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Near East & South Asia

MOROCCO

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15 June 1992

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INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Implications of Fishing Accord With EEC Discussed 92AF0876B Casablanca LA VIE ECONOMIQUE in French 22 May 92 p 4

[Unattributed article: "New Prospects for the Fish-Canning Industry"—first paragraph is LA VIE ECONOMIQUE introduction]

[Text] The new Morocco-EEC fishing agreement contains a provision of capital importance for the future of the Moroccan canning industry: the notorious quota is eliminated, and unlimited quantities of Moroccan canned fish may now be exported to all community countries subject only to a reduced customs duty.

The provisions of the fishing agreement are as follows:

- For 1992: the 17,500-ton quota remains in force. 10,000 tons may still be exported duty-free; after that, Moroccan canned fish exports will pay a duty of 10 percent instead of the former 25 percent.
- For 1993: the quota is eliminated, but Moroccan canned fish will pay an 8-percent duty.
- For 1994, 1995, and 1996: the customs duty will be reduced down to the minimum rate of 5 percent, applicable starting in 1996.

These new provisions satisfy cannery operators who had been asking for the elimination of the quota for some time already (see LA VIE ECONOMIQUE, 8 May).

The quota played an essential part in creating the Moroccan canning industry, but, as we already pointed out, it no longer reflected Morocco's production capacities; rather, it was an obstacle since exports over and above the quota's 17,500 tons were heavily taxed with a 25-percent duty. As the campaign progressed, European importers would become increasingly reluctant to buy.

The elimination of the quota, therefore, will remove this obstacle and enable both exporters and European importers to plan their operations knowing exactly where they stand and without any unpleasant surprises.

The eventual 5-percent duty will allow Moroccan canned fish to remain competitive. Note, however, that duties on the U.S. market are 7.5 percent.

We should thus say that Moroccan manufacturers have made commendable efforts to improve the quality and presentation of their products. The Moroccan canning cooperative, in particular, is to be congratulated for the very nice brochure it published in 1989.

In addition, for several months already, UNICOP [National Union of Fish Canneries], the cannery operators' only association, has multiplied its contacts with European cannery operators, in particular the PIA-EEC (Portuguese Industrial Association of EEC Fish Industries) in order to exchange views, organize promotional

efforts, etc. The new situation resulting from the 1992 fishing agreement should encourage closer consultation and lead to cooperation.

The UNICOP president, Mr. Mustapha Doghmi, confided to us his intention to organize a joint meeting with the PIA-EEC as soon as possible, to assess the situation and draw the necessary conclusions. It is generally assumed that European cannery operators will now be in a position to consider relocating in Morocco, or even to enter into partnership agreements with their Moroccan counterparts. Until now, the limitations set by the quota were too narrow; today, they are gone, except of course for the initial 8-percent customs duty, but it will be reduced to 5 percent by 1996.

Note also that all EEC countries are in favor of this liberalization of Moroccan fish exports, except for Portugal and, to a lesser extent, Italy. Portugal is the only EEC member to export canned fish. Spain's production is considerable, but it is entirely absorbed by its domestic market.

Actually, Europe imports large quantities, and it was regrettable that Morocco's exports should be limited to the 17,500 tons of the quota. In this respect, note that Moroccan canned fish will be able to enter the Spanish market under the same conditions as the other EEC markets.

Actually, this new situation, which heralds concrete partnership relations between Morocco and the Community illustrates, if need be, the immense possibilities offered to Morocco by the new relations between the two parties.

We are no longer talking about assistance (re the quota) but about partnership, economic as well as political, social, and cultural.

Cannery Operators Satisfied

Mr. Doghmi, the UNICOP president, gave the following comment to LA VIE ECONOMIQUE:

"The agreement signed is the result of a whole series of factors: our long-standing penetration of European markets, our constant effort to adapt our products to customers' demands, our sustained quality/price ratio, the freshness of our products, the modernization of our production plant, the fact that European cannery operators progressively gave up this industry because of the lack of raw materials and high manufacturing costs. In addition, we have demonstrated our spirit of openness through our calls for cooperation with European cannery operators and importer-distributors. We are of course satisfied with the agreement, but it reflects actual facts: first, the development of Morocco-EEC relations, and then our continued presence on European markets."

Cooperation With Canada Detailed

92AF0780A Casablanca LA VIE ECONOMIQUE
in French 1 May 92 p 13

[Article: Canada's Exemplary Cooperation With Morocco"]

[Text] The Morocco-Canada mixed commission met 23 to 24 April in Rabat. The Canadian delegation was headed by Mrs. Monique Landry, minister for external relations and international development. The meeting was an opportunity to review Moroccan-Canadian cooperation.

As the Canadian Government indicated in "Partageons notre avenir" [Let's Share Our Future], the international development strategy behind its cooperation program is to support its Moroccan partners in sectors of Canadian expertise corresponding to priorities identified by Morocco. So the actions undertaken correspond to the country's own development priorities and benefit both Morocco and Canada.

In 1967, to give sharper focus to its assistance, the bilateral program of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) adopted a strategy called "ACOTECH" (aid, commerce, and technology transfer).

Its aim is to stimulate the development of human resources and mutually beneficial activities by encouraging technology transfer and promoting durable economic and commercial exchanges between Morocco and Canada. The concept of burden-sharing between Canada and the various Moroccan economic actors is applied to the majority of projects.

The Canadian cooperation program is implemented principally by CIDA. But other Canadian institutions and companies contribute to Morocco's development, including the Research Center for International Development (CRDI), the Canadian Telecommunications Executives Institute (TEMIC), the International Training Institute for Aeronautics Administration (IFGA), and the Agro-Food Research and Development Center (CRDA).

CIDA

CIDA's mission is to support sustainable growth in the developing countries. The concept of sustainable growth implies integrated action to promote the environmental, economic, cultural, political and social durability that underlie it.

CIDA considers cooperative ties between the governmental, institutional and private, nonprofit sectors the most effective way to promote development cooperation between Canada and developing countries. Within the framework of such cooperation, CIDA will play the role of supportive catalyst in promoting sustainable growth in the developing countries.

Partnership Program

The Institutional Cooperation and Development Services (CISD) program supports nine "twin" projects pairing Canadian universities and establishments with institutional partners in Morocco. CIDA's contribution is about \$4 million [Canadian].

The Industrial Cooperation Program (PCI) has helped 118 Canadian enterprises. This assistance has made possible the launching of 168 joint venture projects and collaborative undertakings with diverse Moroccan companies and other Moroccan partners. CIDA disbursements to date total \$13.9 million. Also, PCI has set up a PCI Local Initiatives Fund whose purpose is to encourage commercial ties between Canadian and Moroccan firms.

In addition, CIDA is providing \$18.2 million to finance two projects to exploit petroleum resources. These projects were undertaken by the Petro-Canada Corporation for International Assistance (CPCAI).

In 1985, Canada and Morocco launched a technical assistance project in the National Office for Petroleum Research and Production (ONAREP). This 10-year project will make it possible for ONAREP to carry out its own oil exploration activities. CIDA made \$11 million available for this purpose.

Project funds cover apprenticeships as well as training courses in modern exploration technology. They will also cover the financing of 10 research projects run by Canadian geologists.

As part of a second program costing \$7.2 million, CIDA will provide managerial assistance in exploration and oil-well drilling in the Essaouira basin, and gas drilling in the Gharb basin of northern Morocco.

Financial Aid

The largest part of Canada's aid to Morocco is in the form of lines of credit to support the country's economy. Morocco is one of four countries to benefit from the new Fund for Private Sector Development Initiatives, whose purpose is to support technology transfers and strengthen managerial expertise in the sectors of energy, agriculture and agrofood.

The bilateral program also includes other major projects:

- two lines of credit totaling \$20 million to give Morocco access to Canadian goods and services and strengthen ties to Canada's private sector;
- a program to allow Moroccan students to take specialized second and third-cycle courses in Canada;
- institution-strengthening projects contributing to the development of human resources;
- in conjunction with the Interior Ministry, a potable water program to improve living conditions in rural areas;
- provision of technical assistance and training to computerize the Casablanca wholesale market.

The international association of mayors and officials of fully and partially French-speaking capitals and metropolises (AIMF) has been chosen as the implementing agency.

Bilateral disbursements in 1990-1991 came to \$12.2 million, including direct financial support in the areas of food aid, education, industry, agriculture, water and sanitation, as well as other activities.

CRDI

The Research Center for International Development (CRDI) is a corporation created in 1970 with the aim of encouraging and subsidizing technical and scientific research conducted by less advanced countries for their own purposes.

In 1990-1991, CRDI managed the following projects:

- Moroccan expanding clays;
- instruction in computerized document storage;
- the Rif slope;
- external competitiveness in Moroccan industry;
- marketing of information sciences and documentation;
- Maghrebian pastoral systems-Phase II;
- root symbiosis-Phase II;
- urbanization and city planning in Morocco;
- aromatic plants;
- vocational reintegration of migrants returning to Morocco;
- development of a geographic data management system for improvement of agriculture-Phase II.

CIEO

A state-owned company established in 1985, the International Ocean Exploitation Center (CIEO) finances small technical assistance projects and information management systems. As another part of its training program, it also offers university scholarships in disciplines related to maritime affairs. These scholarships may be awarded to eligible candidates in diverse study programs.

In 1990-1991, CIEO's activities in Morocco were the following:

- training in coastal fishing statistics, provided by an aid volunteer for a nine-month period;
- a seminar on delimitation of maritime zones;
- evaluation and planning of fisheries. Accelerated courses for French-speaking specialists in branches of knowledge related to fishing;
- regional consultation on university studies and research in the field of marine sciences.

Nonprofit Companies

The program of the nonprofit companies is implemented through two agencies: the Canadian Telecommunications Executives Institute (TEMIC) and the International Training Institute for Aeronautics Administration (IIFGA).

Canadian Firms Offer Expertise in Service Sector

92AF0876A Casablanca LA VIE ECONOMIQUE
inFrench22 May 92 p 8

[Article by Laila Jalal: "Morocco-Canada: Cooperation in the Service Sector"—first paragraph is LA VIE ECONOMIQUE introduction]

[Text] Jointly with the Canadian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Canadian Embassy in Rabat organized a "Seminar on Services" with the participation of eight Canadian companies that specialize in management and finance. Various themes were discussed by the Canadian companies and their Moroccan counterparts, such as privatization, corporate auditing, business restructuring, strategic planning, training in management and data processing, and market development. The object of the mission is to get Moroccan companies acquainted with Canadian expertise in the service sector, as well as to study the possibilities of cooperation between the two countries.

At the seminar, Mrs. Loreta Giannetti, head of the Canadian delegation, gave a talk on the development of the Canadian service sector. She indicated that the service sector usually includes utilities, transportation, communications, finance, insurance and real estate, commercial services, the industries providing personal and community services, and government services. Services, in Canada, cover all sectors of the economy, except the production sector, e.g., manufacturing, agriculture, mining and processing resources, and the building trade.

Canada ranks second among OECD countries as far as the share of services in the gross national product is concerned. The United States alone is more dependent on services, and although the service sector is relatively larger in the United States than in Canada, it is developing faster in Canada than in the United States. The Canadian service economy may be broken down into three large categories: services to producers, services to consumers, and government services. The service sector accounts for 71 percent of all jobs in Canada. It is therefore the largest employer in the Canadian economy, and the one that grows fastest.

The Eight Canadian Companies

The Canadian companies on this mission to Morocco include consulting and chartered accountant firms, and data-processing companies. They offer services to producers, one of the sectors with the fastest growth in Canada. Services to producers currently make up the largest part of the Canadian service economy, with over 40 percent of all services produced in Canada. Services to producers usually include transportation, communication, engineering, design, and consulting services, accounting and legal services, and marketing and data-processing services. The eight Canadian companies are as follows:

The Asey group (Adam, Shea, Ernst and Young) is a fully owned subsidiary of the Ernst and Young company (4,000 employees in Canada), a firm of chartered accountants offering its clients a whole range of professional services at its Montreal/South Bank office, covering the agro-economic, accounting, and applied sciences. At the international level, Asey has considerable experience in project planning, execution, evaluation, and auditing. The group is in charge of large agricultural development projects in Zaire, Rwanda, Niger, Mali, and Ghana. It also carries out corporate strengthening projects in Cameroon and in Gabon. It was appointed to help an interministerial group define guidelines for a state-owned dairy production company in Morocco.

Conseils and Verifications [CVC, Consultancy and Auditing] is the largest Canadian auditor and management consultant firm; it serves exclusively the requirements of Canadian and foreign administrations as far as management, programming, and operations are concerned. With over 300 experts, CVC completes every year over 2,000 projects in Canada, and several hundred more abroad. Some of the services offered are of particular relevance and importance at national level. These are services that make it possible to cope with radical changes, to better organize, develop, and manage key personnel, capital, and information, to plan and improve programs, services, and the execution of projects, and to acquire basic corporate structures.

KPMG Poissant Thibault-Peat Marwick Thorne is, on an international scale, one of the largest professional service firms, with 800 offices in 124 countries, and 77,000 employees in the most diverse fields of economic activity. This firm includes professionals in all fields—accounting, auditing, taxation, and financial services—to ensure the success of a company.

This firm also offers special services, such as legal accounting, customs and excise duties, corporate reorganization and assessment. The firm serves a large clientele in all economic fields in the private and government sectors, including in particular the banking, manufacturing, industrial, transportation, and hydroelectric sectors.

Coopers & Lybrand offers multidisciplinary services to industries, companies, and governments. Its staff includes accountants, management consultants, economists, engineers, and information technology, telecommunication, strategy, marketing, finance, and takeover professionals, as well as actuaries, public sector consultants, and insurance investigators.

Coopers & Lybrand puts its business know-how at the service of its clients through a well-established worldwide network.

Mouvement des Caisses des Jardins is a vast integrated cooperative financial network consisting of a central office and some 20 companies specialized, in particular,

in insurance, industrial and commercial investment, trusts, stock brokerage, security transport, and credit card processing.

The Price Waterhouse firm essentially offers its clients three types of services: auditing, tax expertise, and management and organization consulting. It serves public and semipublic bodies in all sectors and a wide range of industrial and commercial companies of all sizes, at local, national, and international level. The international services of Price Waterhouse Canada fulfill consultancy and technical assistance assignments abroad, mostly in French-speaking developing countries. The main services offered hinge around the restructuring and the administrative and financial reorganization of large state-owned and private companies and government institutions, in order to introduce them to modern management methods and improve their performance and profitability.

Thomassin Developpement International [TDI] works mostly in two sectors: technical assistance and training. The technical assistance services offered by TDI range from assistance to management and administration, both public and private, to the development of international markets, and economic and strategic studies. In addition, the communication division of TDI offers training services in management, oral communication, and data processing.

SIRTEC [expansion not given], a SECOR [expansion not given] subsidiary entrusted with many assignments in Europe, Africa, Asia, and Latin America, has acquired over the years a strong expertise in international consultancy, whether to work out an exploration strategy for small to midsize companies, to assess the feasibility of setting up a facility abroad for a large company, to plan an intervention in a given country for a development body, or to participate in various ways in international activities.

Trade Figures With Italy Reported

92AF0825A Casablanca LA VIE ECONOMIQUE
in French 24 Apr 92 p 28

[Article by A.D.]

[Text] Commercial trade between Morocco and Italy demonstrated a marked upward trend from 1986 to 1990. Moroccan imports from Italy rose from 1.734 billion to 3.87 billion dirhams during that period, while Morocco's exports to Italy went from 1.191 billion to 2.413 billion, raising that country from fifth to third place among Morocco's suppliers and customers as well.

In fact, Italian imports went from 5 percent of the total in 1986 to 7 percent in 1990. Imports from France declined slightly, from 23.2 to 23 percent of total imports. The same is true of those from the United States, which went from 11.3 to 6.3 percent; Spain, from 8.5 to 8.3 percent; and Germany, from 7 to 6.3 percent. Morocco's exports to Italy increased from 5.4 percent in

1986 to 7 percent in 1990 and those to France from 27.3 to 31.5 percent. Exports to India dropped from 6.8 to 4.6 percent and those to Germany from 6.7 to 5.3 percent. However, exports to Spain rose from 6.6 to 9.2 percent.

For the first 11 months of 1991, Moroccan imports from Italy increased some 10 percent, while exports dropped by about 11 percent compared with the first 11 months of 1990.

This increase in imports essentially stems from finished manufactured products (up 111 percent in 1991), semi-finished goods (up 38 percent), and imported generators and engines (up 837 percent). It occurred despite the drop in imports of iron and steel (down 55 percent) and textile machines (down 38 percent).

The decline in exports is particularly due to phosphoric acid (-95 percent), phosphates (-80 percent), and fresh, salted, and dried fish (-9 percent).

It also occurred despite a marked increase in exports of shellfish and mollusks (+74 percent), ready-to-wear garments (+97 percent), and shoes (+94 percent).

Morocco-Italy Trade Balance
(in dirhams)

	11 mos. 1990	11 mos. 1991	Trend in Percent
Imports	3356.4	3694.5	
Exports	2116	1918.4	+10
Total Volume	5472.4	5612.9	-9
Rate of Cover	63	51.9	+2

(Source: Ministry of Foreign Trade)

European Companies To Build Power Station

92AF0732A London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic
15 Apr 92 p 62

[Article: "\$55 Million for Tetouan Power"]

[Text] Several European companies are bidding for the construction of a new power station at Tetouan in Morocco. The national electric company had announced it would need export loans to finance the \$55-million project. The station will feed on Algerian gas to be transported by the second trans-Mediterranean pipeline, whose tenders are scheduled to be let in the second half of 1992.

Interested companies include Turbotechnia (Ansaldo) GII, Fiat Corporation and its Italian group; John Brown Engineering of Britain; the French-British company GNC Astom; Merlin Gerin of France; Siemens of Germany; and NPP Asea Brown Beaufort of Zurich.

The strong Italian presence reflects the Tetouan station's inclusion in a list of projects that could qualify for financing under the new Italian fiscal protocol concluded in January 1992.

The Maghreb Electric Commission announced that work has been completed on connecting the electric grid in Morocco with Algeria. Work will begin later this year on the second project, which connects (Thumayn) and Oujda with a 70-km, 220-kw line. The (Ghazount)-Oujda line and the four Tunis-Algiers lines are [words omitted].

Alcatel-Cit To Install Factory in Rabat

92AF0803B Rabat L'OPINION in French 30 Apr 92 p 1

[Text] Between now and 1996, the French firm of Alcatel-Cit will supply at least 250,000 digital telephone lines to the Moroccan PTT [Posts and Telecommunications] at a rate of 50,000 a year, in accordance with the terms of a framework agreement signed with the Moroccan Government, an Alcatel bulletin announced in Paris on Tuesday.

The agreement, which involves an order of some 400 million French francs (\$71 million) total, also states that Alcatel-Cit will set up a plant in Rabat, whose cornerstone was laid Tuesday, and will expand its Moroccan Research and Development Center, along with its subcontracting unit.

The Rabat plant, which should start production in mid 1993 with 180 persons, will be asked to cover Morocco's needs for lines and digital switching equipment of the Alcatel 1000 I:10 type, Alcatel officials say.

Some 400,000 lines of this type are already in service or are on order in Morocco, Alcatel states, a company that says it is the leading supplier of telecommunications equipment in Morocco.

Drop in Trade With Germany Discussed

92AF0825C Casablanca LA VIE ECONOMIQUE
in French 8 May 92 p 25

[Article by A.D.]

[Text] The total volume of trade between Morocco and Germany amounted to 4.628.2 billion dirhams for the first 11 months of 1991, compared with 4.927.3 billion for the same period in 1990, a drop of 6 percent.

Moroccan exports to Germany during the period totaled 1,506.2 billion dirhams, compared with 1,611.3 billion in 1990, a decline of 6 percent. Imports from Germany amounted to 3.122 billion dirhams compared with 3.316 billion in 1990, marking a drop of about 5 percent. Morocco thus continues to have a negative trade balance with Germany, which remains Morocco's fourth-ranking supplier (after France, Spain, and Italy). However, from 1990 to 1991, Germany dropped from fourth to sixth place among its customers (France, Spain, and Italy lead here also).

Fewer Boats

The drop in imports is essentially explained by the absence during the first 11 months of 1991 of imported oceangoing ships, which in 1990 comprised nearly 7 percent of Morocco's total imports from Germany (at a cost of 220 million dirhams). Imported machinery and different types of equipment (leading imports) also registered a sharp drop (down 25 percent) in 1991 compared with 1990 (298 million dirhams compared with 400 million). It should be noted that imported farm tractors rose considerably in 1991 (up 205 percent), an increase in volume from 43.4 to 132.4 million dirhams during the first 11 months of 1991.

Fewer Rugs

Concerning exports, the drop recorded is essentially due to exported rugs (head the list of exports to Germany), down 14 percent, from 293 million dirhams during the first 11 months of 1990 to 250 million for the same period in 1991. Exports of knitted goods (203.2 million dirhams for the period of 1991 under consideration) and citrus fruits (161 million dirhams) recorded substantial increases of 28 and 20 percent, respectively. Furthermore, it was exports of phosphoric acid that experienced the sharpest drop (down 80 percent), going from 48 to 9.4 million dirhams for the first 11 months of 1991. However, one must remember that the reunification of Germany came about at the end of 1990, upsetting trade somewhat.

In addition, Germany's trade is essentially oriented toward the industrialized countries that supply nearly 82.5 percent of its imported goods and absorb 87 percent of its exports.

Morocco's main exports to Germany are rugs, knitted goods, citrus fruits, canned fish, clothing, and finished garments. Imported products essentially include machines and various types of equipment, chemical products, textile machines, semi-finished goods and finished manufactured products.

Trade Balance Between Morocco and Germany
(millions of dirhams)

	11 mos. 1990	11 mos. 1991	Trend %
Imports	3.316	3.122	-5
Exports	1.611.3	1.506.2	-6
Total	4.927.3	4.628.2	-6

REGIONAL AFFAIRS**Exclusion of SDAR From OAU Urged**

92AF0875B Rabat L'OPINION in French
20 May 92 p 1

[Editorial by Mohamed Idrissi Kaitouni: "Morocco-OAU: To Restore Legality"]

[Text] Morocco's return to the Organization of African Unity "is eagerly desired" and will constitute "a major event," according to the Senegalese minister of foreign affairs, whose country will host the next Pan-African summit in June.

Actually, several African voices have called for the return of Morocco to the OAU, of which it was a founding member and which it left after the scandalous, illegal, and irresponsible admission of the so-called "SDAR" [Saharan Democratic Arab Republic] as a result of general secretary Kodjo's treachery.

Morocco, unwilling to condone illegality, the fait accompli, and intrigue, felt it had to leave the OAU; it cannot rejoin it unless the causes that prompted it to make its decision are removed.

The OAU must quite simply exclude the bogus "SDAR," which does not meet any of the criteria required to constitute an independent and sovereign state.

The "Polisario" [Popular Front for the Liberation of Saguia el Hamra and Rio de Oro] is now in an advanced stage of disintegration; most of its leaders have returned to the motherland, proclaiming that they are Moroccans and disclosing how and why this separatist movement was created, what its goals were, and what means it used to fool international public opinion in general, and African public opinion in particular. The few "Polisario" leaders who remain in Tindouf are convinced that they are fighting for a lost cause—lost because built on quicksand and pipe dreams—and they use fallacious arguments in an attempt to prevent the implementation of the UN plan for a referendum in the Sahara, which should confirm its Moroccan character.

Morocco is not afraid of this consultation even though, quite logically, there is no reason for it because the Moroccan character of the territory and the people who inhabit it are undeniable, and also because of the changes that have occurred at regional and international level.

The OAU must take these developments into account as well as the actual facts of the case, which was not a matter of "self-determination," but purely and simply a product of the cold war, now a thing of the past as a result of the collapse of the communist bloc which, at the time, was creating multiple centers of tension, especially in Africa where governments were pledged to it and would automatically oppose the rights of countries that had chosen multiparty democracy.

It is therefore the OAU's responsibility to revise its position and correct its error if it wants Morocco to recover its seat among its members. It must first expel the "SDAR," which was admitted fraudulently and illegally, and thus make amends for the injustice of which Morocco was the victim.

Morocco, which is an African country, sincerely wishes to build the continent's future by joining its efforts to

those of its African brothers and by fighting all aspects of the socio-economic underdevelopment that affects them.

With a little political courage and goodwill, the OAU will manage to restore legality and obtain compliance with its charter. It must put an end to the fait accompli and to the reign of the arbitrary to make possible the return of Morocco, which cannot fail to help provide new impetus for the OAU's efforts.

Declaration of 'Brotherly Relations' With Syria

92AF0803A Rabat L'OPINION in French 26 Apr 92 p 3

[Text] In connection with the work of the Fifth National Seminar of Local Communities, the Ministry of Interior hosted a ceremony for the signing of a statement establishing brotherly relations between the Ministry of Interior and the Syrian Ministry of Territorial Administration.

Presiding over the signing ceremony for Morocco was Driss Basri, minister of interior and information, and, for Syria, Ahmed Diab, Syrian minister of territorial administration.

Delivering a speech on the occasion, Ahmed Diab emphasized the importance of the declaration's signing, which he called an essential step in strengthening cooperation between the Kingdom of Morocco and the Republic of Syria, inasmuch as it is an expression of the sincere friendship that exists between the officials of the two countries, King Hassan II and President Hafiz al-Assad.

The declaration will also help to consolidate relations between the governments and local communities of each of the two countries, a domain of vital importance.

Diab also emphasized the need to expand and further relations between the two countries in various fields benefiting the two brother peoples.

After recalling the historic bonds that unite Morocco and Syria and their common civilization, Diab emphasized the need to make the most of this important heritage, particularly since both countries have the framework and potential to make appreciable progress within the framework of coordinated, harmonious action.

Speaking next, Basri thanked Diab for participating in the work of the Fifth National Seminar of Local Communities and recalled the importance of the speech he delivered before King Hassan II on behalf of Arab delegations participating in the seminar.

Basri also emphasized the importance of the signing of this declaration, which will give a new boost to the already excellent relations between the two brother countries, elevating them to the level of ties uniting the leaders of the two countries, King Hassan II and President Hafiz al-Assad.

Their friendship and cooperation open up new horizons of great hope toward which we shall work together, Basri continued, noting that the signing of this declaration is a first step toward the expansion of such agreements to other Arab countries following the drafting of similar declarations with the countries of the Union of the Arab Maghreb.

Following the ceremony, the Syrian official presented Basri with a symbolic gift and received in return from the minister of interior and information a copy of the book "The Morocco of Potentiality: The Genius of a King and a People."

INTERNAL AFFAIRS

New Voting Rolls 'Necessary' for Honest Election

92AF0800B Rabat L'OPINION in French 29 Apr 92
pp 1, 3

[Editorial by Mohamed Idrissi Kaitouni: "Drawing Up New Election Lists"]

[Text] With the approach of the coming elections, one must logically pose the question of the very foundations on which the process is based: the election rolls. One is therefore justified in asking what fate will be reserved for the current lists. Are they in need of no more than a simple "review" in order to be "updated," or should new lists be drawn up?

Actually, if one wants all election operations to transpire with total transparency and for elections to be free, honest, and credible, one must destroy the old lists outright and ask the citizenry to register on new rolls meeting the criteria of clarity and transparency and thus avoid both deliberate and voluntary errors and the confusion marking the current lists.

Actually, these lists include monumental errors that make it impossible to guarantee the authentic expression of the will of the people, errors that generate suspicion and even disaffection expressed in low voter turnout.

To mention but a few errors, for example, the names of some voters are included on several lists due to the simple fact that when a citizen moves from one district to another or one city to another, he does not register in his new district or have his name stricken from the old rolls. Furthermore, the names of deceased persons are rarely removed from the lists, which should be done automatically as a result of the universal nature of the national identity card, the Civil Registry, and the existence of computers.

In the previous elections, thousands of voters were unable to cast their ballots because they could not find their card or because errors were made when names and addresses were copied, without even mentioning cards for deceased persons or those issued in the name of the same person in a single polling place or several districts.

In addition, young people reaching the legal voting age rarely register, either because they are poorly informed or quite simply because they see no reason to do so.

Today, with the change in voting age and the King's express determination to encourage young people to become politically involved, assume their responsibilities, and thus participate massively in elections and the work of our representative institutions, it is important to destroy the old election rolls and draw up new lists on sound, clear bases so as to guarantee the credibility of elections and the support of the masses in general and young people in particular.

This operation must be supervised by the neutral national organization demanded by national democratic parties on both the national and local levels in an effort to restore our people's trust and build our democratic edifice on solid foundations.

Parties Call for Committee To Organize, Check Elections

*LD2205220192 Rabat MAP in English 1318 GMT
22 May 92*

[Text] Rabat, May 22 (MAP)—The Istiqlal Party, the Socialist Union of Popular Forces, the Party for Progress and Socialism, and the Organization for Popular and Democratic Action sent adviser to the King Ahmed Reda Guedira a letter calling for the setting up of a national independent committee to organize and check general elections.

The opposition parties dailies say this Friday the committee called for should be fully empowered to prepare, supervise organization, control operations and secure freedom of choice and sincerity of the vote. The committee from which provincial and local subcommittees will stem will monitor all stages from drawing up of lists to proclamation of results.

Parliament Examines Electoral Bills

*LD0306151692 Rabat MAP in English 1252 GMT
3 Jun 92*

[Text] Rabat, June 3 (MAP)—The Moroccan Parliament started Monday a plenary session to examine two draft bills, one amending the first paragraph of Article 137 of the Personnel Statute and the second related to electoral lists and communal elections.

Rapporteur of the justice, legislation and public office committee said the first bill that brings down the voting age to 20 was adopted by the committee members attending the debates. The MPs [members of parliament] of the parties not in the government abstained from participating in the committee debates.

The second bill on Article 99 pertaining to urban and rural councils, the organization of communal elections, the electoral campaign and repression of electoral frauds

was unanimously adopted by those taking part in the debates, the rapporteur said.

Ministers of Justice Mustapha Belarbi Alaoui and of the Interior and Information Driss Basri afterwards took the floor to explain the government's viewpoint on the bills.

Basri said in this respect that the second draft bill was enriched by the backing of all the nation forces and that it meets the concerns and aspirations of all political trends. He said the outcome of the upcoming elections must represent the genuine and authentic political map of tomorrow's Morocco.

After he surveyed how the parties not in the government requested royal arbitration, the royal decision to set up a commission seeking consensus, the 18 proposals agreed upon by the commission and the 5 proposals not agreed upon (voting age, eligibility age, ballot mode, making of administrative committees and chairmanship of voting centers), Basri said the Moroccan Government's top concern is to secure sincerity, objectivity and transparency of the elections from the drawing up of electoral rolls to the proclamation of results.

Basri also announced that the government has accepted in principle the using of plexiglass transparent ballot boxes and that technical studies on the matter were underway.

He added that public media, radio and TV will be open to all competing parties and that all these parties will benefit from the public funding of the electoral campaign.

The Monday session was also marked by the addresses of the heads of the parliamentary groups of the Constitutional Union (UC/majority), the National Rally of Independents (RNI/majority), the Istiqlal Party (Nationalist/Opposition) and the Popular Movement (majority).

The majority parties voiced backing to the bills while Secretary General of the Istiqlal party M'hamed Boucetta underlined, after he recalled the stand of his party and of other opposition parties regarding the bills submitted by the government, that the current situation in Morocco and the deep changes within the Moroccan society require a clear political stand. Irregularities have stained all previous elections, he said adding that the state must necessarily ensure the protection and perennity [as received] of the country's sacred values.

Calling the government to see to it that the coming elections take place in conditions of honesty, transparency and clarity, Boucetta said the fact that the opposition parties abstained from voting the bills within the justice and legislation committee does not mean that they boycott the works of the committee. The opposition parties' stand, he said, was dictated by their firm belief that the bill does not reflect their aspirations. The people claims a genuinely representative assembly, he said.

The parliamentary session is to resume this Wednesday.

'Democratic Bloc' Viewed as Positive Step for Nation

92AF0875A Rabat *L'OPINION* in French
19 May 92 pp 1, 3

[Editorial by Mohamed Idrissi Kaitouni: "An Important Step"]

[Text] The five democratic parties—Istiqlal, USFP [Socialist Union of Popular Forces], PPS [Party of Progress and Socialism], OADP [Organization of Democratic and Popular Action], and UNFP [National Union of Popular Forces]—have decided to form a national Kutlah, the "Democratic Bloc."

This initiative is part of an attempt to intensify and expand their joint efforts to establish genuine democracy, consolidate the rule of law, and give political life a new impetus that could mobilize human potentialities, in particular those of the youth.

The rift within the National Movement, whose components indulged in quarrels of marginal importance, delayed the institution of genuine democracy and was exploited to set up "elected" institutions that were not representative in any way since the people's will was not respected.

The destitute masses and all social strata suffered much from these inefficient and noncredible assemblies.

The citizens' fundamental rights, political as well as economic, cultural, and social, and their personal and collective liberties were sorely tried by the lack of democracy.

Today, aware of their responsibilities to the nation and of the fact that our country is going through a historically significant stage as it progresses toward the creation of genuinely representative institutions that will actually reflect the citizens' aspirations and their fundamental choices, the National Movement components, who led the struggle to liberate the land and the citizens, are now creating the Democratic Bloc so as to work together in order to materialize the objectives that the masses have assigned to themselves, as they wish to harvest the fruits of independence, enjoy freedom and democracy, and build a just society freed from social and regional inequalities, from the reign of the arbitrary and exploitation, and where human rights are respected.

The Istiqlal party, which is a unifying party, believes in the need for, and the vitality of joint action, and has used all means to consolidate it and to create a favorable climate so it could expand to include national and democratic forces.

The creation of the "Democratic Bloc," which represents a general and open framework to coordinate the positions of its member organizations, opens new prospects to the masses, gives them hope, and restores confidence especially among the youth who had become disaffected and had lost interest in the country's affairs.

Today we may hope, and Morocco, which finds itself at the crossroads, is about to go through a fecund and decisive stage in its modern history by opting for genuine democracy, based on sound elections and on credible and truly representative institutions.

Today, with the creation of the Democratic Bloc, an important step has been taken toward the achievement of the masses' goals and the edification of our country's future, in a context of stability, social justice, progress, and democracy.

Democratic Bloc Presents Its Charter

LD2705113592 Rabat RTM Television Network
in Arabic 2030 GMT 26 May 92

[Excerpt] In Rabat, the Democratic Bloc held a news conference which was attended by M'Hamed Boucetta, secretary general of the Istiqlal Party; Abdelrahmane Youssoufi, first secretary general of the Socialist Union of Popular Forces; Abdallah Ibrahim, secretary general of the National Union of Popular Forces; Ali Yata, secretary general of the Party for Progress and Socialism; and Mohamed Ben Said, secretary general of the Democratic and Popular Organization for Action. At the news conference, the charter of the Democratic Bloc was read out, and its objectives and scope of action were outlined.

At the start of the news conference, M'Hamed Boucetta read out the text of the Democratic Bloc's charter. The text focused on the need for comprehensive popular mobilization in order to consolidate and complete [Moroccan] territorial unity and establish democracy in all its political, economic, social, and cultural contents, within the framework of constitutional monarchy. The charter also affirmed the need to work for the consolidation of the Greater Arab Maghreb, and demanded the drawing up of a national charter for the economic, cultural, and social rights of all citizens, and the laying down of national political foundations for the protection of the environment.

[Begin Boucetta recording] Sensing their historic responsibilities at this critical and fateful time in the history of contemporary Morocco, the national democratic parties declare the founding of the Democratic Bloc [al-Kutlah al-Dimuqratiyah] as an open general framework for the coordination of their attitudes and the unification of their efforts in their united struggle for the achievement of their common objectives. To this end, they have decided to set up a standing higher committee, consisting of the general secretaries of the rallying parties, to meet regularly in order to define attitudes and take joint initiatives in their joint struggle, which they should wage with the widest popular participation and the mobilization of all the abundant vital energies and elements in our society, which believe in the inevitability of change, democracy, and social justice. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Polisario Leader's French Visit 'Failure'*LD2205221392 Rabat MAP in English 1315 GMT
22 May 92*

[Text] Rabat, May 22 (MAP)—“Failure and disarray”: These are the main results of the visit to France by Mohamed Abdel Aziz, says the daily of the party of progress and socialism “AL BAYANE”.

The daily comments editorially on the visit saying the secessionist leader could not meet political and diplomatic authorities in France who most likely did not like his ultimatum asking them to receive him till May 26.

Abdel Aziz, goes on the daily, was forced to admit implicitly he is the one crippling the UN peace plan turning down enlargement of the voting list as claimed by Morocco and accepted by UN Security Council at De Cuellar's proposal. By accepting revision of the Spanish census in the 1 to 10 percent proportion, he backed up giving in to Morocco's firm stand on the matter, “AL BAYANE” points out. The daily also says UN secretary General Butrus Ghali and representative Yaqub Khan mainly, will have to exert extra efforts to make the “Polisario” stop sabotage, accept revised lists and open the way for the referendum the soonest possible.

Quiet May Day Said To Reflect 'Discontent'*92AF0800A Rabat L'OPINION in French 2 May 92
pp 1, 3*

[Text] Yesterday, Friday, was May Day, our “Labor Day,” but in our cities, it seemed like any other Sunday during the hottest days of summer. Our main streets were deserted and quiet, listlessly crisscrossed only by a few police.

We have come a long way from the “hot” May Days and their impressive parades. The ones we saw were like but a trickle of water in a vast desert and emitted a sound so timid it died before it even reached the ears of the handful of indifferent onlookers, nothing at all like that of rivers almost to the flood stage.

Conspicuous by their absence, the UGTM [General Union of Moroccan Workers], CDT [Democratic Labor Confederation], and SNES [National Union of University Teachers] dominated this May Day.

They did not do so by any parades or noisy meetings, but rather, by the enormous vacuum they left behind. Even though they were nowhere to be seen, their shadow was present, imposing and impressive.

In the absence of these three unions, the image projected by this year's May Day spoke for itself. The silence in the streets demonstrated that the UGTM, CDT and, along with them, the SNES remain the most representative unions.

It is a very real and palpable fact. Moreover, when one is truly representative, one constitutes a major, inevitable, unavoidable protagonist.

To ignore this fact is quite simply to ignore an enormous mass of workers. To refuse to dialogue with them is to build a solid wall between officials and employers, on the one hand, and, on the other, a large fraction of the working class, one of the pillars of the national economy.

Let us recall that these three unions decided to cancel their May Day parades and demonstrations as a sign of protest against “the government's ban on freedom of movement, the timing of routes, and the choice of slogans, to say nothing of a long list of legal violations.” The UGTM, CDT, and SNES announced their decision in a bulletin released on 29 April in which they summoned “all political and humanitarian forces in the country to unite with the workers in their latest test.” Likewise, they declared “a revolt against the government's repressive policy and reserved the right to make legitimate hard-line decisions, while appealing” to specialized international bodies such as the World Labor Organization and others in order to call the attention of international opinion to the subject of repressive government policy.”

These three unions were conspicuous by their absence and achieved their goal by celebrating May Day, the goal of expressing the dissatisfaction of workers and manual laborers with a government policy they have continually castigated.

However, their refusal to participate in the May Day celebration did not prevent the UGTM and CDT from addressing their traditional message to the working masses.

In a message drafted by the heads of the two trade union confederations, including the secretary general of the CDT, removed from the scene by his incarceration, the two unions called the May Day celebration “a public trial of the antipeople policies that have led our society into crises....”

The UGTM and CDT point out that May Day 1991 was one more step on the path of coordinating the united struggle and refer in their message to the phase of 14 December 1990, recalling the report of the parliamentary investigative committee that denied any connection between trade union activists and the events of that day, a categorical denial of claims and statements made by certain officials.

They also recall fights and struggles waged by workers in different sectors between May '91 and May '92 and the way in which officials behaved in terms of such action, emphasizing that their complaints had to do with the absence of dialogue, violations of the law, business closures, suspensions, individual and collective layoffs, a failure to carry out rulings handed down in favor of the workers, the revision or establishment of statutes and collective agreements, problems with social security, hostility toward trade unionists, violations of rights and union freedoms, and so on.

Both trade union confederations claim the situation is the result of antipeople choices which the nation rejects. The attachment of those in power to such choices has resulted in a series of economic, social, and financial problems.

The UGTM and CDT, which documented the decline in purchasing power by figures, brought up the precariousness of the SMIG [Guaranteed Interoccupational Minimum Wage] and the policy of readjustment and its negative effects.

It is this situation and its serious impact, they say, that have caused the working class to join in the solidary process of struggle en masse.

They also emphasized the need for a committee to investigate administrative corruption, the abuse of power, and illicit gain. Likewise, they brought up the trial of activist Noubir Amaoui, secretary general of the CDT, claiming the trial was aimed at the CDT as well as at unified action and possibilities of coordinating democratic political forces.

The message of the two unions states that the working class will continue its struggle and that repression will not stop. It demands the immediate release of Amaoui, all trade union and political prisoners, and the victims of the events of 1981, 1984, and 1990.

The UGT and CDT also state that Morocco's claim to the Sahara is irreversible and that national unanimity on this subject is the same with respect to the completion and sanction of territorial integrity, no matter what sacrifices have to be made. The working class is ready to make every sacrifice to defend our national cause, they claim.

Both confederations repeated their support for Iraq and the brother Libyan people. Likewise, they emphasized the challenges facing our country, challenges requiring a change based on a confirmation of democracy, free of any falsification, and on economic, social, and technological development.

Party, Union Leaders Comment on Amaoui Trial

UGTM Leader

91AF0744A Casablanca AL-ITTIHAD AL-ISHTIRAKI
in Arabic 25 Apr 92 p 7

[Article: "We Wish for Country To Become Role Model for Region; This Can Be Accomplished Only with Actual Participation of People Through Democratic Institutions"]

[Text] Brother Abderrazak Afilal, secretary general of the General Union of Moroccan Workers [UGTM], addressed a public rally held in solidarity with brother Noubir al-Amaoui at union headquarters in Casablanca, 21 April 1992. He spoke in the name of three unions: The Democratic Labor Confederation [CDT], the

UGTM, and the National Union of Higher Education. Following is the text of brother Abderrazak Afilal's remarks:

Brothers and sisters, despite claims that we are about to enter a new age that would reform corruption, amend the constitution, and respect citizens and human rights, this is far different from the bitter reality that we face.

We will continue our struggle. The arrest of struggler brother Noubir al-Amaoui will not weaken our resolve and dedication to change present conditions with all our might, and with methods employed by all unions throughout the world.

Brothers and sisters, why was brother al-Amaoui arrested? We, the workers, consider his arrest a response to our demands—to our desire for a dialogue and our willingness to solve problems. I believe that the time has come to say a lot, in order that the people, and the working class, may be apprised of how things really stand. We have struggled more than others in connection with the Moroccan [Western] Saharan issue. We mention this to point out that Moroccan diplomacy and Moroccan governments were nowhere to be found when we were struggling with the enemies of our national unity. We observed actions by our enemies and opponents of our national unity, but saw no move to stand by us and support us.

By coordinating actions to defend our national unity, we have taken a unified domestic stand in order to accomplish effectual unity. It is necessary to unify the patriotic movement and the unionist movement. This is why we stand behind brother Noubir al-Amaoui, who went beyond all of us in his struggle for that objective.

We have now succeeded in unifying unionist action among us and wish that the Moroccan [National] Labor Union [UNTM] would also join us in this battle, so that the workers who belong to it would not stand apart from us, even though they support us with their hearts and minds.

We aspire to comprehensive unity because such unity is necessary to resolve the problems in which we are mired.

This unity was manifested in several collective struggles that gave 14 December 1990, which entered Moroccan history on par with 6 December 1952, which was an omen to the country because it initiated all subsequent events that led to independence.

14 December 1990 succeeded in unifying the Moroccans and the working class, and in initiating a decisive battle to impose the changes we seek, in order to bring an end to enslavement and exploitation. We want this country to become a role model for the region in which we live. Brother al-Amaoui calls a spade a spade, and the truth is that the Moroccan people say the same things that brother al-Amaoui said in his press statements and at his trial. When we say that a minister is malfeasant and has amassed a fortune at the expense of the people, we say

that this is larceny and robbery, that he who commits them is a thief, and that we all share responsibility [for it]. We know how the premier used to be and how he has come to own land. We know of the land's value, the dam built on it, and the roads constructed for it. Brother al-Amaoui, at the final session of his trial, called for a commission to verify his charges because accusations are not disregarded in democratic countries, but are given an opportunity of being proven. The same goes for charges against the minister of marine fisheries that irregularities occurred in the so-called marine fisheries investments. The state received \$4 million for the purchase of vessels to reinforce the fishing fleet for the benefit of the country and its people. Who benefitted from those funds?

It is understood that those who received the funds did not supply adequate guarantees and that it is the state that guaranteed them. We now face the problem of repayment, because the venture was not profitable. It suffered losses because marine resources were sold abroad. This affair must be investigated. Brother al-Amaoui spoke only the truth, and this calls for investigation by a commission if there is true desire to reform corruption.

When brother al-Amaoui pointed a finger at the minister of youth and sports, we were all aware of what took place in the sports world at the Arab and the Olympic games. Those files must be opened. Al-Amaoui will not be silenced, because you and we are still here. We voice the same demands that brother al-Amaoui made before the court. A commission should be formed to investigate and hear witnesses and the testimony of those who were insulted by al-Amaoui's statements. That was the court's initial inclination, before it changed direction. Even al-Amaoui's defense counsel was denied his right to present an adequate defense. It was extraordinary that a judge would tell a defense counsel that he [only] had 15 minutes to speak. That is a dangerous precedent. There were also other violations [of the defendant rights] such as Chapter 400, which was invoked in defense of brother al-Amaoui, but was rescinded by issuing another law.

Brothers and sisters, we at this solidarity rally are well-aware of our position. We were always right, whatever we said. Government must be responsible to the people and to parliament. Parliament must be of the people and also of local organizations. We don't want governmental parliaments or councils, and that is why we advocate the changes we seek. We want a parliament elected in free elections and a government based on a parliamentary majority.

This is the problem that we and a number of backward [undeveloped] countries face, but those countries are experiencing change. In the absence of democracy, government jobs are being exploited for personal gain in many countries of the world, where governments steal funds and smuggle them out.

Brothers and sisters, the economic policies that we seek to change do not serve the interests of the Moroccan

nation, because they are largely based on subservience to foreigners, thereby rendering our independence meaningless.

Does the current year cost them anything? The labor law is unjust to workers because it serves employer interests and undermines the desired equilibrium between rights and obligations. Workers perform their duties, but are deprived of their rights. Employers receive more than their share and do not discharge their obligations to workers.

It is regrettable that we continue to endure those conditions. Disapproval of the situation has stirred, but we wallow in them and continue to deepen the disparity among citizens in housing, wages, social services, etc.

Brothers and sisters, contrary to government claims, I maintain that our demands are not costly. I'll give you an example: We call for a re-examination of taxes. Workers, laborers, and the poor are the ones who pay taxes. Taxes do not even exempt the minimum wage [earners], but the rich evade them. Our demand is to amend the tax laws in order to lighten their burden on employees.

Brothers and sisters, we are asked what the purpose of our demands is. We seek social justice to lessen the brunt of conditions under which we live as a working class. Urgent action is needed to raise salaries and wages, even though this is no solution to the problem, since the cost of living continues to climb. By this, we hope to arrive, in the foreseeable future, at an equitable distribution of national income as a means for achieving social democracy.

Brothers and sisters, you at this rally must be told of our goals and the plans we made with brother al-Amaoui, for which we, as unions and national parties, will remain committed to our pledge to struggle for an end to corruption in the country and for installing democracy through free elections, a parliament of the people, and a government that is responsible, committed, and accountable.

Brothers and sisters, we had decided prior to the arrest of brother al-Amaoui to call a general strike in the immediate future. We analyzed the sectoral struggles we waged and the government's unresponsive attitude. That motivated our decision to call a general strike, whose date will be announced in the next few days.

Brothers and sisters, the tyranny we endure, the scandalous trial of brother Noubir al-Amaoui, today's cordoning-off of this meeting place to prevent citizens from coming in, and denying us a permit to celebrate May Day on al-Fada street and Saraghna Square, even though we celebrated last year on the same sites without incident—all these are manifestations of government hostility to the working class. We are determined, however, to demonstrate at the site we requested, and we invite you to show up en masse on May Day. You will find us there, along with the leaders of national political organizations

(the Socialist Union of Popular Forces, the Labor organization, and the Istiqlal Party).

May Day this year will be a defiance of the policy that is attempting to undermine our right to demonstrate.

Brothers and sisters, momentous struggles await us, and they could change our lives. The conditions under which we have been living since 1985 resemble the emergency conditions [martial law] in the period from 1969 to 1972. I don't mean security-wise; I am referring to aberrations and abuse of power. A number of ministers went on trial shortly after and wound up in jail. We are now experiencing similar malfeasance. There are individuals who became wealthy at the expense of the people.

Brother al-Amaoui spoke of corruption. I'll add an example. In northern Morocco, all along the Mediterranean coast, vast areas of land were sold at nominal prices (one Moroccan dirham). The acreage, which used to belong to the Deposit and Management Fund, was sold to one individual who was the manager of that land. It was taken from the people and passed on to well-known persons.

We also demand that this dossier be reopened. We call for a commission to investigate [this incident], just as a commission investigated the incidents of 14 December 1990 and exonerated the unions in its findings.

Brothers and sisters, in the name of three unions and in the name of the political organizations among us here today, we pledge to you that we will persist in the struggle to make things right and to institute real democracy; and brother al-Amaoui will not be forgotten [even though] there is a deliberate plan to make us forget him. A labor law bill was introduced a few days ago. We, in turn, believe that the political air should be cleared and that brother al-Amaoui should be released post haste, along with those detained following the Fez incidents. We are willing to negotiate and are ready for a serious dialogue. The purpose of this solidarity rally is to renew our commitment to persevere, struggle, and sacrifice. The al-Amaoui incident does not have to be an act of repression that weakens our resolve; rather, it should be an incentive to launch dozens of struggles.

USFP Secretary

92AF0744B AL-ITTIHAD AL-ISHTIRAKI in Arabic
25 Apr 92 p 7

[Article: "Yazghi on French Broadcasting: Al-Amaoui's Sentence Was Political"]

[Text] Following the sentencing of brother Noubir al-Amaoui, brother Mohammed al-Yazghi, deputy first secretary of the Socialist Union of Popular Forces [USFP], made a statement to French international radio, in which he reviewed the irregularities and illegalities surrounding the trial of al-Amaoui, member of the USFP's Political Office and secretary general of the

Democratic Labor Confederation [CDT]. He reviewed the hardships and abuse suffered by defense lawyers, reporters, and citizens at the hands of security forces and said that no other political trial endured as much as the [Amaoui trial] which, he emphasized, was a political trial conducted in an illegal fashion, and is therefore scandalous. He remarked on the pressure put on domestic newspapers, and concluded that the sentencing of brother al-Amaoui was political.

News of the arrest and sentencing of brother al-Amaoui was played up by domestic and international media, which reported the story and reactions to it. The French international radio reported that the USFP will file a complaint with the Advisory Council on Human Rights, that opposition parties are discussing a unified stand, and that unions will take a unified position on the issue.

Istiqlal Party

92AF9744C Casablanca AL-ITTIHAD AL-ISHTIRAKI
in Arabic 25 Apr 92 p 7

[Article: "Mohamed Boucetta: Trial Is Political Miscalculation"]

[Text] The trial was a political mistake, even a miscalculation, at a time when Morocco is on the verge of fundamental constitutional and parliamentary change. It was meant to obstruct such reforms.

Brother Mohamed Boucetta, secretary general of the Istiqlal Party, was at the Court of First Instance in Rabat the day before yesterday, accompanied by a delegation of the party's executive committee, to attend the trial of brother Noubir al-Amaoui.

He commented to newsmen on leaving the courthouse: "I believe this to be oppressive action without reason. It was concocted at a time of political, economic, social, and moral crises in the country. It is no secret that all the people denounce favoritism, bribery, and abuse of power for the acquisition of illicit riches. We have denounced and criticized these conditions in all our statements and speeches. We reiterate our demands that an end be put to it. Furthermore, I believe that this investigation and trial are a political mistake, even a miscalculation, at a time when our country is on the verge of fundamental political reforms, be they constitutional amendments; free, peaceful, and legitimate elections; or more importantly, a final resolution of the [Western] Saharan issue.

"It seems that the investigation was meant to obstruct planned [reform] and was therefore arbitrary and a political mistake."

OADP Leader

92AF9744D Casablanca AL-ITTIHAD AL-ISHTIRAKI
in Arabic 25 Apr 92 p 7

[Article: "Mohamed Bensaid, Secretary General of the Organization for Democratic and Popular Action: They Responded With Trial, Rather Than Dialogue"]

[Text] "The trial was not conducted in a manner that would ensure respect for the defense and a public, open trial. This trial is a blow to democracy, especially since all political forces were preparing to embark on an era of political and constitutional reforms and of responsiveness to social demands. Several issues remain unresolved in the wake of the general strike and the 14 December incidents. The government has not responded to the demands made. There has been no dialogue.

"Since the end of the year, Morocco has gone through a number of sectoral strikes prompted by worsening social conditions, which were treated only with silence. [The authorities seem to have] responded with the Amaoui trial instead of a dialogue to seek a partial resolution of social problems, propose medium-range solutions, and address other issues.

"We believe that responding with a trial will not daunt the democratic movement, which has paid a high price since independence and which stands ready to sacrifice.

"I believe that similar trials and actions will continue in the absence of democratic reforms, of viable representation, of freely electing people's deputies, and of government accountability.

"We were not surprised when they were unable to respond to the issues at hand and they resorted to suppression, adding to worsening conditions and further straining the political climate."

Parties Demand Investigation Into Corruption

*LD2105194892 Rabat MAP in Arabic 1530 GMT
21 May 92*

[Text] Rabat, 21 May (MAP)—The democratic national parties and groups of the Moroccan Parliament called for the formation of a factfinding committee to investigate the dossiers of corruption, embezzlement, and illegal accumulation of wealth, and to refer the culprits to justice so that they receive the punishment they deserve.

A message addressed by the parliamentary groups of the Istiqlal Party; the Socialist Union of Popular Forces [names of other parties indistinct] pointed out the fact that Morocco is going through a critical period on both levels of its political development and its social, economic, and cultural problems. The message stressed: "Fighting administrative corruption, bribes, favoritism, and exploitation of influence is the responsibility of all democrats and all honest men, and keeping quiet about these diseases is considered a collusion."

The democratic national parties and groups of the Parliament emphasized the necessity of the parliament forming during this session a factfinding commission dedicated to opening and investigating the dossiers of corruption, and then to present the results of its investigations to the House of Representatives to draw the due conclusions and decide what should be done within the

context of its authority so as to put an end to this deterioration and to give Morocco a better opportunity for the future.

Opposition Requests Corruption Investigative Body

*LD2205211692 Rabat MAP in English 1242 GMT
22 May 92*

[Text] Rabat, May 22 (MAP)—The four Moroccan opposition parties represented in the parliament asked for the setting up of a parliamentary investigation commission to enquire on "depravity of the administration, corruption, favoritism and corrupt practice" and submit findings to the parliament.

In a letter to speaker of the parliament, the Istiqlal Party, the Socialist Union of Popular Forces, the Organization for Democratic and Popular Action and the Party for Progress and Socialism say the parliament will decide, on the basis of the commission's conclusions, of the action to be taken within its prerogatives.

For the opposition parties, struggle against these evils is "the responsibility of all democrats and all honest people". The parties also stressed the significance and importance of the recently adopted law on the "statement on property and financial situation" on the part of the state's agents.

Union Communique on Government Insensitivity

*92AF0803C Rabat L'OPINION in French 28 Apr 92
pp 1, 3*

[Text] Its back to the wall, the government is now submitting to Parliament, now in its final session, a series of bills and amendments on Moroccan public life as fast as it can.

The two labor confederations: the UGTM [General Union of Moroccan Workers] and CDT [Democratic Labor Confederation], along with the SNES [National Union of University Teachers], have taken note of the fact that a number of their bills directly involve the working class in its relations with the labor world as a whole.

Among those bills and amendments are these:

Some have been pigeonholed for over ten years, the government having lent a deaf ear to repeated appeals by labor confederations stressing the urgent need to revise laws on employment.

The government's consultations with unions on this subject was completely superficial in terms of both form and substance. It became almost like a fairytale, lacking in any real meaning, and was completely unrelated to the harsh tests endured by the working class due to gaps in the labor code inherited from the days of colonial exploitation.

By virtue of its makeup and options, the government has repeatedly and at decisive times in the life of Morocco and Moroccans taken the side of management and capitalists, the side of that very antinational handful of lobbies and monopolies which exploit the sweat of blue- and white-collar workers and refuse the country its due and Moroccan people their right to education, work, health, and housing.

It was this same government which, at the time of the motion of censure presented by the workers as a whole, showed its negligence of social issues, both before and after 14 December 1990. The investigative committee report blamed it for its negligence toward the people, the deaths of innocent people, the imprisonment of others, and great harm done to the country.

This same government has remained insensitive to the legitimate demands of the workers and does not recognize the legality of the general strike of 1990. It refuses to listen to anything having to do with the workers' struggle, sectoral or regional, in 1991 and 1992 or even long before.

This government used force and imprisoned Brother Amaoui, general secretary of the CDT, and then tried to obtain social submission.

Now, in its race against the clock, it is forced to face all the steadily mounting, courageous voices from the live, free forces. It seeks to muzzle the national press and hasten the adoption of amendments of laws so as better to subjugate the working world.

At the same time, it is planning the liquidation of the national patrimony by turning it over to the private sector. To do so, it is using the Chamber of Deputies, a chamber whose irregularities tainted the election of a large number of its members and which are known to everyone, a chamber not empowered to represent all strata of the population.

On the side of the government and the people and at the last sessions of this Parliament, a consensus emerged regarding the fact that the next elections must be honest and more transparent than previous ones. This proves the masses are right to express fears of seeing their future mortgaged by the voices of a prefabricated majority obtained by the rigged elections of 1983-1984.

The UGTM, CDT, and SNES:

While previously boycotting the dialogue committee formed by the government after the general strike of 14 December, since that strike was staged following the failure of meetings that failed to consider observations formulated by the labor confederations on the nature, makeup and powers of that committee;

And, while aware of their responsibilities, they are forced once again to affirm their concern and denounce plots hatched against the Moroccan working class for the purpose of attacking the gains of the working classes and crushing the workers' aspirations to have a fairer labor

code that will put an end to the forms of exploitation and monopoly that harm the people who work and produce;

Renew their support for the list of labor demands as a whole, material or moral, in all their aspects: economic, social, and political, based solely on the benefit of the country and its potential.

The country's resources are steadily being looted and offered to tiny groups of unscrupulous individuals and opportunists who have no other consideration than the country of their pockets, real estate speculation, and investments abroad.

The government remains responsible for its failure to heed the workers' legitimate demands. It is likewise responsible for the escalation of repression aimed at stifling public and trade union freedoms.

The UGTM, CDT, and SNES remain attached to the goal of restoring the climate by freeing Brother Amaoui and all those arrested in the events of 14 December 1990 or during 1986 or even January 1984 and July 1981, by investigating the files of missing people and all trade unionists or politicians who received amnesty or were released. This will serve as a prelude to a healthy social dialogue concerning all demands.

They affirm their total solidarity with the national press in the new trials it is facing. They express their pride in and profound consideration for the national consensus that has caused the press, defense, human rights associations, political parties, other national organizations, and all worthy citizens to support our brother, Mohamed Noubir Amaoui, secretary general of the CDT. They have all shown that they support the Moroccan workers' struggle.

At the same time, they condemn the humiliations and police repression to which they were subjected during the hearings of the court of the first instance, advertised as "public."

They issue a common appeal to all energies of Moroccan civil society united behind the banner of the National Liberation Movement to unite even more solidly behind social issues and matters that affect and will continue to affect the Moroccan working class.

They issue an appeal to the working class and all workers to mobilize more and remain solidly united in order to be ready for all forms of legal struggle so as to defend the legitimacy of their demands, gains, and right to participate in the building of a civil society in a Morocco governed by law.

For the Executive Bureau of the UGTM, Executive Bureau of the CDT, and National Bureau of the SNES.

Casablanca, Thursday, 23 April 1992

New Weekly Political Magazine Published*LD2205105792 Rabat MAP in Arabic 1530 GMT
21 May 92*

[Text] Rabat, 21 May (MAP)—The Moroccan media has witnessed the publishing of the first issue of a new weekly entitled *LA TRIBUNE POPULAIRE*, which has political interests.

LA TRIBUNE POPULAIRE is published in 16 pages in French and aims, through its articles, to widen the scope of exchanging political views and to enrich the political dialogue.

Union Critical of Slow Response to Worker's Demands*92AF0875C Rabat L'OPINION in French
24 May 92 p 1*

[Unattributed article: "UGTM (General Union of Moroccan Workers), CDT (Democratic Labor Confederation), SNE Sup. (National Union of Higher Education Teachers) Memorandum; The Government Persists in Its Indifference Toward Union Demands; Court Decisions in Favor of Workers Must Be Applied"]

[Text] Quoting "a source close to the Ministry of Information," the MAP agency announced that an interministerial commission chaired by the prime minister would meet early this week to consider union demands.

The week went by and we heard nothing about a meeting of such an interministerial commission to study the burdensome case of the many complaints of the working class and its just and legitimate demands.

This is another proof of the disengagement of a government that withdraws its own promises without considering the seriousness of the current social crisis.

As is known, on 7 May the executive bureaus of the UGTM [General Union of Moroccan Workers] and the CDT [Democratic Labor Confederation], and the national bureau of the SNE Sup. [National Union of Higher Education Teachers] had already sent to the prime minister a joint memorandum with an appendix on higher education. In sending this memorandum with its appendix concerning higher education to the government, as represented by the prime minister, nearly two weeks ago, the three above-mentioned unions intended to draw (once again) the government's attention on the seriousness of the social situation that prevails in the country. Out of concern for ethics, the three unions

chose not to publish the content of their memorandum, in order to give officials enough time to examine union complaints and meet the legitimate demands of the working class.

However, after nearly two weeks, and in the absence of any noticeable gesture on the part of officials, the three unions—UGTM, CDT and SNE Sup.—find themselves compelled to inform public opinion of the content of the memorandum, so as to force the government to face its responsibilities at a time when the country is going through a stage that calls for the adoption of urgent measures by the government in order to improve the climate, and as a preamble to a serious and responsible dialogue with unions on the demands contained in the memorandum.

Therefore, one question is obvious:

How long will the government persist in ignoring the demands of the Moroccan working class?

Trade Unions Invited To Resume Dialogue With Ministers*LD3105215692 Rabat MAP in English 1247 GMT
30 May 92*

[Text] Rabat, May 30 (MAP)—The ministerial commission in charge of the follow-up of the dialogue with socio-economic partners has invited the three trade unions (CDT [Democratic Labor Confederation], UGTM [General Union of Moroccan Workers] and SNE-SUP [National Union of Higher Education Teachers]) to resume dialogue with the ministers heading the three sub-commissions.

The call was made at a meeting between Moroccan Premier Azzedine Laraki and members of the ministerial commission in charge of following up the dialogue with socio-economic partners.

Measures will be taken to enable the CDT and the UGTM participate in the meetings and to include their claims in the agenda of existing commissions or of possibly new ones.

A similar letter was sent to the SNE-SUP inviting the union to contact the education and public works, vocational and executive training departments to initiate dialogue on claims of the staff affiliated to the union.

On May 7, the three trade unions had sent to the government a letter renewing adherence to the dialogue principle.

Berrada Opens International Treasury Meeting
*LD0206132192 Rabat MAP in English 1228 GMT
2 Jun 92*

[Text] Marrakesh, Jun 2 (MAP)—There can be no economic growth without prior rehabilitation of finance and treasury which are at the heart of adjustment policy called to play a key role, said Finance Minister Mohamed Berrada.

Opening the 5th international treasury services colloquy held here Jun 1-5, Berrada said private enterprises, the "sources of Morocco's wealth", ought to be viewed as a partner to treasury services, not as a reluctant taxpayer. The sector which is indeed the locomotive of Moroccan adjustment policy is to become the major promoter of investment and employment, he said.

The minister warned against confining treasury services to the execution of fiscal and budgetary policies saying their role is vital in promoting the flow of public revenue and control of public expenditure.

The five day event, held in a special juncture where adjustment and role of the treasury are topical, is attended by treasury departments of 27 countries.

Balance of Trade Figures for 1991 Published
92AF0817A Rabat AL-'ALAM in Arabic 23 Apr 92 p 5

[Article: "Final Constants of Moroccan Trade Balance: Food, Consumer Goods Make Up for Stagnation in Other Goods; Raw Phosphate, Fertilizer Decline While Phosphoric Acid Revenues Increase; Minerals, Animal and Plant Materials Experience Big Decline"]

[Text] In 1991, the value of Morocco's trade transactions with the outside world amounted to 97.0331 billion Moroccan dirhams, compared to 91.8805 billion dirhams in 1990, i.e., an increase of 5.6 percent over the preceding year, according to the figures published by the Exchange Bureau recently. Imports amounted to 59.7198 billion dirhams compared to 57.0229 billion dirhams in 1990, i.e., an increase of 4.7 percent. Exports amounted to 37.2833 billion dirhams, compared to 34.8576 billion dirhams in 1990, with an increase of 7 percent [over 1990]. Thus, the trade deficit settled at 22.4365 billion dirhams, compared to 22.1653 billion dirhams in 1990. The exports rate of coverage of imports experienced a slight improvement of 1.4 points, rising from 61.1 percent in 1990 to 62.4 percent in 1991.

Excluding fuels and mineral products, which dropped by 10.6 percent and 4.9 percent, successively, imports of all other materials and products increased, especially imports of semiprocessed and consumer goods.

A 7-percent increase in exports emanated fundamentally from an increase in the sale of foods and consumer and semiprocessed goods. On the other hand, mineral exports declined by 552 million dirhams, raw materials

from animals and plants by 351 million dirhams, and fuels by 313.8 million dirhams.

Exports: Calm Restored

Whereas imports had doubled in 1989, basically as a result of increased imports of equipment and semiprocessed goods, and caused the exports rate of coverage of imports to drop from more than 70 percent in 1988 to nearly 60 percent in 1989, and the trade deficit to worsen, imports have been inclined toward some sort of stability and moderation since 1990. This was confirmed in 1991.

Thus, 1991 imports increased by just 7.5 percent (16.2489 million tons, compared to 15.145 million tons in 1990). Imports rose by just 4.7 percent (59.7198 billion dirhams, compared to 57.0229 billion dirhams in 1990).

Foods

To put it in detail, the volume of imported foodstuffs amounted to 2.411 million tons, compared to 1.9873 million in 1990, i.e., an increase of 21.9 percent. Food imports rose by just 7.2 percent, amounting to 5.1455 billion dirhams, compared to 4.8011 billion dirhams in 1990. The 12.1 percent drop in the prices of goods within this section (2,134 dirhams per ton, compared to 2,427 dirhams per ton in 1990) had an obvious impact on curtailing the cost of these imports.

This was evident in the case of wheat, which constituted more than one-fourth of our food imports, with imports rising by more than 20.5 percent (1.6338 million tons, compared to 1.3566 million tons in 1990), whereas the value [dropped] by 6.8 percent (1.3142 billion dirhams, compared to 1.4096 billion dirhams in 1990).

The same applies to sugar. Even though imports rose by 30.1 percent, the value dropped by 11.1 percent, amounting to 592.7 million dirhams, compared to 666.4 million dirhams in 1990.

Tobacco imports nearly doubled within one year, rising from 360 million dirhams in 1990 to 673.6 million dirhams. Barley imports rose by 134.2 million dirhams, and corn imports by 42.4 million dirhams.

Energy Materials and Fuels

The energy bill dropped by 10.6 percent, amounting to 8.6312 billion dirhams, compared to 9.6522 billion dirhams in 1990. Meanwhile, imports decreased by just 3.1 percent (7.2899 million tons, compared to 7.5237 million tons in 1990).

Crude oil imports, which constitute three-quarters of the imports within this sector, dropped by 19.2 percent in value, and by 13.6 percent in volume, whereas oil gas purchases rose by 43.7 percent (+238.4 million dirhams) and fuel oil purchases by 103.3 percent (+203.2 million dirhams).

Raw Materials From Animals and Plants

Imports of raw materials from animals and plants rose by 8.4 percent, amounting to 3.8863 billion dirhams, compared to 3.5846 billion dirhams in 1990, whereas the volume remained nearly unchanged, amounting to 922,100 tons, compared to 913,800 tons in 1990.

Three substances constituted 70 percent of these imports, namely timber, whose bill dropped by 10.8 percent (-163.2 million dirhams); cotton, whose bill rose by 20.4 percent (+113.5 million dirhams); and vegetable oils, whose bill rose by 18.5 percent (117.8 million dirhams).

Raw Materials From Minerals

The value of imports of raw materials from minerals dropped by 4.9 percent, amounting to 3.1371 billion dirhams, compared to 3.3008 billion dirhams in 1990. There was a big drop of 17.5 percent in volume, which amounted to 2.424 million tons, compared to 2.9376 million tons [in 1990].

This drop was the result of an 18.7-percent drop in sulfur imports, which constitute 69.9 percent of this sector's imports. The bill for these imports dropped by 7.7 percent (2.1911 billion dirhams, compared to 2.3736 billion dirhams in 1990), keeping in mind that the price per ton increased by 13.5 percent, rising from 867 dirhams to 984 dirhams.

Semiprocessed Goods

Imports of semiprocessed goods rose by 2.5 percent from 1990 to 1991, growing to 25.5 percent of the total imports, compared to 23 percent in 1990. This was due to an increase of 10.7 percent in the value of these imports (15.2194 billion dirhams, compared to 13.7528 billion dirhams). Their volume increased by 16.8 percent (from 2.487 million tons to 2.9051 million tons).

The increase affected most semiprocessed goods, especially ingots and wood panels, which rose by 327.7 million dirhams (from 579.2 to 907 million dirhams); chemical and natural fertilizer, which rose by 162.9 million dirhams (from 394.4 million dirhams to 557.4 million dirhams); paper and cardboard, which rose by 162.6 millions (from 853.9 million dirhams to 1.0165 billion dirhams); and metal cables, which rose by 127 million dirhams (from 98.7 million dirhams to 225.8 million dirhams).

Equipment

Constituting 27.2 percent of the total imports, equipment continues to be the top category in our imports. [Part of sentence missing] 16.2362 billion dirhams in 1990, with an increase of 6.1 percent. The increase was even more evident in agricultural equipment, +35 percent. Industrial equipment rose by 5 percent.

Agricultural Equipment

The value of agricultural equipment amounted to 751.5 million dirhams, compared to 553.9 million dirhams in 1990, i.e., it rose by 35.6 percent, with the rise attributable fundamentally to the increased purchase of tractors—purchases which rose by 229.5 million dirhams (from 240.8 million dirhams to 470.2 million dirhams).

Industrial Equipment

In terms of value, agricultural equipment imports rose from 14.7473 billion dirhams in 1990 to 15.4844 billion dirhams in 1991, increasing by 5 percent. As for volume, the increase amounted to 7.3 percent, rising from 179,200 tons to 192,200 tons.

Fundamentally, the increase affected electrical communication [telephone] equipment which rose by 604.2 million dirhams (from 533.1 million dirhams to 1.1373 billion dirhams); crushing equipment, which rose by 236.2 million dirhams (from 522.3 to 758.6 million dirhams); railroad equipment, which rose by 231.6 million dirhams (from 186.5 to 418.1 million dirhams); and varied machinery and equipment, which rose by 146.6 million dirhams (from 2.3141 billion dirhams to 2.4607 billion dirhams). On the other hand, purchases of maritime vessels dropped by 593.9 million dirhams (from 1.5393 billion dirhams to 945.4 million dirhams); of aircraft by 296.3 million dirhams (from 783.8 million to 487.5 million); and of weaving equipment, by 223.3 million dirhams (from 972.6 million to 749 million).

Consumer Goods

The value of consumer goods imports grew by 12.3 percent, rising from 6.6301 billion dirhams in 1990 to 7.4461 billion dirhams, and their value rose by 11.4 percent (from 112,200 tons in 1990 to 125,000 tons in 1991).

Excluding a few items in this section that experienced a drop, such as receivers, which decreased by 41.4 million dirhams (from 205.5 million dirhams to 246.9 million dirhams), the majority of the items in this section have increased, especially tourist [rental] cars, which rose by 185.4 million dirhams (from 932.8 million dirhams to 1.1182 billion dirhams); velvet, which rose by 175.1 million dirhams (from 1.4607 billion to 1.6358 billion dirhams); cotton textiles, which rose by 113.2 million dirhams (from 756.3 to 869.5 million dirhams); and plastics, which rose by 48.7 million dirhams (from 357.3 to 406 million dirhams).

Exports: Decrease in Exported Quantities

In 1991, Morocco's exports dropped by 10.3 percent (from 18.9238 million tons in 1990 to 16.9732 million tons in 1991) but their value rose by 7 percent, or 2.3921 billion dirhams, rising from 34.8576 billion dirhams in 1990 to 37.1833 billion dirhams in 1991.

Even though exports of the Royal Phosphate Bureau, which amount to 27 percent of total exports, decreased

by 17.2 percent (from 15.2354 million tons to 12.6094 million tons), their revenues rose by 2 percent, amounting to 10.048 billion dirhams, compared to 9.855 billion dirhams in 1990, basically as a result of the increase in the revenues of phosphoric acid exports, which rose by 29.6 percent (from 2.868 billion dirhams to 3.716 billion dirhams), considering that revenues from natural and chemical fertilizer exports dropped by 2.1 percent (from 3.387 billion dirhams to 3.3161 billion dirhams). The revenues of crude phosphate exports declined even more drastically, decreasing by 16.2 percent, or 584.5 million dirhams, (from 3.6 billion dirhams to 3.0155 billion dirhams).

If this is the case regarding phosphate and its processed derivatives, then the revenues of the other exports, which represent 73 percent of our total exports, grew by 8.9 percent, amounting to 27.2357 billion dirhams, compared to 25.0026 billion dirhams in 1990. But the upward and downward development in the various sections of these exports varies.

Even though the volume of raw mineral exports, excluding phosphate, rose by 27.5 percent (from 1.5549 million tons in 1990 to 1.9826 million tons in 1991), they accomplished no more than a small increase of 3 percent in revenues (from 1.066 billion dirhams to 1.098 billion dirhams). The revenues of some mineral exports increased, whereas others decreased. The revenues from barium sulfate rose from 126.6 to 165.1 million dirhams, or 30.4 percent. The same applies to iron exports, which rose from 11.8 to 29.4 million dirhams, growing by 149.2 percent; manganese exports, which rose from 81.7 to 85.8 million dirhams; and cobalt exports, which rose from 20.2 to 32.9 million dirhams, growing by 62.9 percent. Meanwhile, copper export revenues dropped from 254.1 to 234.7 million dirhams (-7.6 percent); lead exports dropped from 131 to 52.2 million dirhams (-60.1 percent); and zinc revenues dropped from 103.9 to 84.6 million dirhams (-22.8 percent).

Raw material exports experienced a sharp volume decrease of 27.2 percent (from 178,900 tons to 130,400 tons). The decrease in value was no less significant, amounting to 23.6 percent (1.4848 billion dirhams to 1.1339 billion dirhams). This decline is due to the collapse of olive oil exports (decreasing by 296.3 million dirhams) and paper pulp (decreasing by 123.6 million dirhams).

This decline also affected energy material exports, which dropped by 21.6 percent (from 614,000 tons to 481,300 tons) and their value, which dropped by 25.1 percent (from 1.2502 billion dirhams to 936.4 million dirhams). This decline is due to an 18-percent drop in oil exports, which are the most significant energy exports (from 1.1047 billion dirhams to 905.6 million dirhams).

The decline also affected exports of semiprocessed goods, reducing their volume by 4.3 percent (from 228,800 tons to 219,000 tons) and their revenues by 3.5 percent (from 2.5131 billion to 2.4258 billion dirhams).

This drop resulted from the decrease in leather revenues (from 92.5 million dirhams to 66.8 million dirhams, or 27.8 percent); pine nuts (from 120.3 million dirhams to 89.2 million dirhams, or by 25.9 percent); lead ore (from 396.6 million dirhams to 274.7 million dirhams, or a drop of 30.7 percent); timber (from 104.8 million dirhams to 79.3 million dirhams, or a drop of 24.3 percent); synthetic fibers (from 251.7 million dirhams to 213.3 million dirhams, or a drop of 15.3 percent); and cotton yarn (from 293.3 million dirhams to 281.1 million dirhams, or a drop of 1.4 percent). Meanwhile, revenues from lubricant oils and benzine rose by 16.9 percent (from 109.1 million dirhams to 127.5 million dirhams); and silver ore by 2.8 percent (from 191.9 million dirhams to 197.3 million dirhams).

In contrast with the decline experienced by the aforementioned export groups, there was improvement in the value of food, consumer goods, and equipment exports. The volume of foodstuff exports rose by 27.8 percent (from 1.1164 million tons to 1.4267 million tons) and their revenues rose by 20.6 percent (from 8.6357 billion dirhams to 10.4119 billion dirhams).

Excluding fresh fish and fruit and vegetable juice, which dropped by 13.2 percent (from 1.389 billion dirhams to 1.2051 billion dirhams) and 31.1 percent successively (from 412.8 million dirhams to 284.5 million dirhams), the various other food exports rose in value, especially crustaceans, shrimp, and oysters, which rose by 55.4 percent (from 1.7569 billion dirhams to 2.7294 billion dirhams); citrus fruits, which rose by 30.3 percent (from 1.3965 billion dirhams to 1.819 billion dirhams); canned fish, which rose by 15.2 percent (from 1.1689 billion dirhams to 1.3471 billion dirhams); canned vegetables which rose by 2.5 percent (from 467.7 million dirhams to 879.3 million dirhams [figures as published]); fresh tomatoes, which rose by 2.5 percent (389.9 million dirhams to 467.7 million dirhams); canned fruits and fruit preserves, which rose by 10.8 percent (from 176.6 million dirhams to 185.7 million dirhams); and potatoes which rose by 125.8 percent (from 156.5 million dirhams to 353.3 million dirhams).

Exports of fully-processed consumer goods rose by 10.3 percent (rising from 8.795 billion dirhams to 9.7038 billion dirhams) as a result of a 15.1 percent increase in the revenues of ready-made clothing exports (from 3.6399 billion dirhams to 4.1874 billion dirhams), of a 13-percent increase in underwear exports (from 1.9148 billion dirhams to 2.1646 billion dirhams), a 9.4-percent increase in shoe exports (from 646.5 million dirhams to 707.3 million dirhams), a 10.3-percent increase in exports of car spare parts (from 206.9 million dirhams to 228.2 million dirhams), and an increase of 49.3 percent in velvet exports (from 84.5 million dirhams to 126.2 million dirhams). In contrast, revenues from cotton clothing exports dropped by 22.9 percent (from 187.7 to 150.3 million dirhams), from leather clothing by 8.1 percent (from 363.3 million dirhams to 334 million dirhams), and from rugs by 18.6 percent (from 454.9

million dirhams to 370.5 million dirhams). Rug revenues dropped in 1991 as they had dropped in the preceding year.

Revenues from equipment exports rose by 21.3 percent (from 1.2577 billion dirhams to 1.5253 billion dirhams). This increase is attributable to a big increase in the revenues of (duyud al-karshal) [perhaps typo for crystal diode] exports, which rose by 30 percent, from 354.5 million dirhams to 461 million dirhams. This increase made up for a drop of 6.2 percent in transistor component exports (from 352 million dirhams to 331 million dirhams).

Drought: Imports of Cereals Necessary

LD2205210792 Rabat MAP in English 1248 GMT
22 May 92

[Excerpt] Rabat, May 22 (MAP)—Morocco's cereal output will markedly drop this year in view of the drought that affected the country. Plans were adopted to import the necessary quantities of cereals to ensure the supply of the internal market and avoid a price increase.

The announcement was made at the second meeting of the inter-ministerial committee in charge of coping with the drought effects held here Wednesday and that assessed the agricultural situation at large in the kingdom.

The committee which discussed, in light of the studies conducted in this respect, the impact of the drought on agricultural output, dams water reserves and employment, stressed the need to monitor all the phases of the supply of the internal market to avoid speculations detrimental to the citizens' purchasing power.

The committee also heard a report on the situation of the National Agricultural Fund (CNCA) which will have to face some difficulties because of the large amounts of loans (over three billion dirhams) extended to farmers and of the rescheduling of these loans. The committee will seek new financing resources to enable the CNCA cope with the situation.

It has also been decided to set up a sub-committee that will collect financial resources necessary to the launching of a national employment program to benefit the labor affected by the drought. The employment promotion program provides for the opening of working sites to refurbish water canals, sink wells, promote lands, prospect for water and others.

The committee noted that the cattle breeding sector has not been affected by the drought. The latest rainfalls were beneficial to grazing lands and have consequently maintained the stability of meat price.

Minister of agriculture and agrarian reform who is member of the inter-ministerial committee Thursday briefed the government council on the agricultural situation in the kingdom and on the measures adopted to secure a normal supply of the market.

The inter-ministerial committee set up last February had then decided several urgent measures ranging from the rescheduling of debts incurred by Moroccan farmers to the setting up of collective working sites to the benefit of drought-affected farmers going through the importing of the necessary quantities of cereals to preserve the national stocks, adoption of programs to safeguard the seeds for the coming campaign, and struggle against the squandering of water.

In matters of cattle breeding, Moroccan authorities adopted an emergency plan providing for the disbursement of about 31 million dollars to safeguard the cattle, assessed at 23 million head. The plan provides for the purchase of one million quintals of feed, supply arid zones with water and consolidate veterinary medicare to avoid animal epidemics. [passage omitted]

Tourism Figures Reportedly Up Since 1992

92AF0825B Casablanca LA VIE ECONOMIQUE
in French 24 Apr 92 p 18

[Text] Compared with March 1991, the number of arrivals recorded went from 15,310 in 1991 to 34,339 in 1992, an increase of 19,029 or 124.3 percent.

This increase in the number of arrivals had a direct effect on the number of nights spent in hotels. The total number of nights recorded went from 62,704 in 1991 to 239,599 in 1992, an increase of 176,895 or 282 percent.

One interesting fact to be noted is that in March, Germans comprised the largest group with 9,305, compared with 6,499 French and 4,773 Scandinavians.

There was also a spectacular increase in the average length of stay, the longest time being spent by Belgians (9.92), followed by the Dutch (9.61), Scandinavians (8.87), and Germans (8.61).

Hotel occupancy rates have increased sharply and one fact stands out:

In 1991, due to the Gulf crisis, it was the five-star clientele that was the most sensitive to events, as reflected in occupancy rates at five-star establishments, which in March 1991 reached an all-time low of 5 percent.

In contrast, the occupancy rate in March 1992 was 68.2 percent.

The same is true of resorts: occupancy rates of under 10 percent in March 1991 versus over 50 percent in March 1992.

Occupancy Rates
(in percent)

Agadir	March 1991	March 1992
5-Star	4.99	68.19
4-Star	10.54	34.78
3-Star	13.03	28.15

Occupancy Rates (in percent) (Continued)		
Agadir	March 1991	March 1992
2-Star	18.03	63.68
1-Star	13.54	20.05
RT*	9.23	31.61
VVT*	9.69	51.82
Total	10.42	39.94

*[Expansions not given]

Hotel Capacity in Agadir		
Beds	March 1991	March 1992
5-Star	546	474
4-Star	5,039	5,622
3-Star	2,702	2,372
2-Star	382	382
1-Star	351	351
RT	3,305	3,429
VVT	5,790	5,901
Total	18,115	18,532
Inezgane	406	436

Statistics on Tourist Trend in March in Agadir						
Country	Arrivals		Nights Spent		Average Stay	
	1991	1992	1991	1992	1991	1992
France	1,552	6,499	7,869	42,296	6.07	6.50
Spain	410	729	1,547	3,109	3.77	4.26
England	135	1,301	935	10,439	6.92	8.02
Germany	3,031	9,305	24,277	80,144	8.00	8.61
Italy	191	2,175	763	14,158	3.99	6.50
Scandinavia	126	4,773	818	42,355	6.49	8.87
Portugal	51	155	133	647	2.60	4.17
Holland	129	682	763	6,558	5.91	9.61
Belgium	146	1,073	769	10,650	5.26	9.92
Switzerland	455	828	1,796	6,310	3.94	7.62
United States	32	164	77	594	2.40	3.62
Canada	98	221	298	1,155	3.04	5.22
Arab countries	161	143	573	652	3.55	4.55
African countries	29	11	53	34	1.82	3.09
Others	495	1,333	2,703	7,226	5.46	5.42
Morocco (nationals)	7,879	4,688	18,096	12,074	2.29	2.57
Morocco (from abroad)	390	259	1,234	1,198	3.16	4.62
General Total	15,310	34,339	62,704	239,599	4.09	6.97

Increase in Industrial Investment Reported

92AF0825D Casablanca LA VIE ECONOMIQUE
in French 8 May 92 pp 16-17

[Article by K.A.]

[Text] Leading approved industrial investments in 1991, the chemical and parachechemical sector showed a marked upward trend last February, recording twice the January total.

In February of this year, industrial investments approved by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry increased sharply.

The increase is in three areas: number of dossiers, number of jobs, and sums invested.

Projects total 323, the overwhelming majority of them expansions (237), an increase of 43 units over January 1992 and 67 over February 1991.

981 Million Dirhams Invested

The best surprise mainly has to do with investment plans and jobs anticipated.

In fact, totaling 981 million dirhams, the amount of capital invested is up 38 percent over the preceding month and 65 percent greater than in February of last year (compared with a variation of only +9 percent between January 1991 and 1992).

As for the number of jobs created, the trend is clearly better, with an anticipated total of 6,912, an increase of 11 percent compared with last January and 9 percent

compared with February 1991. This indicator dropped 10 percent between January 1991 and January 1992.

The other noteworthy fact for the second month of the year is a change in the shares won by the leading sectors of industrial activity. The traditional preeminence of textiles and leather, already threatened in 1991, was challenged in February by chemistry and parachemistry.

In fact, this sector absorbed 39 percent of all investments (382.5 million dirhams), more than double the volume recorded the preceding month.

Although relegated to second place (with 304 million dirhams invested), textiles and leather are improving their own performance within the total (31 percent compared with 28 percent in January).

From the standpoint of the origin of capital, the foreign portion remained stable (12 percent), but involves a larger volume (117 million dirhams compared with 85 million).

French Investments Lead

Nearly half are French investments (44 percent), regaining the lead in the "foreign" column, which it had

yielded in January to the Syrians, who came in second in February with 16 percent of all investments.

The majority of the foreign operators (64 percent) invested in chemistry-parachemistry and only 20 percent in textiles and leather, generally more prized. The share of dossiers coming from PMI [small and medium-size industries] remained relatively stable (45 percent in February compared with 51 percent in January), but their importance from the standpoint of investments is down (14 percent of the total compared with 18 percent).

As for the number of jobs created for the value invested, the number is six times higher in the PMI than in big industry.

Nevertheless, on a sectoral basis, textile and leather remained the area with the majority (38 percent of the total PMI), followed by the chemical and parachemical industries.

However, the latter improved their position compared with January (30 percent of the total PMI compared with 13 percent a month before).

Comparison of 1991 and 1992
(January-February)

Sector	Number of Dossiers			Jobs			Investments (1,000 dirhams)		
	1990	1991	Var. %	1990	1991	Var. %	1990	1991	Var. %
Agro-food ind.	64	79	23	772	1,311	70	129,271	285,483	121
Textile-leather ind.	208	222	7	8,521	6,748	-21	410,019	497,542	21
Chemical/parachemical ind.	117	133	14	1,977	2,266	15	385,872	529,197	37
Metal/machine ind.	42	61	45	824	827	0	115,408	78,315	-32
Electrical-electronic ind.	14	9	-36	168	188	12	47,045	33,076	-30
Industrial enterprises	58	79	36	897	1,703	90	150,705	253,688	68
Service enterprises linked to industry	14	20	43	84	94	12	5,262	12,798	143
Total	517	603	17	13,243	13,137	-1	1,243,582	1,690,099	36

First Quarter Tourist Figures Reported

92AF0779A Casablanca LA VIE ECONOMIQUE
in French 1 May 92 p 15

[Article by M.H.: "Strong Recovery in Tangiers"]

[Text] The tourist industry as a whole is definitely on the road to recovery, albeit unevenly. Not only have the figures bounced back from their 1991 low, but also in many cases tourism activity is higher than it was in 1990. Even in Tangiers, tourism is booming....

In the first quarter, Tangiers saw significantly more tourist arrivals at hotels (not border posts) than in 1991.

The following statistics give the broad picture:

Tourism: 1991 and 1992		
	1991	1992
International tourism	12,217	35,804
Domestic tourism	18,473	21,610
Total	30,680	57,414

These figures are very satisfying, since total hotel arrivals were up by 87.1 percent—and international hotel arrivals by 193 percent!

The increase in number of lodging nights is even more spectacular:

Tourist Lodging Nights: 1991 and 1992		
	1991	1992
International tourism	24,983	89,508
Domestic tourism	28,414	32,296
Total	53,397	121,804

The overall increase in lodging nights is 128 percent. The average length of stay has increased from 1.8 to 2.1 days. Which tourists are most numerous?

Well, apart from the Spanish, who quite naturally are in first place because of their proximity, the Germans are most numerous in some spots (Agadir, for example), but the English, although just behind them in arrivals, are No. 1 in lodging nights.

The following table gives a country-by-country breakdown of arrivals and lodging nights. As one can see, the English—faithful to an old tradition—have the longest stays in Tangiers, followed by the Germans and Belgians.

Tourists by Country of Origin			
	Arrivals	Lodging Nights	Average Stay (days)
Spaniards	11,606	18,209	1.6
Germans	5,819	18,648	3.2
English	4,736	26,567	5.6
Americans	3,464	5,863	1.7
Frenchmen	2,045	4,312	2.1
Africans	1,279	2,188	1.7
Italians	850	2,180	2.6
Arabs	726	1,911	2.6
Portuguese	517	1,002	1.9
Dutch	483	1,244	2.6
Belgians	382	1,212	3.2
Canadians	377	575	1.5
Scandinavians	286	472	1.7
Swiss	140	360	2.6
Miscellaneous	3,094	4,765	1.5
Nationals	21,085	31,537	1.5
Foreign residents	525	759	1.4
TOTAL	57,414	121,804	2.1

We found the comparison between 1992 and 1990 instructive. Though statistics were available only for the

month of March, they nonetheless speak volumes.

Tourist Arrivals: 1990-1992			
Arrivals	March 1990	March 1991	March 1992
International tourism	14,144	4,534	12,897
Domestic tourism	7,101	6,556	4,171
Total	21,245	11,092	17,068

Tourist Lodging Nights: 1990-1992			
Lodging Nights	March 1990	March 1991	March 1992
International tourism	30,002	7,778	35,323
Domestic tourism	11,214	10,072	6,864
Total	41,216	17,850	42,187

While the number of arrivals is still below the March 1990 figure, lodging nights are up.

Security Measures To Fight Contraband, Drugs

92AF0779B Casablanca LA VIE ECONOMIQUE
in French 1 May 92 pp 6-7

[Article: "Customs Steps Up Fight Against Traffickers"]

[Text] Liberalization of customs regulations doesn't mean customs authorities will be less watchful for fraud, contraband or drug trafficking. Just the opposite....

The customs directorate has provided us with reports and activity summaries from the Directorate of Customs Investigations.

Apart from the statistics found in these reports, the documents show the important accomplishments of these branches and agencies in the last year and outline proposals for future action that essentially speak for themselves. They provide an overall picture of activities and describe the broad lines of the strategy the Directorate of Customs Investigations plans to employ in combatting fraud in the future.

First of all, as in every other country, it must be noted that fraud—contraband in particular—is not declining, despite implementation of measures to liberalize external commerce and reduce customs duties.

Types of Fraud

In the first place, some businessmen continue to perpetrate commercial fraud, primarily by means of false declarations of goods, value and origin. Commercial fraud is also committed by abuse of regulations pertaining to customs clearance and investments, as well as by means of official or fraudulent documents and seals.

The second aspect of fraud is contraband, which as we know is the clandestine introduction of merchandise into the country, either by camouflage or clandestine avoidance of customs check-points.

Smuggling is an activity pursued mainly by "jobless" persons and residents of the border region. It flourishes because of infatuation with the higher quality products offered, and it meets what increasingly demanding consumers consider to be a real need.

Another form of contraband is currently widespread in Morocco: illicit trafficking of narcotics and psychotropic substances. At international conferences on the abuse and trafficking of narcotics and psychotropic substances, the kingdom of Morocco is getting increasing attention as a producer, transshipper and exporter country.

This scourge is now afflicting the export sector, which has benefited from procedural simplification and broader incentives.

In recent times, a large quantity of resinous kif [marijuana] (13 tons during the first quarter of 1992 alone) has

been found hidden in trucks transporting locally produced merchandise destined for export (canned tomatoes, pimento, olives, bedcovers, furniture, etc.).

With respect to hard drugs, Morocco is used as a transit country to Europe for cocaine coming from South America (large quantities have been seized at Mohammed V airport and more recently in postal shipments in Tangiers).

Finally, another type of fraud is becoming increasingly prevalent: manufacture of counterfeit products. The fabrication of fraudulent imitations, which used to occur mainly in certain foreign countries and was limited to a few luxury items, is now taking place in Morocco and affects a broad gamut of industrial and consumer products (spare parts for vehicles, fine leather goods, clothing, cosmetics, bath fittings, etc.).

Counterfeit products, which are appearing with increasing frequency in contraband distribution networks, have become an important industry.

Starting from these facts, the customs authorities have defined their objectives: to destabilize contraband operators, upset their distribution system, discover their networks, carry out raids, etc.

Comprehensive Strategy

To do this requires structure, organization, highly motivated and sensitized agents, and finally the necessary resources.

A comprehensive action strategy was formulated, and it is based mainly on three lines of action:

- prevention;
- action on the ground;
- follow-on verification.

The first task was to enhance and improve preventive measures, primarily by means of ideas drawn from studies, training of agents, resources (computers, files, exchange of intelligence information) and cultivation of information sources.

Preventive measures are developed primarily from sectoral studies that describe the morphology of the illicit trade and suggest possible remedial measures.

Studies undertaken to date, in large part based on investigations conducted by professionals, show that certain domestic production units (e.g., the television assembly industry) are requesting, in order to meet the threat of competition that they claim contraband poses, a tariff reduction for a very weak rate of integration.

These industries maintain large profit margins not justified by the quality-to-price ratio. Studies also show that contraband trafficking in some products and articles of foreign origin is the doing of members of the liberal professions (such as doctors smuggling paramedical

equipment), as well as clothing merchants located in the prime commercial districts of big cities.

All these articles and products, highly prized by a certain segment of the population, are sold on the local market at prices which in some cases yield 1,000-percent profit margins.

Prevention also depends on specialized training of agents in antifraud measures in general and counter-narcotics in particular.

Customs authorities have thus initiated a number of training measures in collaboration with CCD [Customs Cooperation Council] on the one hand, and with French, Spanish, and English customs on the other.

Training Courses

On the commercial side, agents are broadly encouraged to participate in advanced training courses organized by France's National Customs School. These courses put special emphasis on investigatory techniques, methods of inspection, training of supervisory personnel and checking up on computerized companies.

The CCD holds fraud control seminars, such as those on protection of industrial property and commercial fraud, which are treated as high-level courses for supervisory personnel.

With regard to technical modernization of the strategy for combating fraud, special emphasis is placed on data processing technology, which allows statistical data to be stored in memory and analyzed.

Computerized file systems are on the way. There will be files on offenders and foreign yachts.

Along the same lines, customs inspection of containerized cargo is running into problems because of the physical structure of this form of transport, which lends itself easily to fraud.

Talks are under way with an English firm that has developed a container-checking tunnel. It works by radioscapy, bombarding the container with various rays that reveal empty spaces that could be used as hiding places.

Follow-On Verification

Another aspect of customs control is assuming increasing importance. This is follow-on verification, which does not interfere with the imperative of rapid cross-border movement. It is justified by obvious economic considerations that affect the interests of all kinds of businessmen involved in external trade. The customs check-point is not necessarily the best, most adequate, or most propitious place to verify the accuracy of certain parts of the customs declaration.

Verification is effected from the written entries of businessmen involved in the merchandise distribution network (importers, exporters, transporters, forwarding

agents, and various intermediaries). In this way, more information is obtained about declared goods that were summarily verified during the customs clearance process.

For improved efficiency, verification procedures are specialized, and particular areas are selected for investigation.

At the international level, the customs and excises administration (ADII) works closely with the CCD in the fight against fraud.

Although Morocco was already a member of CCD, for some years its participation was limited to the purely technical and customs-related activities of the organization.

In recent years, ADII has been taking a more active and regular part in the work of the antifraud committee and the various meetings and seminars on the subject.

The hard work of the antifraud committee, in close collaboration with the CCD secretariat, has involved Morocco's ADII—along with its counterparts in other member countries—in the study of important and quite varied questions affecting every area where fraud is a problem.

New Resources

In that connection, the CCD has recently taken two antifraud initiatives. These are the centralized information system (SIC) and the regional liaison bureaus (BRL).

The SIC was created to provide intelligence support to customs authorities in CCD member countries. It collects information from other bodies such as Interpol (International Criminal Police Organization), assembles useful documentation and draws connections between disparate data. It identifies trends, describes operating procedures of distributors, and provides "profiles" to member countries.

Also, CCD's overall action plan involves more activity at the regional level. Because of its strategic geographic position and the policy maintained by its customs authorities, Morocco—as the regional representative of the Maghreb-Middle East—is prepared to create a BRL for the Maghreb region.

That bureau, which will have data processing and communications equipment, is to collect all the information emanating from the region, including information from the Mediterranean countries. This information will be passed to other CCD countries.

At each step and in each customs authority, the facts will be brought to light, elaborated and reported. The bureau will be directly tied to the SIC.

The ADII intends to have the bureau operational by 1 July 1992.

Apart from the foregoing, customs authorities have made additional efforts to obtain information and cooperation from overseas sources.

They have worked to build cooperative ties to a number of foreign customs authorities, within the framework of bilateral mutual administrative assistance treaties, in order to stop, track down and eliminate contraband organizations, including illicit drug trafficking organizations.

Several accords of this kind have already been concluded in recent years (Spain, Italy, Portugal, and France); in

addition, a similar accord was signed with Algeria in April 1991, a convention with Great Britain was initialed in December 1991, and an agreement of the same sort has been negotiated with Senegal.

Two proposed multilateral conventions on the same subject are being negotiated—one with countries of the Arab region, the other between the Maghreb countries.

All these agreements basically facilitate the establishment of personal and direct contacts with a view to exchange of intelligence and information about fraud.

Street Crime 'Increasing' Amidst Indifference

92AF0800C Rabat L'OPINION in French 24 Apr 92
p 10

[Commentary by Si Ahmed: "The Silence of Others"]

[Text] Strange happenings are happening in our poorly lit areas and alleys at night. All manner of insults and provocations are now routine when one ventures into such places.

The noteworthy increase in the type of persons responsible for such acts explains a situation for which everyone else is responsible. The indifference of some and hard-core attitude of others have both allowed such types of crime to continue to the point that the situation now threatens to get out of control.

Those involved generally come from poor families, have dropped out of school, and therefore end up getting involved in street crime. Unemployment and the economic situation have given rise to a gap between the haves and the have-nots, which naturally has repercussions on social relationships.

This lack of rapport generates selfishness and hatred. The "every-man-for-himself" attitude has outweighed other considerations.

Keeping up appearances has become everyone's major concern.

How could it be otherwise? Spiraling prices, the lack of adequate price controls on the market, and luxuries have resulted in excessive concern for the search for gain by any means. Whence the deterioration of morals and corresponding increase in crime.

No longer can one ignore the thefts and assaults, with or without weapons, which are assuming alarming proportions. It is the height of misfortune that such sinister crimes are sometimes committed in broad daylight, with every individual pretending to ignore street dramas that sometimes end in tragedy.

People likewise close their eyes when they see burglars doing what it is they do best, i.e., dismantling automobiles or looting stores. Some claim they are powerless to do anything, but it is easier to call the police than to support such scenes by one's silence.

If one takes a trip to Daouar Kora or to Joutea de Yacoub El Mansour, reality is beyond imagining: Kids, not even teenagers, operate in gangs after drinking or smoking, which is precisely the wrong time to cross their path.

Gone is the day when one showed respect for one's neighbor. Nowadays, people have unfortunately become "closed, selfish, and indifferent to anything not directly affecting them," as one of our colleagues pointed out.

Times have definitely changed. The mutual aid and support that gladdened the hearts of people have gradually disappeared. The ? [sic] are everywhere, grabbing anything within reach.

It is time to stir up (human) warmth in order to revive the cradle of love that has always characterized our society. After all, indifference or passive silence is an evil that little by little is killing even that which is dearest to us: love for our neighbor.

Survey: Urban Youth Views on Marriage

92AF0799A Rabat AL-MITHAQ AL-WATANI
in Arabic 18 Apr 92 p 3

[Article by Semira Karouani: "Field Research on Youth Views of Marriage: 51 Percent Confirm Direct Meeting Soundest Way To Select Ideal Mate"]

[Text] Marriage is considered a social institution that all young people are eager to participate in. However, to ensure that marriage is successful and lasts, several factors must be present, for like any institution, marriage makes both material and moral demands.

Naturally, the person who wants to enter into this institution must have the wherewithal to spend and provide for a family. Money is a basic factor, and one which presents a stumbling block for most of our youth, preventing them from realizing or achieving marriage. This, however, is not to deny other moral factors that are basic in their own right.

In this context, students at the Faculty of Arts in Rabat and the Ben Masik Sociology Laboratory in Casablanca conducted the second opinion poll of its kind under the supervision of Prof. Fatima Marnisi in Rabat and Prof. [Mohamed] Aoued in Casablanca.

The subject of the poll concerns the attitude of Moroccan youth towards marriage. Two thousand young men and women aged between 16 and 35 from the cities of Rabat and Casablanca were taken as the sample for the poll, equally divided by sex and city of residence. The poll addressed itself to several significant and sensitive questions of concern to our young people.

Question One: What are the parameters of a successful marriage?

Those surveyed could choose between 1) Dialogue and Understanding 2) Mutual Respect 3) Love 4) Making a Family and Having Children 5) Obedience 6) Spousal Fidelity and 7) Other. Thirty-three percent selected dialogue (1), 26 percent mutual respect (2), and 13 percent love (3).

Among youth as a whole, the two sexes failed to differ on the basics. Males (31 percent) and females (34 percent) differed slightly as to whether understanding between husband and wife is the essential guarantee of a successful marriage. Respect followed immediately after that (about one-quarter of the males and one-third of the

females), and then love, with the men being more romantic (14 percent of the men and 11 percent of the women).

Question Two: Should only the husband be required to provide a livelihood and earn money to meet household needs, while the wife waits for him to return?

The research showed that young people [believe] that the best solution is to view marriage as a vast expanse in which men and women share the liability jointly. Wives are required to obtain a salary to cooperate in ensuring a livelihood.

Question Three [as published]: In an ideal marriage, a wife is required to:

- Work and provide a portion of her salary to manage the household (men 43 percent, women 53 percent);
- Work and keep her salary for herself (men 14 percent, women 12 percent);
- Not leave home (men 24 percent, women 20 percent).

Thus, it seems that as a group, men and women are ready to work and to split the meager salaries they earn with such difficulty and hardship, because [otherwise,] circumstances would not allow one to give the other a gift.

Beyond that, obtaining work and a residence before building a household are considered unavoidable necessities by two-thirds of those of both sexes surveyed. But what does one find in the legal code, the law that has governed marriage in Morocco for 35 years, regarding these two problems that concern youth threatened by unemployment? We find that Section 115 puts the entire burden of economic responsibility on the young man: "Each person shall provide his own livelihood out of his private resources, except for the wife, who shall be provided for by the husband." So, under the law a young man is not only required to meet his own needs, but he also has to be rich enough to ensure those of his wife, who the regulation stipulates must not work. The survey revealed to us that, while youth live on the planet Crisis, the legislator perpetually lives on the planet Haroun al-Rachid [from "A Thousand and One Arabian Nights"].

Here, then, we have an true revolution in outlook, one of compassion, wherein young people who are suffering hardships have made the concessions necessary to achieve the happiness that old models could no longer ensure them. Let us accompany them and listen for a little while, something that rarely ever happens.

Question Three [as published]: Is masculinity always measured in dirhams, and femininity in terms of beauty?

According to custom, the essential component of an acceptable husband is plenty of money, and the most desirable feature in the bride is beauty (which is in the eyes of the beholder). Young people in the vanguard look at things from another perspective. Of all males and females, 40.57 percent view money as a priority in

selecting a husband, and 49.32 percent feel beauty is still a basic standard for creating a household. More than half of the research group has already broken through the modernity barrier, by classifying money and beauty as secondary, or of no interest at all.

For them, the essential characteristics of ensuring happiness are found somewhere else entirely. They favor relations that are sympathetic and harmonious.

Question Four: Do young people always rely on the family to aid them in selecting a mate, or do they make their way alone towards the joy of independence (freedom, responsibility) and its problems (possibility of making a mistake, difficulty of dialogue)?

In Question 3 [as published], where we ask about the best means of selecting the ideal spouse, we discovered that young men and women alike rely solely on themselves and feel that they are more capable than anyone else of deciding an issue, no matter how difficult. A subsequent series of empirical questions attempted to measure the degree to which youth have freed themselves from inherited ideas, especially Question 5 [as published], which asks whether young people could accept marriage to a divorced person, and Question 6 [as published] concerning virginity. The following figures show where young people of both sexes stand as a whole. In most instances, there is very little difference between male and female [response percentages].

Question Five: What is the best means of selecting an ideal spouse?

1) Discussion and direct understanding with the [prospective] spouse, 51 percent. 2) Spouse selected by the family, 12.95 percent. 3) Through love, 31 percent.

Question Six: Would you accept marriage to a divorced person?

1) Yes, 30 percent. 2) No, 59 percent. 3) Do not know, 8 percent. 4) No response, 2.34 percent. These responses can be interpreted in a number of ways. Pessimists might say that nothing has changed, and that the taboo on divorced people, women in particular, is stronger than ever, since two-thirds of young people remain loyal to the tradition of punishing whoever revolts and demands separation. Optimists like myself, however, find that one-third of young people are now free of this "hallowed" taboo and are prepared to marry a spouse with "a dark past". One-third of Moroccans of ages between 16 and 35, distributed between Rabat and Casablanca, means thousands of persons. Changes in outlook never happen as quickly as making couscous.

Question Seven: Do you consider virginity an essential condition of marriage?

1) Yes, 70 percent. 2) No, 22 percent.

The same analysis could be applied to the response to this question, i.e., those who dream of constancy will focus their attention on the two-thirds of young people

who responded affirmatively. Supporters of change, however, will pay attention to the one-quarter of young people who fail to say that virginity takes priority. More importantly, those who responded affirmatively were about equally distributed as to sex, 50.4 percent male and 40.96 percent female. One of the discoveries of this survey is that age narrows and unifies the perspective of both sexes related to their roles in society. Young men and women are finding themselves on the same wavelength.

What About Contraceptives?

Do young people have a responsible view of their sexuality? Do they link the number of children they might have with economic advancement? Are young people aware that 3 percent [as published] of the serious problems that we face today are a result of demographic pressure and disequilibrium, which reduce the state's ability to respond to needs related to schools, roads, job opportunities, etc. Our youth are very aware of this problem of planning a harmonious equation between resources and population and other matters. "Or, "On the contrary, our youth are very aware of this problem. Half of the males and females between the ages of 16 and 35 support family planning, and half intend to have no more than two children.

Question Eight: What is your attitude regarding contraceptives?

1) Favor, 77 percent. 2) Against, 15 percent.

Question Nine: In your view, what is the ideal number of children?

1) Whatever God wants, 18.49 percent. 2) None, 3.0 percent. 3) One or two children, 50 percent. 4) Three or four children, 25 percent. 5) Five or more children, 1.17 percent.

Once again, we present the attitude of the survey group as a whole, both sexes combined, because the difference between males and females is not highly significant. Males and females share the same view of contraceptives and the number of children. Moroccan males, however, are more aware than the females. Here, we must remind women who consider men to be shuffling along in the past and failing to make any effort to change, that they have to relinquish their superiority complex concerning modernity. Young Moroccan men are at the forefront of progress, and occasionally more advanced than women. Yes, we have to admit this sad fact. For example, we find that 28.56 percent of the women, as opposed to 23.10 percent of the men, chose to have three or four [children]. Women [want] greater numbers than men.

Question Ten: If you wanted to have a limited number of children, how would you go about it?

1) Use of the pill, 42 percent. 2) Diaphragm, 19 percent. 3) Condom, 17 percent. 4) Use of other modern methods

to prevent pregnancy, 6.7 percent. 5) Use of other traditional means, 3.66 percent.

The figures mentioned above concern both sexes. There are differences, of course, between men and women, with respect to the preferred method. While women favor the pill more than men—50 percent to 34 percent—only 15.9 percent of men appear to dislike the diaphragm, compared to 22.38 percent of women.

The revelation, however, is in the attitude of youth towards the condom, derided only 10 years ago as a Western discovery that prevented Arabs from practicing their masculinity. One-quarter of young males (22.70 percent) considered the condom a sound means of controlling births.

How, then, should we interpret this change in the male attitude towards the diaphragm?

(Because women do not like it very much; only 11 percent considered it an acceptable means of preventing pregnancy). Is this change the result of publicizing the Midi 1? Or is it due to radio listening, especially to foreign broadcasts that warn all day long of the serious consequences of AIDS and the dangers of communicable diseases? Another survey needs to be conducted by students concerned with these questions. In any event, it once again appears that, despite the bashfulness of the Ministry of Health, Moroccan young people are very aware and prepared to regulate [themselves] and to take whatever precautionary and preventive measures are necessary to guarantee themselves a sound, intentional, planned family.

Question Eleven: What is the ideal age for marriage?

Demographic analyses have proven that one of the soundest means of limiting births is by age at marriage. Have young people made the connection between the two phenomena or not? Remember venerable Chairman Mao Tse Tung, who asked the Red Guards not to marry before the age of 30, for the purpose of having them devote their youth to the good of the Chinese state. "If you sincerely cloak yourself in abstinence and patiently wait for the thirties," Chairman Mao said, "you will be the best means of limiting births, and thereby be able to create job opportunities and housing for everyone." Therefore, consider that, while none of us is talking this way, young people on their own have taken this road towards planning, not just for births, but, quite simply, for their individual lives. Youth are pushing back the age of marriage out of a desire for education. Only 21 percent of males and 16 percent of females stated that one must marry before the age of 20. This represents a real revolt against tradition in a country where marriage of girls at 16 was considered the ideal.

A 25-year-old woman in Fez who had not yet married was considered to be "lying fallow" or "unwanted goods", the epitome of shame. In my time, when neighbors would squabble from rooftop to rooftop, this was the first topic to be thrown on the carpet. The survey

revealed that young people no longer live this way, with the majority believing that the ideal marriage age is between 20 and 30.

Nonetheless, in order to test again the change in attitudes towards fertility, the number of children, and the desire for planning, we thought of another optional question to check for contradictions. You know that the [survey] instrument is one of the naughtiest ways of conducting research, because the person preparing the questions always inserts what are termed "trap" questions. So, we thought of a question concerning the sex of the first child: What is the sex of the child you would like to have? We were convinced that men would contradict themselves and reveal their true colors, but we were very wrong in our expectation. Moroccan youth are truly amazing in their consistent demand for modernity.

Question Twelve: What is the preferred sex of the first child?

Only one-third of the group surveyed stated that they preferred the male sex, while we were expecting 99 percent, as custom would dictate. It was a great surprise, however, particularly when 14 percent said that the sex of the first child was of no concern to them, while 16 percent stated that a little girl was their favorite choice. So, [we must] admit that this is something surprising.

On this point, you will tell me that the difference between the two sexes should be greater than this. Yes, the difference is there, but it is no greater than we would imagine. Approximately 40 percent of the men stated that they would prefer a male child, while only 18 percent of the women had a boy as their first hope. Meanwhile, 26 percent of the women want a girl first, compared to 7 percent of the men. More than anything else, this appears to be a narcissistic phenomenon. Each sex loves itself and wants it in his family line. This is something universal, I believe.

It is important to point out here that the most sophisticated segment accepted God's will regarding the sex of the first child. This is a very important segment—35.54 percent of the men and 40.79 percent of the women—and an indication that traditional society is trying to restrict misogynistic attitudes by the use of religious arguments.

Regarding details related to the survey group, its religious status in particular, the following question was asked: What is the curve of the survey group?

To answer this question, Prof. Mohamed Aouad, who is responsible for the methodological aspect of the survey (sample selection, preparing the students for the research, methodological distribution of instruments by age and sex variables, etc.) as well as the technical side (instrument collection, coding, computer processing,

etc.), wrote a memorandum on this matter: "The objective of this work is two-fold. On one hand, it is to present the rich statistical particulars of the survey, and on the other, to familiarize the student with the methodology implicit in instrument research. One should also be reminded that the students themselves will attempt to carry out a deeper analysis of the results. This second work will be somewhat like their "press book," [these two words written in English] which they will present to an employer when they begin looking for employment, in order to demonstrate their capabilities and the field experience they have acquired."

What is the sample of people surveyed? The research problem is what determines the primary characteristics of the sample. In this particular instance, we wanted to learn the attitude towards marriage of young people of both sexes. The sample was representative of these two variables in terms of the preponderance of each sex and each age category, 16-20, 21-25, 26-30, and 31-35 years of age, in the survey group, and finally, by occupation (active, not active, student). However, it is the research itself that is able to provide us with information on the other variables within the survey group, and of course, marital status and education level. But before addressing these figures, we should direct attention to the fact that of the 2,000 instruments assigned, 1,973 were included, while 27 were eliminated. [passage missing]

She went on to say, and here I am still overwhelmed by the mystery, or more correctly, the ambiguous nature of Section 30 of the legal code, which states: "Polygamy shall be banned if there is fear that the woman could be harmed." If polygamy is not oppression, dear legislator, then how should we define the latter, since in Section 31 you stipulate that should a woman learn that her husband has taken another woman for himself, she can ask that the bond be broken. The wife who no longer understands anything should at least be able to preserve her husband. The law should oblige the second woman to withdraw, so that no oppression occurs.

This is all intended to support the age of democratic law, which uses opinion polls to enlighten our legislators concerning the needs, attitudes, and priorities of the public.

I am convinced that democracy will at least provide work for sociologists and psychologists, as they try to come up with the number of researchers needed simply to redraw the lines of dispute concerning what commuters want, where red lights should be located, and what time libraries should open (sticking to nonpolitical topics) I, in any event, am really anxious to read research on "The Attitude of Parliamentarians Towards Hum! Hum! [last two words in English, presumably meaning 'yawning']."

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5285 PORT ROYAL RD
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