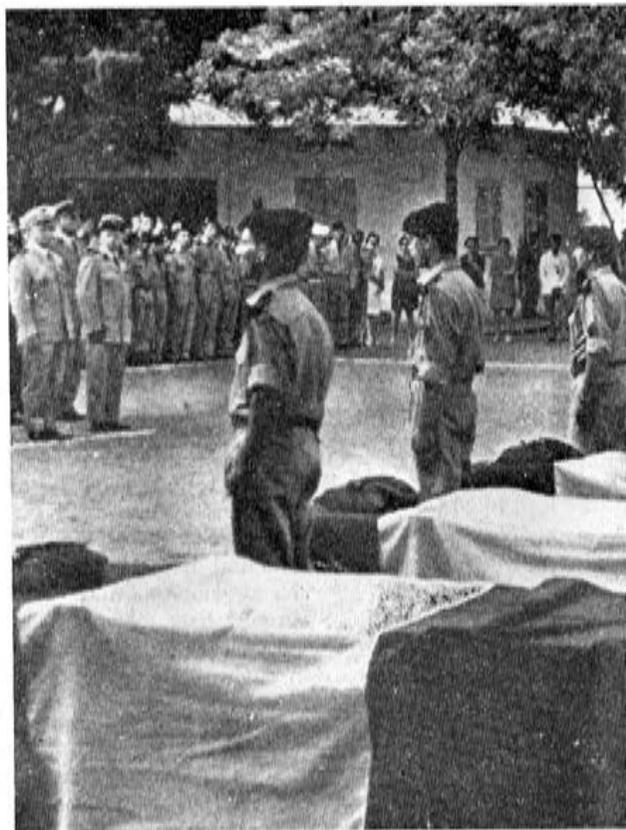


guerrilla fronts



REBELLION IN CHAD



THE burning political situation in Chad is demonstrated by the growing strength of the forces of the National Liberation Front of Chad (FROLINA) which operate in various regions of the country.

The news of the death of 12 French soldiers from the Sixth Overseas Army Regiment, 70 km to the west of Faya-Largeau, in the Bet (regions of Borkou, Ennedi and Tibesti) in the north-

ern zone of Chad, caused a strong reaction in the French press and violent debates in Parliament, where the opposition deputies attacked the Pompidou and Chaban-Delmas regime for their interventionist policy in French Africa.

French Military Intervention

The first armed intervention by France in Chad was an operation of





aerial transport of supplies between Fort-Lamy and Faya-Largeau in 1968.

The President of Chad, François Tombalbaye, requested this military aid from France on the basis of an agreement between the French metropolis and her former African colonies, authorized by the French Parliament on July 28, 1960 — that is, at the very moment when they granted them independence.

The dispatch of new reinforcements to Chad took place in April of 1969, shortly after the visit of the Secretary of State of the Presidency of France for Afro-Malagasy Affairs, Jacques Foccart, which took place in March of that year. Later, in the month of May, military materials were also supplied to the former colony.

According to what Léo Hamon, Secretary of State, stated before the French Prime Minister in reply to the attacks of opposition leaders, the French forces in Chad were composed of 1225 soldiers and 529 officers and subofficers, of whom 240 men were on an aerial base; and in the Sixth Overseas Army Regiment stationed at Fort-Lamy there were two Foreign Legion companies and two infantry companies (660 men in total) whose task it was to fight the rebellion; and 385 men for air transport reinforcements and helicopters and 529 officers and subofficers in a mission of technical assistance to the Chad forces.

Despite this aid, the Tombalbaye regime has not been able to smother the rebel uprising which has intensified its forces.

Tombalbaye, in a gesture motivated by his own initiative or "friendly suggestions" — one could not be sure which — declared on August 11: "I and I alone am the one that requested the French to come and restore order. Chad, actually, does not have the means to carry out alone the double action of pacification and administrative reform necessary."

Who Fights in Chad?

The Chad regime considers its opponents to be bandits. For some French spokesmen,

... the war in Chad is not exactly being carried out by revolutionaries, but rather by rebels, but to prolong it runs the risk that they may become revolutionaries, and France find itself then facing not nationalists who demand a government that responds to such aspirations with a little independence, but rather a more radical, more intransigent movement.

According to Dr. Abba Sidick, Secretary-General of FROLINA,

... the policy practiced up to now in Chad has been one of discrimination with respect to what is called the North.

The North forms a block of Islamic Arabic civilization. The Tombalbaye regime rejects this reality and tries to place in doubt its moral and spiritual values. There exists a discrimination in educational material, with the South 75% schooled while the figure in the North scarcely reaches 5%; all the administrative

and political posts are occupied by citizens from the South and the economic policy tends toward the exclusive development of the South. But we do not want any secession; there will be no new Biafra in Chad.

Thus Sidick maintains that,

... FROLINA is not a political party. It is a political-military organization which has a dual objective: to bring down the present regime in Chad by violence and immediately place in its stead a progressive, secular, people's regime. And although we do not, for the moment, have an exhaustive political program, we are working toward this.

If the rebel nucleus succeeds in consolidating itself as all latest events seem to indicate, it can bring France more serious problems than violent attacks by the opposition in Parliament, which probably will not be very agreeable after the experience of the "hot" month of May 1968, running the risk that the Tombalbaye regime may be toppled from power in the face of the impossibility — which it itself has declared — of containing the FROLINA forces alone.

An alternative is that the French soldiers may be replaced by "North American advisers."

One can never lose sight of the fact that what occurs in Chad is not completely devoid of interest to neighboring countries such as Sudan, Libya, Cameroon, Central-African Republic and even the Congo (K), whose regime supplies effective aid to Tom-

balbaye in his struggle against the rebels.

In this North to which Dr. Abba Sidick refers, the ethnic group known as the Toubous is concentrated, extending to the surroundings of Lake Chad and Koufra in Libya.

The Toubous, who give the impression of being delicate because they are thin, nevertheless have great resistance. During the winter they can walk for up to three days without taking water and they are accustomed to long marches. In a region where the heat reaches 50°C, the Toubous are extraordinarily agile, on the sand and on the rocks or climbing mountains. But the Toubou rebels operate not only in Bet but also in central and south Chad, in Oyaddai, Biltine, Abou Beia, Guera, Batha, Baher Salamat and some 70 km from Fort-Lamy.

The Presence of Kinshasa and Israel in the Chad War

On February 2, 1968, the creation of the Union of Central African States (UCAS) was announced, formed by Congo (K), Chad and the Central-African Republic (CAR), which withdrew on December 9 of the same year.

The creation of UCAS responds to the policy of US penetration in this region whose highest representative is Mobutu, who, in his turn, has in Tombalbaye a point for attack not only against such African countries as CAR, Sudan, Libya, Niger and Nigeria, but also against the rear guard of the Arab world.

US influence over the Chad regime is implicit in the declarations of Georges

Diguimbaye, Minister of Planning and Cooperation, who, on his return from Washington on July 2, 1968, stated: "Our relations with France are privileged but we understand that country cannot bear all the weight of Chad's development."

Given Tombalbaye's loyalty to UCAS, Mobutu last year agreed to the training by Israeli instructors of 200 young Chad citizens as paratrooper commandos. This group returned to Chad at the beginning of October 1969.

Congolese war equipment and soldiers have participated in operations against the rebels along with the French and the Chad army. It is known that two Congolese airplanes participated in one of the encounters and that in March of this year, during an aerial attack against the rebels in Salamat, they lost a helicopter and numerous soldiers.

The CIA also intervenes in this war through the military and security treaty that exists between the Congo (K) and the Republic of Chad. Through this channel, Tombalbaye has been "granted" a Haitian adviser. The presence of Israelis in this war is justified by the desires of Tel Aviv to weaken the rear guard of the Arab world. Some 50 foreign military advisers have been working in Chad since 1969, and one of them is the head of the Chad security forces.

Behind the support of the Israelis and the Congo (K) are the North Americans, who move their pawns within their strategy to supplant the former European metropolises in this region of Africa.

If the peoples of the three continents fight unswervingly against imperialism, colonialism and neocolonialism, headed by North American imperialism, they will be able to defeat any enemy, no matter how powerful.

First Tricontinental Conference, January 1966

REPUBLIC OF CHAD

AREA: 1 284 000 km².

GEOGRAPHY: Boundaries: Libya on the North, Sudan on the East, Central African Republic and Cameroon on the South and Southwest, Nigeria on the West. Elevations of 1500 meters to the East and 3400 to the North

POPULATION: 3 500 000 inhabitants according to the 1967 census.

Birthrate: 1.5%.

6000 strangers (almost all French).

3 inhabitants per km².

*PRINCIPAL CITIES: Fort-Lamy (capital) with 130 000 inhabitants
Fort-Archambault with 36 000 „
Moundou with 30 000 „
Abéché with 25 000 „
90% of the population lives in the plains,
forests and deserts.*

ETHNIC AND RELIGIOUS POPULATION:

- a) Muslim Arabs, Peuls, Ouadaïens, Baguirmiens, Kanembous and Toubous;*
 - b) Saras, Massas, Moundangs, Kotokos, Bondoumas, and Hadjarais, who are neither Muslim nor Catholic.*
- 50% Muslims, 45% Animists and 5% Catholics.*

ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION: 14 PREFECTURES

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <i>1) Chari-Baguirmi</i> | <i>8) Kenem</i> |
| <i>2) Mayo Kebbi</i> | <i>9) Batha</i> |
| <i>3) Moyen-Chari</i> | <i>10) Guera</i> |
| <i>4) Logone Occidental</i> | <i>11) Ouaddaï</i> |
| <i>5) Logone Oriental</i> | <i>12) Biltine</i> |
| <i>6) Tandjilé</i> | <i>13) Borko-Ennedi-Tibesti</i> |
| <i>7) Salamat</i> | <i>14) Lac</i> |

POLITICAL PARTIES:

There is only one party, the Progressive Party of Chad (PPT), and one central trade union, the National Union of Chad Workers (UNATRAT).