

THE FIFTH REPUBLIC:

De Gaulle takes leave of President Coty on the steps of the Elysee Palace after formally accepting the mission of forming a new Government. The President, by insisting on de Gaulle; has sealed the doom of the Fourth Republic; but in Algiers at least, nobody mourns its passing. Huge crowds celebrate de Gaulle's victory - a victory which would certainly not have happened but for the Algerian revolt. The General wastes no time; as soon as he has been confirmed in office by the National Assembly, he and his Cabinet get to work. His ministers include outgoing Premier, Pierre Pflimlin.

Conservative Antoine Pinay - and the Socialist leader, Guy Mollet.

Jubilant demonstrators in the streets of Paris hail the birth of the Fifth Republic, while in the National Assembly, deputies hear their new Premier demand the sweeping powers he needs to give it shape - a free hand for six months, and authority to revise the Constitution. Apprehensive, but seeing no alternative, they surrender for the old order has dragged France's name in the mud, and only de Gaulle seems capable of changing it. Whether he can reshape French political life without intense civil conflict, remains to be seen - but there's certainly stormy weather ahead!