

## DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF ALGERIA

The Democratic People's Republic of Algeria hold a central position within the Maghreb in Africa and in the Mediterranean. It ranks second in size among the African countries, i.e. 2,381,741 km<sup>2</sup>, of which 2,000,000 km<sup>2</sup> constitutes the Sahara. Algeria is bordered to the east by Tunisia and Libya, to the west by Morocco, to the south-west by Western Sahara and Mauritania and to the south by Mali and Niger. The population of Algeria is 30 million. The capital city is Algiers.

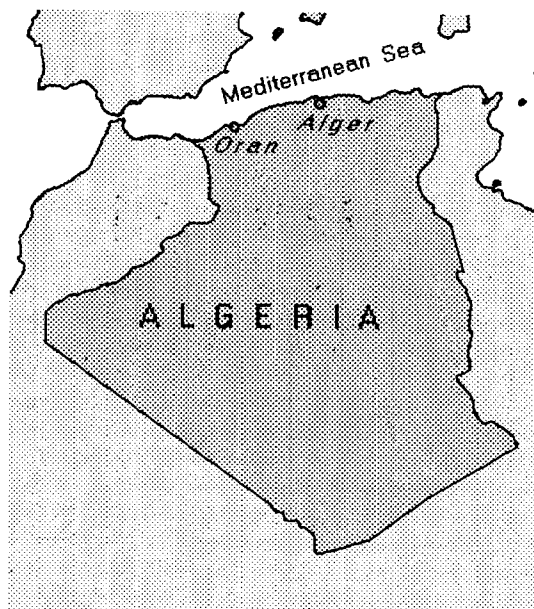


FIG. 1.- Algeria.

Historically, the Algerian State maintains a cultural heritage dating back many years. During the 16th century, Algerian Naval Forces gave Algeria a sovereignty recognized internationally among the main Powers of the time with which Algeria ratified treaties and conventions.

Algeria was under French rule for 132 years. A revolution took place on 1 November 1954 and led, later, to the independent Algerian State, proclaimed on 5 July 1962.

Geographically, Algeria is an African country, belonging to the Mediterranean Basin with a coast stretching 700 nautical mile long. The north of the country with the Tell encompasses the high lands; the desert to the south is dominated by the Hoggar.

Port structures are significant with a total of 30 ports including polyvalent ports, ports specializing in transport of hydrocarbon and fishing ports.

The territorial waters of Algeria are 12 nautical miles wide.

A protected fishing area has been established within the national waters; it stretches for 32 nautical miles from the Algerian- Moroccan border to Ras Ténès and 52 nautical miles from Ras Ténès to the Tunisian border.

### **The Hydrographic Office**

Established in 1977, at the same level as the National Institute of Cartography, hydrography took shape in 1982 with the official functioning of a hydrographic structure within the Naval Forces with its Headquarters in Algiers.

Since its creation, the Hydrographic Service has been equipped with a hydrographic vessel EL IDRISSE, built in the Japanese shipyards in 1980 and two survey launches, ALIDADE and RAS TARSA, built in Algeria. These units made it possible to carry out surveys of the main important Algerian ports and from them the original maps.

On a cartographic production level, the Hydrographic Office collected a portfolio of 30 maps of different scales, as well as several nautical books.

As far as publications are concerned, Notices to Mariners are regularly issued, every 15 days. With regards to training, with the adhesion of Algeria to the IHO and, especially, the interest of the Naval Forces Command, a significant number of hydrographer-officers have been and are still trained in France and in Italy.

In the field of cooperation, Algeria has always actively participated in numerous manifestations, both Mediterranean and international.