

By John Woodford  
Editor

# Falsehood and

**THE FALSEHOOD AND HYPOCRISY** of French and US oil companies have angered the Algerian government so much it decided to pay for a costly two - full - page ad in the *New York Times* to explain its position.

**AFTER ALGERIA** nationalized some oil properties and simply declared its sovereignty without compensation over others, Western oil interests, through the governments and media they control, announced on one hand that they are being 'generous' to Algeria in how much they say Algeria should be paid but on the other hand, if Algeria greatly disagrees with them over this matter they threaten to bring 'the full range of legal methods' into action.

**ALGERIA DECIDED** to answer the oil monopolies at great length not because they love or fear these plundering giants or want to contribute to the *New York Times*, but because the falsehoods being spread are dangerous poisons which, if swallowed, will infect the minds of people struggling to be free all over the earth.

**THE OIL COMPANIES** base their arrogance on the notion that they have a legal right to the wealth under another national State's soil. Algeria points out that this claim is in direct opposition to international law.

**ALGERIA PROVED** that the lie is intended to make Algeria pay French companies an 'indemnity' for Algeria's own public property which 'cannot therefore become a property of any company, Algerian or foreign,' unless the Algerian State grants a concession.

**THIS USE** of hypocrisy and falsehood to force Black people to do without something which is ours by right or to pay double or triple to get back something which was stolen from us is not a new trick. But each time it is used it must be exposed or otherwise it will do its damage.

**THE NATION OF ISLAM**, and particularly The Honorable Elijah Muhammad, are being assaulted right now by the same falsehood and hypocrisy used against Algeria.

And as in the case of Algeria, the truth is a sufficient defense.

**WHITE PEOPLE** use to attack the Nation of Islam directly. But this had the wrong effect for them so today Black people are encouraged if they either attack Mr. Muhammad's program or if they ignore it and pretend it does not exist so that Mr. Muhammad's achievements can be credited to others.

**SOME BLACKS** who are caught up in this deceitful activity are aware of what they are doing; others are no doubt exploited through their own ignorance. To protect the latter group from undeserved hostility I will mention no names in listing examples of hypocrisy and falsehood:

**A BLACK MAGAZINE** writer recently gave the late Malcolm credit for starting *Muhammad Speaks* newspaper. This is an error often repeated. True, there was a publication called *Mr. Muhammad Speaks* which Malcolm helped start. But this paper was based upon the newspaper columns which Messenger Muhammad had long published in other Black newspapers and upon Malcolm's own speeches. It's emphasis did not include news.

**FURTHERMORE** THE MESSENGER published a small newsheet called *Muslim News* in the 1930's when Malcolm was a boy. *Muhammad Speaks*, the national and international newspaper, was begun under the direction of Mr. Muhammad, with Herbert Muhammad, Eugene Majied, John Ali and Lavinia X (Jones) putting together the first edition in the basement of Mosque No. 2 in Chicago.

**TO POINT OUT** the truth does not mean one bears malice toward Malcolm or the family surviving him. But all men can rest more easily if their reputations are based on the truth.

**IN THIS REGARD** let me mention another popular

misconception spread recently by a great Black actor - director - playwright. This man gave Malcolm credit for rescuing the word 'Black' from the degradation and slander placed upon it for so many years by white racists. We can all be happy when another Black person, or anyone for that matter, recognizes the crime committed against Black people through corrupt use of the word 'Black'.

**BUT WE MUST INSIST** at the same time that credit for this great change be given to the man who led this recovery of our heritage. It is hard to think that anyone supporting Freedom, Justice and Equality for Black people could either forget or ignore the fact that The Honorable Elijah Muhammad championed the dignity of 'Black' — of the word and of the people — when it embarrassed almost all of us if the word dropped from our lips unless we were cursing.

**AND SPEAKING OF** Freedom, Justice and Equality — one of the most powerful slogans ever advanced by an oppressed nation — listen to what a noted Black college president says on that score in a recent article:

'HE (MALCOLM) was symbolic of an unquenchable desire for freedom. His unrelenting stance on questions of *justice, equality and freedom* appealed to their (young Blacks) fierce indignation over their frustrating condition.'

(Emphasis added).

**CHANGING THE ORDER** of the words does not make them Malcolm's as any good scholar would know. But not content with this misinformation, the Black college official goes on to credit Malcolm with the following 'guiding precepts' which all informed Black people in the country — those with degrees and those denied formal education — know are part of Mr. Muhammad's

# and Hypocrisy!

fundamental teachings. Here is the quote:

'HE (MALCOLM) believed that "heaven and hell were conditions of life endured by people right here on earth; the Black man will never get respect until he learns to respect his woman ... Black people must turn their backs on tobacco, liquor, narcotics, dancing, gambling, movies, lying, stealing and domestic quarreling.'

NOW, IF MALCOLM himself were sufficient to do in life or in death (which is where white oppressors bestow 'approval' on Black freedom fighters as Mr. Muhammad has long tried to make us see) what this Black college president claims he can, why would newspapers, schools, magazines and other things controlled by some of the worst white people provide so much time and space for praise of Malcolm?

YOU CAN SEE through the phony generosity, though, when you read in the college official's article a suggestion that Malcolm's life and book become a basis for a new religion for Black people! Those who would play Peter or Paul to Malcolm will find the white American versions of the Caesars quite willing to play along. They know that such a movement will aid them. Just look what they have gained through the Vatican!

OUR ENEMIES ARE especially happy when Black people leading such a movement show this kind of insensitivity and ignorance to the nature of Islam. I again quote the college official:

'...A BLACK ex - convict labeled a hustler, and worse, and converted as a *Muslim* in the Nation of Islam and ultimately to the *Moslem* religion.' (Emphasis added).

MANY PEOPLE indicate only their ignorance by showing that they think there is some significant difference between the words 'Muslim' and 'Moslem'.

PEOPLE, WHITE and misguided Black, are so ready to imply that a theological or religious system of Black people in North America must be phony or of some inferior quality in comparison to 'true' religion based in other lands that they make fools of themselves putting great significance in spelling of 'Muslim' or of 'Muhammad', 'Mohammed', 'Mohamet' or any of the many variations.

MANY WORDS from other alphabets are spelled in different forms. The only difference between 'Muslim' and 'Moslem' or 'Muhammad' and other forms is that those used by the Nation of Islam are more faithful to the Arabic alphabet.

THE LIST OF hypocritical and false practices is by no means used up in these few examples. But regardless of the method used — and even regardless of the motive — the result is to distort Black history and to base an appeal to Black youth today upon the sandy grains of half - truths, fantasies and wild emotion.

SOME PEOPLE WANT to build a backward movement by goading

unstable youths to violence when such tactics can only aid our enemies in legitimizing an escalation of their genocidal policies — such people are attempting to use Malcolm to mislead his sincere admirers.

His good qualities — the long, hard study put in under the guidance of Mr. Muhammad — are ignored. And what our youths are really being told is that by being a degenerate, a hustler and quick - to - kill they are being 'revolutionary' like the 'real Malcolm', the pre - Muslim Malcolm.

OTHER YOUNG BLACKS are being told that Malcolm discovered some great, abstract 'Moslem' or 'humanistic' or some other label of 'Truth' in the last eleven months of his life.

THIS NAMELESS, MYSTICAL abstraction they would have impressionable Blacks substitute for a program of real social progress in health, housing and education, for emphasis on the well - being of the most downtrodden and exploited Black people, for dignity bestowed on hard work and for solidarity among all Black people who sincerely want progress — all of which are consistently advanced by Messenger Muhammad year in and year out.

YOU CAN MEASURE the effectiveness of Mr. Muhammad's program by comparing it to the clearly understandable program and goals he sets forth. This is the kind of leader and leadership - basis that our enemies do not want us to have, one based on real things and events in the real world.

THAT IS WHY so much hypocrisy and falsehood surround information about the Nation of Islam today.