

which seemed to be failing." (Memorandum of conversation with the President, Department of State, Secretary's Memoranda of Conversation Lot 64 D 199)

Dulles discussed Algeria with British Foreign Secretary Lloyd at the British Embassy in Copenhagen May 4. "There was not much to say on this subject," Dulles commented, "until the French formed a government. Bourguiba has been acting extremely well in keeping things calm. How long he could continue to do this we did not know, the Secretary said "

"The Tangier Conference, the Secretary went on, had recommended that the FLN form a government and it would be difficult for Tunisia and Morocco to hold up recognition of the FLN as a government. The Secretary said that the Good Officers had done an extraordinary job and had at least given us a reprieve " (USDel/MC/9; *ibid.*)

#### 277. Telegram From the Department of State to the Consulate General in Algeria<sup>1</sup>

Washington, May 18, 1958—7 49 p m.

293 Algiers 399 and 397<sup>2</sup> Consulate authorized have discreet contacts with self-constituted authorities. As you point out such would seem necessary in any event sooner or later for practical considerations.

For time being would appear preferable if feasible such contacts be handled by members your staff rather than by you personally, kept to a minimum and confined principally to practical and urgent matters. However level of contacts left to your judgment in each instance depending on circumstances.

<sup>1</sup> Source: Department of State, Central Files 7515 00/5-1858. Confidential, Priority. Drafted by Looman, cleared in substance with Landrey, and approved and signed for Dulles by Service. Also sent to Paris and repeated to London.

<sup>2</sup> Telegram 397, May 18, reported that the French officer in charge of communications in Algiers had contacted the Consulate. It also requested instructions on contacts with local authorities. (*Ibid.*, 911 72515/5-1858) Telegram 399, also May 18, reported further contacts and repeated the request for instructions. (*Ibid.* 7515 00/5-1858) On May 13-14, French paratroops in Algiers, attempting to prevent Pflimlin's investiture as French Prime Minister, executed a bloodless coup against the French Government in Algeria and established a Civil and Military Committee of Public Safety.