

PARIS RALLY BECOMES RIOT!

A Paris rally of former premier Mendes-France's Republican Front breaks up in disorder when tear-gas and fire bombs are hurled at the rostrum. Mendes-France made good his escape in the nick of time. It started off as a by-election meeting, but it nearly ends in the destruction of the huge Palais des Sports.

Nearly blinded by fumes, the ex-premier's supporters try to stamp out the threatening flames. The audience back away from the choking clouds of tear-gas. Rows of seats have been torn up and piled in the middle of the hall - some by opponents, to break up the meeting, and some by supporters, to prevent the fire spreading. In spite of the tear-gas, groups of angry politicians carry on the battle which rages backwards and forwards across the wrecked hall.

At last the police and firemen arrive on the scene, but it takes them some time to get both the politicians and the fires under control.

Total damage to the Palais des Sports is estimated at several thousand pounds. Total number of converts made during the argument - nil.