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23 Aug. 55

Statement by Asian-African Group
(sent to D.H. by the Delegation of Lebanon)

With the Compliments of
The Delegation of Lebanon

to the
United Nations

BY ASIAN-AFRICAN GROUP

23 August 1955

Morocco put the total of deaths as a result of the bloody events of the week-end at 1,300. It is feared that this number will rise considerably as the bloodshed continues and as reports from isolated towns and villages are received. Press reports indicate that entire towns and villages have been obliterated by French armored columns and war planes. Such measures are not measures of repression alone but could, if allowed to continue, be tantamount to mass extermination. Vast zones in Morocco and Algeria where French military authorities are carrying out so-called reprisal measures have been declared "insecurity zones" and cut off from the rest of the country and the civilized world.

These bloody events have dealt a fatal blow to that propaganda myth which attempted to draw a distinction between Berber and Arab in the struggle of North Africa for freedom and national sovereignty. They have demonstrated the unity of the North Africans in their devotion to their country and leaders.

The Asian-African group believes that Morocco and Algeria can only serve the cause of freedom and justice as free and independent countries, rather than as countries held in bondage. Their continued subjugation can only lead to mounting unrest and violence and to tragic breaches of international peace.

The Asian-African Group wishes to draw once again the attention of world opinion to the extreme gravity of the situation in North Africa and to the urgency of finding a solution thereto in conformity with the wishes and aspirations of the North African peoples, in accordance with the principles of the United Nations Charter and the unanimous declaration of the Bandung Conference.

The Asian-African Group calls upon the United Nations to do their utmost to put an immediate end to the repressive measures being taken against a people whose only crime is to strive for a better life in freedom and dignity.

To that effect the Group has decided to despatch a deputation of seven of its members (Burma, Egypt, India, Iran, Iraq, Lebanon and Liberia) to call on the Secretary-General to draw his attention to the gravity of the situation which threatens international peace and security.

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