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Validity Study of NIE 71.2-56:

Outlook for Algeria,

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NIE 71.2-56 has proved incorrect in its most important estimate: that there was a somewhat better than even chance for an Algerian settlement within a 12-month period. The main causes of that miscalculation were: (a) an overestimate of France's willingness to face the realities of the Algerian situation, (b) a failure to estimate the Mollet government's adoption of an increasingly rightist policy toward Algeria, and (c) the unforeseen armed intervention at Suez and the subsequent intensely nationalistic French reaction. On the other hand, the NIE did state that the Suez controversy would delay a settlement; it correctly estimated a widened and intensified conflict if a settlement were not achieved; and it was generally accurate in predicting the position and policies of the Algerian nationalists.

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