was intended to support the Algerian independence struggle. Through the FLN office in New York, it facilitated Yazid's steps in lobbying American politician Henry Cabot Lodge (the American representative at the UN) and most phenomenally, approaching the famous politician John F. Kennedy to support the Algerian struggle in the United States Senate forum through his speech on July 2, 1957 [47]. This approach was expected to have an influence on the vote at the UN, although in fact it did not have much influence on the vote at the UN.

In addition, propaganda through leaflets and films was carried out intensively. The popular film "*L'Algérie en flammes*" produced in late 1957-1958, was broadcast throughout the Eastern Bloc and the Arab world. In preparation for the 12th session, Algerians distributed 50,000 copies of various propaganda publications [48]. Furthermore, financial assistance was obtained from the largest American labor union federation (AFL-CIO) as a means of channeling CIA funds to FLN refugee camps, and Abdelkader Chanderli's propaganda mission visited universities such as Dartmouth, Harvard, Princeton, and Columbia. These efforts resulted in solidarity initiatives from universities and associations that provided scholarships to Algerian students and established committees supporting the Algerian struggle

in 1959 [49]. One Algerian student who received a scholarship was Cherif Faidi through the Foreign Student Leadership Program organized by the National Association of American Students for one year. He arrived in the United States in November 1958, then went to New York and took an English language course at Columbia University. He occasionally visited the FLN office, managed by Abdelkader Chanderli [50].

The formation of the Provisional Government of the Republic of Algeria (*Gouvernement Provisoire de la République Algérienne*, GPRA) on September 19, 1958, brought a new dimension to the Algerian independence struggle through international strategy. The Minister of Foreign Affairs was responsible for Algeria's international strategy in Asia and Africa. Strengthening relations with African countries began with Ghana, a pioneer in the liberation struggle of African countries [51].

The solidarity of the Pan-African movement supported the Algerian struggle through major conferences such as the Conference of Independent African States held on April 15-22, 1958, the All-African People's Conference held in Accra, Ghana on December 8-13, 1958, the second All-African People's Conference held in Tunisia on January 25-31, 1960. Algeria also succeeded in sending a diplomatic mission in Africa by assigning Frantz Fanon as a GPRA delegate to Accra and Omar Oussedik leading a delegation in Conakry in 1960. The delegation also established offices in Ghana (Accra) and Guinea (Conakry) as important footholds for expanding the front campaign throughout Africa [52]. Close relations with African countries opened up good opportunities in the Algerian independence struggle at the UN. The French colonial African countries gained independence from the UN in 1960, a move taken advantage of by Abdelkader Chanderli to seek allies in the newly independent countries with the aim of supporting Algerian independence at the UN.

In Asia, the goals of international action were to strengthen relations with countries that adopted a non-aligned policy, build concrete alliances with countries like Indonesia, convene an Afro-Asian Conference on Algeria, and build a network of friendships with all Asian countries [53]. The Afro-Asian Solidarity Conference in Cairo, held from December 26, 1957, to January 1, 1958, became a forum for Asian-African countries to discuss the Algerian issue. March 30, 1958, was designated as Algerian Solidarity Day, with the aim of raising funds and supporting the Algerian Revolution.

Strengthening relations with Indonesia was pursued by Lakdar Brahimi (the FLN representative in Indonesia), who successfully established good relations with President Sukarno and political party leaders including the Indonesian Socialist Party (PSI), Nahdlatul Ulama (NU), the Indonesian National Party (PNI), and the Indonesian Communist Party (PKI) [54]. Campaign activities in Indonesia were carried out through an official visit by President Ferhat Abbas on January 19, 1961 [55]. This visit, in addition to establishing relations with Indonesian leaders, also yielded tangible results, namely

the provision of financial, material, and political assistance from Indonesia.

The Algerian struggle for independence was pursued through relations with non-aligned countries such as Yugoslavia. Following the good relations between Algeria and Yugoslavia at the Brioni Conference in 1956, Yugoslavia supported self-determination and participated in voting on the draft resolution of the 15th session of the UN General Assembly, which was ultimately adopted as Resolution 1573 (XV). Another positive aspect of the relationship was the participation of M'hammed Yazid, along with other Algerian delegates, in the Non-Aligned Nations Conference held in Belgrade, Yugoslavia, from September 1-6, 1961. The Conference granted de jure recognition to the Non-Aligned Movement (GPRA) from Afghanistan, Cambodia, Ghana, and Yugoslavia. Furthermore, the Belgrade Conference adopted a final resolution stating the commitment of the participating countries to provide support and assistance to Algeria.

Strengthening relations with communist countries was prioritized to support Algeria's struggle for independence. This relationship with communist countries was fostered by the United States' limited aid to Algeria. Furthermore, De Gaulle's rule encouraged America to support France's war against Algeria. Consequently, support from communist countries successfully resolved the military stalemate and other basic needs.

The GPRA traveled to China, North Vietnam, North Korea, and the Soviet Union in May-June 1960. They held important meetings with China and the Soviet Union in September and October. Within the framework of the United Nations (UN), Krim Belkacem (Vice President of the Council) and the delegation at the General Assembly made contact with nearly all the communist heads of state and government present in New York. The Minister of Finance also visited Eastern European countries. Algeria's relations with communist socialist countries benefited from China's recognition of the GPRA [56], followed by socialist Eastern European countries such as the Soviet Union in October 1960, Bulgaria on October 3, 1960, and Yugoslavia, the German Democratic Republic, and Czechoslovakia [57].

Communist countries actively provided support. The Algerian delegation signed a protocol of understanding with China during a May-June 1960 trip, covering the provision of aid in the form of foreign currency, basic equipment, war equipment, technical assistance related to the training of Algerian technicians, and an upgrade program for military students and technicians for volunteers [58]. Meanwhile, Ferhat Abbas signed a joint communiqué on October 5, demonstrating China's commitment to supporting Algeria's independence struggle and cooperation. China provided \$25 billion in supplies, weapons, food, and clothing [59].

The international strategy significantly benefited the Algerian struggle. Approaches with major powers,

propaganda campaigns, diplomatic missions, and other international missions promoted the struggle for self-determination at the UN. Relations with many countries provided strong support at the UN. Thirty-one Asian and African countries requested inclusion on the agenda of the 16th General Assembly on August 11, 1961. At this session, 34 sponsoring countries submitted a draft resolution, which was successfully adopted by the UN General Assembly by a vote of 62 to 0, with 38 abstentions, as resolution 1724(XVI) on December 20, 1961.

Resolution 1724(XVI) called on both parties to resume negotiations with the aim of realizing the Algerian people's right to self-determination and independence while respecting the unity and territorial integrity of Algeria. The adoption of this resolution prompted negotiations between the French and Algerian governments to expedite a resolution. Negotiations began in early 1961 and culminated in the signing of the Evian Agreement on 18 March, with a ceasefire taking effect on 19 March 1962.

The Evian Agreements provided for referendums in France and Algeria. On 8 April 1962, a referendum was held in France, with 90.81% of voters voting "yes" and 9.19% "no." Meanwhile, the referendum on Algerian independence and self-determination in Algeria began on 1 July 1962, with 99.7% voting "yes" and a voter turnout of 92 percent [60]. Independence was declared on 3 July, and 5 July was designated as the official date of Algerian independence, marking 132 years to the day since French troops first landed on Algerian soil.

#### 4. CONCLUSION

Algeria's struggle for independence from 1955 to 1962 took place not only through armed resistance within the country but also through a systematic and structured international strategy. This strategy was implemented by revolutionary figures who were members of the external delegation of the National Liberation Front (FLN) and student groups, who played a central role in building global solidarity and diplomatic support for Algerian independence.

Figures such as Hocine Ait Ahmed, M'hammed Yazid, Abdelkader Chanderli, and Lakhdar Brahimi capitalized on international momentum, such as the 1955 Asian-African Conference. The development of this international strategy fostered relations with Asian and African countries, as well as support from the Non-Aligned Movement and the Communist bloc, to internationalize the Algerian issue.

The international struggle proved crucial in pushing the Algerian Question onto the UN General Assembly agenda from 1955, ultimately resulting in the adoption of Resolution 1573 (XV) in 1960 and Resolution 1724 (XVI) in 1961, both of which affirmed the Algerian people's right to self-determination. These resolutions served as a crucial foundation for the negotiations between the French government and the GPRA (Provisional Government of the

Algerian Republic), culminating in the Evian Agreement and the independence referendum in 1962.

Thus, it can be concluded that the role of revolutionary figures, both diplomats and students, was a strategic force in the struggle for Algerian independence through international diplomacy. Their contributions not only expanded the network of global solidarity but also accelerated global recognition of the legitimacy of the Algerian people's struggle, ultimately leading to the legal and internationally recognized achievement of independence on July 5, 1962.

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