

BEN BELLA, BOUMEDIENNE AND THE REVISIONISTS

(Editor's Note: The following is our translation of an article which was published in the journal "La Voix Du Peuple", organ of the Communist Party of Belgium (M. L.). The story was filed by the Alger's correspondent, A. Hauwaert.

We wish only to add that we reject the utopian idea being dissiminated in some circles in Canada to the effect that the social revolution is a simple operation at the end of a straight road and the further erroneous opinion that once the colonialists are overthrown in areas such as Africa, the revolution, from there on, consists only of a steady stream of social reforms leading to the ultimate victory of socialism. The plain fact is that the socialist revolution, carried to its final victory, is a long, complex and often painful process. There will be joyous victories - there can also be temporary and bitter set-backs.

In no place is this more true than on the African Continent, just now rising out of several centuries of ruthless and savage repression at the hands of the imperialists.

It is imperative that our attitude toward the revolutionary struggle in Africa (as in all such struggles) should be studiously correct - not being carried away by successes or unduly pessimistic at retreats and temporary defeats; having at all times a sympathetic understanding of the enormous difficulties to be overcome; standing by with aid and vigorously opposing every attempt of the imperialists to re-impose their rule; and, above all, exercising every care not to interfere in the internal affairs of those who are rising out of bondage. It is in the interests of advancing these policies that we publish this translation for the information of our readers).

We hope that Colonel Boumedienne has had the time, and the opportunity, to read the revisionist press since the 19th of June. If so, he will have had a chance to appreciate the humour of the situation when he received, on July 14th, a message from Kosygin, congratulating him on his promotion to the post of Prime Minister. The President of the Council of Soviets wished his Algerian colleague success in his new undertaking for the benefit of the Algerian people. There is no doubt that this dispatch must have caused considerable embarrassment in the editorial rooms of "L'HUMANITE" and "DRAPEAU ROUGE" as they had not yet managed to make the inevitable and complete change of Tone.

In reality, the Algerian events have clearly demonstrated the lack of principle, the subjectivism, and the confusion that has characterized the politics of the Khrushchovites of all sorts. At the same time, they are engaging in intolerable interference in the internal affairs of other countries. Such is the practice of the Soviet leaders and of those parties which follow their directives.

First phase: Ben Bella lets himself be led around on a leash by the U. S. S. R. and Yugoslavia. He is surrounded by French and Algerian revisionists and Trotskyists. Every day he draws closer to the foreign policies of Moscow and Belgrade and allows the Trotskyists and Titoists to use Algeria as an experimental ground to try out their economic-political "theories". He is decorated with the Order of Lenin and they hail him as a champion of Socialism and suddenly the revisionist press is filled with unlimited admiration for him. He had refused to support until then.

Second phase: The 19th of June, Ben Bella is removed. Without waiting a single hour, the revisionist chorus start making a hell of a noise. L'UNITA, LE DRAPEAU ROUGE, L'HUMANITE, the Hungarian press and the radio transmissions from the Socialist countries all indignantly demand that the ex-president be freed and that Boumedienne surrender. This last man they call by every possible name; putchist, fascist, militarist, dictator, reactionary, etc.

Journalists who work for these papers discover "massacres", tell of "firing squads" and become indignant when they are ordered to return home. In Moscow, Sofia and Belgrade university students demonstrate against the Council of the Algerian Revolution; the very same places where, a short time ago, Vietnamese students were the victims of police repression when they attempted to demonstrate against American aggression in their country. The Soviet delegates to the international preparatory committee for the 9th Festival of Youth and students, forced a vote on a scandalous resolution that constituted open and unwarranted interference in Algerian affairs. In Algeria, the diplomatic personell of the Socialist countries that are under revisionist control worked feverishly assisting their local agents who were desperately trying to launch a counter-revolution.

Third phase: Contrary to their hopes and their plans, the revisionists have come to the realization that the Algerian people remain calm before all the Benbellist appeals and uproar. To the contrary, the Revolutionary Council is consolidating its position and have advised some diplomats and technicians to go and exercise their talents somewhere else. Moscow ponders a change of attitude - already in effect in Belgrade. But in Paris, Rome and Brussels, the Khrushchovists continue to follow the old line and point in triumph to the recognition of the Council of the Revolution by the U. S. A. - a recognition they announced three weeks before it happened, as proof of the reactionary nature of the events of the 19th of June.

Fourth phase: The retreat by the Soviet leaders draws closer. In Algeria, the proclamations and the initial acts of the Council of the Revolution give new hope to the masses. In the western revisionist press the "anti-Boumedienne" campaign slacks off - announcements take on an air of neutrality.

Fifth phase: Kosygin congratulates Boumedienne. The revisionists have lost the battle. They try to recapture lost time and positions. BY EVERY MEANS they have worked to return Ben Bella to power - pressure, smiles, various offers, attempts at corruption, infiltration, no trick is overlooked. After the failure of counter-revolutionary plots, they return to more flexible methods of interference.

When a political event occurs, a communist must discover the cause and examine the consequences. For this one must discard prejudice, preconceived ideas and sympathy and look only at the facts. In the case of Algeria, certain facts were clear: Ben Bella, over a period of time, had wandered from the revolution path and cut himself off from the masses. As for the orientation of the Council of the Revolution, it would be improper to venture too far on this subject. However, from the first hours, certain declarations by those responsible for the removal of Ben Bella reassured those who had confidence in the people and the Algerian Revolution. Bourgeois reaction was also symptomatic, as was also the campaign of the world

press which was designed to convince everyone that Algeria was a sea of fire and blood.

Ensuing developments confirmed the first diagnosis: the revolution survived without a "superman". For a Communist, the disappearance of one man, regardless of who he is, can never stop the forward march of the people. Even more so when the man, by reason of his attitude, has become a brake on the revolutionary struggle.

For all these reasons, we consider that the modifications introduced in Algeria on the 19th of June could have fortunate consequences for the revolution and the people of Algeria.

Furthermore, the Algerian people alone are the judge in this matter. The people properly choose their own government and it is impermissible for some one on the outside to impose on them a choice other than their own.

Nevertheless, the revisionists tried to do just that when they saw the man who had been doing their dirty work for them being pushed into the background. They did not wish to see their own man disappear from the scene. Without even a shred of proof, they claimed that Ben Bella had been ousted from power by a coup d'etat of the right in order to find a pretext for a systematic campaign to create panic, insecurity and tension inside Algeria.

Today it is Kosygin himself who extends wishes for great success to Houari Boumedienne. The "Drapeau Rouge" is most uncomfortable and reticent about it, does not dare publish the text of this message. (To date: also applicable to Canadian and Pacific Tribune. Editor)

We can be quite sure, however, that in this also the revisionists will soon have accomplished a complete turn. In a revisionist party, the backbone is very flexible. As for us, we will continue to demonstrate all our sympathy and our solidarity towards the revolution and the people of Algeria-the leaders, we can only judge by their actions.

On this subject, I have just learned with great interest, the contents of a speech by Houari Boumedienne on the occasion of the introduction of his government. I consider it important that the two objectives most strongly emphasized in this speech are: liquidation of the remnants of colonialism and consolidation of national independence. At the same time, the leader of the government gave his assurances, a number of times, of concrete support from Algeria for the national liberation movements. His serious appearance, the absence of demagogery, his clear and definite views on the industrialization of the nation, all of this contributes to the reinforcement of our confidence. In spite of the perils that no doubt still lie in wait, the Algerian revolution will surely triumph.

*L'Unita, D. R., L'Humanite are the papers of the revisionist Communist parties of Italy, Belgium and France, respectively.