

PATHE JOURNAL
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RIOTS GREET FRENCH PREMIER IN ALGERIA
Covered by all competition
Positive developed: 127 meters - 357 ft

When Prime Minister Guy MOLLAT arrived yesterday in Algiers in his first official act as head of the French Government to seek a peaceful settlement to the Algerian Problem, he was greeted by one of the worst riots ever seen in the Algerian capital.

Crowds which started by tearing bed flowers and floral offerings placed at the War Memorial ended by smashing windows of police cars and showering helmeted soldiers and police for more than an hour with oranges, potatoes and rocks.

Hundreds of thousands of rioters tried to force police barricades and shoved stones and everything they could lay their hands on on the officials. Shops were closed. Mr. Guy Mollet's car was splashed with manure flung by a screaming crowd requesting demission of General CATROUX, and also Guy Mollet.

The crowd reflected the deep fear of the French immigrant minority in Algeria that the policy of "abandonment" as they describe it, which successive French Governments have put into effect in Indochina, in the French holdings in India and in Tunisia and Morocco on either side of Algeria, will be followed unhesitatingly in Algeria as well.

Picture shows : At Maison Blanche airport Mr. Guy Mollet is greeted on his arrival by all Officials of civilian Government as well as from the army. Speeding along empty streets, the official car was suddenly surrounded by the crowd massed in front of the Central Post Office contained by heavy police forces. Immediately on appearance of official cars, the crowd broke into an outburst of raging cries, while tomatoes, oranges and other projectiles flew on the cortège. After laying a wreath at the War Memorial while cries continued, Mr. Guy Mollet, very pale had to face the crowd still throwing stones and all kinds of projectiles. A few minutes later, police and army forces were overrun by the furious crowd, the garden surrounding War Memorial is invaded by rioters and flowers just laid by French Premier are ripped and thrown away.... tear gas are used to disperse the crowd but police forces are unable to cope with rioters for long hours. Casualties are taken to hospitals, around 40 wounded receive first aid immediately.