

100P30-2

56/13.

MOLLET MOMBED IN ALGERIA.

Big trouble awaits French premier Guy Mollet when he visits Algiers, his first official act as head of the new Government. Thousands of French settlers gather near the city's war memorial, where Monsieur Mollet is to lay a wreath. And within a few minutes, the demonstration develops into one of the worst riots Algiers has ever seen. Algier's French minority fear Mollet's government will follow a policy of "abandonment", as they call it. Remembering their neighbours Morocco, and Tunisia, they suspect Algeria will be handed over to Arab nationalism.

Troops join police to quell the steadily growing tumult. By now the rioters are hundreds of thousands strong, and to break them up, tear gas bombs are brought into action.

Casualties are taken to hospital as the battle rages. When news of the riots reaches Paris, the newly-appointed Minister-Resident for Algeria, General Catroux, resigns rather than cause discord between his former comrades-in-arms. He will not be easy to replace - now more headache awaits premier Guy Mollet, as he returns to France.