

ALGERIA

Date of Elections: February 25, 1977

Purpose of Elections

Elections were held for all the members of the new National People's Assembly envisaged under the Constitution adopted in November 1976*. The former National Assembly, elected in September 1964, had been dissolved less than one year later, in June 1965.

Characteristics of Parliament

According to the Constitution of 1976 and the Electoral Law promulgated later in the year*, the unicameral Parliament of Algeria, the National People's Assembly, is composed of 261 deputies elected for 5 years.

Electoral System

All Algerian citizens of at least 18 years of age are entitled to vote.

Electoral registers are compiled on the level of the municipality. Voting is not compulsory. Proxy voting is permitted for certain categories of electors, such as those residing abroad or confined due to illness, and members of the armed forces.

All citizens who are in full possession of their civil and political rights and at least 25 years old are eligible to be elected to the National People's Assembly. The parliamentary mandate is incompatible with certain public posts held in the same constituency in which the deputy is elected, as well as with membership of another popular assembly.

All candidates are nominated by the country's National Liberal Front. Three times as many candidates as there are seats to be filled are designated in all electoral constituencies.

The 261 deputies are elected in 160 constituencies by the party-list simple majority system. Each constituency (*daira*) having less than 80,000 inhabitants is represented by one deputy; in the others, every 80,000 gives the right to one deputy and every fraction above 20,000 to one supplementary seat. The Front proposes three times as many candidates as there are seats to be filled and

* See section *Parliamentary Developments*, p. 7.

electors thus express their preferences among these by crossing out one or more names.

General Political Considerations and Conduct of the Elections

During 1976, the road to the 1977 general elections was paved by approval of the National Charter in June, adoption of a new Constitution in November, and promulgation of a new Electoral Law in December. The election date was announced on January 30, 1977.

For the Assembly's 261 seats, the country's National Liberation Front (FLN) — which, according to the Constitution, constitutes " the vanguard, leadership and organization of the people with the aim of building socialism " — nominated thrice the number of candidates (783), as required by the Electoral Law. Thirty-nine of these were women.

The turnout on polling day was somewhat lower than for the country's recent referenda, with abstention especially high in urban areas. The complete list of elected deputies was announced by the Government on February 27; the new Assembly is characterized by its youth (over 60 deputies less than 35 years old) and professional membership (particularly teachers and State employees). A new Government was formed on April 21 and 27, 1977.

Statistics

1. *Results of the Elections and Distribution of Seats in the National People's Assembly*

Number of registered voters.	7,960,000
Voters.	6,037,537 (75.84%)

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Political Group	^ ^
National Liberation Front	261

2. *Distribution of Deputies according to Sex*

Men	252
Women	9
	261

3. *Average Age of Deputies: 40.5 years*