Parisians Feel Intervention Was Necessary to Stop 'Dictator' Nasser
By W. GRANGER BLAIR Special to The New York Times.
New York Times (1857-Current file); Nov 3, 1956; ProQuest Historical Newspapers The New York Times (1851 - 2002)
pg. 6

Parisians Feel Intervention Was Necessary to Stop 'Dictator' Nasser

By W. GRANGER BLAIR
Special to The New York Times.

PARIS, Nov. 2—A Parisian barber wielded his shears and almost pugnaciously snipped off a lock of his customer's hair. "That," he said, "is what we are doing to Nasser."

The evident relish with which the barber made his point was shared, more or less vigorously, by other Parisians questioned today on the British-French military intervention in Egypt.

In each case the focal point of French animosity and the justification for the French action centered on "that dictator," President Gamal Abdel Nasser.

However, the satisfaction of the French over coming to grips at last with the man they consider the root of much of their trouble in North Africa and the Eastern Mediterranean was tempered by the realization that they were "going it alone" in the face of world opinion.

This was particularly so with regard to the United States. Yet, at the same time, conversations on this point elicited varying degrees of resentment over United States policy in the Middle East and North Africa as being, at the least, ill-advised

Military Action Supported

None of those spoken to were happy at the thought of war. But over and over again would come this statement: "In principle we are against war, against fighting, but * * *." It was the qualifying "but" that carried the weight of their arguments.

A young banking executive termed the intervention by France and Britain a "well-placed shot" that was resorted to only because "all other methods were exhausted."

In his estimation, "getting" President Nasser was the most important thing, followed by assuring free navigation and international control of the Suez Canal. Once President Nasser was out of the way, he added, "the Algerian situation will improve."

"I hope one day the American Government and people will understand our action," he said. "I don't think United States policy has been wise. You can't play both sides of the fence all the time, you know."

Criticism Is Aimed at Nasser

A housewife said: "I don't like war and I don't like to see the alliance with the United States broken, but what can you do? What we are doing against Nasser is for the benefit of all the world."

The banker's remark about exhausting all other methods before resorting to military action was phrased in a different way by that traditional oracle of public opinion, the taxi driver.

"What has happened on this Suez thing?" a cabbie asked. Then he answered: "Conference after conference after conference, and where were we? Nowhere."

"Somebody had to stop Nasser," he said. "I am not against America but you aren't always right."

"I am against war," a grocer said. "But Nasser and the other Arab countries are trying to take over everything. We French are a logical people. This thing—this military business in Egypt: the heart says no, but the reason says yes."

Reproduced with permission of the copyright owner. Further reproduction prohibited without permission.