TUNIS CRISIS IS PUT TO MENDES-FRANCE
By HENRY GINIGERSpecial to The New York Times.
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Aide Sends Plea as Gaullists Ask Neo-Destour to Join Paris Against Terrorists

By HENRY GINIGER
Special to The New York Times.

PARIS, Nov. 17—The French Minister for Tunisian and Moroccan Affairs was understood to have talked by telephone today with Premier Pierre Mendès-France in efforts to break a French-Tunisian deadlock over peace in the protectorate.

Christian Fouchet, the Minister, was reported to have called the Premier, who arrived in Washington tonight from Ottawa, at the suggestion of the Gaullist Parliamentary group. M. Fouchet is a member of that group.

The chief bone of contention between the French and the Tunisians was the activity of fellagha terrorist bands operating in isolated regions of the French protectorate and in adjoining Algeria. The bands are the closest thing to a military force that the Tunisian nationalist momement has ever had, but the French consider it an intolerable threat to the country's security. The fellagha problem is adversely affecting talks here on Tunisian internal autonomy, which are already virtually bogged down.

The Gaullists were said to have told M. Fouchet that he should make a pressing demand on the Tunisian Ministers who are negotiating with the French to line up with the French in a common attitude toward the fellaghas. The principal object of the trans-Atlantic conversation was believed to be to get the Premier's agreement to making such a demand.

U. S. Aid to Be Sought

One of the topics the Premier is to broach in Washington is support by the United States for the French in North Africa. It was understood on good authority that the French Government had already tried without success to enlist the efforts of Washington and London to persuade Egypt to call off her anti-French propaganda and reported material aid to terrorist bands fighting the French in Tunisia and Algeria.

But the United States, in particular, is believed to have its own policy toward the Arab states, which precludes lining up too closely with the French in the part of the Moslem world that the French now control.

Acting Premier Edgar Faure and M. Fouchet called in Tunisian Premier Tahar ben Ammar this morning to ask for an explanation of the seemingly negative stand the Neo-Destour party, dominant national political movement, had taken last Sunday with regard to the fellaghas.

The National Council of Neo-Destour at its meeting in Tunis had refused to take a common position with the French against the fellaghas, had in turn demanded that the French call off their military operations and had left the matter of agreement up to the Tunisian negotiators in Paris.

Premier ben Ammar, not a Neo-Destourian himself, said the National Council's resolution could be interpreted in "diverse ways," but he expressed the desire to put an end to the "painful" fellagha problem with the help of the French Government. In the absence of representatives of Neo-Destour, which controls his Government's policy, the Premier could give French officials little satisfaction. He announced that he would confer tomorrow with Tunisian Ministers who are Neo-Destourians.

These Ministers arrived back here tonight after attending the session of the National Council. It was expected they would be called in by M. Fouchet. Elements in Parliament who already are little disposed toward the Government's policy of conciliation toward nationalism were reported to be much aroused by Neo-Destour's attitude and by the North African situation in general.

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