



ALGERIA AND MOROCCO REESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS.....A COMMENTARY

The recent resumption of diplomatic relations between Algeria and Morocco has given rise once again to speculation in the U.S. that Algeria is distancing itself from its support of the Polisario Front in the on-going conflict in Western Sahara. Despite repeated statements by Algerian authorities that Algeria's position on the conflict in Western Sahara remains unchanged, a position reaffirmed by the Political Bureau of the F.L.N. in April and by the F.L.N. Congress in May 1988, any movement by Algeria to reestablish contact with Morocco has been viewed by some as deviation from Algeria's support of the Sahrawis.

One reason for this speculation in the U.S., perhaps, is due to the fact that the U.S. press has carried little information about recent events in the region. There has been little or no coverage of meetings between Algerian and Moroccan officials since the meeting of Chadli Bendjedid and King Hassan in May 1987 at Akid Lufti, although several meetings have taken place, and, in the recent locust crisis, Algerian and Moroccan Ministers of the Interior worked together to fight the pest on their common borders.

Certainly the expansion of the "sand wall" by Morocco during the spring of 1987 led to an increase of tension throughout the region and caused grave concern to Algeria. To ease this tension Saudi Arabia's King Fahd arranged for a meeting between the Algerian and Moroccan Heads of State so as to lessen the chances of further escalation of the conflict.

To this observer several factors seem paramount in the resumption of diplomatic relations between the two nations from the Al-

gerian point of view:

1. Algeria has been promoting the "Greater Maghreb" for over five years. 1988 marks the fifth anniversary of the Joint Friendship Treaty with Tunisia and Mauritania. Through this relationship Tunisia, Mauritania and Algeria have not only benefitted from bilateral political and commercial agreements, but have, perhaps, seen the "Greater Maghreb" as a solution to Morocco's hegemonic "Greater Morocco." Although Libya this year did not finally decide to join the Tunisian/Algerian/Mauritanian Friendship Treaty, it has resumed cooperative ties with these states and is involved in a variety of bilateral commercial and political accords with them.

As the European Economic Community grows in power and as former markets for North African products in Europe dry up due to the admission of Spain and Portugal to the Common Market, most parties in the Maghreb have recognized the advantages of closer ties with the other states of the Maghreb. A major goal of the "Greater Maghreb" is to assist the states in the region to achieve a solid economic standing. The E.E.C.'s recent rejection of Morocco's application for membership to that organization leaves Morocco with one place to go, uniting with the other states of the region. The ultimate strength of the "Greater Maghreb" will depend upon the full participation by all states of the region in it.



2. Algeria is to host a special session of the Arab League dealing with the West Bank & Gaza crisis early this June. For an effective meeting of the League it is important that Algeria be on "speaking terms" with all members of the League and that all members of the League attend the meeting. Unity of purpose and cooperation of all Arab states is essential if the Arab League is to have a unified stance on this issue of Palestinian rights. Reestablishment of diplomatic relations between Algeria and Morocco could make possible Hassan's presence at the meeting.

3. Algeria's chief concern over Morocco's idea of the "Greater Morocco" is her common border with that state. Reestablishment of relations could lay this concern at rest. A further concern is instability in the region and Algeria's obligation to defend the integrity of Mauritanian borders. The fact that Algeria and Morocco once more have diplomatic ties should serve to reduce these fears and tensions.

4. Algeria has said and continues to say that the peace process for the Western Sahara envisioned in U.N.G.A. 42/78 and O.A.U. 104 is the way to resolve the conflict. Resumption of diplomatic relations between Algeria and Morocco can allow for Algerian encouragement of Moroccan negotiations with the Polisario Front. It is difficult to urge a party to an action if one is not talking to that party. Algeria has long held the reputation of having excellent negotiating skills in its diplomats. Evidence of their ability has been seen in the freeing of the U.S. hostages held in Iran some seven years ago and in the recent resolution of the Kuwaiti airplane hijacking incident. One aspect of their negotiating style is to keep all parties talking, to attempt to achieve consensus. They must be able to talk with all parties themselves.

The resumption of diplomatic relations between Algeria and Morocco, then, must be seen within the entire context of the situation. Seventy-one nations recognize the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic, the independent Sahrawi state. The SADR is a full and active member of the O.A.U. The U.N. and the O.A.U. are visibly involved in attempting to implement their joint peace process. The resumption of diplomatic relations vindicates the long-held Algerian claim that the conflict in Western Sahara is between Morocco and the Polisario Front, a position admitted by

King Hassan himself some time ago. Thirteen years of Algerian support of the Sahrawis' right to self-determination will not be abandoned because of the resumption of diplomatic relations. Algerian diplomacy is generally consistent. Further, their support of this right has its roots in their own eight year struggle for independence from France. Certainly both Morocco and Algeria will attempt to bend this resumption of diplomatic relations to their own ends. Let us hope that the renewed ties will lead quickly, however, to direct negotiations between Morocco and the Polisario Front.

NEWS FROM THE SAHRAWI ARAB DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

The second day of the meeting of African Ministers of Culture held March 25-27 in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, was devoted to the presentation by Ibrahim Hakim, SADR Minister of Culture, of the SADR Friendship Caravan. Hakim noted that the Caravan, made up of about 40 people and six vehicles, has visited Algeria, Mali, Burkina Faso, Togo, Benin, Ghana and Mauritania since it started out in November 1987. The purpose of the Caravan has been to acquaint the populations of other African nations with Sahrawi arts, music, photographs, crafts and films. The African Ministers of Culture adopted a resolution on March 26 applauding the SADR enterprise and urged other OAU member states to enlarge the continental area visited by the Friendship Caravan.

SADR Foreign Minister Omar Mansour paid an official visit to Peru April 14-18 according to Andina Press. During his visit Mansour met with Peruvian Foreign Minister Allan Wagner Tizon. Hamri Bouiha was installed as SADR Ambassador to Peru during Mansour's visit.



PEACE PROCESS CONTINUES



After visiting Morocco May 2, U.N. Secretary-General Perez de Cuellar cancelled his projected visits to Western Sahara, Mauritania and Algeria planned for May 3, 4 and 5. According to reports, as de Cuellar was in Paris en route to Morocco, Moroccan authorities announced in news releases that they would not agree to withdrawal of Moroccan troops in Western Sahara during the administration (by a joint U.N./O.A.U. team) of a referendum of the Sahrawis. It was also reported abroad that Moroccan officials, angered by O.A.U. Chairman Kenneth Kaunda's reported suggestion during his visit to Morocco in April that Morocco should show some movement on the issue of troop withdrawal, objected to the U.N. Secretary-General's visit to Western Sahara and to a joint U.N./O.A.U. team accompanying the U.N. Secretary-General on his visit to Morocco.

Zambian President Kaunda had met with de Cuellar in Brussels on April 11 and 12 to discuss their joint efforts to find a just solution to the conflict in Western Sahara in conformity with U.N. 42/78 and O.A.U. 104. In their Brussels communique the two statesmen noted that they had reviewed steps taken by the U.N. and O.A.U. together in the peace process and had agreed on additional measures to be taken to facilitate their formulating proposals to the two parties to the conflict, Morocco and the Saharan Arab Democratic Republic. Among those measures were additional U.N./O.A.U. visits to the region which included visits to Mauritania and Algeria as well as to the two parties to the conflict.

Following the Brussels meeting, U.N. Adjunct Secretary-General for Special Political Questions, Abderrahim Farah, accompanied by Issa Diallo, Special Assistant to the U.N. Secretary-General flew to Morocco on April 12 prior to Kaunda's arrival in that country on April 13. Kaunda along with Farah and Diallo met with Crown Prince Sidi Mohamed, Premier Azzeddine Laraki and Foreign Minister Abdelatif Filali. Following a lengthy discussion with King Hassan II of Morocco on April 13 and again a brief discussion with the King on the morning of April 14, Kaunda left Morocco for the Sahrawi refugee camps near Tindouf, Algeria. Accompanying Kaunda on his subsequent visits were Farah, Diallo and Tedessa Yelma, Adjunct Secretary-General of the O.A.U.

In the refugee camps the joint O.A.U./U.N. delegation met with Mohamed Abdelaziz, President of the SADR on April 14 as well as with SADR officials Mohamed Lamine Ould Ahmed, Bachir Mustapha Sayed, Mohamed Lamine Ould El Boulhali, Mahfoud Ali Beiba and Mohamed Salem Ould Salek. Earlier that day he had visited in Algiers with Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid to discuss regional concern caused by failure to bring about a peaceful settlement to the conflict. Kaunda left the Sahrawi refugee camps on the morning of April 15 and flew to Mauritania for consultation with Mauritanian President Colonel Maaouya Ould Sid' Ahmed Taya concerning the Mauritanian views on the conflict and its effects.

Kaunda's visit to the region and the aborted visit of Perez de Cuellar were further steps in the U.N./O.A.U. peace process which took new dimensions in November 1987 with the Joint U.N./O.A.U. Technical Visit to Morocco and the Western Sahara. (See previous newsletter article.) After his Brussels meeting with Perez de Cuellar, Kaunda had optimistically spoken of "some steps forward." He had noted at the time, however, that if he and the U.N. Secretary-General did not succeed at the present time to initiate progress, his successor as O.A.U. Chairman would continue the efforts.

It appears that for now the projected "next step" in the peace process, comparing of notes by Kaunda and Perez de Cuellar about their separate visits to the region and their projected formulation of definite proposals for the two parties to the conflict, Morocco and the SADR, is on indefinite hold.

Nonetheless the Secretary-General is attending the meeting of the OAU Heads of State in Addis Ababa May 26 - 28 and will undoubtedly meet with SADR officials in attendance at the meeting. Some onlookers feel that some movement towards negotiating with the Polisario Front by Morocco might come out of renewed diplomatic relations between Morocco and Algeria.



A resolution on Western Sahara was passed by the Democratic Socialists of America at their January 20, 1988 National Executive Committee Meeting. The resolution notes that:

"The Democratic Socialists of America supports the right of self-determination for Western Sahara and stands in opposition to Moroccan efforts toward forcible annexation

The DSA calls on Morocco to respect the human rights of all Sahrawis and Moroccans

The DSA calls for an immediate withdrawal of Moroccan troops from Western Sahara and for direct negotiations between the governments of Morocco and the SADR in conjunction with the mediation efforts of the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity

The DSA calls for an immediate cessation of all U.S. military support of Morocco until it respects the Sahrawis rights of national self-determination, and

The DSA encourages greater communication between the DSA and the Polisario movement in the pursuit of a just peace in northwest Africa."

Two hour-long programs on the conflict in Western Sahara and on Sahrawi women's role in the conflict were broadcast by "Spotlight Africa" on KPFK 90.7 FM in North Hollywood, California March 8 and 9, 1988. KFAI Radio News in Minneapolis, Minnesota did a ten minute interview on developments in the war in Western Sahara and the effect of the Moroccan-Algerian resumption of diplomatic relations on May 19, 1988.

NEW SAHRAWI SUPPORT GROUP FORMS ON WEST COAST

A West Coast Sahrawi support group, the American Sahrawi Friendship Committee, was announced by its chairman, Carlos Wilson, May 20, 1988 in San Francisco. The announcement date is the anniversary of the first military engagement by Polisario Front forces in 1973 ten days after the establishment of the Polisario Front. In 1973 Spain was still the colonizing power and the attack took place against the Spanish military. Today the Polisario Front is involved in an attempt to liberate the territory of the SADR from Moroccan forces. Inquiries to the American Sahrawi Friendship Committee should be addressed to P.O. Box 210446, San Francisco, California 94121. Other U.S. Support committees include Western Sahara Campaign, USA, 2556 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20008 and the SPSC, publisher of this newsletter.

A Conference on Superpowers in North Africa: Peace, Development, Stability was held at American University, Washington, D.C., March 4-5, 1988. The Conference was sponsored by the Kennedy Political Union, The Washington College of Law, the Washington Semester Program and the Graduate Student Council of American University. See program below:

Friday, March 4

REGISTRATION

9:00
Mary Craydon Center Lobby

OPENING REMARKS

- 9:45 - 10:15
Metropolitan Memorial
United Methodist Church
- * Dr. Milton Greenberg, Provost
 - * Dean Louis W. Goodman, SIS
 - * Professor Yahia Zoubir, SIS
 - * Michele Tierney, KPU
 - * Beth Payne, WCL
 - * Bret Eknes, GSC

US POLICY IN NORTH AFRICA

10:30 - 12:30
Metropolitan Memorial
United Methodist Church

CHAIR: Dr. David Brown

- * Dr. Phillip Naylor
Merrimack College
- * Ambassador Peter Sebastian
Center for Strategic and
International Studies
- * Ambassador Richard Parker
Association for Diplomatic
Studies
- * Steven Wetmann
Subcommittee on Africa,
House of Representatives

DISCUSSANT: Clyde Mark
Congressional Research Service

* Break for Lunch *

Friday, March 4

WESTERN SAHARA CONFLICT

2:00 - 4:14
Kay Chapel

CHAIR: Dr. Nicholas Onuf

- * Daniel Volman
University of California at L.A.
- * Carlton Coon
Former U.S. Department
of State Official
- * Professor Stephen Zunes
Cornell University
- * Roy Whitaker
DNR Analyst, U.S.
Department of State

DISCUSSANT: Dr. Robert Mortimer
Haverford College

HUMAN SIDE OF THE CONFLICT

4:30 - 6:30
Kay Chapel

CHAIR: Dr. Gary Weaver

- * Tami Hultman
Africa News
- * Anthony Pazzanite, Esq.
Attorney at Law
- * Teresa Smith
Western Sahara Campaign
- * Dr. Anne Uppert
Ohio Northern University
- * David Assan
Amnesty International

DISCUSSANT: Dr. Carlos Wilson

Saturday, March 5

USSR POLICY IN NORTH AFRICA

11:00 - 1:30
Kay Chapel

CHAIR: Dr. Jackson Plotrow

- * Dr. David Albright
Air War College
- * Dr. Yahia Zoubir
American University
- * Leonid Safonov
Embassy of the USSR

DISCUSSANT: Dr. Wayne Limberg
U.S. Department of State

REGIONAL PERSPECTIVES

2:00 - 4:30
Kay Chapel

CHAIR: Dr. Fantu Cheru

- * Dr. John Entelis
Purdue University
- * Usama Ender
American University
- * Dr. William Zariman
SAIS, Johns Hopkins
University
- * Dr. Lawrence Farley
Lockhaven University

DISCUSSANT: Dr. John Reudy
Georgetown University

U.S. - MOROCCO WAR
AGAINST WESTERN SAHARA
1975 -- ?

NO MORE U.S. WEAPONS TO THE KINGDOM OF MOROCCO

US \$1.9 billion
U.S. Arms Sales and Military Aid
to Morocco, 1974 - 1988

1. "Fighting a desert war," George Martin Manz, BRIARPATCH, March, 1988, pp. 24-27. Manz's article is an excellent summary of the war in Western Sahara from 1973, the establishment of the Polisario Front, to March 1988. The issues are clearly delineated. Briarpatch, a Saskatchewan publication, is celebrating its 15th year of publication in Canada. A year's subscription is \$19.

2. AFRICA TODAY: Special issue: Western Sahara: Africa's Forgotten War, Volume 34, No. 3, 1987 3rd Quarter, published February 10, 1988. \$3.50 Teresa K. Smith, Executive Director of Western Sahara Campaign, USA, served as guest editor of this issue. The issue includes the editor's preface and the following articles:

"Spain and France and the Decolonization of Western Sahara: Parity and Paradox, 1975-87," Philip Naylor, pp. 7 - 16;

"Soviet Policy Toward the Western Sahara Conflict," Yahia Zoubir, pp. 17 - 32;

"Nationalism and Non-Alignment: The Non-Ideology of the Polisario," Stephen Zunes, pp. 33 - 46;

"The Human Costs of War in Western Sahara," Anne Lippert, pp. 47 - 59;

"Human Rights and the Western Sahara War," Teresa K. Smith (Africa Rights Monitor Article), pp. 61 - 73.

Book reviewers Jeffrey M. Schulman, Gabriel Ulme, Shawky S. Zeidan and Robert Mortimer look at books by Lawless & Monahan (editors), Hodges and Zartman. This is an excellent issue of Africa Today that looks at several aspects of the war that have not been discussed previously.

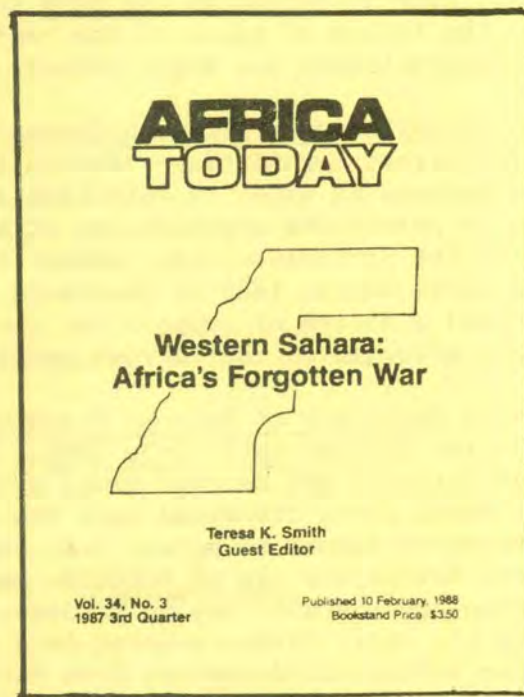
3. "Western Sahara Fights for Independence," Teresa K. Smith, Cultural Survival Quarterly, Vol. 11, No. 4, 1987, pp. 31 - 34. The article is an overview of the conflict in Western Sahara with emphasis on the cost to development of the region because of the on-going militarization. Includes excellent data.

4. ACAS BULLETIN, Spring 1988, Number 23. Pages 1 - 17 are devoted to the liberation struggle in Western Sahara. Contributors include Anne Lippert, Anthony Pazzanita, Stephen Zunes, Yahia Zoubir and Teresa K. Smith. Useful short (2 page) articles serve as background to understanding the conflict and its relationship to other conflicts in Africa. The ACAS BULLETIN is distributed to members of the Association of Concerned African Scholars. Bulletin editor is Warren "Bud" Day and the address for the Bulletin is Ed Ferguson, Dept. of History, Oregon State U., Corvallis, OR 97331.

5. "A Secret War in the Sahara," Eric Selbin, UTNE Reader, March/April 1988, pp. 27 - 29. Selbin uses articles in Africa News and Activist Review for the substance of his article.

6. "A wall, a war and a wasteland: the fight for Western Sahara," Nelson Smith, In These Times, April 20 - 26, 1988, pp. 12 - 13. Smith visited the Western Sahara and infiltrated the Moroccan sand wall with a BBC journalist and Polisario Front fighters. A useful update.

7. "Victory elusive in Morocco's battle for the Western Sahara," Thomas Palmer, THE BOSTON SUNDAY GLOBE, May 15, 1988, p. 3. General article. The writer visited El Aюн in the occupied territory. U.S. academics quoted by Palmer are I. William Zartman and John Damis.



The SPSC LETTER is printed quarterly by the Saharan Peoples Support Committee. Write 217 E. Lehr Avenue, Ada, Ohio 45810 USA for information and a subscription. A yearly donation of \$5 is requested.

NEWS NOTES: THE SADR AROUND THE WORLD

1. The SADR was elected Bureau member for the 4th Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers of Information of the OAU January 13, 1988.

2. The Conflict in Western Sahara and European and West German Policies were the subject of a colloquium held in Bonn April 17-19, 1988. Attending the meeting which was called by a number of humanitarian groups including Terre des hommes were numerous diplomats, politicians from Great Britain, Germany and Austria, delegates from the Bundestag, mayors and presidents of groups. Sahrawis attending the meeting were Mahfoud Ali Beiba, Polisario Front Director of International Affairs and Mohamed Sidati, Polisario Front representative in Europe. Etwin Lanc, former Austrian Minister of Foreign Affairs, called on European states to move quickly to recognize the SADR so as to speed the return of peace to the region and so that international law might prevail.

3. The National Union of British Journalists called for direct negotiations between the SADR and Morocco in order to establish a ceasefire and to permit the organization of a referendum of the Sahrawis. Their Annual Congress was held April 22-24, 1988 at Sheffield and also adopted a motion of support for the independence struggle of the Sahrawi people.

4. American Secretary of Defense Frank Carlucci visited Morocco April 1-3, 1988. During his visit Carlucci met several times with King Hassan. Among items discussed were the American-Moroccan agreement to permit U.S. rapid deployment forces the use of Moroccan bases. (The present accord will expire in June, 1988.) Following his visit Carlucci noted in a press conference before his departure from Marrakesh that he was disappointed in the level of U.S. military aid to Morocco (\$40 million, 1988; \$36 million within 1987). Carlucci said he and King Hassan had spoken about Morocco's relations with its neighbors and all of Africa. During the visit SADR officials called on the U.S. to resist being "dragged into the expansionist fancies of the Kingdom of Morocco because that could have grave repercussions not only on the Sahrawi people and the people of the region, but also on world peace and security."

5. Barbados is the 71st nation to fully recognize the SADR. There is strong support for the Sahrawi cause in the Caribbean.

6. Vernon Walters, Permanent U.S. representative to the U.N. visited Algeria March 7, 1988 with a message from President Reagan to President Chadli Bendjedid. In a press interview following his meeting, Walters told reporters in answer to a question on the conflict in Western Sahara: "We support fully the efforts of the Secretary-General of the UN to find a means of putting in place a referendum that will peacefully resolve the situation in Western Sahara." Walters noted that "it has been very useful to me to know the opinions of President Chadli Bendjedid on a number of questions."

7. The Political Bureau of the FLN meeting April 4 under the presidency of Chadli Bendjedid, President of the Algerian Republic and Secretary-General of the FLN, reiterated its support of the peace process undertaken conjointly by the Chairman of the OAU and the Secretary-General of the UN "in conformity with the will of the international community." The Bureau reaffirmed Algeria's support of the right of the Sahrawi people to "self-determination and independence."

8. The locust plague in March and April touching all of the Maghreb has resulted in close cooperation among all nations in the region who are fighting the insects. From March 10 to April 2 Algerian authorities treated more than 500,000 hectares in Algeria. In late March Algerian Interior Minister El Hadi Khediri and Algerian Minister of Agriculture Mohamed Rouighi met in the Algerian south with Idriss El Basri, Moroccan Minister of the Interior and of Information. The Ministers coordinated joint efforts of insect control on the Algerian-Moroccan border in Western Algeria. Algerian teams were also sent to Mauritania and to the SADR to assist authorities in these regions in repelling the onslaught of locusts. Algerian authorities also cooperated with Tunisian authorities on the north-eastern border.

9. OAU Chairman Kenneth Kaunda met twice with Moroccan King Hassan II during his visit to Morocco on April 13 and 14. The Zambian President noted in a meeting with Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid that he had met with the King on the 13th and again on the 14th prior to flying to Algeria. In Algiers Kaunda noted his visit to Algeria was in the framework of the second phase of his mission, the first phase of which was his meeting with UN Secretary-General Perez de Cuellar in Brussels. Kaunda also met with SADR President Mohamed Abdelaziz and visited the Refugee Camp wilaya of Smara where he

was given a dove by Sahrawi children. He noted the results of his meetings in the region would be transmitted to the UN Secretary-General by Abderrahim Farah who accompanied him. Kaunda left Nouakchott April 15 after meeting with Mauritanian President Maaouya Ould Sid Ahmed Taya and other Mauritanian officials. Following his mission to the region Kaunda flew to Niamey, Niger, where he took part in the closing ceremonies marking the 30th anniversary of the Economic Commission for Africa (CEA) of the UN.

10. The SAHRAWI REPUBLIC NEWSLETTER, Volume eight, number two, March-May 1988 reports that the visit of Perez de Cuellar to the SADR and to Algeria & Mauritania in May was changed for reasons of his calendar. The Newsletter also reports: "Close sources revealed that the crux of Peres De Cuellar - King Hassan discussions focussed on THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE MOROCCAN FORCES AND ADMINISTRATION from the territory prior to a United Nations' supervised referendum."

11. Reports of an attempt to assassinate King Hassan were reported on TV5, French Television, in the 8:00 PM newsbulletin on March 3, 1988. The report noted that the attempt was organized by a General of the Air Force. One of Hassan's bodyguards, who was to have assassinated the King, was killed on the spot. It appears, according to the report, that the assassin injured the younger son of the King before dying. General El Kabej & five other persons were admitted secretly to Saltpetre Hospital in Paris following this event, according to the same report. The reporter noted that the information circulating about this assassination attempt against the King came from several diplomatic sources. EXPRESS magazine has reported that Divisional Commissioner Mediouri of Sherifian Security died at the end of January in the Paris Military Hospital of Val de Grace where he was secretly transported in an emergency. Mediouri was head of the personal guard for King Hassan for twelve years and was injured during an incident which took place at the beginning of 1988 at Ifrane.

12. The NEW YORK TIMES reported on March 12 that Morocco has exported from between 60 to 80,000 tons of hashish to the U.S. and that the export of narcotics from Morocco to the U.S. has increased over the years despite U.S. governmental and congressional efforts to increase cooperation with the Moroccan government to control the flow of drugs.

13. AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL sent out an urgent

action appeal on Dahbi Machrouhi and Najib Hamdani, Moroccan prisoners in Ain Borja prison in Casablanca on April 7, 1988. They and five others at the prison are part of the group of 26 individuals tried in February 1986 and sentenced from 3 to 20 years in prison. Amnesty believes all 26 individuals may be prisoners of conscience. Machrouhi and Hamdani were reported to have been victims of an assault by prison officials on January 29, 1988. This first incident was followed by additional beatings. On February 8 and 11 respectively Hamdani and Machrouhi each began a hunger strike. Their families, according to Amnesty, have not been allowed to see them. Recent action by the European Parliament brought the release of a number of Moroccan prisoners recently, among them, Abraham Sarfaty. Opposition to Morocco's war in Western Sahara is sufficient for immediate jailing.

14. The twelfth anniversary of the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic was celebrated on February 27, 1988 in the liberated zones of the SADR and in the refugee camps. Among those attending the ceremonies were the Ambassadors to the SADR from Yugoslavia, Albania, Guinea-Bissau, Venezuela, Nicaragua, Yemen, Congo, North Korea, Benin; the chargé d'affaires from Burkina Faso, Libya and Cuba and the First Secretary from Burundi.

15. In connection with the construction of the "Greater Maghreb" President Mohamed Abdelaziz of the SADR met with the Libyan Head of State, Muammar El-Gaddafi, while the latter was in Annaba, Algeria to meet with Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid concerning Algerian-Libyan cooperation. Algeria and Libya have established a number of joint societies for the development in particular of hydrocarbons and hydraulics. Pictures of the three leaders together taken February 6 and 7 were in REVOLUTION AFRICAINE, No. 1250, February 12, 1988. Abdelaziz has met with other Maghrebian leaders as well. In Tunis, following the renewal of the Algerian-Tunisian-Mauritanian Friendship Pact, both Tunisia and Algeria noted their resolve to facilitate the resolution of the conflict in Western Sahara in conformity with the UN and OAU resolutions. Libya and Tunisia have recently reopened land routes as well as air traffic routes and all of the states of the region are involved in a variety of bilateral commercial and political accords.

16. 112 Venezuelan members of Parliament have established a Parliamentary Friendship

Association for Venezuelan-Sahrawi Solidarity in an effort to reinforce ties of brotherhood and cooperation between the Sahrawi people and the Venezuelan people for self-determination, liberty, democracy and respect for human rights. The Venezuelan members of Parliament represent all political tendencies in Venezuela.

17. The 4th Congress of the Federation of Greek Women which met in Athens March 4-6 adopted a resolution of support and solidarity with Sahrawi women struggling for self-determination and independence of the Western Sahara.

18. Juan Maria Bandress, Spanish Deputy, noted during the presentation of the book by Jose Maria Cistero and Teresa Freixas, Sahara, a history lesson, in Madrid that the Spanish Parliament, has, despite a number of initiatives, not yet formed an interparliamentary group in favor of the Sahrawi people like that formed in the European Parliament. Efforts to do so will continue.

19. A delegation of the Polisario Front attended the 44th Session of the Commission on Human Rights of the UN in Geneva from February 2 - March 11, 1988. During the meeting delegates from a number of nations raised the issue of Western Sahara and urged speedy resolution of UNGA 42/78 and OAU 104. Non-governmental organizations also spoke to the issue and reiterated their support of the Sahrawi people. Among these groups were the International League for the Rights and Liberation of Peoples, the International Democratic Federation of Women, Pax Romana.

20. In reviewing the list of recognitions of the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic, one can not fail to note that nearly all members of the ACP (African/Caribbean/Pacific nations) that are signatories of the Third ACP-EEC Convention recognize the SADR as a sovereign state. This is particularly important as Morocco continues to attempt to pressure the EEC into de facto recognition of Moroccan sovereignty of Western Sahara territorial waters. Morocco has not succeeded in doing this because the European Community fishing treaty with Morocco specifically refers to "waters depending on Moroccan sovereignty or jurisdiction" (Madrid Accords). The European Parliament and the ACP nations are closely united in not giving recognition of Moroccan sovereignty of the Western Sahara. ACP nations that have recognized the SADR are: Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cape Verde, Congo, Dominica, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea-Bi-

ssau, Equatorial Guinea, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Kiribati, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mozambique, Nigeria, Uganda, Papua New Guinea, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, St. Kitts and Nevis, Sao Tome & Principe, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Surinam, Swaziland, Chad, Tanzania, Togo, Tuvalu, Trinidad and Tobago, Vanuatu, Zambia and Zimbabwe----- or virtually all of the ACP states. Presently a tentative accord is in place that will expire in June.

21. The Fifteenth European Conference of Coordination of European Support Committees for Help to the Sahrawi People will meet in Germany in 1989. The German Support Committee also organized a three day meeting April 18-20, 1988 at Bonn to detail the struggle of the Sahrawi people for self-determination and independence.

22. The European Parliament organized a "Sahrawi Day" May 18, 1988 in Strasbourg. The Sahrawi music group, El Ouali, toured several European cities from April 25 to May 16, 1988.

23. The Austrian Support Group for the Sahrawi People hosted a Colloquium on Health in the Sahara at the end of February, 1988.

24. The Two-Party Assembly (ACP/EEC) meeting in Vouliagmeni, Greece September 22-27, 1986, noted that the question of the Western Sahara is a "problem which must be resolved on the basis of the inalienable right to self-determination and to independence of the people of Western Sahara" and called for the parties to the conflict, Morocco and the Polisario Front, to undertake direct negotiations leading to a cease-fire so as to create the necessary conditions for a just and peaceful referendum, a "referendum with no military or administrative constraints, under the auspices of the OAU and the UN."

25. Two deputies of the European Parliament have been charged with making a new report to the Parliament on the question of Western Sahara. One of the deputies represents the Political Commission, the other the Development Commission. Resolution B2/1209/87 of November 6, 1987 called on member states of the EEC to provide health, educational and food aid to the Sahrawi refugees. That resolution supported the negotiated settlement envisioned by the OAU and UN. One hundred and fifty-seven members of the European Parliament from all member states proposed and supported B2/1209/87. Common Market support of the Sahrawi cause is increasing.