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Between the Lines Anti-U.S. View Coming?

By Edith Kermit Roosevelt

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IF ALGERIA gains its independence, a wave of anti-American feeling may sweep France. The French are a proud people and even those who are undisturbed over losing Algeria do not welcome our country's interference in French domestic affairs in the name of ending what it considers to be colonialism.

The guiding hand of U.S. foreign policy in the Algerian situation has been the AFL-CIO. As far back as July 1957 Walter Reuther and George Meany announced at the fifth congress of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions held in Tunis that American labor was behind the Algerian rebels and that France must be forced to grant Algerian independence.

THIS GAVE a blood transfusion to the Force Liberation Nationale (FLN), the Moslem terrorist organization then defeated on the battlefield and unable to whip the Algerian masses into any semblance of popular support. The then Sen. John F. Kennedy endorsed AFL-CIO action to support the rebels a few days later.

Words were translated into political and financial backing by Irving Brown, delegate of the AFL-CIO Congress, who helped set up an Algerian nationalist named Messali Hadj to form an Algerian union as a labor wing to win American support for Hadj's Movement for the Triumph of Democratic Liberties. Brown christened the group, "The Syndicate Union of Algerian Workers" (USTA) and then under his identity as a substitute member of the Executive Board of the International Confed-

eration of Free Trade Unions put his creature up for ICFTU membership.

In September 1959, Abdelkader Masachou, secretary of this Algerian union, was invited to the AFL-CIO San Francisco conferences where his speeches were highly publicized and reprinted into AFL-CIO brochures.

FINALLY, Robert Lacoste, then governor general of Algeria, barred Brown from Algeria as an undesirable alien. Brown called Lacoste a dictator but Lacoste replied that Brown was pursuing a reckless policy with dubious persons for the purpose of financing anti-French movements in Algeria and North Africa.

From his Paris headquarters Brown continues to make enemies for America. On Dec. 6, 1961, *Nation Francaise* wrote, "Irving Brown of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions and of American imperialism has just written a check for \$10,000 sent to Geneva for U.G.T.A." (Union Generale de Travailleurs Algerie, the FLN union dominated by the Communists.)

According to Hilaire du Berrier, Paris correspondent for *H du B Reports* published in Huntington, Ind., "The American embassy in Paris gave \$10,000 a year to an organization called FRANCE-USA, 24 Rue Eugene Flachet, Paris, 17, which publishes pamphlets for Irving Brown and serves as a political link between France's unfon, Force Ourriere and American unions."

DU BERRIER SAID he asked a

government official in Paris, "Why do you let Brown work against you when you are on the verge of civil war over the Algerian question?"

"We can't do otherwise," was the reply.

"Why?"
Examining across the desk the official scribbled these letters on a note pad—C.I.A. (Central Intelligence Agency).

To win acceptance by the American public for the AFL-CIO policy in Algeria, Algerian students selected by the General Union of Algerian Students were given scholarships in American universities and by our State Department and by the National Students Association. Unmentioned was the fact that the French government had outlawed the General Union of Algerian Students as a Communist organization. The American people were only told they were traveling on Moroccan and Tunisian passports and that the planes carrying them had been especially routed by our State Department so as not to touch French soil.

IF ANY FUTURE congressional committee seeks to assign blame for Europe's lack of confidence in American leadership or the communization of former Western colonies, all they need do is read the speech of May 29, 1961, by G. Meenen Williams, undersecretary of state for African affairs. Williams' speech, distributed throughout all the United States Information Service offices in North Africa, made the labor lobby's American foreign policy official. He said:

"Our unions have given both moral and material support to the

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young African unions in their struggle, either directly or through the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions."

No wonder there are anti-American riots outside our USIS offices in Africa. In the end we may only be hated by our European allies but by the natives of the Western colonies who fall prey to Soviet Russian colonialism.

Meany Holdup of \$200,000 Check Perils Anti-Red Confederation

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By Bernard D. Bossert
Staff Reporter

A squall has blown up that threatens the future of the non-Communist world's labor federation.

At stake is the major activity of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions. Its multi-million dollar aid program for unions in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

The crisis is due to AFL-CIO President George Meany's dissatisfaction with the way ICFTU is operating. Meany has held up an AFL-CIO check for about \$200,000 that was due the ICFTU on Dec. 31.

Matter of Dispute

The cause of Meany's dispute is a matter of that dispute between Meany's friends and the supporters of Walter Reuther, president of the United Auto Workers and perennial opponent of Meany's international policies.

Meany's friends say that the ICFTU has been dragging its feet on a promised staff reorganization. Reuther's camp charges that Meany is unhappy because the international federation won't accept his nominee for a top spot in the ICFTU.

One point, however, is clear: Whether the ICFTU will have more than a paper existence depends heavily on its meeting here Jan. 21 between its top officers and the AFL-CIO's Executive Committee.

At the AFL-CIO meeting, the international group chose a new leader as part of two general reorganizations. Omer Bessis of Belgium was selected as secretary.

The ICFTU is urging the AFL-CIO to step up its aid to unions in

countries. Tentative plans were made to raise \$10 million over three years. The most important contribution would be \$3 million from the AFL-CIO.

Last month, at the ICFTU's executive board meeting in Brussels, Meany complained that the organization had not started to revamp the rest of its staff and the aid-Africa program especially was suffering.

Backed Irving Brown

He also demanded to know who opposed his choice of Irving Brown, AFL-CIO's European representative, for one of the four assistant general secretary posts newly created in June.

Meany's supporters say he withheld the six-figure check only because he wanted to earmark it for specific projects, largely in Africa.

But Reuther's aides contend he stopped it because of his opposition to Brown. They say Brown is unwanted by some European unionists who view him as an operative of the Central Intelligence Agency and not as an independent unionist.

An argument over ICFTU flared up at the closed meetings of AFL-CIO leaders here last week. Meany reportedly said that he would just as soon pull out and give AFL-CIO aid directly to unions abroad. However, he was said to have added that complete withdrawal from the ICFTU was not possible.

Reuther reportedly replied that a unilateral aid program would destroy the ICFTU and this would gladden only the Soviet Union and its World Federation of Trade Unions.

The AFL-CIO leaders then agreed that their executive

committee — Meany, Reuther and four others — would meet later this month with Becu and ICFTU President Arne Geijer of Sweden. The meeting had been requested by Geijer, but Meany is said to be skeptical on the value of further talks.

The ICFTU was founded in 1949 as a counter to the Communist-led World Federation of Trade Unions. ICFTU's affiliates number more than 100 union centers with 56 million members in 75 countries.