

## ALGERIAN DIPLOMACY IN AFRICAN LIBERATION 1962-1965

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**Abstract:** The Algerian diplomacy during and after the revolution held a distinguished position on both the continental and global stages. It played a crucial role in empowering Africa to free itself from the remnants of European colonialism, offering support to liberation movements through various means, both material and moral. This assistance was particularly evident in countries under Portuguese control. The active efforts of Algerian diplomacy were prominently displayed in the corridors of the United Nations, where its actions became a testament to its significant contributions to the decolonization process.

**Keywords:** The Liberation Revolution, Algerian Diplomacy, European Colonialism, The United Nations, Self-Determination.

### LA DIPLOMATIE ALGÉRIENNE DANS LA LIBÉRATION AFRICAINE 1962-1965

**Résumé :** La diplomatie algérienne durant et après la révolution a occupé une position distinguée tant sur la scène continentale qu'internationale. Elle a joué un rôle crucial dans l'émancipation de l'Afrique vis-à-vis des vestiges du colonialisme européen, apportant son soutien aux mouvements de libération par divers moyens, tant matériels que moraux. Cette assistance a été particulièrement manifeste dans les pays sous contrôle portugais. Les efforts actifs de la diplomatie algérienne se sont révélés avec éclat dans les couloirs des Nations Unies, où ses actions témoignent de ses contributions significatives au processus de décolonisation.

**Mots-clés :** La Révolution de la Libération, Diplomatie algérienne, Colonialisme européen, Les Nations Unies, Droit à l'autodétermination.

### Introduction

Since the beginning of the Algerian Revolution, leaders focused on political and diplomatic initiatives, forming an external delegation and attending the 1955 Afro-Asian Conference in Bandung to advocate for their cause. By 1958, the Provisional Government actively participated in international forums, especially the United Nations, to push for Algeria's independence, which was achieved in 1962. Algerian diplomacy also supported other colonized nations in Africa, particularly those still under Portuguese rule. To answer this question, the historical method has been employed, particularly in its analytical aspect,

which elucidates the historical background that led the colonial power to adopt heavy-handed economic and social policies, severely impacting the land and its people. Furthermore, the study examines the resistance, focusing on what was imposed on the Angolan people during both the monarchical and dictatorial republican periods. Narrative analysis was also incorporated, particularly in highlighting the stances that Algeria and its diplomacy took in support of struggling nations in Africa. This approach helps illustrate the active role Algeria played in offering aid and solidarity to liberation movements across the continent. This study relies on the analytical historical approach to elucidate the extent of support provided to liberation movements. It also employs a comparative analysis of Algeria's efforts in supporting the liberation movements in both Angola and Mozambique in their struggles for independence.. Algerian diplomacy supported liberation movements both locally and internationally, advocating for the right of peoples to self-determination in international conferences and at the United Nations. This commitment to the freedom of peoples remains a fundamental principle of Algeria's foreign policy. To what extent did Algerian diplomacy contribute to the independence of African peoples? Upon Algeria's restoration of sovereignty in 1962 and driven by a firm commitment to ending European colonial rule across Africa, Algeria extended comprehensive support to African liberation movements, particularly those under Portuguese occupation. Its diplomacy became intensely focused on achieving this objective. This research aims to critically investigate Algeria's diplomatic contributions and involvements in global platforms and its direct support for nations in their quest for independence, emphasizing its dedication to the broader cause of decolonization and the right to self-determination for African peoples.

### **1. Historical Background and the Emergence of National Resistance**

In the late 15th century, the Portuguese arrived on the African coasts and established trading posts, initiating their exploration of the continent in preparation for eventual domination (Al-Rifai,1962:22). However, by the late 19th century, the \*Berlin Conference\* of 1884-1885 was convened, which laid the groundwork for the formal colonization of Africa by European powers. Portugal found itself increasingly isolated, with its colonies shrinking over time. Following the military coup of 1926 against the Portuguese republican regime, Emperor Salazar came to power, establishing an absolute dictatorship that lasted until 1974 (Bakkai, 2017:56). Salazar exploited the wealth and resources of the colonies, particularly in Angola and Mozambique, where he subjected the local populations to exploitation and enslavement. (Labeeb, 1972:192). Under these conditions, a class of educated locals emerged, rejecting colonial policies and demanding improved social conditions for the indigenous population. In response, the colonial authorities resorted to arrests, imprisonment, and unfair trials (Al-Mujahid,1961:16). National protests intensified and spread across various sectors, including professionals, artisans, and railway workers, resulting in increased violence from colonial police. In response, several nationalist parties emerged, including the \*People's Party of Angola\*, the \*Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola\*, and the \*Angolan Liberation Movement\*, starting in 1955(Al-Tawir, 1998:199). Given the spread of nationalist consciousness and the wave of liberation

movements across Africa and the Third World, the Angolan nationalist movement, particularly under the leadership of Agostinho Neto, was positively influenced. Neto visited numerous countries in Europe and the Americas, seeking political support for Angola's liberation.

The military aspect of the resistance also evolved, with a focus on guerrilla warfare and swift attacks on colonial forces and their positions in both urban and rural areas. In response, the Portuguese army reacted with extreme violence and brutality, killing, burning, and destroying entire villages (Al-Mujahid, 1961:113).

The echoes of the Angolan popular revolution reached the Mozambican resistance, which also adopted armed struggle, particularly through the Mozambican Liberation Front (FRELIMO), established in 1962 (Lugan, 2016:198). The Mozambican revolution succeeded in inflicting significant damage on the interests of the Portuguese occupier (Rishard, 2002: 420). Indeed, the armed revolutions in both Angola and Mozambique managed to inflict significant material and military damage on the Portuguese occupation, plunging Portugal into the turmoil of the collapse of its colonial empire. This downfall was further accelerated by African support for these resistance movements, notably from countries like Algeria (Al-Mujahid,1961:13)

## **1. An Overview of President Ahmed Ben Bella's Character and His Political and Revolutionary Activities: 1918-1965**

Ahmed Ben Bella was born at the end of the second decade of the twentieth century. He experienced a difficult childhood due to his family's socio-economic conditions. Despite these challenges, he enrolled in school and attended a religious school simultaneously (Al-Jamal, 2002:840) He later attended high school in the city of Tlemcen, where he observed the disparities between Algerians and the French. This experience led him to discontinue his studies and fostered a strong sense of national consciousness within him. Young Ben Bella was influenced by the ideas of the Algerian People's Party (PPA), which advocated for the Algerian people's right to freedom and independence (Harbi,1994:186.) Ahmed Ben Bella enlisted in compulsory military service shortly before World War II, where he actively participated and earned a medal for his efforts. This experience not only bolstered his self-confidence and commitment to defending the rights of the oppressed but also provided him with the military expertise he would later need (Al-Safi, 2012:130-142). Upon returning to Algeria, Ben Bella became aware of the brutal May 1945 massacres by French occupiers against unarmed Algerians. This realization drove him to political activism, leading the Special Organization (OS) from 1948 to 1949 in secret preparations for revolution. He participated in the Oran postal office attack, which led to his arrest. Ben Bella escaped in 1952 and fled to Cairo. In Cairo, Ben Bella connected with Arab nationalists and advocated for revolution against European colonialism (Harbi, 1994:186). With the 1954 revolution's outbreak, he became a key leader abroad, seeking financial and media support. He was arrested after a plane hijacking on October 22, 1956, and imprisoned in France until the ceasefire on March 19, 1962. Afterward, he opposed the provisional government led by Ben

Youssef Ben Khedda, leading to elections for the National Constituent Assembly, in which he was elected President of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria in September 1962.

After independence, he established an Algerian government to protect the interests of the people (Bouhouch, 2012:336.). Externally, he aimed to create a revolutionary dimension in foreign relations through three main approaches: supporting liberation movements globally, fostering good relations with Arab and African nations, and aligning with the socialist bloc against global imperialism (Malaim, 2017:57.) President Ben Bella's foreign policy was evident in Algeria's early accession to the United Nations on October 8, 1962. In his accession speech, he highlighted Algeria's strategic position within the Maghreb, Arab world, and Africa, advocating for positive neutrality and support for global liberation efforts (Lounissi, 2011:132). His active participation in the Addis Ababa Conference on May 26, 1963, which focused on the Organization of African Unity, further underscored this commitment. At the conference, he called for solidarity with African nations still under European colonial rule, particularly in Portuguese Guinea and Mozambique. (Stora, 2012:27). The article will elaborate on the racial oppression inflicted upon the black population in South Africa. The role of Algeria and President Ben Bella in addressing these injustices will be discussed in detail in the subsequent sections.

## **2. Roots of Algeria's African Policy:**

Algerian-African relations have a long history that predates Algeria's independence, rooted in cultural, religious, and commercial interactions. The shared African identity and resistance to colonialism fostered solidarity among various national movements. As colonial powers vied for control, African nations collaborated to pursue liberation from colonial rule. The successes of the Algerian revolution inspired many Africans under colonial rule, energizing their liberation movements and creating a favorable environment for armed struggle. This wave of liberation, fueled by Algeria's reputation and the desire for freedom, unsettled colonial powers as revolutions broke out against French, British, Belgian, and Portuguese occupations across the continent. Many African liberation movements drew inspiration from the Algerian revolution, seeing it as a practical model for achieving independence from colonial rule. They sought guidance from Algeria on organizing and structuring their movements to launch their own revolutions similarly. Starting in 1957 (Stora, 2012:28), the leadership of the Algerian revolution received an increasing number of communications from these African movement leaders. The year 1958 was pivotal for African national movements, especially for Angolan nationalists and Algerian revolutionaries. During the first African conference in Accra, Ghana, from April 15 to 22, the Algerian cause was framed as an African issue, and the conference highlighted the progress of liberation movements, including Angola. Resolutions expressed solidarity with the Algerian people and all African nations fighting for freedom. Following this, a delegation from the Provisional Government of Algeria, led by Mohamed Ben Yahia and Mohamed Allal, participated in a conference in Monrovia, Liberia. The conference from August 4 to 8, 1959, marked a new phase of material and moral support for the Algerian revolution from Africa. Many leaders of African liberation movements recognized that the Algerian struggle would significantly

impact the continent's future (Markaz Dirasat al-Wahda al-Arabiya, 1987:229.). The head of the Algerian delegation highlighted the African dimension of the struggle, stating, "What is happening today in Algeria is merely a challenge to the development of the liberation movement in Africa." (Al-Mujahid, 1959:3). This emphasized the interconnectedness of national liberation efforts and the collective aspiration for independence from colonial rule. The Algerian provisional government supported liberation efforts beyond African conferences. At the Non-Aligned Movement's founding conference in September 1961 in Yugoslavia, Algeria's revolution received significant attention. Leaders from the Angolan liberation movement met with the Algerian delegation to discuss support and cooperation. Roberto Holden, president of Angola's National Front for the Liberation of Angola, announced that Algeria would assist and train operatives for their struggle. This collaboration highlighted the solidarity among African liberation movements and reinforced Algeria's role in the fight against colonialism.

The African dimension was central to the charters of the Algerian revolution. The Tripoli Charter stressed the importance of supporting liberation movements and combating imperialism in the Arab world and Africa. It noted that Algeria's liberation war had accelerated decolonization across the continent and affirmed Algeria's duty to assist nations genuinely seeking freedom, especially in Angola, South Africa, and East Africa. This commitment underscored Algeria's leadership in the African liberation struggle and its dedication to independence (Labeeb,1976:200.).

After independence, Algeria's leaders focused on African liberation, as promised during the revolution. Algerian diplomacy supported liberation movements, seeing its own independence as incomplete until other colonized nations were free. The 1963 Constitution affirmed Algeria's integral role in the Maghreb, Arab world, and Africa. The 1964 Charter of Algiers emphasized solidarity among revolutionary movements and the importance of armed struggle for national sovereignty. This underscores Algeria's commitment to the African liberation cause and the interconnectedness of anti-colonial struggles across the continent (Al-Nusus al-Asasiya li Thawrat November 54, 2008:101-102). President Ben Bella reaffirmed Algeria's commitment to African unity and support for liberation movements in his inaugural speech at the Constituent Assembly, just before leading the country's first government after independence. He emphasized Algeria's African identity (Journal officiel,1963:889) and its obligation to contribute to African unity, achievable only through the independence of all African nations (Al-Safi, 2012: 17). On October 5, 1962, as Algeria prepared to join the United Nations, Ben Bella declared that Algeria's voice would be heard from now on in African and international arenas. He stressed that "on the day of its acceptance into the United Nations, Algeria cannot forget its brothers in South Africa and Angola... and is ready to show solidarity with all countries still under colonial rule." (AL-Safi, 2012:27)

In his address to the United Nations General Assembly on October 9, 1962, President Ben Bella specifically mentioned Angola, pledging that Algeria would make every effort to support its independence (Al-Safi, 2012:35). During a meeting with President Kennedy, he informed his American counterpart that Algeria would give the United Nations until 1963 to

act on the Angola issue. If no solution was found, Algeria would "take responsibility and assist liberation movements in their armed struggle, including sending volunteers and technicians and funding this war and struggle" (Cancela, 2014:63-64). This reflects Algeria's commitment to not only its own liberation but also to the broader African liberation movement, positioning itself as a key player in the fight against colonialism across the continent.

### **3. The Algerian Approach to African Liberation Issues:**

From the very moment of its independence, Algeria focused its foreign policy on the principle that "liberation issues are indivisible." In line with the concept of "unity of battlefields," Algeria actively supported independence movements and the revolutionary aspirations of nationalistic and patriotic groups in their struggle against colonial and dictatorial regimes. Given its geographical proximity, and recognizing that all African nations had suffered under European colonialism, Algeria designated the African continent as the primary arena for its support. After becoming head of government, President Ben Bella pledged to provide material and diplomatic support to Angola until its independence, stating, "we will send volunteers if needed". (Al-Safi, 2012:27:44, 53). He linked Algeria's success to Angola's victory, warning that failure would undermine their efforts. He compared Angola's struggle to the "Arab Palestinian cause," urging Arabs to support it and invest resources in Africa rather than in America and Europe (Al-Safi, 2012:146), viewing the continent as their strategic and security domain. President Ben Bella actively supported liberation movements in Africa and Latin America after Algeria's independence, transforming the country into a key hub for African nationalist movements. Algeria provided refuge and training for various groups, including factions from Angola and Mozambique, the Palestinian Liberation Organization—Fatah, the Black Panthers, and the African National Congress, as well as those opposing South American dictatorships. (Cancela, 2014:57-58). Algerian weapons reached countries like Bolivia, Colombia, and Argentina, and supported "Lumumba" groups in Congo. Algeria also maintained strong ties with Guinean President Ahmed Sékou Touré (Al-Safi, 2012: 130-142) and Tanzanian President Julius Nyerere, who famously refused to visit Algeria while Ben Bella was imprisoned (Khalifa, 1985:219). Algeria, under Ben Bella, supported nations under Portuguese colonial rule by donating 100 million francs and providing refuge, funding, arms, and training to six countries: Angola, Congo, Mozambique, Portuguese Guinea, South Africa, and Namibia. Ben Bella reaffirmed this commitment in a speech, urging African nations to follow Algeria's example, stating, "We know colonialism; it understands only the language of arms and violence." (Al-Mujahid, 1962:9).

### **4. Algeria Office: A Gateway for the People's Movement to Define Its Cause**

In line with the commitments made by the provisional government to support liberation movements across the continent, Ben Bella's government quickly invited numerous leaders of nationalist movements from across Africa to visit Algeria following independence. During these visits, there were exchanges of perspectives aimed at enhancing cooperation and coordination to secure independence for African colonies. Amid pressures from colonial

powers that led to the expulsion of leaders and restrictions on activities, Algeria became a sanctuary for many liberation movements. This refuge was crucial as awareness of colonial presence in Africa grew, especially after the provisional government appointed a special advisor on African affairs. Given its prior knowledge, establishing an office for a liberation movement in a country provides the political and diplomatic cover necessary for its operations. This was a reality experienced by the Algerian liberation movement through its representations in various friendly nations, as well as through the establishment of the provisional government on September 19, 1958. The Algerian authorities began to provide offices in Algiers for numerous African liberation movements. In this context, an office for the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola was inaugurated in February 1963 on Didouche Mourad Street in Algiers, attended by Algerian officials and supportive diplomats from the Soviet Union, China, Czechoslovakia, and Bulgaria. Algeria was selected over other capitals due to its commitment to assist Angola's liberation and the close ties between Ben Bella and some of its leaders (Alves, 2013:67). On another note, the capital city of Algiers housed the headquarters of the "National Liberation Front," which brought together several anti-fascist movements fighting against the Salazar regime in Portugal. Algeria welcomed numerous opponents and political exiles, providing them with material and logistical support to overthrow the regime and end Portuguese colonial presence in Africa (Cancela, 2014:59).

Algeria offered refuge to leaders of the Angolan Unity Front (FUA) after they faced repression and arrests. Struggling for funds, FUA leader Daskalos relocated the group to Algeria in January 1963, a center for African nationalist movements. The Algerian president provided jobs and housing, especially in education. However, tensions arose between the predominantly white leadership of the Unity Front and the favored People's Movement for the Liberation of Angola. Suspicions about FUA member Gastão's alleged CIA ties further damaged the front's credibility, leading to its dissolution and the suspension of its exile committee's activities (Cancela, 2014:62-63). The office of the People's Movement in Algeria significantly raised awareness of the Angolan cause and mobilized public and official support. This was evident through festivals and demonstrations, including a solidarity festival in Oran that drew about 200,000 demonstrators. The success of this event was supported by various national organizations and the Federation of the National Liberation Front Party, all expressing solidarity with the Angolan struggle (Deffarge, 1972:6-7). In late 1963, a major rally supporting the Angolan cause was attended by Defense Minister Houari Boumédiène and Deputy Prime Minister Rabah Bitat. Boumédiène reaffirmed Algeria's support while acknowledging the government's delicate position, stating that "the purge will take place, but in due time." (Al-Mujahid, 1963:7). Bitat expressed solidarity with the Angolan people, emphasizing that the purge would not be an act of vengeance and that it would be implemented at the appropriate time.

#### ***4.1 Military and Financial Support***

Several African movements, particularly those opposing Portuguese colonialism, received military, logistical, and financial assistance from Algeria. Among these were the People's Movement for the Liberation of Angola, the Angolan Independence Movement, the

Mozambican FRELIMO Front, and the African Party for the Independence of Guinea and Cape Verde. In addition to military training, some permanent representative offices for these movements were established in the Algerian capital. According to certain reports, Algeria allocated half a million francs per month to support these movements (Al-Mujahid, 1963:12). Ben Bella advised Angolan nationalists attending the eighth anniversary of the Algerian revolution that armed struggle was essential for freeing Angola from Portuguese rule. In November 1962, he met in Algiers with leaders of the People's Movement for the Liberation of Angola, including Mário Pinto de Andrade and Lúcio Lara, to discuss supporting (Alves, 2013:59-60) Angola's fight against colonialism. He emphasized Algeria's commitment to the cause and privately told Holden Roberto of the National Front for the Liberation of Angola, "Only with a weapon in hand can Angola be liberated." (Jornal de Angola, 2024). About six months after discussions with Angolan leaders, the Angolan Front received 15 million francs in financial support from Algerian authorities and the public, facilitated by lawyer Jacques Vergès. Tizi Ouzou residents contributed over 5 million francs, plus another 3 million for weapons (Cancela, 2014: 64). Algeria set up training camps for Angolan and Mozambican fighters (Cancela, 2014:66), led by Colonel Mokhtar Karkab, focusing on guerrilla tactics and sabotage. Additionally, Algeria sent officers for training in Angola and Mozambique (Bakkai, 2017:86), and a July 1964 agreement with the Republic of Congo established a military base in Pointe-Noire for the People's Movement for the Liberation of Angola (Cancela, 2014:64).

The Front secured commitments for transporting boats with medicine and weapons through Congo, along with a delivery of a truck, two Jeeps, and a Peugeot 403 filled with arms. Algeria also sent a cargo ship with weapons to Brazzaville in late September 1964 and, in mid-November, an Algerian aircraft delivered three trucks of aid supplies to western Uganda (Bakkai, 2017:87). Through Algeria's support in training and arming its fighters, the People's Movement for the Liberation of Angola was able to enter a new phase in its struggle against Portuguese colonialism. The movement began launching armed attacks, through which it successfully gained control over large parts of the Cabinda region. This military victory allowed the movement to assert its presence and secure political gains, notably being recognized in 1964 as a national movement in Angola alongside the government-in-exile (GRAE). Additionally, it began receiving aid from the Liberation Committee of the Organization of African Unity, of which Algeria was a member (Byrne 2016:254).

#### ***4.2 Diplomatic Support: Bringing the Angolan Cause to International Platforms***

Algeria's involvement extended beyond material support, actively raising the Angolan issue in international forums like the United Nations, OAU, Non-Aligned Movement, and Group of 77. These platforms helped raise awareness, rally support, and issue resolutions against Portuguese colonialism, with Algeria aiming to internationalize the Angolan struggle. At the OAU's founding meeting in Addis Ababa from May 22-25, 1963, Algeria's pan-African commitment was clear, with leaders from various liberation movements present. Ben Bella emphasized Algeria's focus on supporting Angola through financial aid, arms, volunteers, and establishing a committee to boycott Portuguese products. (Al-Tawir, 1998:203.) The

impact of the Algerian president's speech at the founding conference of the Organization of African Unity, held from May 22-25, 1963, in Addis Ababa, was profound. After some African leaders proposed the establishment of African banks, Ben Bella responded, "Why don't you look for ways to create banks of blood to liberate your land? In other words, how can we free Angola, Zimbabwe, and Namibia?" (Cancela, 2014:65) This powerful statement resonated deeply, emphasizing the importance of prioritizing the liberation of African nations from colonial rule over economic development at that critical moment. Algeria's role in the African Liberation Committee was pivotal at the founding conference in Ethiopia, where it helped establish the Charter of the Organization of African Unity. This charter aimed to promote independence and combat colonialism (Al-Safi, 2012:146). Algeria gained trust and a seat on the Coordination Committee for the Liberation of Africa, crucial for supporting liberation movements. (Ata Allah, 2002:440). President Ben Bella was instrumental in establishing the Coordination Committee for the Liberation of Africa during the Addis Ababa Conference. Known as the "Committee of Nine," it included Algeria and eight other countries. This committee played a crucial role in supporting liberation movements across the continent, particularly in Angola, through a special fund provided by its member states.. (Markaz Dirasat al-Wahda al-Arabiya, 1987:267) Algeria's support for African liberation movements enhanced its influence within the Organization of African Unity. Algerian representatives held prominent roles in meetings and conferences, gaining respect for their revolution from many Africans. This influence positively impacted liberation issues across the continent, especially regarding the Angolan cause (Ata Allah, 2002:443).

#### ***4.3 Media and Intellectual Support***

The Voice of Freedom Radio (FPLN), broadcasting in Portuguese from Algeria between 1963 and 1974, was crucial in promoting the Angolan cause. Managed by Portuguese exiles, including poet Manuel Alegre (Markaz Dirasat al-Wahda al-Arabiya:252), and supported by the Algerian government, the station aired programs three times a week aimed at Portugal and its African colonies. (Alegre, 2024) The station's broadcasts exposed racist practices and highlighted the achievements of Angolan nationalists, including interviews with António Agostinho Neto, leader of the People's Movement for the Liberation of Angola. It also reported on anti-government activities and protests in Portugal, aiming to incite Portuguese soldiers' families against the Lisbon government and contribute to the destabilization of the authoritarian regime (Ribeiro, 2020). The newsletter from the People's Movement for the Liberation of Angola was vital in rallying support and raising awareness for the Angolan cause. It helped enhance the movement's image in several African countries, especially Morocco and Tanzania (Alves, 2013:67), following a campaign against it in June 1963 that led to the closure of its offices and clinics. The movement was banned (Kambuta, 1974:12) in Kinshasa, many leaders were imprisoned, and Zairian authorities obstructed supplies to fighters in Angola (Cancela, 2014: 66). In 1964, Algeria established the Angolan Studies Center on Dujunchai Street to document the Angolan revolution and educate fighters and refugees. The center published newsletters in Portuguese that focused on cultural and ideological training, as well as the history of the national movement. It also aimed to highlight

the oppression faced by the Angolan people under Portuguese rule, seeking to draw international attention to their situation (Deffarge, 1972:6-7).

Algeria faced significant criticism for its steadfast support of the Angolan national movement, with detractors accusing it of meddling in Portugal's internal affairs by inciting revolutions in its colonies. This backlash extended to satire, as cartoonists mocked Algeria's actions, with one notable cartoon stating, "White Algeria has become Red Algeria." Others raised alarms about the potential consequences of Algeria's policy, using slogans like "The infection center is at our doorstep." (Cancela, 2014:65) Diplomatic tensions between Algeria and Portugal escalated to a breaking point due to the presence of the People's Movement for the Liberation of Angola in Algeria and Portugal's refusal to relinquish its colonies. In 1964, these tensions culminated in Algeria severing ties with Lisbon in May, alongside a boycott of 150 Portuguese economic products. (Maurel, 2010:195) Algeria played a significant role in supporting the Angolan national movement, as highlighted by Mr. Luís Neto Kiambiata, assistant to the Angolan President, during the International Conference on Colonialism in Algeria. He expressed gratitude for Algeria's historical support for freedom fighters and its assistance to Angola during its struggle against colonialism, emphasizing the solidarity shared between the Algerian and Angolan peoples in their fights for independence. After independence, the friendship was further strengthened. Many Angolan cadres were trained here in Algeria, and they participated in the struggle for independence. I must once again congratulate the Algerian people for the assistance they provided us..." (Kiyambiata, 2007: 160)

### **Conclusion:**

The diplomacy of the independent Algerian state was deeply rooted in the momentum of its own liberation revolution and the principles forged through its armed struggle against colonial occupation. Central to this diplomatic stance was a steadfast belief in defending the rights of peoples to liberation and independence. This commitment drove Algeria to provide full support to various liberation movements, particularly those in Africa, which were resisting European colonization—a system that had exploited the continent for centuries. In confronting the colonial powers, Algeria aimed to challenge their policies of ongoing plunder and the depletion of Africa's resources, which had left the continent's peoples to suffer from the dangerous "trio" of underdevelopment: exploitation, impoverishment, and political instability. Algerian diplomacy consistently emphasized these positions in every international forum it participated in, notably at the United Nations General Assembly. There, Algeria reaffirmed its political support for these movements and called for all possible measures to punish the occupying powers, especially Portugal. Furthermore, Algeria extended material and financial aid to these liberation movements, enabling them to acquire weapons and supplies necessary to continue their struggles for independence. These positions were echoed by many African leaders after their own countries achieved independence, with particular emphasis during the presidency of the late Ahmed Ben Bella, when Algeria's diplomatic approach became a key element in the broader African liberation movement.

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